AperTO - Archivio Istituzionale Open Access dell'Università di Torino

Quarry rehabilitation employing treated residual sludge from dimension stone working plant

This is the author's manuscript

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1507966> since 2016-10-18T17:20:01Z

Published version:

DOI:10.1007/s12665-014-3895-0

Terms of use:

Open Access

Anyone can freely access the full text of works made available as "Open Access". Works made available under a Creative Commons license can be used according to the terms and conditions of said license. Use of all other works requires consent of the right holder (author or publisher) if not exempted from copyright protection by the applicable law.

(Article begins on next page)

Dear Author,

Here are the proofs of your article.

- You can submit your corrections **online**, via **e-mail** or by **fax**.
- For **online** submission please insert your corrections in the online correction form. Always indicate the line number to which the correction refers.
- You can also insert your corrections in the proof PDF and **email** the annotated PDF.
- For fax submission, please ensure that your corrections are clearly legible. Use a fine black pen and write the correction in the margin, not too close to the edge of the page.
- Remember to note the **journal title**, **article number**, and **your name** when sending your response via e-mail or fax.
- **Check** the metadata sheet to make sure that the header information, especially author names and the corresponding affiliations are correctly shown.
- **Check** the questions that may have arisen during copy editing and insert your answers/corrections.
- **Check** that the text is complete and that all figures, tables and their legends are included. Also check the accuracy of special characters, equations, and electronic supplementary material if applicable. If necessary refer to the *Edited manuscript*.
- The publication of inaccurate data such as dosages and units can have serious consequences. Please take particular care that all such details are correct.
- Please **do not** make changes that involve only matters of style. We have generally introduced forms that follow the journal's style. Substantial changes in content, e.g., new results, corrected values, title and authorship are not allowed without the approval of the responsible editor. In such a case, please contact the Editorial Office and return his/her consent together with the proof.
- If we do not receive your corrections **within 48 hours**, we will send you a reminder.
- Your article will be published **Online First** approximately one week after receipt of your corrected proofs. This is the **official first publication** citable with the DOI. **Further changes are, therefore, not possible.**
- The **printed version** will follow in a forthcoming issue.

Please note

After online publication, subscribers (personal/institutional) to this journal will have access to the complete article via the DOI using the URL: [http://dx.doi.org/\[DOI\]](http://dx.doi.org/[DOI]).

If you would like to know when your article has been published online, take advantage of our free alert service. For registration and further information go to: <http://www.link.springer.com>.

Due to the electronic nature of the procedure, the manuscript and the original figures will only be returned to you on special request. When you return your corrections, please inform us if you would like to have these documents returned.

Metadata of the article that will be visualized in OnlineFirst

ArticleTitle	Quarry rehabilitation employing treated residual sludge from dimension stone working plant	
Article Sub-Title		
Article CopyRight	Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg (This will be the copyright line in the final PDF)	
Journal Name	Environmental Earth Sciences	
Corresponding Author	Family Name	Dino
	Particle	
	Given Name	Giovanna Antonella
	Suffix	
	Division	Earth Sciences Department DST
	Organization	Università di Torino
	Address	Via Valperga Caluso, 37, Turin, 10126, Italy
	Email	giovanna.dino@unito.it
Author	Family Name	Passarella
	Particle	
	Given Name	Iride
	Suffix	
	Division	DISAFA-Chimica agraria
	Organization	Università di Torino
	Address	Via Leonardo da Vinci, 44, Grugliasco, Turin, 10095, Italy
	Email	
Author	Family Name	Ajmone-Marsan
	Particle	
	Given Name	Franco
	Suffix	
	Division	DISAFA-Chimica agraria
	Organization	Università di Torino
	Address	Via Leonardo da Vinci, 44, Grugliasco, Turin, 10095, Italy
	Email	
Schedule	Received	31 July 2014
	Revised	
	Accepted	15 November 2014
Abstract	<p>Waste from stone and aggregate quarrying industry represents a serious environmental and economic problem in view of the difficulties related to its disposal, especially of the finest fraction. Although some attempts have been made to investigate possible reuse of these materials, little is known about their potential as components of a cultivation substrate. Their low physical and chemical fertility require the mixing with other materials to improve the general properties. The aim of this study was to evaluate if such a prospect product can be employed within the quarry for its environmental rehabilitation. Samples from gangue saw with abrasive shot (GSS), from diamond frame saw (DSS), and mixed sludge (MS)—from gangue and DSS—were collected and mixed with compost, green manure, and soil material. The resulting mixtures were further composted, distributed on parcels within the quarry area and sowed. The original materials and the mixtures were analyzed for metals and hydrocarbons (TPH) and for their phytotoxicity.</p>	

The parcels were sampled and analyzed after 8 years. The results show that mixing with foreign materials can improve the overall quality and fertility of the sludge and that the mixture is not phytotoxic. Most metals concentrations decreased on mixing and further diminished after 8 years. TPH content was drastically reduced and fertility parameters tend toward equilibrium. This indicates that the residual sludge can be employed for quarrying rehabilitation after improvement of its fertility and of its environmental quality.

