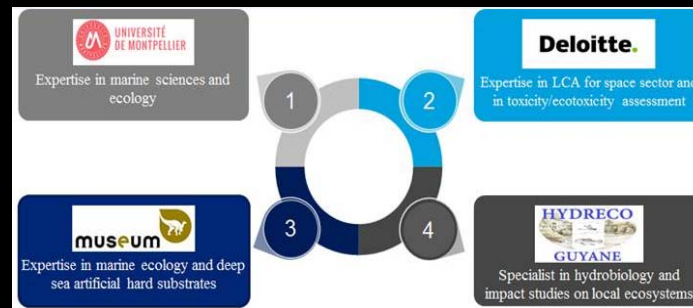


# Functional Ecology to Reduce Launchers Impact on Deep Sea (ESA AO 1-8623/16/NL/KML)

Prof. Tatiana Valleys & Prof. Jehan-Hervé Lignot  
University of Montpellier



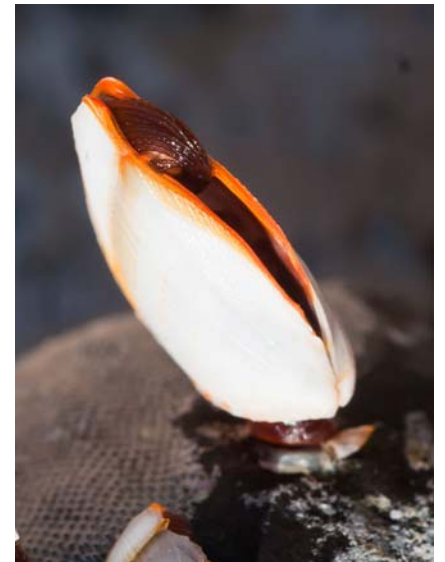


AS SEEN ON  
**TV**



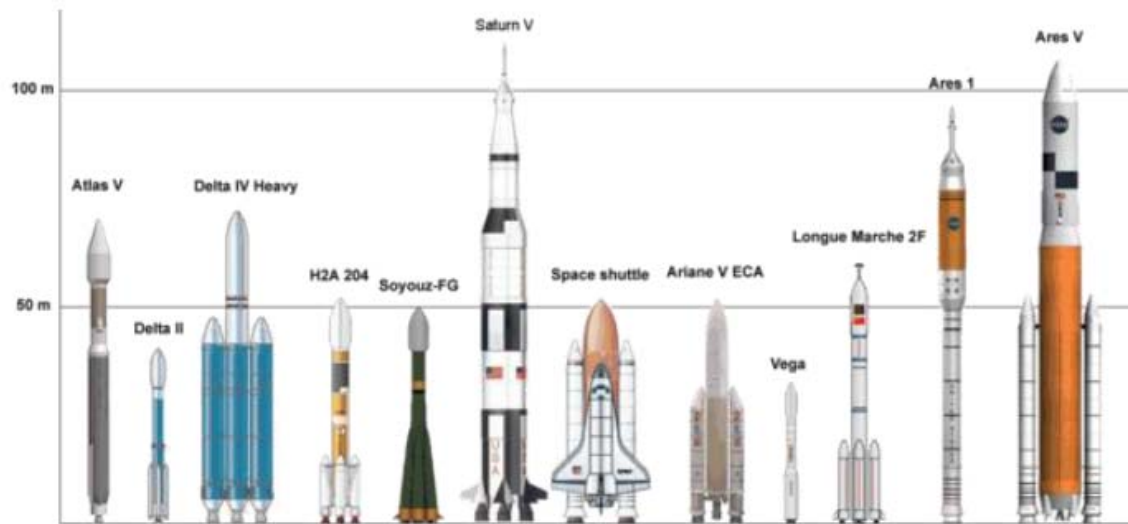
## Barnacles

Anatife : *Lepas anatifera*



Available:

Launcher composition (ARIANE and VEGA) : list of components



**Functional Ecology to Reduce Launchers Impact on Deep Sea (ESA AO 1- 8623/16/NL/KML)**

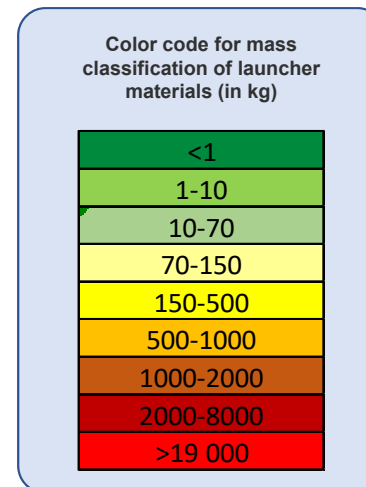


## Estimation of the behaviour and toxicity of the components of the launchers in marine conditions

- Literature was checked for fate and behaviour of Ariane and Vega components
- Toxicity experiments were performed for a set of representative **non-metallic components** of VEGA and & ARIANE LAUNCHERS
- **Metallic corrosion and toxicity in seawater** for a set of representative alloys used for aerospace vessels

## Substances with known toxicological or ecotoxicological hazards

List of LD50, LC50 and EC50 of substances



Component <sup>α</sup>	Mass <sup>α</sup>		Mammals <sup>α</sup>		Aquatic species <sup>α</sup>	
	A5 <sup>α</sup>	VEGA <sup>α</sup>	LD50 (mg/kg) <sup>α</sup>	LC50 (mg/L) <sup>α</sup>	EC50 (mg/L) <sup>α</sup>	
Alumina <sup>α</sup>	α	α	> 5000 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	> 2.3 (4h, inhalation, rat) <sup>α</sup>	> 218.64 (96h, fish) <sup>α</sup>	α
Aluminium <sup>α</sup>	α	α	2000 (mg/kg, oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	α	1,5 (algae) <sup>α</sup>
Ammonium perchlorate <sup>α</sup>	α	α	1900 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	α	2 (bacteria) <sup>α</sup>
Antimony trioxide Sb2O3 <sup>α</sup>	α	α	34600 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	> 1,000 (96h, fish) <sup>α</sup>	> 1,000 (daphnia magna) <sup>α</sup> > 67 (algae) <sup>α</sup>
Antimony <sup>α</sup>	α	α	7 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	261 (24h, larvae) <sup>¶</sup> 4.92 (24h, flea) <sup>¶</sup> 206 (72h, algae) <sup>α</sup>	α
Aramid fibre <sup>α</sup>	α	α	7500 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	α	α
Bentonite <sup>α</sup>	α	α	35 (intravenous, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	19000 (96h, fish) <sup>α</sup>	α
BeO (beryllium oxide) <sup>α</sup>	α	α	2062 (oral, mouse) <sup>α</sup>	α	α	α
Boron <sup>α</sup>	α	α	650 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	α	α
Bromine <sup>α</sup>	α	α	2.600 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	2,700 (inhalation, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	Fish > 10 (fish) <sup>α</sup> > 10 (daphnia magna) <sup>α</sup>
CaCO3 (calcium carbonate) <sup>α</sup>	α	α	6450 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	56 000 (48h, fish) <sup>α</sup>	α
Cadmium <sup>α</sup>	α	α	2330 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	0,001 (96h, fish) <sup>α</sup>	0.024 (daphnia magna) <sup>α</sup> 0.023 (algae) <sup>α</sup>
Ceramic <sup>α</sup>	α	α	> 22,500 (oral, rat) <sup>α</sup>	α	> 10 000 (72h, fish) <sup>α</sup>	α
Chlorine <sup>α</sup>	α	α	α	293 ppm (1h, inhalation, rat) <sup>α</sup>	0 014 (96h, fish) <sup>α</sup>	0 019 (daphnia magna) <sup>α</sup>

