



RESEARCH CENTRE

Restoration management in degraded fens and bogs

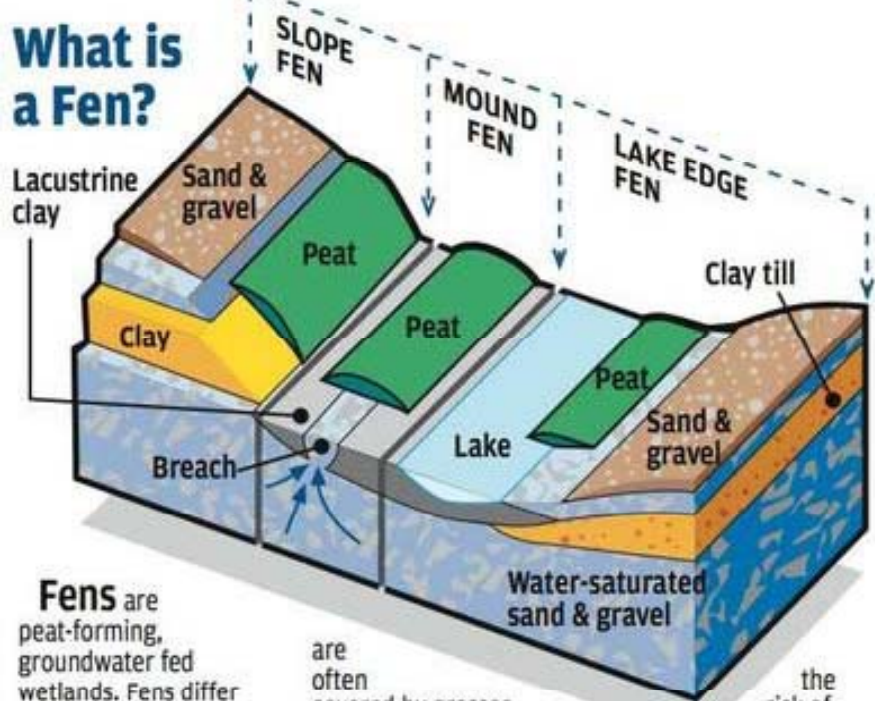
Fons Smolders

Radboud University Nijmegen



*Institute for Wetland and Water Research
Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands*

What is a Fen?



Fens are peat-forming, groundwater fed wetlands. Fens differ from bogs in that they are less acidic, have higher nutrient levels and can support a more diverse plant and animal community. They often

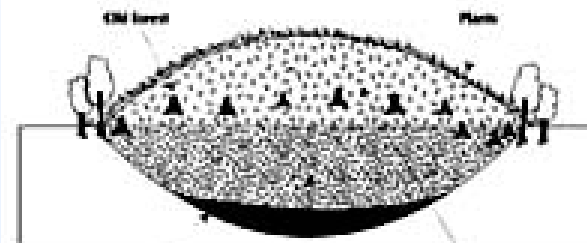
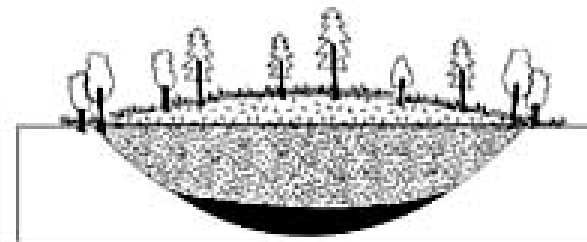
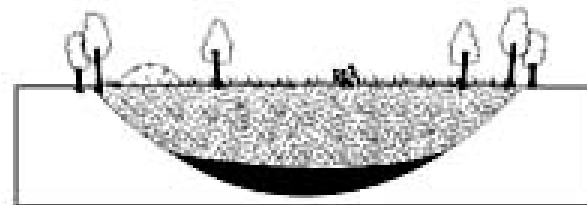
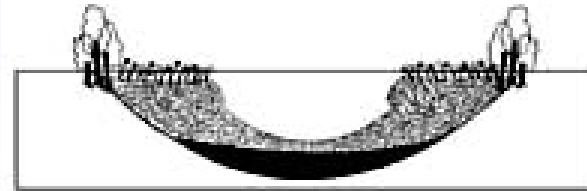
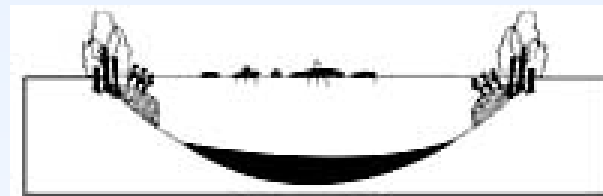
are often covered by grasses, sedges, rushes and wildflowers.

Fens provide important benefits that include preventing or reducing

the risk of floods and improving water quality. Plants like the showy lady slipper orchid thrive in fens.

SOURCE: U.S. EPA, Jim Amon, Wright State University

STAFF

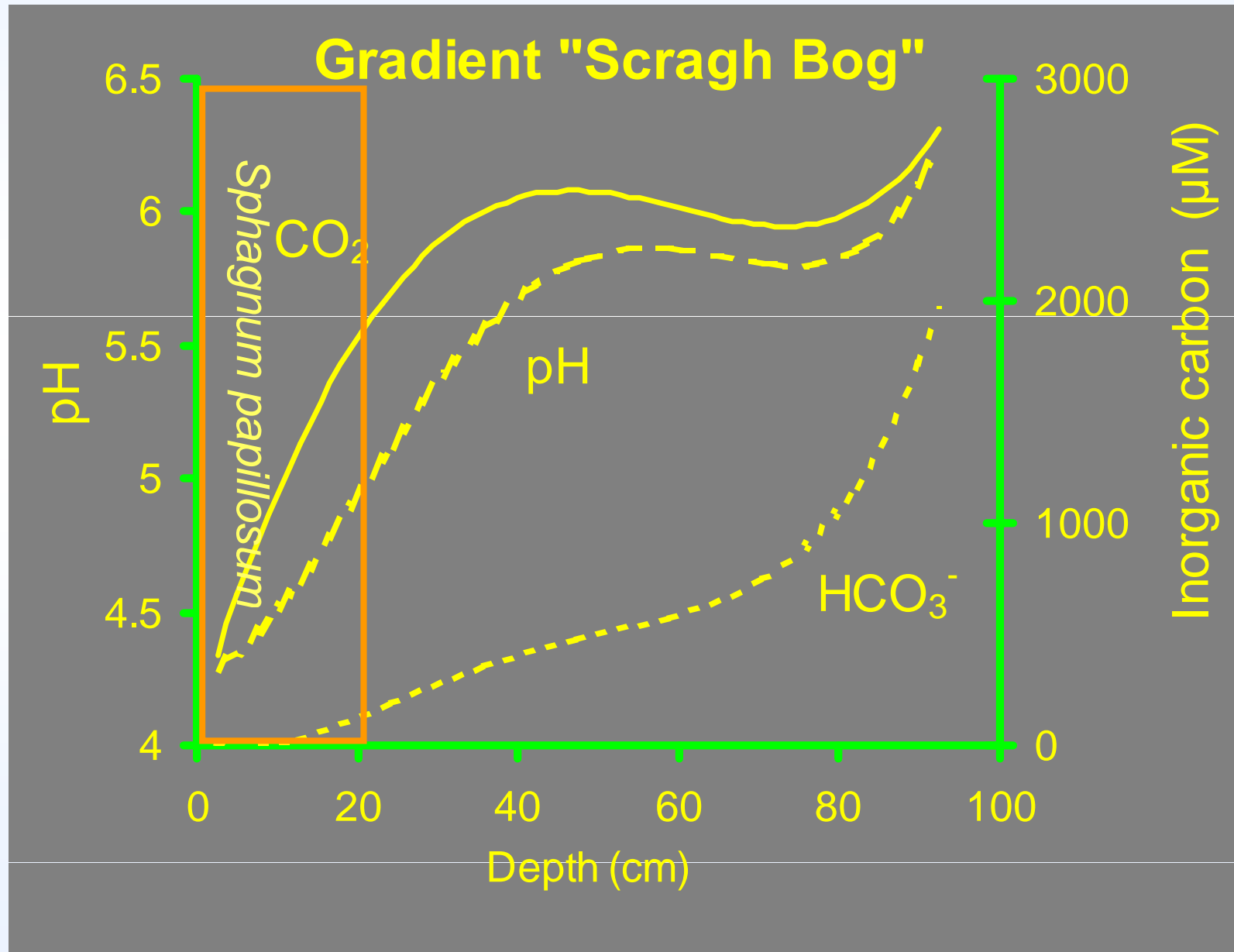


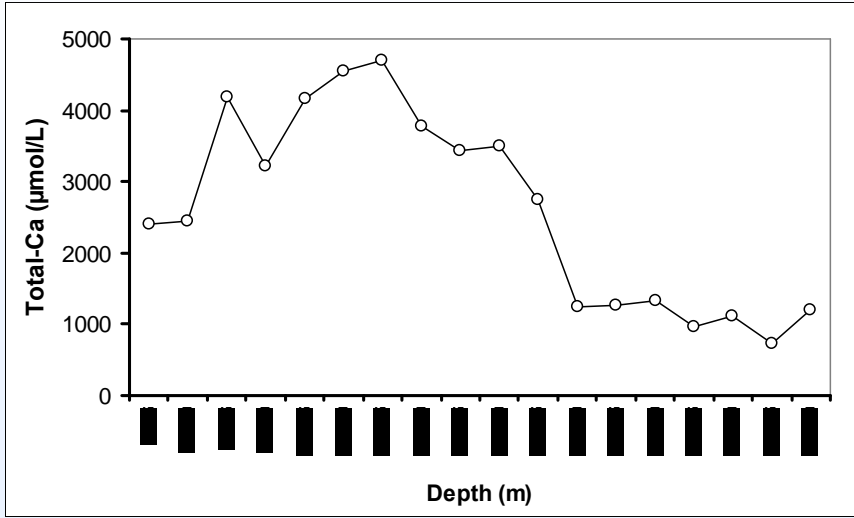
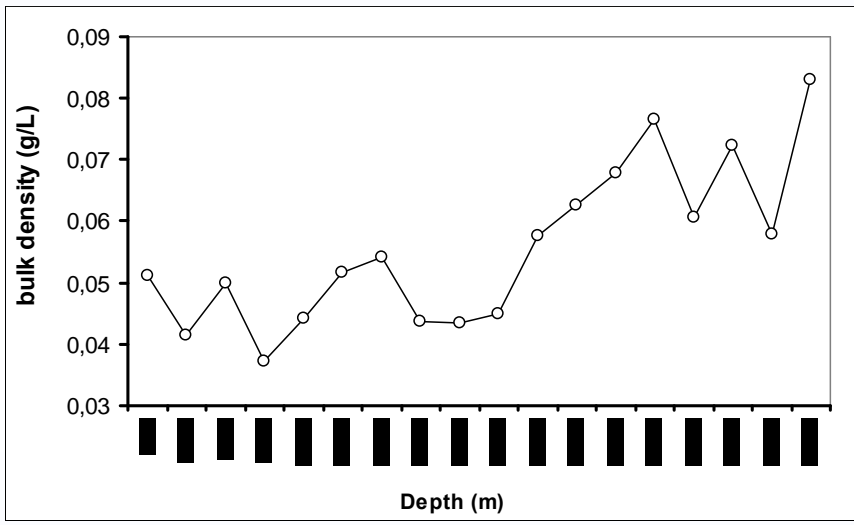
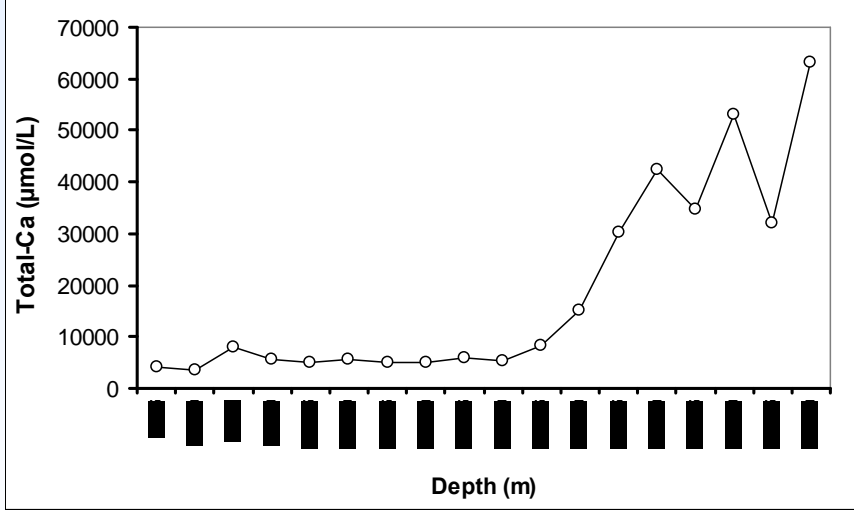
Mud

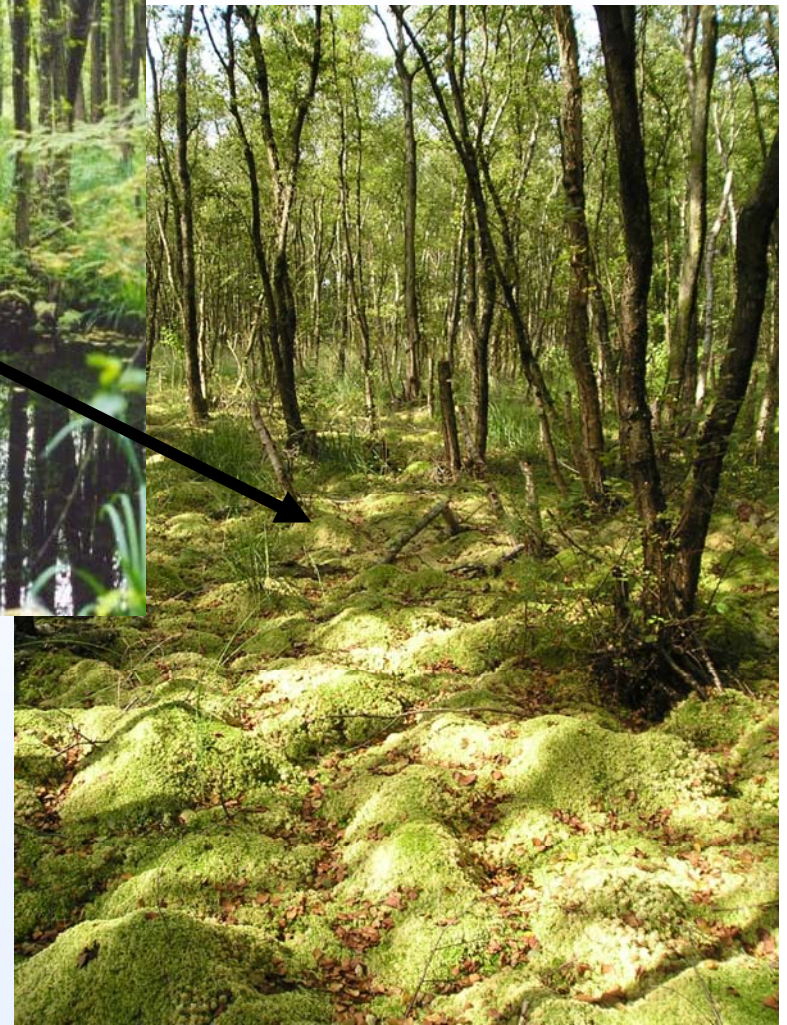
Fen peat

Bog peat

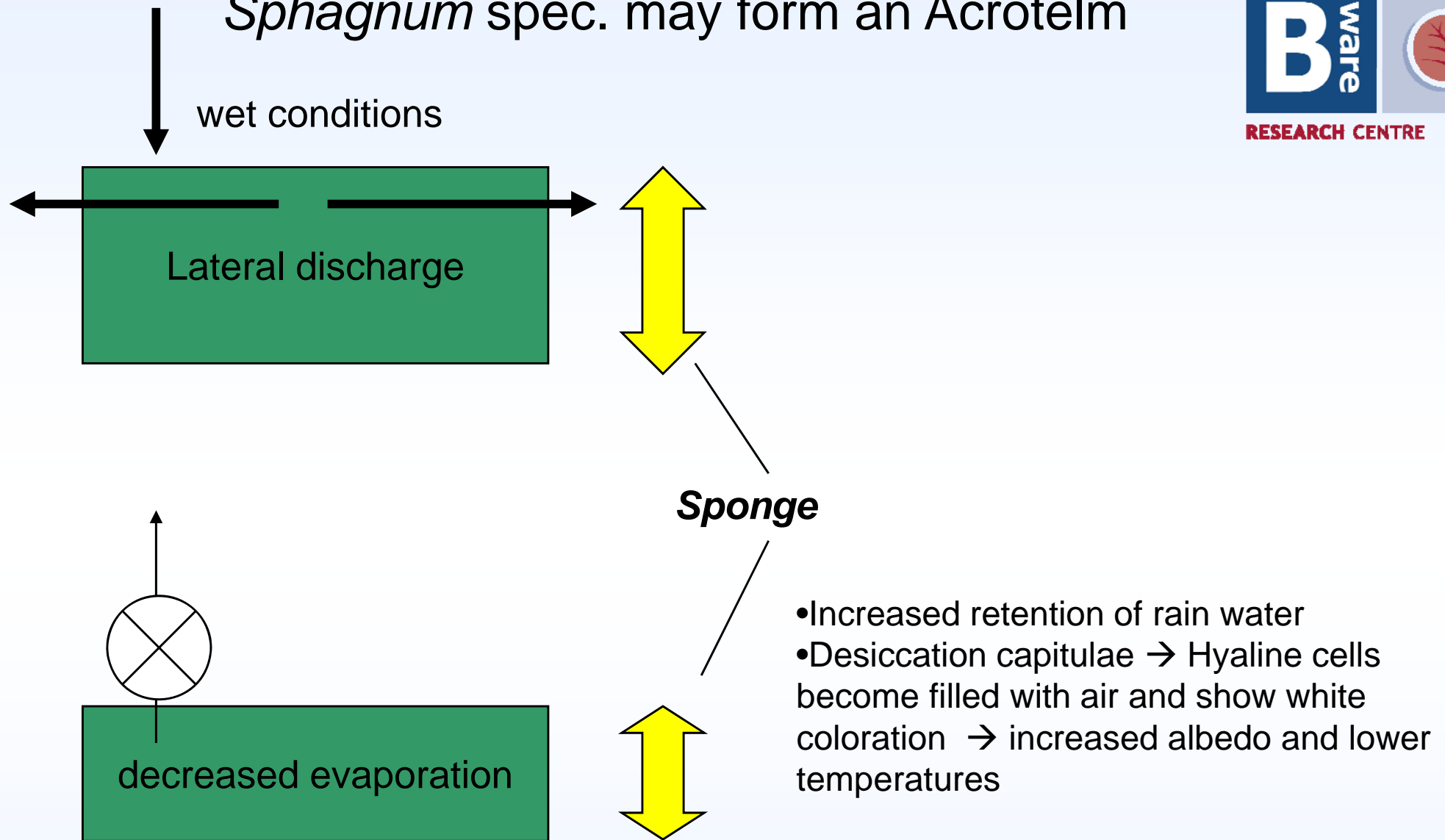
Growth of *Sphagnum* is often observed in minerotrophic fens where the top layer is acidified





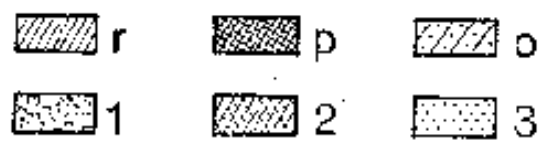
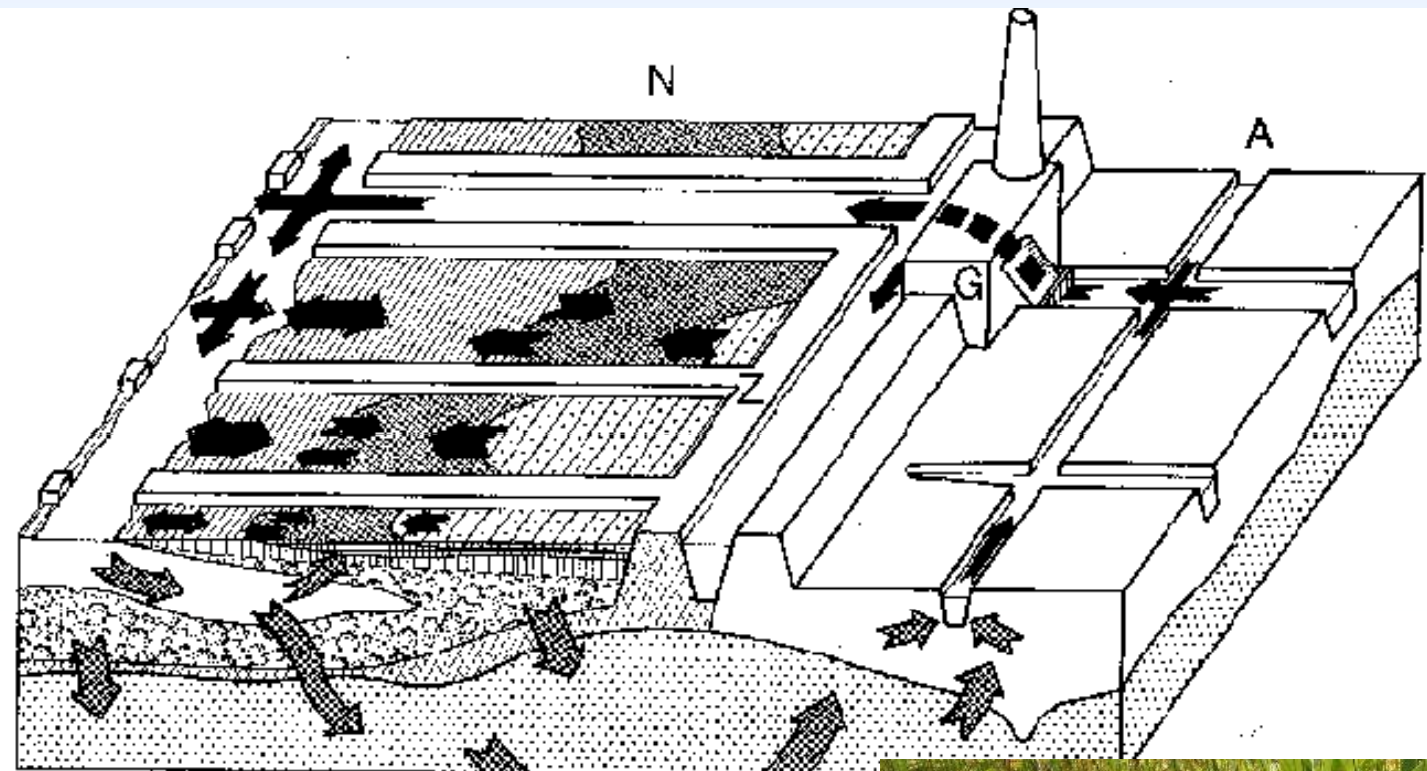


Sphagnum spec. may form an Acrotelm



Sphagnum magellanicum, *Sphagnum papillosum*, *Sphagnum rubellum*

Acidification of floating fens



Acidifying processes

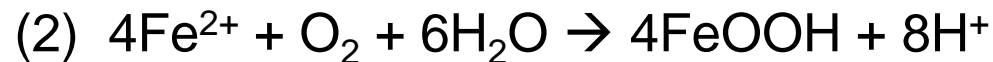


- Accumulation of rainwater (dillution)
- Desiccation (oxidation)

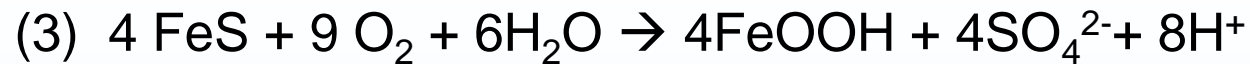
Nitrification of ammonium:



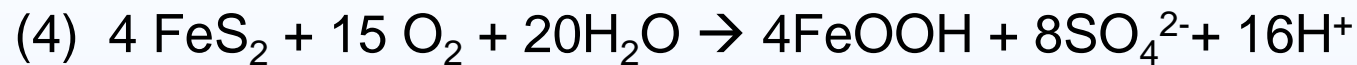
Oxidation of reduced iron:



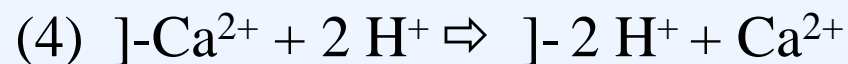
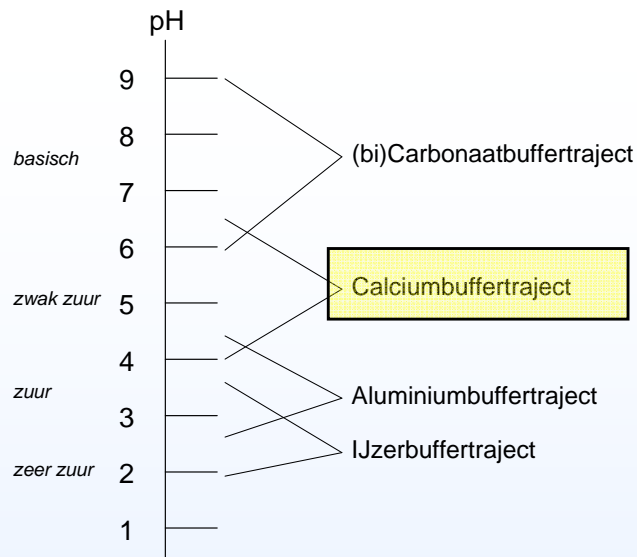
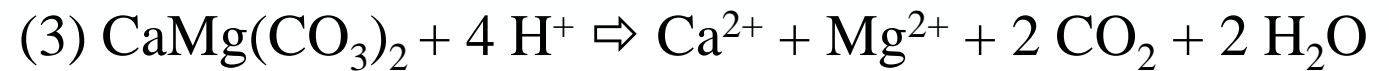
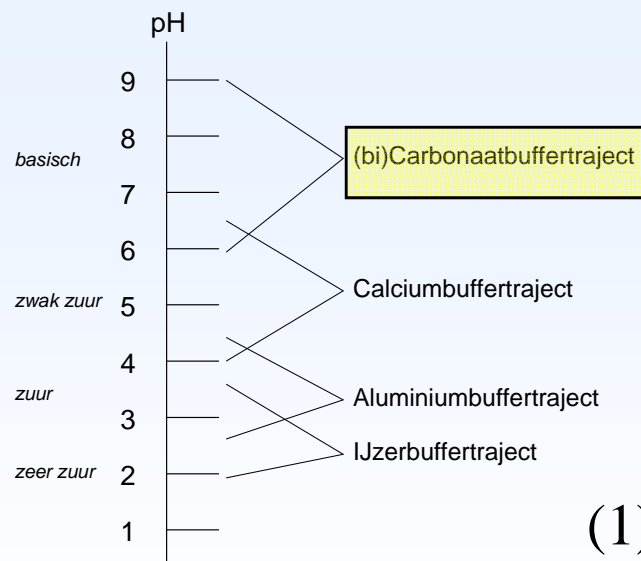
Oxidation of iron sulfide:

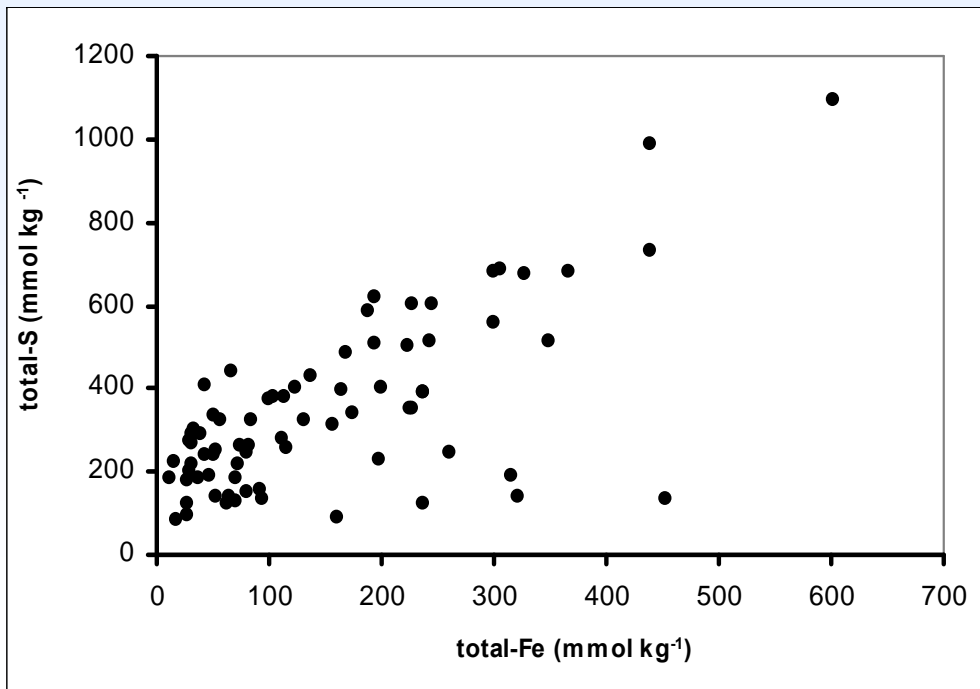


Oxidation of pyrite:

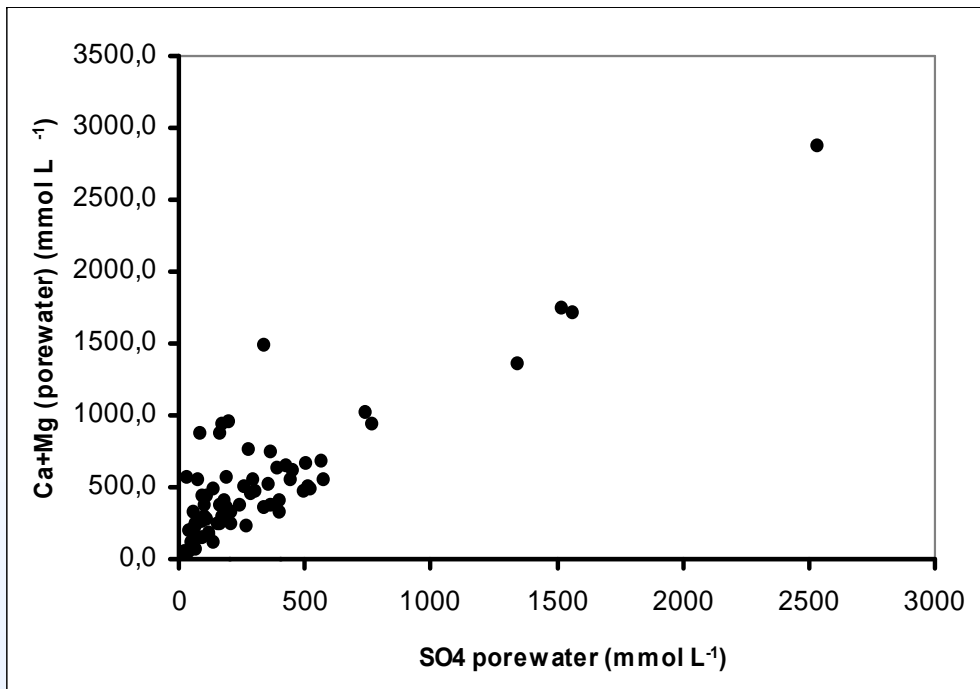


Buffering processes

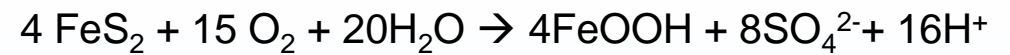


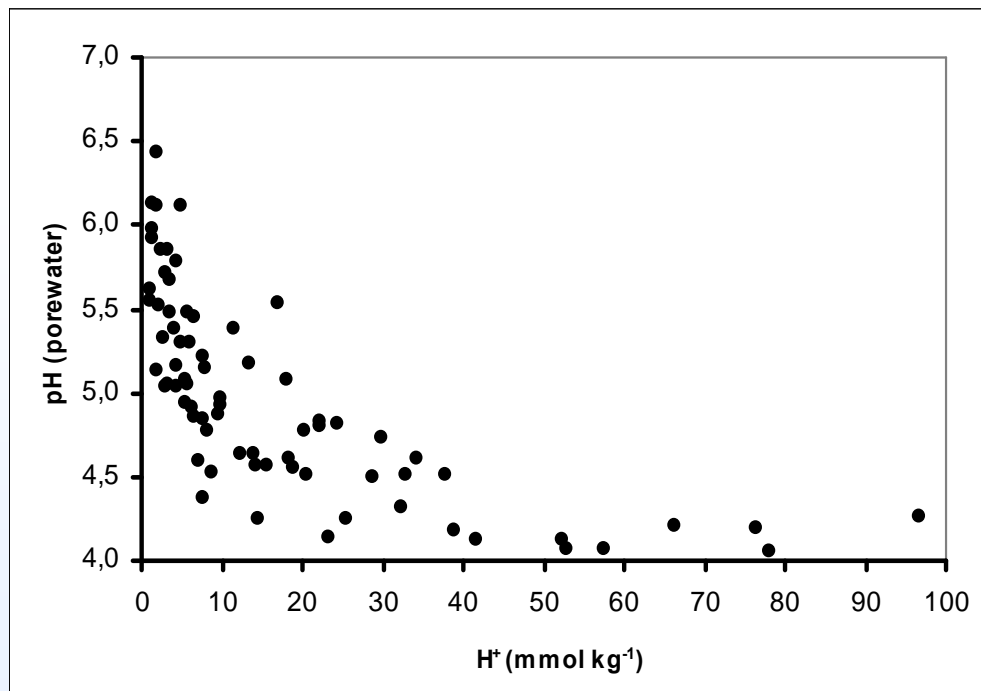
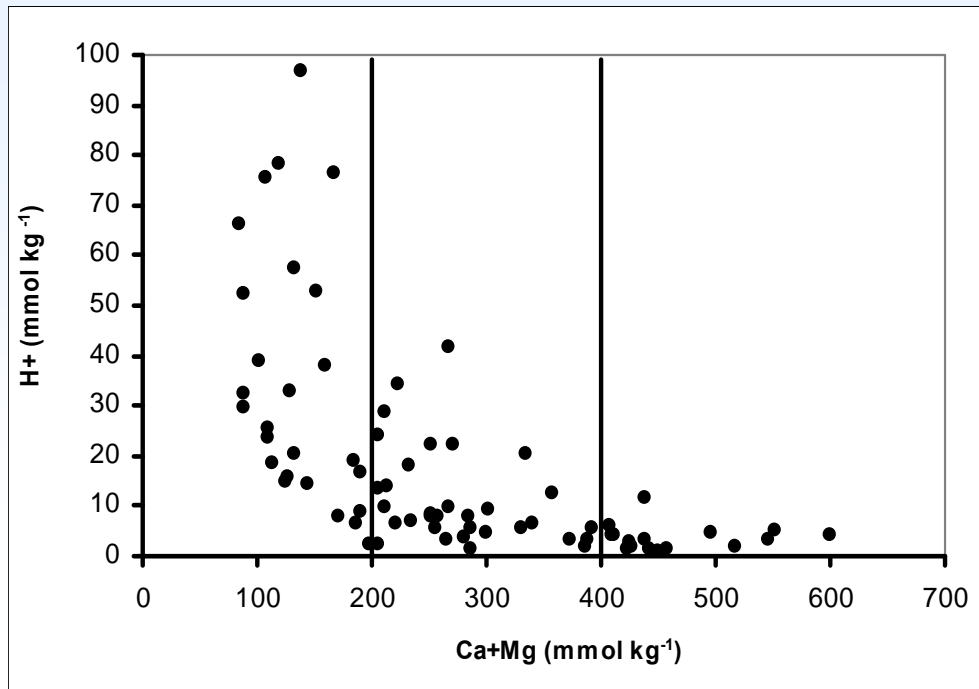


High sulphur content indicates formation of floating fen under relatively sulphur rich conditions (sulphate rich groundwater).



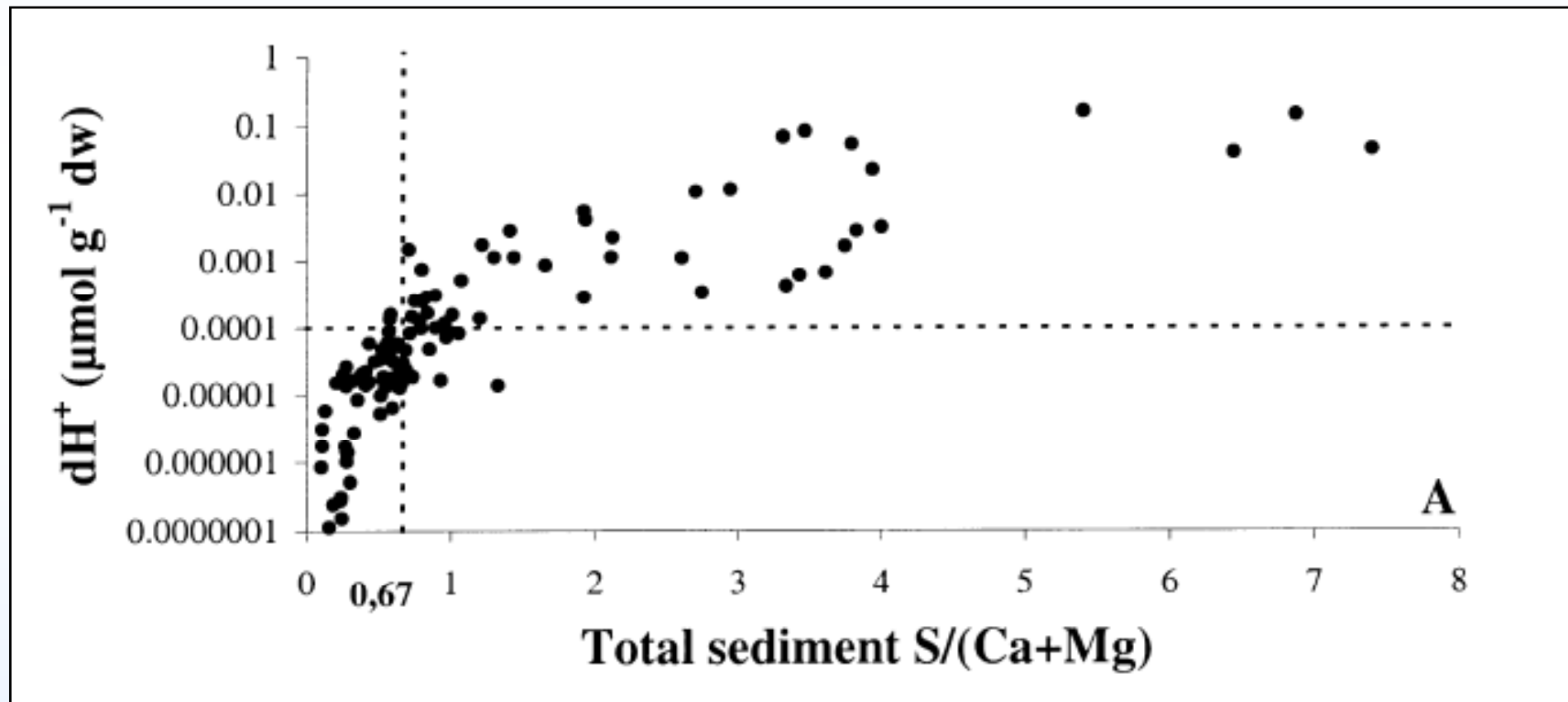
Upon desiccation:





Potential sensitivity of mires to drought, acidification and mobilisation of heavy metals: the sediment $S/(Ca + Mg)$ ratio as diagnostic tool

E.C.H.E.T. Lucassen*, A.J.P. Smolders, J.G.M. Roelofs



If total- $S/(total-Ca+Mg) > 0.67$: acidification

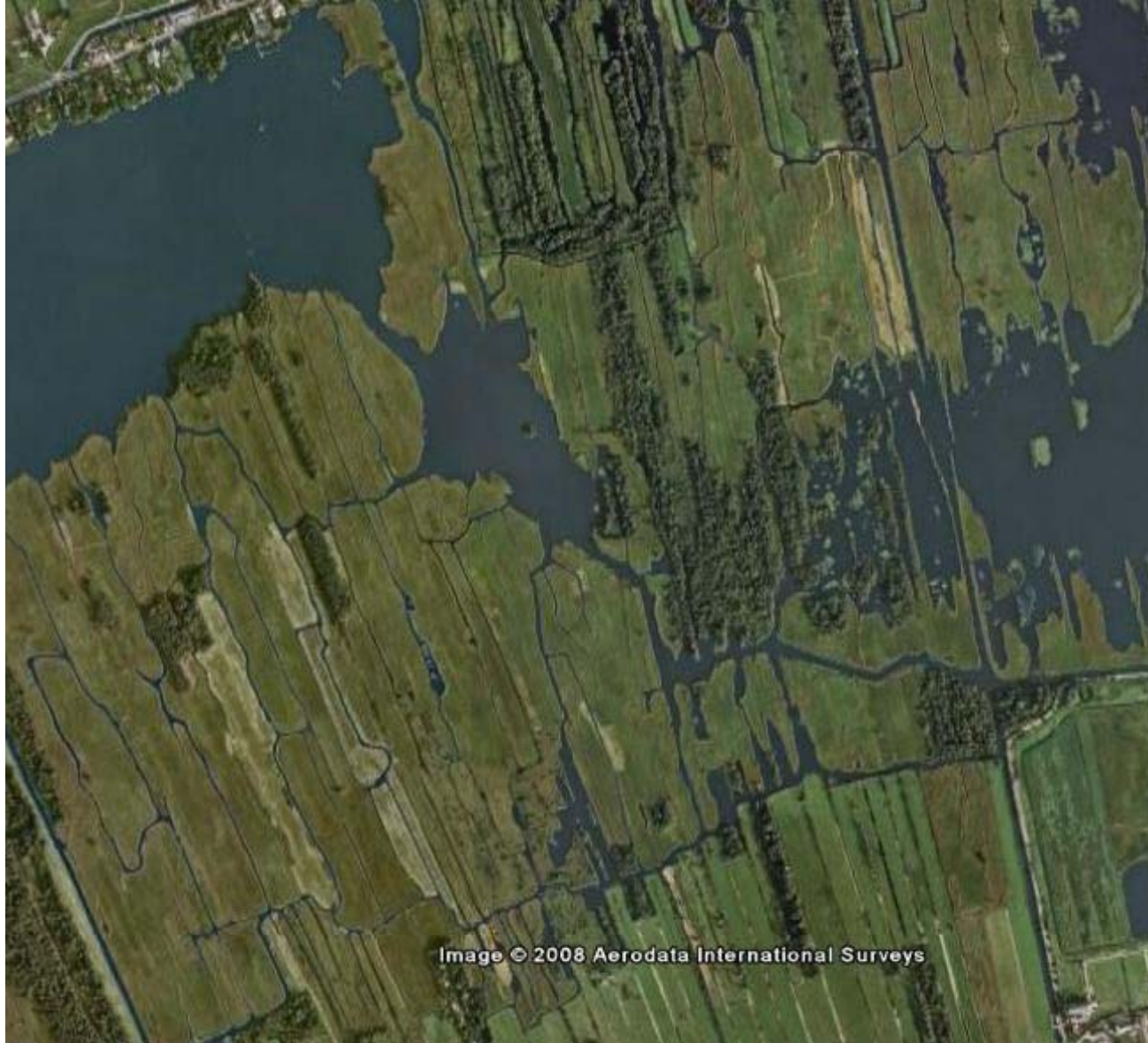


Image © 2008 Aerodata International Surveys

Treatments:

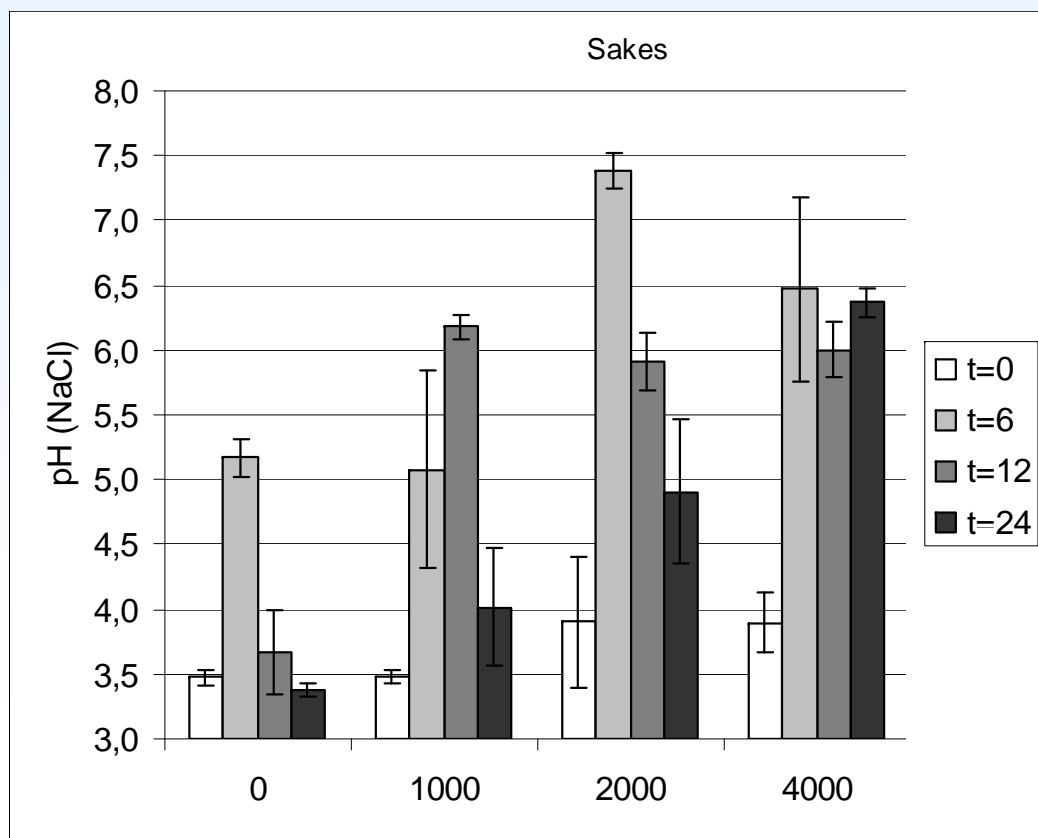
0 kg ha⁻¹

1000 kg ha⁻¹

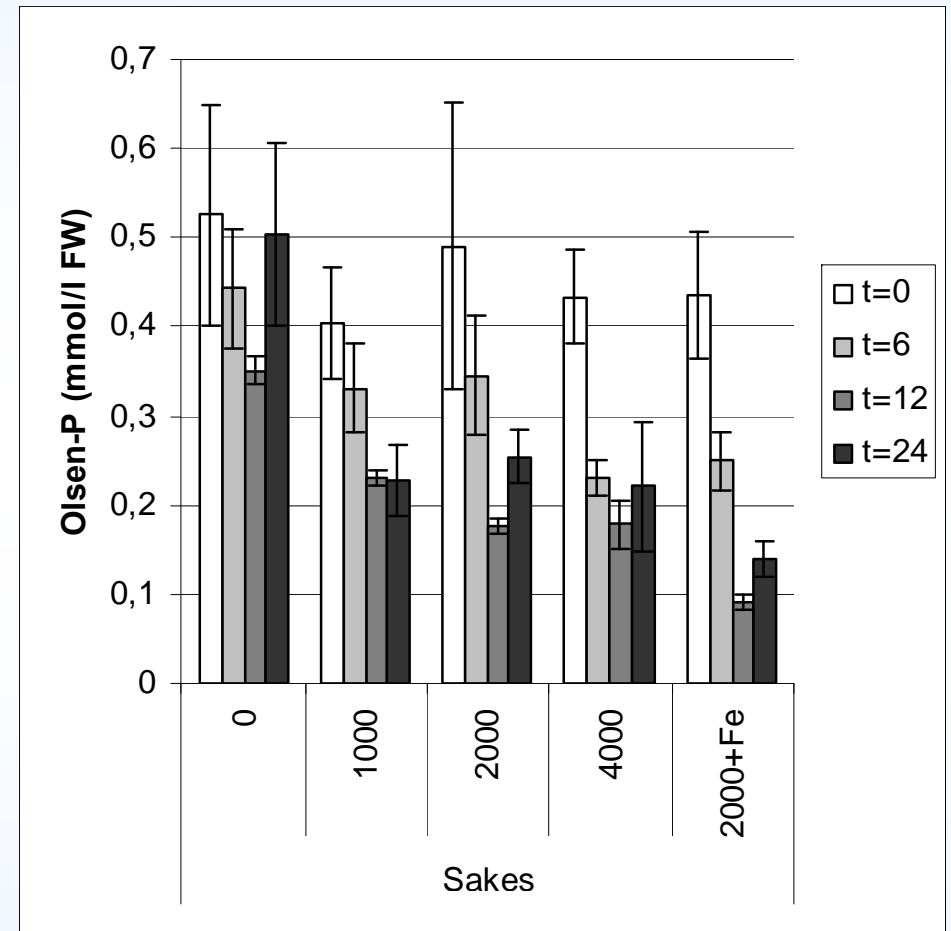
2000 kg ha⁻¹

4000 kg ha⁻¹

Liming of acidfied floating fen in the ‘Nieuwkoopse plassen’



After two years:
Strong decrease of *Sphagnum* spec. after liming



The taming of the water level...

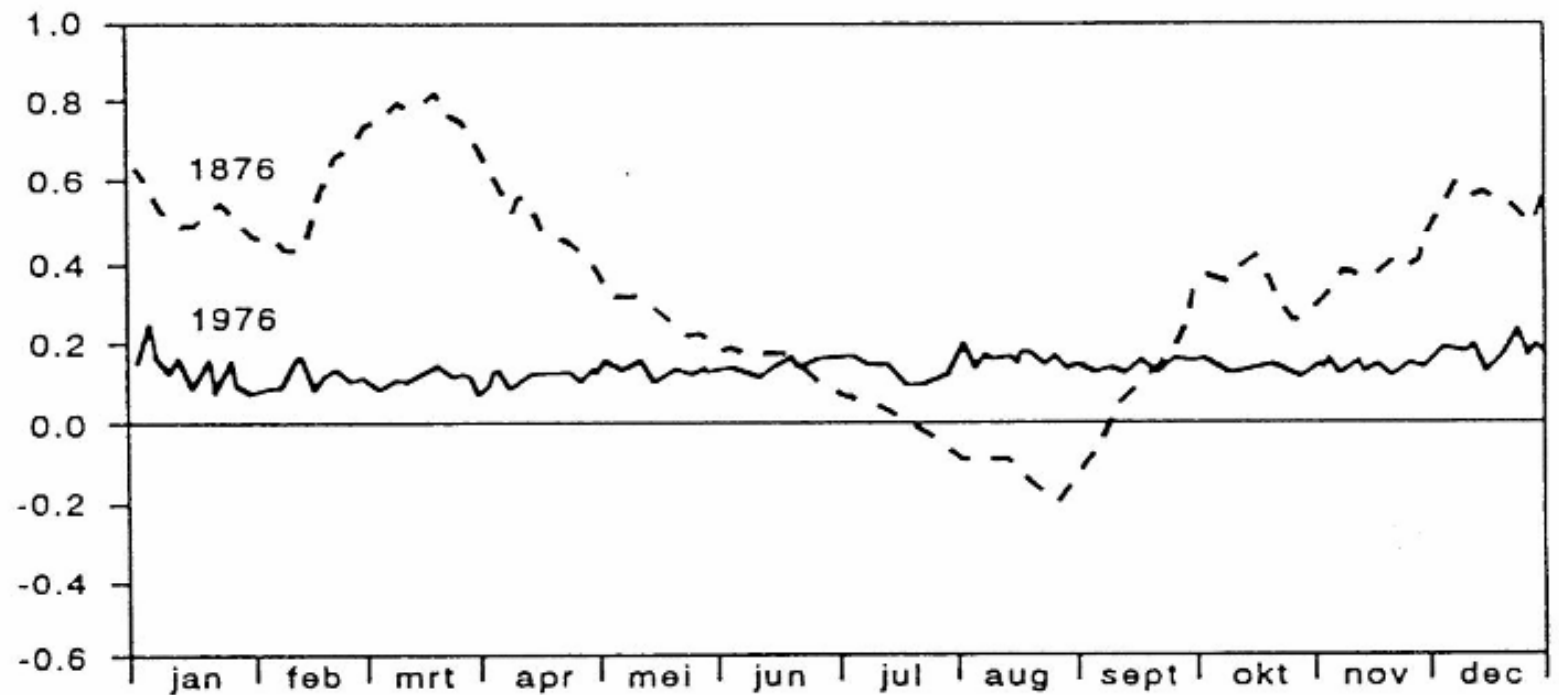


0 20 40 60km

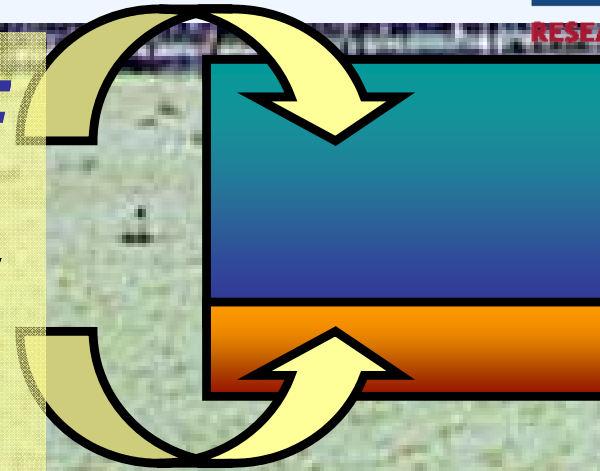


Water shortage in summer:
Is compensated by the inlet of alkaline sulphate rich river water

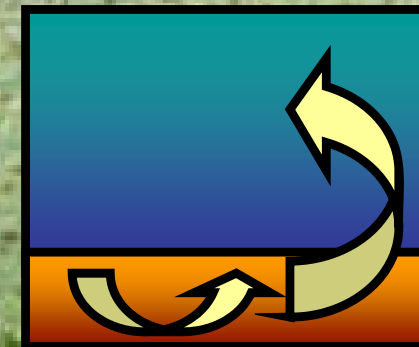
Boezempeil t.o.v. zomerpeil (m)

