

# Polychlorinated Biphenyls Dataset from Multimedia Samples from Fildes Peninsula and Xiehe Peninsula, Antarctica

Ge, L. K.<sup>1</sup> Wang, Y. J.<sup>1</sup> Gao, H.<sup>1</sup> Zhang, P.<sup>1</sup> Zhang, J.<sup>2</sup> Li, R. J.<sup>1</sup> Lu, Z. H.<sup>1</sup>  
Liu, X.<sup>1</sup> Na, G. S.<sup>1</sup>

1. Key Laboratory for Ecological Environment in Coastal Areas (SOA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, Dalian 116023, China.
2. Polar Research Institute of China, Shanghai 200136, China.

**Abstract:** Based on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) data collection from samples in the multi-environmental media in vicinity of the Chinese Great Wall Station and Zhongshan Station at Fildes Peninsula and Xiehe Peninsula, Antarctica, we developed the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Dataset in the Multimedia Samples from Fildes Peninsula and Xiehe Peninsula, Antarctica (short name as "AntarcticPCBLevels"). It is the concentrations of 27 PCB congeners in 123 samples including air, seawater, snow, lake water and sediments, soils, penguin faeces, plants and intertidal benthos. Compared with the previous studies, this study provides more baseline data on PCBs occurrence in the Antarctic, which can support a comprehensive understanding of PCB long-range transport and polar distribution.

**Keywords:** Polychlorinated biphenyls; the Antarctic; Fildes Peninsula; Xiehe Peninsula; Multi-environmental media

## 1 Introduction

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are toxic and bioaccumulative compounds that contaminate nearly all environmental matrices worldwide and are known to undergo global fractionation, accumulating toward the poles in a cold-trapping process<sup>[1-3]</sup>. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a class of ubiquitous POPs, which were used historically in electrical transformers and capacitors. Their persistence coupled with their potential toxicity has prompted international regulations and increased effort to understand their regional and global scale presence, especially in the Polar Regions. The occurrence of PCBs in the multi-environment of many countries and even in the Arctic is well documented<sup>[4-6]</sup>. However, limited data on PCBs have been reported in the Antarctic due to the difficulty of access.

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**Corresponding author:** Ge, L. K. A-3185-2017, National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, lkge@nmemc.org.cn

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Antarctica is concerned as an important sink for global POPs and is one of the most significant and sensitive areas in response to the global climate and environment changes. Thus, it is a significant research region for assessing persistence and long-range atmospheric transport of POPs, such as PCBs. In recent years, levels of PCBs have been found in the Antarctic air <sup>[7-9]</sup>, snow <sup>[1]</sup> and fish <sup>[10]</sup> from southeast Antarctica. Baek et al.<sup>[7]</sup> monitored atmospheric PCBs in Polar Regions and found a prevalence of lighter PCB congeners at the King George Island, Antarctica. Li et al.<sup>[8,9]</sup> also found a very low air concentrations of PCBs that were dominated by tetra-PCBs, tri-PCBs and di-PCBs close to Chinese Great Wall Station, King George Island. These results indicated that the Polar area was contaminated with PCBs, which was mainly influenced by LRAT. Even so, the levels and distribution of PCBs are not well known in other multi-environmental media, such as snow, soil, seawater, sediments and marine organisms. Furthermore, multimedia occurrence of PCBs needs to be clarified in other Polar areas, such as Xiehe Peninsula of the southwest Antarctica.

The present study reported levels of 27 PCB congeners in the multi-environmental media near the Chinese Great Wall Station and Zhongshan Station, which are located respectively at Fildes Peninsula and Xiehe Peninsula, Antarctica<sup>[11]</sup>. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report on the PCB concentrations in Antarctic multiple and comprehensive samples.

2 Metadata

The metadata of “AntarcticPCBLevels” dataset is summarized in Table 1. It includes the dataset full name, short name, authors, year of the dataset, temporal-spatial resolution, data format, data size, data files, data publisher, and data sharing policy.

Table 1 Summary of the AntarcticPCBLevels metadata.

