



# Contaminação com metais pesados nos ecossistemas Efeitos nos seres vivos

## (Heavy metals in ecosystems)

**Química Ambiental**

Mestrado em Engenharia do Ambiente

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ISA, 2014/2015

# What is a heavy metal?



The term heavy metal is difficult to define precisely.

*Usual definition:* group of metals and metalloids with a density higher than  $5 \text{ g/cm}^3$  (does not include all the elements of environmental concern)

Other terms used: toxic metal (*metal tóxico*), trace metal/element (*elemento vestigial/traço*), PTE – Potentially Toxic Elements (*EPT – Elementos Potencialmente Tóxicos*).

However the “heavy metal” designation is still commonly used, usually with a pejorative sense, although several heavy metals are essential for plants and animals.

# Heavy metal toxicity: nutrients... or pollutants...

Several metals have biological functions in living beings

At high concentrations even the essential elements can become toxic

- Macronutrients (N, P, K, S, Ca, Mg)
- Micronutrients essential for plants (Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo, Zn, Ni, B, Cl)
  - Essential elements for animals: Cu, Co, Fe, Mn, Mo, Zn, Cr, Ni, Se, Sn:

## Toxic elements:

-Cd, Hg, Pb, As:

- Non essential elements for living organisms – no known biological function
- Accumulate in living organisms (bioaccumulation)
- Affect essential physiological processes  
(ex: Cd replaces Zn originating inactive enzymes)

# Tabela Periódica dos Elementos

1 IA Novo Original	2 IIA	3 IIIIB	4 IVB	5 VB	6 VIB	7 VIIIB	8 VIIIB	9 IB	10 IIB	11 IIIB	12 IVB	13 VIIIA	14 IIIA	15 IVA	16 VA	17 VIA	18 VIIIA	
1 <b>H</b> Hidrogênio 0.0794	2 <b>Be</b> Berílio 9.012182	3 <b>Li</b> Lítio 6.941	4 <b>Mg</b> Magnésio 24.3050	5 <b>Sc</b> Escândio 44.955910	6 <b>Ti</b> Titânio 47.867	7 <b>V</b> Vanádio 50.9415	8 <b>Cr</b> Cromo 51.9961	9 <b>Mn</b> Manganês 54.938049	10 <b>Fe</b> Ferro 55.8457	11 <b>Co</b> Cobalto 58.933200	12 <b>Ni</b> Níquel 58.6934	13 <b>Cu</b> Cobre 63.546	14 <b>Zn</b> Zinco 65.409	15 <b>Al</b> Alumínio 26.981538	16 <b>Si</b> Silício 28.0855	17 <b>P</b> Fósforo 30.973761	18 <b>Cl</b> Cloro 35.453	19 <b>Ar</b> Argon 39.948
20 <b>Ca</b> Cálcio 40.078	21 <b>Sc</b> Escândio 44.955910	22 <b>Ti</b> Titânio 47.867	23 <b>V</b> Vanádio 50.9415	24 <b>Cr</b> Cromo 51.9961	25 <b>Mn</b> Manganês 54.938049	26 <b>Fe</b> Ferro 55.8457	27 <b>Co</b> Cobalto 58.933200	28 <b>Ni</b> Níquel 58.6934	29 <b>Cu</b> Cobre 63.546	30 <b>Zn</b> Zinco 65.409	31 <b>Ga</b> Gálio 69.723	32 <b>Ge</b> Germanio 72.64	33 <b>As</b> Arsênio 74.92160	34 <b>Se</b> Selénio 78.90	35 <b>Br</b> Bromo 79.904	36 <b>Kr</b> Criptônio 83.798		
37 <b>Rb</b> Rubílio 85.4678	38 <b>Sr</b> Estrôncio 87.62	39 <b>Y</b> Ítrio 88.90585	40 <b>Zr</b> Zirônio 91.224	41 <b>Nb</b> Nióbio 92.90638	42 <b>Mo</b> Molibdênio 95.94	43 <b>Tc</b> Técneto (98)	44 <b>Ru</b> Ruténio 101.07	45 <b>Rh</b> Ródio 102.90550	46 <b>Pd</b> Prata 106.42	47 <b>Ag</b> Prata 107.8682	48 <b>Cd</b> Cádmio 112.411	49 <b>In</b> Índio 114.818	50 <b>Sn</b> Estanho 118.710	51 <b>Sb</b> Antimônio 121.760	52 <b>Te</b> Telúrio 127.60	53 <b>I</b> Iodo 125.90447	54 <b>Xe</b> Xenônio 131.293	
55 <b>Cs</b> Césio 132.90545	56 <b>Ba</b> Bário 137.327	57 to 71		72 <b>Hf</b> Hánnio 178.49	73 <b>Ta</b> Tantânio 180.9479	74 <b>W</b> Tungstênio 183.84	75 <b>Re</b> Rênio 186.207	76 <b>Os</b> Ósmio 190.23	77 <b>Ir</b> Iridio 192.217	78 <b>Pt</b> Platina 195.078	79 <b>Au</b> Ouro 196.96655	80 <b>Hg</b> Mercúrio 200.59	81 <b>Tl</b> Tálio 204.3833	82 <b>Pb</b> Pb 207.2	83 <b>Bi</b> Bismuto (209)	84 <b>Po</b> Polônio (210)	85 <b>At</b> Astato (210)	86 <b>Rn</b> Radônio (222)
87 <b>Fr</b> Frâncio (223)	88 <b>Ra</b> Rádio (226)	89 to 103		104 <b>Rf</b> Rutherfordio (261)	105 <b>Db</b> Dúrbio (262)	106 <b>Sg</b> Seaborgio (266)	107 <b>Bh</b> Böhrio (264)	108 <b>Hs</b> Hésio (269)	109 <b>Mt</b> Meitnerio (268)	110 <b>Ds</b> Darmstádio (271)	111 <b>Rg</b> Roentgenio (272)	112 <b>Uub</b> Ununbium (285)	113 <b>Uut</b> Ununtríum (284)	114 <b>Uuq</b> Ununquadio (288)	115 <b>Uup</b> Ununpentium (288)	116 <b>Uuh</b> Ununhexium (292)	117 <b>Uus</b> Ununseptium (292)	118 <b>Uuo</b> Ununocto (292)
Massas atômicas em parênteses são aquelas do isótopo mais estável ou comum.																		

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57 <b>La</b> Lantântio 138.9055	58 <b>Ce</b> Cério 140.116	59 <b>Pr</b> Praseodímio 140.90765	60 <b>Nd</b> Neodímio 144.24	61 <b>Pm</b> Promécio (145)	62 <b>Sm</b> Samário 150.36	63 <b>Eu</b> Europio 151.964	64 <b>Gd</b> Gadolíno 157.25	65 <b>Tb</b> Térbico 168.92534	66 <b>Dy</b> Disprósio 162.500	67 <b>Ho</b> Holímero 164.93032	68 <b>Er</b> Érbio 167.259	69 <b>Tm</b> Túlio 168.93421	70 <b>Yb</b> Itérbio 173.04	71 <b>Lu</b> Lutécio 174.967
89 <b>Ac</b> Actínio (227)	90 <b>Th</b> Tório 232.0381	91 <b>Pa</b> Protactínio 231.03588	92 <b>U</b> Urânia 238.02891	93 <b>Np</b> Netúnio (237)	94 <b>Pu</b> Plutônio (244)	95 <b>Am</b> Americio (243)	96 <b>Cm</b> Berquélio (247)	97 <b>Bk</b> Californio (251)	98 <b>Cf</b> Einstênia (252)	99 <b>Es</b> Fermio (257)	100 <b>Fm</b> Mendelévio (258)	101 <b>Md</b> Mandelévio (259)	102 <b>No</b> Nobélvio (260)	103 <b>Lr</b> Laurençio (262)

Nota: Os números de subgrupo 1-18 foram adotados em 1984 pela International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (União Internacional de Química Pura e Aplicada). Os nomes dos elementos 112-118 são os equivalentes latinos desses números.

## Important elements in human diet

H																				He
Li	Be													B	C	N	O	F	Ne	
Na	Mg													Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar	
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn		Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr		
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe			
Cs	Ba	La	*	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn		
Fr	Ra	Ac	**	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg									

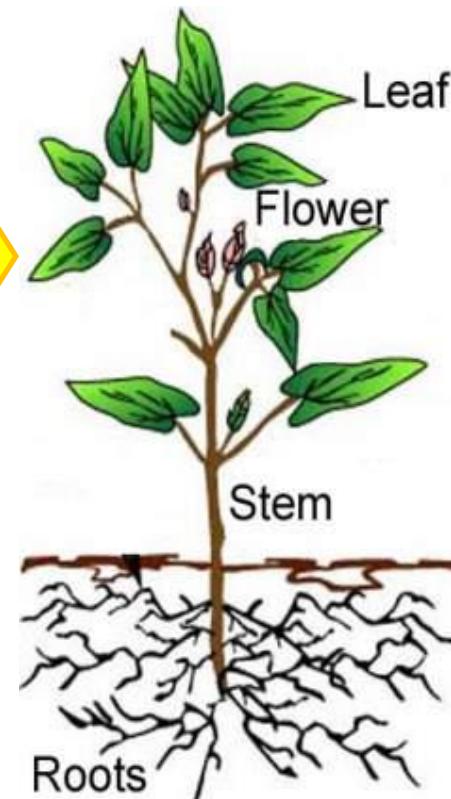
\* Ce Pr Nd Pm Sm Eu Gd Tb Dy Ho Er Tm Yb Lu

\*\* Th Pa U Np Pu <sup>A</sup>m Cm Bk Cf Es Fm Md No Lr

The four organic basic elements	Quantity elements	Essential trace elements	Suggested function from biochemistry and handling but no identified biological function in humans
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## Sources of “heavy metal” contamination

### Natural Sources

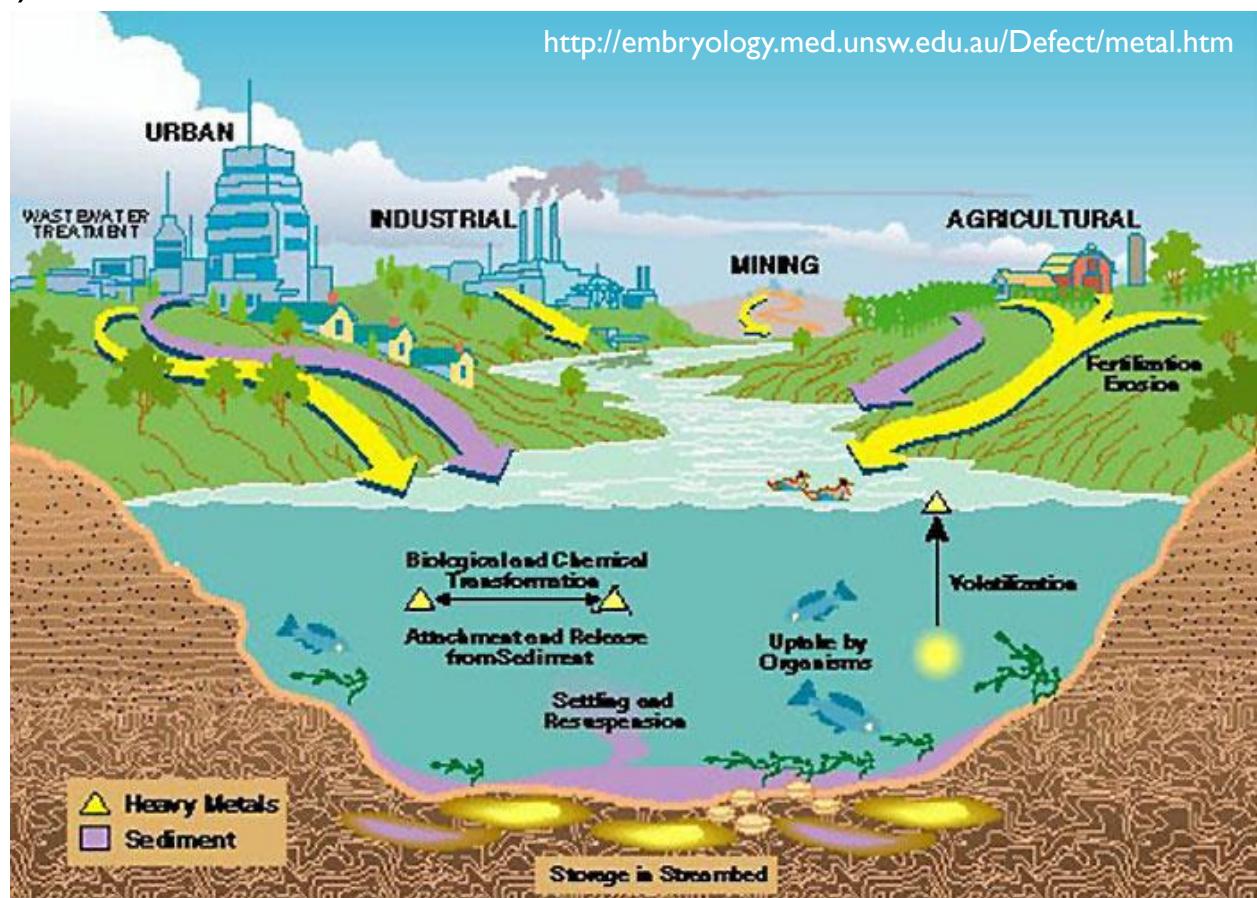


### Anthropogenic Sources

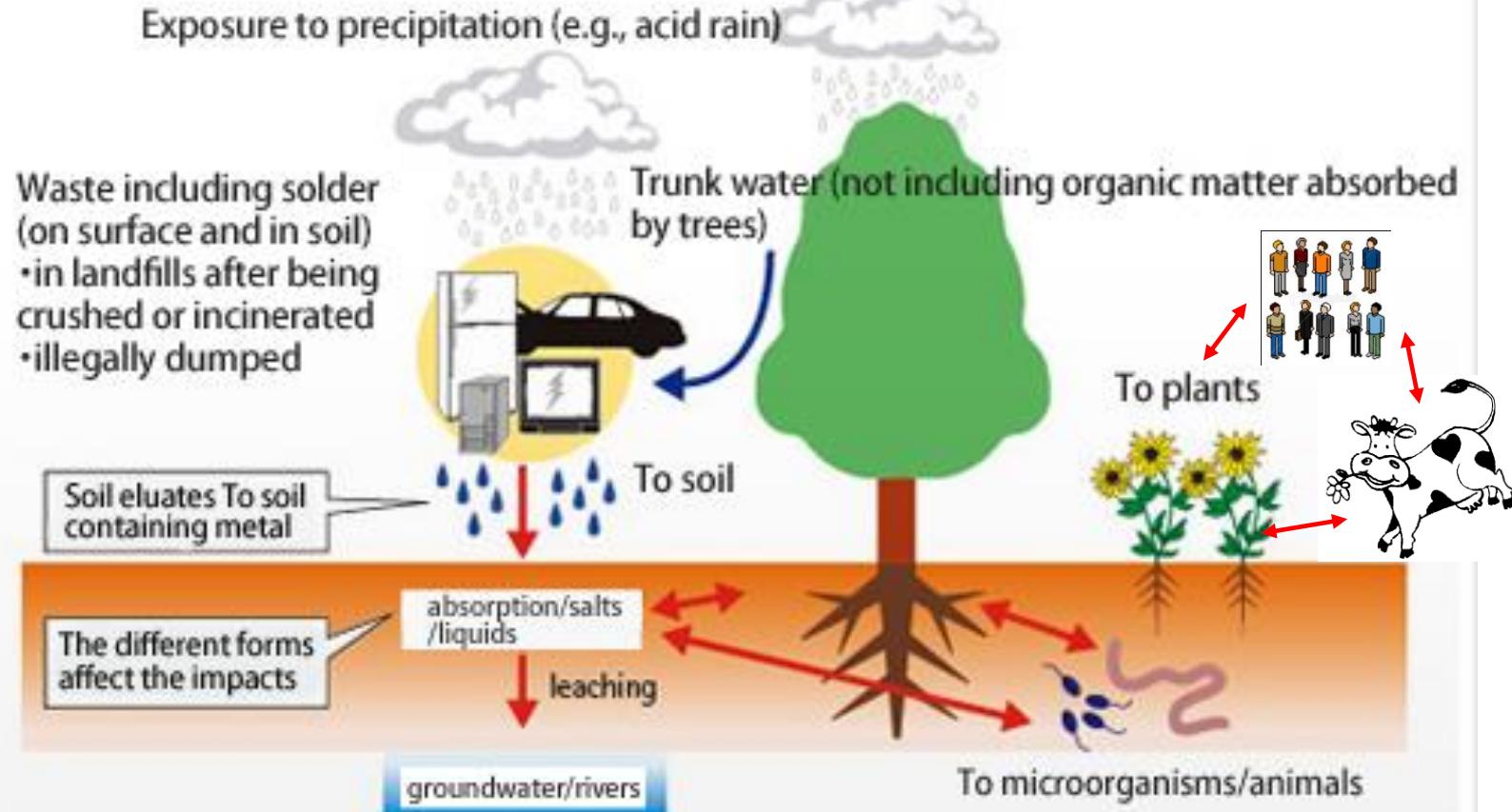


**Toxic metals** are metals that are not essential for living beings or that are essential but can be toxic at high concentrations (Fe, Cu, Mn, etc.). Some metals can be toxic in certain forms and not in others like Cr(III), essential for humans, and Cr(VI), toxic.

The term trace element is also used as some elements are of environmental concern but are not heavy metals, like As and Se.



## Mechanism and Impact of Dissolution of Metal from Solder and Waste



<http://www.nies.go.jp/gaiyo/bunya/aquaterra-e.html>

# Inorganic pollutants: toxic elements

Metal classification:

- **Heavy metals:** elements with density higher than 5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

Zn (7.1)	Cr (7.2)	Cd (8.6)
Ni (8.7)	Co (8.9)	Cu (8.9)
Mo (10.2)	Pb (11.4)	Hg (13.5)

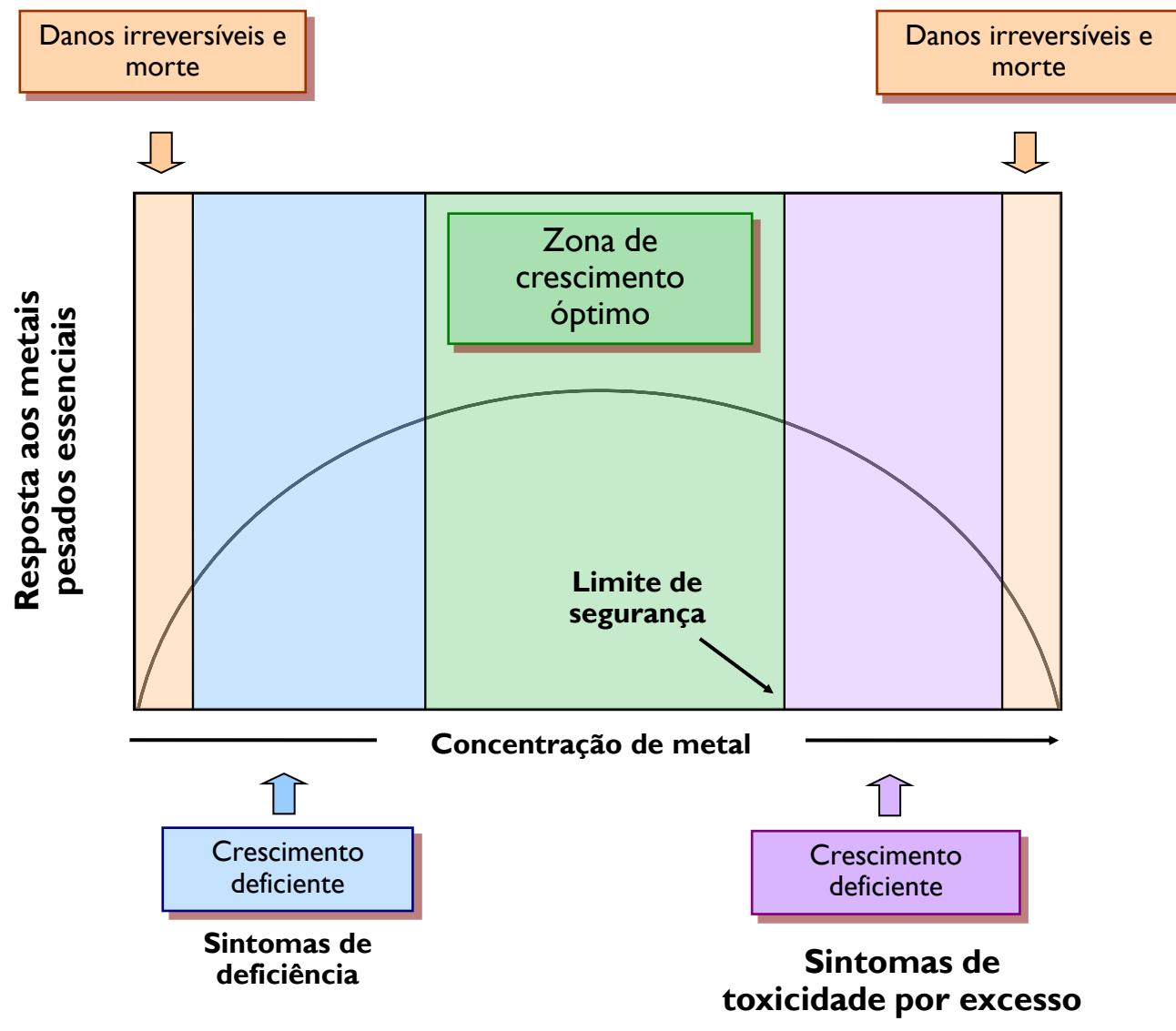
- **Other“elements”:** (Prasad, 2004)

*Light-metal:* Al (2.7)                           *Non-metal:* Se (4.8)

*Half-heavy metal:* Sn (7.3)                           *Metalóide:* As (5.7)

- The concentration of these elements in the environment can increase through human activity: industry, mining, agriculture etc.  
(use of fossil fuels, mines, use of contaminated sludges or organic residues in agriculture, fertilizers, pesticides, ...)

Dose/response curve  
for an essential element  
for plants:  
Deficiency vs Toxicity  
Ex: zinc

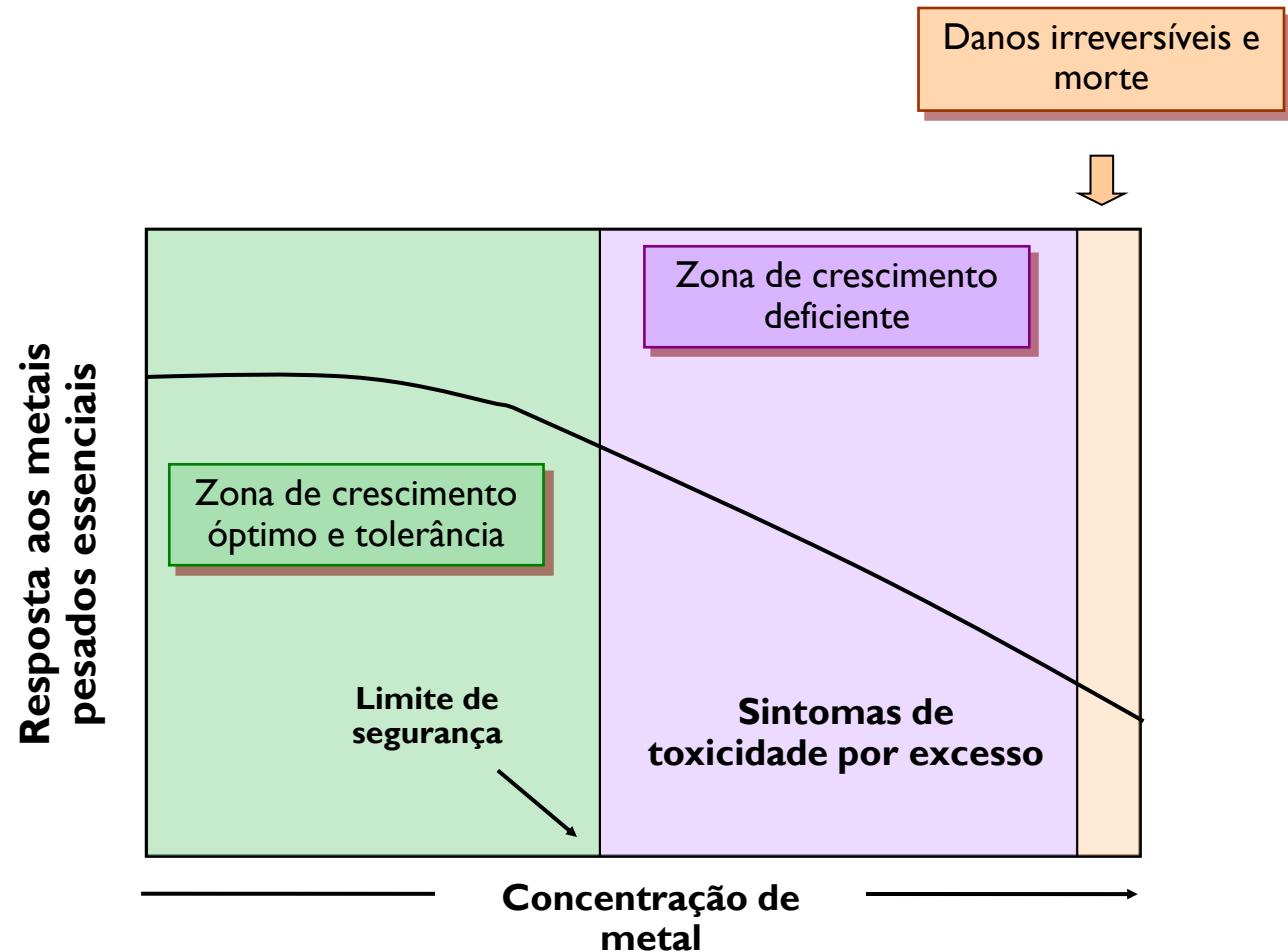


"All things are poison,  
and nothing is without  
poison; only the dose  
permits something not  
to be poisonous."  
Paracelsus (1493-1541)

Dose/response  
curve for a non-  
essential element  
for plants:

Toxicity

Ex: Cd, Hg, Pb



Metals can bioaccumulate in food products, entering the food chain and accumulate in humans causing acute or chronic toxicity

## Toxicity depends on:

- type of metal
- chemical form
- bioavailability
- solubility
- mobility in the plant
- accumulation rate in living organisms
- accumulation location
- relative position of the organism in the food chain

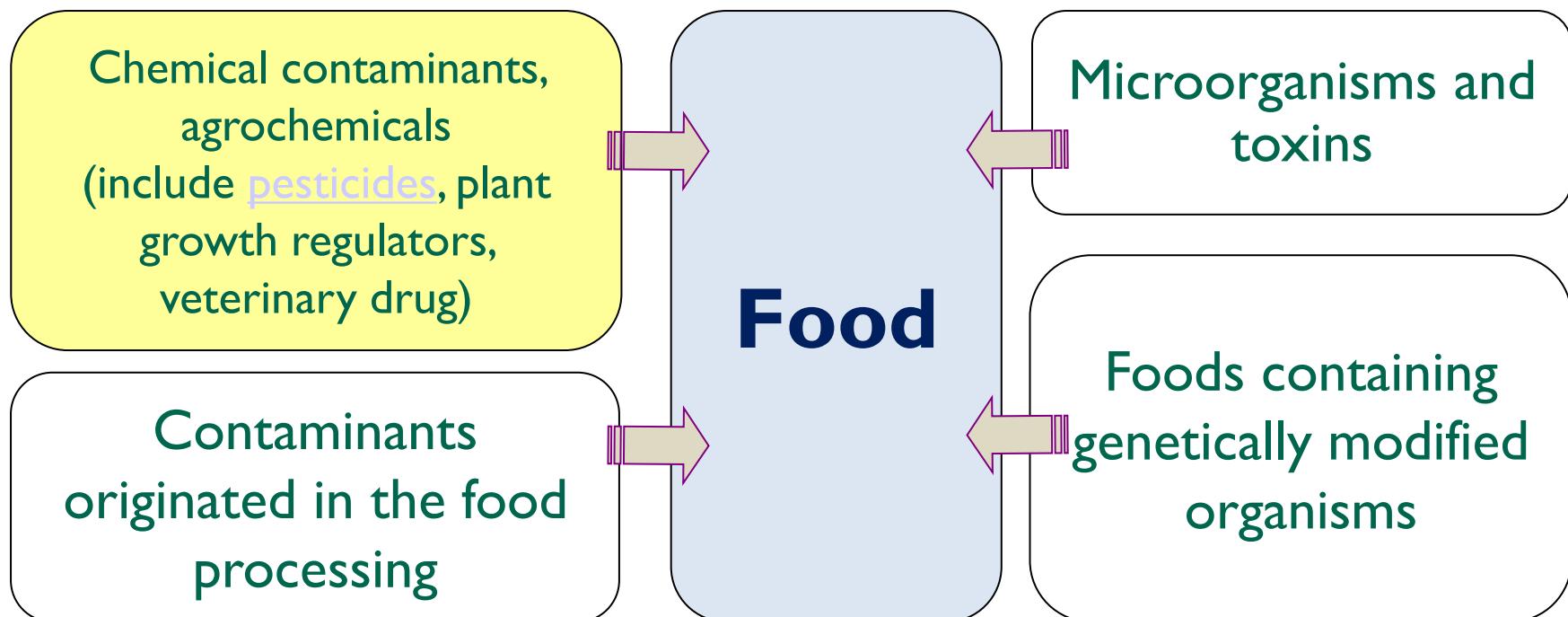
### Exposition degree and contamination of the food chain:



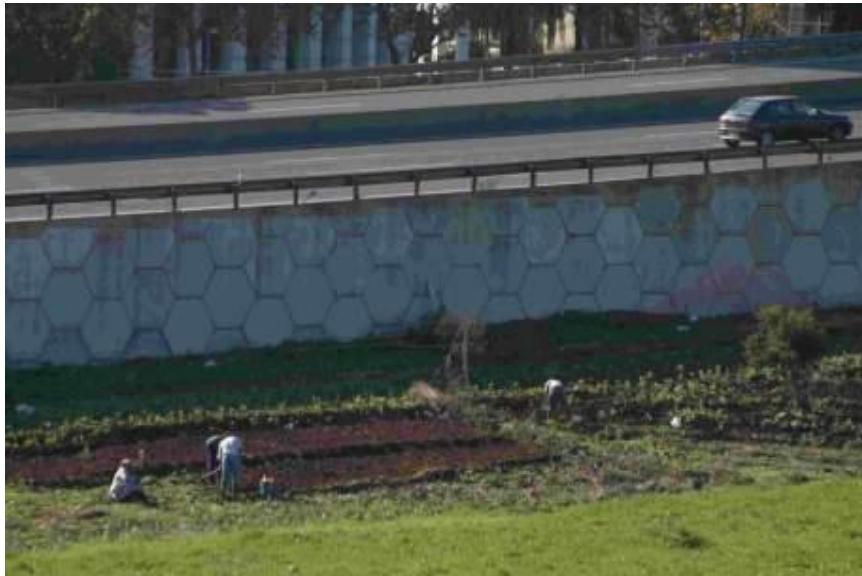
## Types of contaminants:

according to the source of contamination and the mechanism by which they enter the food product

Chemical contaminants present in foods are often  
**unaffected** by thermal processing



# Urban gardens / Hortas Urbanas



uma caminhada\* revigorante à roda das hortas urbanas  
\*Caminho de 10 Km.