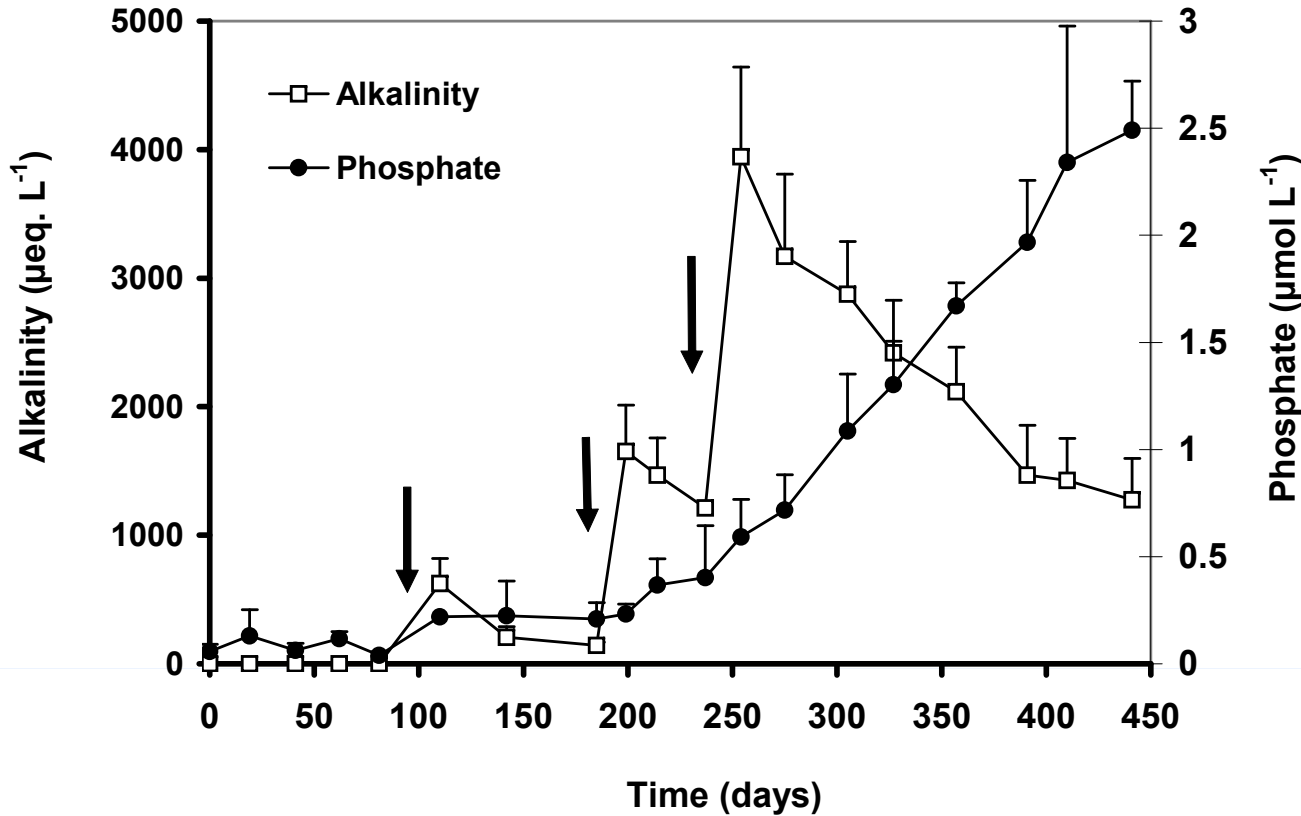
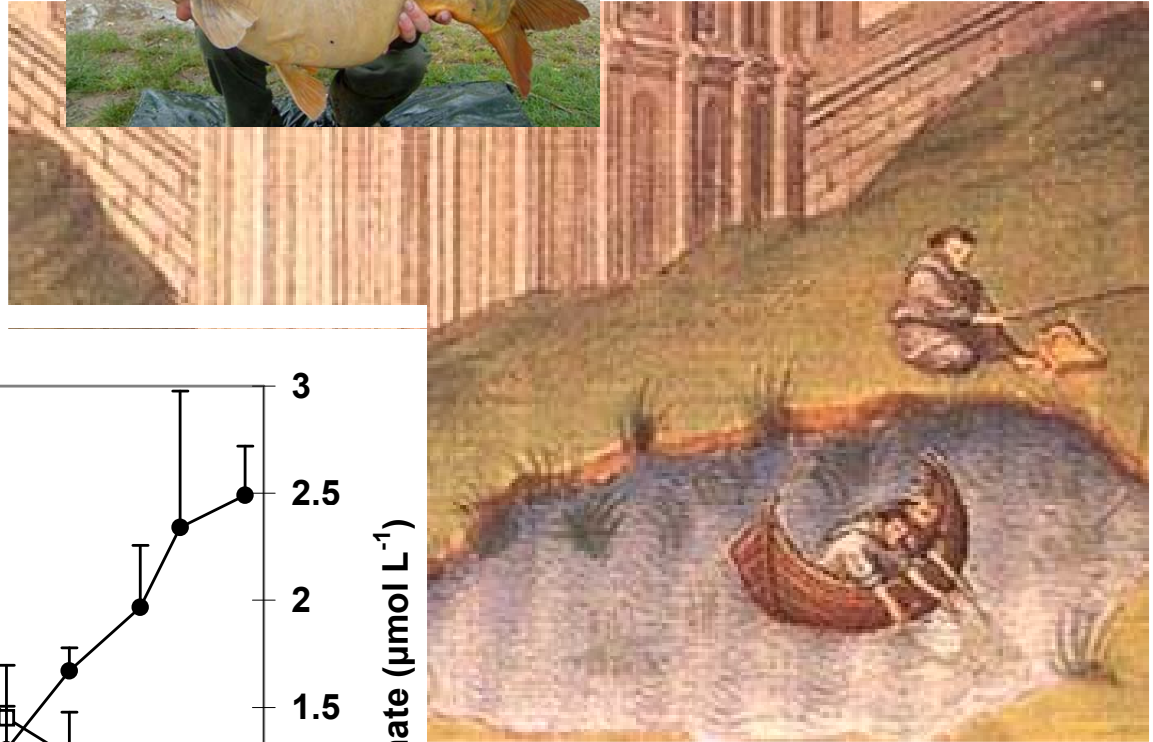


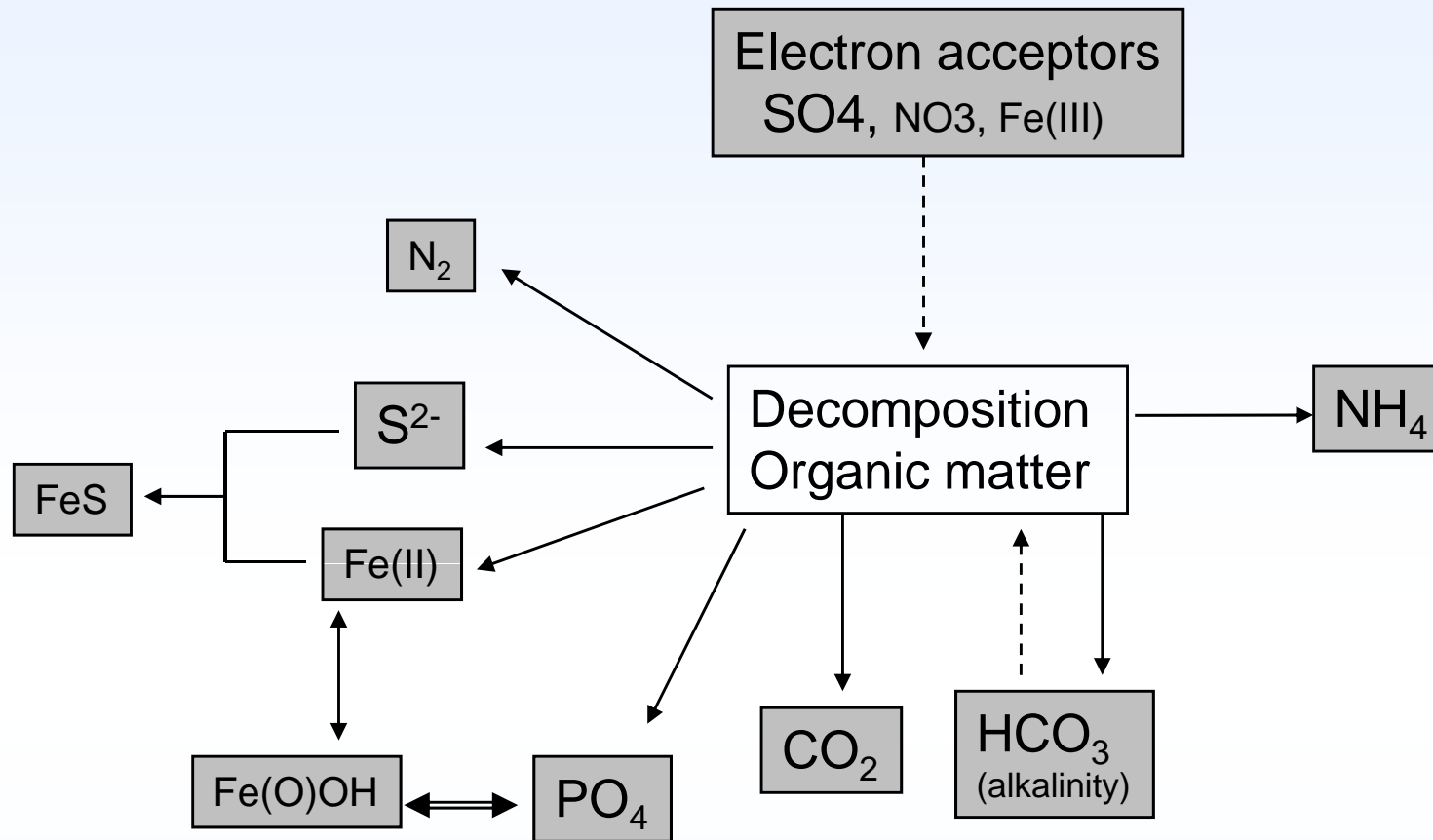
External eutrofication:
Eutrofication due to an increased external supply of nutrients.



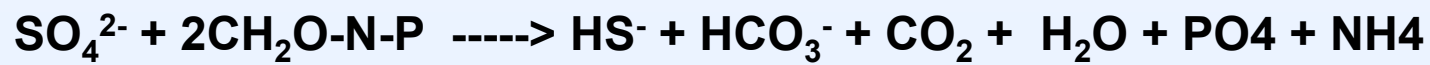
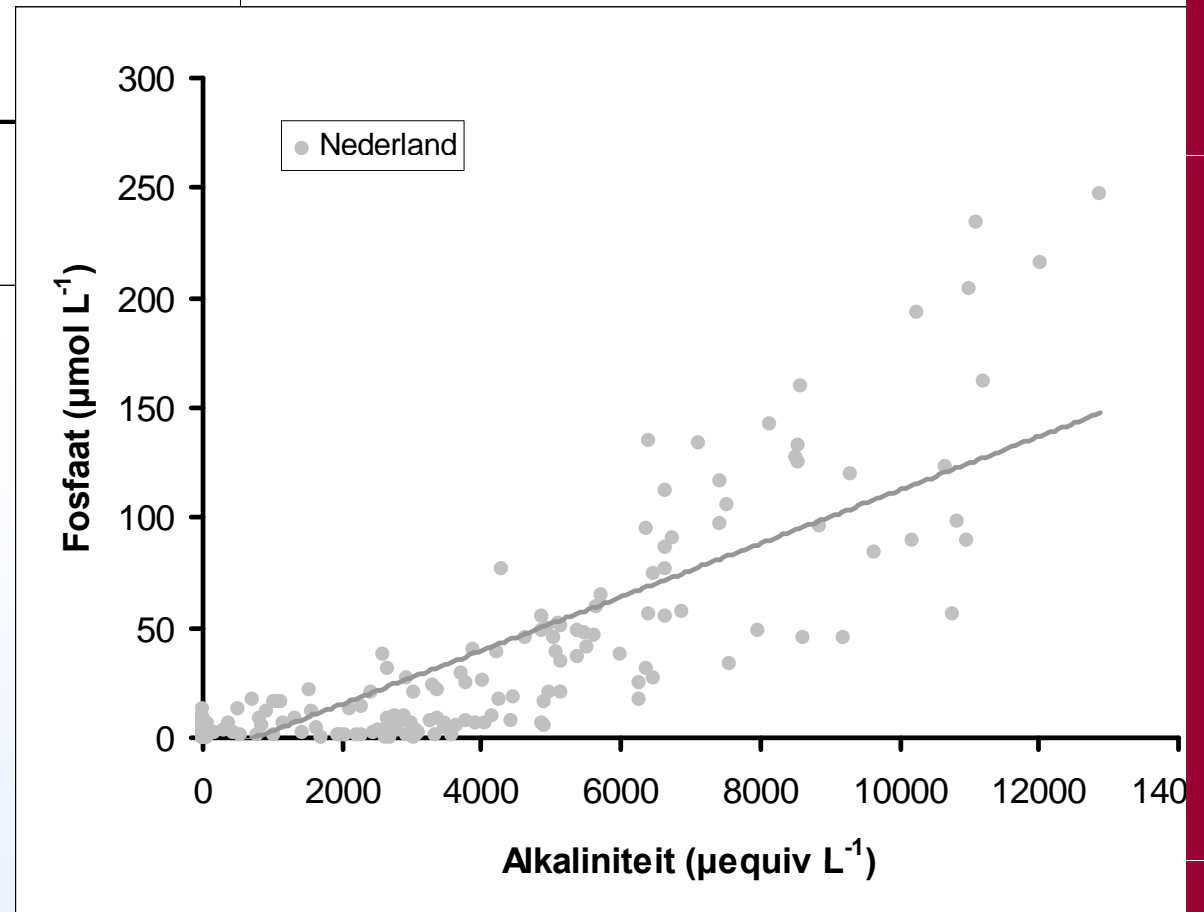
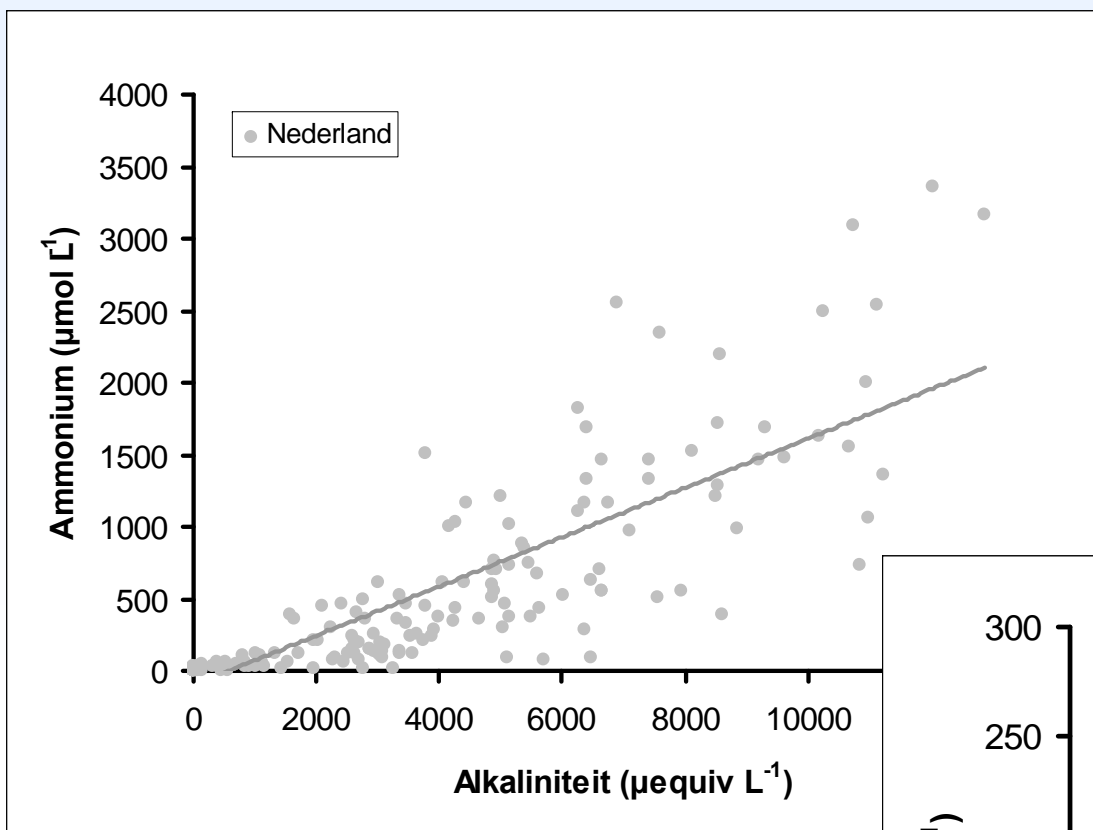
Internal eutrofication :
Eutrofication due to an increased mobilisation of nutrients already present in a system (mainly in shallow waters with a peaty (organic) sediment).

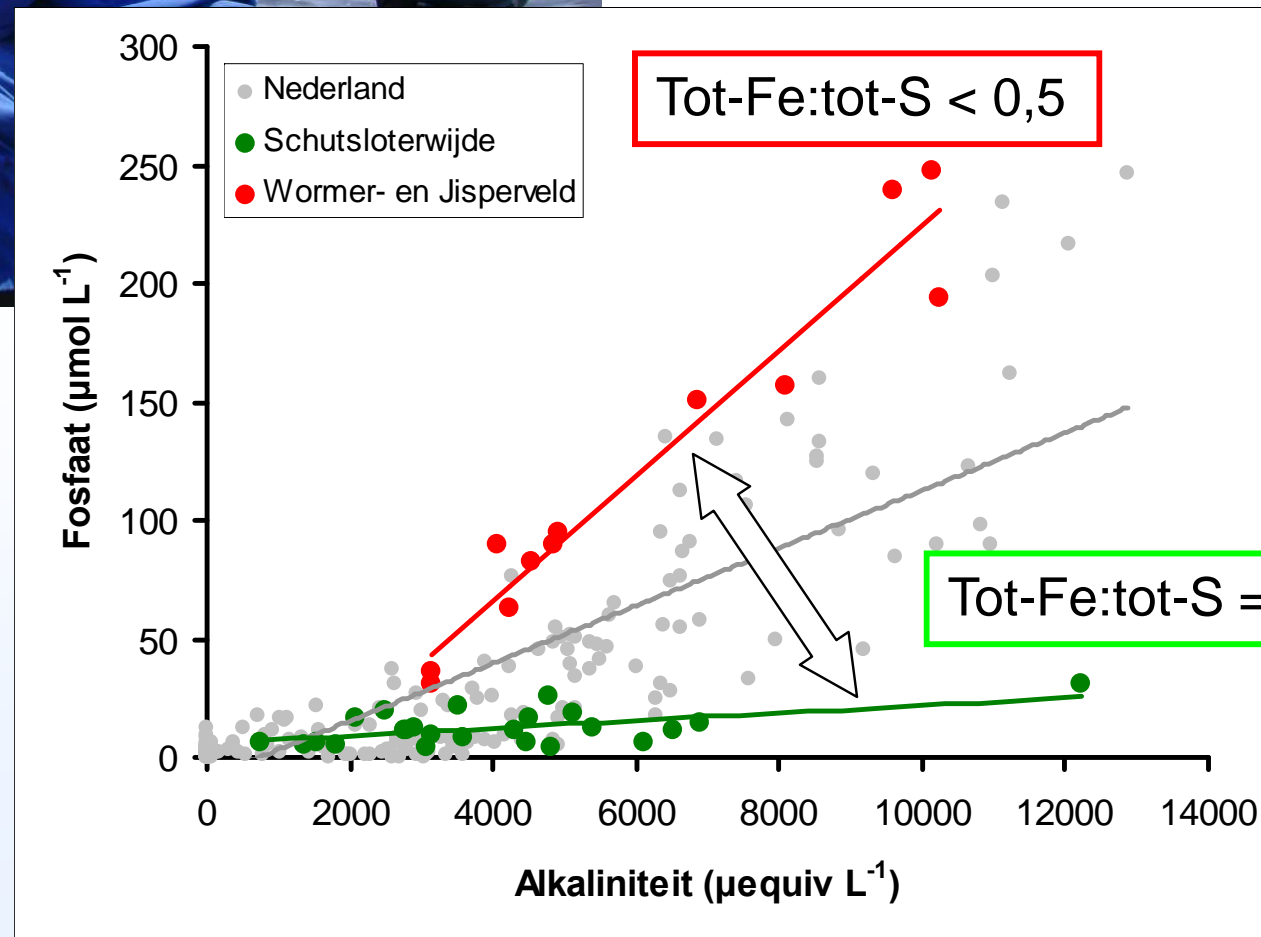
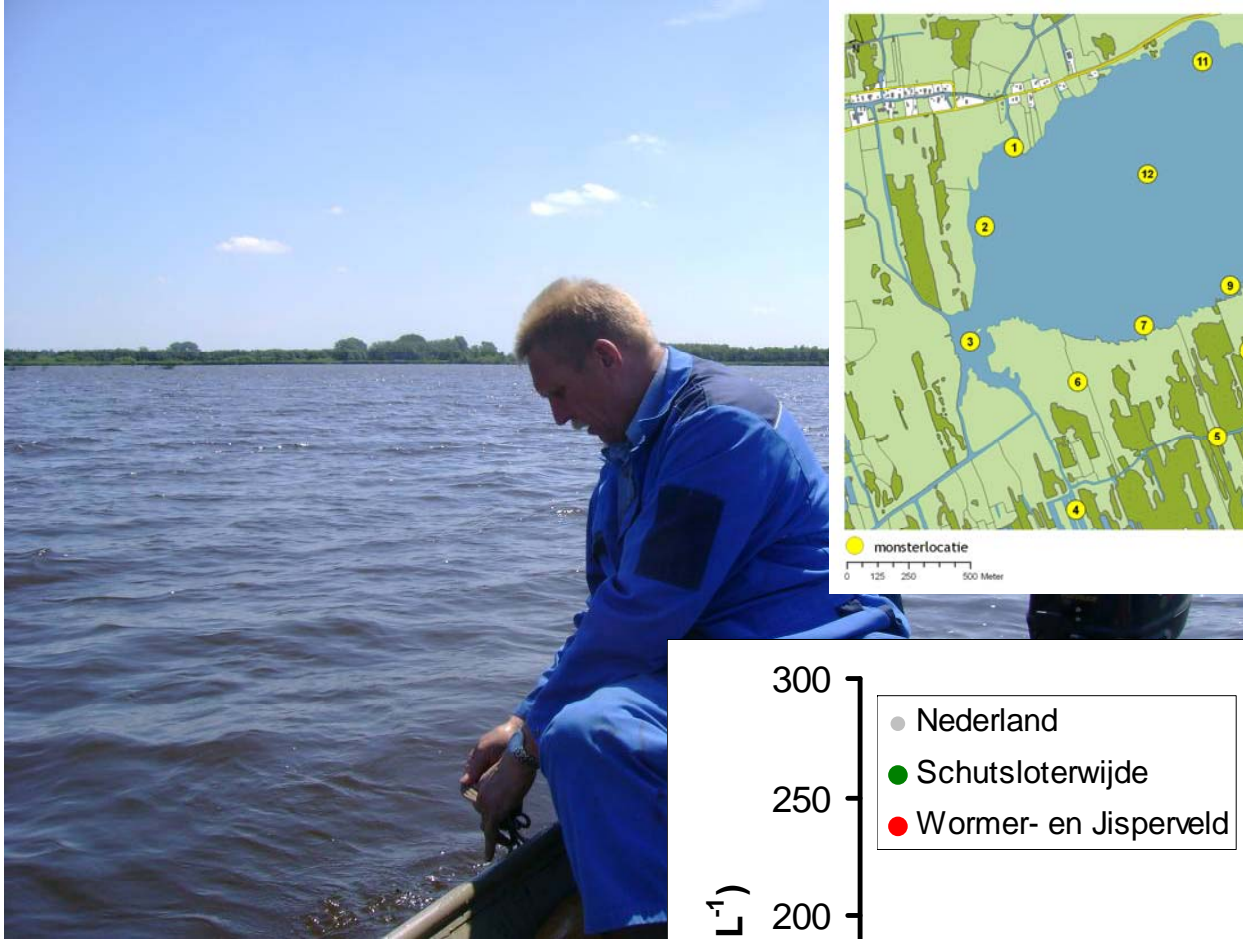


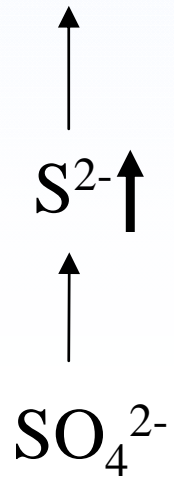
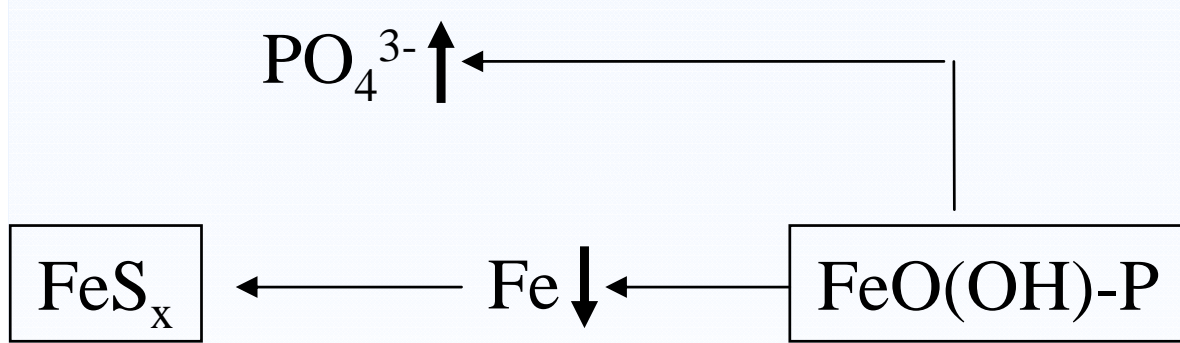




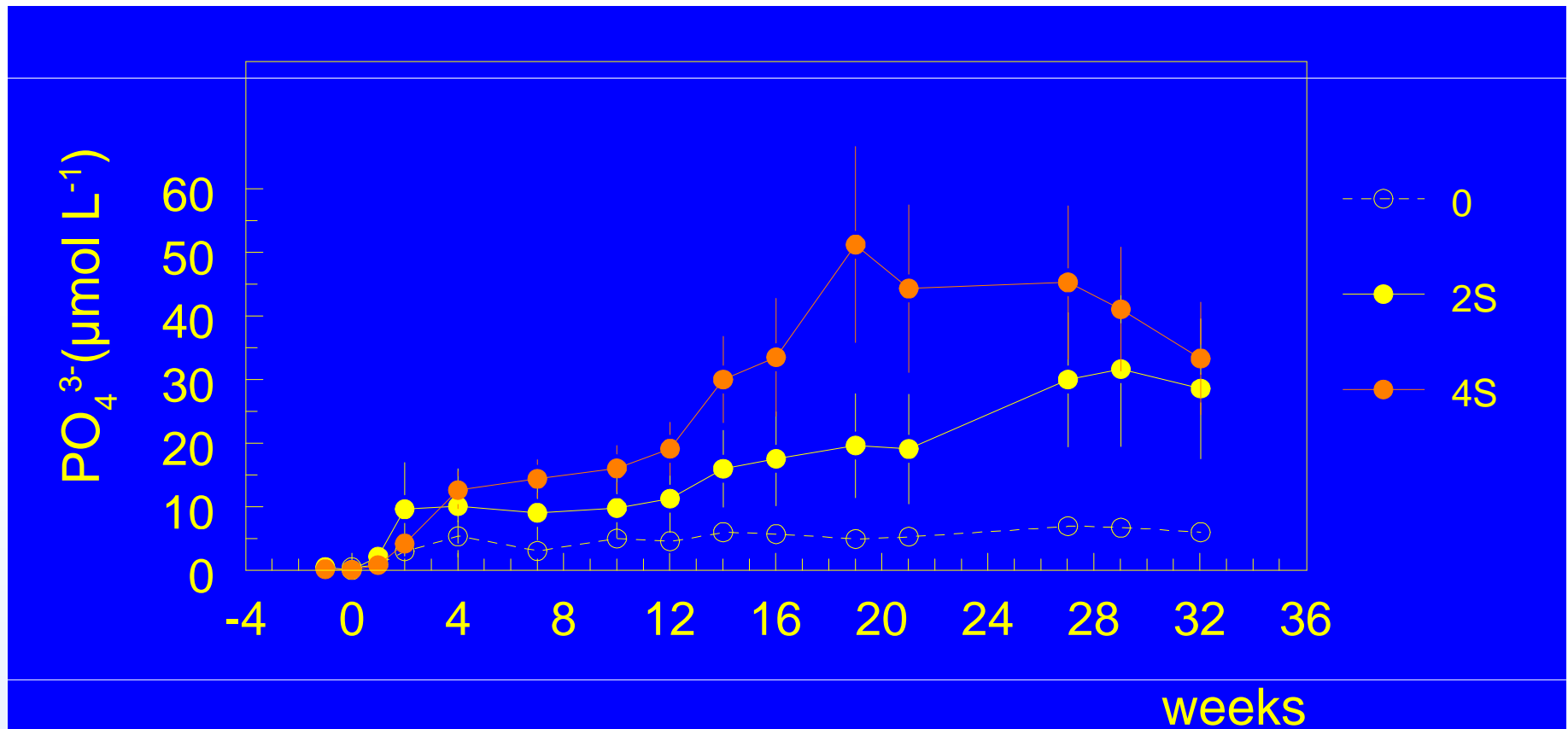
- releases
- - - -→ stimulates
- reacts with
- ↔ Co-precipitates with or adsorbs to