Items	Description
Dataset full name	Polychlorinated biphenyls dataset from multimedia samples from Fildes Peninsula and Xiehe Peninsula, Antarctica
Dataset short name	AntarcticPCBLevels
Authors	Ge, L. K. A-3185-2017, Key Laboratory for Ecological Environment in Coastal Areas (SOA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, lkge@nmemc.org.cn Wang, Y. J. A-4111-2017, Key Laboratory for Ecological Environment in Coastal Areas (SOA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, yjwang@nmemc.org.cn Gao, H. A-3207-2017, Key Laboratory for Ecological Environment in Coastal Areas (SOA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, hgao@nmemc.org.cn Zhang, P. A-4102-2017, Key Laboratory for Ecological Environment in Coastal Areas (SOA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, pzhang@nmemc.org.cn Zhang, J. L-4784-2016, Polar Research Institute of China, zhangjie@pric.org.cn Li, R. J. A-3183-2017, Key Laboratory for Ecological Environment in Coastal Areas (SOA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, liruijing158@163.com Lu, Z. H. K-8964-2015, Key Laboratory for Ecological Environment in Coastal Areas (SOA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, luzihao1990209@outlook.com Liu, X. A-3578-2017, Key Laboratory for Ecological Environment in Coastal Areas (SOA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, xliu@nmemc.org.cn Na, G. S. A-3185-2017, Key Laboratory for Ecological Environment in Coastal Areas (SOA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, gsna@nmemc.org.cn
Geographic region	Fildes Peninsula (62°9'30"S – 62°13'50"S, 59°0'53"W– 58°54'6"W) and Xiehe Peninsula (69°22'11"S– 69°24'33"S, 76°15'54"E – 76°23'51"E), Antarctica
Year	2013 – 2014
Temporal resolution	Yearly
Spatial resolution	1 km

(To be continued on the next page)

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Items	Description
Data format	.xlsx
Data size	93 KB
Data files	2
Foundations	National Natural Science Foundation of China (21377032); State Oceanic Administration, P.R. China (CHINARE 2014-02-01, 2014-03-04, 2014-04-01, 2014-04-03, 20120320, 201105013, KP201208)
Data publisher	Global Change Research Data Publishing & Repository, <a href="http://www.geodoi.ac.cn">http://www.geodoi.ac.cn</a> .
Address	No. 11A, Datun Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing, 100101, China.
Data sharing policy	<b>Data</b> from the Global Change Research Data Publishing & Repository includes metadata, datasets (data products), and publications (in this case, in the <i>Journal of Global Change Data &amp; Discovery</i> ). <b>Data</b> sharing policy includes: (1) <b>Data</b> are openly available and can be free downloaded via the Internet; (2) End users are encouraged to use <b>Data</b> subject to citation; (3) Users, who are by definition also value-added service providers, are welcome to redistribute <b>Data</b> subject to written permission from the GCdataPR Editorial Office and the issuance of a <b>Data</b> redistribution license, and; (4) If <b>Data</b> are used to compile new datasets, the ‘ten per cent principal’ should be followed such that <b>Data</b> records utilized should not surpass 10% of the new dataset contents, while sources should be clearly noted in suitable places in the new dataset <sup>[12]</sup> .

3 Methods

3.1 Study area

In the period of December 2013 to March 2014, the samples of air, seawater, snow, lake water and sediments, soils, penguin faeces, plants and intertidal benthos were collected from vicinity of the Chinese Great Wall Station and Zhongshan Station, which are located respectively at Fildes Peninsula and Xiehe Peninsula, Antarctica.

3.2 Data collection or processing

The dataset processing method referred to the article of “Distribution and transfer pattern of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) among the selected environmental media of Ny-Alesund, the Arctic: As a case study” published in the journal Marine Pollution Bulletin<sup>[4]</sup>. The methods were described briefly as below.

Figure 1 shows the location map of the samples near the Fildes Peninsula, Antarctica. An active high-volume air sampler with glass fiber filters (GFF) and PUF disks was applied to capture particle-bound PCBs and gaseous PCBs from the atmosphere. PCBs in water samples were collected by C18 membranes and

