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1 **Competitive ion-exchange reactions of Pb(II) ($Pb^{2+}/PbCl^+$) and Ra(II) (Ra^{2+}) on smectites:**
2 **experiments, modeling, and implication for $^{226}Ra(II)/^{210}Pb(II)$ disequilibrium in the**
3 **environment.**

4
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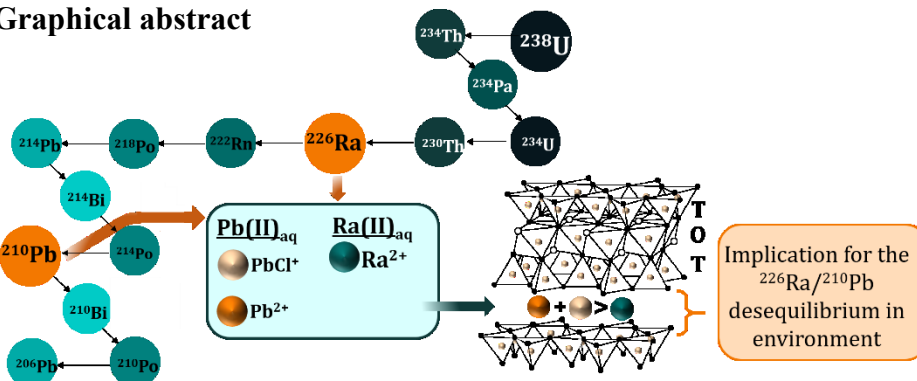
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20 **Graphical abstract**



27 **Highlights**

- 28 - Reliable multisite ion-exchange model for Pb^{2+} and $PbCl^+$ on swelling clay minerals
29 - Preferential adsorption on clay minerals of $PbCl^+$ ion pairs compared to Pb^{2+}
30 - $^{226}Ra/^{210}Pb$ disequilibrium evidenced due to selective adsorption on smectite

32 **Keywords**

33 Ion-exchange, ion pairs, lead, radium, radioactive disequilibrium, smectite

34 **Abstract**

35 In this study, new experimental data for the adsorption of lead onto a swelling clay mineral
36 with a tetrahedral charge (beidellite) at the ultratrace level ($<10^{-10}$ mol/L) are presented. The
37 data were interpreted using an ion-exchange multisite model that considers the sorption of
38 major cations (including H^+), which always compete with trace elements for sorption onto
39 mineral surfaces in natural environments. The ability of the proposed model to predict
40 experimental K_d values under various conditions of ionic strength (fixed by NaCl solutions)
41 and aqueous cation compositions (including Pb^{2+} and $PbCl^+$) was tested. The proposed model
42 was applied to experimental data previously published for other types of swelling clay minerals,
43 and the results were compared with the results obtained using previously published models.
44 The preferential adsorption of chloride ion pairs, as well as the effect of the swelling clay crystal
45 chemistry on lead adsorption, were assessed. Finally, the selective adsorption behavior of ^{226}Ra
46 compared to ^{210}Pb was demonstrated, which has implications for the study of many
47 environmental processes using isotope partitioning.

48 1. Introduction

49 $^{238,235}\text{U}$ -series and ^{232}Th disequilibria have been used for several decades in the field of
50 geosciences (see reviews made by (Broecker and Peng, 1982; Ivanovich and Harmon, 1992)
51 and references therein). Early decay chain isotopes ($^{238,235,234}\text{U}$, ^{231}Pa , $^{234,232,230,228}\text{Th}$, ^{226}Ra) are
52 generally used for dating and highlighting geochemical processes (Grozeva et al., 2022; Milena-
53 Pérez et al., 2021; Vigier et al., 2001). For example, the use of end members of the U decay
54 chain, such as ^{226}Ra (half-life 1600 y) and ^{210}Pb (half-life 22.2 y), constrains shorter durations
55 of geological events, such as volcanic eruptions or coral growth (Berlo and Turner, 2010;
56 Ghaleb, 2009; Love et al., 2007; Mabit et al., 2014; Moore and Krishnaswami, 1972; Pickler et
57 al., 2012; Rihs et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2019). In this approach, the assumption is made that
58 geological systems are closed, leading to secular equilibrium between ^{226}Ra and ^{210}Pb (i.e., their
59 activities are equal).

60 Hence, in applications such as dating of recent deposits using radionuclides as well as
61 radioactive waste disposal management, water resource assessment and remediation of mining
62 environments, it is important to understand and predict the mobility of lead at trace levels
63 (Kelebemang et al., 2017; Lacal et al., 2003; MacKenzie et al., 1998). In natural environments,
64 predicting the concentration of aqueous lead (i.e., Pb(II)) in natural waters and its mobility is
65 challenging due to the many chemical processes in which this element is involved, such as: (i)
66 precipitation or coprecipitation in carbonates and in sulfate-bearing minerals when oxidizing
67 conditions prevail (Fu et al., 2020), (ii) precipitation in sulfide minerals in reducing conditions
68 (Fagbohunge et al., 2017; Lacal et al., 2003), and (iii) adsorption/ion-exchange on clay
69 minerals (Tabelin et al., 2020; Uddin, 2017) and oxyhydroxides of Fe- Mn (Serpaud et al.,
70 1994). At high aqueous concentrations ($>10^{-5}$ M) under oxidized conditions (site-specific),
71 aqueous Pb(II) is controlled by carbonate and/or sulfate precipitation (Marani et al., 1995;
72 Orucoglu, et al., 2018). For lower concentrations, with undersaturation of the solution with
73 regard to pure lead phases, control is assured by coprecipitation in sulfates (Curti et al., 2010;
74 Hanor, 2000; Ram et al., 2021; Zhu et al., 2004) and adsorption/ion-exchange on soil or
75 sediment components (e.g., clays and Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides) (Hem, 1976).

76 Using radioactive tracers such as ^{210}Pb at trace levels is also a way to study the ion-exchange
77 reactions (i.e., reversible adsorption) of Pb(II) (by assuming no isotope fractionation), as the
78 total concentration used is far below the solubility of potential newly formed minerals. The
79 occurrence of ^{210}Pb in surface and subsurface environments may also be due to the presence of
80 uranium ore deposits or radioactive waste disposal. Except in the specific case of U-rich ores,
81 and even though secular equilibrium in the rock is reached (i.e., massic activities of all isotopes

82 in a radioactive decay chain are equal), concentrations of ^{210}Pb , from the decay of ^{238}U , are at
83 trace levels in most of the natural rocks (typically <0.1 wt%). These low values lead to
84 extremely low aqueous concentrations of ^{210}Pb in most of the natural waters in contact with
85 these rocks (<40 mBq/L, i.e., $<10^{-18}$ M) (Persson and Holm, 2011).

86 While many studies have been published on the geochemical reactivity of ^{226}Ra (Billon et
87 al., 2020; Bordelet et al., 2018; Langmuir and Riese, 1985; Lestini et al., 2019; Reiller and
88 Descostes, 2020; Reinoso-Maset and Ly, 2016; Robin et al., 2017; Sajih et al., 2014), the fate
89 of ^{210}Pb is usually linked to the chemical properties of Pb element, at very low concentrations.
90 In most studies related to date geological processes, no chemical reactivity (or at least the same
91 chemical reactivity) is assumed for both elements (Pb(II) and Ra(II)) (Berlo and Turner, 2010;
92 Ghaleb, 2009; Love et al., 2007; Mabit et al., 2014; Moore and Krishnaswami, 1972; Pickler et
93 al., 2012). This last assumption has to be assessed especially because: (i) in oxidizing
94 conditions, Pb(II) can easily form insoluble carbonate and sulfate minerals at high Pb aqueous
95 concentrations (10^{-5} M), while it is not the case for Ra(II), which is only radiogenic and then
96 presents only at very low concentrations in rocks or soils (usually <0.88 ppt) and in natural
97 waters ($<10^{-15}$ M) (Fesenko et al., 2014), and (ii) aqueous speciation of both elements is
98 generally significantly different in natural waters (Fesenko et al., 2014; Powell et al., 2009).
99 Indeed, for example, Ra(II) is generally only present as Ra^{2+} and RaSO_4 , while Pb(II) can
100 preferentially form aqueous complexes with anionic species such as Cl^- (as PbCl^+ and $\text{PbCl}_2(\text{aq})$)
101 but also carbonate and sulfate, which are major inorganic anions in natural waters (Reiller and
102 Descostes, 2020; Robin et al., 2017).

