10.1071/ENv1n2context

Contents in Context
Environmental Chemistry, Vol. 1, no. 2, 2004

Photodegradation of Iron(III)-EDTA: Iron Speciation and Domino Effects on Cobalt Availability
R. G. W. Laan, T. Verburg, H. Th. Wolterbeek, J. J. M. de Goeij *Environ. Chem.* **2004**, *1*, 107

Aquatic life requires access to sufficient nutrients and trace metals in the surrounding waters. Measuring the speciation (in solution or precipitated, free ionic or complexed) of trace metals is a traditional procedure to assess the potential of waters for life. Iron, an important nutrient, is relatively insoluble, and iron–ligand complexes are required to keep the iron in solution and bioavailable. Sunlight often degrades these iron–ligand complexes, and the subsequently released iron can outcompete other (trace) metals for *their* ligands. A 'domino' effect on weaker metal–ligand complexes will occur which complicates the actual dynamic speciation and its measurements.

Australian Biosolids: Characterization and Determination of Available Copper
I. W. Oliver, G. Merrington, M. J. McLaughlin *Environ. Chem.* **2004**, *1*, 116

Land application of sewage-derived biosolids is both an inexpensive method to dispose of waste and a simple way to increase soil fertility and stability. However, biosolids often contain high concentrations of heavy metals, but not all of the metals are immediately available for uptake by the soil or other organisms. To determine if this toxicologic risk outweighs the benefits, the degree of ecologically available metal, rather than simply the entire metal content, must be known in both the as-disposed and worst conditions scenarios. Application of these principles requires regulatory bodies to amend their guidelines.