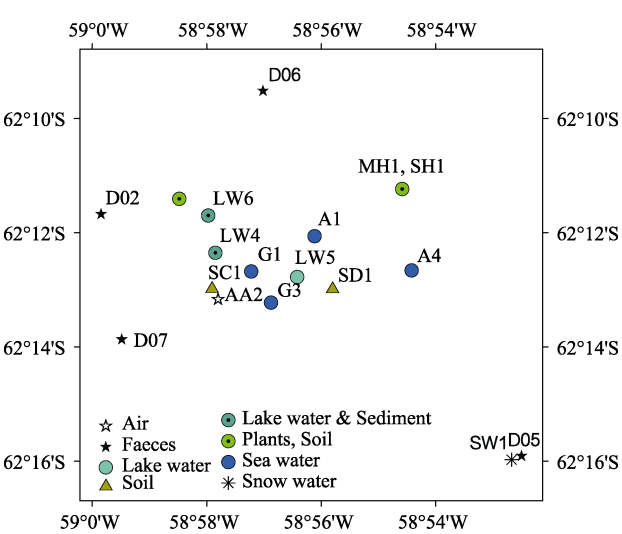


Figure 1 The location map of the samples near the Fildes Peninsula, Antarctica

GFFs. An accelerated solvent extraction instrument (ASE350, Dionex, US) was applied to extract PCBs from the solid samples, including soils, sediments, plants and faces. The air and water samples were treated using an ultrasonic assistant extraction method. The condensed sulfur acid was used to remove the co-eluting interferences from the extract samples. After cleanup, the extracts were concentrated, spiked with internal standards and analyzed by Chromatography equipped with an Electric Capture Detector (GC-ECD, Agilent 7890A, US) and a tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS, Agilent 7000B, US).

## 4 Results and validation

### 4.1 Dataset product

The AntarcticPCBLevels dataset is comprised of two excel files, which correspond to the multimedia PCB concentrations of Fildes Peninsula and Xiehe Peninsula, respectively. The first File "Levels of polychlorinated biphenyls at Fildes Peninsula of Antarctica.xlsx" covers the levels of 27 PCB congeners in 42 samples of 12 environmental media from the region. The second File "Levels of polychlorinated biphenyls at Xiehe Peninsula of Antarctica.xlsx" includes the PCB levels in 81 samples of 10 environmental media. The minimum, maximum and mean concentrations of total PCBs ( $\Sigma$ PCBs) were summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2** Sample numbers (n) and concentration levels of  $\Sigma$ PCBs at Fildes Peninsula and Xiehe Peninsula.

Media (unit)	Fildes Peninsula				Xiehe Peninsula			
	n	min	max	mean	n	min	max	mean
Air vapor (pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	8	3.85	16.11	10.13	13	2.50	38.12	11.69
Aerosol (pg/m <sup>3</sup> )	8	0.80	3.12	1.82	13	0.53	7.13	2.52
Seawater phase (ng/L)	4	0.26	0.58	0.38	–	–	–	–
Seawater particles (ng/L)	4	0.27	1.47	0.69	–	–	–	–
Snow water phase (ng/L)	1	–	–	0.47	6	0.27	0.38	0.33
Snow particles (ng/L)	1	–	–	0.29	6	0.08	0.78	0.34
Lake water phase (ng/L)	2	0.43	0.95	0.69	9	0.17	0.69	0.32
Lake water particles (ng/L)	2	0.62	1.03	0.83	9	0.18	0.70	0.42
Lake sediments (ng/g dw)	2	4.20	5.64	4.92	3	2.02	2.86	2.39
Soils (ng/g dw)	4	6.78	9.13	8.10	10	1.12	2.63	1.66
Faeces (ng/g dw)	7	10.08	60.03	27.02	–	–	–	–
Plants (ng/g dw)	2	13.05	15.23	14.14	10	2.46	11.10	5.37
Intertidal benthos (ng/g dw)	–	–	–	–	2	28.31	45.84	37.08

### 4.2 Data validation

All sampling and analytical procedures were monitored using strict quality assurance and control measures<sup>[4]</sup>. For all samples, a method blanks, a matrix spike, a matrix spike duplicate, a sample duplicate and the field samples were analyzed as a batch. The PCB congeners were quantified with ECD and then confirmed with MS/MS. The concentrations of target compounds were quantified using internal standard method and corrected by the recoveries of PCB209, serving as surrogate standard. The recoveries of PCB209 in samples referred to Zhang, P., *et al.*<sup>[4]</sup>.

## 5 Discussion and summary

The AntarcticPCBLevels dataset covers comprehensive data of PCB concentrations in Antarctic multiple samples from Fildes Peninsula and Xiehe Peninsula, Antarctica. PCBs were detected ubiquitously in the Antarctic air, water, sediment, soil, faeces, plant and intertidal benthos. Compared with that in previous studies, this dataset can provide comprehensive assessment of PCB distribution and transfer pattern in the selected multi-environmental media.

### Author Contributions

Na, G. S. designed the study. Ge, L. K. wrote the paper. Wang, Y. J., *et al.* contributed to the data processing, analysis and validation.

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