

**Transport and behaviour of total mercury in the Amazon River  
at the confluence of black and white waters**

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Transport and transformation of mercury and the role of organic matter in these processes have been studied in the Amazon river at its confluence of the Negro ('black water'), Solimões and Madeira ('white waters') rivers. With the Tapiác R. the Negro R. presents the highest total Hg content (11.6 to

18,2 ng l<sup>-1</sup>). This high Hg concentrations measured in the Negro R. are due to the extreme particulate Hg content which reach values (2074 ng g<sup>-1</sup> at the surface) 10 to 20 times higher than these measured in

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