24 de Fevereiro de 2013 (Domingo)  
das 9h às 13h  
Início: Quinta das Conchas  
(junto à entrada mais próxima do Metro)

Caminharemos pelo Parque Agrícola da Alta de Lisboa  
e pela Horta Acessível para conhecer as hortas urbanas da zona  
norte de Lisboa. Venha dar!

**AVAL** Associação para o Desenvolvimento Agrícola da Alta de Lisboa  
Institucional: <http://avalal.wordpress.com> ou 918 073 007  
- <http://avalal.wordpress.com>



# CONTAMINANTS

## Organic

- **Dioxins (Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins)** - In 1999, high levels of dioxins were found in poultry and eggs from Belgium!

- **Polychlorinated dibenzofurans**

- **Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)** -

*Yusho disaster (Japan, 1968), Yu-Cheng disaster (Taiwan, 1978)*

- **Veterinary drug residues** - Phenylbutazone or 'bute' – which is legally used to treat sore joints in horses but outlawed from entering the human food chain - was detected by the FSA in five cases at UK abattoirs in 2012.

- **Pesticides residues**

- **Acrylamide**

- **PAHs**

-> **Melamine** (Melamine is sometimes unethically added to food products in order to increase the apparent protein content (ex. Kjeldahl method)).



## Inorganic

- **Aluminium (Al)**

- **Arsenic (As)**

- **Cadmium (Cd)**

- **Copper (Cu)**

- **Iron (Fe)**

- **Lead (Pb)**

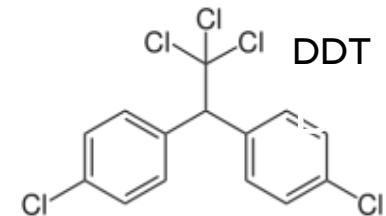
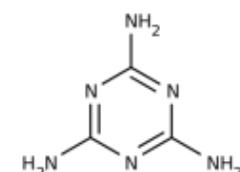
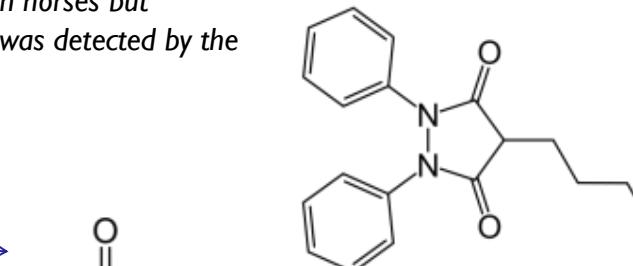
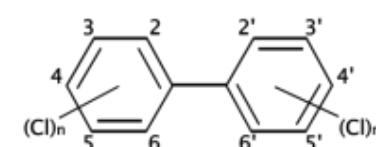
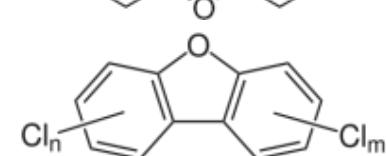
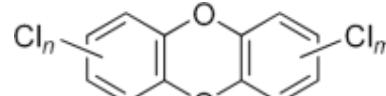
- **Mercury (Hg)**

- **Tin (Sn)**

- **Zinc (Zn)**

- **Nitrates (NO<sub>3</sub>)**

- ...



## Cadmium (Cd)

Can be present in food products. Tobacco smoke is an important Cd source for humans.

## Arsenic (As)

The “slow dead” mineral. Used frequently as a poison in the past. Still used for example in pesticides and poultry food additives.

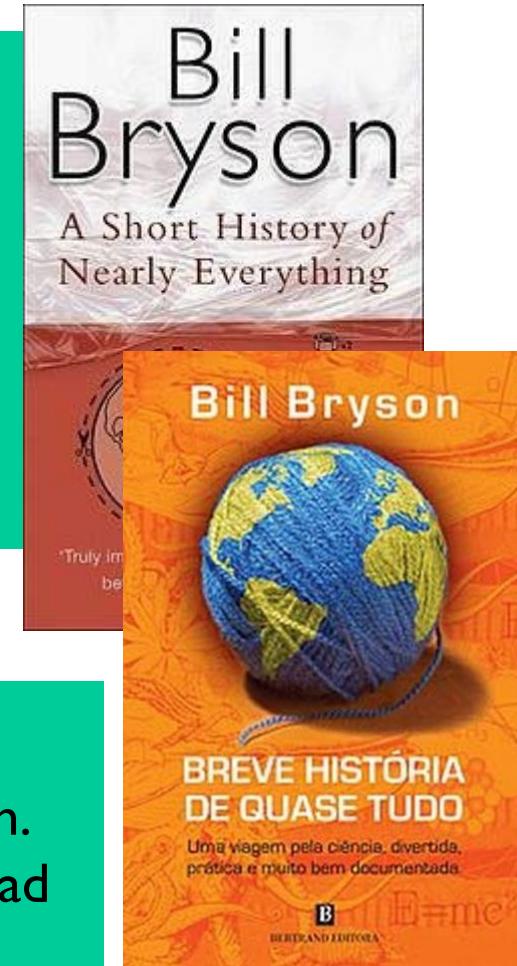
## Lead (Pb)

Neurotoxic, was largely used in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (leaded gasoline, pesticides, paints, soldered food cans, water piping...)

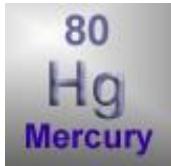
Chapter 10 – Getting the Lead Out

## Mercury (Hg)

Frequently found in fish. Associated with the Mad Hatters disease in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (hence the expression “mad as a hatter”).



# Mercury ( $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ):



Minamata disease was first discovered in Minamata city in Japan in 1956. It was caused by the release of **methylmercury** in the industrial **wastewater** from the Chisso Corporation's chemical factory, which continued from 1932 to 1968. Chisso Co. began using Minamata's bay as a repository for its mercury waste, poisoning thousands of people, and killing hundreds.

PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS																			
GROUP		PERIOD																	
I		II																	
1	1.0079 H	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
2	3.0041 Li	4.0122 Be	5.0102 Boron	6.0144 C	7.0160 N	8.0180 O	9.0200 F	10.0220 Ne	11.0240 Na	12.0260 Mg	13.0280 Al	14.0300 Si	15.0320 P	16.0340 S	17.0360 Cl	18.0380 Ar	19.0400 He		
3	6.941 Lithium	9.0122 BERYLLOL	10.0111 Boron	11.0122 Carbon	12.0132 Nitrogen	13.0142 Oxygen	14.0152 Fluorine	15.0162 Neon	16.0172 Sodium	17.0182 Magnesium	18.0192 Aluminum	19.0202 Silicon	20.0212 Phosphorus	21.0222 Sulfur	22.0232 Chlorine	23.0242 Ar	24.0252 Neon		
4	10.0190 K	12.0200 Ca	14.0210 Sc	16.0220 Ti	18.0230 V	20.0240 Cr	22.0250 Mn	24.0260 Fe	26.0270 Co	28.0280 Ni	30.0290 Cu	32.0300 Zn	34.0310 Ga	36.0320 As	38.0330 Se	40.0340 Br	42.0350 Kr		
5	18.0260 Rb	20.0270 Sr	22.0280 Y	24.0290 Zr	26.0300 Nb	28.0310 Mo	30.0320 Tc	32.0330 Ru	34.0340 Rh	36.0350 Pd	38.0360 Ag	40.0370 Cd	42.0380 In	44.0390 Sn	46.0400 Sb	48.0410 Te	50.0420 I	52.0430 Xe	
6	22.0310 Cs	24.0320 Ba	26.0330 La-Lu	28.0340 Hf	30.0350 Ta	32.0360 W	34.0370 Re	36.0380 Os	38.0390 Ir	40.0400 Pt	42.0410 Au	44.0420 Hg	46.0430 Cd	48.0440 Tl	50.0450 Pb	52.0460 Bi	54.0470 Po	56.0480 At	58.0490 Rn
7	26.0350 Fr	28.0360 Ra	30.0370 Ac-Lr	32.0380 Rf	34.0390 Db	36.0400 Sg	38.0410 Bh	40.0420 Hs	42.0430 Mt	44.0440 Uum	46.0450 Uub	48.0460 Uuu	50.0470 Unq	52.0480 Tl	54.0490 Pb	56.0500 Bi	58.0510 Po	60.0520 At	62.0530 Rn
LANTHANIDE																			
La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu					
1.3831	1.4012	1.4209	1.4401	1.4424	1.4501	1.4601	1.4701	1.4801	1.4901	1.5001	1.5101	1.5201	1.5301	1.5401	1.5501	1.5601	1.5701	1.5801	
Actinide																			
Ae	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Ebs	Fm	Md	No	Lr					
89. (227)	90. (232)	91. (231)	92. (238)	93. (237)	94. (244)	95. (243)	96. (247)	97. (247)	98. (251)	99. (252)	100. (257)	101. (258)	102. (259)	103. (262)					

-is **highly immobile in soil**, and so there is little absorption by plants; in the environment its levels have been stable for 50 years

Consumption of fish and waters contaminated with industrial residues containing Hg

Other examples of Hg contamination:  
**-Iraq (1971-1972), accidental consumption of cereals (not supposed to be consumed by humans) treated with a mercury-based fungicide**



Most of the toxic effects result from the consumption of food products containing organomercury compounds

Allowed levels for a 70 kg adult:

0.35 mg Hg per week (0.2 as methylmercury)

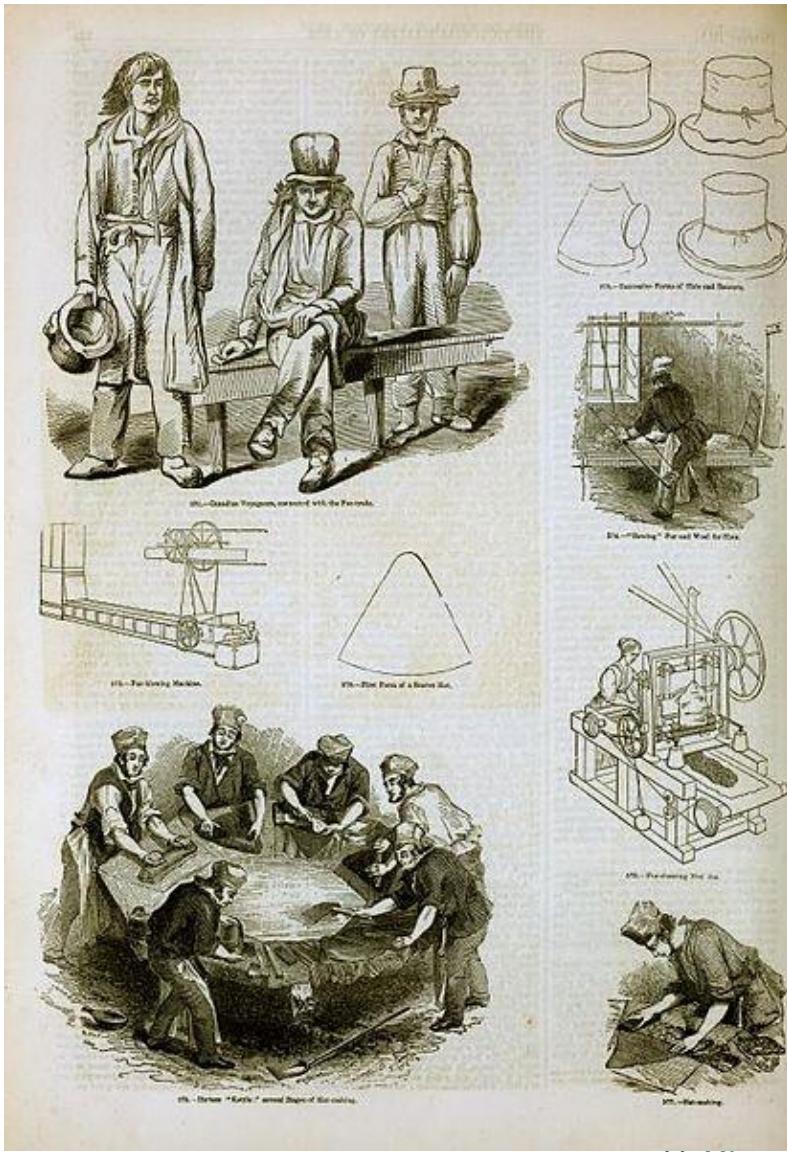
### Most of the Hg intake comes from the ingestion of fish

Fish and shellfish concentrate mercury in their bodies, often in the form of methylmercury, a highly toxic organic compound of mercury.

Species of fish that are **high on the food chain**, such as shark, swordfish, king mackerel, albacore tuna, contain **higher concentrations of mercury than others**, stored in the muscle tissues of fish; when a predatory fish eats another fish, it assumes the entire body burden of mercury in the consumed fish.

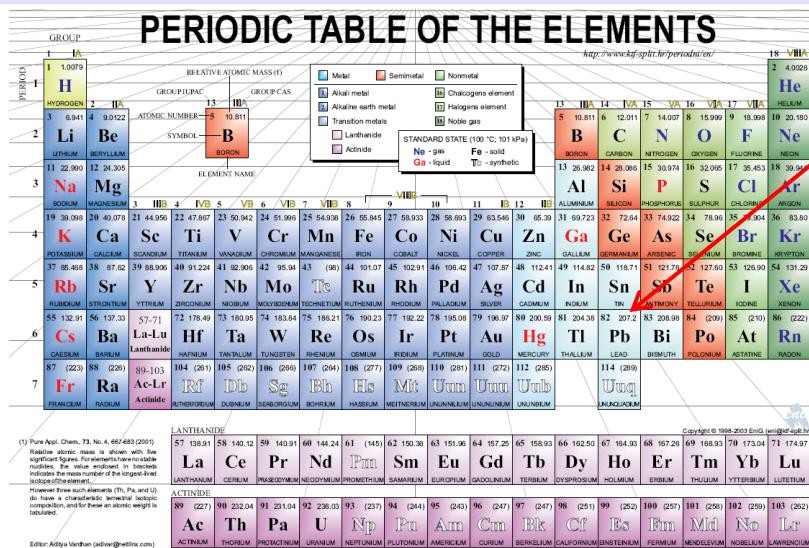
Recent tests indicate that up to 6 percent of canned light tuna may contain high Hg levels.

## Mad hatter disease



**Mad hatter disease**, or mad hatter syndrome, is a commonly used name for occupational chronic mercury poisoning among hatmakers whose felting work involved prolonged exposure to mercury vapours. The neurotoxic effects included tremors, shyness and irritability. It was due to the use of inorganic mercury in the form of mercuric nitrate ( $\text{Hg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ) to treat the fur of small animals for the manufacture of felt hats, mainly up to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. By the Victorian era the hatters' condition had become proverbial, as reflected in popular expressions like "mad as a hatter" and the hatters' shakes.

# Lead ( $Pb^{2+}$ ):



Toxic effect of Pb results from inhalation, oral and skin ingestion

Strong neurotoxic, accumulates in different tissues and bones and can lead to severe diseases or death

Allowed weekly dose for a 70 kg adult: 3.5 mg Pb per week

Currently the average ingestion levels does not present a serious risk to consumers (Soares, 2003)

Commission Regulation (CE) n° 466/2001, regulates maximum levels

The contamination do food products from soils is very low as lead is very immobile, and the uptake by plants is very small

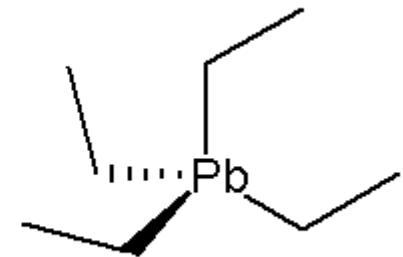
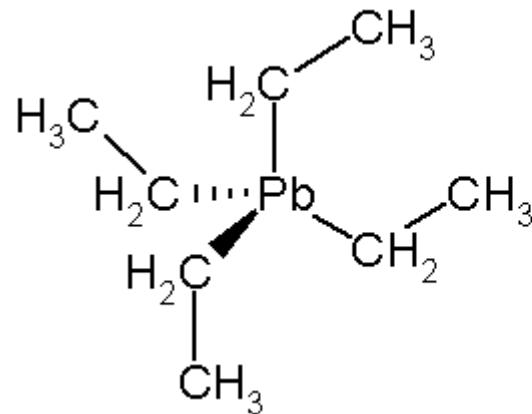
Lead contamination is not very significant today, more control of:

- Soldering, packaging, paints, cristals
- Water plumbing, kitchen equipment and cleaning products

## Tetraethyl lead added to gasoline to increase engine performance during most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

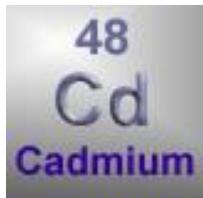
-Pb in the environment increased with industrialization mainly due to the emissions from leaded gasoline:

The use of tetraethyl lead ( $C_2H_5)_4Pb$  was used to allow greater engine compression and thus engine performance and fuel economy; it is converted to  $PbO$ ,  $PbCl_2$  and other inorganic lead compounds by the combustion process



-was found along roads at a distance up to 30 m;  
-at 100 m from a road with heavy traffic the levels in soils and plants decreased up to 20 times

## Cadmium ( $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ):



Carcinogenic, and accumulates in living organisms (half-life of 18-30 years)

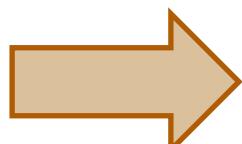
Prolonged ingestion causes accumulation in kidneys and liver

Average lethal dose for man: 0.027 g/kg

Presently, the levels of ingestion do not present a serious danger for consumers

Around 50% of the intake of Cd is via the respiratory system and 5% orally

ex. tobacco smoke = 2-4  $\mu\text{g}$  Cd



-is **highly soluble** and thus can be readily absorbed by plants and contaminate the food chain

## Pathways for Cd contamination:

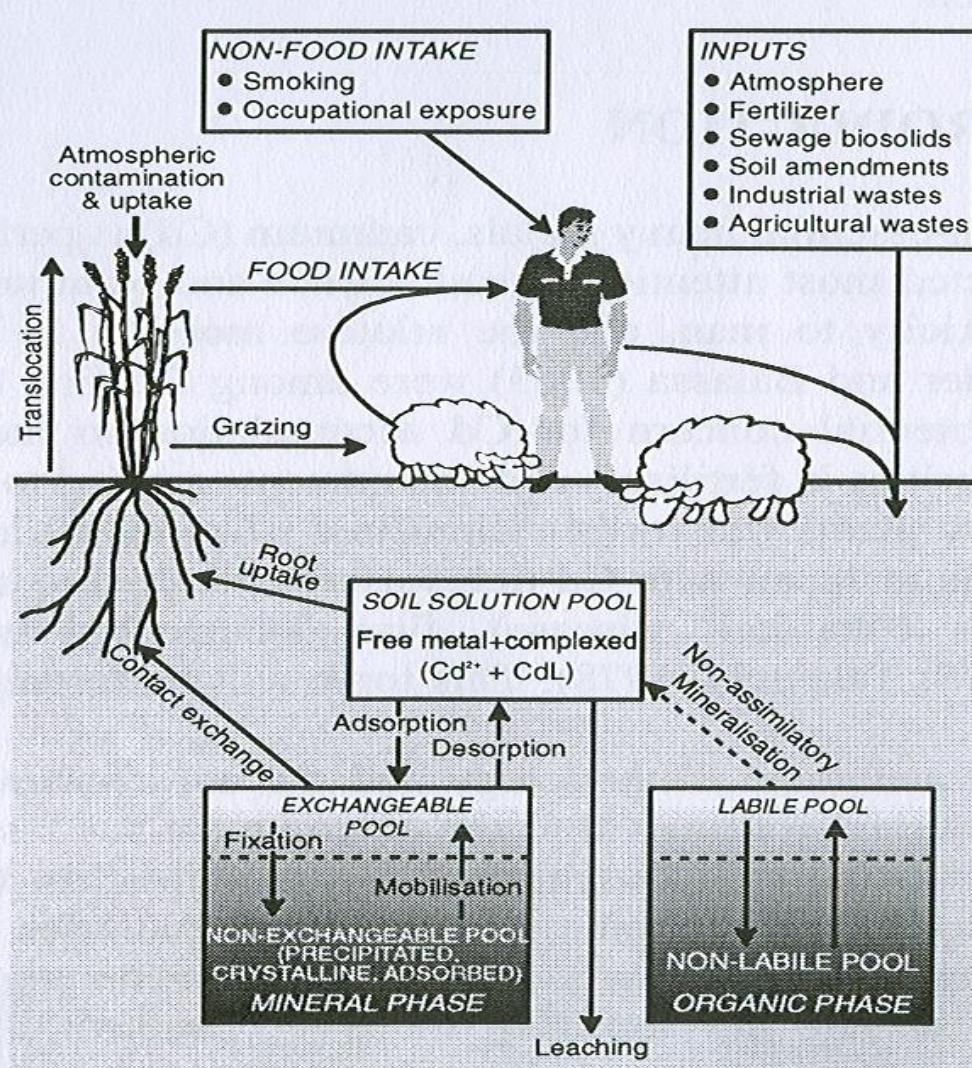


Figure 1.1 Fluxes of Cd in soils, plants and the food chain.

uro, 2014

Controlo

10 µM de Cd

25 µM de Cd

INFLUÊNCIA DO CÁDMIO EM  
PARÂMETROS BIOQUÍMICOS E  
DE CRESCIMENTO DE  
NABIÇAS (*Brassica rapa*)

Patricia Barbosa

Tese de mestrado, 6 Dezembro 2011



Dia 0



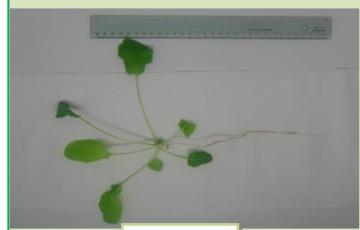
Dia 4



Dia 4



Dia 4



Dia 6



Dia 6



Dia 6



Dia 10



Dia 10



Dia 10

## Human health effects of continuous exposition to Cd:

**Main organs affected:** bones, lungs and respiratory system, kidneys, liver (detected in the urine)

**Main effects:** carcinogenic, teratogenic (malformations), mutagenic

Leads to several diseases in the liver, kidneys, bones and lungs

The rice absorbed all heavy metals, especially the cadmium, that accumulates in the people eating contaminated rice.

**Itai-itai disease (イタイイタイ病 *itai-itai* byō), ("ouch-ouch" disease)**



Caused by **cadmium poisoning** due to mining in Toyama; started in 1589 and continuing through 1945, cadmium was released in significant quantities by mining operations, and the disease first appeared around 1912.

The river Jinzu was used mainly for **irrigation** of rice fields, but also for **drinking water, washing, fishing**, and other uses by downstream populations.

# Arsenic:

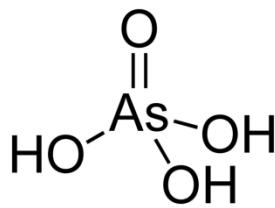
*The most toxic chemical forms contain oxygen, arsine ( $\text{AsH}_3$ ) and arsenic trioxide ( $\text{As}_2\text{O}_3$ ) (carcinogenic)*

## Inorganic:

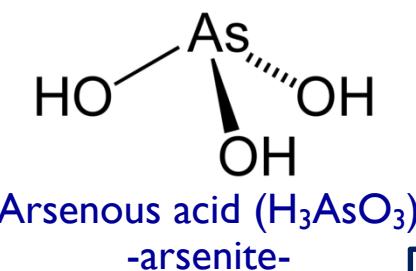
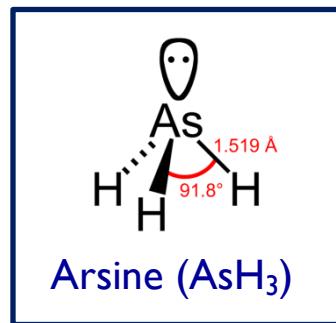
Arsenites ( $\text{As}^{3+}$ ), As(III)  
Arsenates ( $\text{As}^{5+}$ ) As(V)

## Organic:

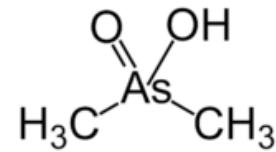
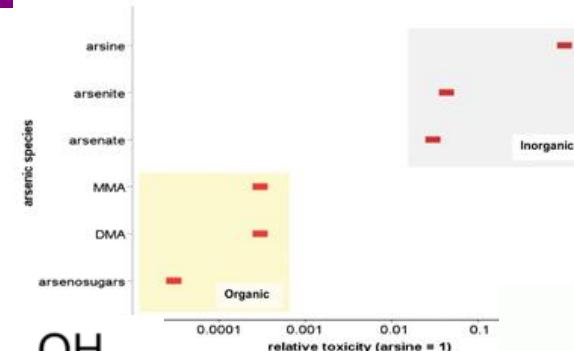
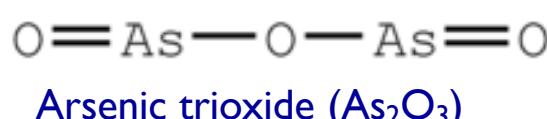
Arsenosugars, Dimethylarsenic acid,  
Methylarsonic acid, etc.