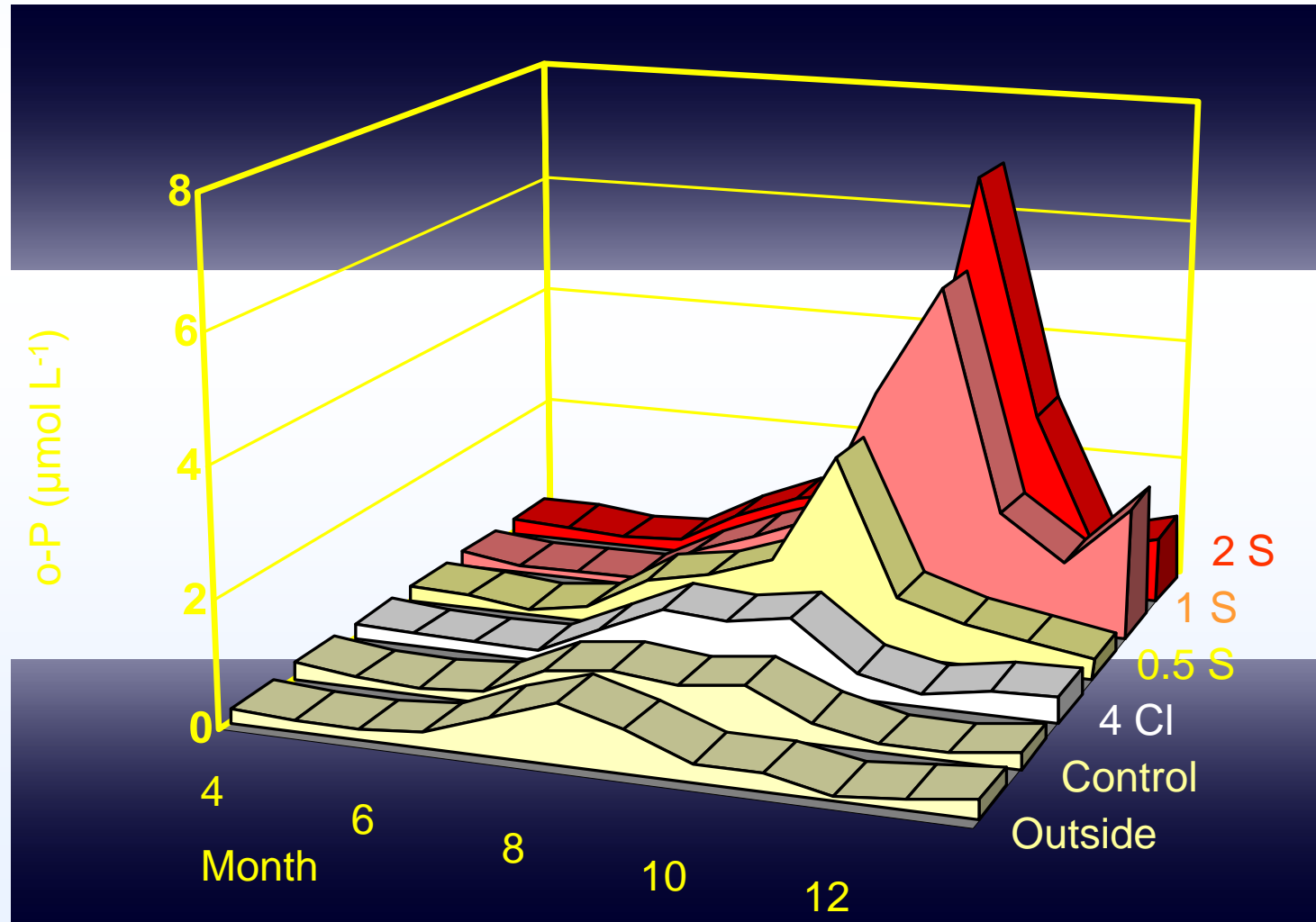
Rewetting of fens with and without sulphate

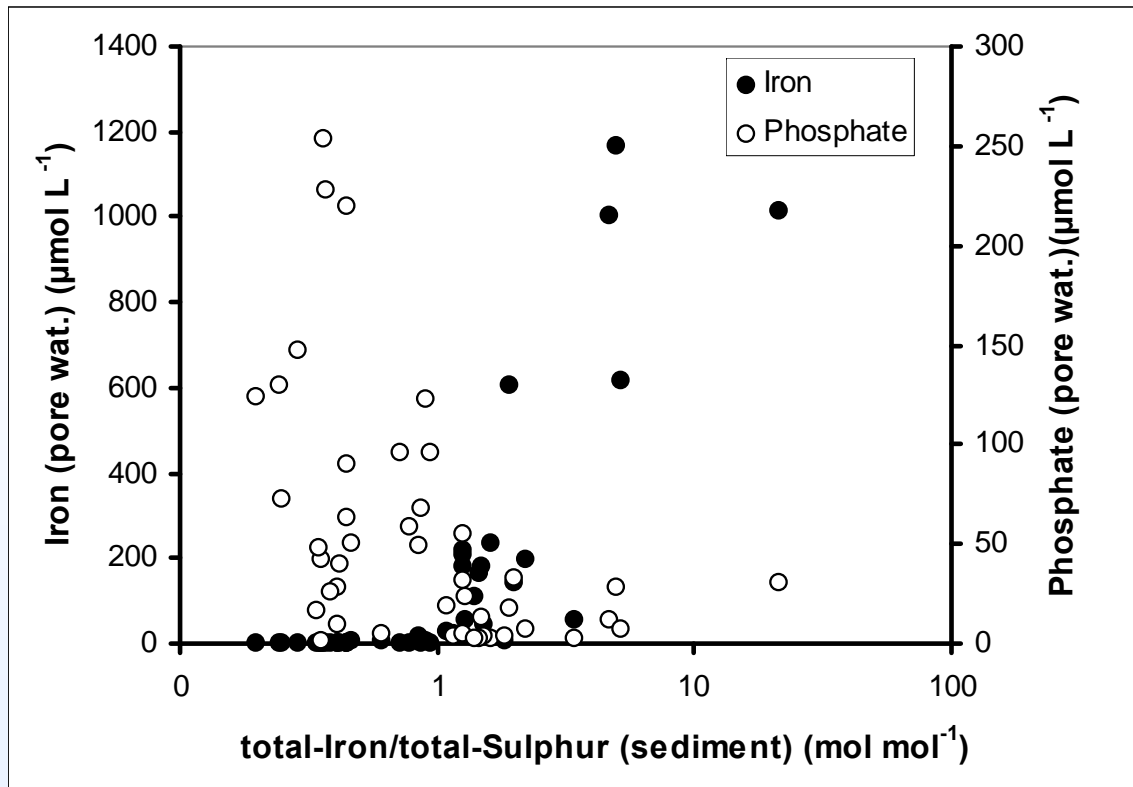
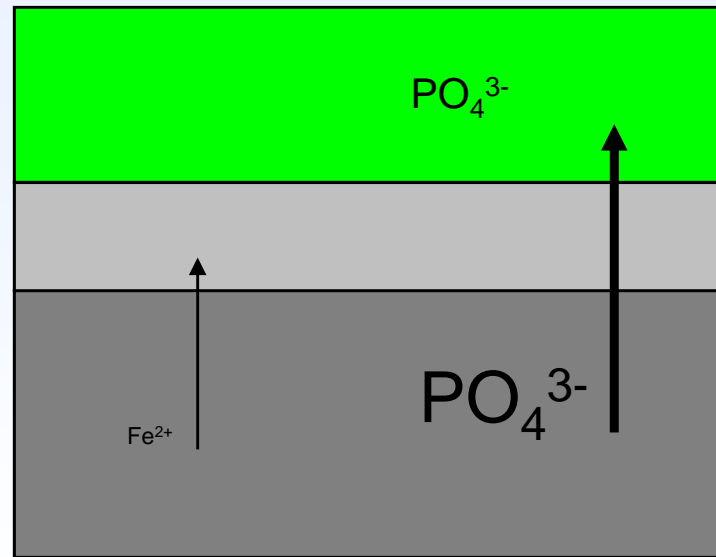
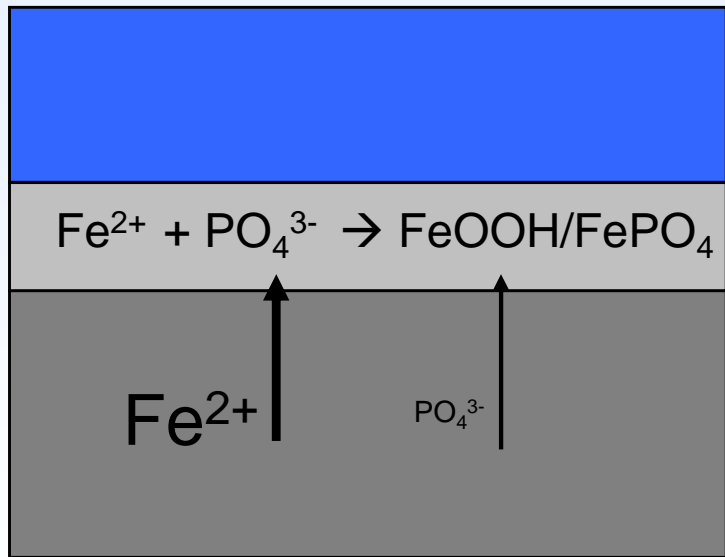


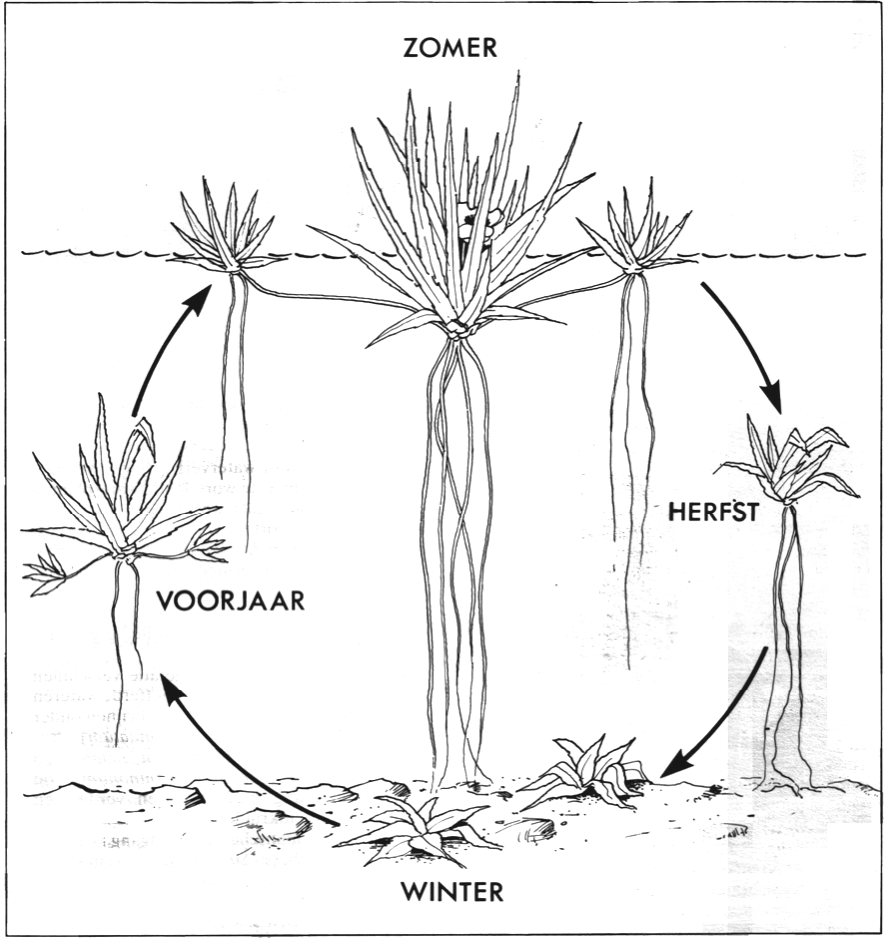
stagnant + chloride



stagnant + sulfate

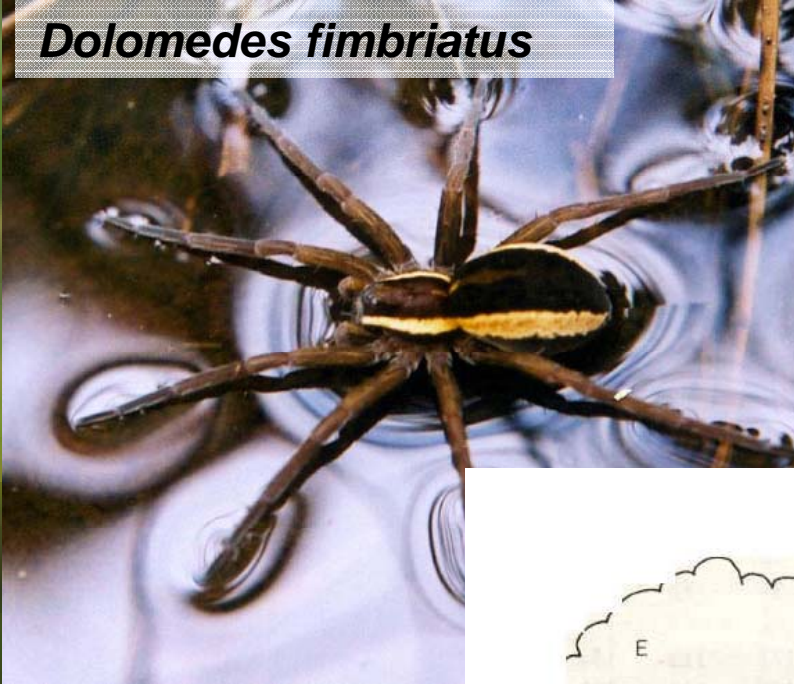








Aeshna viridis



Dolomedes fimbriatus

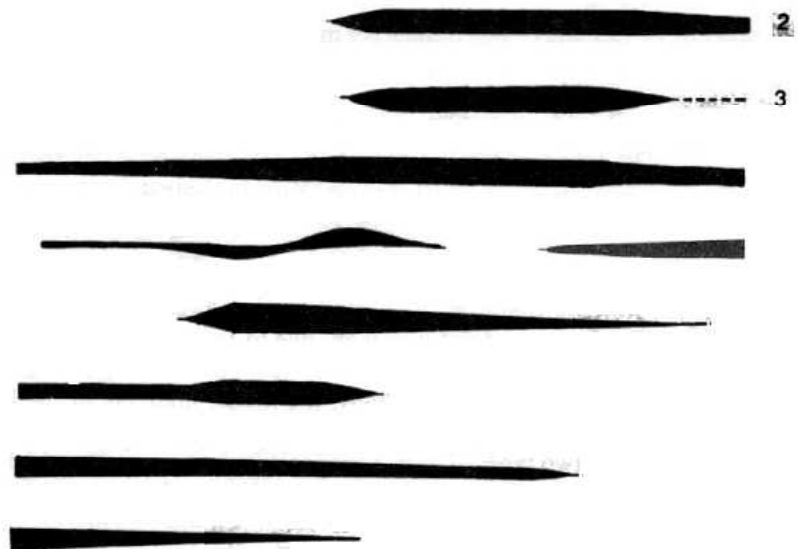
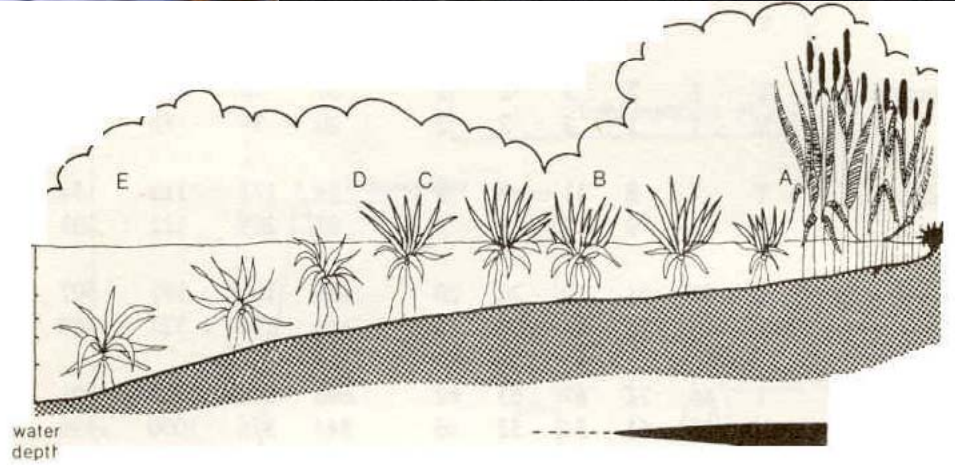


Parapoynx stratiotata

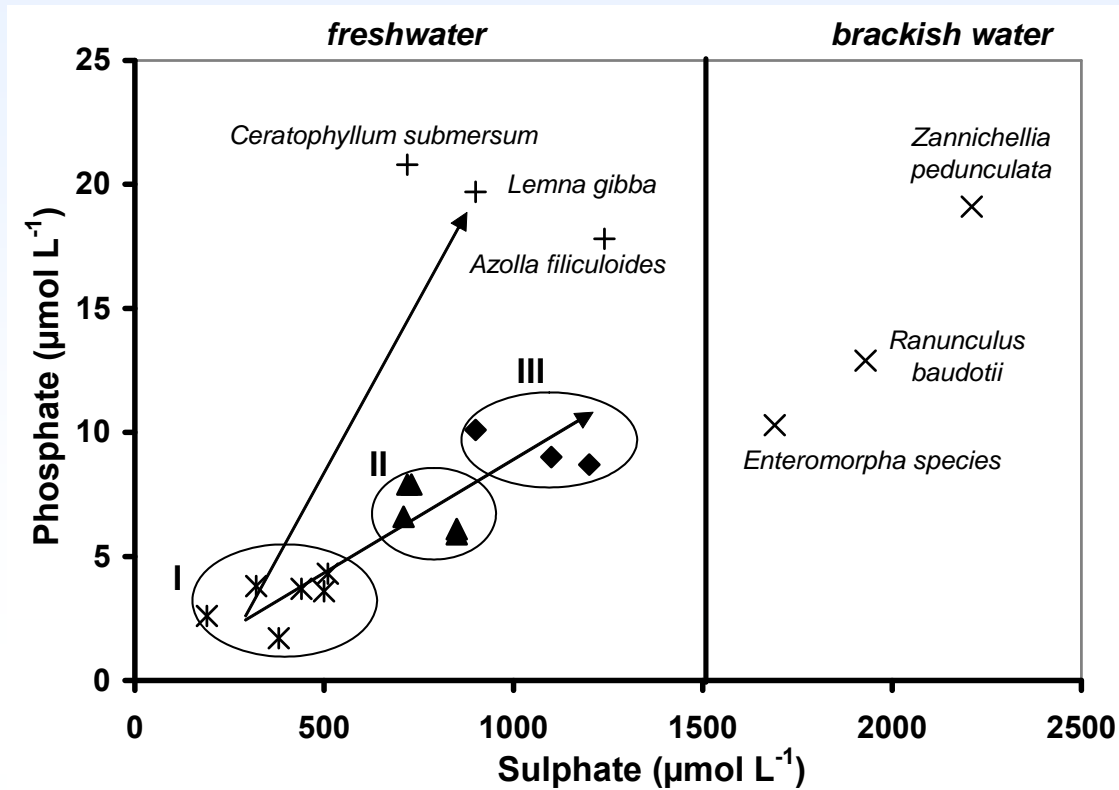
© E. Gross



Zwarte stern







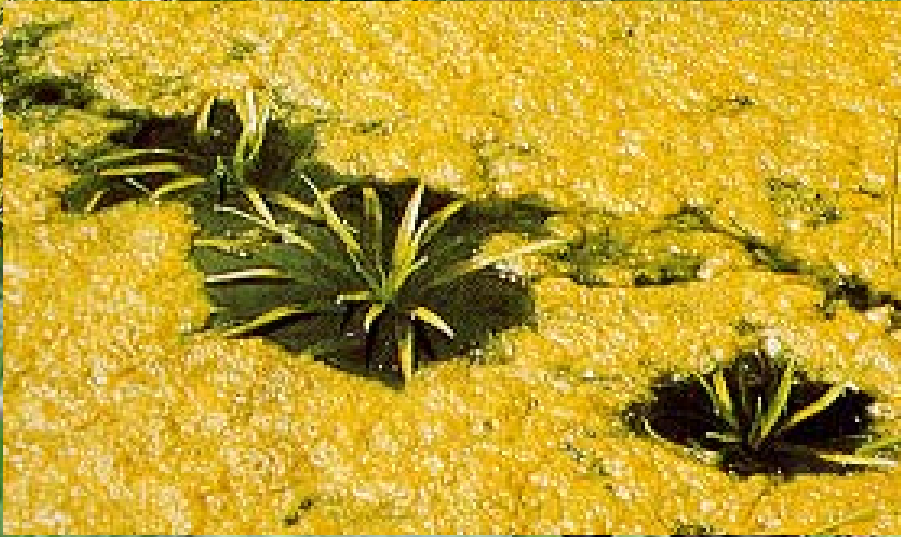
I *Stratiotes aloides*
Hydrocharis morsus ranae
Potamogeton acutifolius
Potamogeton compressus
Potamogeton lucens
Utricularia vulgaris

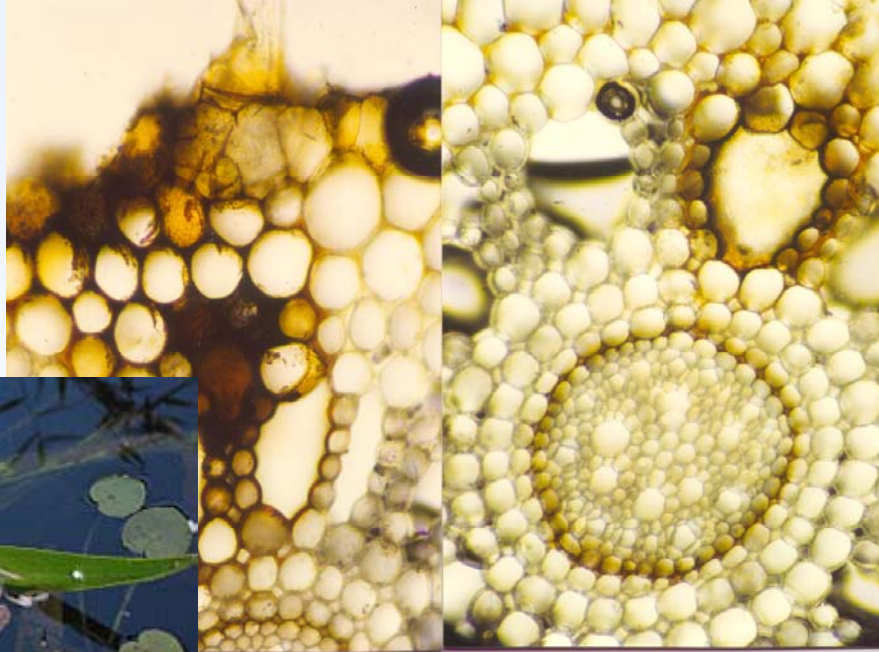
II *Nymphoides peltata*
Ranunculus circinatus
Spirodela polyrhiza
Lemna trisulca
Potamogeton mucronatus