103 Clay minerals are very common in all surface environments (such as sedimentary basins
104 and soils) (Meunier, 2005) and are well known, especially in swelling minerals (such as
105 smectite), to have high ion-exchange and adsorption properties (McBride, 1994; Pabalan and
106 Turner, 1996). Regarding Pb(II), several studies exist in the literature for smectites (Barbier et
107 al., 2000; Fernandes and Baeyens, 2019; Mbadcam et al., 2011; Mhamdi et al., 2013; Orucoglu
108 et al., 2018; Yin et al., 2018). Nevertheless, very few of them focused: (i) on very low
109 concentrations ($<10^{-6}$ M), which are representative of radiogenic Pb (such as ^{210}Pb), and (ii) on
110 aqueous speciation with Cl^- which is a significant anion in most natural waters (Powell et al.,
111 2009) and may form metallic chloride complexes (MeCl^+) known to be easily adsorbed onto
112 swelling clay minerals (Charlet and Tournassat, 2005; Tertre et al., 2011a, 2011b; Tournassat
113 et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2015, among others). Moreover, no study is available relative to the
114 adsorption properties of both Ra(II) and Pb(II) for the same clay mineral and obtained for
115 identical physicochemical conditions in a chloride medium (pH, ionic strength, presence of

116 competitors), making it difficult to quantitatively predict the possible difference in adsorption
117 properties between the two elements on a given (and same) clay mineral.

118 Then, to assess: (i) the possible difference in the adsorption properties of Ra(II) and Pb(II)
119 for a swelling clay mineral at low aqueous Pb concentrations (i.e., $<10^{-10}$ M), and (ii) discuss
120 these results in the context of $^{226}\text{Ra(II)}/^{210}\text{Pb(II)}$ natural disequilibrium measurements, this
121 study will compare adsorption data previously published for Ra(II) (Robin et al., 2017) with
122 those obtained in the present study for Pb(II) for a Na-beideillite (i.e., a low charge swelling
123 clay). This clay mineral is commonly found in natural environments (Robin et al., 2020, 2015a;
124 Zhao et al., 2021), and its ion-exchange properties, based on multiple sites, for the main cations
125 of natural waters (i.e., Na^+ , K^+ , Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+}) are also well known (Robin et al., 2015b). This
126 last characteristic allows us to test its predictive capacity in several environmental conditions
127 (Ballini et al., 2020; Besançon et al., 2020; de Boissezon et al., 2020; Robin et al., 2020, 2017).
128 Note that both series of data were obtained using batch experiments in which both elements
129 were present at the same time, allowing us to prevent any physicochemical variations (pH, ionic
130 strength, temperature, etc.) that could make the comparisons difficult between the two series of
131 data. Pb(II) adsorption data, obtained as a function of pH for two NaCl concentrations, will be
132 reported and interpreted considering the previous ion-exchange model obtained for Ra(II) and
133 major cations on the material used (Robin et al., 2017, 2015b), characterized by the same three
134 sorption sites for major and trace element (i.e. without adding a specific site for trace element
135 commonly named “site of low concentration but high affinity in some literature (de Boissezon
136 et al., 2020; Fernandes and Baeyens, 2019)”. Moreover, experimental data were interpreted by
137 taking into account aqueous speciation including chloride-lead complexes (especially PbCl^+ ,
138 which can be adsorbed onto clay minerals (Wang et al., 2015). Data obtained for Pb(II) will
139 then be compared and discussed with previous data found in the literature, and the possible
140 different adsorption properties of the swelling clay for Ra(II) and Pb(II) will be discussed in the
141 context to date geological mechanisms (via $^{226}\text{Ra(II)}/^{210}\text{Pb(II)}$ natural disequilibrium
142 measurements).

143

144 **2. Materials and methods**

145 ***2.1. Smectite characterization***

146 Experiments were performed with a dioctahedral smectite, referenced as a beidellite from
147 Silver City, Idaho, USA (SBId-1), having the following structural formula:
148 $(\text{Si}_{7.15}\text{Al}_{0.85})(\text{Al}_{3.62}\text{Mg}_{0.18}\text{Fe}^{3+}_{0.22})\text{O}_{20}(\text{OH})_4\text{M}^{+}_{0.95}$ per unit cell (Gailhanou et al., 2012) and
149 issued from the Society Source Clay Repository (Department of Agronomy, Purdue University,

150 West Lafayette, IN, USA). Size fractionation was performed on SBId-1 by centrifugation to
151 obtain a $<0.3 \mu\text{m}$ size fraction to limit the possible presence of mineralogical impurities (minor
152 kaolinite and illite/smectite interstratified minerals, $<5 \text{ wt}\%$) before being dried at $60 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.
153 Sorption sites were saturated with Na^+ using 3 M NaCl solution, followed by chloride removal
154 by dialysis before drying at $60 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. The specific surface area (SSA) of external surfaces and the
155 total cation exchange capacity (CEC) are approximately $70 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and $100 \text{ meq}/100 \text{ g}$,
156 respectively (more information can be found in (Robin et al., 2017, 2015b)).

157

158 ***2.2. Ion-exchange experiments***

159 ^{210}Pb adsorption and desorption experiments were performed at the same time as the ^{226}Ra
160 experiments presented in Robin et al. (2017), which allows discussion of radioactive
161 disequilibrium. Experiments were performed as a function of pH with values adjusted by the
162 addition of HCl or NaOH to obtain a pH range from 2.2 to 7.3 at equilibrium. Experiments were
163 performed at two ionic strengths ($[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot.}}=0.11 \text{ M}$ and 0.027 M fixed by NaCl solutions; $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot.}}$
164 is the term used later in this study to discuss the ionic strengths effects). HCl and NaOH
165 additions were considered in the calculation of total Na^+ and Cl^- contents) with a solid/liquid
166 ratio of 2.78 g/L in 10 mL NalgeneTM centrifuge tubes. This solid solution ratio is commonly
167 used in literature (Fernandes and Baeyens, 2019; Orucoglu et al., 2018; Tertre et al., 2011a;
168 Robin et al., 2015b); using higher ratio would induce possible problem accessibility of solute
169 to the solid surface and a lower solid solution ratio could lead to higher analytical uncertainties
170 to quantify sorption. After equilibration for 2 days between the solid (SBId-1) and the NaCl
171 solutions, either 50 or $90 \mu\text{L}$ ($\pm 5 \mu\text{L}$) of $13.0 \text{ kBq/mL } ^{210}\text{Pb}$ and $72.9 \text{ kBq/mL } ^{226}\text{Ra}$
172 ($^{226}\text{Ra}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ solution, Isotope Products Laboratories, USA; the source concentration was
173 controlled by γ -ray spectrometry) was added to each batch experiment. The initial measured
174 activity of ^{210}Pb in the solution ranged from 60 to 135 Bq/mL , i.e., $1 \cdot 10^{-10}$ to $2.3 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ M}$ and
175 the one of ^{226}Ra from 300 to 700 Bq/mL , i.e., $4 \cdot 10^{-8}$ to $8.5 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ M}$. After adding the lead solution,
176 the centrifuge tubes were continuously shaken using a mixing rotor for three days at room
177 temperature. The supernatant was subsequently recovered for pH and activity measurements at
178 equilibrium. To test the reversibility of ^{210}Pb adsorption and then perform its desorption,
179 between 9 and 10 mL of the two $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot.}}$ solutions (0.027 M or 0.11 M) were added to the
180 remaining clay slurry in the centrifuge tubes, which were shaken for three days before new
181 collection of the supernatant for pH measurements and aqueous analysis. To assess the potential
182 dissolution of smectite during these experiments, especially under acidic conditions, aluminum

183 concentrations were measured in the supernatants obtained after filtration at 0.1 μm by
 184 inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES, Thermo Scientific®
 185 iCAP™ 6000 Series).

186 The activity of aqueous ^{210}Pb remaining after both adsorption and desorption steps was
 187 obtained by gamma ray spectrometric analysis using a coaxial-type germanium detector and
 188 was measured by considering the 46.5 keV peak for direct measurement (see more details in
 189 Robin et al. (2017) for the geometry used for these activity measurements).

190

191 Experimental $K_{d(\text{ads})}$ (adsorption step) was calculated according to Equation 1:

$$192 \quad K_{d(\text{ads})} = \frac{A_0 - A_{eq_1}}{A_{eq_1}} \times \frac{V_{tot_1}}{m_d} \quad (1)$$

193 where $K_{d(\text{ads})}$ is the distribution coefficient (mL/g) from the adsorption step, A_0 (Bq/mL) is the
 194 initial activity of ^{210}Pb added to the batch, A_{eq_1} (Bq/mL) is the activity of ^{210}Pb measured in the
 195 supernatant at equilibrium (Bq/mL), V_{tot_1} (mL) is the volume of solution used for adsorption
 196 experiments, and m_d (g) is the mass of dry solid after dehydration at 105 °C.