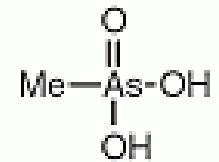
Arsenic acid ( $\text{H}_3\text{AsO}_4$ )  
-arsenate-



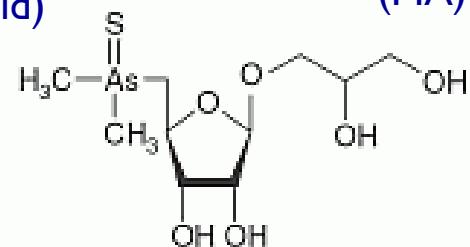
Arsenos acid ( $\text{H}_3\text{AsO}_3$ )  
-arsenite-



Dimethylarsenic acid  
(DMA) (cacodylic acid)

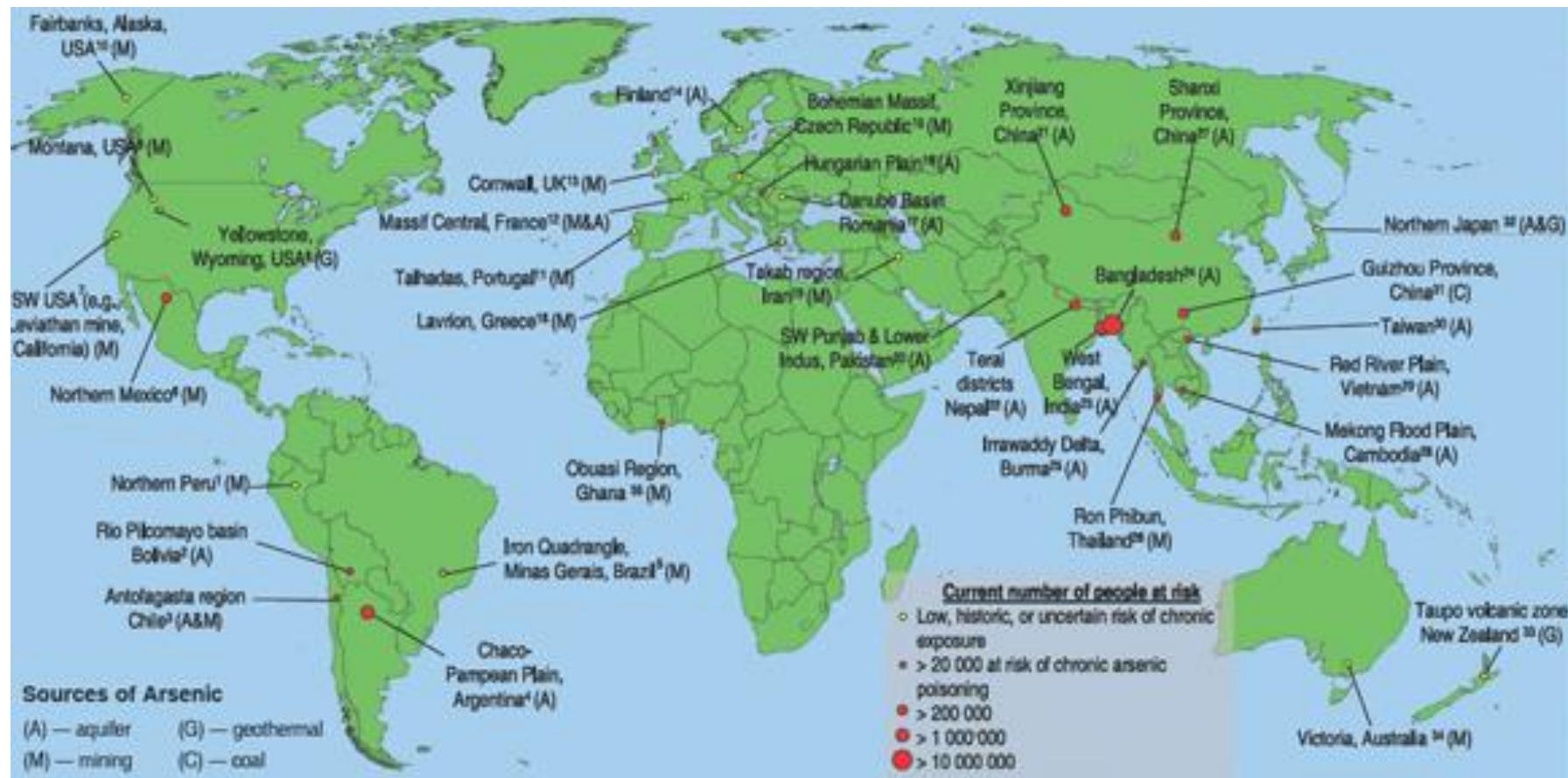


Methylarsonic acid  
(MA)



Arsenosugars

## Contamination with arsenic



[http://www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2008/3004/2\\_garelick.html](http://www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2008/3004/2_garelick.html)

*“Arsenic the king of poisons, has probably influenced human history more than other element or toxic compound”*

*“It was used to kill many aristocratic and noble gentlemen, terrorize others (...), employed by women to free themselves from tyrannical husbands and unwanted lovers”*

Frankenberger,W.T.2002

## Middle ages:

- Arsenic oxide is tasteless, odorless, cheap, powdery white
- Can be administered with sugar, does not diminish appetite, is fatal in small doses,
- The symptoms of **chronical and acute poisoning** mimic natural diseases obfuscating the true cause of death.



There is a theory that **Napoleon Bonaparte** (1769–1821) suffered and died from arsenic poisoning during his imprisonment on the island of Saint Helena.

Forensic samples of his hair did show high levels, **13 times the normal amount of the element**, but at that time copper arsenite was used in several products as a **pigment in some wallpapers and inks**

## Food contamination with As has anthropogenic origin and results in the industrial use and accidental contamination

Toxic effect by inhalation, ingestion and contact – rapid absorption and rapid excretion by urine (half-life of 1-2 days)

Continuous exposition can lead to retention of 30-40% in the bones, muscles, skin, hair and nails (keratin rich tissues)

- Pesticides, herbicides, insecticides (copper arsenate has high toxicity)
- Decolouring agents, preservers, pigments (paper, candles, decorative elements etc.)
- Pharmaceutic and veterinary products (feed additives): for long term treatment of skin deseases, leukemia, reumatism, sifilis, malaria and others (Frankenberger,W.T.2002)
- Dangerous jobs (copper, gold and lead mining)

Accidental poisoning remains problematic:

- 1955: drinking of contaminated **dry milk** results in chronic and acute poisoning of 13419 Japanese children, 839 have died
- of 5000 cases of **heavy metal ingestion** reported by American Association of Poison Control Centers in 1984, arsenic was found to be the most commonly involved (over 1200 incidents)

## Contamination of the environment with ARSENIC tends to increase

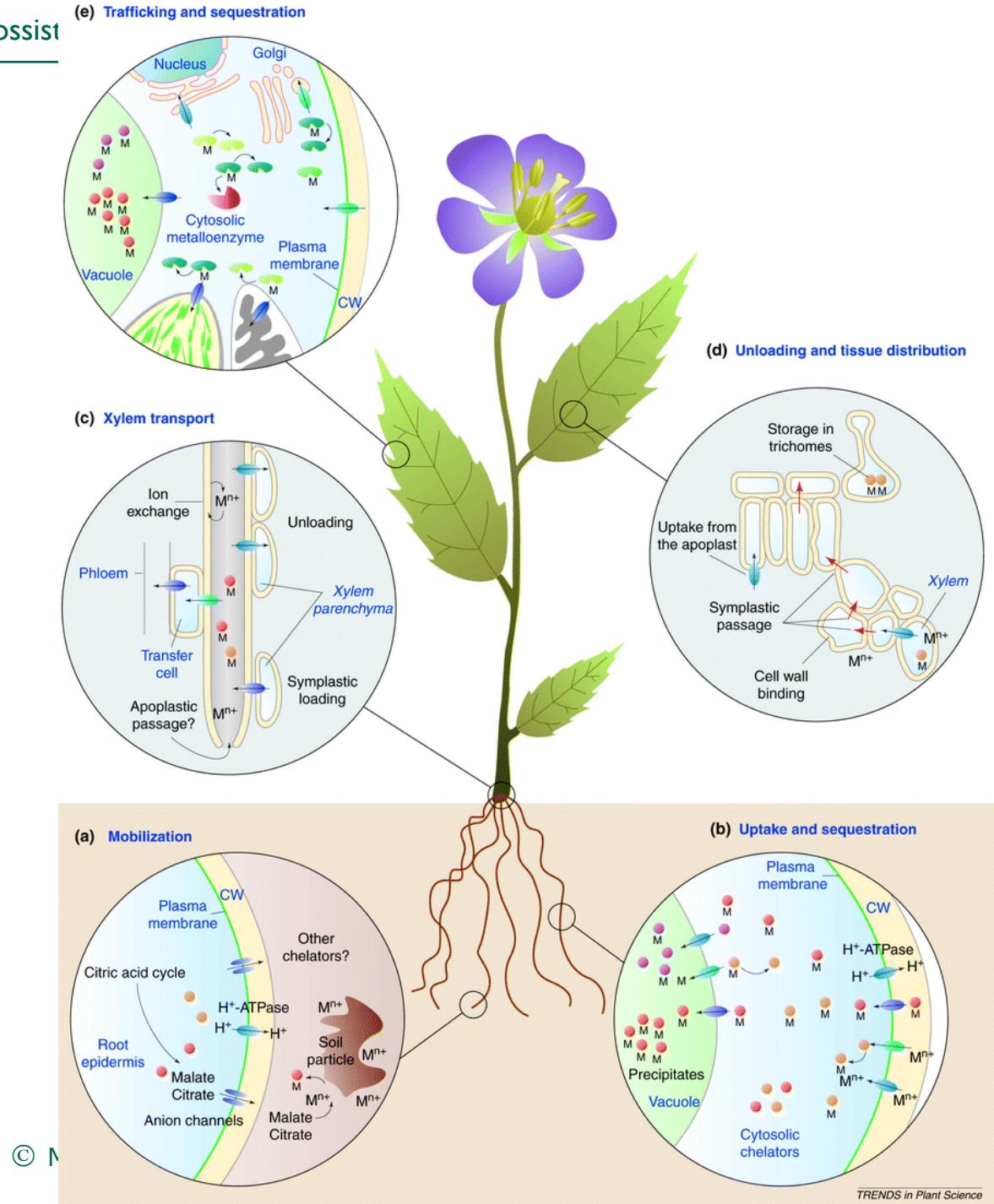
### SOS ARSENIC POISONING IN BANGLADESH / INDIA. THE WORLD'S POOREST POPULATION IN BANGLADESH, ARE SUFFERING FROM ARSENIC POISONING, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENT DEGRADATION

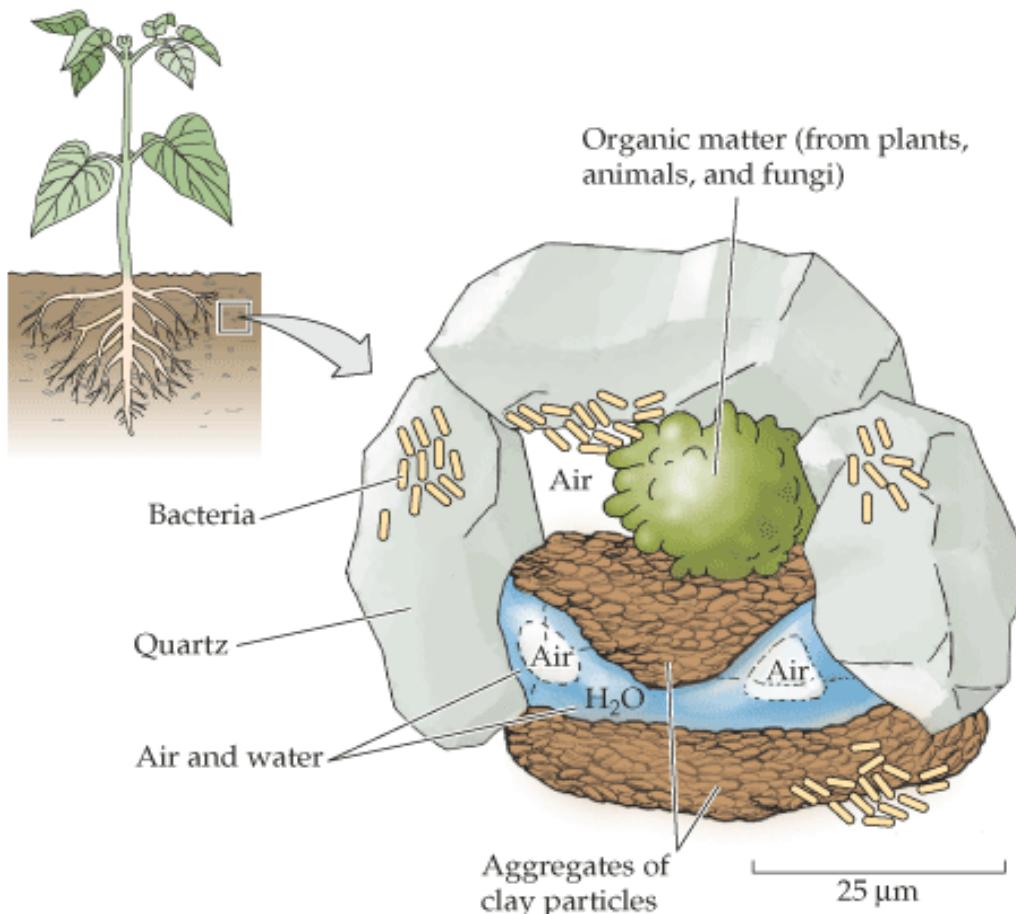
The exposure to arsenic, mainly through drinking water, increases the risk of different types of cancers (genetic, mutagenic and teratogenic effects).

Arsenic threatens the drinking water resources in many parts of the world, and the consumption of the water over the years must resulted in untold suffering by millions of people Frankenberger, W.T.2002

-high levels of arsenic in subterranean waters have been found in Thailand, China, India, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Canada and USA, mainly due to the use of products containing arsenic in agriculture.

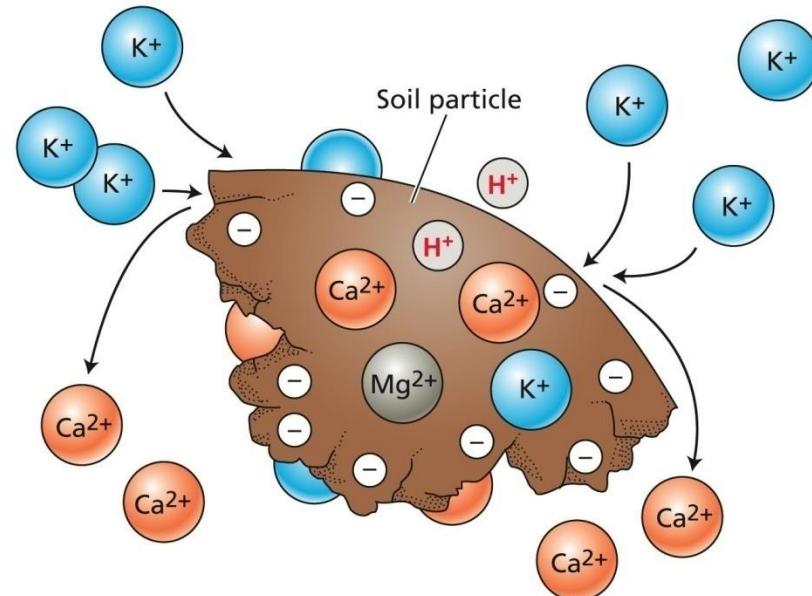
# Plant response to the toxic effect of metals





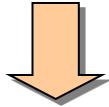
## Soil structure showing the presence of bacteria, organic and inorganic matter, water and air.

Imagen retirada de Purves et al., Life: The Science of Biology, 4th Edition, by Sinauer Associates ([www.sinauer.com](http://www.sinauer.com)) and WH Freeman ([www.whfreeman.com](http://www.whfreeman.com))



PLANT PHYSIOLOGY, Fourth Edition, Figure 5.5 © 2009 Sinauer Associates, Inc.

## Heavy metal uptake: **availability**, absorption, transport and accumulation in plants



### Bioavailability:

Metal is released from its bounded forms, and can become available to living organisms

### **Bioavailable fraction:**

Fraction of the total metal content that plants can absorb

The different fractions of the metal in the soil are in a dynamic equilibrium

Different forms of the metals found in soils:

#### -Soluble in soil solution

- Precipitated
- Adsorbed (ex. in clays and organic matter)
- In minerals

The only soil fraction directly available for plant uptake

Lower bioavailable forms

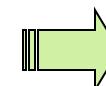
Toxic metals only cause phytotoxicity **when they are bioavailable** in relatively high concentrations

The availability of metals in the soils depends on its type, properties and chemical characteristics

pH  
Organic matter  
cation-exchange capacity (CEC)  
Ionic strength  
Fe and Mn oxides  
Redox potential  
Texture  
Clay content  
Microorganisms

- Affect the partition of metals in the liquid and solid phases

- Affect the solubility and availability of metals to the plants



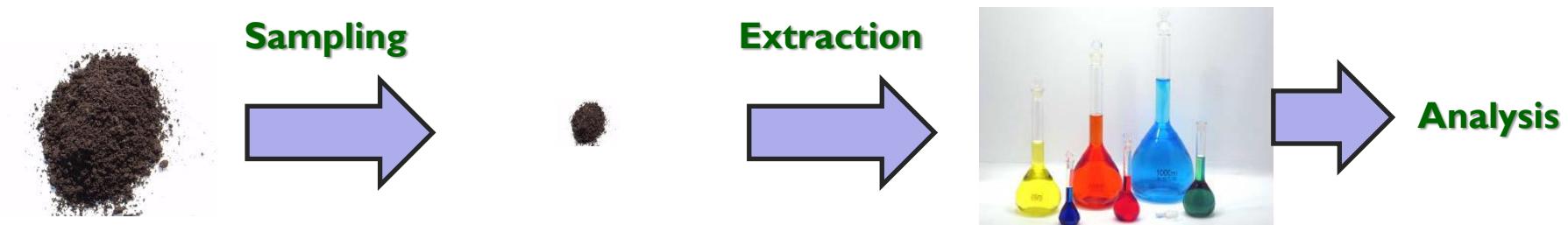
Some plants have developed specific mechanisms to partially regulate bioavailability

## Experimental activity— soil characterization

- **pH and Conductivity:** 10 g of soil in 25 mL deionized water. Shake for 1 hour and measure.
- **P and K quantification:** Extraction with Egner-Rhiem solution. 2 g of soil in 40 ml solution, shake for 2 hours, filter (blue band filter). *To be analysed next week.*

Organic matter determination, P and K quantification, metal extraction

Soil collection and extraction, heavy metal determination



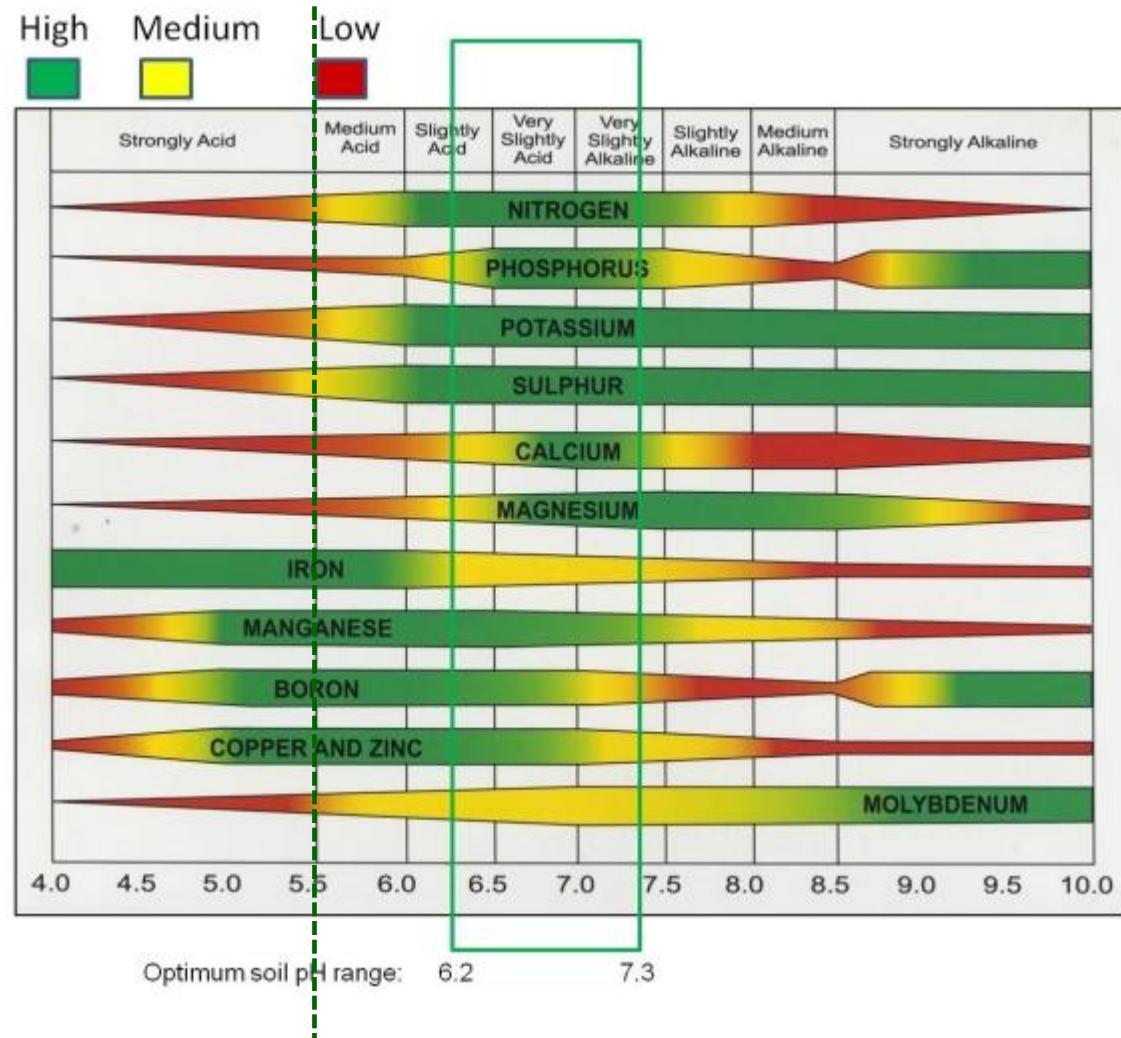
Parâmetro	Resultado	
	Franca	Média
Textura de campo		
pH ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) (1:2,5)	5,5	Ácida
Fósforo extraível ( $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ )	(mg/kg)	195
Potássio extraível ( $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ )	(mg/kg)	184
Azoto (N)	(%)	0,064
Matéria orgânica	(%)	2,78
Razão C\N		25,20
Condutividade elétrica (1:2)	(mS/cm)	0,22
Calcário total ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ )	(%)	<0,5

## How soil pH affects availability of plant nutrients

### Soil pH



Soil pH



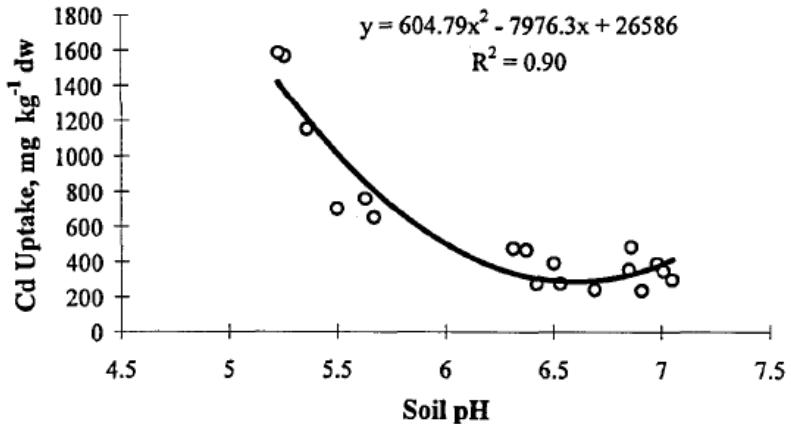
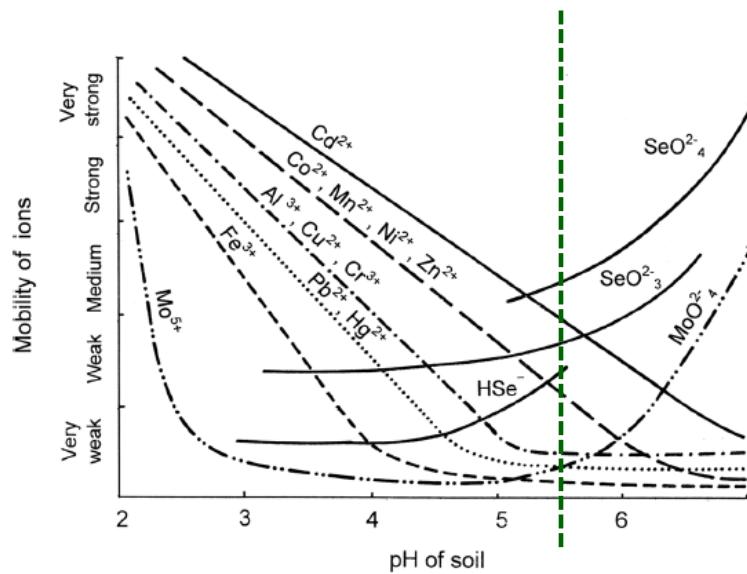
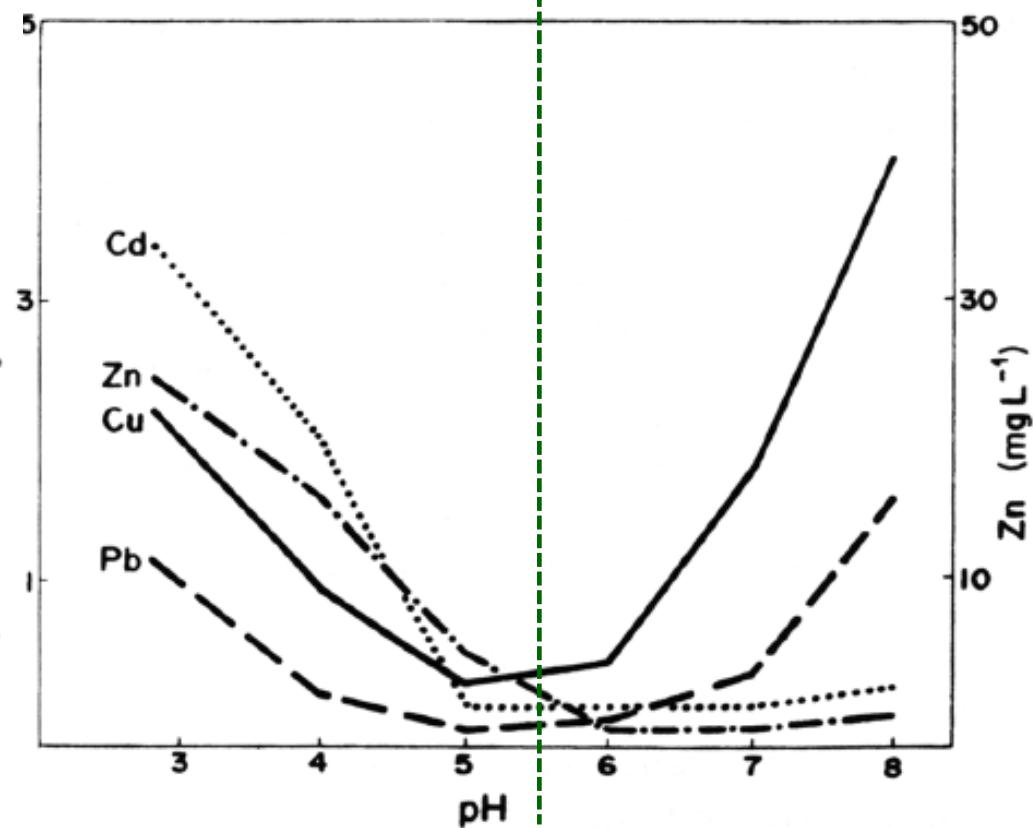


FIGURE 4. Relationship between cadmium uptake by tobacco and soil pH.