**Risk ranking for substances present in the launchers**

Component, for A5		Component, for VEGA
Paint		Paint
Chlorine		Cadmium
Copper		Copper
Cadmium		Zinc
Zinc	Top 5	Chlorine
Xylene		Phenol
Sulfur		Alumina
Dicyclopentadiene		Xylene
Alumina		Mercury
Ethylbenzene	Top 10	Sulfur
Nickel		Ethylbenzene
Explosive		EPDM rubber
Mercury		Explosive
Phosphorus		Nickel
Toluene	Top 15	Lead
Molybdenum		Phosphorus
Vinyl acetate		Toluene
Lead		Vinyl acetate
Graphite		Lithium salts
Zirconium oxide		Dicyclopentadiene
Potassium hydroxide		Molybdenum
Antimony trioxide Sb2O3		Potassium hydroxide
EPDM rubber		Graphite
Phenol		Zirconium oxide
Bentonite		Lime
Lithium salts		Titanium tetrabutanolate
Petroleum naphtha		Antimony trioxide Sb2O3
Lime		Petroleum naphtha
Titanium tetrabutanolate		Bentonite
Ceramic		Ceramic
Chromium(III) oxide		Chromium(III) oxide
Caco3 (calcium carbonate)		Caco3 (calcium carbonate)

## Substances with limited or no known toxicological or ecotoxicological hazards

### No toxicological data

Bismaldehyde triazine
Carbon
Chemosil
Chromium
Epoxy resin - curative - 4,4'-DDS diaminodiphenylsulfone
Glass
Glass fibre
Gold
Helium
Hydrogen
Hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene HTPB
Lanthanum
Lithium Cobalt Oxide
Magnesium
Magnesium alloy
Mastic Silicone
Melamine resin foam
Niobium
Phenolic resin
Polyethylene terephthalate PET
Polyimide PI
Polyisoprene IR
Polyphenylene sulfide PPS
Polypyrrole PPy
Polyurethane PU
Polyvinyl chloride PVC
Silica fibre
Tetrakis(2-butoxyethyl)orthosilicate
Viscose
Zinc
Zirconium oxide

### No ecological data

Antimony	Nylon
BeO (beryllium oxide)	Paper
Bismaldehyde triazine	Phenol formaldehyde resin
Carbon	phenolic resin
Chemosil	Polycarbonate PC
Cobalt	Polyethylene terephthalate PET
Epoxy resin - curative - 4,4'-DDS diaminodiphenylsulfone	Polyimide PI
Epoxy resin (MY720)	Polyisoprene IR
Glass	Polyphenylene sulfide PPS
Glass fibre	Polypyrrole PPy
Glue Wacker T77	Polytetrafluoroethylene PTFE (Teflon)
Gold	Polyurethane PU
Helium	Silica
Hydrogen	Silica fibre
Hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene HTPB	Silicon
Lanthanum	Silicon rubber
Lithium Cobalt Oxide	Silver
Magnesium alloy	Tetrakis(2-butoxyethyl) orthosilicate
Manganese Dioxide	Titanium
Mastic Silicone	Titanium dioxide
Melamine	Tungsten
NEXTEL	Vanadium
Melamine resin foam	Viscose
Niobium	Zirconium
Nitrogen tetroxide N2O4	

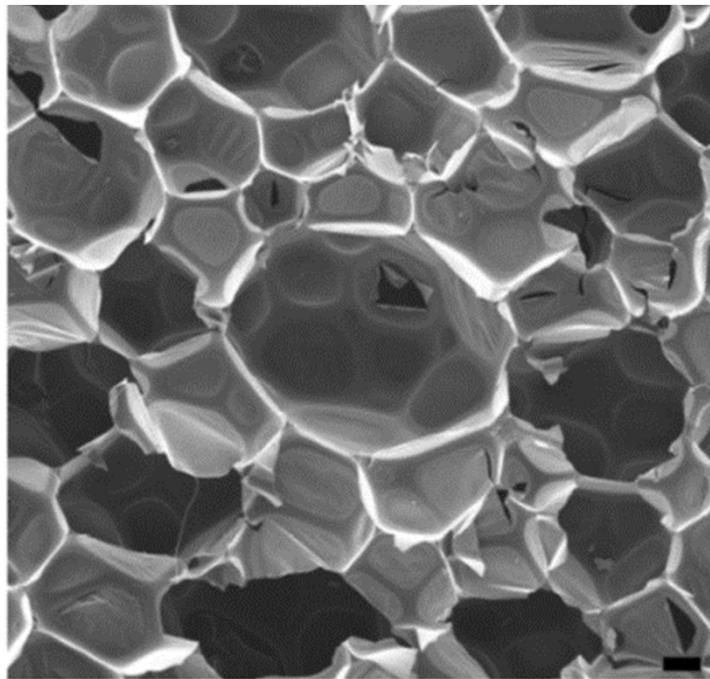
Color code for mass classification of launcher materials (in kg)

<1
1-10
10-70
70-150
150-500
500-1000
1000-2000
2000-8000
>19 000

Aluminium  
Titanium  
Epoxy resin  
Phenolic resin  
Polyurethane (PU)



**Substances with limited or no known toxicological or ecotoxicological hazards**



100  $\mu$ m

**Aluminium**  
Titanium  
Epoxy resin  
Phenolic resin  
Polyurethane (PU)

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Component, for A5		Component, for VEGA
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Dicyclopentadiene		Xylene
Alumina		Mercury
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Mercury		Explosive
Phosphorus		Nickel
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Ceramic		Ceramic
Chromium(III) oxide		Chromium(III) oxide
Caco3 (calcium carbonate)		Caco3 (calcium carbonate)

**Aluminium**  
**Titanium**  
**Epoxy resin**  
**Phenolic resin**  
**Polyurethane (PU)**

Aluminium may be toxic for ocean life according to pressure, redox conditions, and essentially pH. Oceanic acidification due to solubilization of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> may increase aluminium solubility and toxicity. For humans, 20% of consumed aluminium ends up in bones. Aluminum is supposed to play a part in Alzheimer disease or breast cancer.

Titan alloys are reported less toxic than aluminum

Metallic  
compounds

**Aluminium 2024**  
**Titanium 6Al 4V**

Non metallic  
compounds

**Epoxy resin**  
**Phenolic resin**  
**Polyurethane (PU)**

phenolic compounds are toxic and eco toxic. Phenol consumption is lethal (acting essentially on kidneys) and presents high toxicity risk due to heat resistance. Diffusion of phenolic compound derivatives is a risk.