197 For the desorption experiments, distribution coefficients (i.e., $K_{d(\text{des})}$) were calculated
 198 according to Equation 2:

$$199 \quad K_{d(\text{des})} = \frac{A_{\text{rem}} - A_{eq_2}}{A_{eq_2}} \times \frac{(V_{tot_2} + V_{\text{rem}})}{m_d} \quad (2)$$

200 where $K_{d(\text{des})}$ is the distribution coefficient (mL/g) from the desorption step, A_{rem} is the activity
 201 of ^{210}Pb remaining in the clay slurry (i.e., solid + remaining poral solution) after the adsorption
 202 step (Bq/mL), and A_{eq_2} is the activity of ^{210}Pb measured in the supernatant at equilibrium after
 203 the desorption step (Bq/mL). V_{rem} is the volume of solution remaining in the clay slurry after
 204 the adsorption step (mL), V_{tot_2} is the volume of solution added for the desorption step (mL),
 205 and m_d (g) is the mass of dry solid after dehydration at 105 °C.

206 The error calculation is an important step for the comparison between experimental and
 207 model data, and each K_d was associated with a minimum error value (ΔK_d) calculated according
 208 to the error propagation law (Barrante, 1974):

$$209 \quad \Delta K_d = \sqrt{\left(\frac{A_i \cdot V_f}{m_d \cdot A_{eq}}\right)^2 \times Q_{A_{eq}}^2 + \left(\frac{V_f}{m_d \cdot A_{eq}}\right)^2 \times Q_{A_i}^2} \quad (3)$$

210 where m_d (g) is the same as that parameter defined in Equations 1 and 2. A_i (Bq/mL) and V_f
 211 (mL) are equal to A_0 and V_{tot_1} , respectively, in the case of $K_{d(\text{ads})}$ (see Equation 1; adsorption
 212 step) and to A_{rem} and to $V_{tot_2} + V_{\text{rem}}$, respectively, in the case of $K_{d(\text{des})}$ (see Equation 2;

213 desorption step). Q_{A_i} is the error associated with A_i : equal to 7 % when $A_i=A_0$ (same uncertainty
214 for each adsorption point), while error corresponds to uncertainty on A_{eq} when $A_i=A_{rem}$ (leading
215 then to different uncertainty for each desorption point). Note that this error calculation method
216 does not consider possible errors in the solid mass and solution volumes; this choice is
217 supported by the small contributions of these two errors (<1 %) in comparison to the errors of
218 activity.

219

220 **2.3. Thermodynamic calculations and modeling**

221 The approach adopted in this study to interpret lead sorption at various pH values is based
222 on a previous multisite model developed for the solid used here (<0.3 μm of SBId-1), which
223 accounts for the sorption of major cations of natural waters (Na^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+}), Al^{3+} , H^+ and
224 trace elements (Ra^{2+}) in Robin et al. (2017 and 2015b).

225 Experimental ion-exchange isotherms were interpreted using Phreeqc[®] software (Parkhurst
226 and Appelo, 1999) associated with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)
227 thermodynamic database (Johnson et al., 2000), including aqueous complexation constants for
228 Pb(II). To consider the possible aqueous complexation of Ra^{2+} , the LLNL database was
229 augmented by the formation constants of complexes involving radium with chlorides,
230 carbonates, and hydroxyls, as proposed in the Prodata database 1.4 version, which was recently
231 developed (Reiller and Descostes, 2020) to predict water/rock interactions for mining
232 environments. For all simulated data, aqueous activity coefficients were calculated by using the
233 Debye Huckel law, and modeling was performed assuming an equilibrium of the aqueous phase
234 with atmospheric $\text{CO}_{2(g)}$ ($10^{-3.5}$ atm.).

235 The modeling used a multisite approach to fit the experimental data, in which the total CEC
236 of the material was divided into several types of reactive sites, implying that the heterogeneity
237 of the mineral surface properties could be considered (Ly et al., 1991; Reinoso-Maset and Ly,
238 2016; Tertre et al., 2009). As discussed in Robin et al. (2015b), the model developed on
239 beidellite was built with 3 types of reactive sites (>Xa, >Xb and >Xc), which can potentially be
240 attributed to interlayer sites (>Xa and >Xb) or external sites (>Xc) of the smectite particle.
241 These reactive sites constitute a set of parameters able to best fit the experimental isotherms
242 obtained for the exchange of major cations, including H^+ and Al^{3+} and Ra^{2+} (ultratrace element)
243 at the surface of the beidellite. In this study, the sorption constant characterizing the exchange
244 reaction of two cations (A and B) at each: (i) site on the solid surface was approximated using
245 a selectivity coefficient ($K_{A/B}^i$) and calculated using the equivalent fraction convention (Gaines-
246 Thomas formalism) (Gaines and Thomas, 1953). More details of this modeling procedure can

247 be found in Tertre et al. (2011a). Modeling performed in this study for the adsorption/desorption
 248 of ^{210}Pb was done by considering the ion-exchange of major cations of natural waters (Na^+ ,
 249 Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , K^+), protons, Al^{3+} and radium (Ra^{2+}) at the surface of SBId-1 beidellite previously
 250 proposed by Robin et al. (2017, 2015b) (see selectivity coefficients and site concentrations used
 251 in Table 1). Note that during the modeling of experimental data, aqueous phases were always
 252 undersaturated with respect to Pb(II)- and Ra(II)-bearing phases (such as hydroxides, sulfates,
 253 carbonates, chlorides and Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides) and amorphous silica, confirming that ion-
 254 exchange reactions were likely to be the unique processes involved for these two elements.

255
 256 Table 1. a) Site concentrations and associated logarithms of selectivity coefficients (Gaines-
 257 Thomas convention) proposed by (Robin et al., 2015b) for five inorganic cations (Na^+ , K^+ ,
 258 Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} and Al^{3+}), protons (H^+) and radium (Ra^{2+}) on SBId-1 beidellite. The total site
 259 concentration was 100 meq/100 g. b) Logarithm of selectivity coefficients (Gaines-Thomas
 260 convention) proposed in this study for $\text{Pb}^{2+}/2\text{Na}^+$ and $\text{PbCl}^+/\text{Na}^+$ ion-exchange reactions to
 261 interpret the lead-proton experimental isotherms obtained in 0.11 M and 0.027 M NaCl for the
 262 SBId-1 beidellite. Selectivity coefficients are proposed for equations written as follows (case
 263 $\text{Na}^+/\text{Pb}^{2+}$ for the Xa site): $\text{Pb}^{2+} + 2\text{NaXa} = \text{Pb}(\text{Xa})_2 + 2\text{Na}^+$.

Beidellite (SBId-1)			
a) (Robin et al., 2017, 2015b)			
Site types	>Xa	>Xb	>Xc
Site concentration (meq/100 g)	38	30	32
$\log K_{(\text{Na}^+/\text{H}^+)}$	0.1	1.7	5.5
$\log K_{(2\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+})}$	0.3	0.3	8
$\log K_{(2\text{Na}^+/\text{Mg}^{2+})}$	0.7	0.7	2
$\log K_{(\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+)}$	0.2	0.2	2.5
$\log K_{(3\text{Na}^+/\text{Al}^{3+})}$	0.64	0.64	0.64
$\log K_{(2\text{Na}^+/\text{Ra}^{2+})}$	1	1.4	2.2
b) Beidellite SBId-1 - this study			
$\log K_{(2\text{Na}^+/\text{Pb}^{2+})}$	0.6	1.8	3.7
$\log K_{(\text{Na}^+/\text{PbCl}^+)}$	2	2.4	4.5