To cite this article: C. D. Tsadilas (2000) Soil pH influence on cadmium uptake by tobacco in high cadmium exposure, Journal of Plant Nutrition, 23:8, 1167-1178, DOI: [10.1080/01904160009382090](https://doi.org/10.1080/01904160009382090)

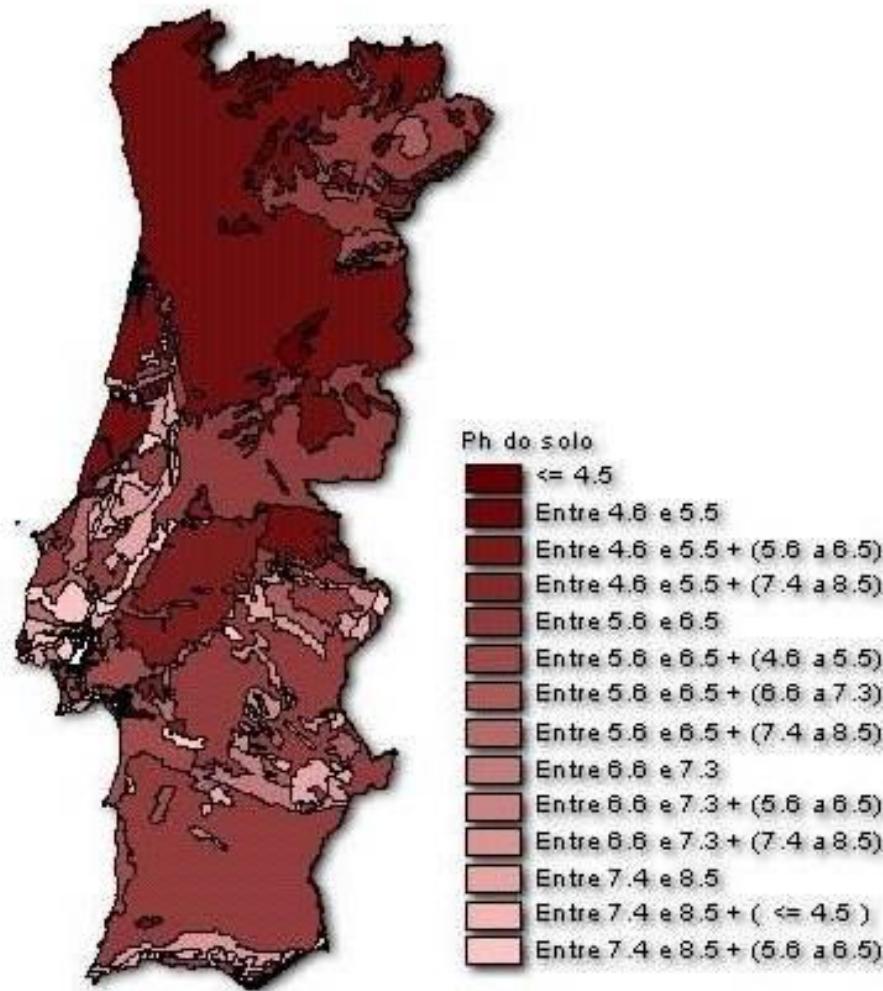


## Effect of pH on metal mobility/solubility



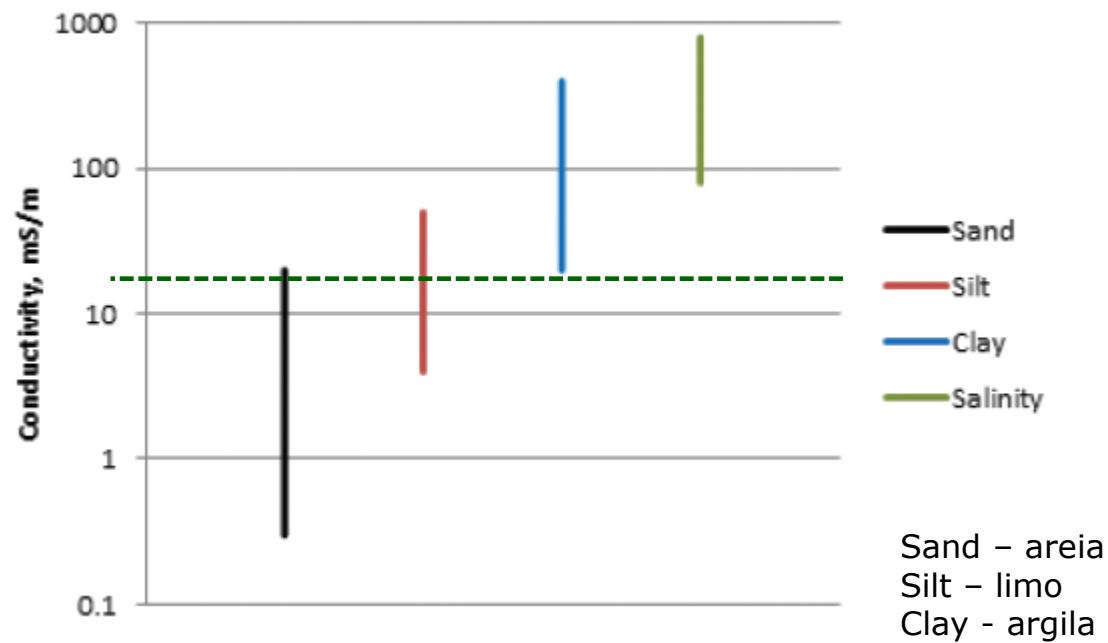
Concentrations of trace metals in equilibrium solutions of sandy gleyic podzol. (Modified from Brümmer and Herms.<sup>956</sup>)

### Acidez e Alcalinidade dos Solos



## Soil conductivity

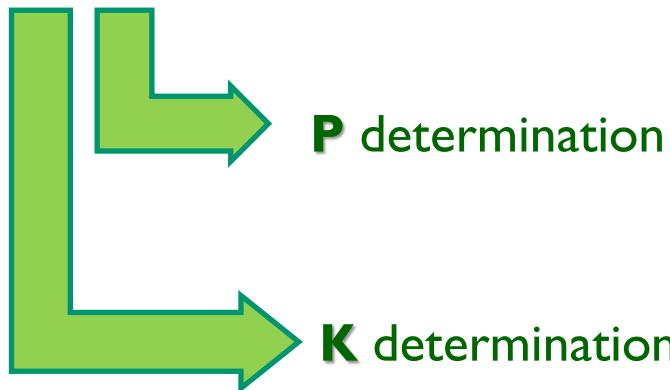
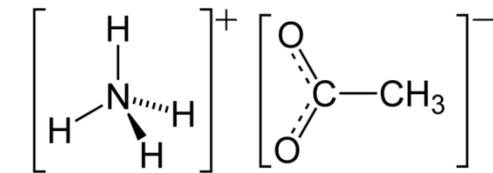
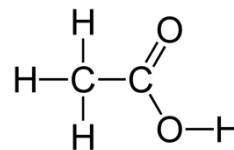
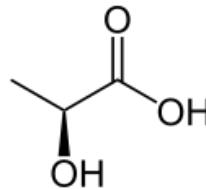
The soil electrical conductivity (EC) indicates the ability the soil water has to carry an electrical current. The EC levels of the soil water is a good indication of the amount of nutrients available for your crops to absorb. It also correlates with several soil properties, like particle size and soil texture and with water holding capacity and organic matter. Commonly expressed in mS/m (milisiemens per meter).



## Soil extraction (Egner-Rhiem solution)



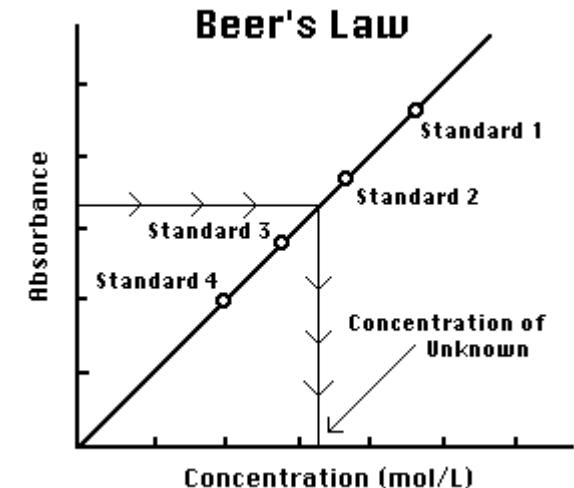
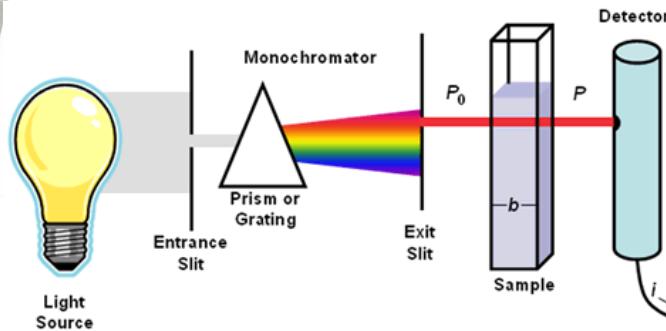
Lactic acid + acetic acid + ammonium acetate



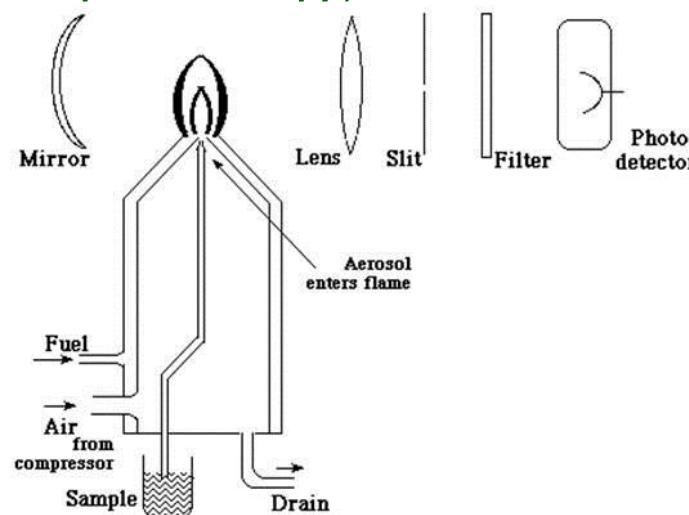
→ Molecular absorption spectrophotometry (775 nm)

→ Flame photometry

## Molecular absorption spectrophotometry (775 nm)

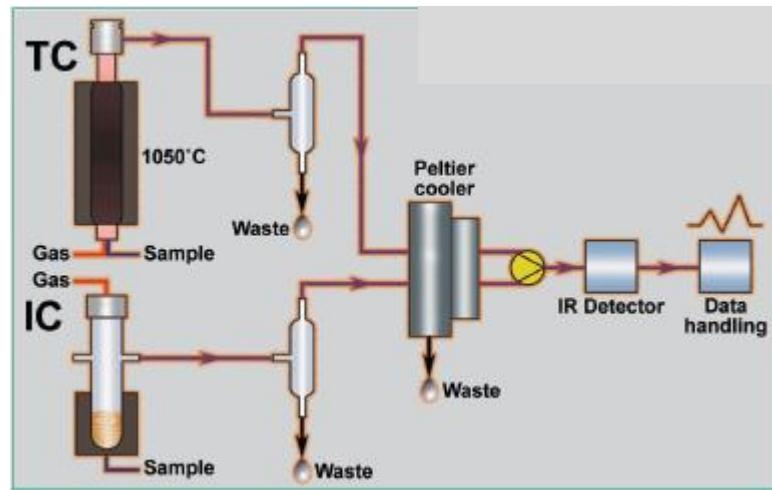


## Flame photometry (atomic emission spectroscopy)

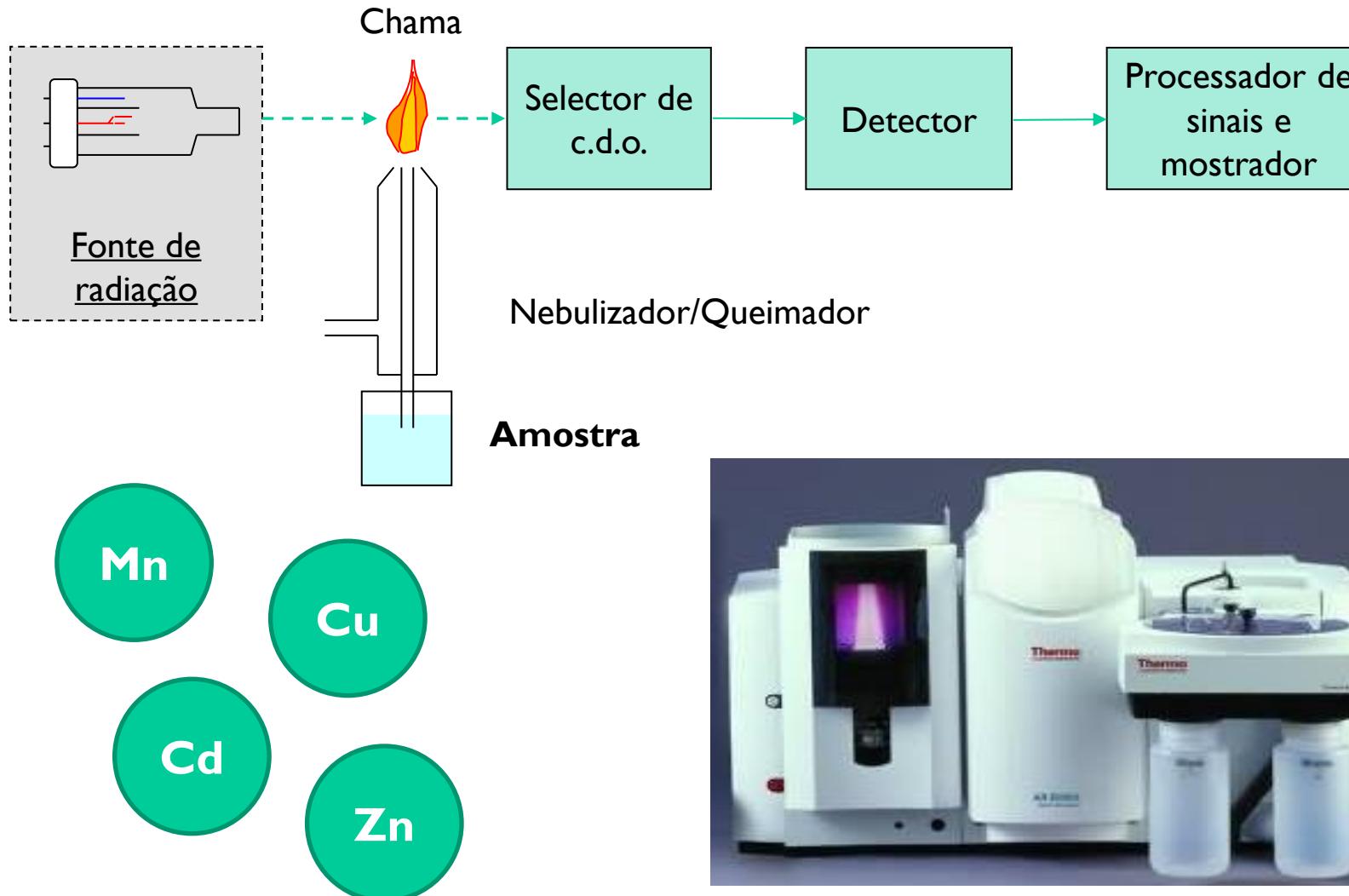


## TOC (Total Organic Carbon) determination

The TC is analyzed by high temperature combustion at temperatures up to 1050 °C. The carbon present is oxidized to carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and dispersed into the carrier gas. After passing a Peltier cooler for moisture removal and a scrubber system, the  $\text{CO}_2$  is measured by Non Dispersive Infrared detection (NDIR).



## Espectrofotometria de absorção atómica



## The stress effect depends on plant tolerance

Capacity the plants have to withstand unfavourable environmental conditions

Tolerant plants develop **physiological traits** that allow them to respond to the deleterious effects caused by stress

### Development of response strategies

-Controlling the **uptake** of heavy metals (external mechanisms)

What is the effect of the metals in the plants? How does toxicity affect the plants

**-Metabolic changes** (internal mechanisms)

A few examples of our work in this area

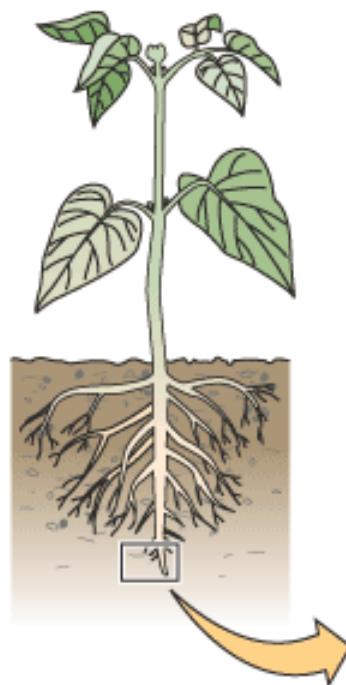
**Ex:  
Copper availability**



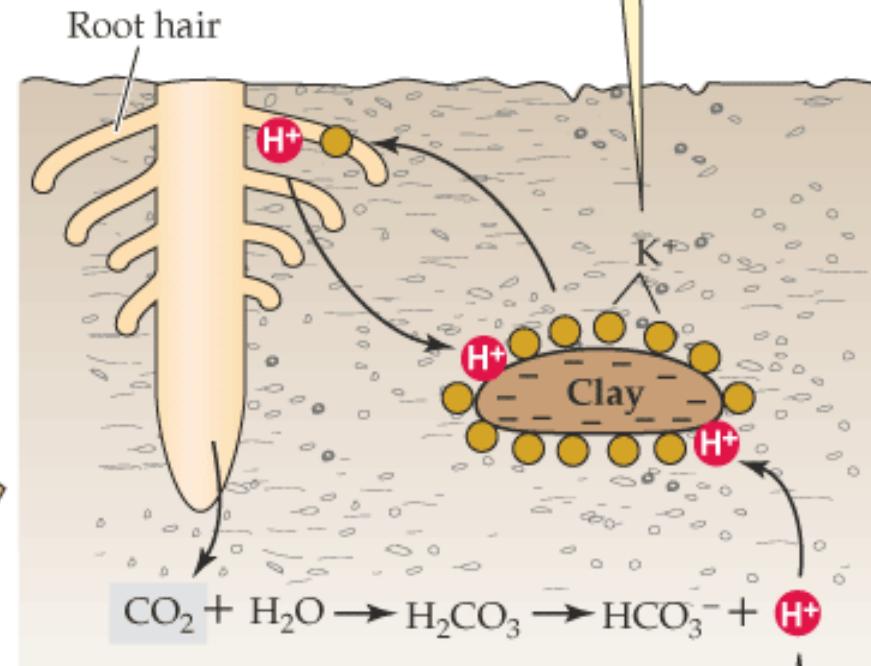
Cu is absorbed by the plants mainly in the form  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$



Only a small fraction of **total copper** in the soil is available to the plants, as it binds to organic matter. It is not very soluble in alkaline soils



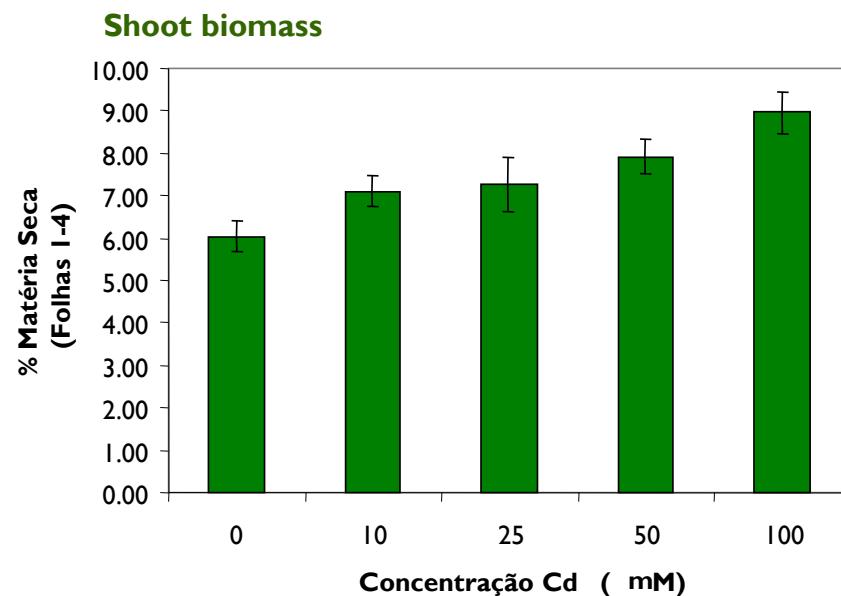
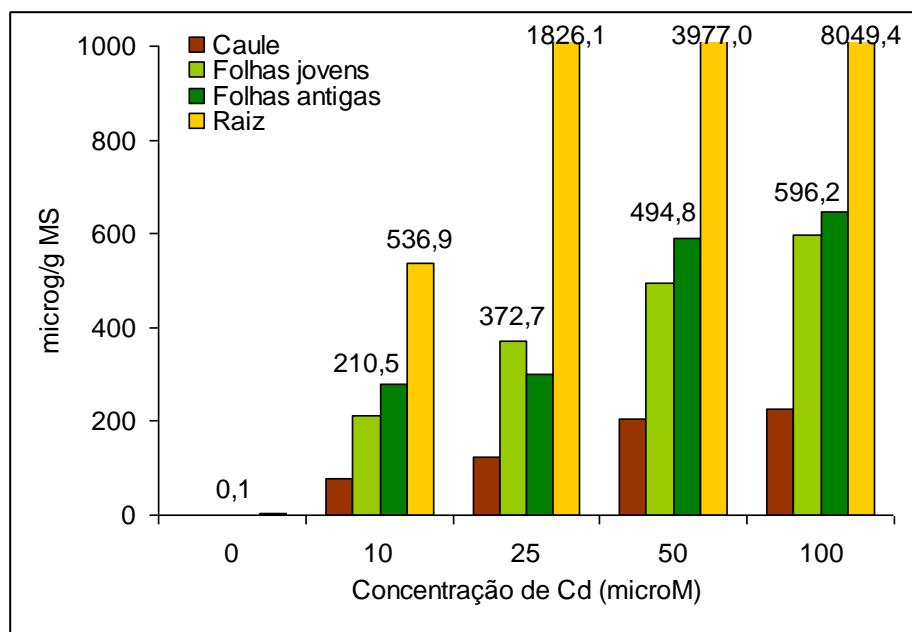
A clay particle, which is negatively charged, binds cations.



The cations are exchanged for hydrogen ions obtained from carbonic acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$ ) or from the plant itself.

## Example:

-Oxidative stress studies at UIQA (ISA) on tobacco plant, a known Cd accumulator



-Visual effects of phytotoxicity:

Are a consequence of:

-Root and shoot growth is affected, different visual effects in the leaves (ex: chlorosis)  
-Symptoms that are dependent on the metal, plant, growth phase etc.

- Metabolic effects of phytotoxicity :

Changes in the metabolism

- Formation of free radicals (ex:  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ )
- Damage to proteins and membrane lipids (peroxidation index, MDA), changes in membrane permeability (K diffusion)
- Changes in chlorophyll, anthocyanins and carotenoids
- Changes in photosynthetic processes
- Protein synthesis
- Synthesis of specific metabolites (proline, organic acids, phytochelatins, etc.)

## Visual effect of excess copper in lupins (*Lupinus luteus* L. cv Cardiga):

Licenciatura thesis in Agriculture, Ana Cristina Silva, 2004

FCT financed project POCTI/AGG/44895/2002, 2002 -2007



Plants growing under  $25 \mu\text{M}$  Cu  
for 4 days



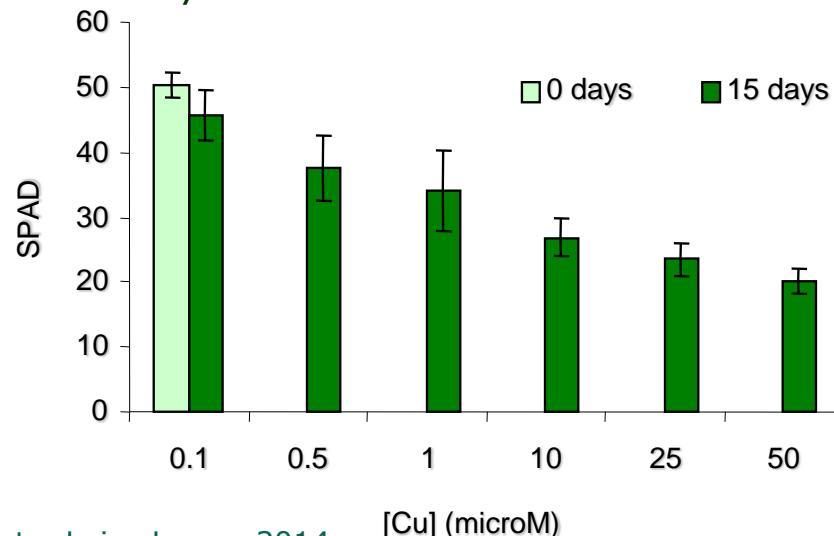
Plants growing under  $50 \mu\text{M}$  Cu  
for 8 days



Yellow lupin

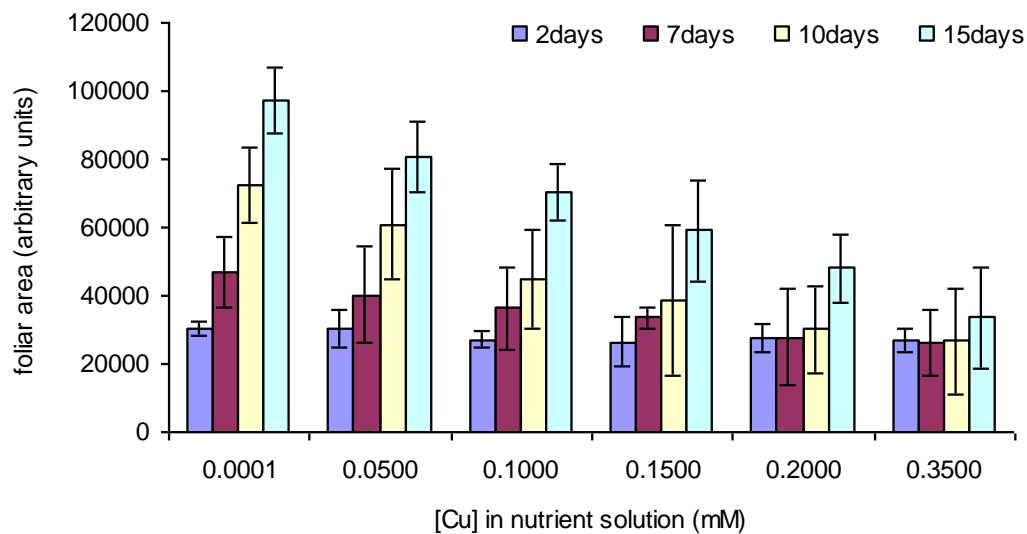
Leaf chlorosis

Chlorophyll levels in leaves after 15  
days growing in excess copper



### Changes in leaf area of tomato plants as a consequence of copper toxicity (*Licopersicum esculentum* M. cv Hymena):

Trabalho financiado pelo projecto POCTI/AGG/44895/2002



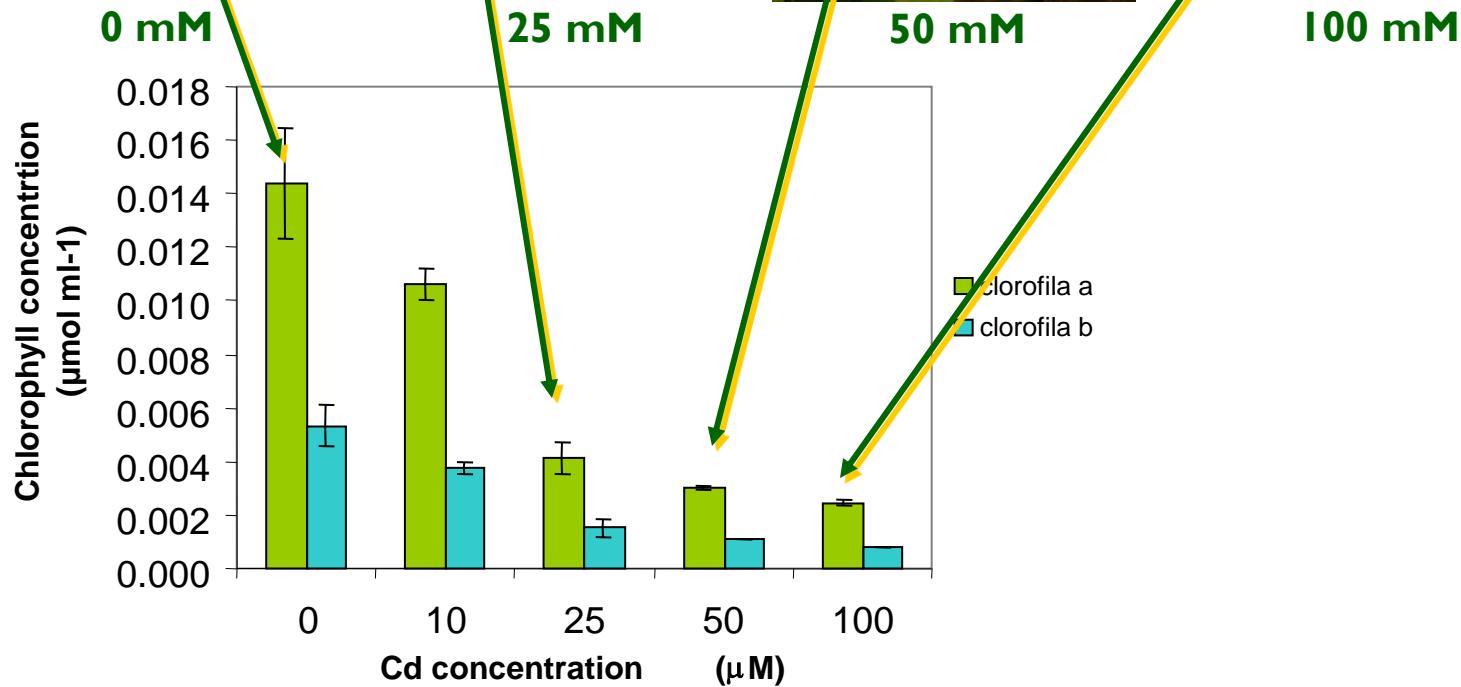
### Chlorosis in young tomato plant leaves (*Licopersicum esculentum* M. cv Juncal):