# Organic compounds

Litterature check

Behaviour in seawater

Ecotoxicological & Biofouling assessments in laboratory conditions

## Organic compounds

**10 organic substances** out of 29 non-metallic degradation products with **no quantitative toxicological information available**

**15 substances** (out of 29) with **no quantitative ecological data available**

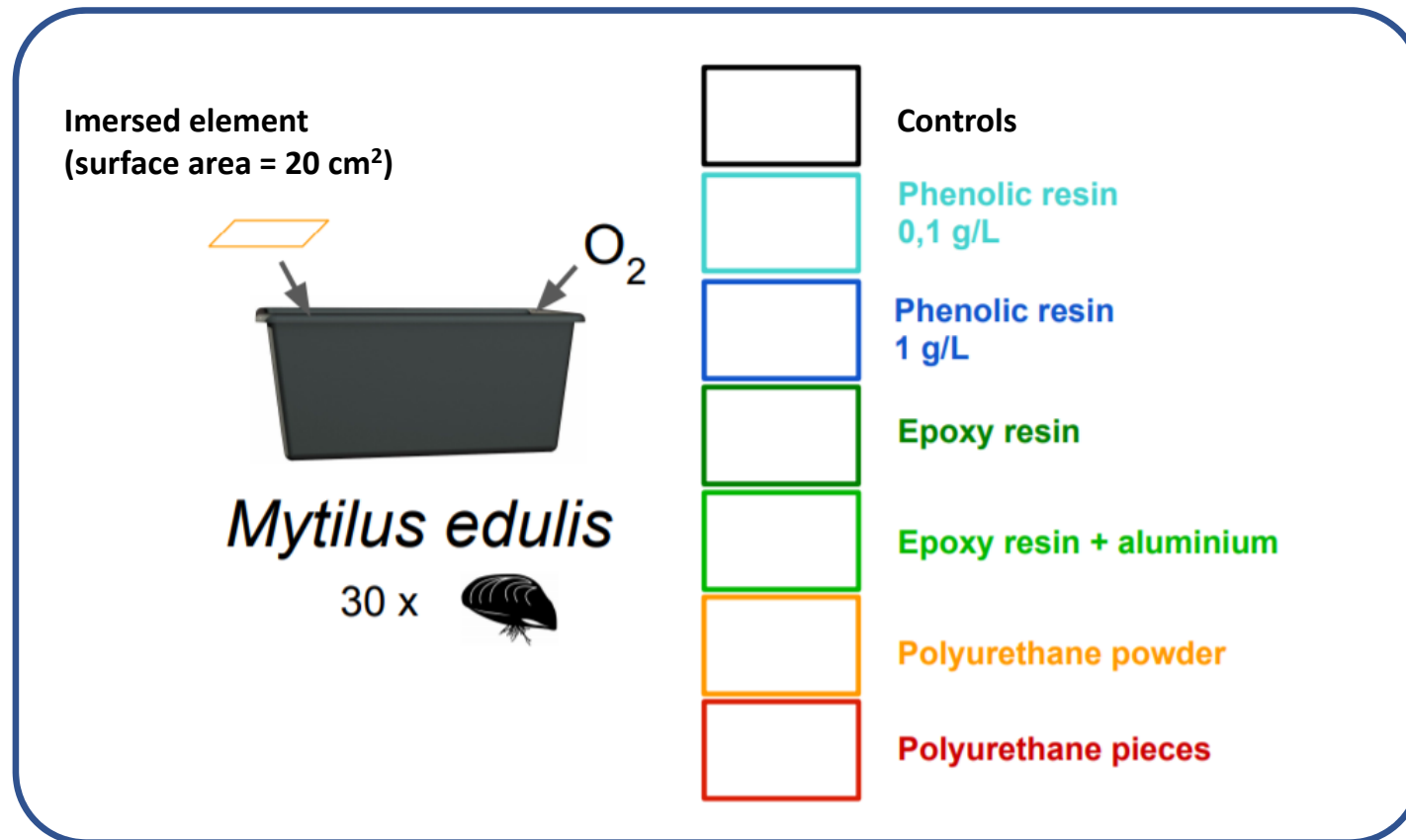
 **We selected :**

- Phenolic resin @ 2 ≠ concentrations
- Epoxy resin @ 2 ≠ concentrations
- Polyurethan : powder / blocks