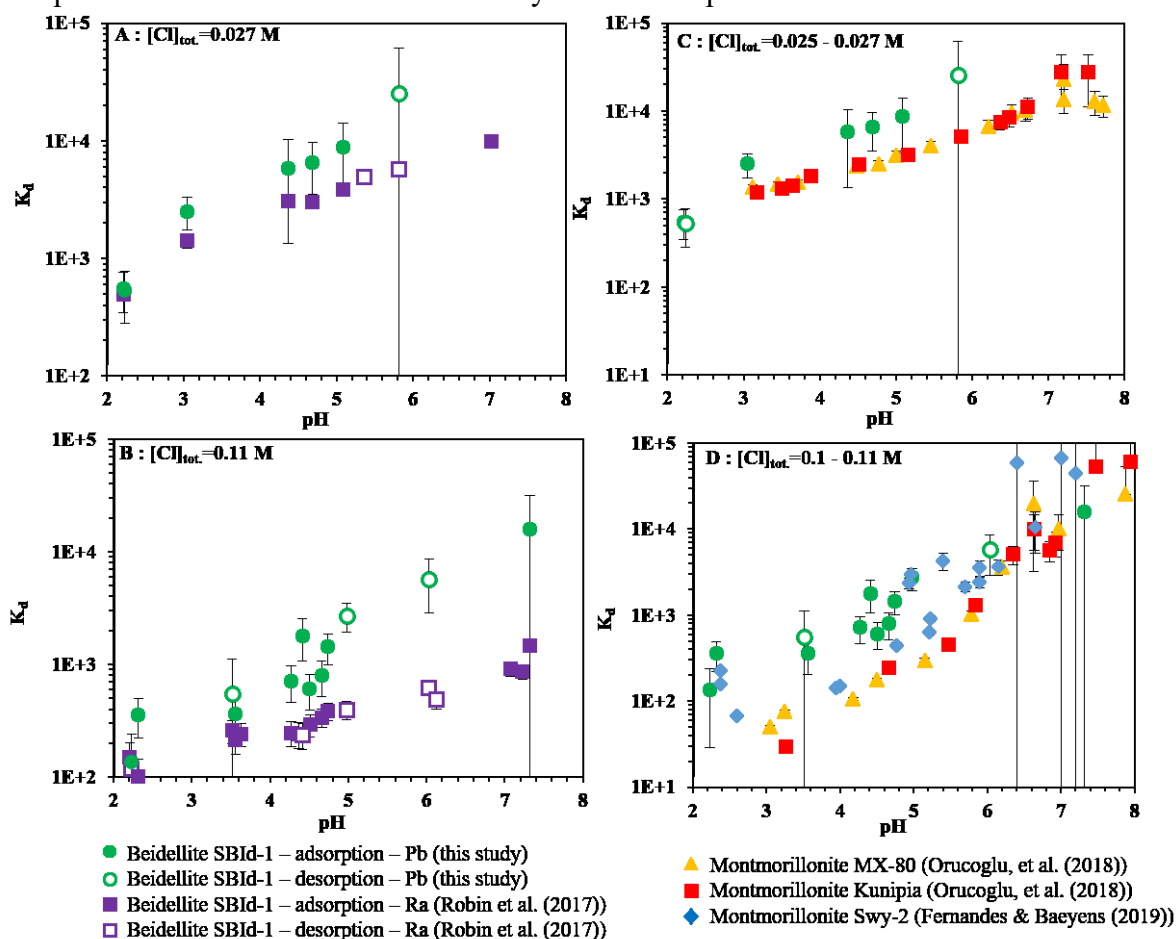
264

265 3. Results and discussion

266 3.1. Experimental results

267 Figures 1A and 1B report the experimental K_d for Ra(II) and Pb(II) versus pH for $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot.}}$ of
 268 0.027 M (Figure 1A) and 0.11 M (Figure 1B). Note that the data for both elements were
 269 obtained for the same smectite (SBId-1), allowing us to compare their possible behavior.
 270 Desorption data follow the same trend as the data of adsorption, suggesting that the process

271 investigated is reversible for both elements. Under acidic conditions (i.e., $\text{pH} < 2.2$), the K_d of
 272 ^{210}Pb is close to the K_d of ^{226}Ra , with values of approximately 10^3 L/kg considering error bars
 273 for the two $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$ investigated. The K_d values of Ra(II) and Pb(II) increase with pH irrespective
 274 of $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$ tested, as expected for adsorption of cations on clay minerals (Beneš et al., 1985;
 275 Beneš and Strejc, 1986; Fernandes and Baeyens, 2019; Robin et al., 2017; Orucoglu et al.,
 276 2018). However, when $\text{pH} > 2.2$, $K_d(^{210}\text{Pb})$ is systematically higher than $K_d(^{226}\text{Ra})$, showing that
 277 the selectivity of ^{210}Pb is higher than the selectivity of ^{226}Ra for a given pH and $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$ values.
 278 Moreover, for a given pH, the higher the Na concentration is (i.e. $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}} = 0.11$ M), the lower
 279 the $K_d(^{210}\text{Pb})$ and $K_d(^{226}\text{Ra})$ are. Then, all these data indicate that (i) H^+ and Na^+ are competitors
 280 of both Ra(II) and Pb(II) for adsorption on the smectite used, and that (ii) there is an ionic
 281 strength effect on the adsorption of Pb(II) on smectites, which can be attributed either to
 282 competition with Na^+ or to a lower affinity of lead complexes on smectite.



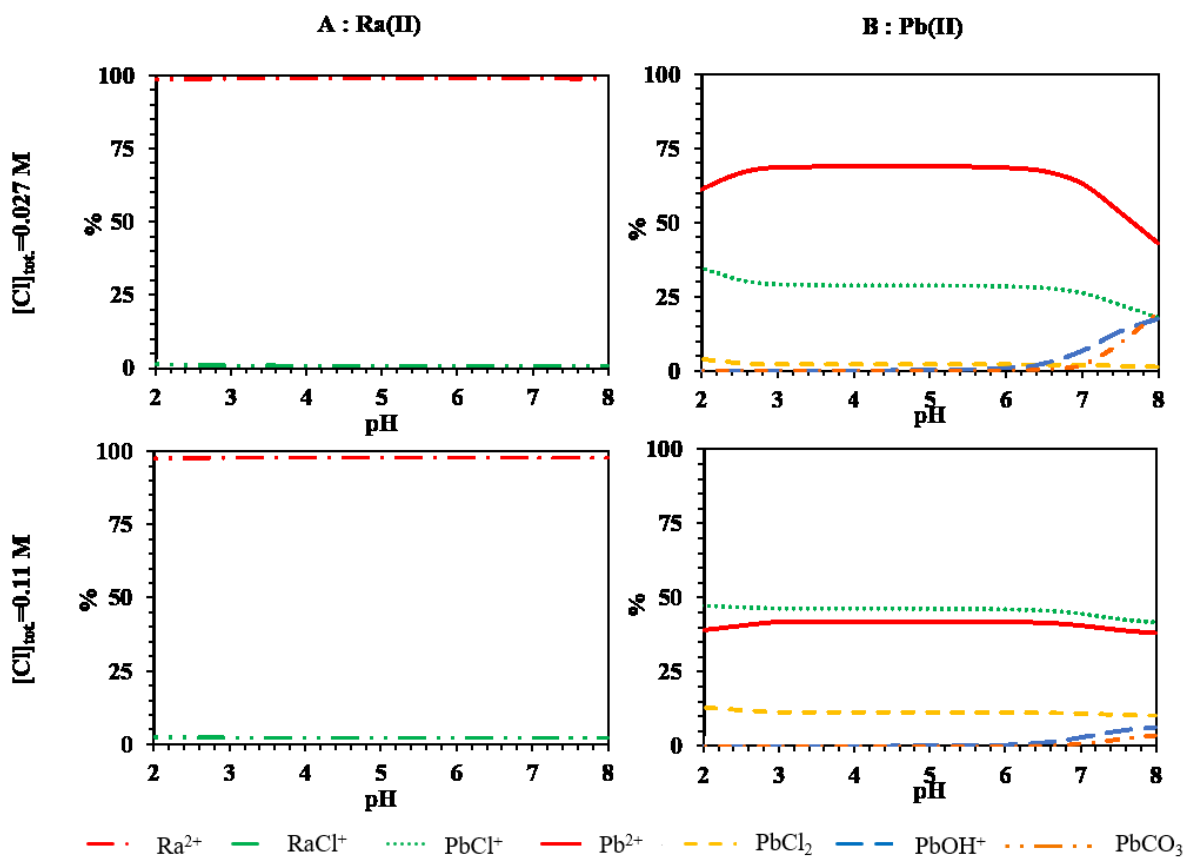
283 Figure 1: Comparison between K_d measured in this study for Pb(II) adsorption on SBId-1
 284 beidellite with the values reported from the literature for Ra(II) adsorption concomitantly on
 285 the same material, for $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}} = 0.027$ M (A) and 0.11 M (B); and Pb(II) adsorption on
 286 montmorillonite for similar total anion concentrations ($[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}} = 0.025 - 0.027$ M (C); $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}} = 0.1 -$

287 0.11 M (D)). All K_d values are expressed in L/kg and are reported as a function of pH. Open
 288 and filled symbols are obtained from the desorption and adsorption steps, respectively.