Copper toxicity is more apparent in young leaves that show chlorosis symptoms and reduced area, leading to stunted growth and reduced photosynthetic activity

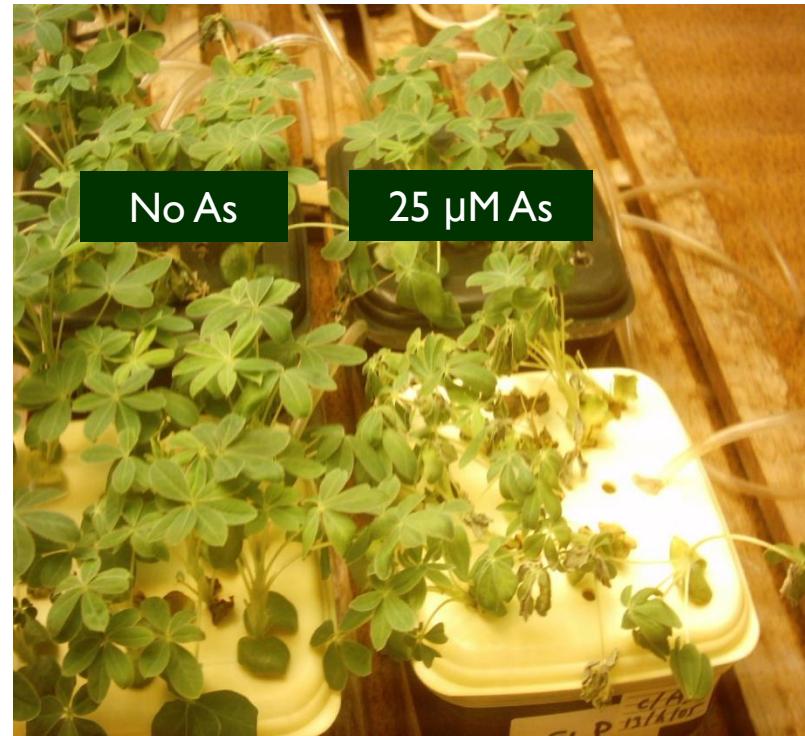
Effect of Cd in chlorophyll levels of tobacco plants (*Nicotiana tabacum* Virginia var. K 326)

Trabalho financiado pelo  
projecto  
POCI/AMB/55312/2004



## Toxic effect of As in white lupin (*Lupinus albus*)

-Arsenic applied as sodium arsenate:



It was noticed early leaf senescence in plants after 7 days in the presence of  $25 \mu\text{M}$  As

Trabalho de fim de curso de Engenharia Agronómica realizado por Vera Ferreira, 2006

## Response (tolerance) mechanisms of plants to heavy metals toxicity:

Before plant uptake:

External (exclusion):

Restriction of uptake from soil and of transport into the plant



**Excretion** of chelating substances, **exclusion** of metals by selective absorption, **retention** of metals in the roots, avoiding its translocation to the shoots (fixation in root apoplast)

After plant uptake:

Internal:

-Compartmentation and complexation in the cell interior



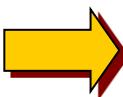
-Increase in the **production of ligands** (complex the metal): organic acids, amino acids, peptides (Metallothioneins and phytochelatins)

-**Translocation** of the metal and accumulation in the vacuoles

-**Imobilization** of the metal by binding to the cell wall

-**Activation of specific metabolic pathways** (enzymatic and non enzymatic mechanisms)

-Changes in metabolism induced by oxidative stress

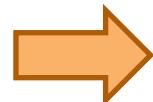


## External mechanisms against toxic metals:

Exclusion, morphological changes, anatomical adaptations, accumulation in specific cell compartments

### **Before plant uptake:**

- Metal exclusion and uptake restriction
- Roots strategies

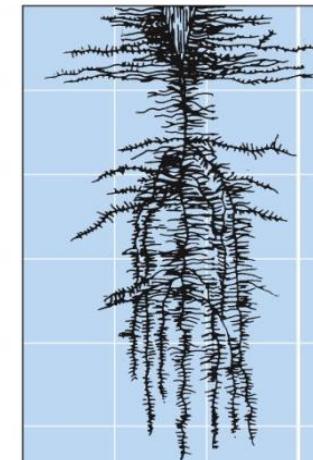


The movement of minerals to the root depends on the **absorption capacity** and the root system architecture

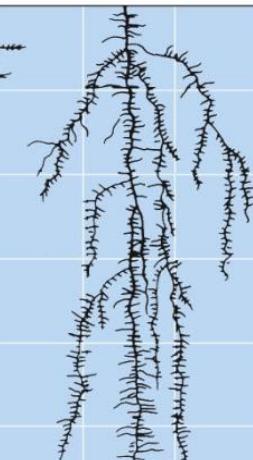
**Excretion** of chelating substances,  
**Exclusion** of metals by selective absorption  
**Acidification** of the rhizosphere: Organic acids (citric, malic) and free amino acids (histidine) are ligands used to chelate the metals

### **Root architecture:**

(A) Sugar beet

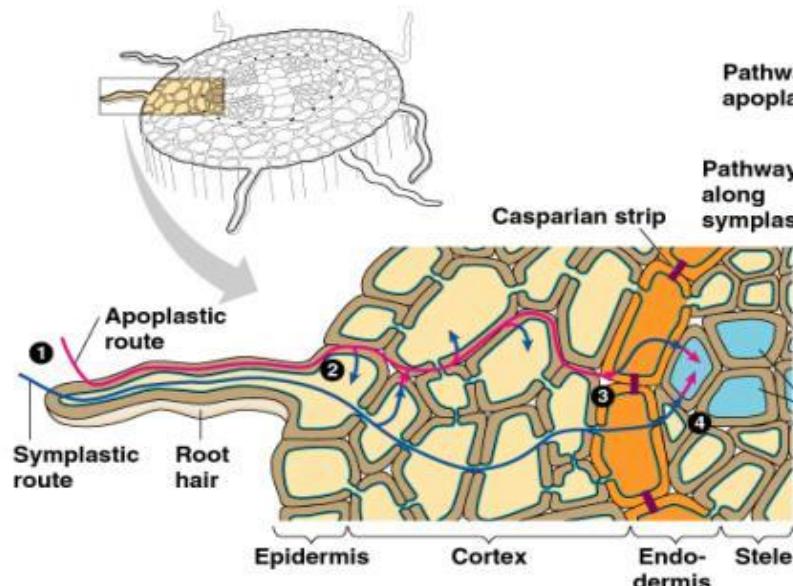


(B) Alfalfa



30 cm

## Absortion by the roots:



© 1999 Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.

Ex.

Hg and Pb bind preferably to cell walls reducing the mobile forms of these elements in the plants

► The metals enter into the root cells

► movement via apoplast or simplast in to the interior of the cell and other regions

► binding to the cell walls via its negative charges

► Transport through the plasmatic membrane into the cell cytoplasm

## Entry into the xylem, transport and distribution to the shoots, acumulation in cell compartments:

Transport of the metals from the root to the xylem, occurs mainly in the cell interior (via symplast) after sequestering by specific ligands

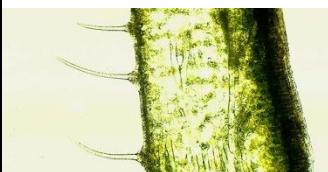


In the xylem the metals are present as hydrated ions or as complexes

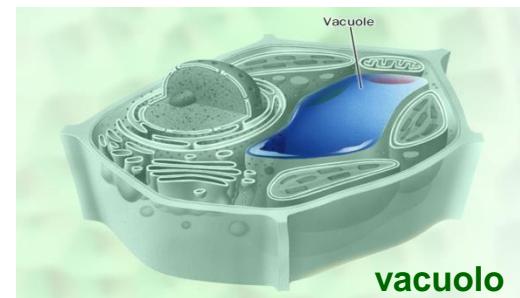


### Sequestering and storage in the shoots: -cell compartmentalization

The storage of toxic substances can occur in the trichomes



Excess heavy metals can be sequestered in the cell vacuoles



(<http://bugs.bio.usyd.edu.au/2003A+Pmodules/module1/1AC1.html>)

## Abiotic Factors that Causes Abiotic Stress:

Temperature, salinity, alkalinity, acidity, drought, toxic metals, sunlight, environmental warming, water pollution, radiations and radioactivity etc., are the various abiotic factors that cause abiotic stresses.

High light causes production of excess excitation energy in the photosynthetic reaction centers, resulting in direct accumulation of a variety of reactive oxygen species.

High temperature stress denatures proteins and causes lipid peroxidation.

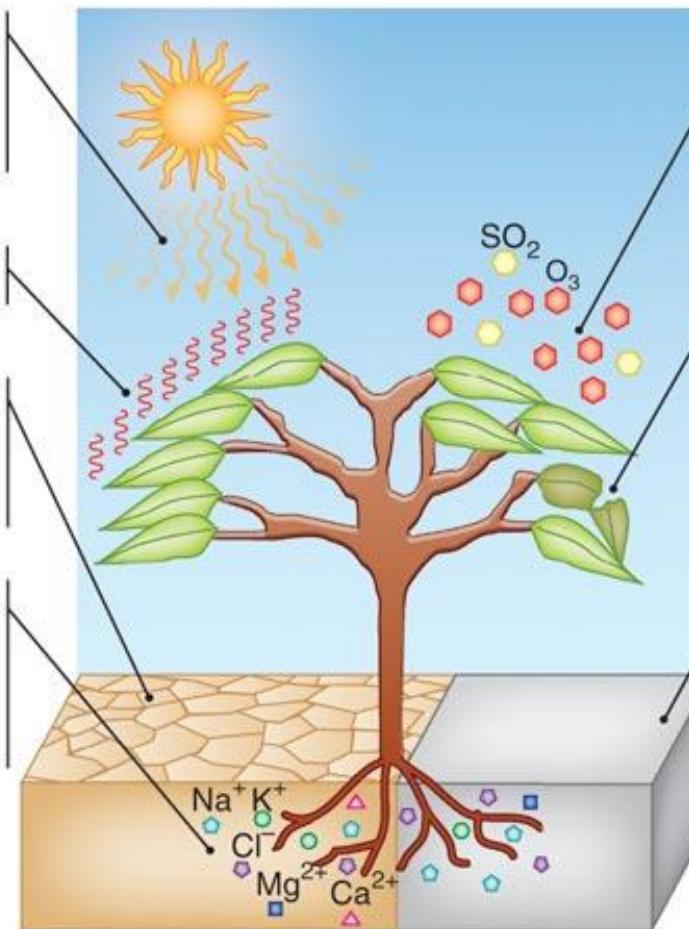
Water deficit, or drought, interferes with metabolism. ROS produced under drought conditions trigger signaling pathways that generate defense responses.

Soil salinity is usually caused by excess salts of chloride and sulfate. Salinity results in ion cytotoxicity and osmotic stress, and decreases uptake of nutrients. Resulting metabolic imbalances lead to oxidative stress.

Air pollution with oxidizing species (including ozone and sulfuric acid) causes direct oxidative damage to tissues. Local and systemic signaling responses also occur.

Mechanical damage—both biotic (e.g., from insect feeding) and abiotic (e.g., from wind damage)—triggers expression of defense-related genes.

Cold stress interferes with metabolic processes (particularly enzyme activity) and alters membrane properties. Frosting can severely damage tissues when ice forms. Extracellular ice formation also causes intracellular water deficit.



<http://www.tutorvista.com/biology/abiotic-stresses>

## What is stress...

Stress is usually defined as an external factor that exerts a disadvantageous influence on the plant

(Taiz & Zeiger, 2002, Cap 25-Stress Physiology)

**ABIOTIC STRESS** can be defined as:

- ➡ The **negative impact** of various abiotic (non-living) factors on the living organism in a particular habitat
- ➡ The various abiotic factors makes tremendous impact on the organism and its performance. Abiotic stress can affect both plants and animals

# What is oxidative stress...

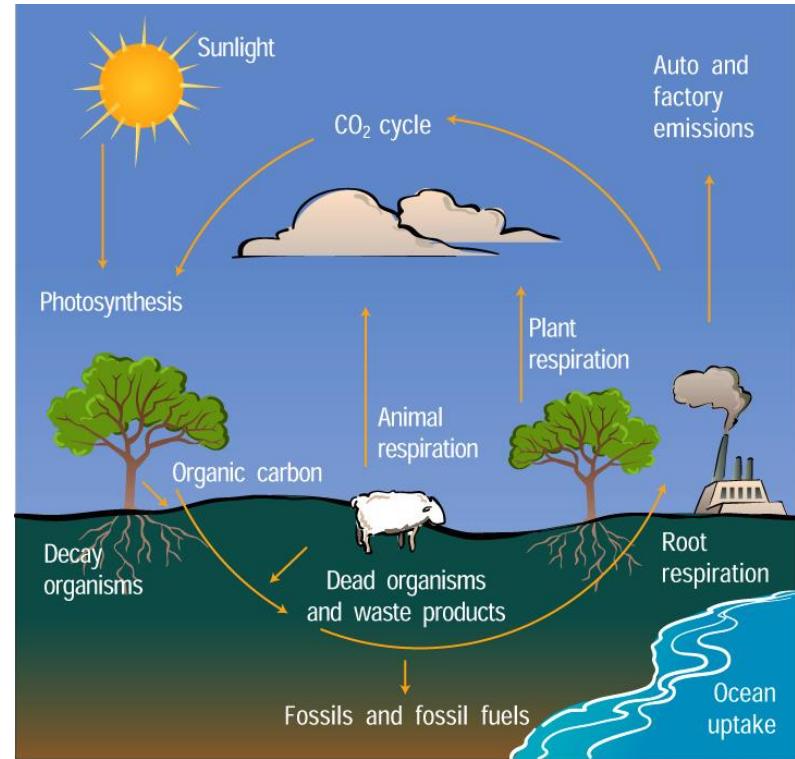
- Is a consequence of intracellular increase of ROS (reactive oxygen species)
- Toxic effect of some substances is due to induction of oxidative stress

## BUT...

- ROS are naturally formed as a consequence of aerobic metabolism...
- Signaling and regulation role, controlling signal metabolite production ( $H_2O_2$ , GSH, GSSG, ASC...)

## Living with oxygen...

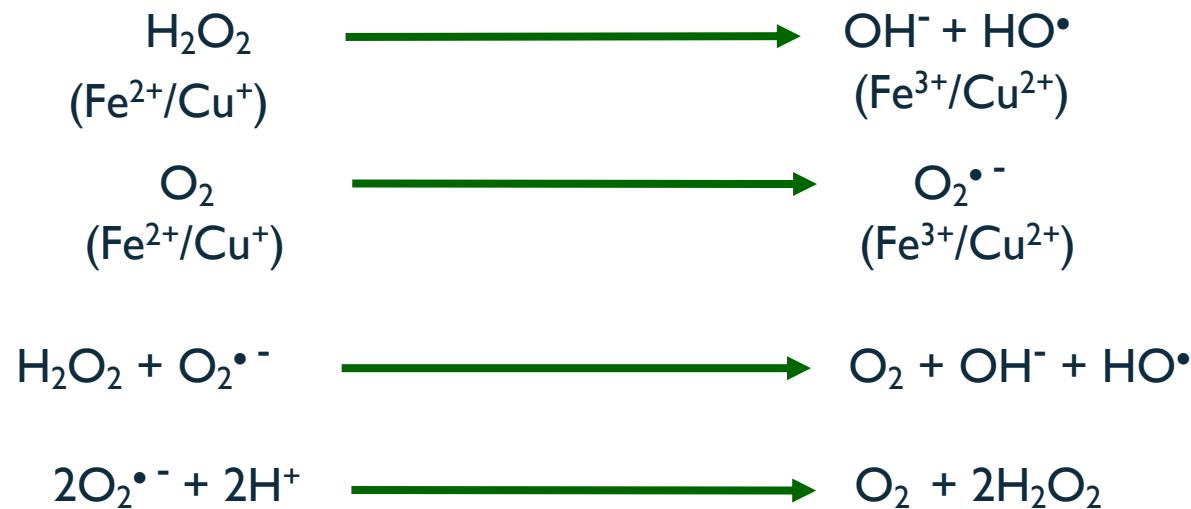
Did you know that the air you are breathing now was in someone else's lungs earlier?



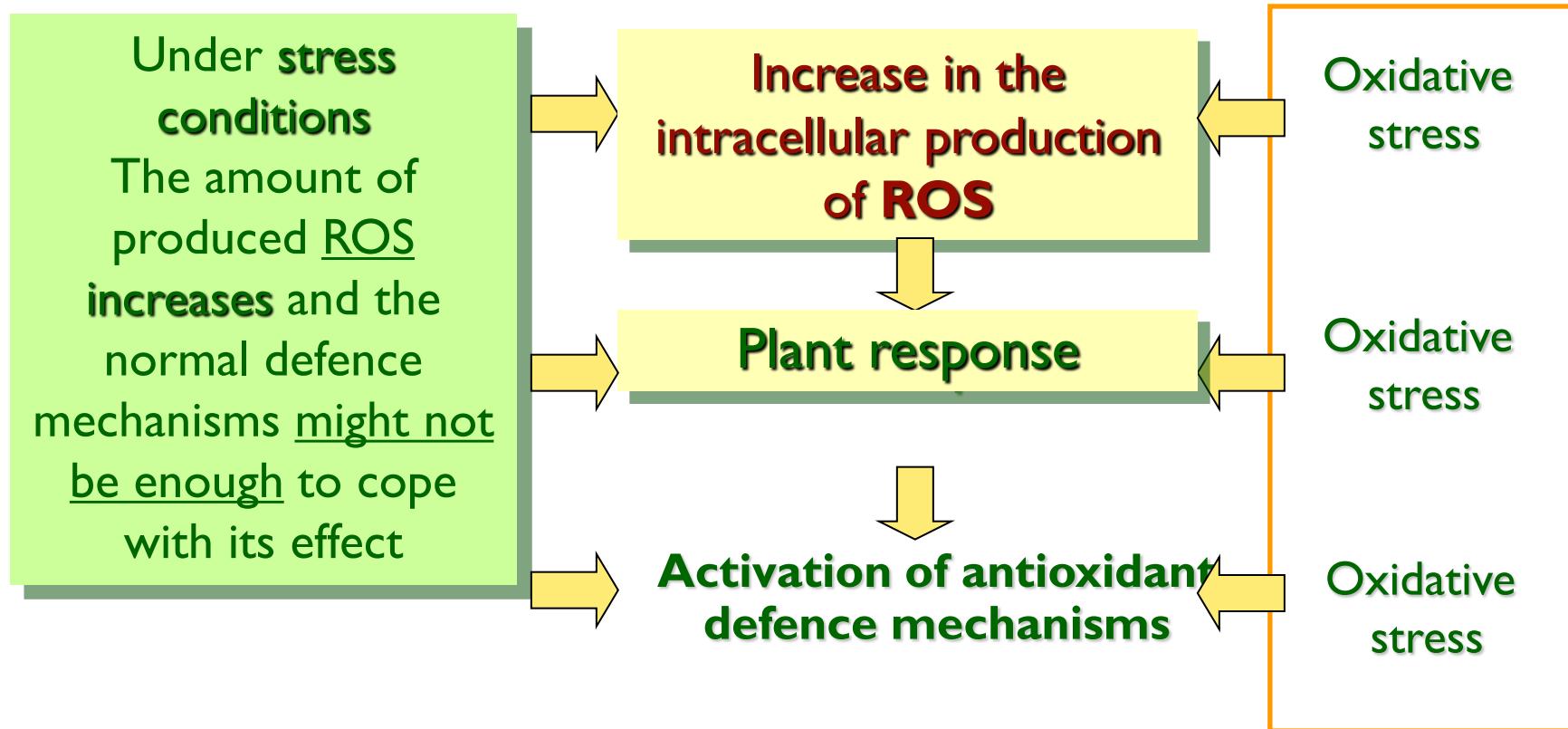
[http://feedfury.com/content/12190121-plant\\_bamboo.html](http://feedfury.com/content/12190121-plant_bamboo.html)

Toxic metals like Cu and Cd induce oxidative stress by specific reactions and induces **higher HO<sup>•</sup> formation**

Fenton  
reactions  
(ex. Fe, Cu)  
and  
Haber-Weiss  
reactions  
(ex. Cd)



The formation of OH<sup>•</sup> from H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (by Fenton and Haber-Weiss reactions) can be reduced by keeping the concentration of metals in the cell under control

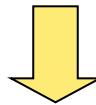


In living cells ROS plays a key role in signaling but these compounds can also damage macromolecules

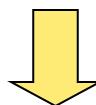
What are ROS?

## ROS, Reactive Oxygen Species (\*AOS-Active Oxygen Species)

**Life with oxygen:**



Production of ROS



In excess can be toxic

-ROS are naturally formed as a sub-product of the aerobic metabolism, in the mitochondria, chloroplasts and peroxisomes, as a result of those metabolic processes.

- cellular respiration, ETC
- photorespiration
- photosynthesis
- lipid oxidation

ROS production and ROS-induced damage **increase** during abiotic and biotic stress

- $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$  are always formed even in normal metabolic conditions
- $\text{OH}^{\bullet}$  and  ${}^{\bullet}\text{O}_2$  are usually formed under stress conditions

## ROS types

Radicals		Non-radicals
Superoxide	$O_2^{\bullet-}$	Hydrogen peroxide
Hydroxil	$OH^{\bullet}$	Hypochlorose acid
Peroxide	$RO_2^{\bullet}$	Ozone
Hydroperoxide	$HO_2^{\bullet}$	Oxygen singlet
Alcoxile	$RO^{\bullet}$	${}^1O_2$

More reactive species

Its production must be minimized!

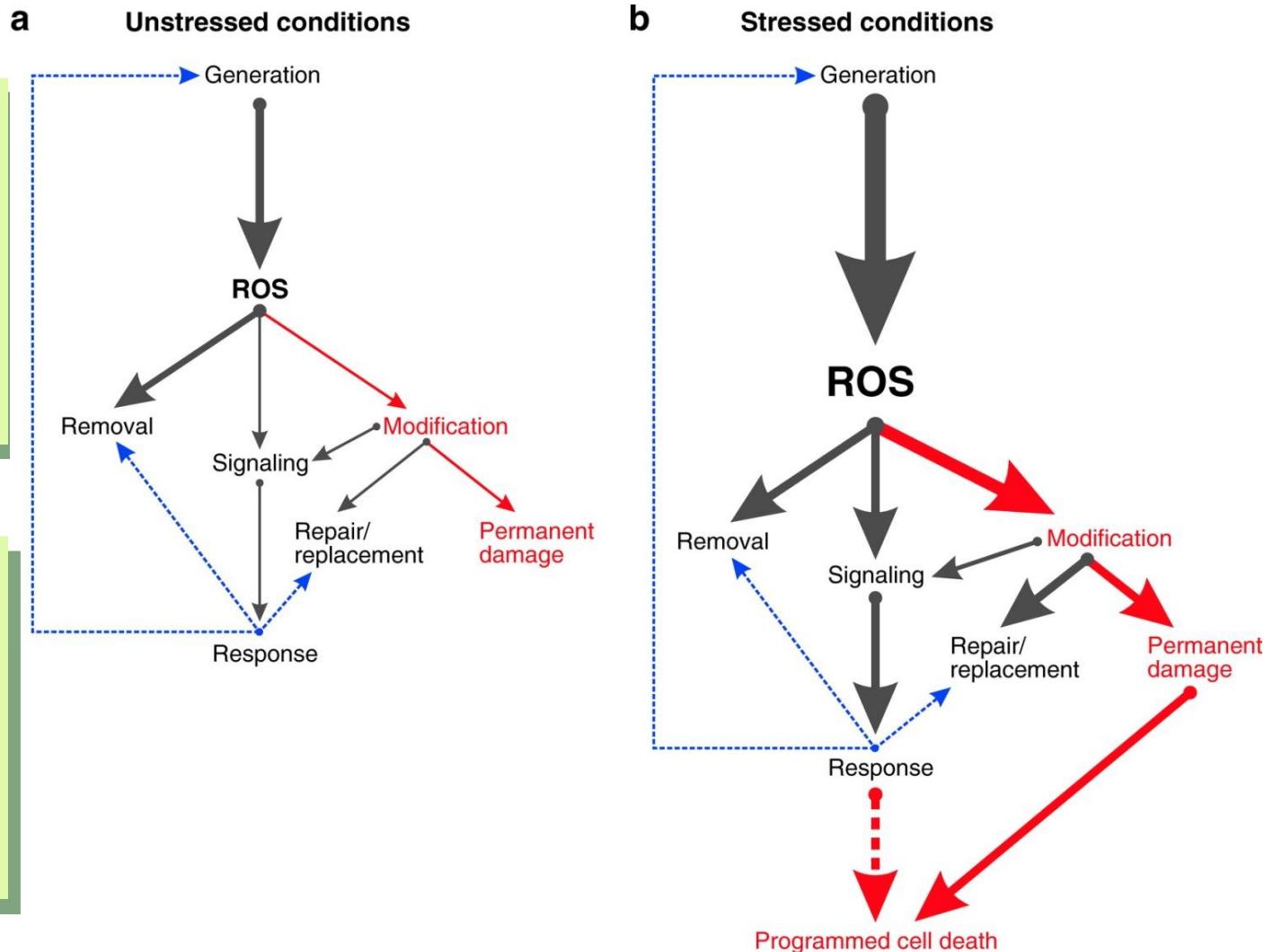
Less reactive species

## Free radicals

- species that contain **I or more unpaired electrons**, very mobile in the cells and unstable (very reactive)
- they form in the cells, in the aerobic metabolism by the transfer of one electron only

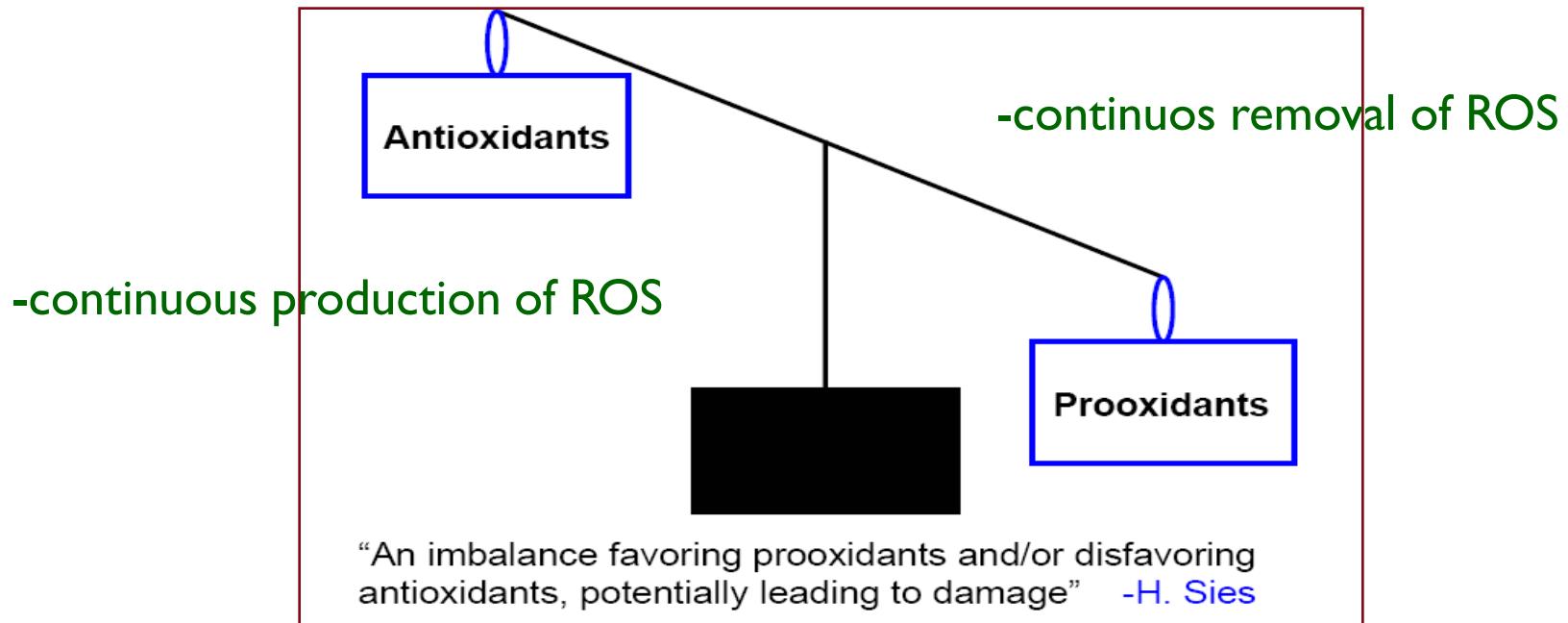
More damage is observed under stress conditions when the ROS levels are increased