# Organic compounds

## Ecotoxicity evaluation

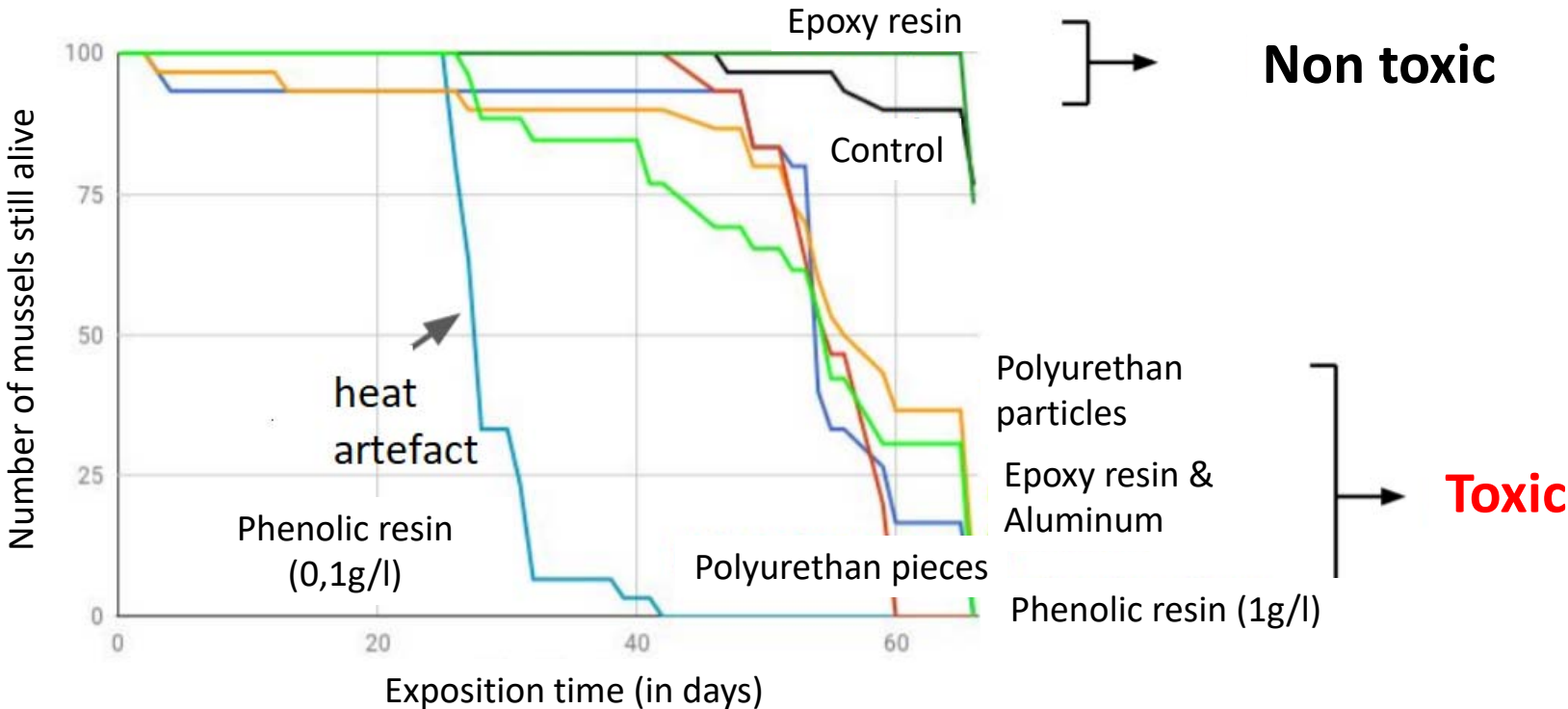
### Macrofauna *in vitro*



Organic compounds

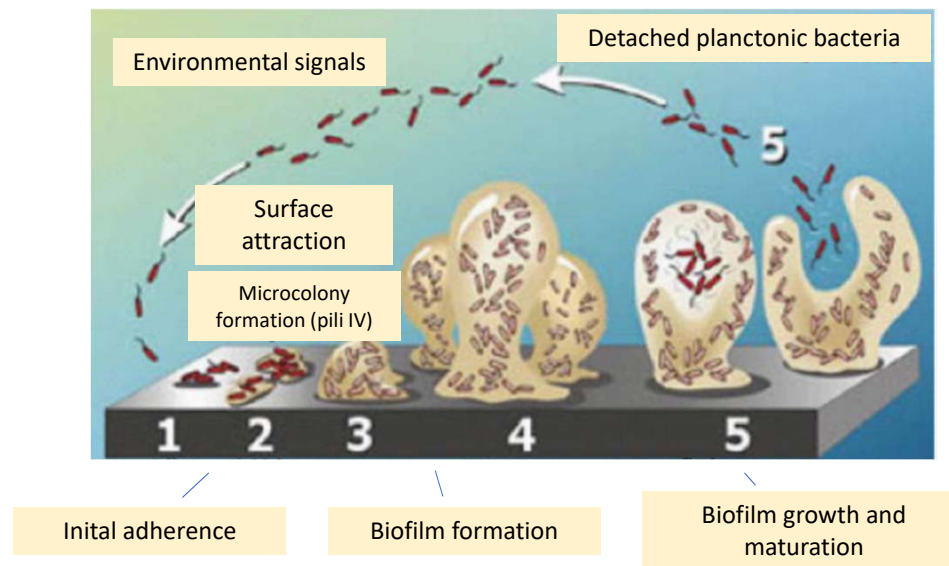
Macrofauna *in vitro*

Survival curves for mussels exposed to components



# Organic compounds

Surface evaluation ——— Background



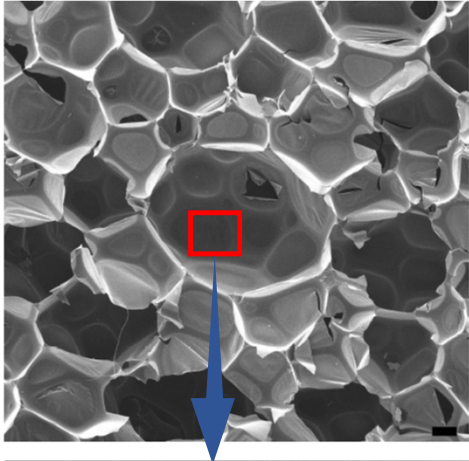
*Use of Vibrio alginolyticus medium*



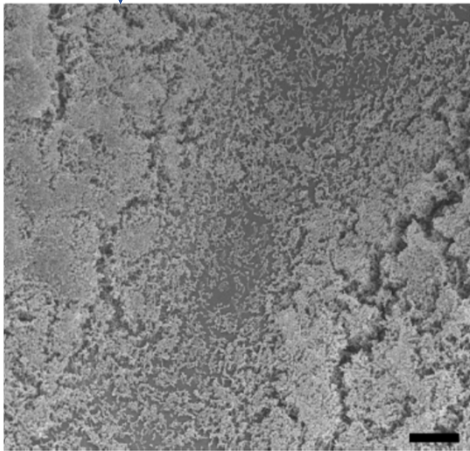
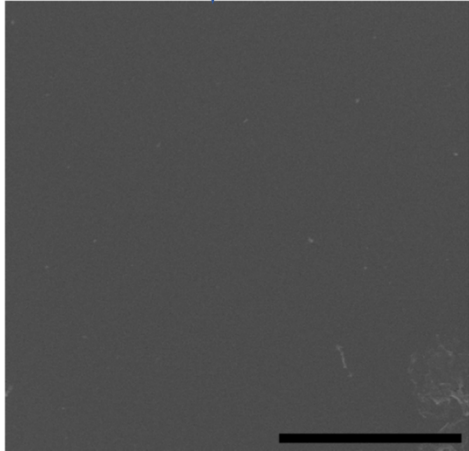
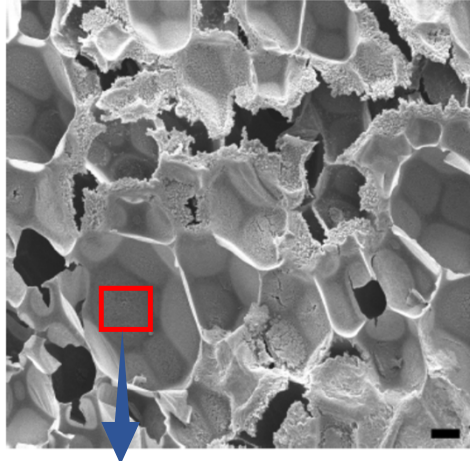
## Organic compounds

## Surface evaluation

Polyurethane in *seawater*

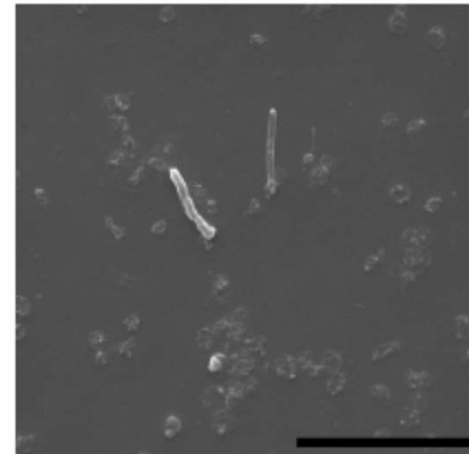
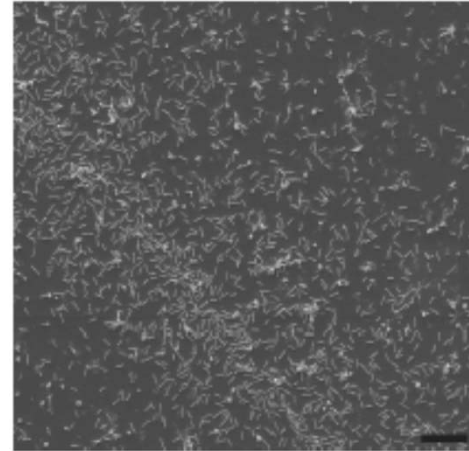