289
 290 Figures 1C and 1D compare $K_d(^{210}\text{Pb})$ measured for Pb(II) in this study for SBId-1,
 291 characterized by tetrahedral charge, with the Pb(II) values reported in the literature for
 292 montmorillonites characterized by octahedral charges. Figure 1C compares data obtained for
 293 similar $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$ ranging from 0.025 to 0.027 M, while Figure 1D reports data obtained for similar
 294 $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$ ranging from 0.1 to 0.11 M. $K_d(^{210}\text{Pb})$ reported from the literature for montmorillonites
 295 increases with increasing pH and decreasing Na^+ concentration. As discussed previously for
 296 beidellite, such behavior is due to competition between Pb(II), H^+ and Na^+ on adsorption sites.
 297 However, due to experimental errors in K_d , as well as possible variations in CEC, specific
 298 surface area (SSA) and mineralogy between SBId-1 and montmorillonites used in the literature,
 299 assessment of the possible crystal-chemistry effect (i.e., localization of the charge in the
 300 smectite layers) of smectites on $K_d(^{210}\text{Pb})$ values remains to be explored.

301

302 **3.2. Modeling and associated inputs/outputs**



303 Figure 2: Comparison between aqueous speciation for Ra(II) (A) and Pb(II) (B) calculated as a
 304 function of pH and for the two total concentrations of chloride investigated in this study (i.e.,

305 [Cl]_{tot.}) and considering an equilibrium with pCO_{2(g)}=10^{-3.5} atm. See material and method for
306 the thermodynamic calculation. Species contributing to less than 1 % of the total concentration
307 are not shown.

308
309 For the two [Cl]_{tot.} investigated, aqueous speciation of Ra(II) and Pb(II) are reported as a
310 function of pH in Figure 2A and 2B, respectively. Ra²⁺ is always the main Ra(II) species
311 irrespective of the pH and [Cl]_{tot.} values, and the contribution of RaCl⁺ is always negligible
312 (<3 %). The contributions of other aqueous complexes, such as RaOH⁺, RaCO₃, and
313 Ra(HCO₃)⁺ are also negligible (<0.01 %). In contrast, for pH values ranging from 2.2 to 8, Pb²⁺
314 is the dominant form for low [Cl]_{tot.} (0.027 M), while a chloride complex (PbCl⁺) is the main
315 species for high [Cl]_{tot.} (0.11 M). Note, however, that other species contribute significantly to
316 the speciation of Pb(II) at the two [Cl]_{tot.} investigated (e.g., at 0.027 M, PbCl⁺ can be present at
317 approximately 30 %, while the proportion of Pb²⁺ can reach approximately 45 % at 0.11 M).
318 The contributions of PbCl₂, PbOH⁺ and PbCO₃ are always low for pH<7 (<11 %) under our
319 experimental conditions. Other complexes involving Pb(II) (PbCl₃⁻, PbCl₄²⁻, Pb(OH)₂) are
320 always <0.9 % under our experimental conditions. Finally, note that sensitivity tests using
321 aqueous speciation calculations performed with Thermoddem (Blanc et al., 2012) and Prodata
322 (Reiller and Descostes, 2020) thermodynamic databases show Pb(II) speciation (with <6 % of
323 differences; see Figure S.I.1) similar to those obtained with the LLNL (see Figure S.I.1 for the
324 comparison).

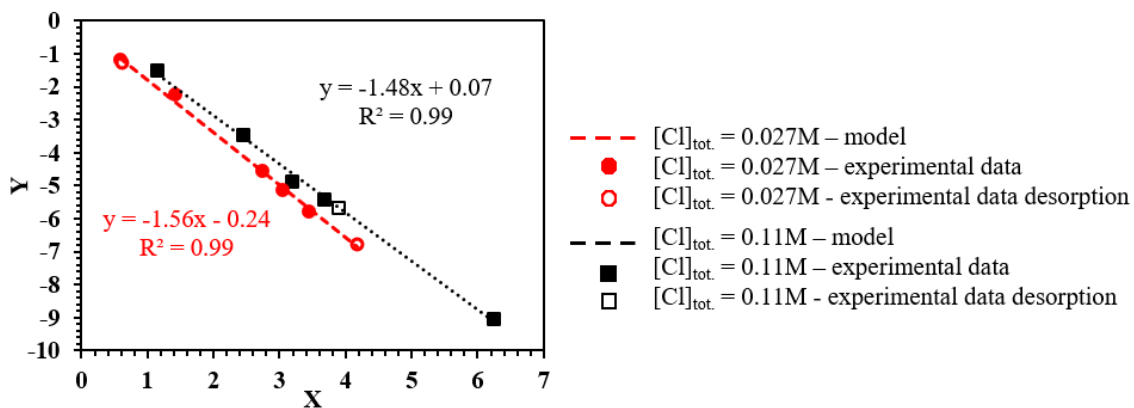
325 Pb²⁺ and PbCl⁺ coexist as the main aqueous Pb(II) species for the two [Cl]_{tot.} investigated.
326 Then, the question arises whether both species, differing by their charge (monovalent for PbCl⁺
327 and divalent for Pb²⁺), are involved in Pb(II) sorption. This factor can be assessed by using a
328 method previously proposed by Reinoso-Maset and Ly (2016) to study the sorption of metallic
329 cations, such as Pb(II), that can be present as free divalent cations (Pb²⁺) and hydroxylated
330 complexes with a lower valence (such as PbOH⁺). The method considered two parameters, X
331 and Y, specific to each experimental point. X is relative to aqueous measured concentrations
332 (pH and Na⁺; see Equation 5) of main competitors of lead for adsorption onto the solid surface,
333 while Y takes into account experimental K_d, aqueous measured concentration of Pb(II) and pH,
334 and computed Pb(II) aqueous speciation (see Equation 6). In the present study, this formalism
335 was adapted to a chloride system to assess the role of Pb²⁺ and PbCl⁺ in the Pb(II) sorption
336 process. Then, for an aqueous system including H⁺, electrolyte cations (e.g., Na⁺) and Pb(II)
337 present as different species (Pb²⁺, PbCl⁺), two parameters (i.e., X and Y) can be defined:

$$338 \quad X = \log \left(\frac{\gamma_{Na^+} [Na^+]}{\gamma_{H^+} [H^+]} \right) \quad (5)$$

$$339 \quad Y = \log K_{dM} + \log \frac{[^{210}Pb]_T}{[^{210}Pb^{2+}]} - \log \left(\frac{\gamma_{Pb^{2+}}}{\gamma_{H^+}^2} \times \frac{1}{[H^+]^2} \right) \quad (6)$$

340 in which γ_{Na^+} and γ_{H^+} are the molar activity coefficients of the ionic species and K_{dM} is the
 341 measured experimental K_d (in L/kg) as defined in Equations 1 and 2 for the adsorption and
 342 desorption steps, respectively, in this study. [] is the concentration of the aqueous species (in
 343 M): $[^{210}Pb]_T$ was calculated by considering aqueous measured Pb activities; $[H^+]$ is related to
 344 the measured pH; $[Na^+]$ is related to Na^+ concentration; each $[^{210}Pb^{2+}]$ used was calculated by
 345 using aqueous speciation simulated by PhreeqC® specific to all experimental data obtained.
 346 From the analysis of the slope of $Y = f(X)$, Reinoso-Maset and Ly (2016) succeeded in
 347 assessing the valence of the aqueous species that are adsorbed by considering that a slope equal
 348 to -1 corresponds to the adsorption of a monovalent cation (as $PbCl^+$ in our case), and a slope
 349 equal to -2 corresponds to adsorption of a divalent cation (Pb^{2+} here), as presented in Figure 3
 350 for the two $[Cl]_{tot.}$ investigated. The slopes obtained are -1.56 and -1.48 for $[Cl]_{tot.}$ equal to
 351 0.027 M and 0.11 M, respectively. This behavior suggests that adsorption of both divalent and
 352 monovalent Pb(II) species (Pb^{2+} and $PbCl^+$) probably occurs for both $[Cl]_{tot.}$ conditions. These
 353 results are in agreement with previous results showing the significant adsorption of chloride
 354 complexes (such as $PbCl^+$) on clay minerals for similar $[Cl]_{tot.}$ (Charlet and Tournassat, 2005;
 355 Tertre et al., 2011a, 2011b; Tournassat et al., 2004 ; Wang et al., 2015). Then, the adsorption
 356 of both Pb^{2+} and $PbCl^+$ will be considered in the modeling procedure of experimental K_d .