The oxidized products can be important secondary signalling molecules



**AR** Møller IM, et al. 2007.  
Annu. Rev. Plant Biol. 58:459–81

## In the normal AEROBIC METABOLISM the production and removal of ROS is in equilibrium

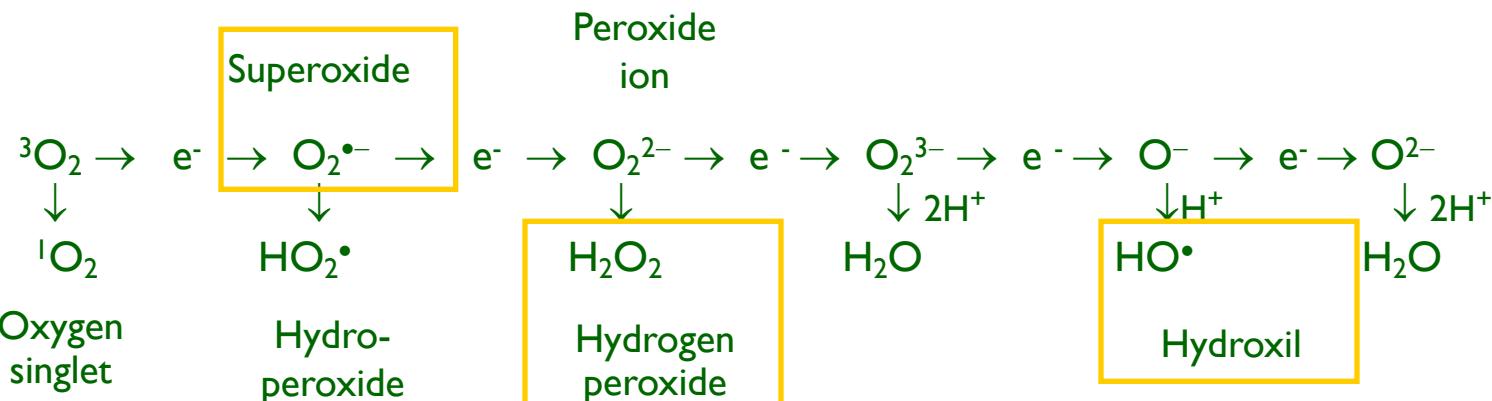


In normal physiological conditions ROS are **sequestred** and/or **accumulated** in certain cellular compartments

In each compartment of the plant cell, ROS formation and removal are tightly regulated

## ROS formation mechanisms

They form through sequential reactions from oxygen in the ground state by spin inversion of one electron – **oxygen singlet**, or by transfer of one electron leading to the successive formation of superoxide, hydrogen peroxide and hydroxyl radical (Apel and Hirt, 2004)

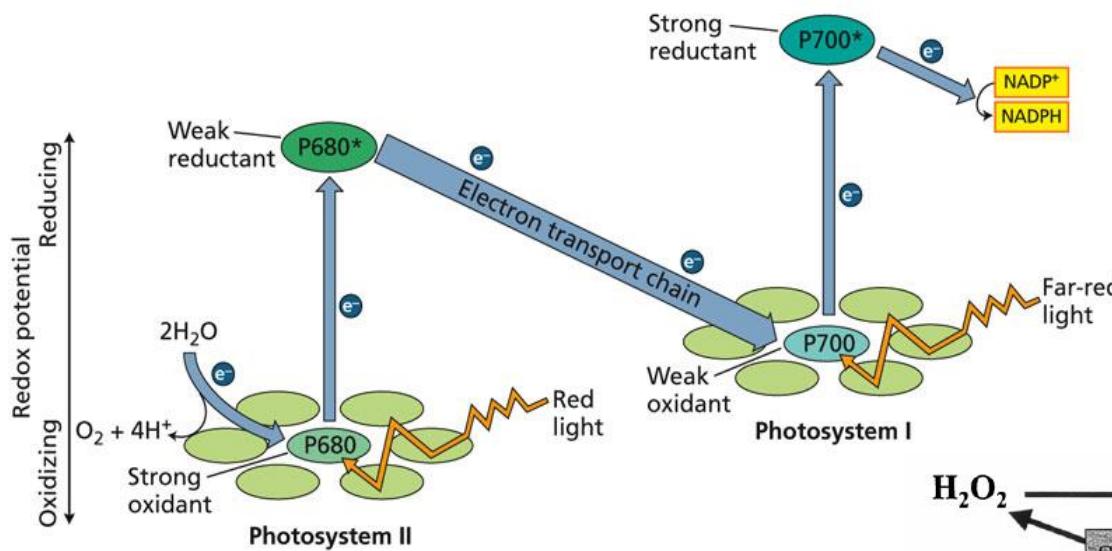


There are no known sequesters for  $HO^{\bullet}$

The reactions that lead to  $HO^{\bullet}$  formation must be stopped to prevent its oxidative damage

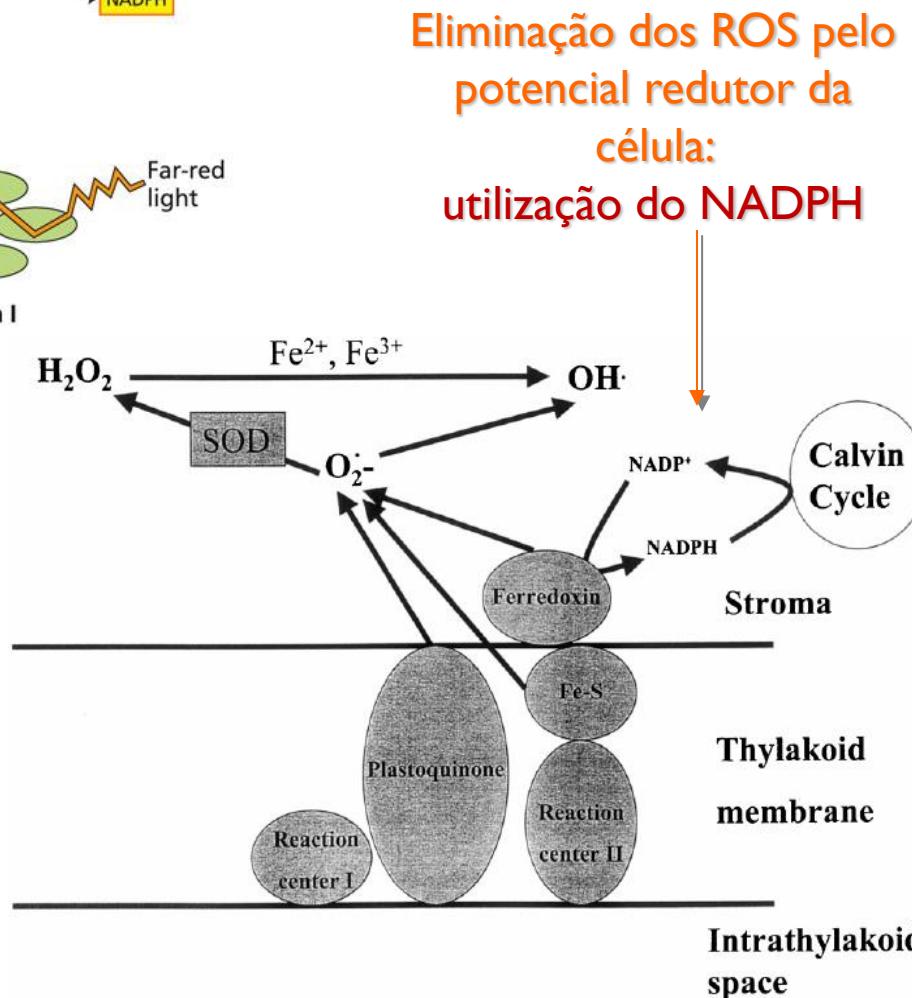
Controlling the reactive species that originate  $HO^{\bullet}$

## Produção de ROS nos cloroplastos



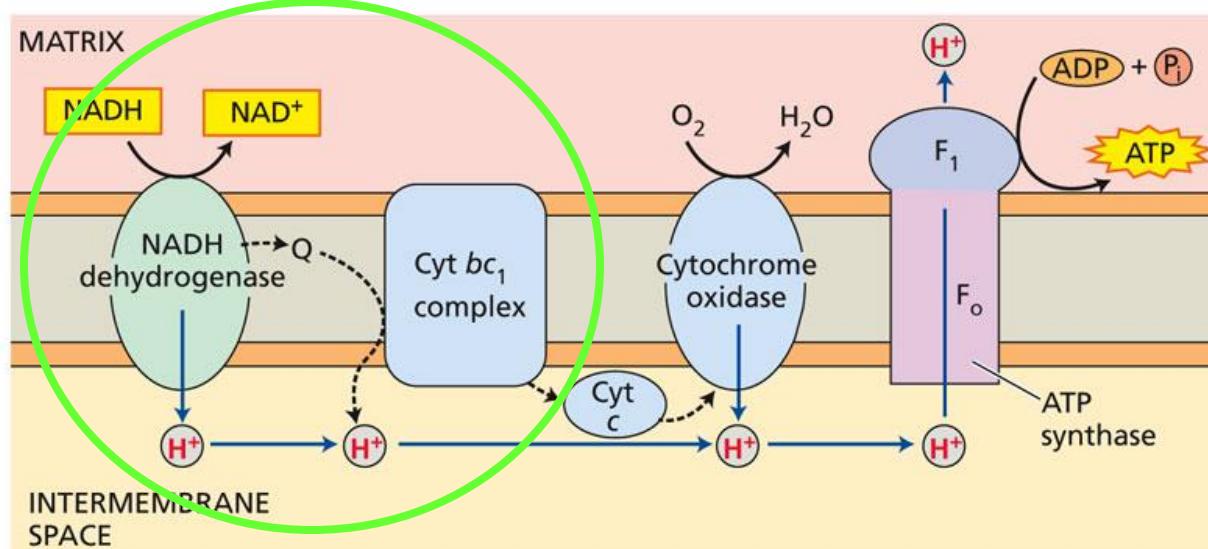
Os cloroplastos produzem como subprodutos:

' $O_2$  (singleto de oxigénio) no PSII  
 $O_2\cdot^-$  (superóxido) no PSI e PSII  
 (nos aceitadores de  $e^-$ , núcleos de Fe-S, ferredoxina)



## Produção de ROS na mitocondria

(C) Mitochondria



Eliminação do superóxido é catalisada por enzimas:

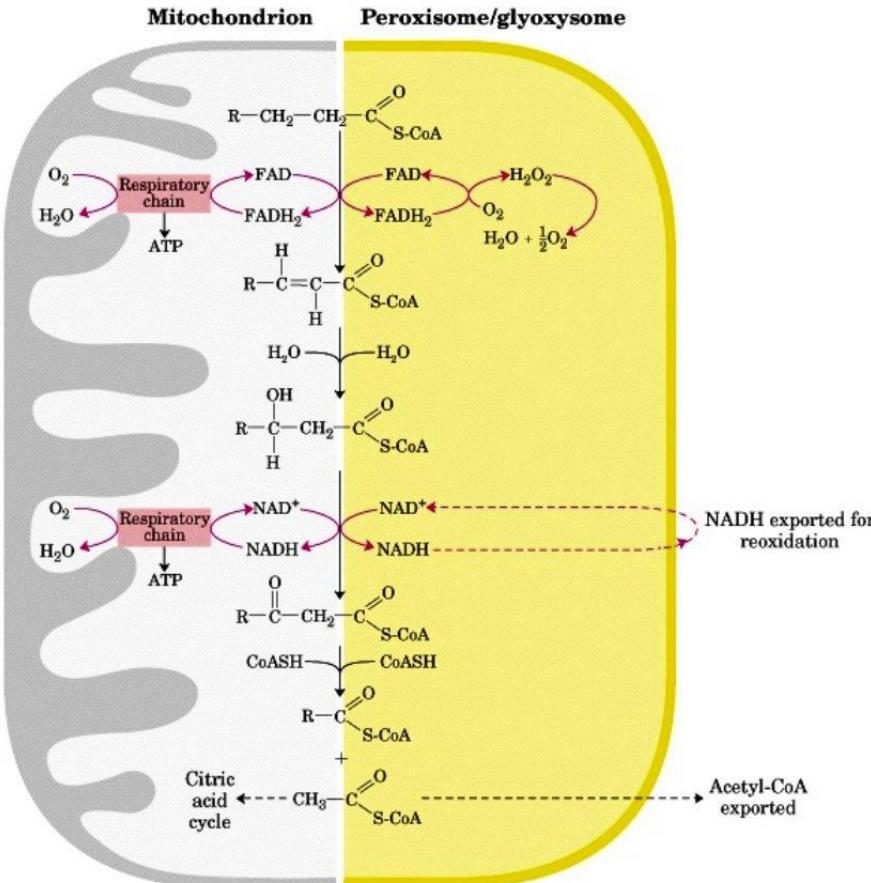


A respiração produz como sub-produtos:

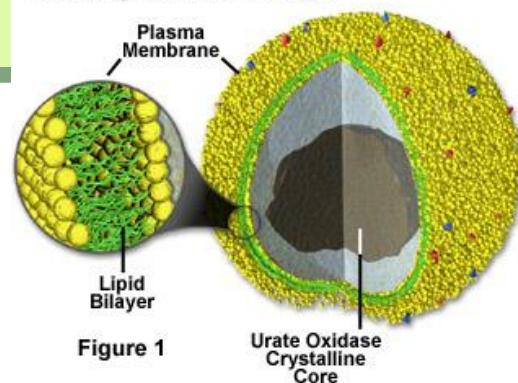
O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup> (superóxido) nos complexos I e III

Estima-se que 1-5 % do O<sub>2</sub> consumido na mitocondria é convertido em ROS

## Produção de ROS nos peroxissomas



Anatomy of the Peroxisome



O peroxissoma (nos eucariotas) produz como sub-produtos:

- O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup> (superóxido)
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Resultantes de diversas reacções da β-oxidação dos ácidos gordos, e reacções enzimáticas das membranas celulares (oxidases e peroxidases)

É nos peroxissomas que se localiza a CATALASE

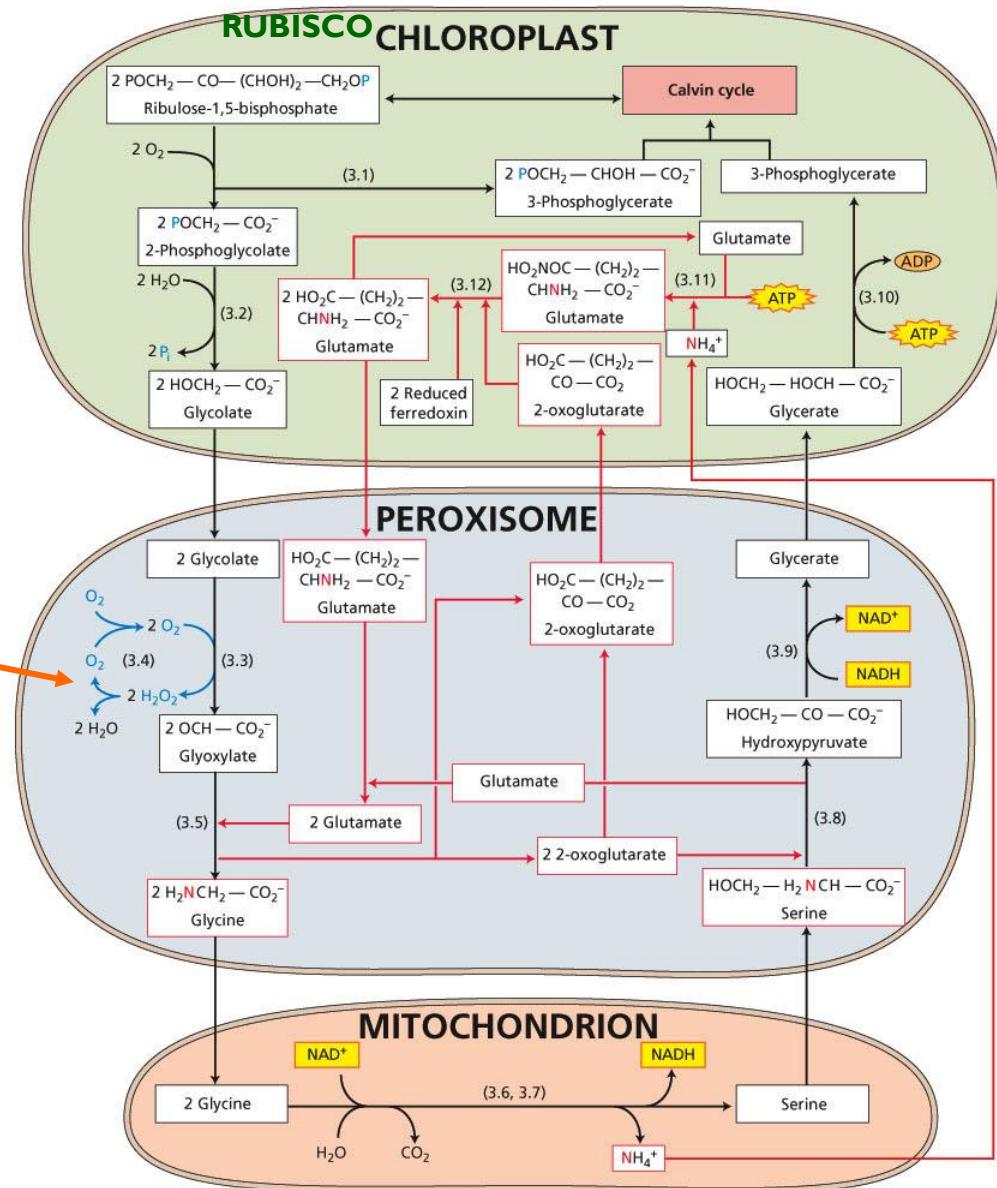
A regeneração do NADH pela fotorrespiração parece ser importante para diminuir a formação de ROS resultantes da fotossíntese

Møller IM et al. 2007

Produção de  $H_2O_2$   
ocorre na oxidação do glicolato

Actividade oxigenásica da RUBISCO (formação de gliceraldeído-3P e glicolato)

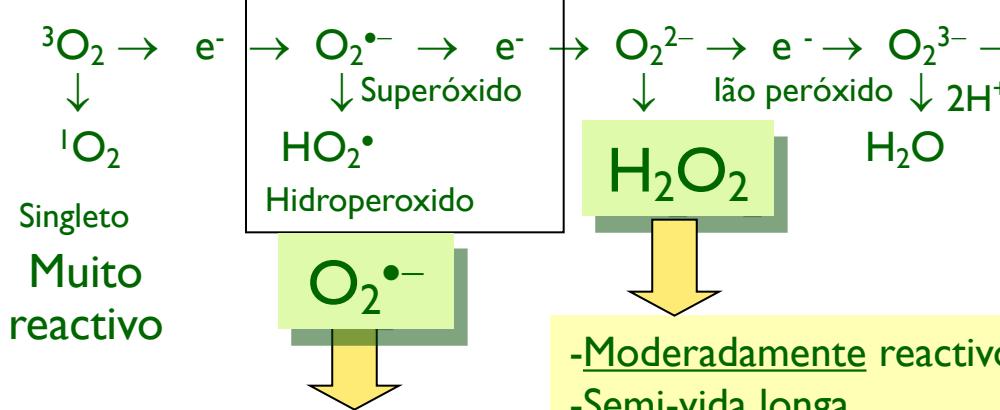
- ocorre para níveis elevados de  $O_2$
- envolve 3 compartimentos celulares: cloroplastos, peroxissomas e mitocondrias
- produz NADH na mitocondria (consome 2 ATP e 1 NADH no peroxissoma por cada G3P formado)



PLANT PHYSIOLOGY, Fourth Edition, Figure

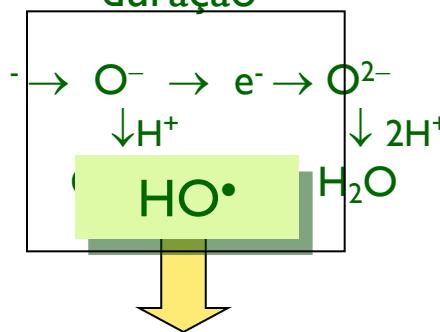
## The different ROS have very different properties:

Semi-vida de curta duração, baixa difusão



- Moderadamente reactivo
- Semi-vida curta
- Afecta actividade enzimática: por formação de complexos com metais de transição de  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  e  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$

Muito reactivo, semi-vida de curta duração

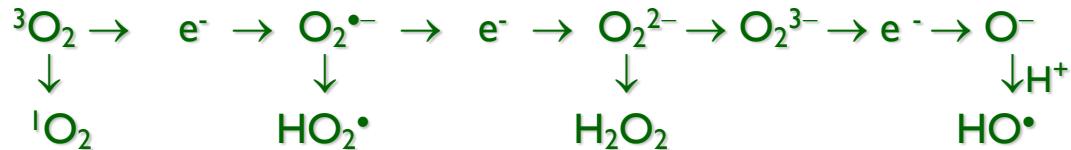


- Moderadamente reactivo
- Semi-vida longa
- Causa inactivação enzimática por oxidação dos grupos tiol ( $\text{SH}$ ), inactiva enzimas do ciclo de Calvin

- Muito reactivo, desenvolve reacções em cadeia
- Pode reagir com **todo o tipo de moléculas biológicas**
- Não é eliminado por mecanismos celulares específicos podendo causar morte da célula

Todos os ROS podem reagir com DNA, proteínas e lípidos, embora os diferentes tipos tenham alvos preferenciais

## The different ROS have very different properties



Property	Singlet oxigen ( ${}^1\text{O}_2$ )	Superoxide ( $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$ )	Hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ )	Hydroxyl radical ( $\text{HO}^{\bullet}$ )
Half-life in biol. systems	1 $\mu\text{s}$	1 $\mu\text{s}$	1 ms	1 ns
Distance traveled	30 nm	30 nm	1 $\mu\text{m}$	1 nm
Cellular conc.	?	?	$\mu\text{M-mM}$	?
Reacts with:				
Lipids	PUFA	HARDLY	HARDLY	<b>RAPIDLY</b>
DNA	Mainly guanine	No	No	<b>RAPIDLY</b>
Carbohydrates	No	No	No	<b>RAPIDLY</b>
Proteins	Trp, His, Tyr, Met, Cys	Fe-S centers	Cysteins	<b>RAPIDLY</b>

**Os ROS desencadeiam reacções de oxidação que causam danos em biomoléculas:**

**Lípidos, aminoácidos, proteínas, glúcidos, ácidos nucleicos**

**Alterações  
em  
membranas  
celulares:**

-alterações em proteínas de membrana (por oxidação de grupos tiol)  
-os ROS iniciam reacções de peroxidação de lípidos insaturados; causa destabilização das membranas, perda da compartimentação celular, aumento da permeabilidade a iões e solutos

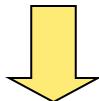
-os ROS causam alterações nas membranas dos cloroplastos, afectam os teores de **clorofila** total e a **capacidade fotossintética** (Reichman, 2002)

Inibição de enzimas de determinadas vias metabólicas (ex: fotossíntese, ciclo de Calvin) e activação de enzimas de outras vias

Danos oxidativos estão relacionados com o desenvolvimento de doenças como o cancro, arterioscleroze, Alzheimer e em processos inflamatórios (Grassman et al. 2002, Halliwell, 2006)

## Reacções nocivas causadas pelos ROS em ácidos gordos PUFA:

Os PUFA são os principais constituintes de lípidos de membranas, e são danificados tanto na forma livre como em fosfolípidos e galactolípidos:



Formação de hidroperóxidos diversos a partir dos ácidos linoleico e linolénico:

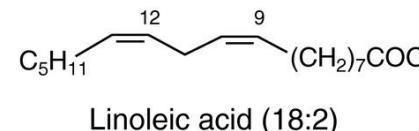
-Aldeídos:

4-Hidroxinonenal (HNE), malondialdeído (MDA)

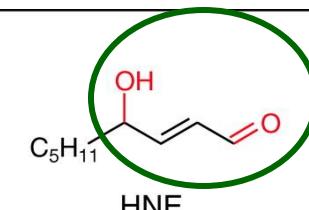
-Hidroxilos e cetoácidos

(oxilipinas cíclicas, ácido 13-hidroxioctadecatrienoico (HOTE))

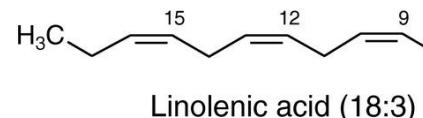
### PUFA oxidation



ROS



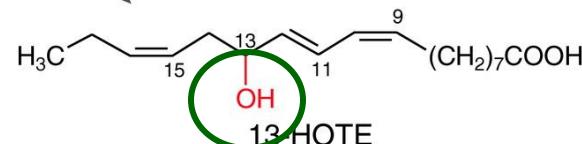
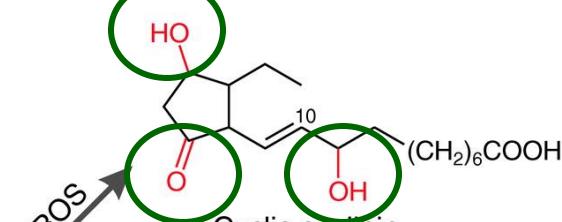
São mais sensíveis à acção de  ${}^1\text{O}_2$  (singleto) e  $\text{HO}^\bullet$



ROS

ROS

ROS



Oxidation of PUFA generates many products, some of which are secondary signaling molecules in plants, whereas others can damage DNA and proteins (Møller IM et al. 2007)

## Reacções nocivas causadas pelos ROS em DNA:

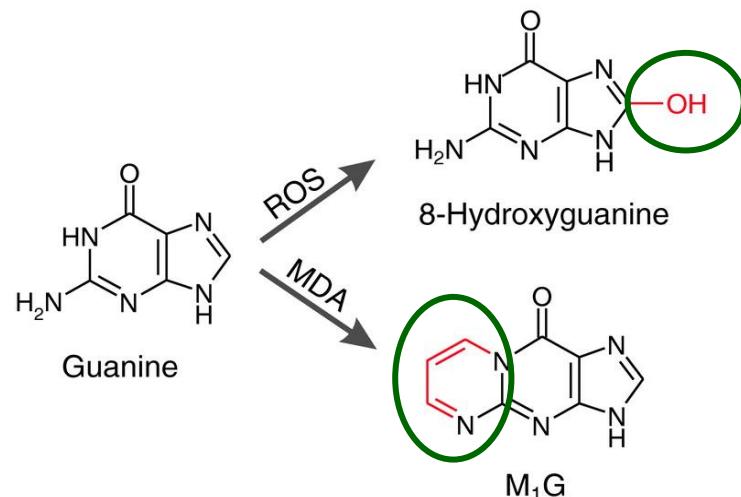
O DNA pode ser danificado por acção dos ROS nas bases azotadas

-Oxidação de Guanina e formação da hidroxiguanina

**H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> e O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup> provocam menores danos no DNA**

HO<sup>•</sup> é o mais reactivo  
'O<sub>2</sub> (singuleto) ataca principalmente a guanina

### DNA oxidation



Mecanismos de reparação do DNA podem diminuir estes efeitos, no núcleo e nas mitocondrias (ex: substituição da base)

Uma produção excessiva de ROS supera a capacidade de reparação; algumas doenças estão associadas ao aparecimento de DNA danificado

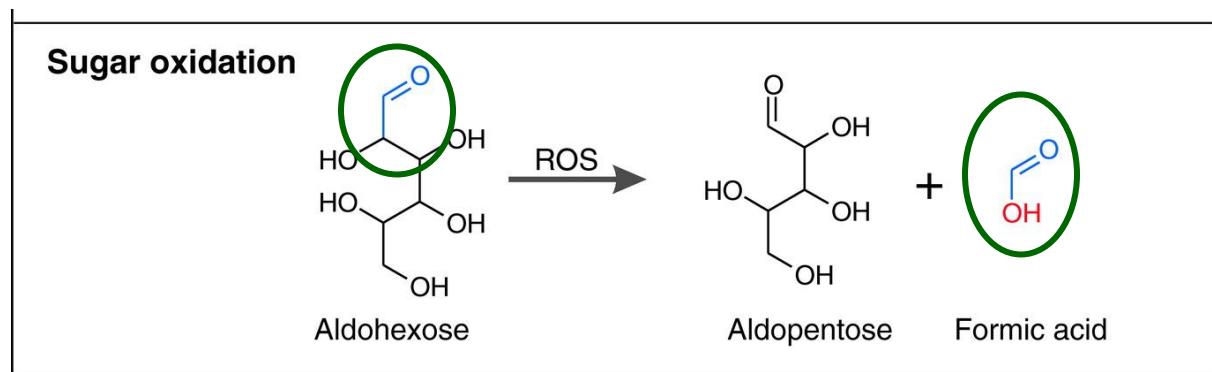


Møller IM, et al. 2007.