Polyurethane in *Vibrio alginolyticus* medium

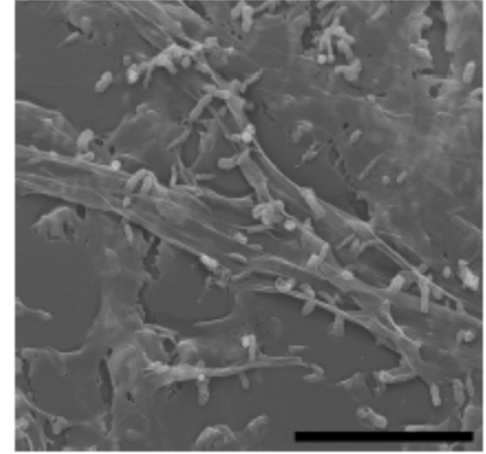
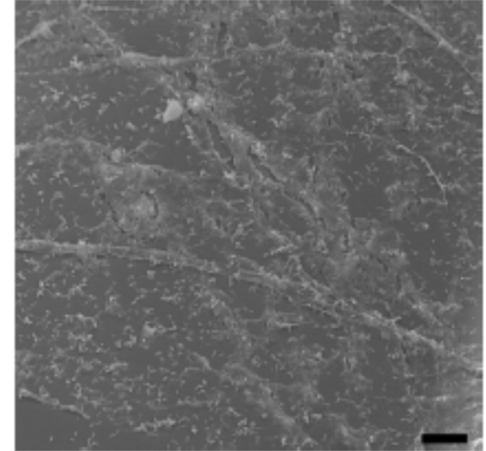


for 44 days

Epoxy resin in *seawater*



Epoxy resin in *Vibrio alginolyticus* medium



Bars : 10  $\mu$ m

# Metallic compounds

Litterature review

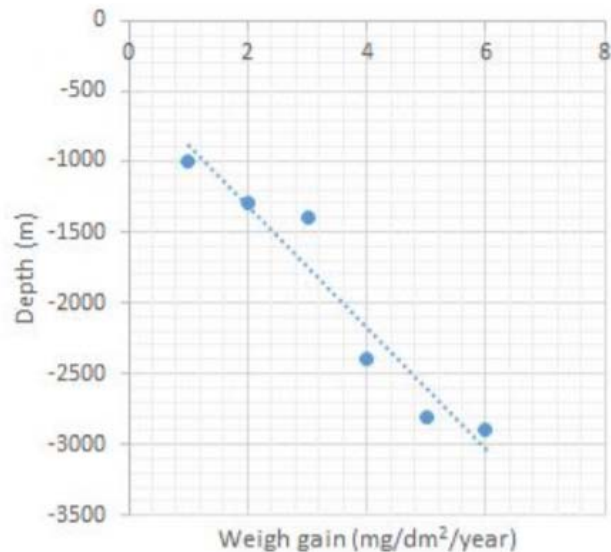
On-site studies in French Guyana

Model experiments in laboratory conditions

## Metallic corrosion as a function of depth

! **Very limited relevant bibliography** is available for “**Biodegradation**” or “**biofilm allowing corrosion**” for the alloys used in the launchers

Weight gain as a function of depth for **stainless steel**

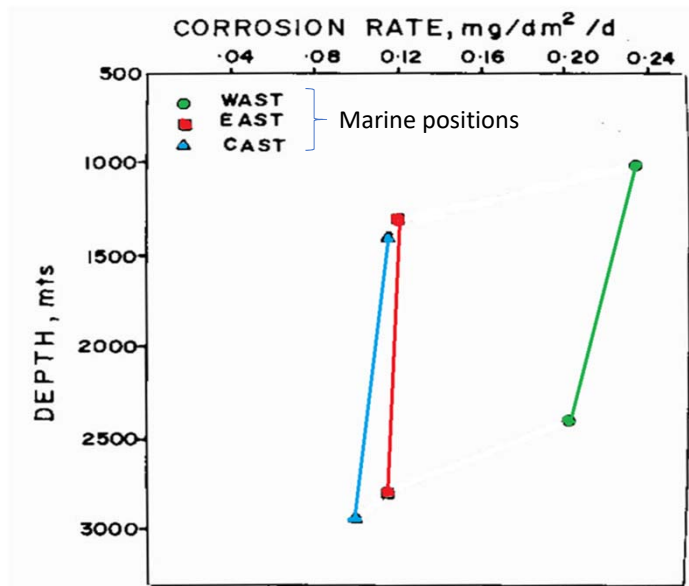


The gain weight indicates the formation of oxide (protection for the alloy)

(adapted from Sawant and Wagh, 1990)

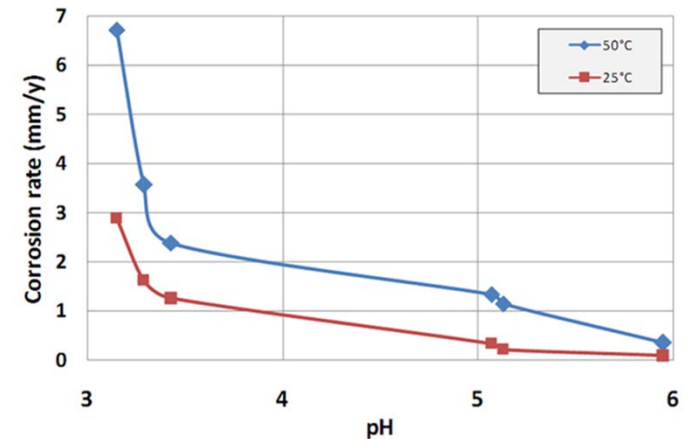
# Metallic corrosion as a function of depth

! **Very limited relevant bibliography** is available for “**Biodegradation**” or “**biofilm allowing corrosion**” for the alloys used in the launchers



Corrosion rate as a function of depth for stainless steel  
(adapted from Sawant and Wagh, 1990)