357

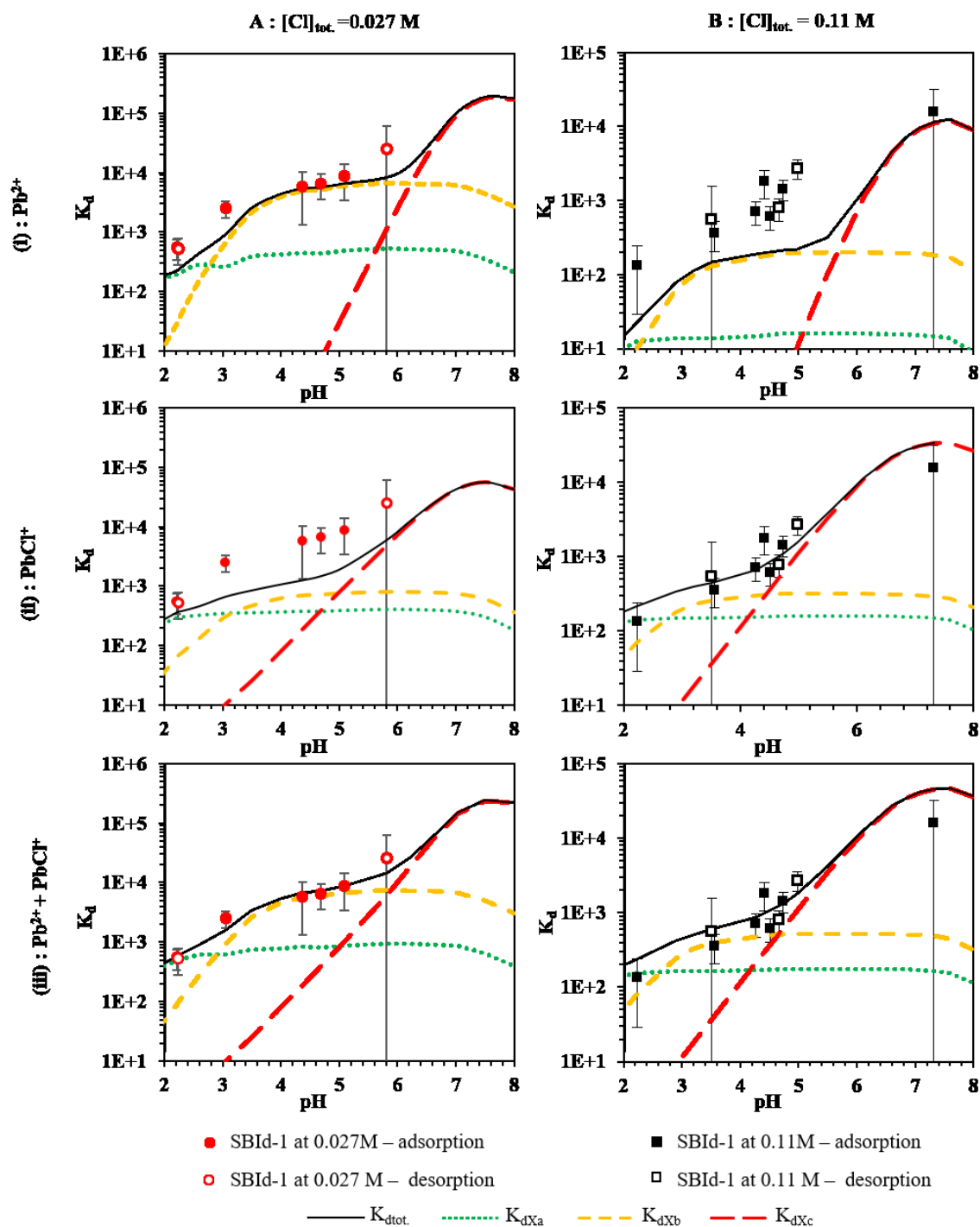


358 Figure 3: Input and output of the sorption model. Experimental data (symbols) reported by using
 359 the (X, Y) representation (see text for details) for $[Cl]_{tot.}$ equal to 0.027 M and 0.11 M, allowing
 360 linear regression (dashed lines) of each of the two datasets to assess the valence of the adsorbed
 361 species. Because the regression slopes are not integral numbers (such as 1 or 2), the assumption
 362 that a minimum of two adsorbed species differing by their valence (e.g., one monovalent and

363 one divalent) can be reasonably proposed as input parameters in the model (see text for more
364 explanations).

365

366 The maximum measured concentration for aqueous aluminum was obtained for pH ~2.2 and
367 was equal to approximately $5 \cdot 10^{-5}$ M; note in addition that measurements were higher than the
368 quantification limits only for samples having pH <4. The value obtained for pH ~2.2
369 corresponded to a maximum percentage of dissolution of approximately 0.3 wt %, suggesting
370 that we can reasonably assume that the site concentrations are constant irrespective of the pH
371 range investigated here. Furthermore, note that interpretation of the Pb(II), H⁺ and Na⁺
372 exchange was made by considering the aqueous aluminum concentration measured for each
373 specific pH and the 3Na⁺/Al³⁺ selectivity coefficients (see Table 1 for values from the literature
374 data).



376 Figure 4: Comparison between experimental K_d (in L/kg) as a function of pH obtained in this
 377 study with the values calculated by considering the ion-exchange model proposed. Data are
 378 reported for $[Cl]_{tot}$. 0.027 M (A) and 0.11 M (B). Modeled adsorbed Pb^{2+} and $PbCl^+$
 379 contributions and total adsorbed Pb(II) are reported in (i), (ii) and (iii), respectively (full lines).
 380 The contributions of the three sites to the total concentrations of adsorbed Pb(II), calculated by
 381 the model, are reported in the figures as dashed lines. For experimental data, open and filled
 382 symbols are obtained from the desorption and adsorption steps, respectively.

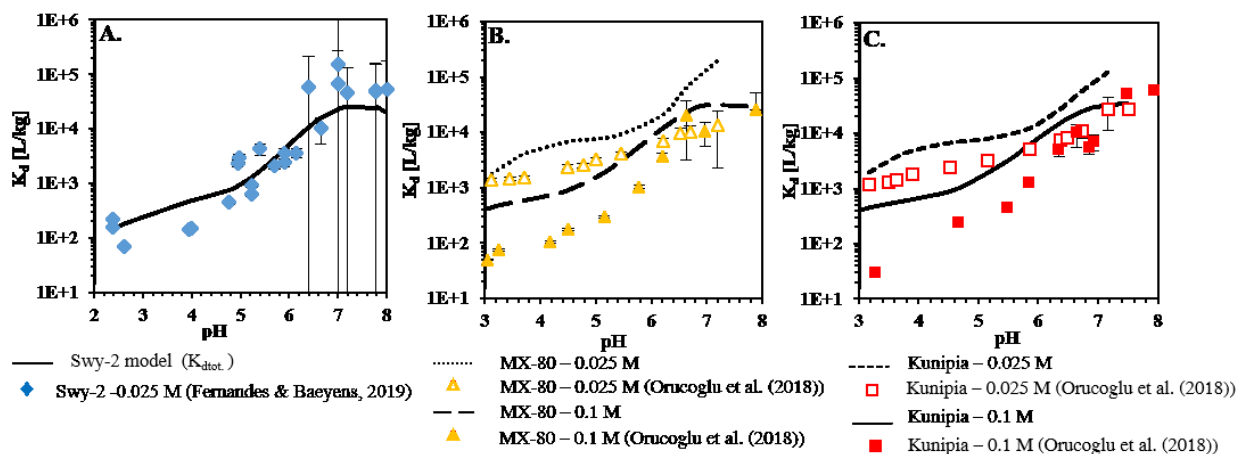
383 By considering only the adsorption of Pb^{2+} , the general shape of the experimental isotherms
 384 was not correctly reproduced, while experimental data were better modeled by introducing
 385 exchange of PbCl^+ (see comparison between experimental data and modeled data in Figure 4).
 386 Thus, selectivity coefficient values involving Na^+ , Pb^{2+} and PbCl^+ on each adsorption site ($>X_a$,
 387 $>X_b$ and $>X_c$) allow us to interpret the whole dataset (i.e., at the two $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$ investigated) and
 388 are reported in Table 1. Note that site concentrations are constant, with a distribution identical
 389 to previous studies on major and trace elements (Robin et al., 2017, 2015b), and that only the
 390 selectivity coefficient values were adjusted.

391
 392 Table 2: Experimental conditions used in this study and in the literature to study the sorption of
 393 Pb(II) on smectites.