Annu. Rev. Plant Biol. 58:459–81

## Reacções nocivas causados pelos ROS em Glúcidos:

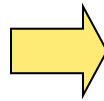
-Oxidação de glúcidos livres e polióis



**AR** Møller IM, et al. 2007.  
Annu. Rev. Plant Biol. 58:459–81

Ex:

Tabaco transgénico que acumula manitol nos cloroplastos apresenta maior resistência ao stresse oxidativo



O manitol remove  $\text{HO}^\bullet$  rapidamente, impedindo a sua acção nociva em outros componentes celulares

## Reacções nocivas causados pelos ROS em Proteínas:

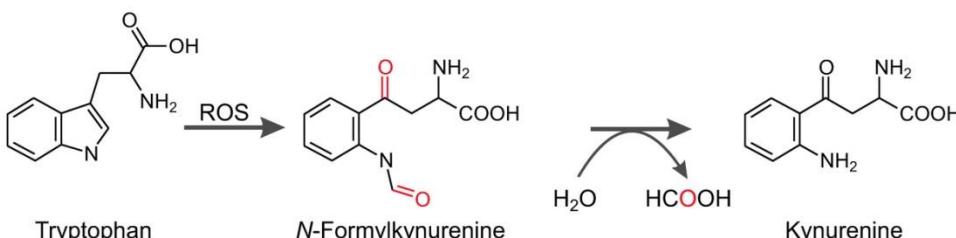
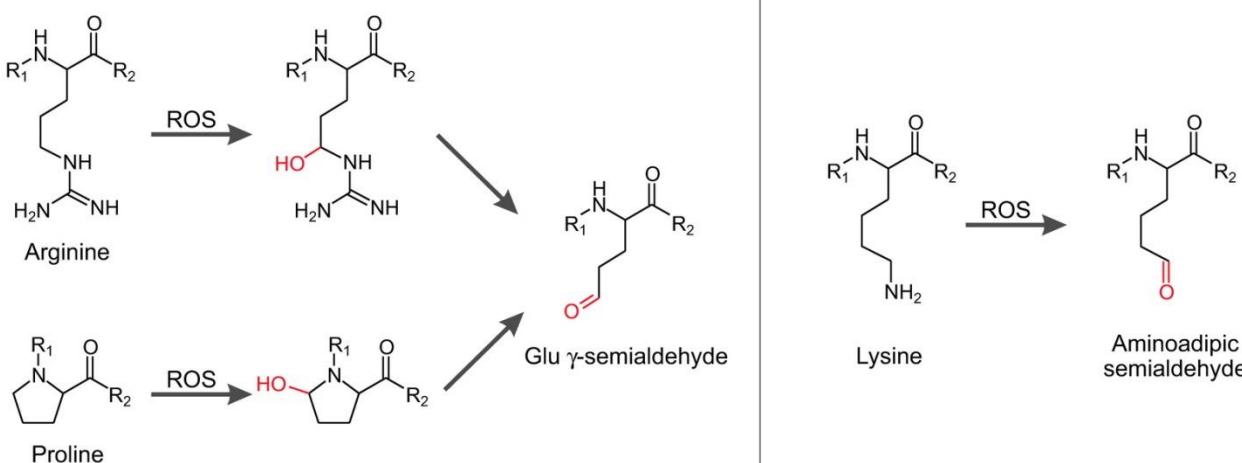
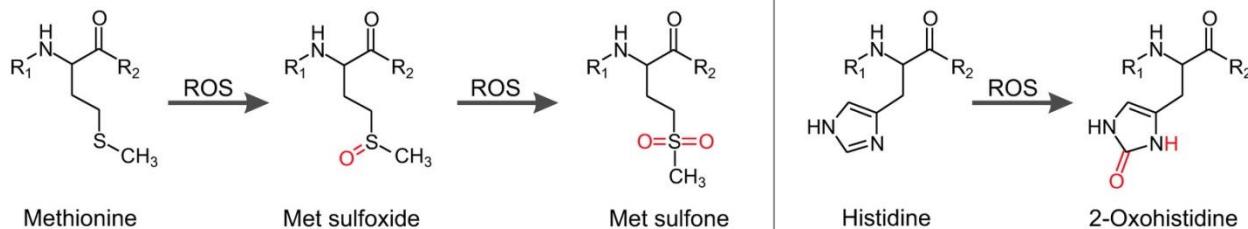
A oxidação das proteínas é um conjunto de modificações covalentes induzidas pelos ROS ou por produtos resultantes da sua acção

- são muito diversas, variando com o AA envolvido
- a maioria são reacções irreversíveis (excepto com o tiol)



**'O<sub>2</sub> (singuleto) e HO• são os mais reactivos na oxidação da Cis e Met**

Cystine



## Mecanismos de defesa contra o stress oxidativo induzido por metais pesados: enzimáticos e não-enzimáticos

## Mecanismos internos: enzimáticos e não-enzimáticos

Os mecanismos **antioxidantes** (enzimáticos ou não-enzimáticos) actuam na interrupção dos processos de **oxidação** desencadeados pelos ROS

mecanismos não-enzimáticos

compostos  
antioxidantes

Compostos capazes de sequestrar os ROS sem formação de novas espécies reactivas (são oxidados)

Ex: ascorbato, glutatona, carotenoides

mecanismos  
enzimáticos

enzimas  
antioxidantes

Enzimas que catalisam reacções de sequestração dos ROS ou que estão envolvidas directamente na sua remoção

Ex: peroxidases, superóxido-dismutase, catalase

## Mecanismos não-enzimáticos:

-Síntese de novo de proteínas

(produção de 'heat-shock proteins', HSP, com função protectora e de reparação)

-Produção de sequestrantes específicos:

ligandos de complexação (ácidos orgânicos, aminoácidos livres, ex: prolina) e péptidos de ligação (a metais): fitoquelatinas, metalotioneinas

-Produção de anti-oxidantes não enzimáticos:

**ascorbato, glutationa (GSH), carotenoides, flavonoides, antocianinas e outros polifenóis, tocoferóis, alcaloides, terpenóides**

São produzidos pelas plantas (alguns pelo metabolismo secundário)

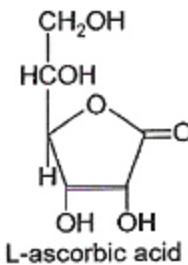
**Mecanismo antioxidante:**

**Redução do  $O_2^{\bullet-}$  e  $H_2O_2$  em  $H_2O$  por compostos redutores**

**Sequestrantes de espécies radicais**

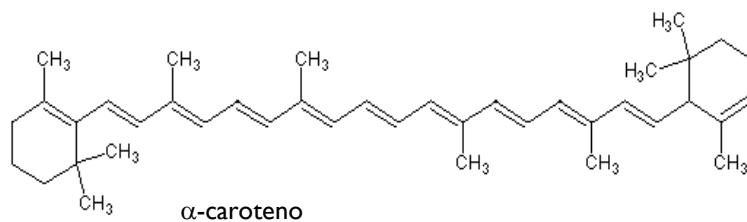
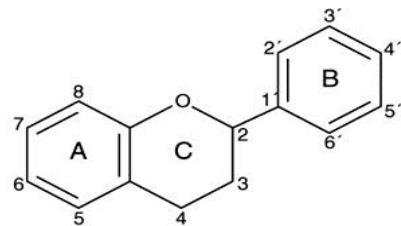
## Estrutura dos principais antioxidantes não-enzimáticos

Ascorbato  
(Vitamina C)



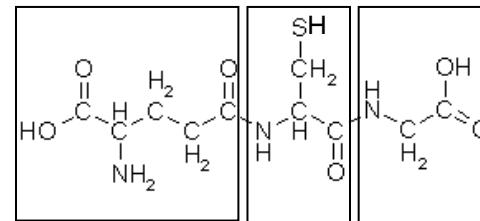
Flavonoides  
(polifenóis com  
estrutura cílica)

Figure 1: Basic Structure and Numbering System of Flavonoids

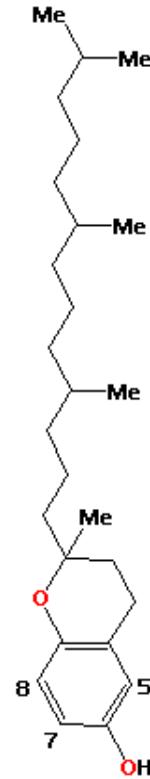


Carotenoides:  
Sistema conjugado de ligações duplas

Glutatona  
(tiol não  
proteico)



γ-Glu-Cys-Gly  
SH



α-tocoferol  
(vitamina E)  
Antioxidante de  
fases não  
aquosas

## Os antioxidantes não-enzimáticos são protectores das células contra os ROS

### Redutores e sequestrantes de espécies radicais

**Ascorbato  
Glutatona  
Alcalóides  
 $\alpha$ -tocoferol**

Reagem directamente com  $O_2^-$ ,  $H_2O_2$  or  $OH^\bullet$

**Carotenoides  
Flavonoides**

Reagem directamente com o singuleto de oxigénio  $'O_2$

Ainda não é bem conhecido o modo de acção de todos os antioxidantes nos mecanismos de defesa das plantas

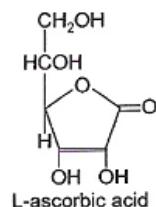
→ -Não é bem conhecido o papel dos **flavonoides** e **carotenoides** na destoxificação dos ROS (Apel & Hirt, 2004, Gratão *et al.* 2005)

→ - **$\beta$ -caroteno** parece aumentar a quantidade de xantofila nos cloroplastos, resultando uma maior tolerância ao stress oxidativo;  
→ -pode estar envolvido na regeneração do ascorbato (Apel & Hirt, 2004)

## Outras funções do ascorbato (ASC):

### No metabolismo celular:

Principal  
antioxidante  
primário



- protecção de enzimas que contém iões metálicos como grupo prostético
- mecanismos de protecção e regulação da fotossíntese (participa na regulação da captação da luz para a fotossíntese, compensa a ausência de catalase nos cloroplastos)

ascorbato  
(reduzido)



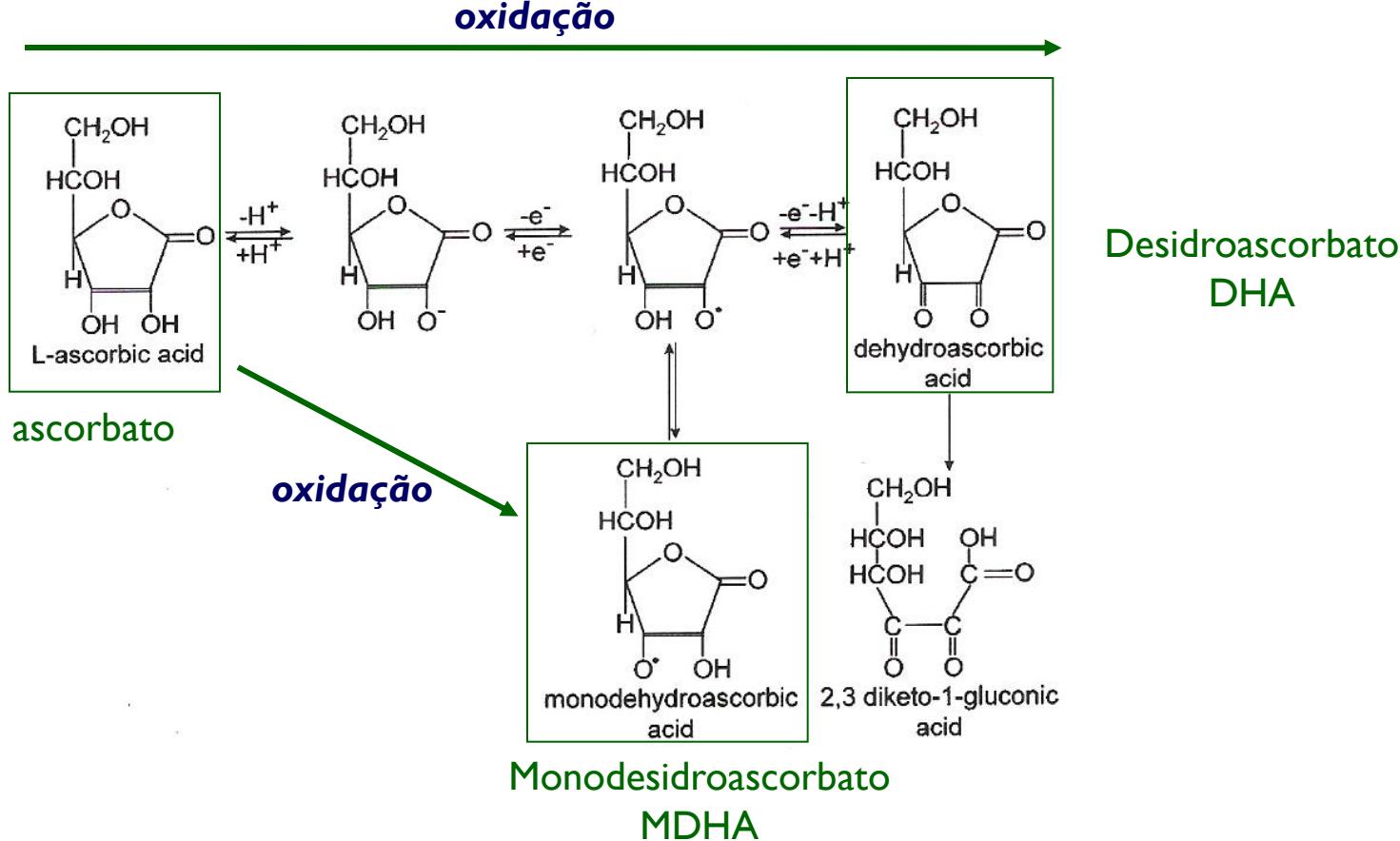
desidroascorbato  
(oxidado)

### Nos mecanismos de defesa:

Importante  
antioxidante  
secundário



- regeneração de outros antioxidantes (como o α-tocoferol)
- regulação: a diminuição do ASC no stress oxidativo causa paragem da divisão celular prevenindo erros de replicação do DNA



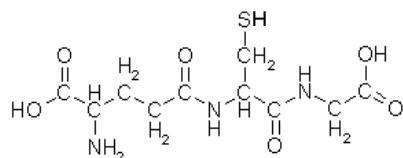
## Outras funções da glutationa (GSH):

### No metabolismo celular:

Antioxidante e  
regulador  
redox



-protecção de enzimas que contêm grupos tiol (–SH) evitando a oxidação (ex: enzimas do ciclo de Calvin)



-interconvertível em GSSG em processos de oxidação-redução:

glutationa  
reduzida  
(GSH)



### Nos mecanismos de defesa:

Protector e  
percursor de  
biomoléculas



-regeneração de ascorbato (reduzido) a partir do desidroascorbato formado na eliminação de ROS (ex: nos cloroplastos)  
-percursor de fitoquelatinas (ligantes de metais pesados, regulando a sua concentração celular)

## Mecanismos enzimáticos:

Activação da **via da glutationa-ascorbato**  
(Asada-Foyer-Halliwell):

Ascorbato peroxidase APOD (EC 1.11.1.11)

Monodesidroascorbato-redutase MDHAR  
(EC 1.6.5.4)

Desidroascorbato-redutase DHAR  
(EC 1.8.5.1)

Glutationa-redutase GR (EC 1.6.4.2)

## Remoção dos ROS:

**Mecanismo antioxidante:**

Efectua a redução do  $O_2^{\cdot-}$  e  $H_2O_2$  em  $H_2O$  usando electrões do NADPH

## Indução de enzimas antioxidantes:

Superoxido-dismutase SOD (EC 1.15.1.1)

Catalase CAT (EC 1.11.1.6)

Glutationa-peroxidase Glu-POD (EC 1.11.1.9)

Guaiacol-peroxidases GPOD (EC 1.11.1.7)

**Mecanismo antioxidante:**

Catalisa a redução enzimática do  $O_2^{\cdot-}$  e  $H_2O_2$  em  $H_2O$  usando agentes redutores específicos

O sistema antioxidante SOD, CAT, POD é muito eficiente na remoção do  $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$  e  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  formados:

A eliminação do superóxido pela SOD é a primeira via de defesa contra os ROS



CAT e PODs actuam na eliminação do  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$

\*PODs são mais eficientes na remoção do  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$

Superóxido-dismutase  
SOD

Catalase  
CAT

Peroxidases  
PODs

Catalisa a dismutação de duas moléculas de superóxido:  
 $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-} + \text{O}_2^{\bullet-} + 2\text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{O}_2$

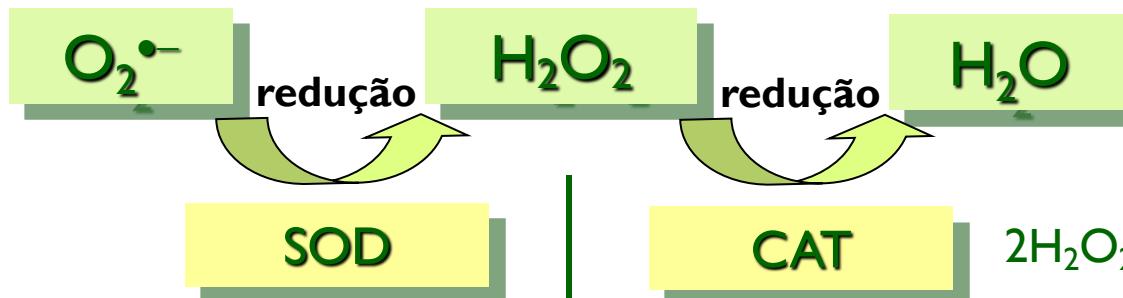
Catalisa a redução do  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ :  
 $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2$

Catalisam a redução do  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  utilizando um substrato diferente como agente redutor:



- Glutationa-peroxidase Glu-POD: utiliza a GSH
- Guaiacol-peroxidases GPOD: utiliza fenóis aromáticos
- Ascorbato-peroxidases APOD: utiliza ácido ascórbico

Produção  
de ROS:



O radical superóxido  $O_2^{\bullet-}$  formado é convertido em  $H_2O_2$

Os cloroplastos contêm geralmente elevada concentração de ascorbato, pelo que o  $O_2^{\bullet-}$  é reduzido rapidamente em  $H_2O_2$



PODs Usam redutor diferente do  $H_2O_2$

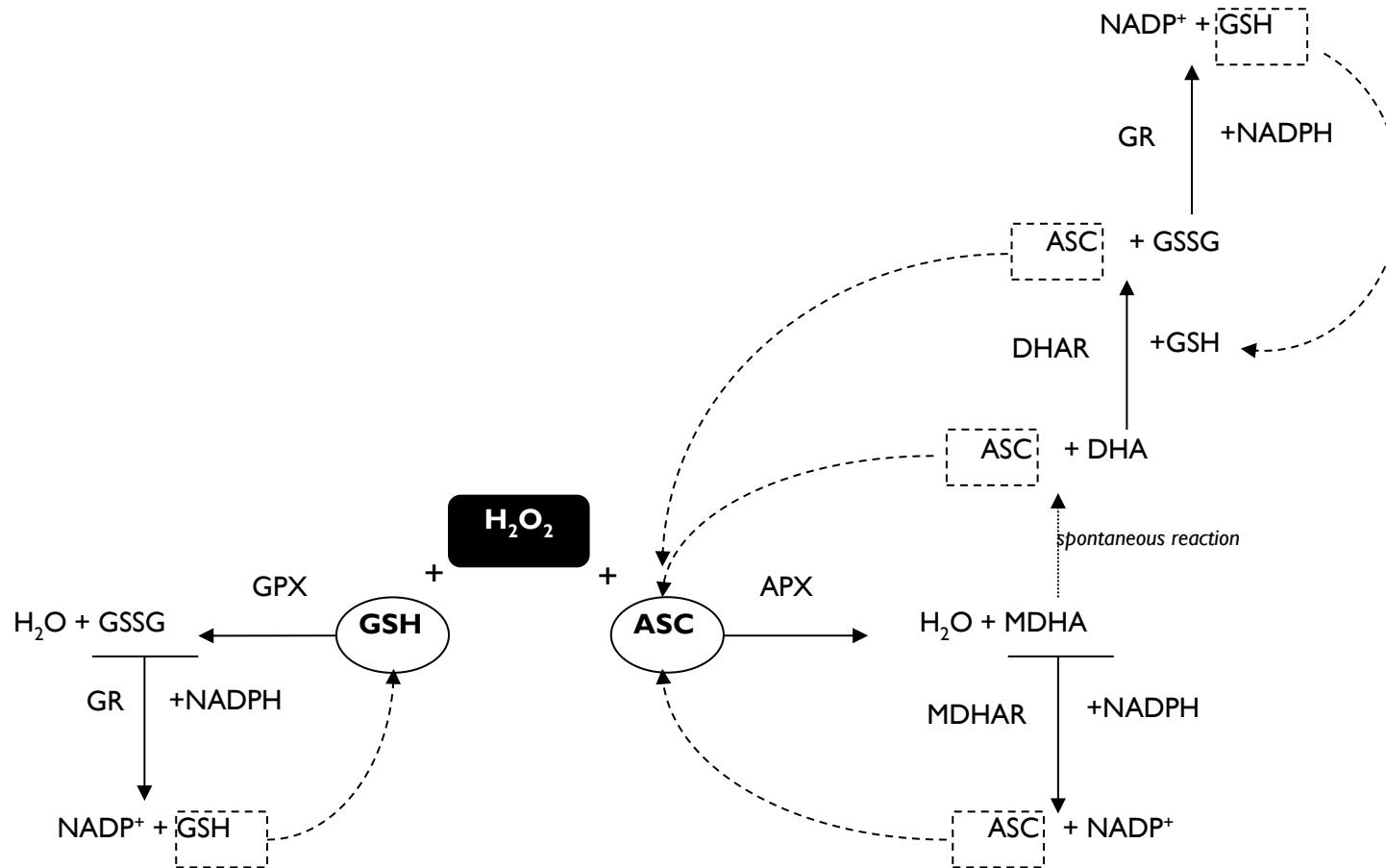
Glu-POD



APOD



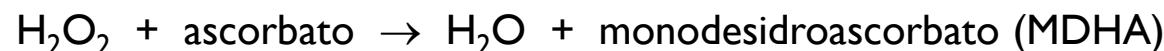
## Via da glutationa-ascorbato



## Enzimas da via da glutationa-ascorbato:

APOD

Catalisa a redução do H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> em H<sub>2</sub>O utilizando **ascorbato** como redutor:



MDHAR

Catalisa a redução do MDA em **ascorbato** utilizando o NADPH como redutor: MDA + NADPH → ascorbato + NADP<sup>+</sup>

DHAR

Catalisa a redução do DHA (obtido a partir do MDA) em **ascorbato**, utilizando a **glutationa** como redutor:

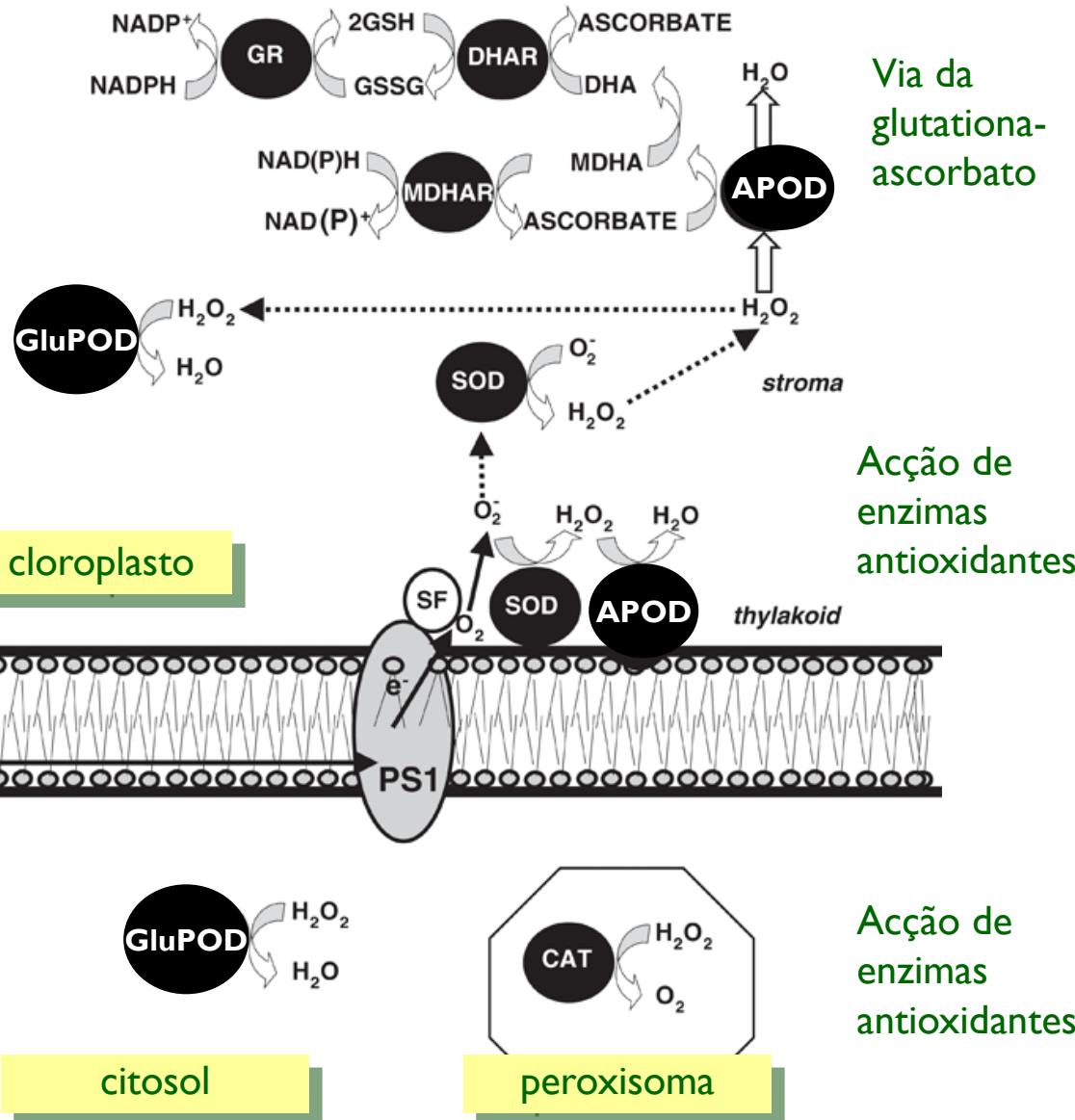
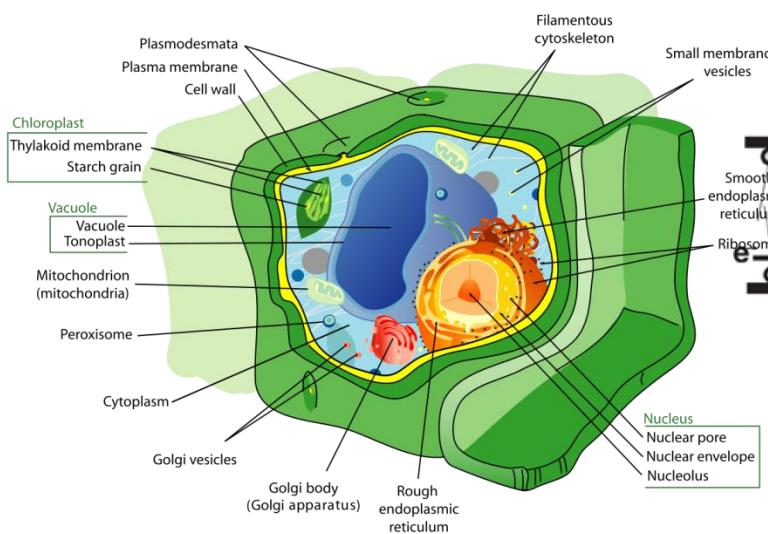