III *Potamogeton pectinatus*
Myriophyllum spicatum
Ceratophyllum demersum

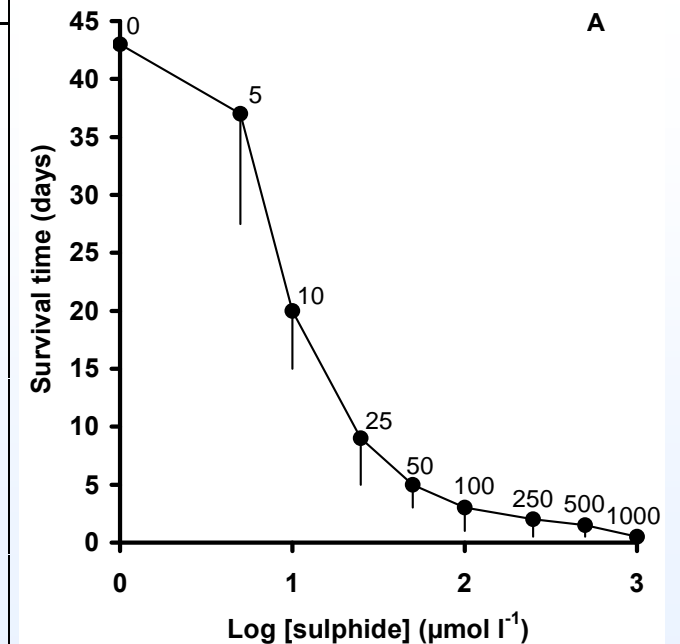


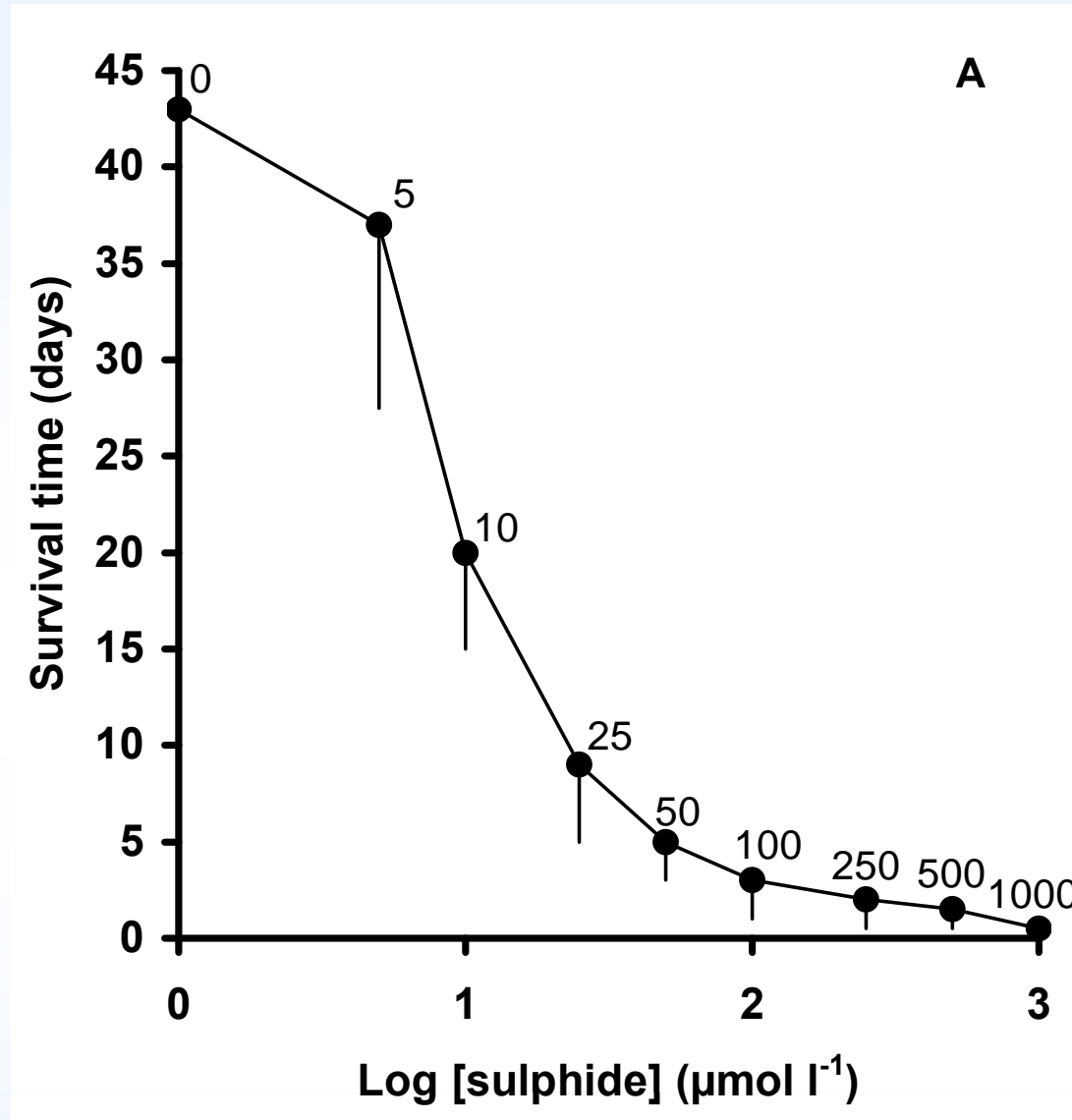


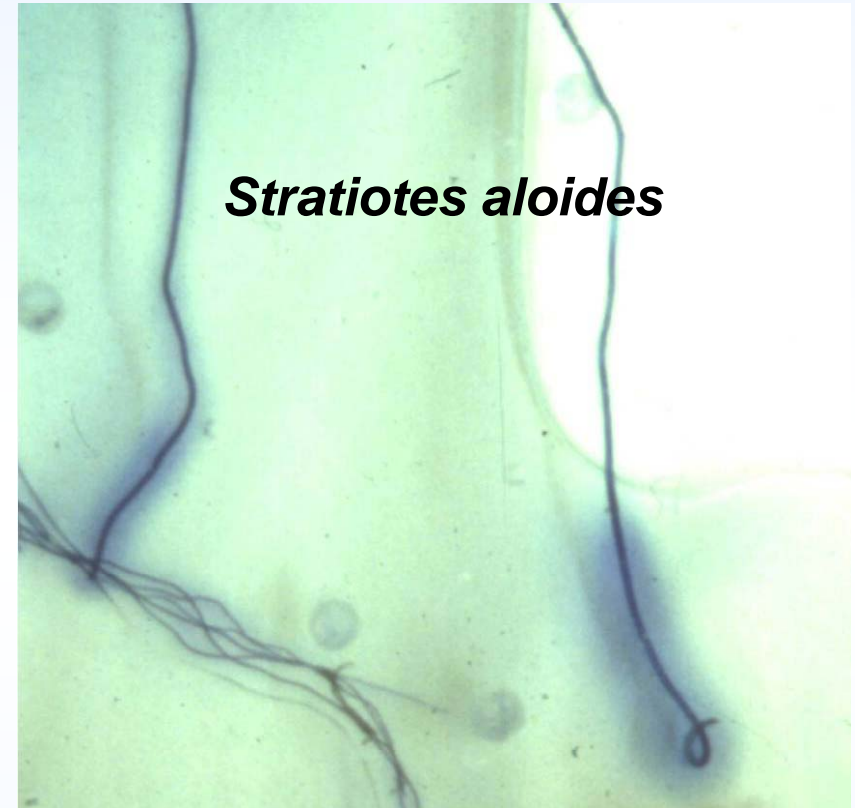


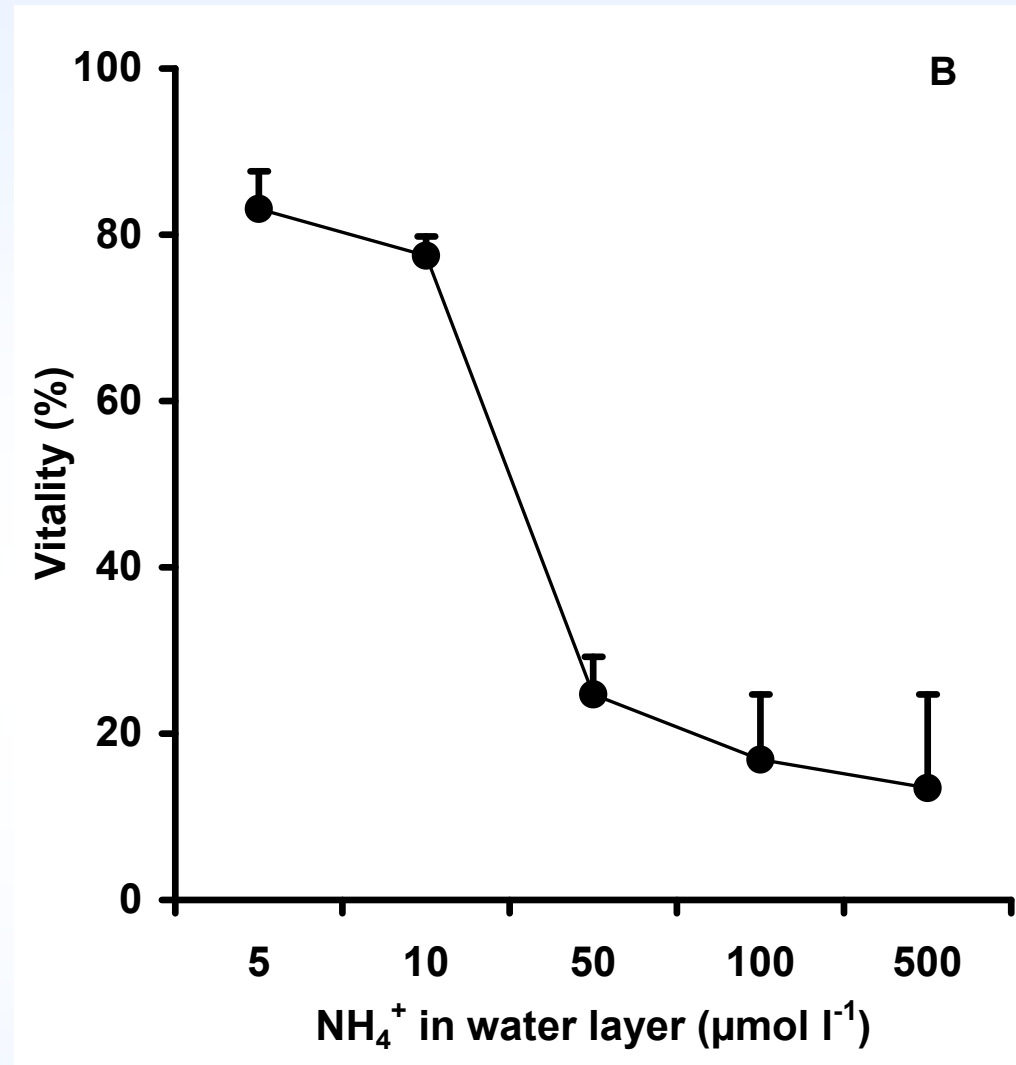


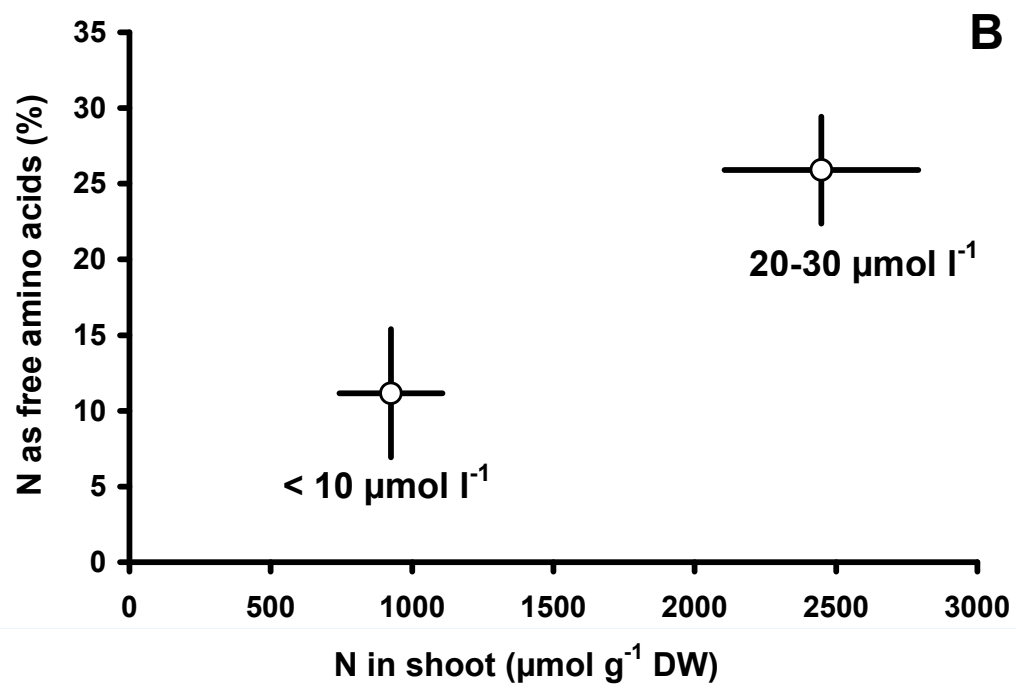
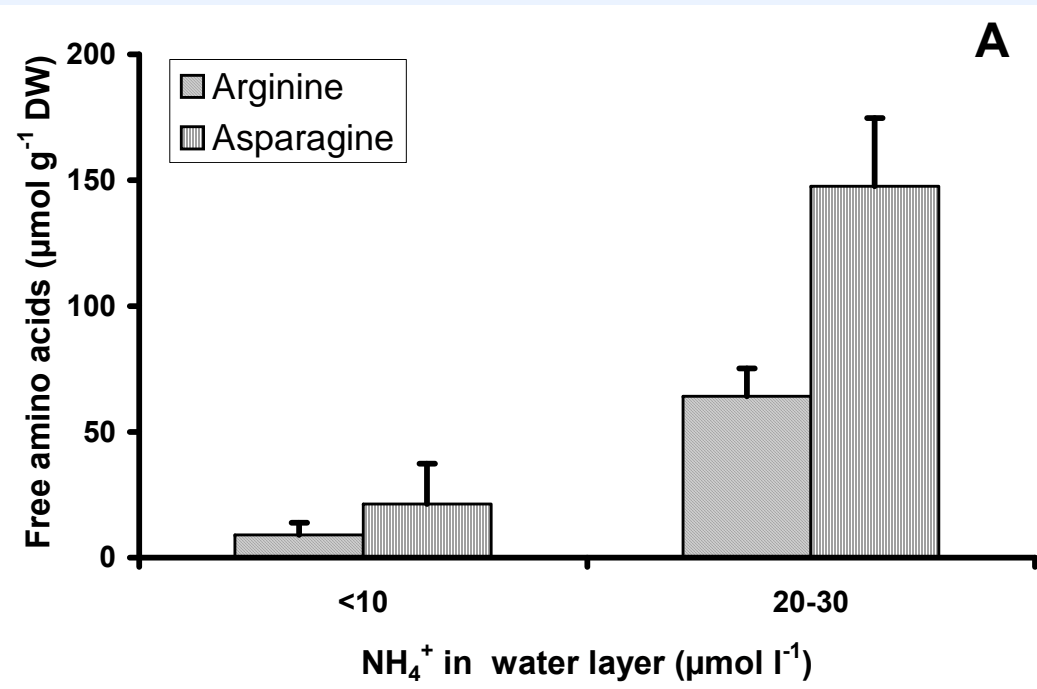
	<i>Glimmen</i>	<i>Tienhoven</i>	<i>Zegveld</i>
<i>Iron content ($\mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$ Dwt):</i>			
Apoplastic iron in root (n=12)	68.1 ± 29.1	11.3 ± 10.2	0.7 ± 0.4
Iron in shoot (n=12)	21.0 ± 7.2	5.7 ± 1.0	0.1 ± 0.1
<i>Surface water ($\mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$):</i>			
Sulphate (n=3)	323 ± 43	254 ± 32	899 ± 101
<i>Sediment pore water ($\mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$):</i>			
Iron	555 ± 161	89 ± 27	1.1 ± 1.3
Sulphide (n=5)	< 0.1	< 0.1	24.7 ± 8.8
Ortho-phosphate (n=5)	4.1 ± 0.7	8.0 ± 3.0	25.1 ± 6.8
Bicarbonate (n=5)	3111 ± 551	3096 ± 620	4786 ± 712
<i>Characteristics:</i>	Iron rich seepage, iron precipitation in and on the roots leads to root-die-back	Healthy shoots and roots.	Root die-back due to sulphide toxicity, chlorotic iron deficient shoots

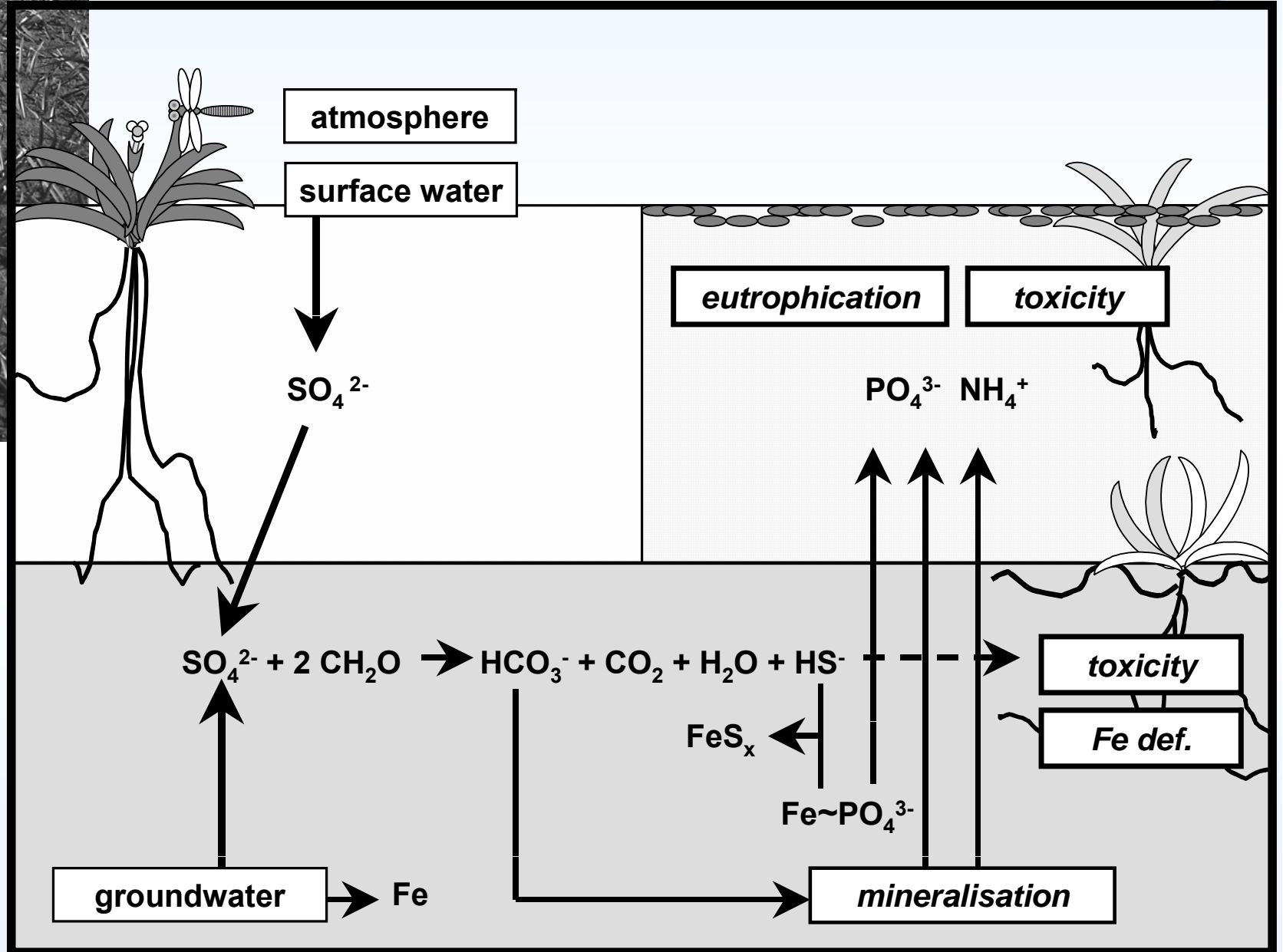
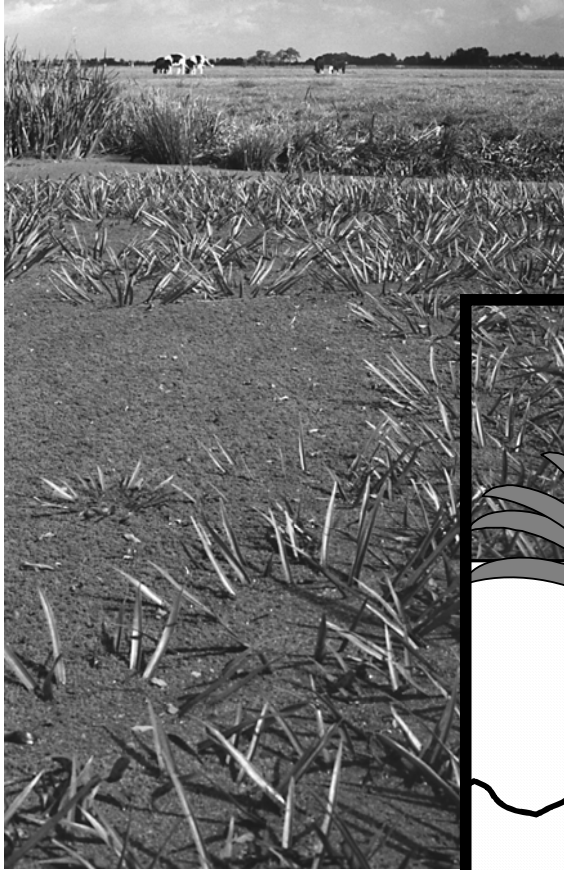




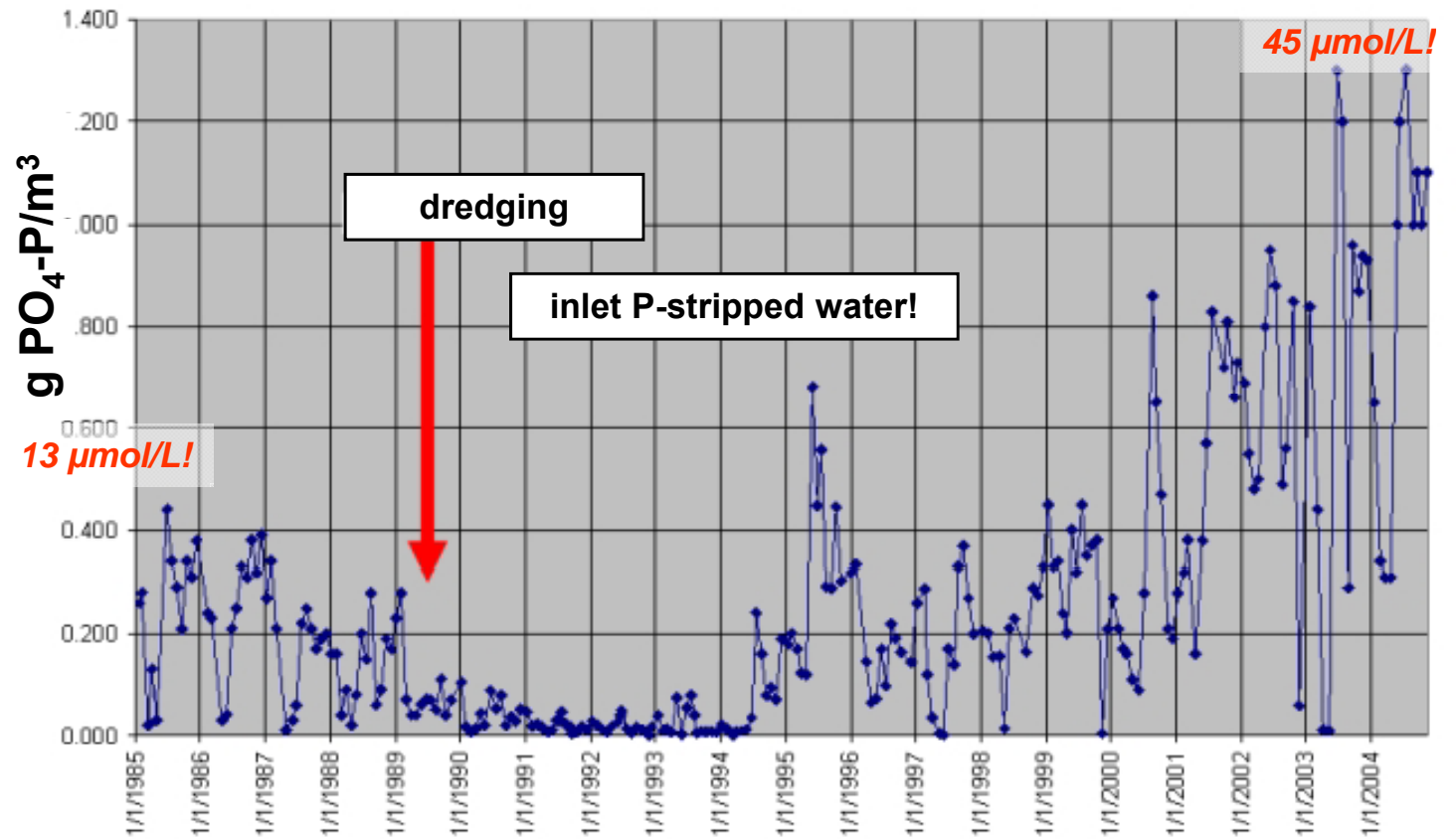




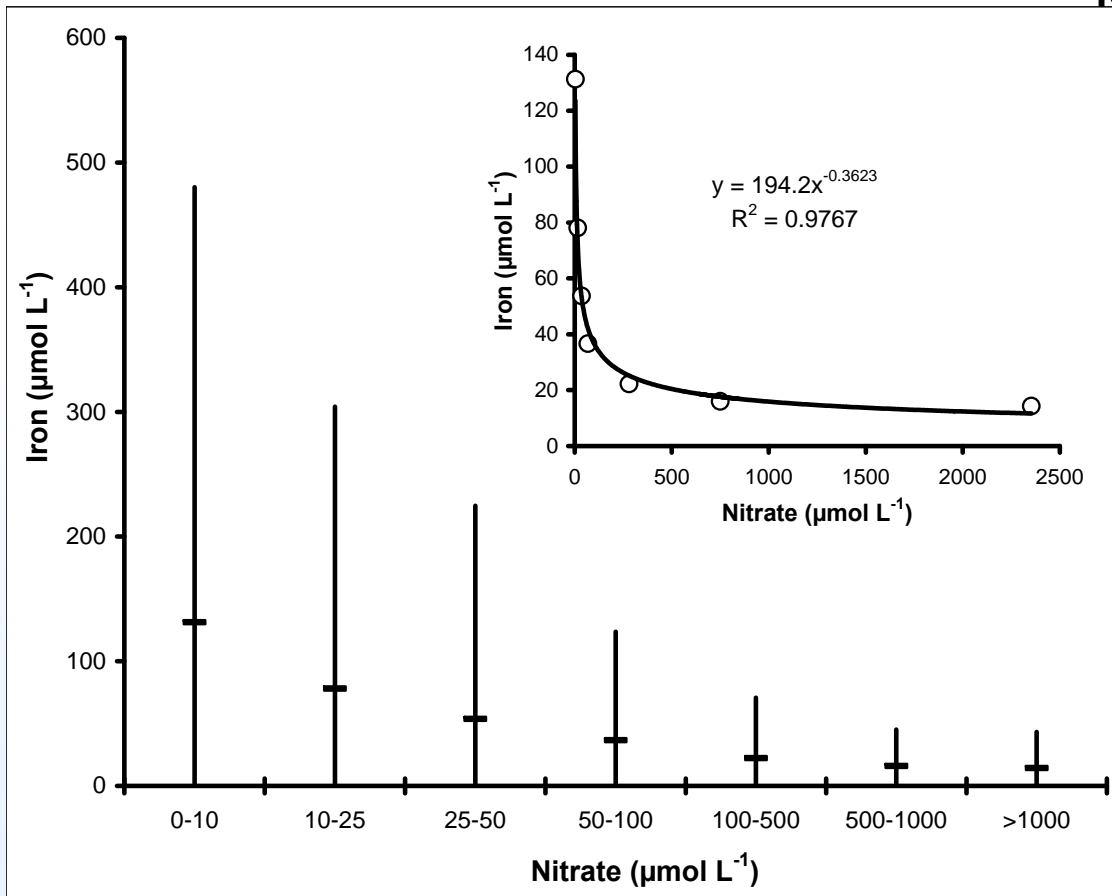
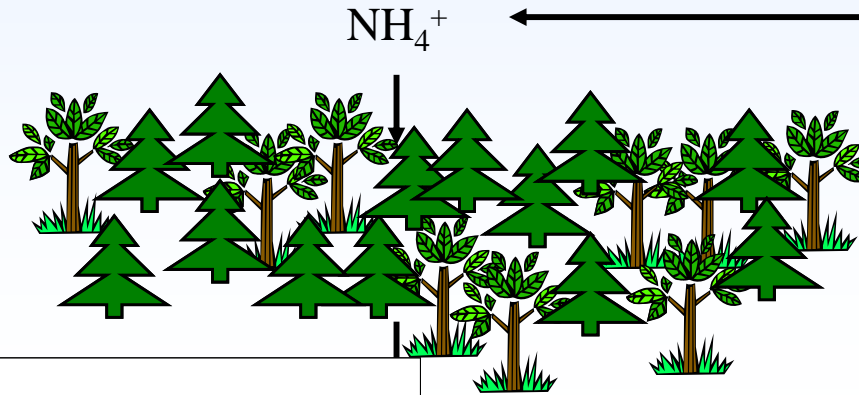


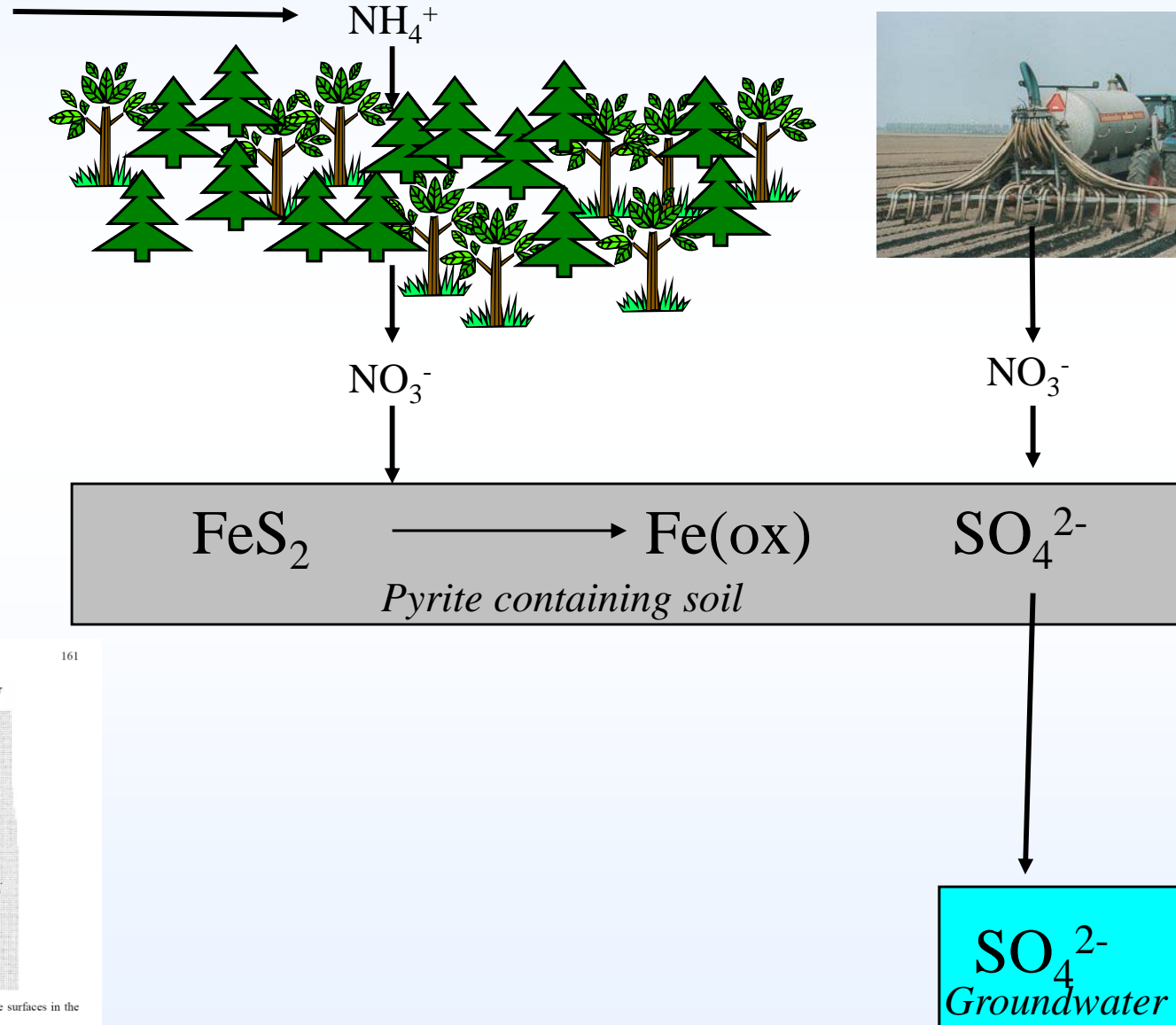
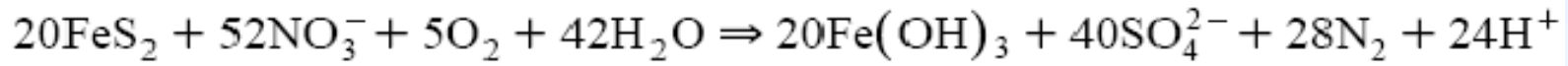


Shallow peat lake (Geerplas, the Netherlands)



