High-resolution ^{87/86}Sr analyses in freshwater mussels: time-series and cartography using femto-laser MC-ICP-MS

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In the Amazon basin water ^{87/86}Sr ratio varies depending on the surrounding geology, with major contrasts among 4 main sub-basins, but displays also spatial and temporal heterogeneities. However, water 87/86Sr data are still limited due to the very large size of the basin and the limited access to remote areas. However, such data are very important for many geological and ecological studies. Consequently, we investigated the potential of using freshwater mussel shells ^{87/86}Sr ratio as a recorder of water ^{87/86}Sr and of its seasonal variations. Shell grown in cages in situ during one year were analysed at high-spatial resolution using a femto-second laser ablation coupled to a multicollector ICP-MS (LA-MC-ICP-MS) both in their hinge and in ventral margin. The shell ^{87/86}Sr variations are clearly seasonal with enriched values during the highwater level and conversely. In most cases, 87/86Sr values are in accordance with those measured in the water during shell growth. Even if growth rates, in particular in the ventral margin, must be better known, analysing 87/86Sr of those shells by LA-MC-ICP-MS will provide invaluable water 87/86Sr data in the Amazon basin and surely in other large continental hydrosystems.

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