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"Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iasi, Romania

THE ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMISTRY OF RECENT SEDIMENTS OF SMALL LAKES IN THE SOUTHWEST OF KARELIA, RUSSIA

Zakhar Slukovskii[1,2*], Maksim Medvedev[2], Evgeny Siroezhko[3]

[1]Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems of Kola Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 14a Academgorodok Street, 184209, Apatity, Murmansk region, Russia
[2]Institute of Geology of the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Science, 11 Pushkinskaya Street, 185910, Petrozavodsk, Russia
[3]Saint Petersburg State University,13B Universitetskaya Emb., 199034, St. Petersburg, Russia

Abstract

In this article, issues of environmental pollution due to long-range atmospheric transport of heavy metals are considered. Researches of recent sediment cores of Lakes Liunkunlampi and Raivattalanlampi from the Republic of Karelia were carried out. The purpose of the study was to give a detailed environmental and geochemical assessment of the recent sediments in these small lakes located in the southwestern part of Karelia. The scope of the study covers the area of the southwest of Karelia (Russia) and touches the environmental problems of northern Europe. The maximum of heavy metal accumulation appears in the upper sediment layers from 0 to approximately 15 cm. The main pollutants of the lakes are Pb, Cd, Zn, Cu, Sb, Sn, Bi, and Tl, which are geochemistry agents of long-range pollutant transport from anthropogenic sources of Russia, Finland and other countries of Northern and Eastern Europe. It was revealed that the type of sediments significantly influences the activity of heavy metal accumulation. The sediments of Lake Liunkunlampi contain more heavy metal concentrations than sediments of Lake Raivattalanlampi, because Liunkunlampi sediments consist of about 80% organic matter, whereas Raivattalanlampi sediments are made up of 26% organic matter. Analysis of fractions of heavy metals illustrated that pollutants basically are bound with mineral and organic phases of lake sediments in south-west Karelia. The high bioavailable of some metals (Cd, Pb, Zn) are noted.

Keywords: lake sediments, fractions of pollutants, heavy metals, Republic of Karelia, sapropel, small lakes

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[*]Author to whom all correspondence should be addressed: e-mail: slukovsky87@gmail.com; Phone: +79602140712