Nitrate immobilizes iron





S.J. Moncaster et al. / Journal of Contaminant Hydrology 43 (2000) 147–163

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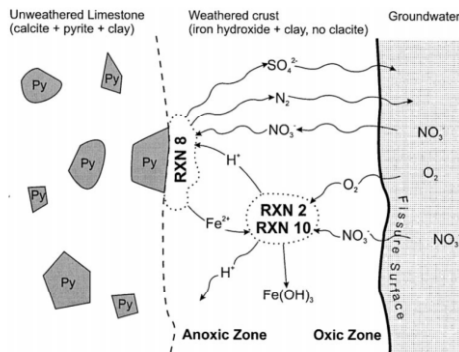
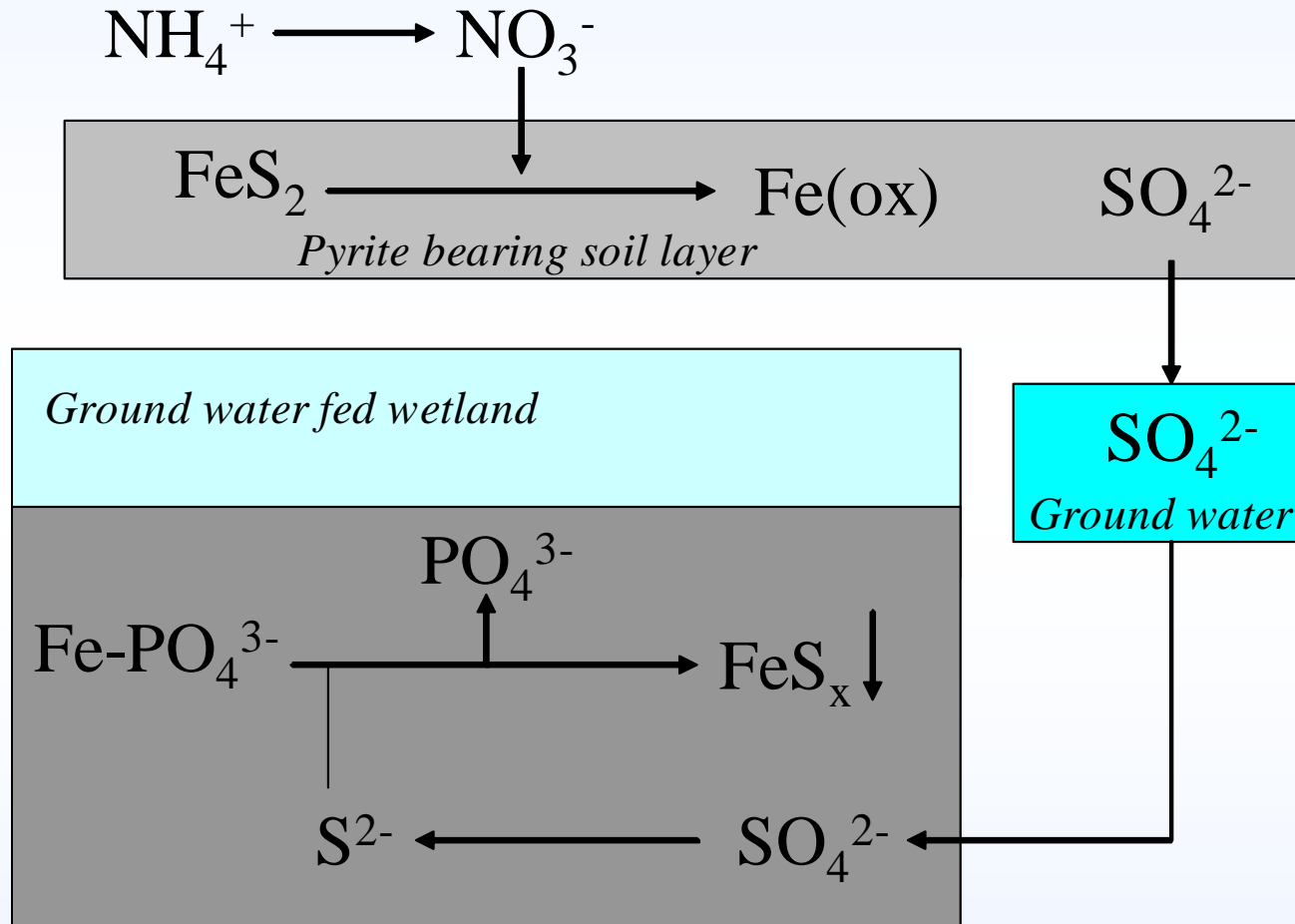
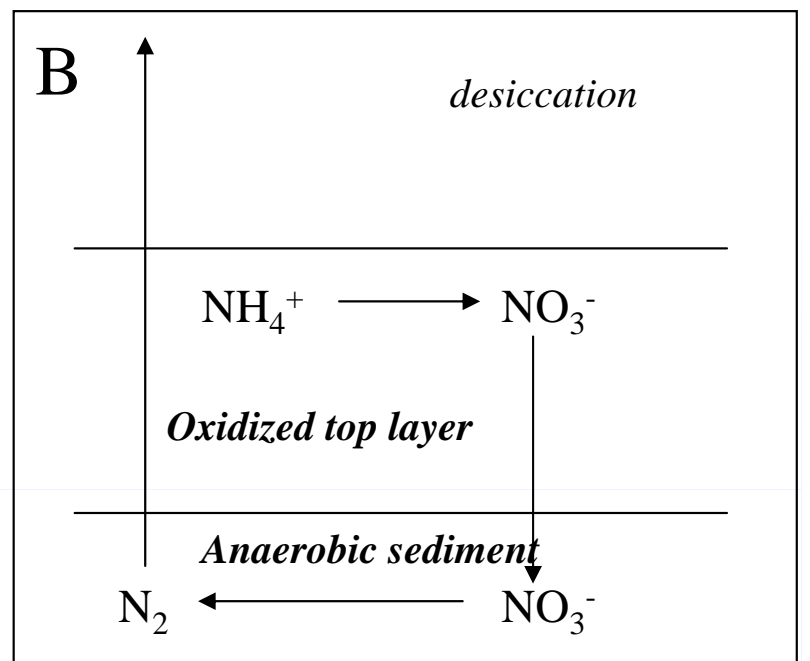
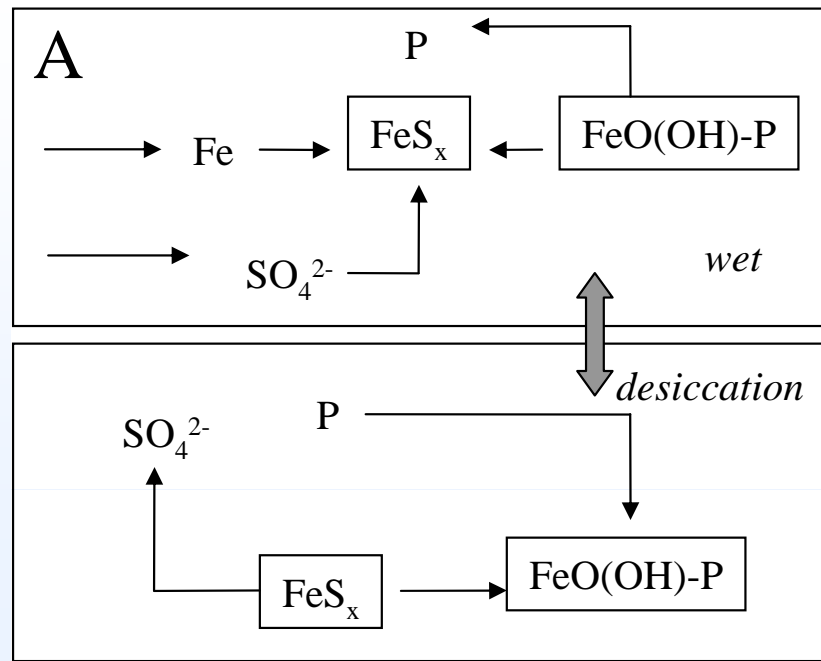
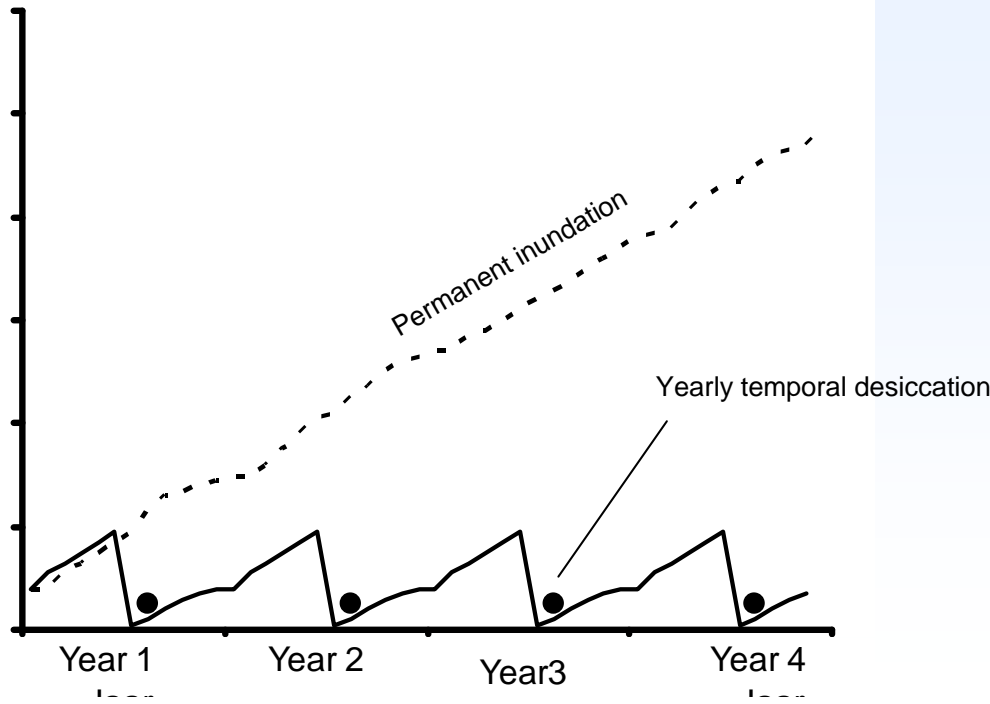


Fig. 5. Conceptual chemical model for the coupled reduction of nitrate and oxygen on fissure surfaces in the shallow confined zone using pyrite as an electron donor.

The sulphur bridge



N and P availability





Wetland restoration !
Rewetting measures in
Alder carr woods: high summer
level

before

after



Raised bogs in the Netherlands



Janssonius 1658

The area covered by raised bogs (1,000,000 ha) has been almost completely lost due to peat cutting activities.....



Firma
W. A. SCHOLTEN.

Veenderij en Turfstrooiselfabriek
met 3500 H.A. Veen

TE
„KLAZIENAVEEN,”
gemeente Emmen.

KANTOOR TE GRONINGEN,
met bijkantoren
te Rotterdam, Wijnstraat 35,
EN
te Londen S. E., Dockhead Wharf,
Shad Thames.



Nowadays less than 3,600 ha are covered by 'bogs'. These bog relics are often severely desiccated.....

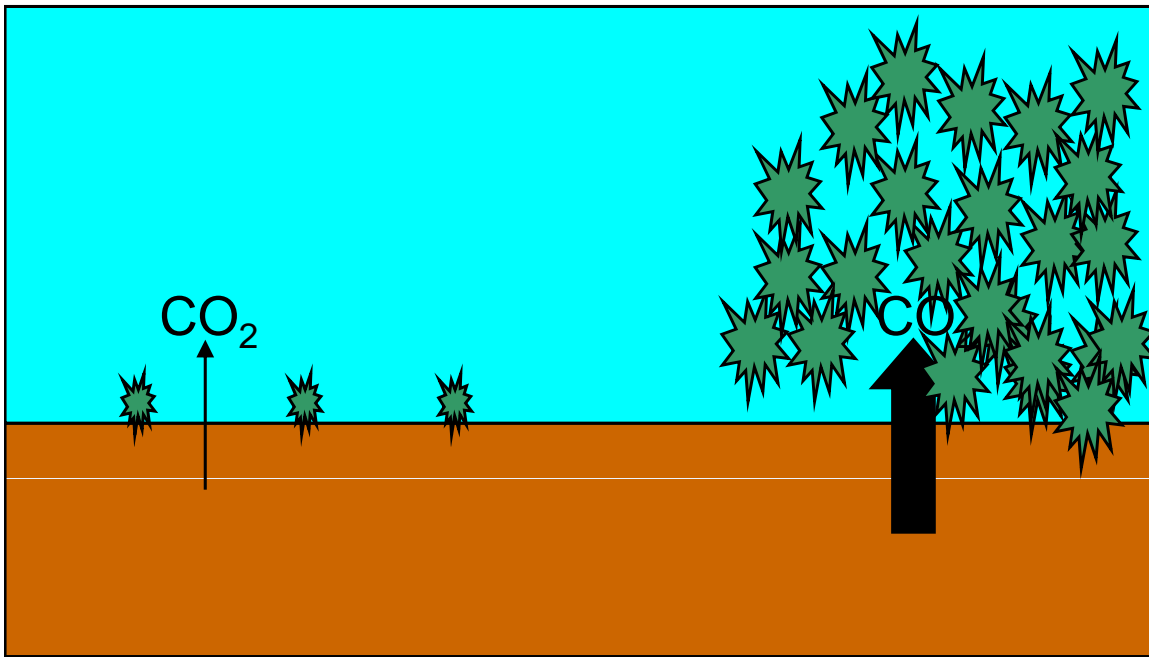
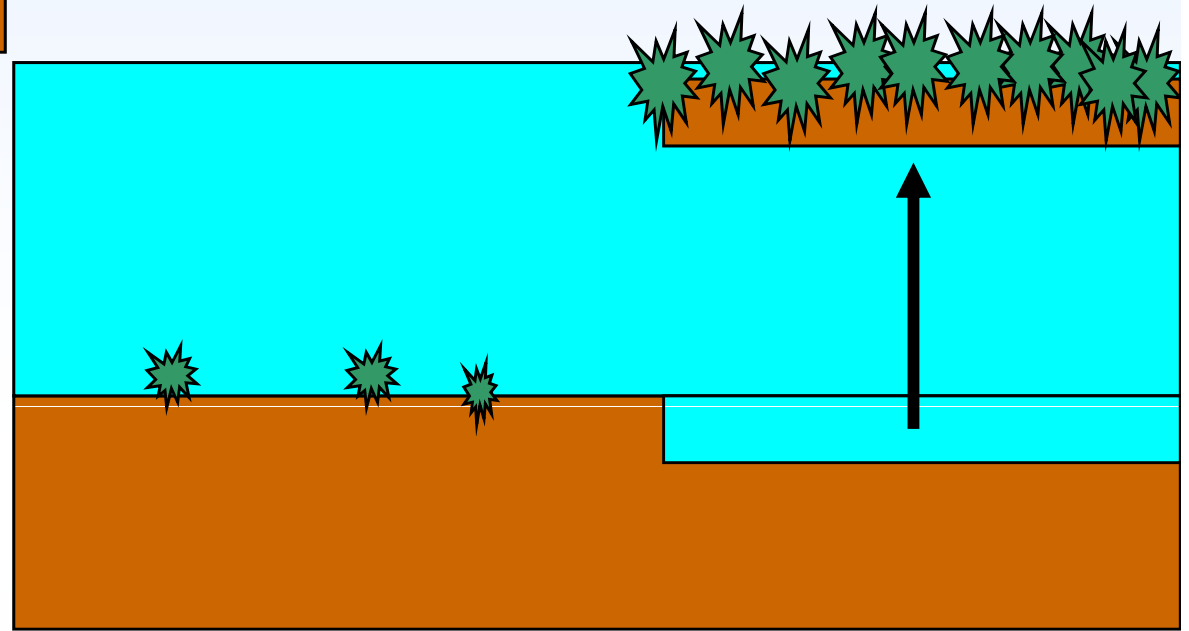
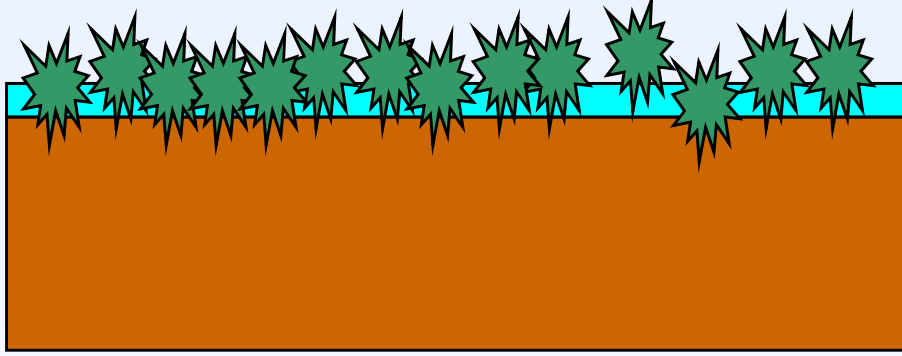
Gemakkelijk en zuinig in 't gebruik.
Verreweg sterkstijker dan stroo.

Rewetting of cut-over bogs



Large areas of deeply inundated, strongly humified peat with no growth of *Sphagnum* mosses



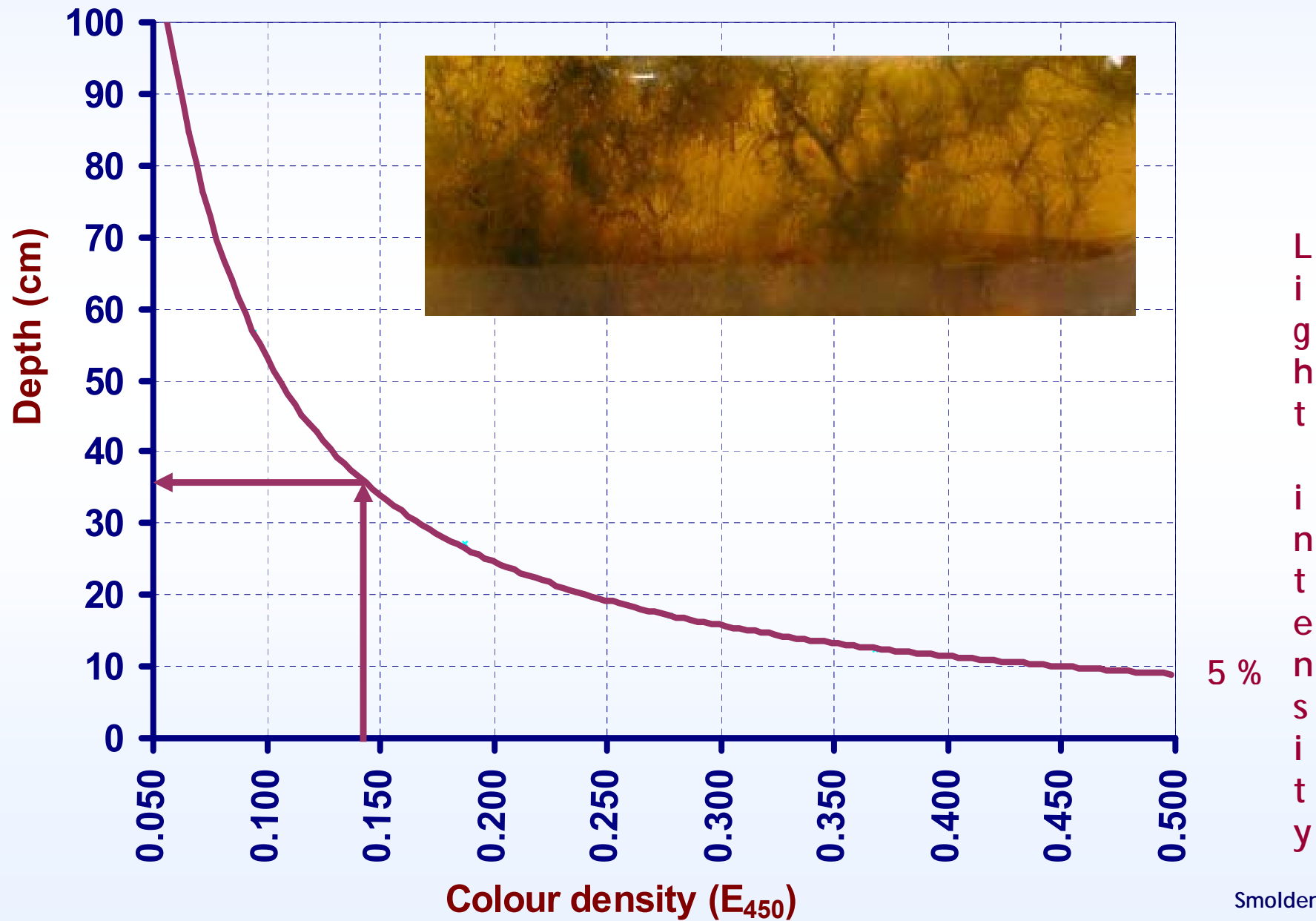




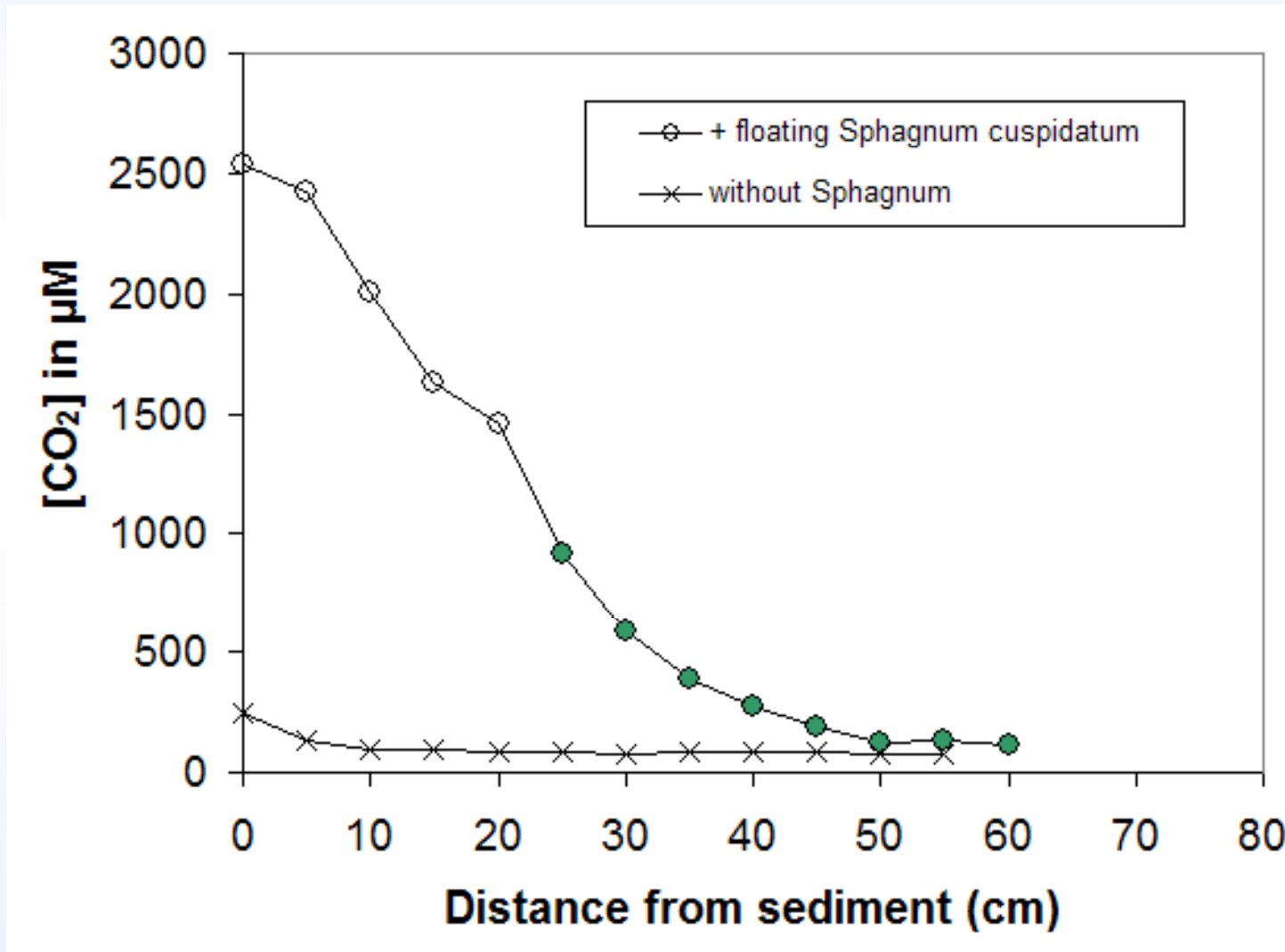
Development of *S. cuspidatum* carpets is usually observed in the more shallowly inundated zones



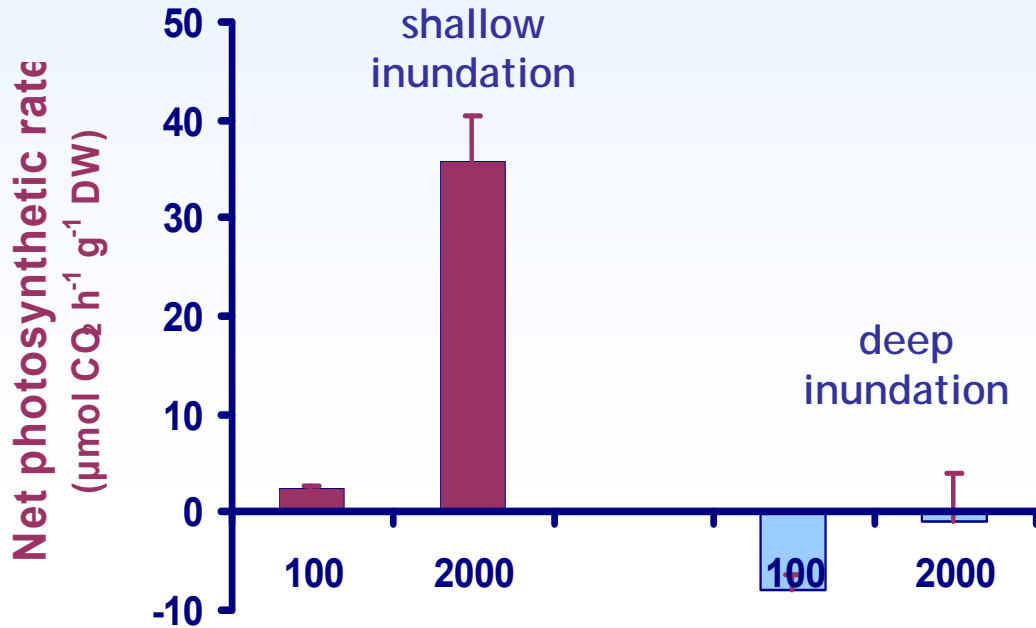
Relationship between colour of the water layer and light intensity at different depths



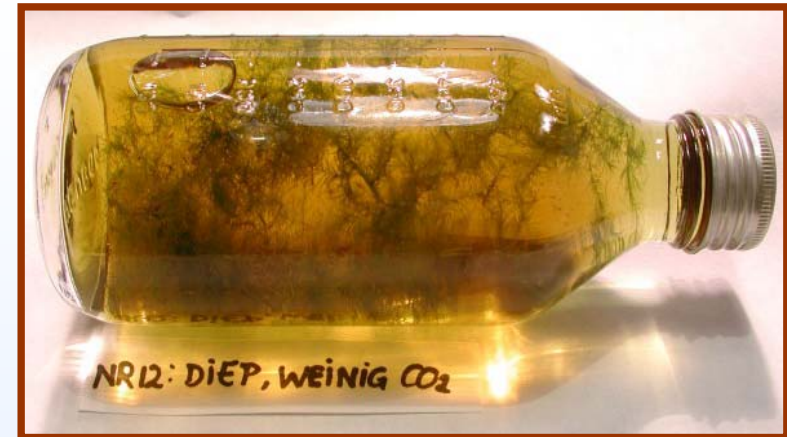
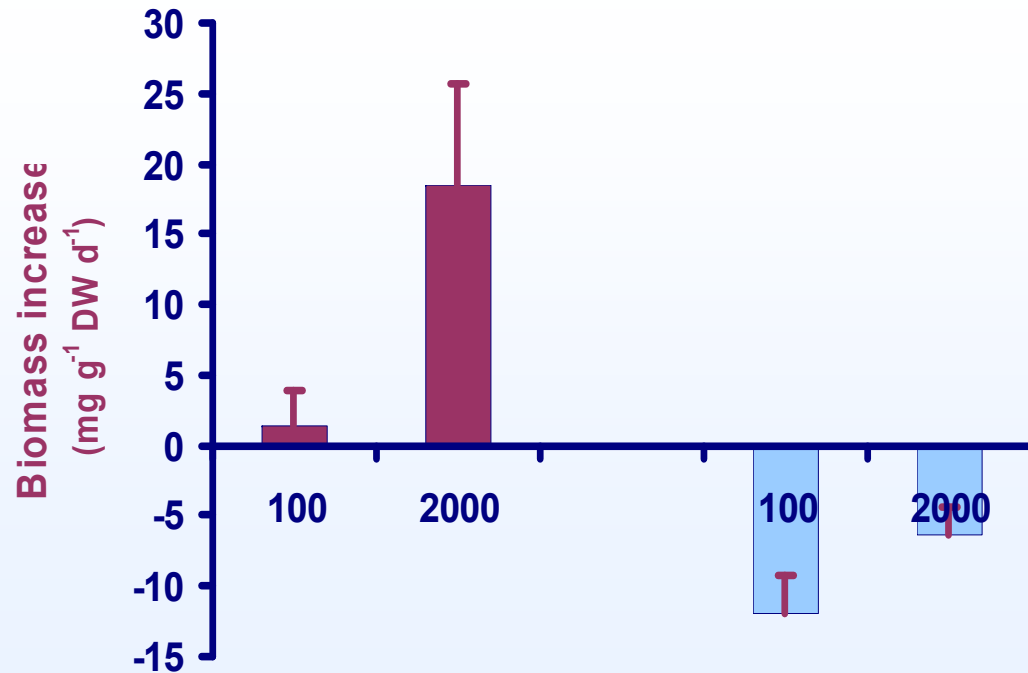
Submerged *Sphagnum* needs substrate derived CO₂ for growth