GR

Catalisa a regeneração da **glutationa** (GSH) a partir da **glutationa oxidada** GSSG, utilizando o NADPH como redutor:



## Mecanismos enzimáticos em células da parte aérea de plantas (Gratão et al. 2005)



## Alguns exemplos de respostas de plantas ao stress por metais pesados

## Toxicidade do Cd em sorgo (hibrido *Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench. x *Sorghum sudanense* var. Speedfeed)



Após 7 dias da aplicação de 15  $\mu\text{M}$  de  $\text{CdCl}_2$

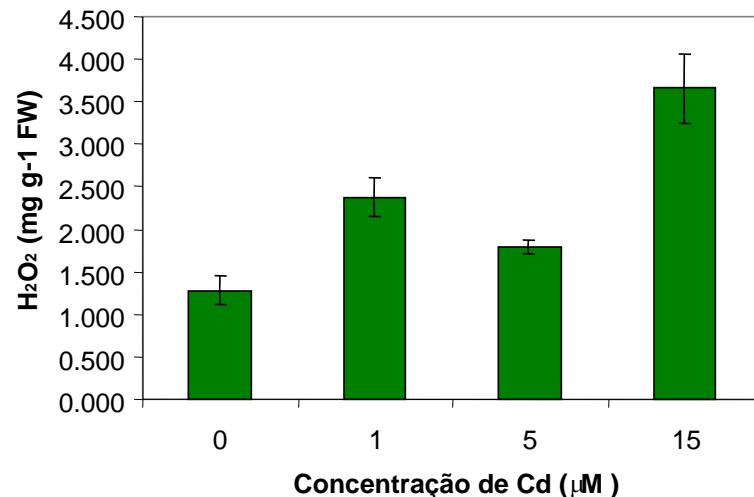


0  $\mu\text{M}$  (controlo)

O Cd induz stress oxidativo que se pode avaliar pelo aumento do teor de peróxido de hidrogénio nas folhas

Trabalho financiado pelo projecto  
POCI/AMB/55312/2004  
“Transferência solo/planta de elementos vestigiários. Um estudo de fitoremediação”, inicio 2006

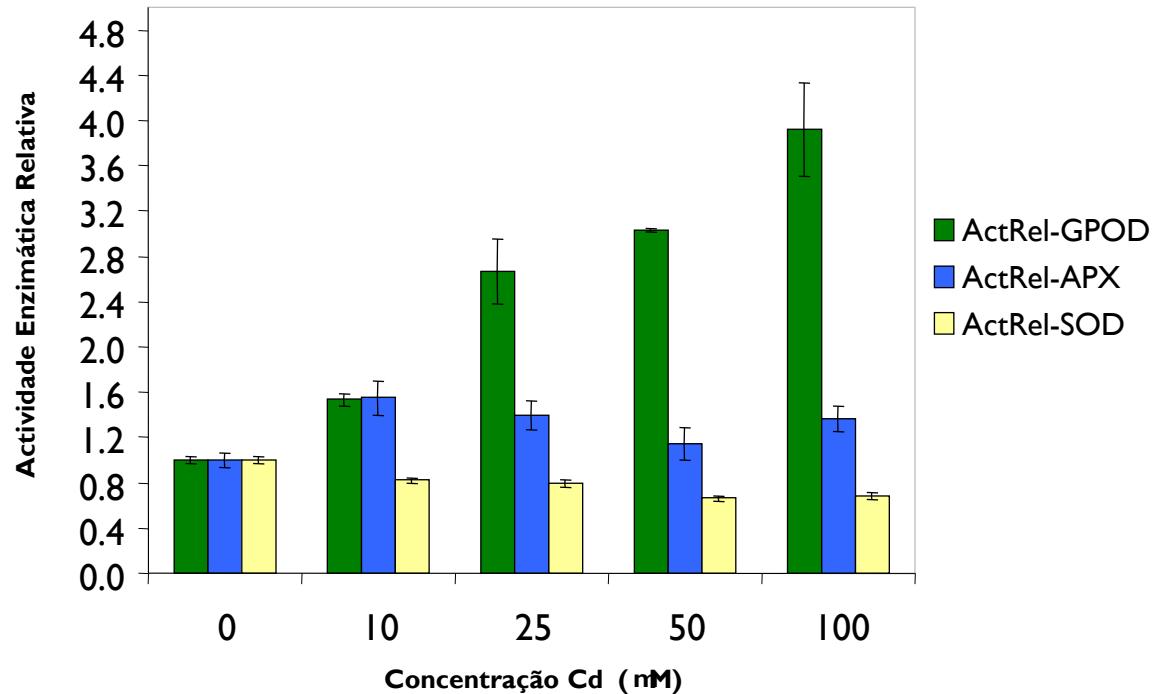
Peróxido de hidrogénio em folhas de tabaco



## Efeito do Cd na actividade enzimática de folhas de planta de tabaco (*Nicotiana tabacum* Virginia var. K 326)

Trabalho financiado pelo projecto POCI/AMB/55312/2004 “Transferência solo/planta de elementos vestigiários. Um estudo de fitoremedeação”, inicio 2006

Níveis de actividade enzimática da GPOD, APX e SOD, em folhas jovens, após 11 dias da aplicação de 50 e 100  $\mu\text{M}$  de  $\text{CdCl}_2$



A alteração da actividade de enzimas específicas indica alterações do metabolismo associadas a uma resposta/tolerância de determinadas plantas aos metais pesados

## Utilização de plantas para remediação de solos

## Remediação do solo

Métodos e processos usados para tratar os contaminantes presentes no solo de modo a contê-los, removê-los, degradá-los ou torná-los menos prejudiciais

### Fitorremediação: Remediação do solo por acção das plantas

(A.Varennes 2003. Produtividade dos Solos e Ambiente, Escolar Editora)

The use of plants and their associated microbes for environmental cleanup

(Pilon-Smits, E. 2005, Annu.Rev.Plant Biol. 56:15-39)

-as plantas podem ser utilizadas para **extracção, estabilização, degradação, volatilização, absorção e chelatação** de poluentes

-podem usar-se diferentes técnicas de **fitorremediação** consoante o tipo de poluente, orgânico ou inorgânico

Seleção de diferentes **espécies de plantas** para situações específicas (Pilon-Smits, 2005)

## Quando é necessário fazer remediação do solo?

- quando a contaminação causa danos ecológicos, ou prejudica a saúde de animais e plantas
- quando há violação dos limites legais estabelecidos para um dado contaminante



A escolha do tipo de remediação depende:

- da localização do solo
- da área atingida
- do grau de contaminação e risco que representa
- da função e uso futuro do local
- do custo dos métodos disponíveis

### Remediação ex situ

- tratamentos que envolvem a remoção física do solo e tratamento noutro local
- para pequenas áreas e para alguns tipos de substâncias (lavagem, separação de partículas, volatilização, migração, etc.)

### Remediação in situ

- tratamentos efectuados no solo no próprio local
- geralmente para casos de contaminação menos grave, adição de MO, etc., inclui a Fitorremediação



## Aplicações de fitorremediação

Pode efectuar-se fitorremediação em substratos sólidos, líquidos e gasosos (Pilon-Smits, 2005)

substratos  
sólidos

Utilização em solos contaminados de plantas específicas para sequestrar, remover e acumular compostos (metais e elementos minerais, compostos orgânicos)

substratos  
líquidos

Utilização de plantas em águas poluídas

- Remoção de metais e compostos orgânicos de esgotos e resíduos orgânicos municipais
- Remoção de metais e compostos orgânicos em águas contaminadas pela agricultura (adubos, fertilizantes, metais, pesticidas orgânicos e herbicidas)

substratos  
gasosos

Utilização de plantas para filtração do ar em interiores e exteriores (remoção de CO<sub>2</sub>, poeiras, hidrocarbonetos halogenados voláteis)

## Técnicas de fitorremediação:

Adaptado de Pilon-Smits, 2005,  
Annu. Rev. Plant Biol, 56:15-39

-com aplicação a águas, solos e ar contaminados

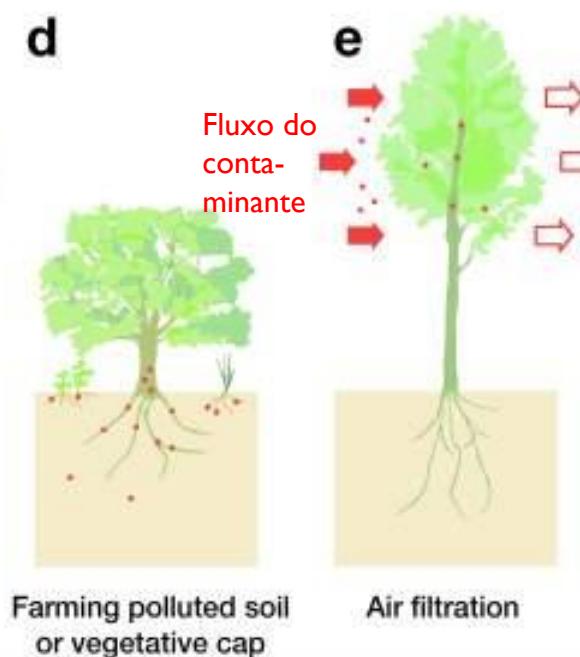
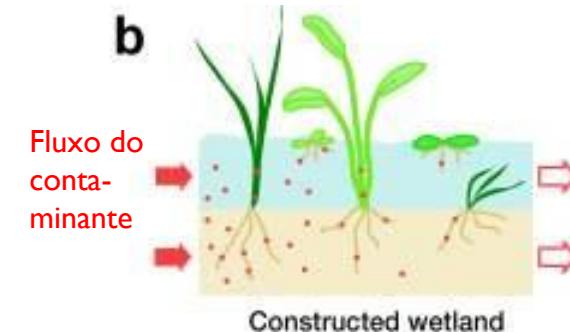
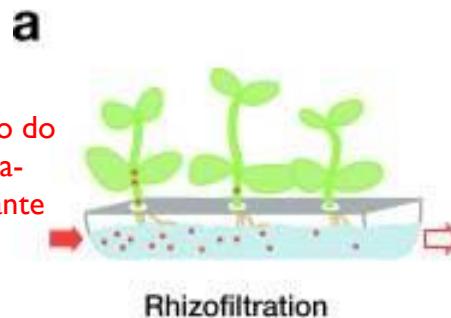
a) Rizofiltração  
(aplicação em hidroponia)

b) Leitos de crescimento (em terrenos pantanosos)

c) Utilização de árvores como barreira hidráulica  
(recorrendo às características do sistema radicular)

d) Utilização de árvores e plantas herbáceas  
(recorrendo às características do sistema radicular)

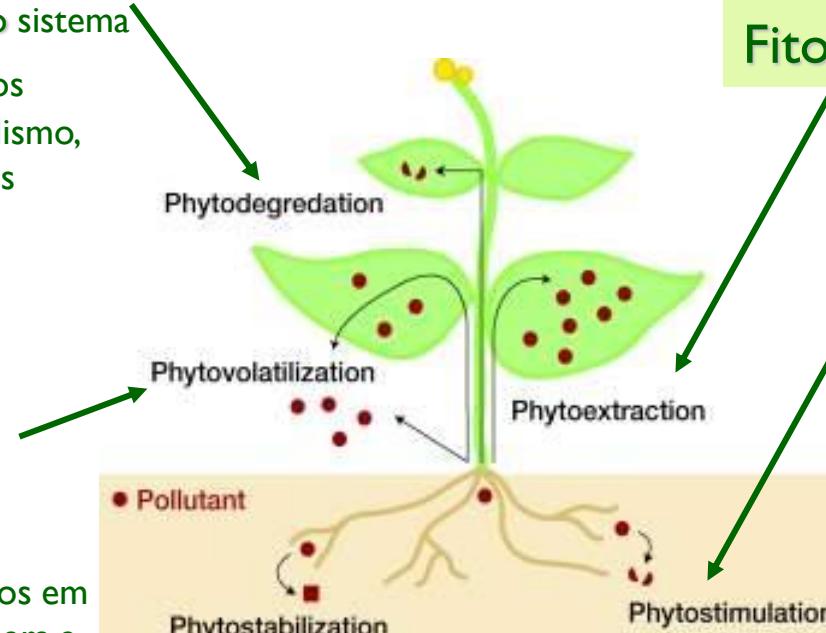
e) Filtração do ar: utilização de árvores  
(recorrendo às características da copa)



## Processos (mecanismos) de Fitorremediação:

-**Fitodegradação (ou Fitotransformação):** o sistema enzimático das plantas utiliza os contaminantes no seu metabolismo, inclui-os em estruturas vegetais (lenhificação)

-**Fitovolatilização (ou Fitotransformação):** os contaminantes são metabolizados em produtos voláteis e libertados para a atmosfera



**Fitoestabilização**

**Fitoextração**

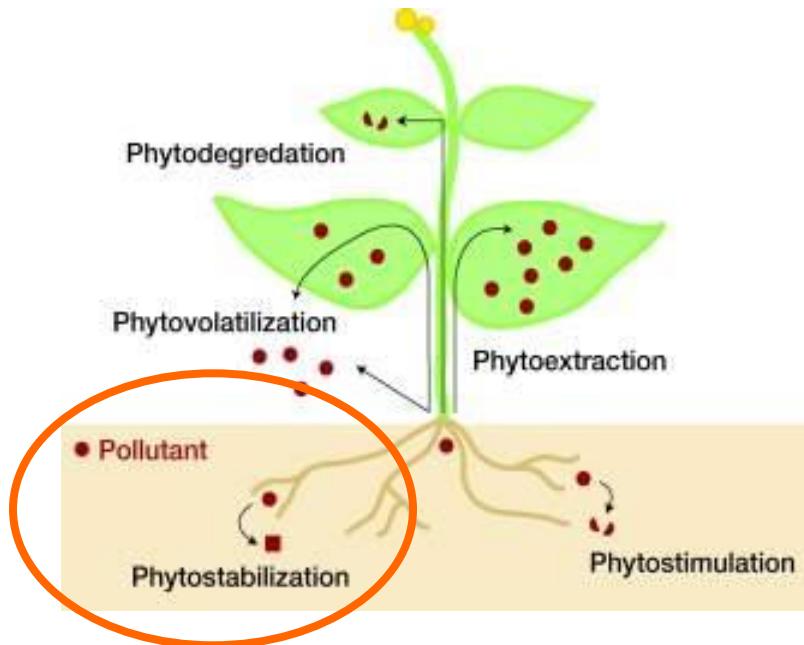
-**Fitoestimulação ou rizodegradação:**

Plantas estimulam a biodegradação de compostos, porque absorvem água, provocam o movimento da solução para as raízes e favorece a degradação pelos microrganismos da rizosfera

Podem ser aplicados a **contaminantes orgânicos e inorgânicos**; a utilização é limitada a determinado tipo de compostos

## Fitoestabilização:

Uso das plantas para estabilizar o contaminante no solo, recorrendo a uma cobertura vegetal



- reduz a erosão hídrica e eólica (há crescimento da planta)
  - reduz perdas por lixiviação, reduzindo a contaminação de camadas inferiores de solo e de águas subterrâneas
  - favorece a formação de formas de menor biodisponibilidade (precipitação na rizosfera)
- Ex. monocotiledóneas e árvores

Pode ser aplicado a contaminantes inorgânicos (caso dos metais)

Não permite descontaminação mas destina-se a reduzir a contaminação produzida a partir deste solo

## Exemplos de plantas para Fitoestabilização:

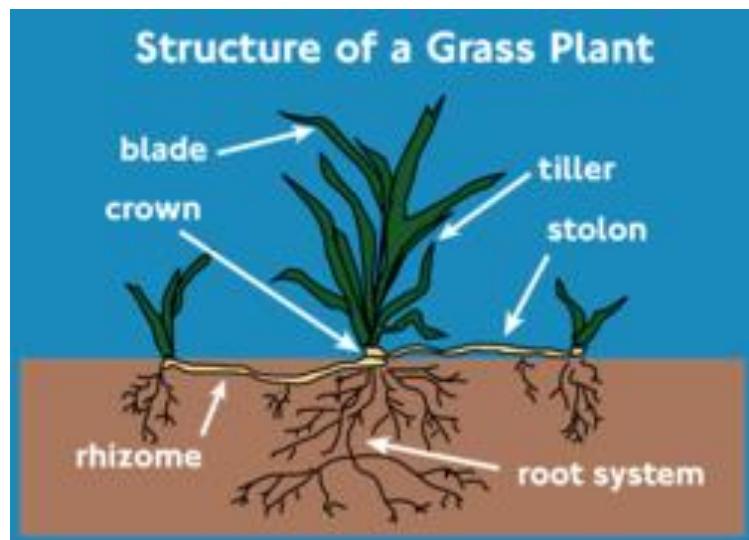
### *Populus*

São árvores da espécie do choupo, que têm raízes profundas e taxas de transpiração elevadas, mantém o fluxo ascendente muito elevado, pelo que reduz as perdas por lixiviação e reduz a contaminação de camadas inferiores de solo e de águas subterrâneas



### Monocotiledóneas

Acumulam pouco os contaminantes inorgânicos na parte aérea (ao contrário das dicotiledóneas) e portanto fornecem uma cobertura vegetal que **previne a erosão do solo contaminado sem prejudicar os animais que as utilizam na sua alimentação**



## Exemplos de utilização de árvores para combater a poluição:

*Asian Dust (also yellow dust, yellow sand, yellow wind or China dust storms) is a seasonal meteorological phenomenon which affects much of East Asia sporadically during the springtime months*



*In the last decade or so, it has become a serious problem due to the increase of industrial pollutants contained in the dust and intensified desertification in China causing longer and more frequent occurrences, as well as in the last few decades when the Aral Sea of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan started drying up due to the diversion of the Amu River and Syr River following a Soviet agricultural program to irrigate Central Asian deserts, mainly for cotton plantations.*

## Exemplos de utilização de árvores para combater a poluição:

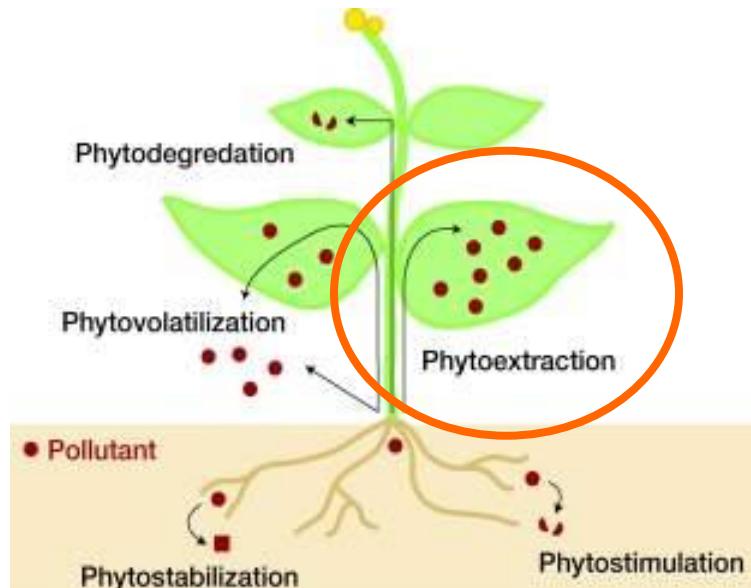
*Sulfur (an acid rain component), soot, ash, carbon monoxide, and other toxic pollutants including heavy metals (such as mercury, cadmium, chromium, arsenic, lead, zinc, copper) and other carcinogens, often accompany the dust storms, as well as viruses, bacteria, fungi, pesticides, antibiotics, asbestos, herbicides, plastic ingredients, combustion products as well as hormone mimicking phthalates.*



*In recent years, South Korea and the People's Republic of China have participated in reforestation efforts in the source region. In 2007, South Korea sent several thousand trees to help block the migration of the yellow dust.*

## Fitoextracção

Utilização das plantas para remover os elementos do solo acumulando-os nos tecidos



Pode ser aplicado a contaminantes inorgânicos (caso dos metais)

Utiliza plantas para fins não alimentares

-podem ser utilizadas plantas hiperacumuladoras (absorvem grandes quantidades de alguns elementos como o Ni, Co, Cu, Pb, U, Zn, Se; geralmente o crescimento é lento e produzem pouca biomassa)

-podem ser utilizadas plantas de crescimento rápido, que acumulam menos metal mas produzem muita biomassa

-o material vegetal é depois recolhido e incinerado (o elemento mineral é recolhido na cinza)

## Exemplos de plantas para Fitoextracção:

### *Brassica juncea* (mostarda da Índia)

-usada para remover metais pesados de solos contaminados devido à sua elevada tolerância à toxicidade

-é hiperacumuladora de Cd e outros elementos vestigiais; pode por isso ser usada na alimentação para suplemento de Se, Cr, Fe, Zn

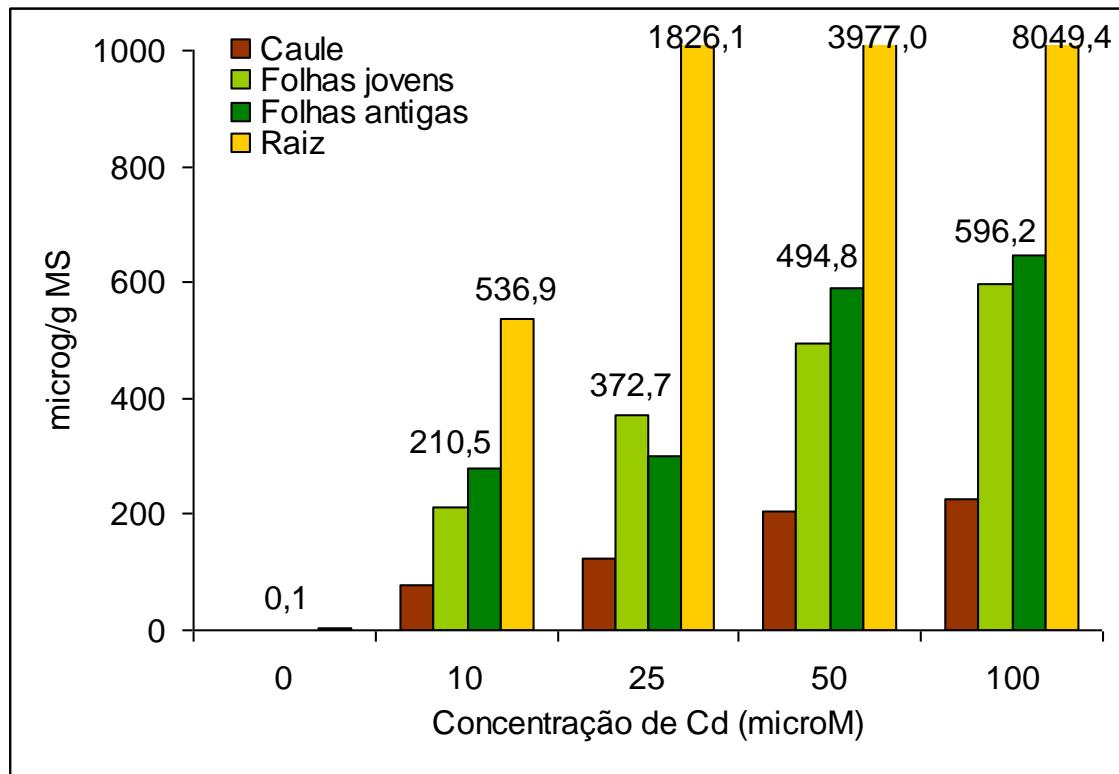
Estudos recentes concluem que são necessários vários anos para se conseguir uma fitorremediação satisfatória de um solo contaminado mesmo utilizando espécies de plantas hiperacumuladoras  
(Hernandez-Allica et al. 2008)

-planta que pertence à família das Brassicas, que inclui espécies de grande importância na alimentação, como couves, nabos, rabanetes, colza, mostarda, couve-flor



## Exemplo:

- Estudos realizados no ISA baseiam-se no conhecimento de que a planta do tabaco é uma planta acumuladora de Cd
- Será que tem potencial para ser usada em fitoextracção?

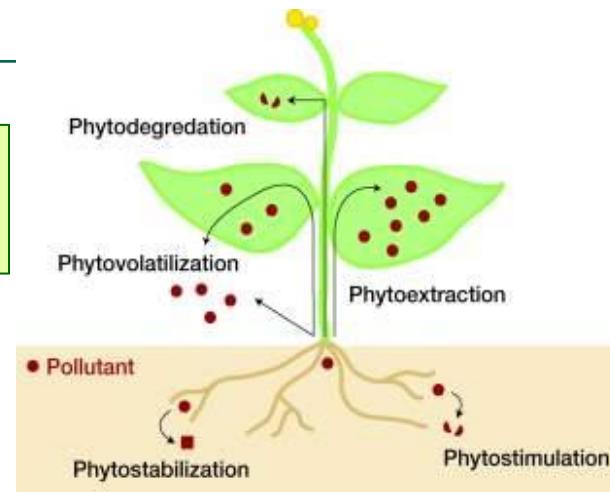


Há aumento da biomassa da parte aérea mesmo para níveis de Cd elevados

## As aplicações das técnicas de fitorremediação são diferenciadas:

- podem actuar várias simultaneamente
- dependem do tipo de contaminantes
- depende do custo
- dos volumes (de água ou solo) a tratar

- **Fitoextração:** principalmente usada para remoção de metais tóxicos e compostos inorgânicos
- **Fitoestabilização:** para evitar o arrastamento de solo contaminado de antigas minas, para evitar lixiviação de contaminantes inorgânicos e orgânicos
- **Fitodegradação:** usada para metabolização de compostos orgânicos que são moveis nas plantas, como por exemplo herbicidas
- **Fitovolatilização:** usada para VOC (compostos orgânicos voláteis)



## Limitações da fitorremediação

As plantas têm que se desenvolver de forma razoável na presença do contaminante

As plantas devem retirar do solo os contaminantes acumulando-os preferencialmente na sua parte aérea

A fitorremediação através da acumulação na planta pode demorar vários anos

- biodisponibilidade dos poluentes (diferentes formas químicas têm diferente solubilidade)
- níveis de toxicidade existentes (diferentes formas químicas têm diferente toxicidade)
- propriedades do solo (capacidade de ligação aos poluentes)
- clima
- profundidade que a raiz alcança (raízes de 50 cm em herbaceas, 3 m em árvores)
- a persistência dos contaminantes (resistência à decomposição) e o tempo de residência dos contaminantes (deslocação no solo)

## Características das plantas para serem usadas em fitorremediação:

A planta ideal para fitorremediação

- crescimento rápido
- formação de muita biomassa
- competitiva
- resistente
- tolerante ao contaminante

A planta ideal para fitodegradação

- área foliar grande (parte aérea)
- sistema radicular denso
- teores elevados de enzimas

-A planta ideal existe?

-Há uma planta ideal para todas as situações?

**Se gostam  
destes  
temas,  
venham  
trabalhar  
connosco!**



AVALIAÇÃO DA RESPOSTA AO STRESSE OXIDATIVO  
PROVOCADO POR METAIS TÓXICOS EM PLANTAS DE  
COLZA

*Brassica napus*

Inês Isabel Barata Leitão  
Dissertação para a obtenção do Grau de Mestre em  
Engenharia do Ambiente

Orientador: Doutora Maria Luisa Louro Martins  
Co-orientador: Doutor Miguel Pedro de Freitas Barbosa Mourato

(Versão Provisória)  
2014



© Miguel Mourato, Luisa Louro, 2014



**Tese de mestrado 2014/2015:  
Concentração de metais pesados  
em espécies hortícolas em  
agricultura urbana**

**Agricola:** <http://agricola.nal.usda.gov/>

**AGRIS:** <http://agris.fao.org/agris-search/index.do>

**BASE:** <http://www.base-search.net/>

**BioOne:** <http://www.bioone.org/>

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**Index Copernicus:** <http://en.indexcopernicus.com/>

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<http://www.osti.gov/home/>

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