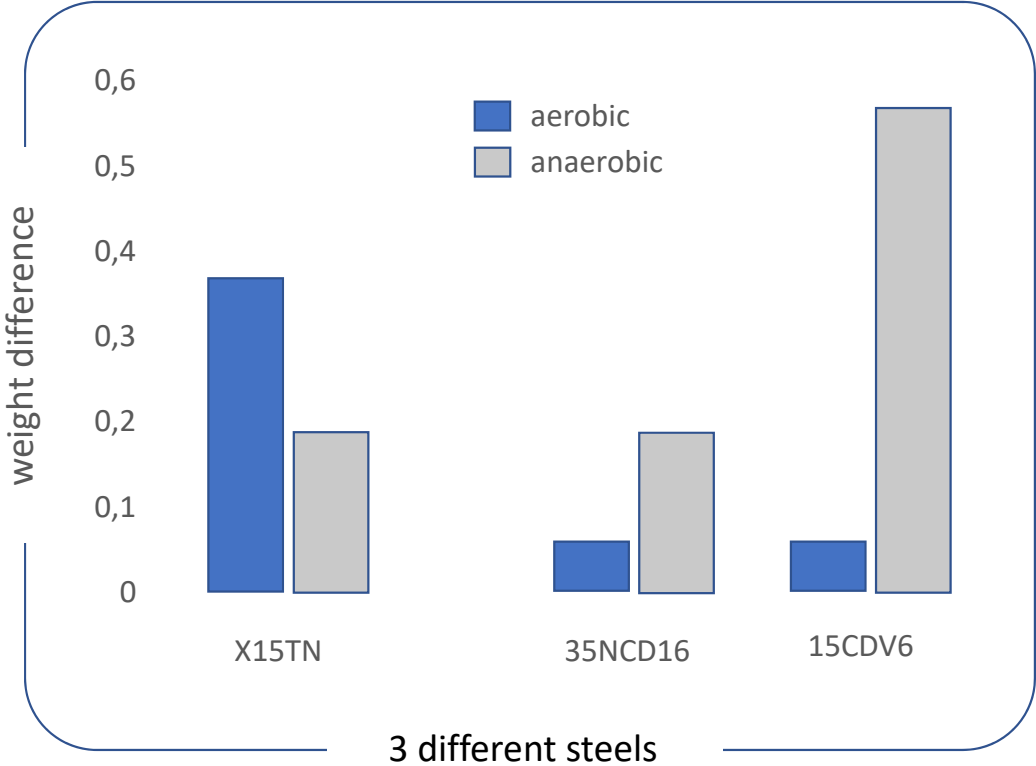
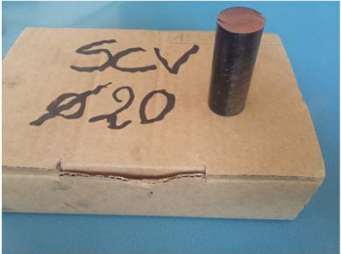
! Inverse relationship for the corrosion rate of aluminium with depth



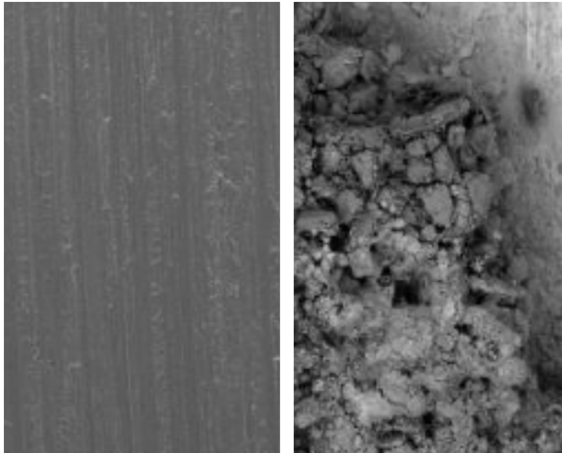
Corrosion rate of stainless steel as a function of pH  
Prawoto et Al. (2009)

# Metallic corrosion as a function of metallic composition and seawater oxygen level

Corrosion in seawater estimated from weight in **aerobic** & **anaerobic** conditions