Growth of *S. cuspidatum* at different light conditions and CO₂ concentrations

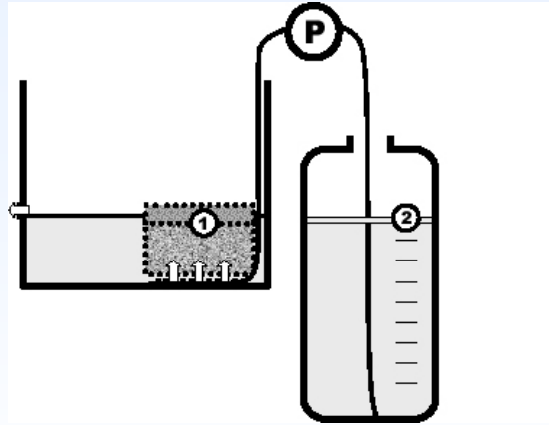


Shallow inundation & 2000 µmol l⁻¹ CO₂

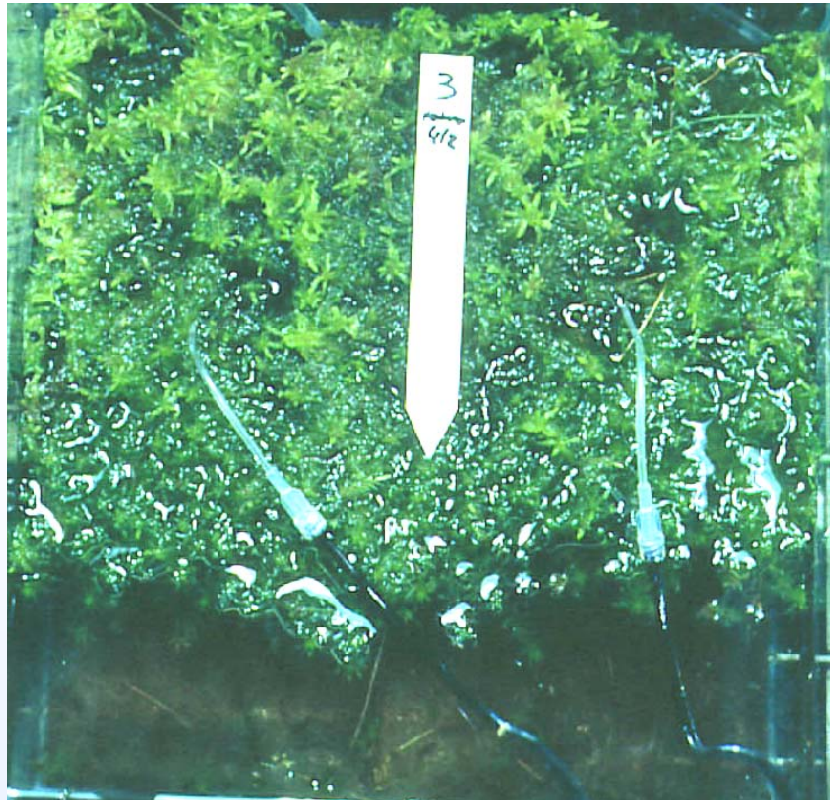


Deep inundation & 100 µmol l⁻¹ CO₂

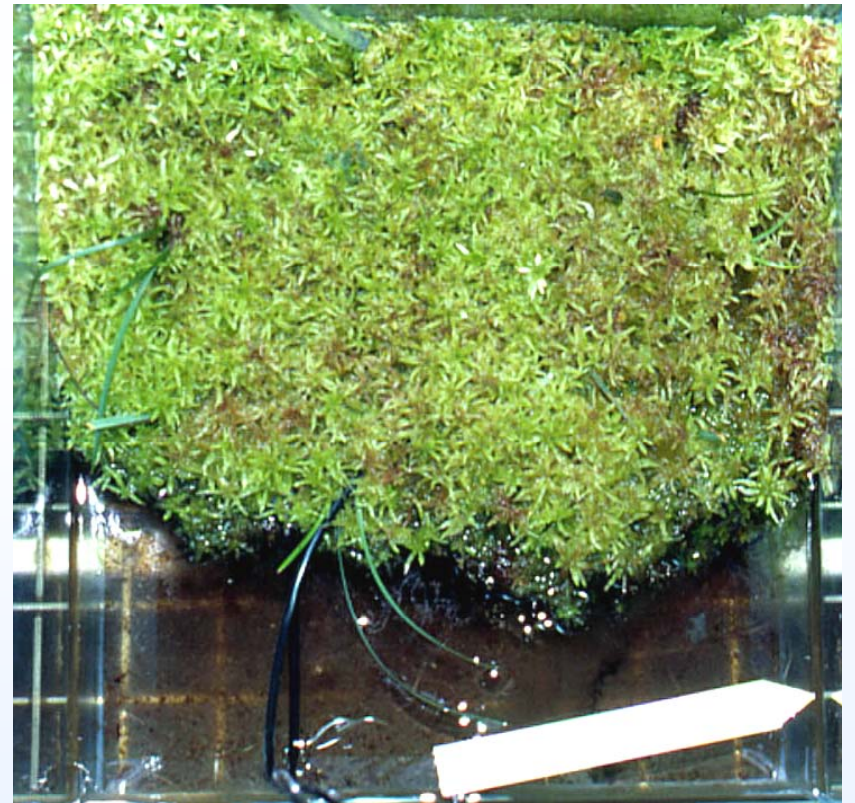
Growth of *Sphagnum magellanicum* at different CO₂ concentrations



20 $\mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ CO₂

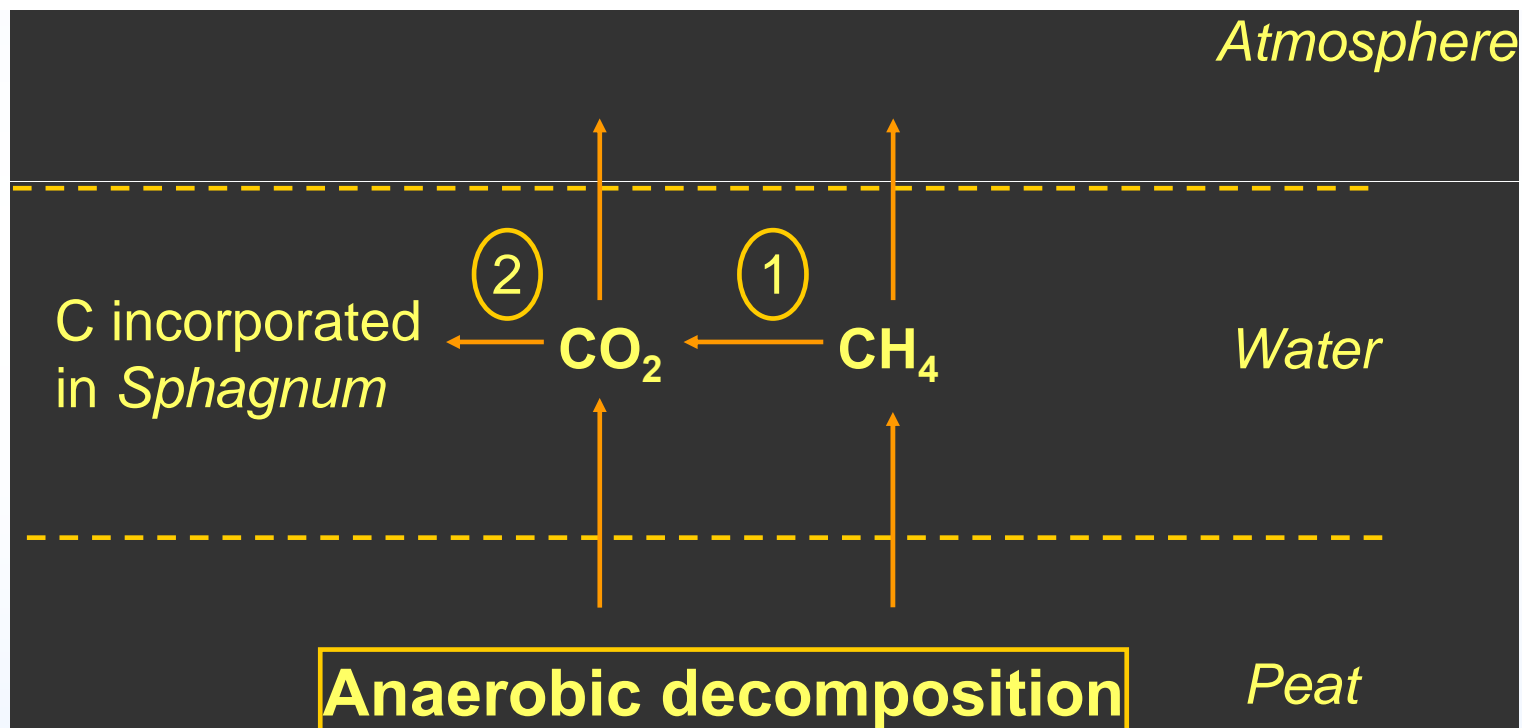
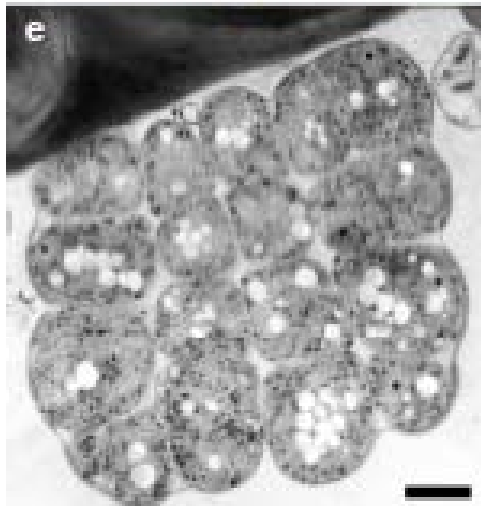
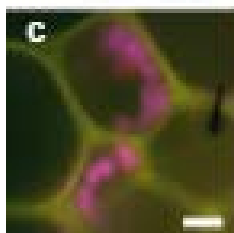
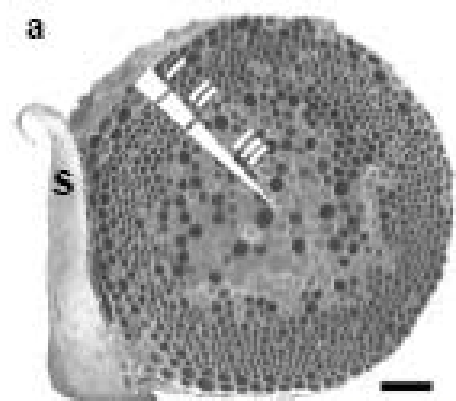


2000 $\mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ CO₂

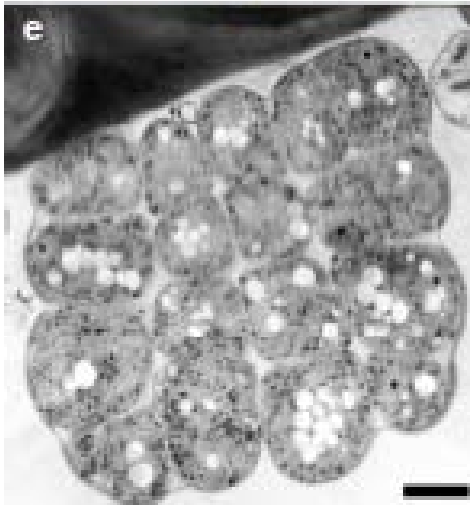
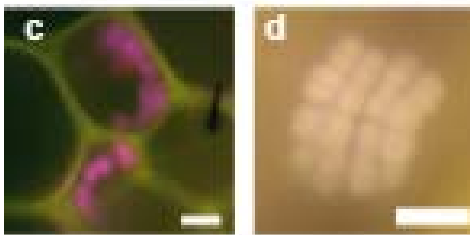
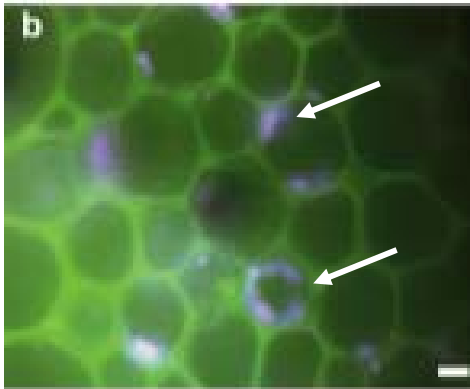
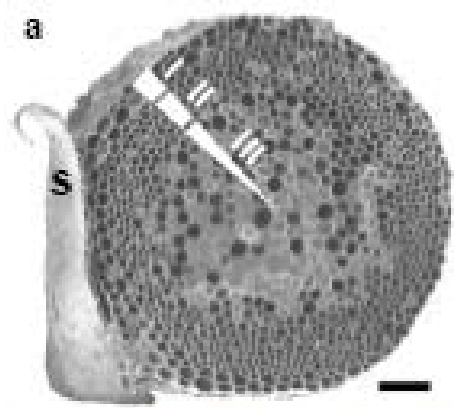


Methanotrophic symbionts provide carbon for photosynthesis in peat bogs

Ashna A. Raghoebarsing¹, Alfons J. P. Smolders², Markus C. Schmid¹, W. Irene C. Rijpstra⁴, Mieke Wolters-Arts³, Jan Derksen³, Mike S. M. Jetten¹, Stefan Schouten⁴, Jaap S. Sinninghe Damsté⁴, Leon P. M. Lamers², Jan G. M. Roelofs², Huub J. M. Op den Camp¹ & Marc Strous¹



- ① Methane oxidation by methanotrophic bacteria
- ② Photosynthesis



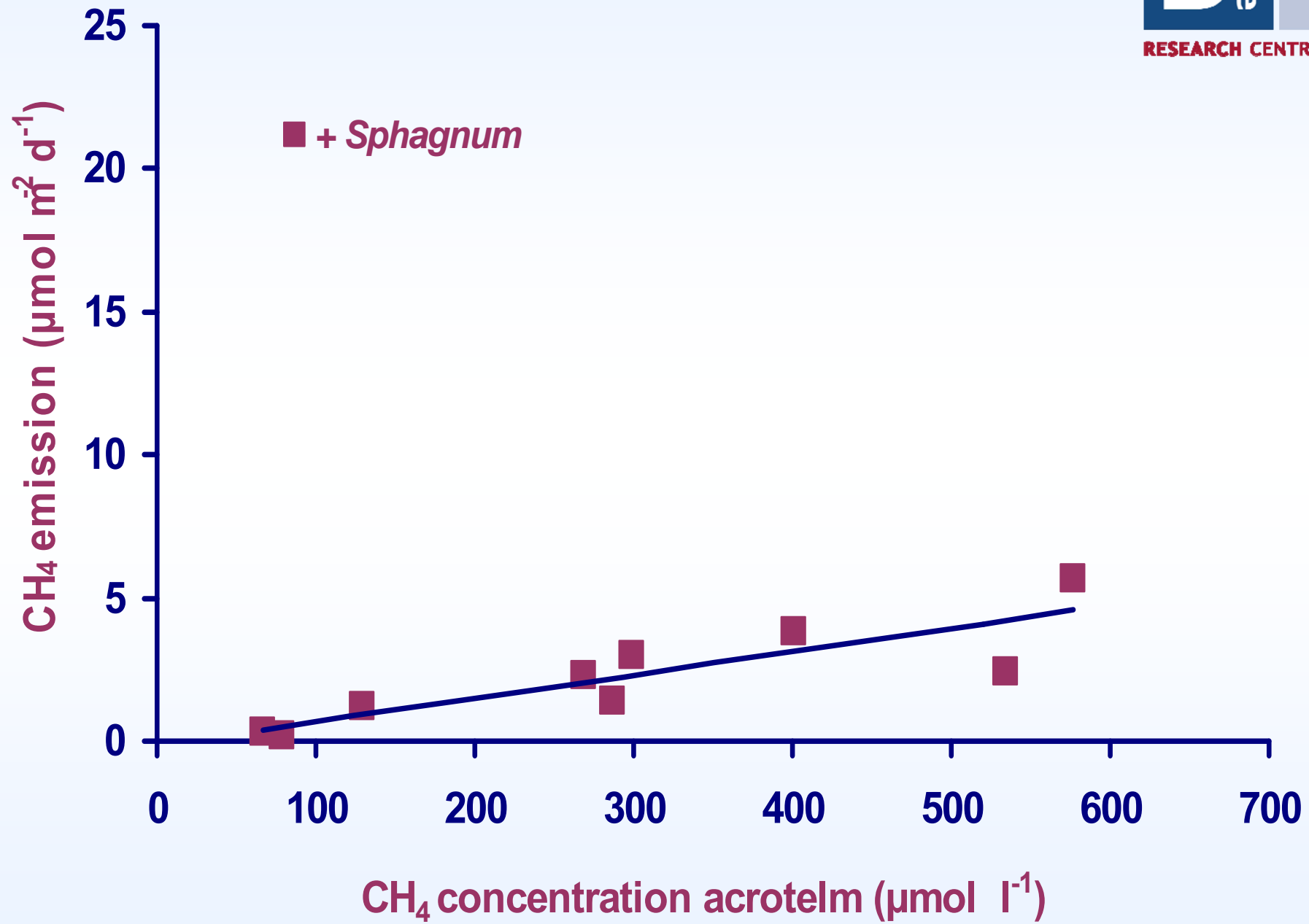
With the aid of FISH (Fluorescence *In Situ* Hybridisation) methanotrophic bacteria have been found in the hyaline cells of *S. cuspidatum* and on stem leaves

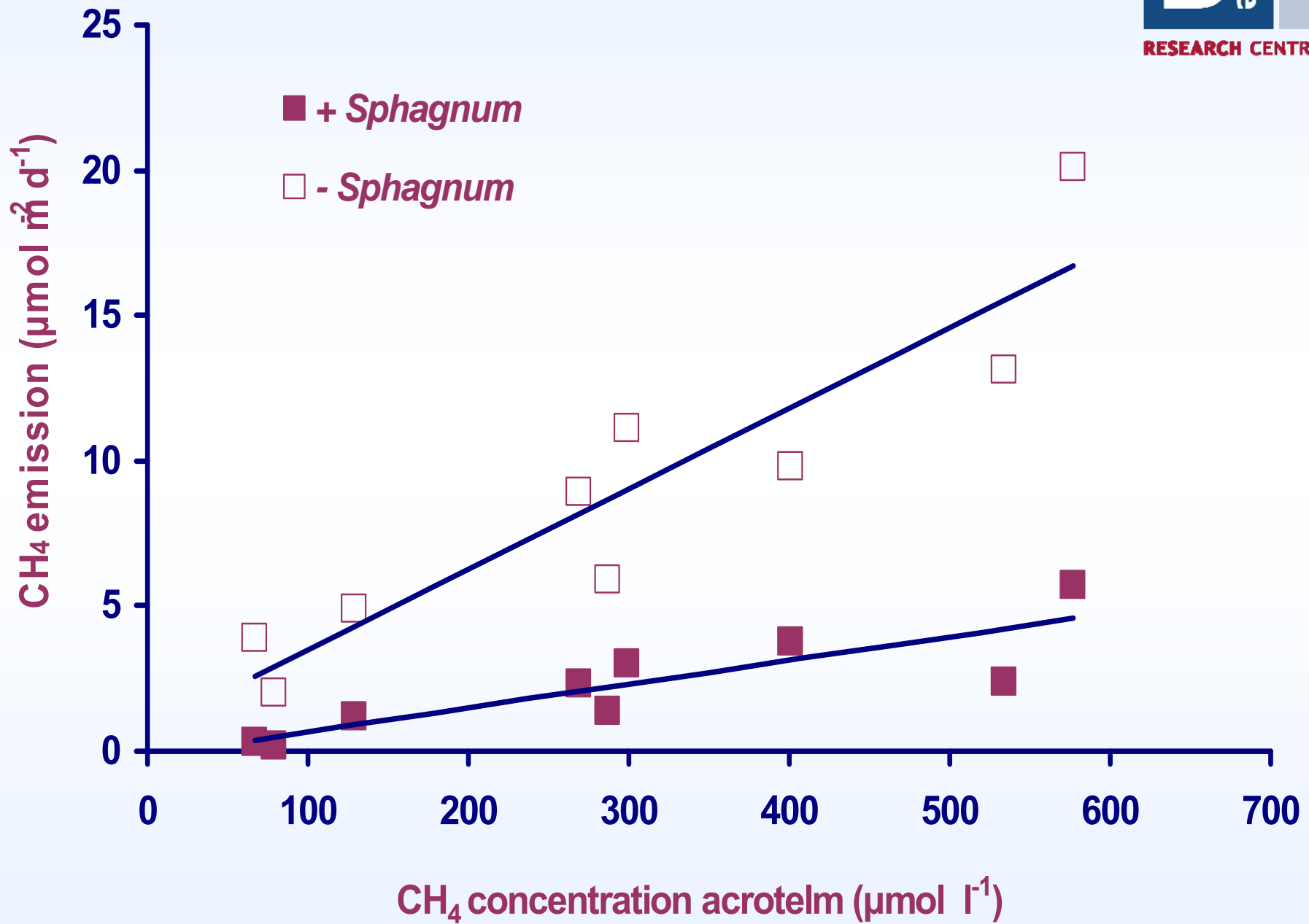
16S rRNA sequence shows highest similarity with uncultured α -Proteobacteria/type II methanotrophic bacteria

Isotopic mass balance calculation: methane contributed between 5 and 20% of the total carbon fixated by *S. cuspidatum* (field measurements)

This symbiosis is important in the view of global change (efficient recycling of methane)

Raghoebarsing, Smolders et al. Nature (2005)