Smectite	CEC (meq/100 g)	$[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$ (M)	Solid/liquid ratio (g/L)	Pb(II) (M)	References
Beidellite SBId-1 <0.3 μm	100	0.027 0.11	2.78	10^{-11}	This study
Montmorillonite Kunipia	78	0.025 0.1	0.5 1.01	10^{-6}	(Orucoglu et al., 2018)
Montmorillonite MX-80	78	0.025 0.1	0.5 1.01	10^{-6}	(Orucoglu et al., 2018)
Montmorillonite Swy-2	87	0.1	1.1	10^{-10}	(Fernandes and Baeyens, 2019)

394
 395 Finally, the capability of the model proposed in this study to interpret experimental data
 396 reported from the literature (Fernandes and Baeyens, 2019; Orucoglu et al., 2018) for the
 397 sorption of Pb(II) on different smectites was tested. For these modeling procedures, the total
 398 concentrations of Pb(II) and CEC proposed by the authors were used for the calculations (see
 399 Table 2). The same distribution of the three sites include in the model ($>X_a$, $>X_b$ and $>X_c$) that
 400 those proposed in this study for beidellite were assumed to simulate literature data. First, Figure
 401 5 compares: experimental data reported by (Fernandes and Baeyens, 2019) for sorption of
 402 ultratrace Pb(II) (see Table 2) on the Swy-2 montmorillonite obtained as a function of pH for a
 403 $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot.}}=0.1$ M, with those predicted here with the model proposed. A good agreement can be
 404 observed between the two data sets. This shows the rather good capacity of our model, based
 405 on three major sites and considering the competition between Pb(II) (i.e., Pb^{2+} and PbCl^+), Al^{3+} ,
 406 H^+ and Na^+ species, to reproduce experimental data from the literature obtained with other
 407 smectites (montmorillonite). Figure 5B and 5C compare prediction with experimental data

408 reported by Orucoglu et al. (2018) for sorption of trace Pb(II) (see Table 2) on Kunipia and
 409 MX-80 (materials rich in montmorillonite) for different $[Cl]_{tot}$. In these cases, shapes of the
 410 experimental dataset are rather well reproduced as a function of pH for the different conditions
 411 investigated. However, the predicted data systematically overestimate the experimental data
 412 even though the CEC proposed by the authors was used as input for the calculations, suggesting
 413 that parameters other than CEC can be at the origin of these discrepancies, such as: (i)
 414 differences in the total Pb(II) aqueous initial concentration ($10^{-11}/10^{-10}$ M vs 10^{-6} M) inducing
 415 potential site saturation and/or precipitation, and (ii) the presence or absence of other major
 416 (from mineral dissolution at lower pH) or trace competitors inherent to work with natural clays
 417 (as divalent metals) for sorption sites.
 418



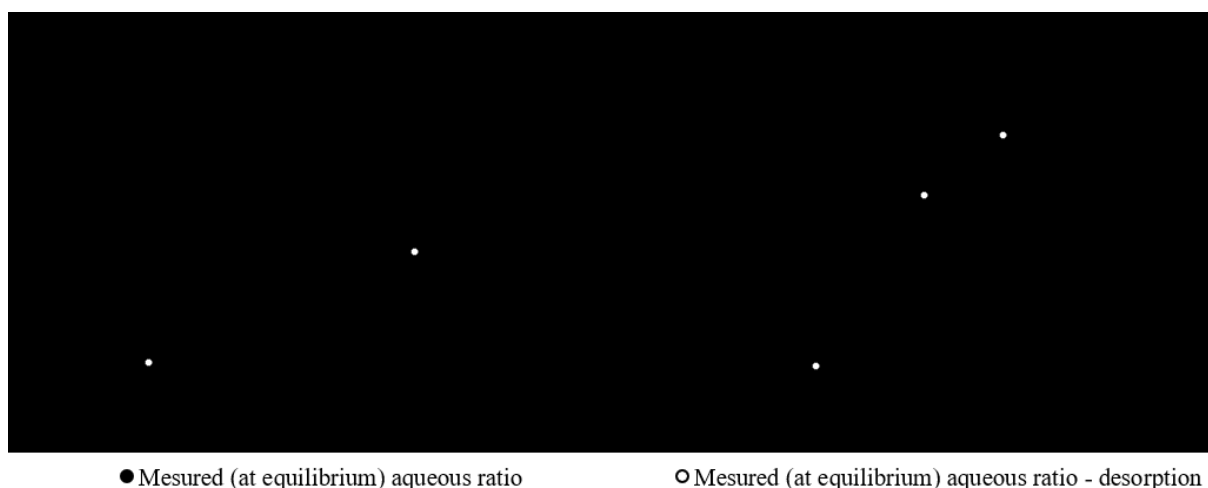
419 Figure 5 : Comparison between experimental K_d reported from literature (A. Fernandes and
 420 Baeyens (2019) and B. and C. Orucoglu et al., 2018; symbols) for adsorption of Pb(II) on
 421 swelling clay rich materials with those predicted by the ion-exchange model proposed in this
 422 study (see Table 1; line). Open symbols correspond to $[Cl]_{tot.}=0.025$ M and filled correspond to
 423 $[Cl]_{tot.}=0.1$ M.

424 For the predictions, the total concentrations of sites proposed by the authors equal to 87
 425 meq/100 g for Swy-2 (Fernandes and Baeyens (2019)) and 78 meq/100 g for MX-80 and
 426 Kunipia (Fernandes and Baeyens, 2019) (Table 2) have been taken into account, and were
 427 distributed between the three sites proposed in the model. The same selectivity coefficients
 428 between montmorillonite and beidellite were considered to assess the validity of the proposed
 429 model to other swelling clay than beidellite.

430

431 **3.3. Implication for $^{226}\text{Ra(II)}/^{210}\text{Pb(II)}$ disequilibrium in natural environments**

432 Since the ^{226}Ra and ^{210}Pb adsorption experiments on the swelling clay were performed at the
433 same time in a single set of batch experiments, performing a direct comparison of the behavior
434 of Ra(II) and Pb(II) is relevant. As the $^{226}\text{Ra}/^{210}\text{Pb}$ ratio is used in many environmental and
435 dating applications, knowing if ion exchange reactions in a wide range of waters physico-
436 chemical conditions (pH from 2.2 to 7.3 and ionic strengths of 0.027 M and 0.11 M) may have
437 an effect on the two isotopes distribution between solid and solution is of prime interest. Thus,
438 the aqueous ratios of activities of ^{226}Ra and ^{210}Pb measured at thermodynamic equilibrium of
439 the exchange reaction, normalized to the ratio of initial activities of both elements, allowing to
440 discuss their relative behavior with respect to adsorption at the smectite surface, are reported as
441 a function of pH for two ionic in Figure 6.



442 Figure 6: Aqueous ratio of activities of ^{226}Ra and ^{210}Pb measured at equilibrium (A_{eq}
443 corresponding to A_{eq1} and A_{eq2} for the adsorption step (Equation 1) and the desorption step
444 (Equation 2), respectively), normalized by the initial activity of both elements (A_i
445 corresponding to A_0 and A_{rem} for the adsorption step (Equation 1) and the desorption step
446 (Equation 2), respectively). The data are plotted as a function of pH and for the two $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$
447 investigated (A: 0.027 M; B: 0.11 M). Open and filled symbols are obtained from the desorption
448 and adsorption steps, respectively.