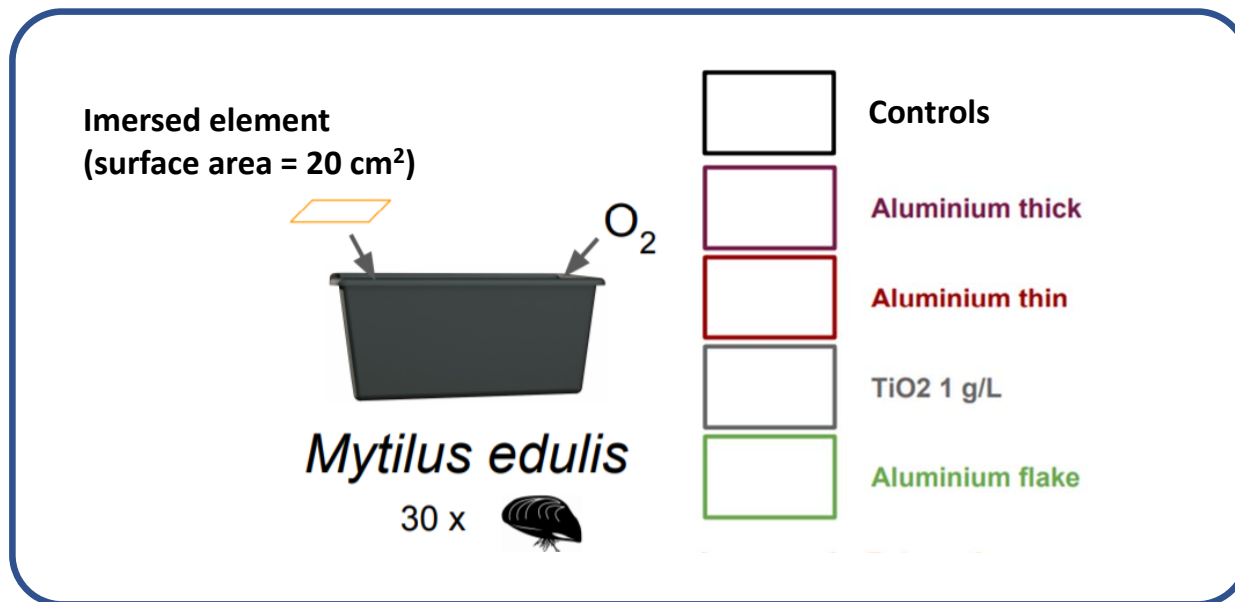


Surface pitting and cracks



# Ecotoxicity evaluation

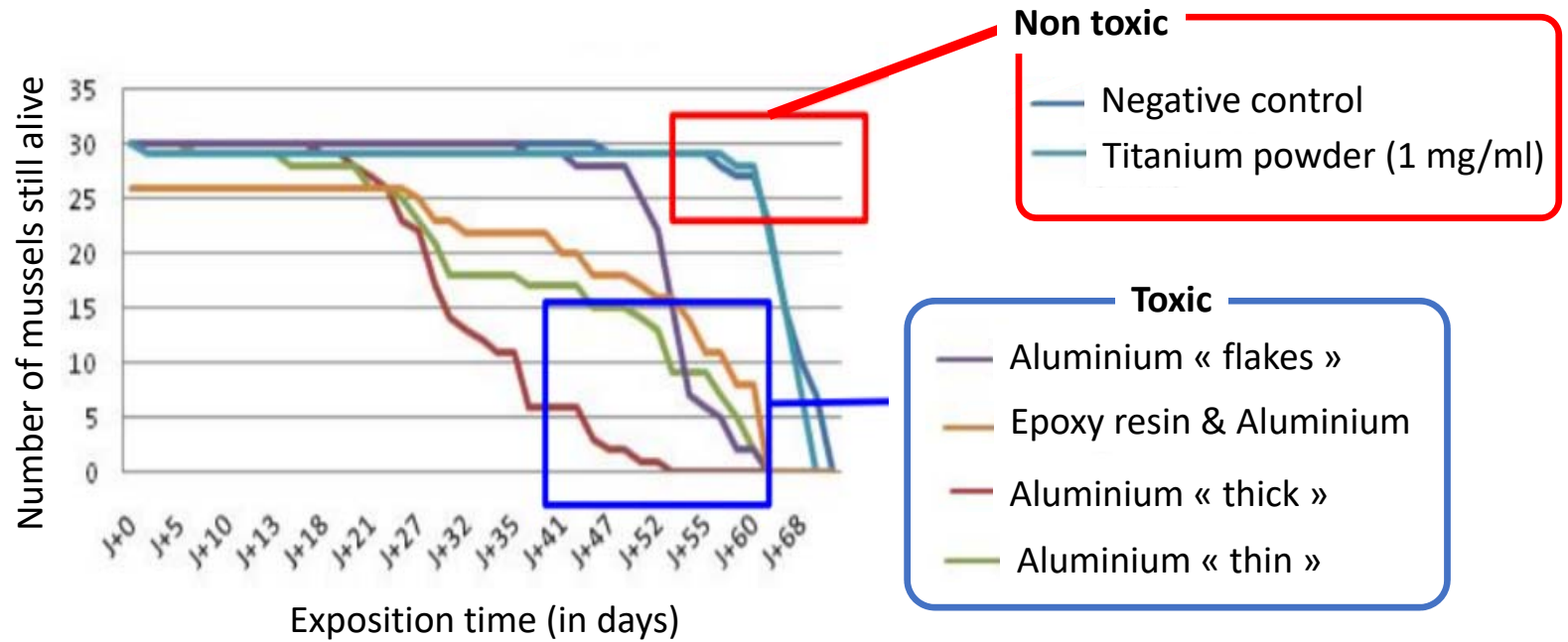
## Macrofauna *in vitro*



# Ecotoxicity evaluation

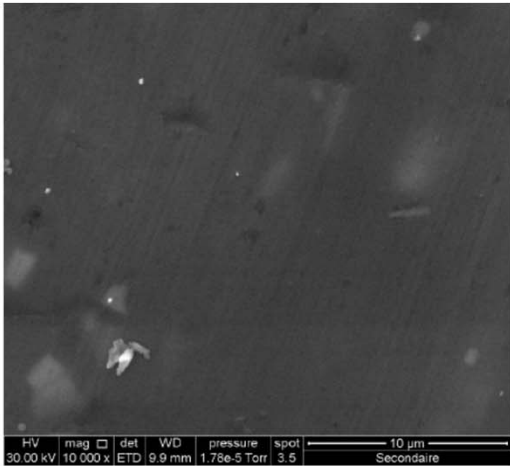
## Macrofauna *in vitro*

Survival curve for mussels exposed to different metals

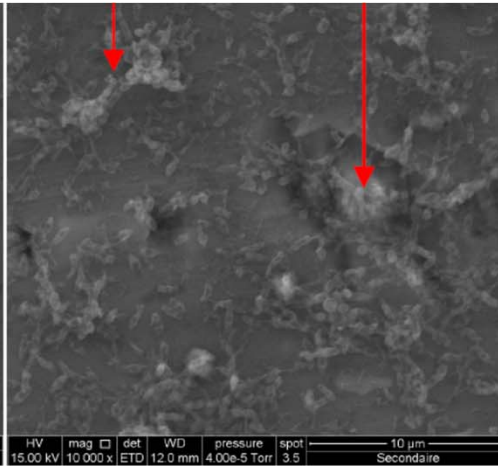


## Surface evaluation

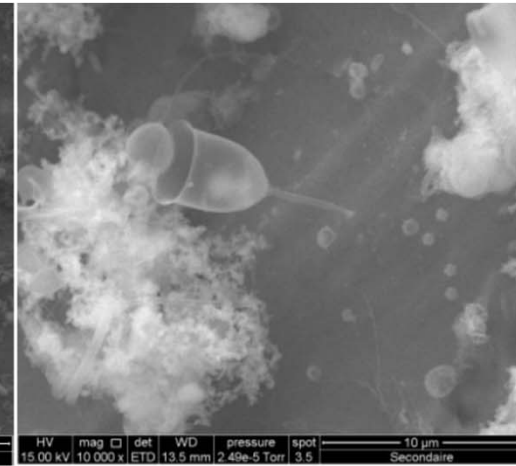
Aluminium surface



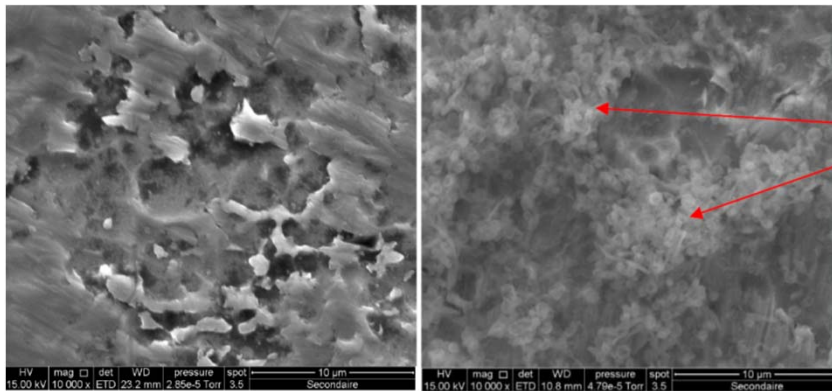
*Vibrio alginolyticus* medium



7 days in seawater



Titanium 6AL-4C



Unicellular organism  
fixed at the surface

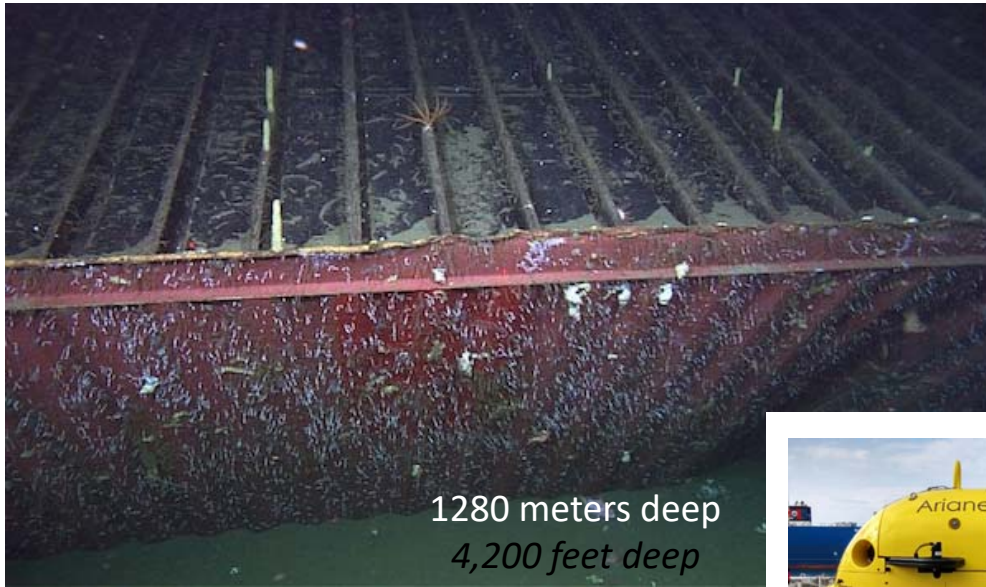
*Vibrio alginolyticus* aggregates



## Conclusions & Perspectives

- Behaviour and toxicity of the different compounds carried out vary according to the substrate but also to environmental conditions (depth oxygen availabilities)
- Exposure time must be taken into consideration and no 'rapid' conclusion can be drawn from the available literature  
=> experimental approach used during the project
- Longer impacts need to be investigated