Spontaneous development of floating rafts



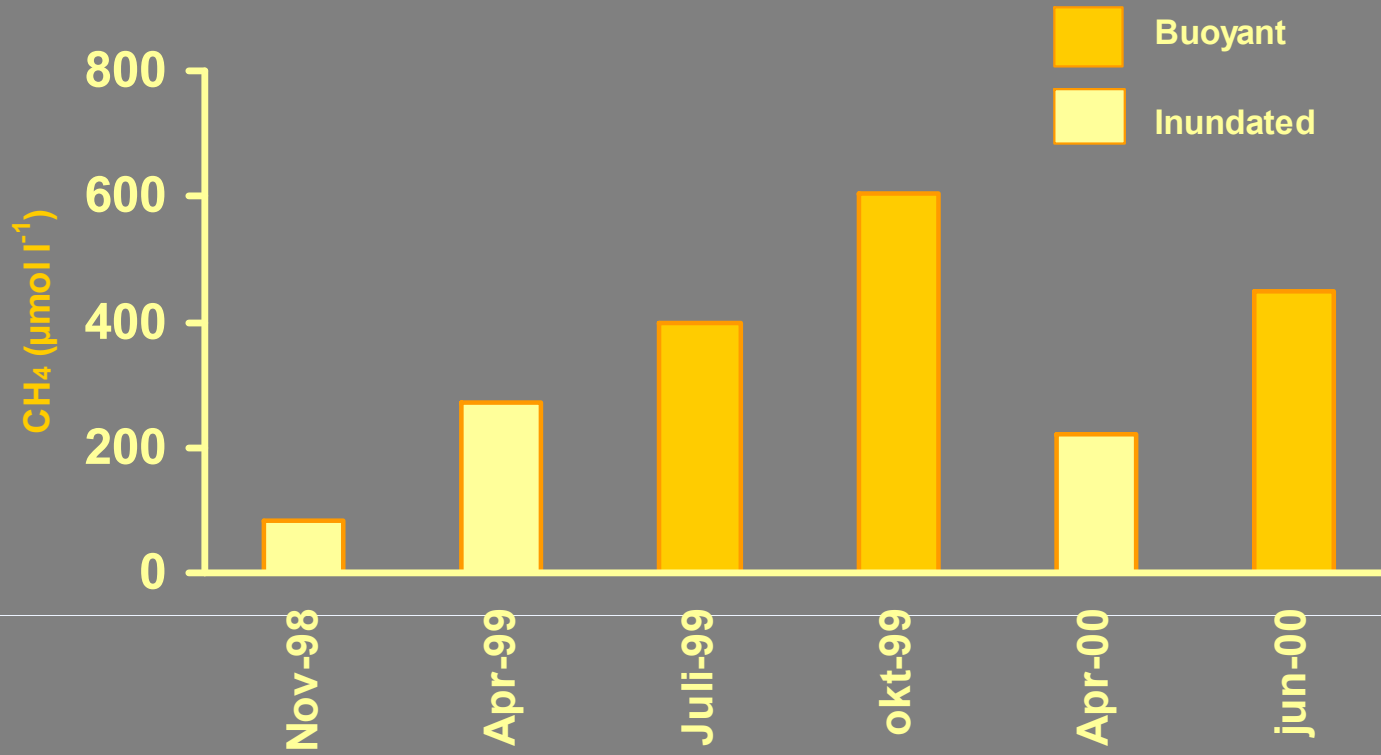
Bargerveen

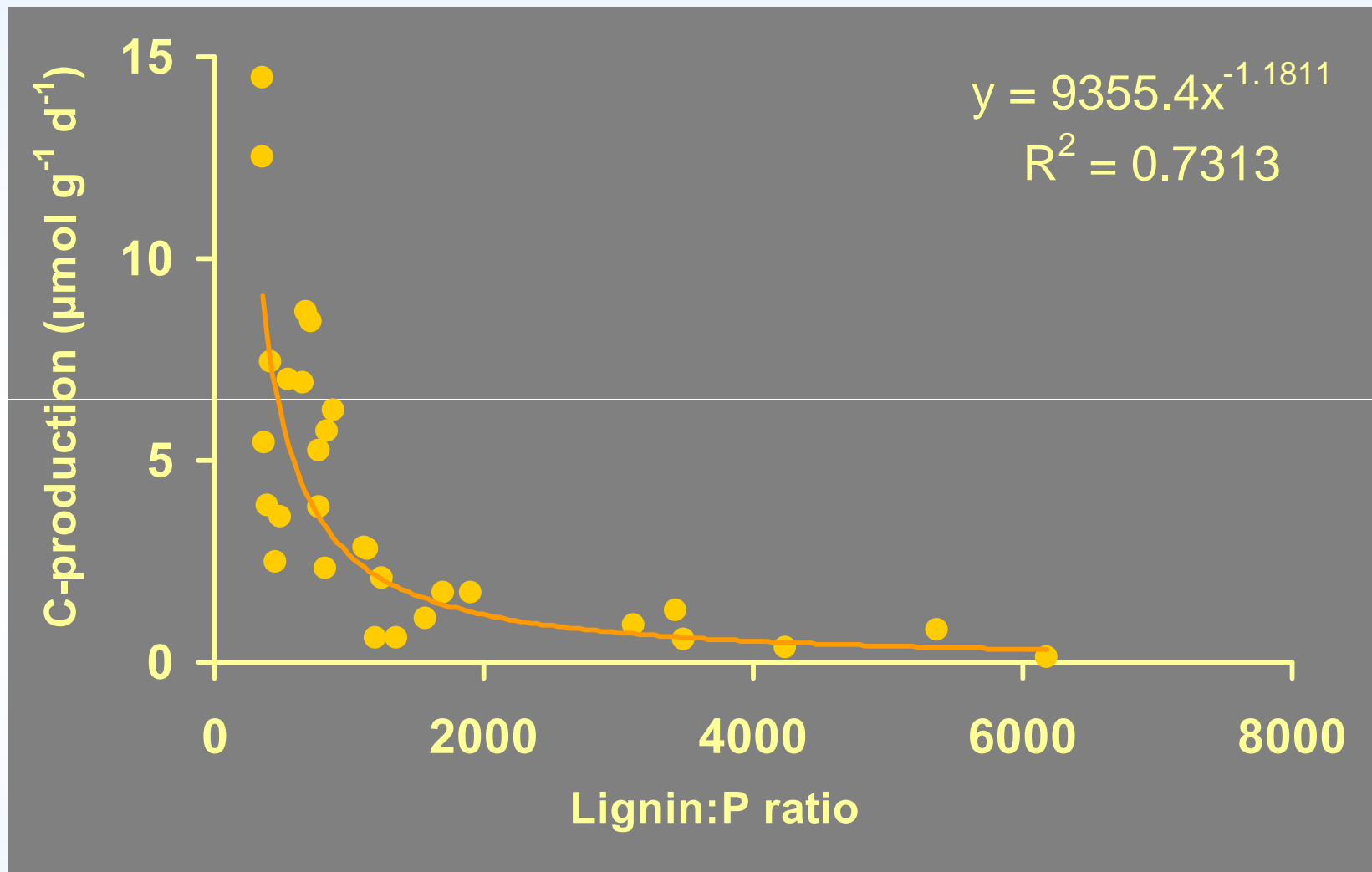


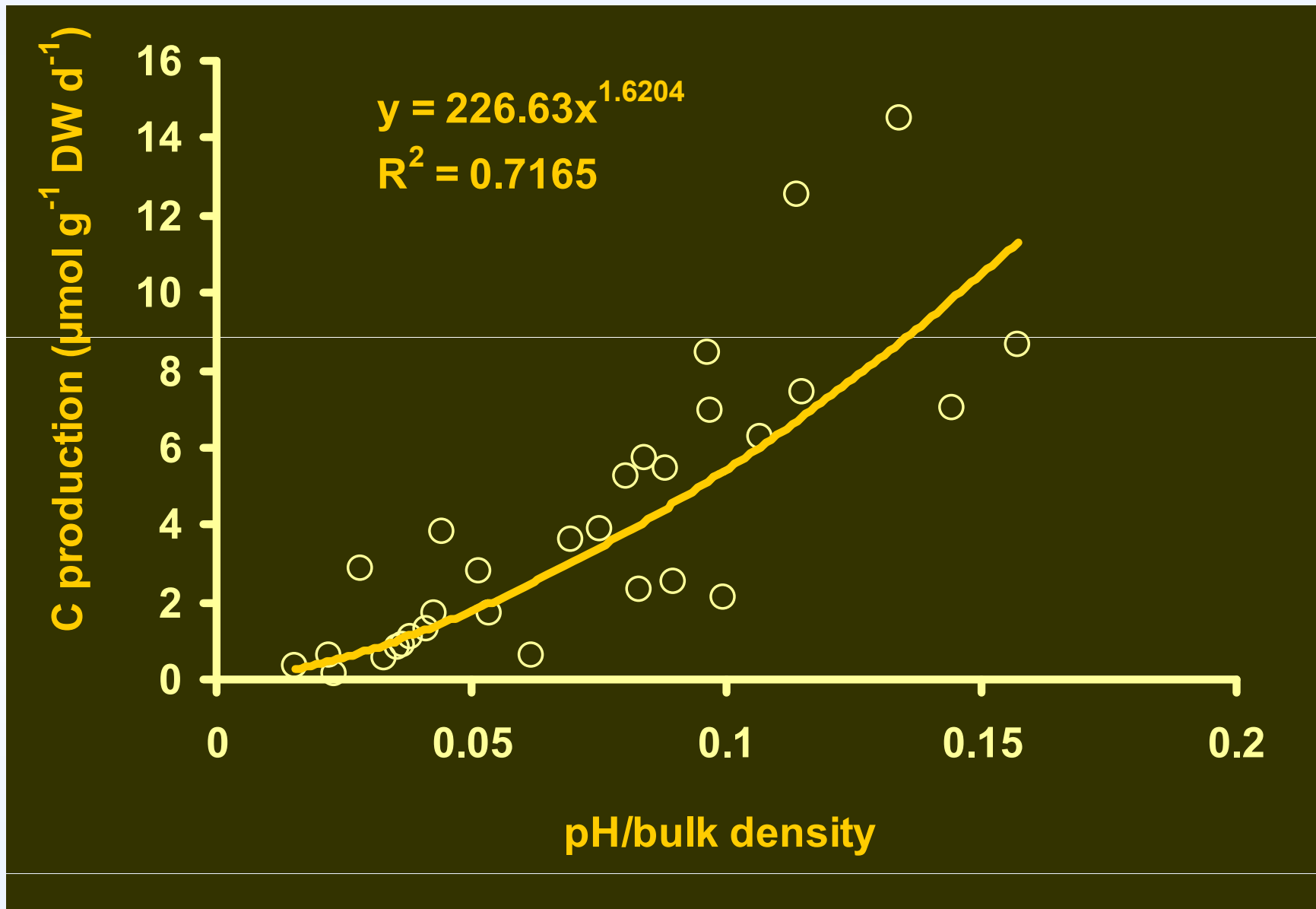
Maria Peel



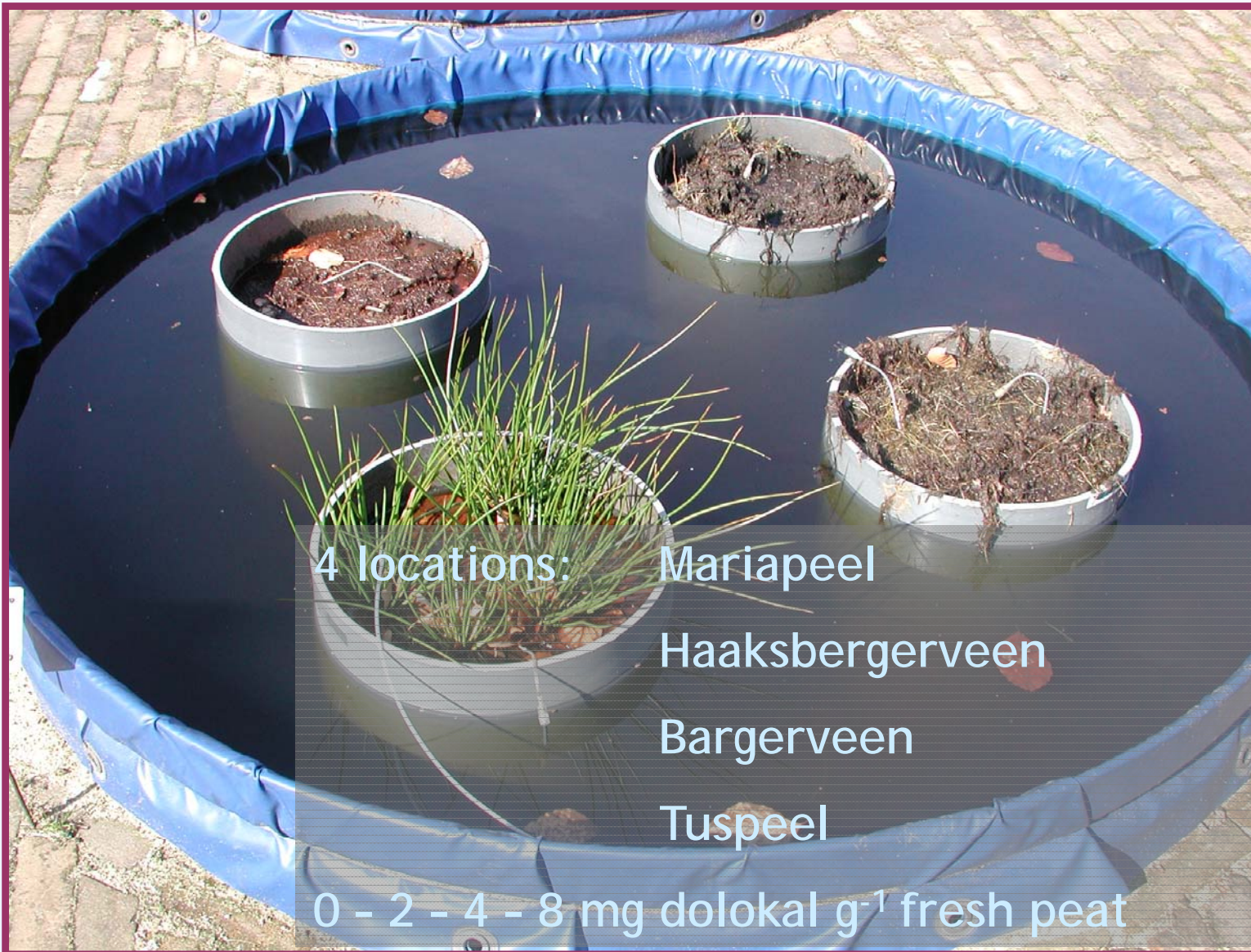
Haaksbergerveen

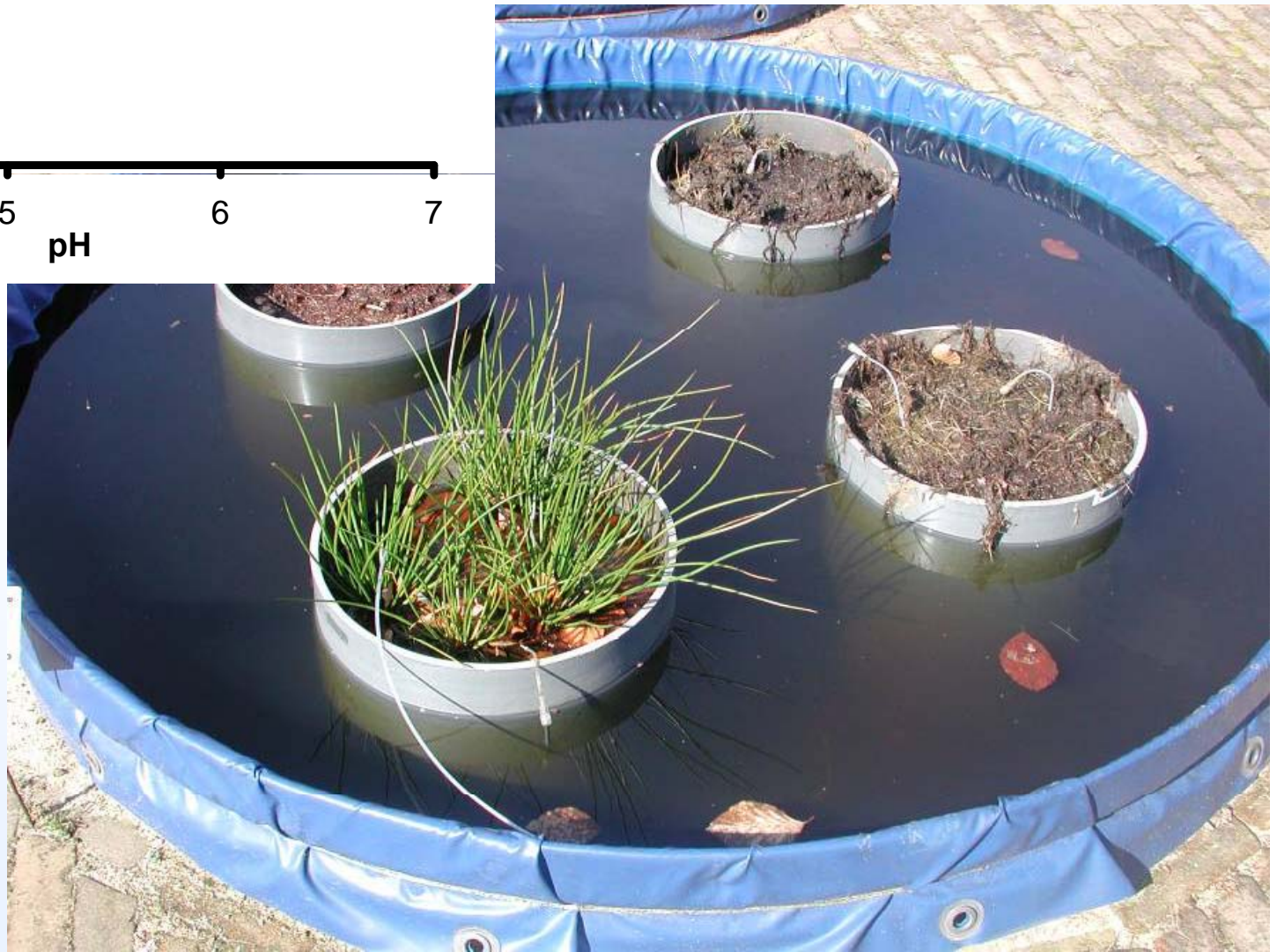
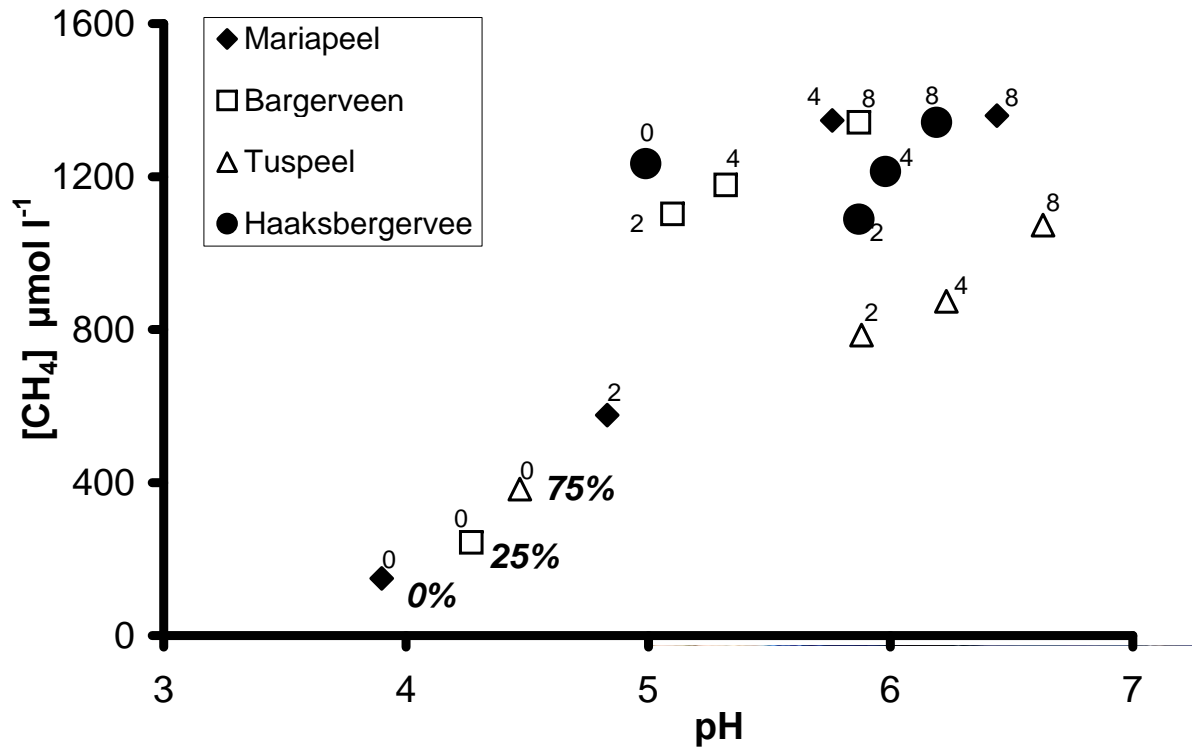






Introduction of suitable substrates with different amounts of lime added

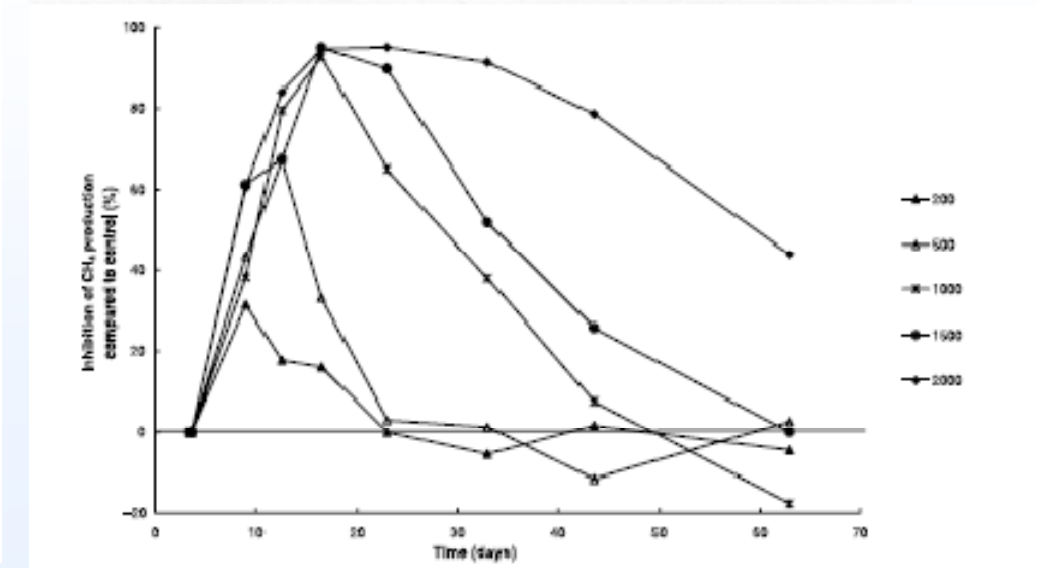
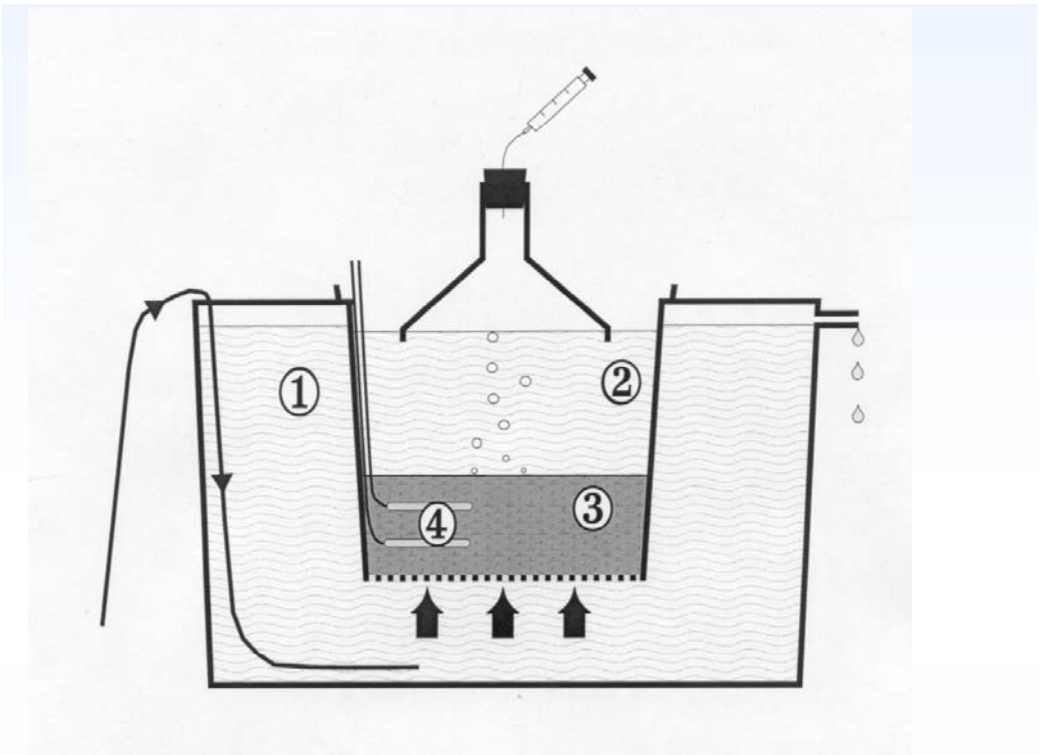
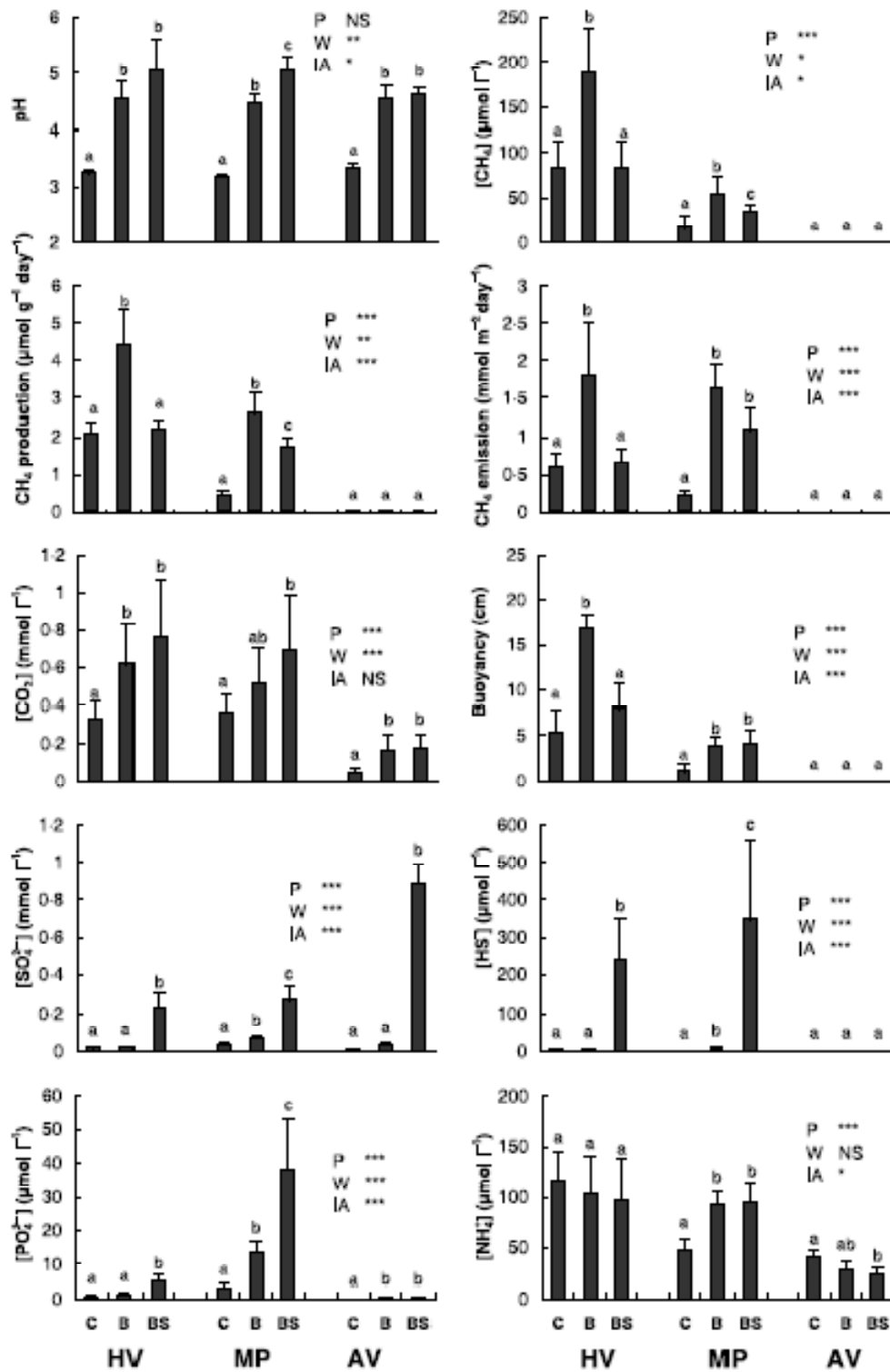




Peat bog restoration by floating raft formation: the effects of groundwater and peat quality

ALFONS J. P. SMOLDERS, HILDE B. M. TOMASSEN, LEON P. M. LAMERS, BART P. LOMANS* and JAN G. M. ROELOFS

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Black peat "Inundated"



Black peat "Dry"

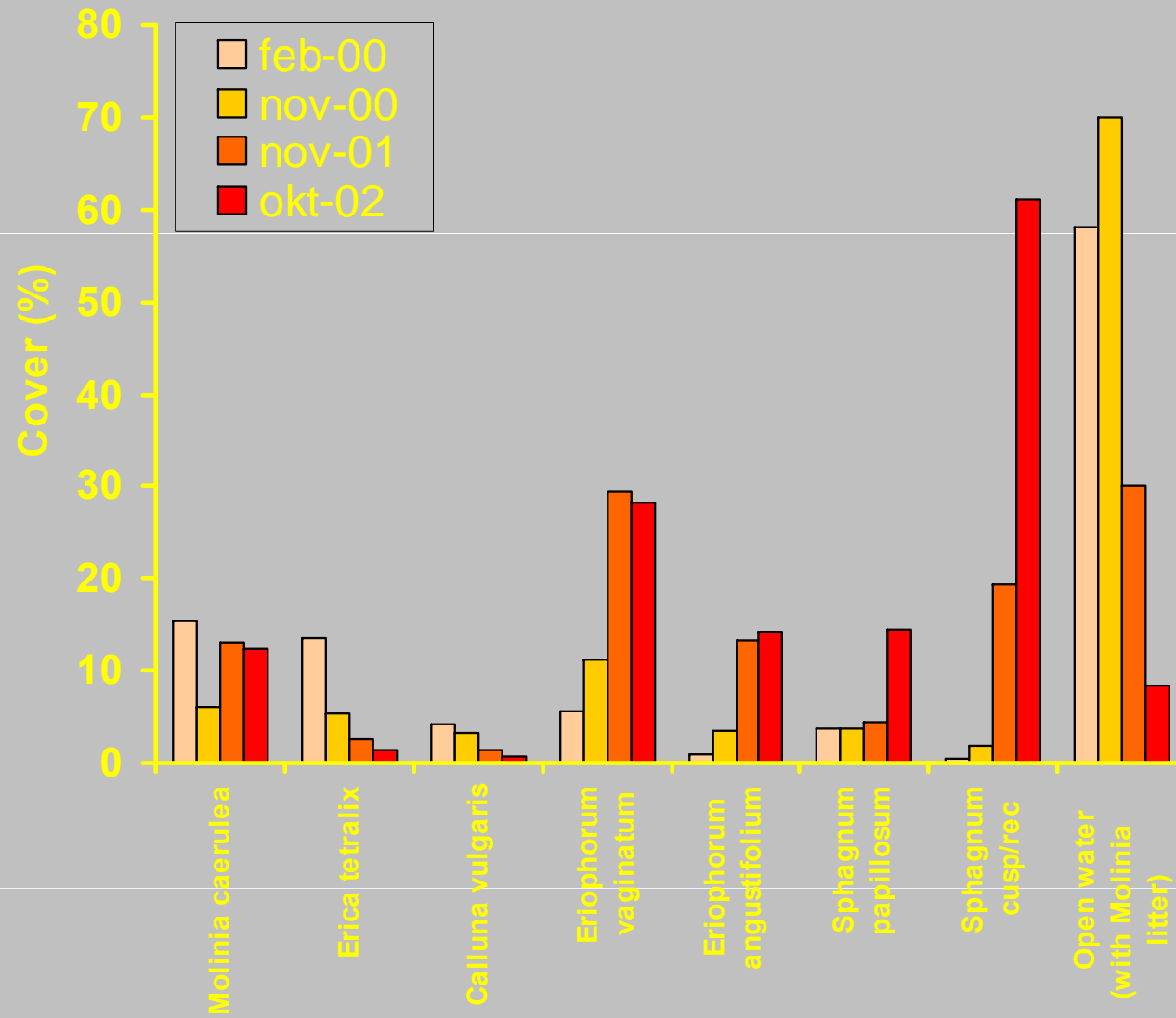


Black peat "Waterlogged"

Inundation of desiccated sites with 'white' peat

Fochteloerveen





Conclusions