449
450 Data show that the aqueous phase at equilibrium is systematically enriched in ^{226}Ra
451 compared to ^{210}Pb by comparison to the initial steps, suggesting a drastically different reactivity
452 between the 2 isotopes. Measurements of the concentrations or activity of $^{210}\text{Pb(II)}$ and $^{226}\text{Ra(II)}$
453 are commonly performed in the literature to obtain natural radioactive disequilibrium values
454 and then to date geological mechanisms as hydrothermal deposits (Pickler et al., 2012) and to
455 age or determine the growth rate of marine organisms (Andrews et al., 2005; Sabatier et al.,

456 2012). In a wider use, the “excess” of ^{210}Pb with regard to ^{226}Ra in soils and surface sediments
457 is used for tracing and dating purposes (Mabit et al., 2014). Indeed, these two isotopes are often
458 in disequilibrium with an excess of ^{210}Pb due to aerial deposition of lead-bearing particles, the
459 lead originating from decay of ^{222}Rn released in the atmosphere. In such contexts, systems are
460 often considered to be closed (or with constant flux regarding excess ^{210}Pb), and the possible
461 difference of sorption behaviour of both radionuclides are rarely quantified (especially for the
462 same material) (Appleby and Oldfield, 1992; He and Walling, 1996; Porcelli and Swarzenski,
463 2003). Thus, in all these applications, the “differential” exchange between solid and solution of
464 radium and lead may interfere with the recorded signal from the U and Th decay series. For
465 instance, the quantity of ^{210}Pb in excess with regard to ^{226}Ra for dating recent sedimentary
466 deposits or tracing soil erosion processes can be miscalculated, as if, as in the experiments
467 presented here, the radium is preferentially released in solution compared to lead during solid-
468 solution interactions, leading to overestimation of lead-excess from aerial deposition. Indeed,
469 the data reported in this study are obtained on the same smectite for these two radionuclides,
470 which allows a direct comparison to discuss the possible difference in behavior between these
471 two isotopes. The data (Figure 1A and B) showed that the K_d of ^{210}Pb measured on the smectite
472 used was higher than the K_d of ^{226}Ra for a given physicochemical condition (pH, $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$,
473 solid/solution ratio). The same data using the ratio between aqueous ^{226}Ra and ^{210}Pb activity
474 measured at equilibrium are plotted in Figure 6 as a function of pH for the two $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$. ^{226}Ra
475 aqueous activity is systematically higher than that of ^{210}Pb , in relation to the lower selectivity
476 of Ra(II) over that of Pb(II). These natural radioactive disequilibria increase drastically with
477 pH, up to a factor of 9, over the pH range of 2.2 to 7.3 and for two ionic strengths ($[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$. 0.027
478 M and 0.11 M). These results could be considered in the future to date geological processes,
479 such as those that may occur in slightly acidic and low carbonate surface or subsurface
480 environments (e.g., acidic soils representing more than 50 % of European soils or surface
481 sediments of catchments with crystalline bedrock) an also in slightly basic pH or high salinity
482 condition as in sea water (i.e., pH=8.2 at 0.5 M for $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$).

483

484 **Concluding remarks and perspectives**

485 Experimental data relative to Pb(II) ion-exchange at the ultratrace scale ($<10^{-10}$ mol/L) were
486 obtained on a swelling clay characterized by a tetrahedral charge (beidellite) as a function of
487 pH and for two ionic strengths fixed by NaCl solutions (0.027 and 0.11 M). These data were
488 interpreted by considering aqueous speciation involving Pb^{2+} and ion pairs (as PbCl^+ in our
489 case) and a previous ion-exchange model based on three adsorption sites without specific site

490 for traces elements, including competition with Na^+ , H^+ and Al^{3+} cations. The proposed model,
491 based only on three major sites, is able to correctly reproduce the whole dataset for which Pb(II)
492 is adsorbed at the ultratrace scale, as well as previously published data obtained with another
493 swelling clay (i.e., montmorillonite characterized by an octahedral charge). From these results,
494 considering the approach used, no evidence of the localization of the structural charge
495 (tetrahedral vs octahedral) on the adsorption of Pb(II) on low charged swelling clay was
496 established.

497 Data acquired with ^{210}Pb in this study were obtained on the same swelling clay and during
498 the same experiments as those used for a previous study devoted to ^{226}Ra , allowing discussion
499 without ambiguity of the possible contrast of reactivity between both elements. The results
500 showed that Pb(II) adsorption is preferentially adsorbed over Ra(II) in the physicochemical
501 conditions tested; such contrasting behavior should be considered in the future for geological
502 dating by radioactive disequilibrium ($^{226}\text{Ra}(\text{II})/^{210}\text{Pb}(\text{II})$).

503

504 *Acknowledgments*

505 This work was realized with financial support from Orano Mining, and the authors would like
506 to thank the CEA L3MR laboratory for assistance during experiments and measurements.

507

508 *Supplementary Information*

509 Figure S.I.1 reports a comparison of aqueous speciation calculations performed for Pb(II) with
510 three different thermodynamic databases (i.e., LLNL (Johnson et al., 2000), Thermoddem
511 (Blanc et al., 2012) and Prodata (Reiller and Descostes, 2020)), and the data are plotted as a
512 function of pH for the two $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot}}$ tested. Species contributing less than 1 % of the total
513 concentration are not shown.

514 *Figure captions*

515 Figure 1: Comparison between K_d measured in this study for Pb(II) adsorption on SBId-1
516 beidellite with the values reported from the literature for Ra(II) adsorption concomitantly on
517 the same material, for $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot.}}=0.027$ M (A) and 0.11 M (B); and Pb(II) adsorption on
518 montmorillonite for similar total anion concentrations ($[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot.}}=0.025$ -0.027 M (C); $[\text{Cl}]_{\text{tot.}}=0.1$ -
519 0.11 M (D)). All K_d values are expressed in L/kg and are reported as a function of pH. Open
520 and filled symbols are obtained from the desorption and adsorption steps, respectively.

521 Figure 2: Comparison between aqueous speciation for Ra(II) (A) and Pb(II) (B) calculated as a
522 function of pH and for the two total concentrations of chloride investigated in this study (i.e.,
523 $[Cl]_{tot.}$) and considering an equilibrium with $pCO_{2(g)}=10^{-3.5}$ atm. See material and method for
524 the thermodynamic calculation. Species contributing to less than 1 % of the total concentration
525 are not shown.

526 Figure 3: Input and output of the sorption model. Experimental data (symbols) reported by using
527 the (X, Y) representation (see text for details) for $[Cl]_{tot.}$ equal to 0.027 M and 0.11 M, allowing
528 linear regression (dashed lines) of each of the two datasets to assess the valence of the adsorbed
529 species. Because the regression slopes are not integral numbers (such as 1 or 2), the assumption
530 that a minimum of two adsorbed species differing by their valence (e.g., one monovalent and
531 one divalent) can be reasonably proposed as input parameters in the model (see text for more
532 explanations).

533 Figure 4: Comparison between experimental K_d (in L/kg) as a function of pH obtained in this
534 study with the values calculated by considering the ion-exchange model proposed. Data are
535 reported for $[Cl]_{tot.}$ 0.027 M (A) and 0.11 M (B). Modeled adsorbed Pb^{2+} and $PbCl^+$
536 contributions and total adsorbed Pb(II) are reported in (i), (ii) and (iii), respectively (full lines).

537 Figure 5: Comparison between experimental K_d reported from literature (A. Fernandes and
538 Baeyens (2019) and B. and C. Orucoglu et al., 2018; symbols) for adsorption of Pb(II) on
539 swelling clay rich materials with those predicted by the ion-exchange model proposed in this
540 study (see Table 1; line). Open symbols correspond to $[Cl]_{tot.}=0.025$ M and filled correspond to
541 $[Cl]_{tot.}=0.1$ M.

542 For the predictions, the total concentrations of sites proposed by the authors equal to 87
543 meq/100 g for Swy-2 (Fernandes and Baeyens (2019)) and 78 meq/100 g for MX-80 and
544 Kunipia (Fernandes and Baeyens, 2019) (Table 2) have been taken into account, and were
545 distributed between the three sites proposed in the model. The same selectivity coefficients
546 between montmorillonite and beidellite were considered to assess the validity of the proposed
547 model to other swelling clay than beidellite.

548
549

550 Figure 6: Aqueous ratio of activities of ^{226}Ra and ^{210}Pb measured at equilibrium (A_{eq}
551 corresponding to A_{eq1} and A_{eq2} for the adsorption step (Equation 1) and the desorption step

552 (Equation 2), respectively), normalized by the initial activity of both elements (A_i
553 corresponding to A_0 and A_{rem} for the adsorption step (Equation 1) and the desorption step
554 (Equation 2), respectively). The data are plotted as a function of pH and for the two $[Cl]_{tot}$.
555 investigated (A: 0.027 M; B: 0.11 M). Open and filled symbols are obtained from the desorption
556 and adsorption steps, respectively.

557 **Table captions**

558 Table 1. a) Site concentrations and associated logarithms of selectivity coefficients (Gaines-
559 Thomas convention) proposed by (Robin et al., 2015b) for five inorganic cations (Na^+ , K^+ ,
560 Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} and Al^{3+}), protons (H^+) and radium (Ra^{2+}) on SBId-1 beidellite. The total site
561 concentration was 100 meq/100 g. b) Logarithm of selectivity coefficients (Gaines-Thomas
562 convention) proposed in this study for $Pb^{2+}/2Na^+$ and $PbCl^+/Na^+$ ion-exchange reactions to
563 interpret the lead-proton experimental isotherms obtained in 0.11 M and 0.027 M NaCl for the
564 SBId-1 beidellite.

565 Table 2: Experimental conditions used in this study and in the literature to study the sorption of
566 Pb(II) on smectites.

567

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