## Conclusions & Perspectives



1280 meters deep  
4,200 feet deep



3962 meters deep  
13,000 feet deep



470 meters deep  
1,548 feet deep



870 meters deep  
2,850 feet

# Conclusions & Perspectives

## IN SITU IMPACT STUDIES in French Guyana

Savanes de Karouabo



1 km

## IN SITU IMPACT STUDIES in French Guyana

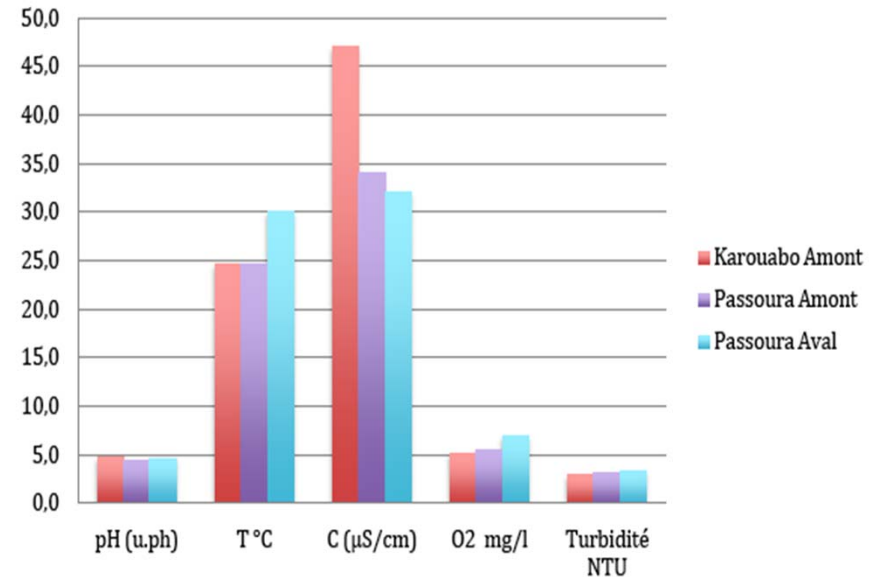
### Water Quality

- Clear waters (low turbidity)
- **pH & conductivity values are low**
- Physico-chemical characteristics of the environment change according to the season

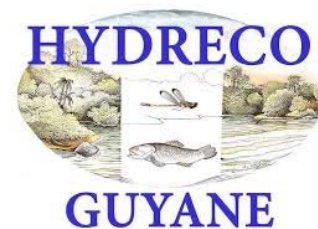
### Fish populations

- Sites in good environmental health
- **Strong imbalance in local fish population distribution** (Vigouroux & Guillemet, 2006)

*In situ* measurements (September 2014)



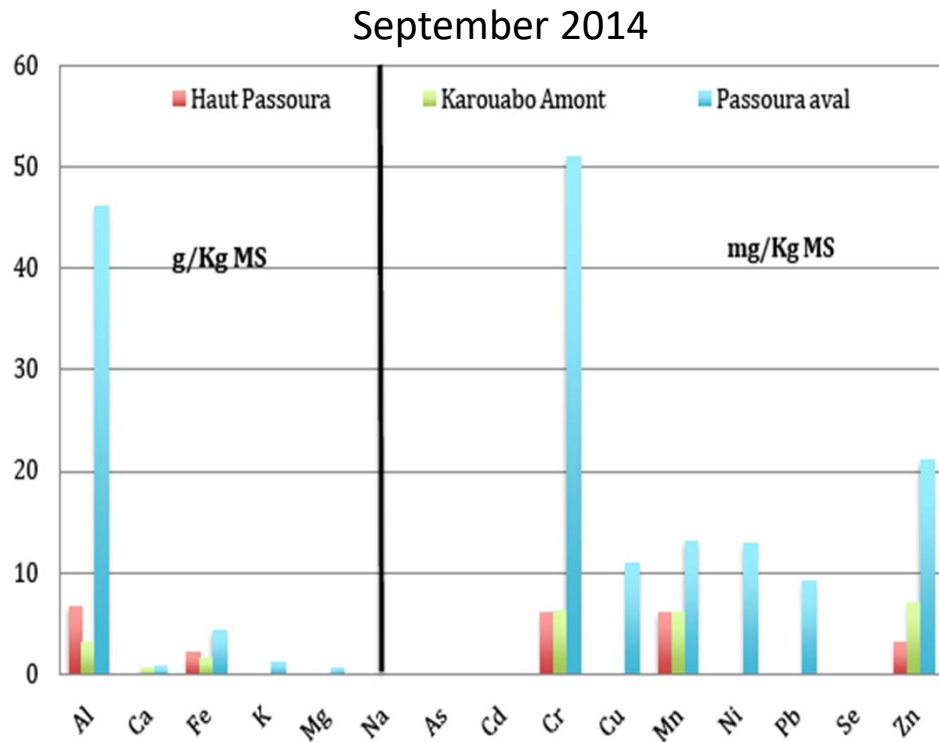
*The successive launches of Ariane can induce the release of various products into the environment (including aluminium), with potentially a non-negligible impact on fish & other organisms*



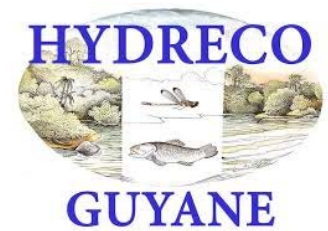
## IN SITU IMPACT STUDIES in French Guyana

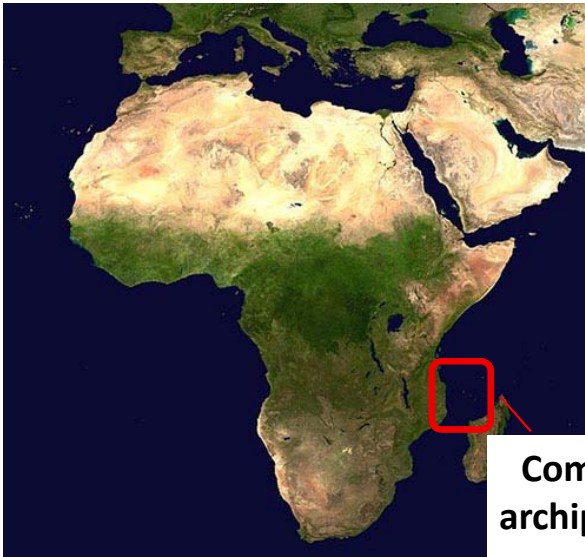
### *Sediments*

In some locations, **aluminium concentrations** are high



*Anthropogenic contaminations ?*





Comoros archipelago



Mayotte island



### The mangrove as a biofiltering system for domestic wastewaters

Use of **sentinel species** (bioindicators)

**Physiological biomarkers**

- Energy balance
- Hydromineral balance
- Redox metabolism ....

### 'Conservation Physiology'





**Thank you for  
your attention !**