Keywords (separated by '-') Residual sludge - Stone industry - Quarry remediation - Cultivation substrate - Italy

Footnote Information

Quarry rehabilitation employing treated residual sludge from dimension stone working plant

Giovanna Antonella Dino · Iride Passarella ·
Franco Ajmone-Marsan

Received: 31 July 2014 / Accepted: 15 November 2014
© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2014

Abstract Waste from stone and aggregate quarrying industry represents a serious environmental and economic problem in view of the difficulties related to its disposal, especially of the finest fraction. Although some attempts have been made to investigate possible reuse of these materials, little is known about their potential as components of a cultivation substrate. Their low physical and chemical fertility require the mixing with other materials to improve the general properties. The aim of this study was to evaluate if such a prospect product can be employed within the quarry for its environmental rehabilitation. Samples from gangue saw with abrasive shot (GSS), from diamond frame saw (DSS), and mixed sludge (MS)—from gangue and DSS—were collected and mixed with compost, green manure, and soil material. The resulting mixtures were further composted, distributed on parcels within the quarry area and sowed. The original materials and the mixtures were analyzed for metals and hydrocarbons (TPH) and for their phytotoxicity. The parcels were sampled and analyzed after 8 years. The results show that mixing with foreign materials can improve the overall quality and fertility of the sludge and that the mixture is not phytotoxic. Most metals concentrations decreased on mixing and further diminished after 8 years. TPH content was drastically reduced and fertility parameters tend toward equilibrium. This indicates that the residual sludge can be employed for quarrying rehabilitation after

improvement of its fertility and of its environmental quality. 35

Keywords Residual sludge · Stone industry · Quarry remediation · Cultivation substrate · Italy 38

Introduction 40

Quarrying is a very important industry in Italy especially for dimension stones and aggregates. The overall turnover of the production chain (quarries, working plants, laboratories, shops, etc) was nearly 40 billion € in 2011, almost 2 % of the Italian Gross Domestic Product (Ceruti 2013). In addition, Italian dimension stone exploitation during 2012 shows an export increment of 9.8 % from 2011 and an import decrement of −6 % (from 2011 to 2012). These values show the importance of quarrying industry which is, at present, characterized by an incertitude due to global crisis in the stone sector (Anonymous 2013).

Exploitation activities require an obligatory phase of environmental rehabilitation of both dumps and quarrying areas: the soil stripped during exploitation phases has to be separated from the waste rocks, and it should be saved for the subsequent vegetation re-establishment in the quarry area (Neri and Sanchez 2010). Topsoil from external sources is often employed for the purpose, however, due to the lengthy duration of the quarrying activities or whenever old abandoned quarries have to be remediated (Brodckom 2001; Milgrom 2008) and this results in an additional cost. On the other hand, quarries and working plants produce huge amounts of waste that has a potential for recovery (Luodes et al. 2012). The most difficult to recover is the residual sludge (EWC code 01 04 13—waste from stone cutting and sawing), a very fine material that can be used

G. A. Dino (✉)
Earth Sciences Department DST, Università di Torino,
Via Valperga Caluso, 37, 10126 Turin, Italy
e-mail: giovanna.dino@unito.it

I. Passarella · F. Ajmone-Marsan
DISAFA-Chimica agraria, Università di Torino,
Via Leonardo da Vinci, 44, 10095 Grugliasco, Turin, Italy

either as a filler for land rehabilitation or as a feeding material for different industrial uses, or dumped (Ministero dell'Ambiente 2006; Dino et al. 2013). The current cost connected to sludge landfilling may represent more than 3 % of the operating costs of dimensional stone working plants so there is an increasing interest into its recovery for environmental restoration.

The possibility of employing waste materials in quarry rehabilitation has been investigated by several authors. Bending et al. (1999) offered an overview of the possibility of using various materials for the rehabilitation of quarries. Sort and Alcañiz (1996) had studied the effects of sewage sludge additions to control erosion in limestone quarries. They reported a positive effect on soil physical properties in general and on soil loss in the plots treated with the sludge. More recently, the effects of applying urban wastes to quarries in arid environments were investigated by Castillejo and Castelló (2010). On the contrary, Bonoli and Dall'Ara (2012) observed negative effects in the environmental restoration of a former quarry by paper sludge with production of unwanted biogas.

Burrigato et al. (1999) investigated the possibility of employing a mud from siliceous sand treatment for environmental rehabilitation. They observed that the size of mud particles and the lack of pores were conducive to progressive compaction and rendered the sludge virtually impermeable. This may represent a threat for the soil surface erosion and its permeability, and ultimately may increase the risk of landslides. Therefore, the physical and chemical structure of the sludge matrix should be properly adjusted. To this aim, Barrientos et al. (2010) advocate the use of granite sawdust as a soil surface sealant in view of its physical properties. Similarly, a recent paper by Sivrikaya et al. (2014) illustrated the effectiveness of stone waste in improving the physical quality of clayey soils. A direct agricultural application of such materials is seemingly hindered by their low chemical and physical fertility but they could be treated and recovered to obtain a cultivation substrate. If used in quarry rehabilitation the *cradle-to-cradle* principle would be respected as all the exploited material would be sold as products and the waste could be employed for the environmental rehabilitation of the *cradle* quarry site. Little is known, however, about the possible success of the field application of these materials.

The paper outlines the results obtained from a remediation treatment of residual sludge coming from dimension stone working plants to obtain an artificial cultivation substrate. The tested bioremediation treatment consists in the composting of a mixture of waste materials (mineral and organic), added with specific activators (Dino et al. 2006, 2012). The aim of the research is to evaluate if this prospect product, the artificial substrate, can be employed in quarry rehabilitation.

Materials and methods

Geographic and geological setting

The materials employed come from local plants which work *Luserna Stone* blocks, exploited in the area between Luserna San Giovanni and Bagnolo Piemonte (SW Piedmont region, Italy, Fig. 1). *Luserna Stone* is the commercial name of a gray-greenish gneiss, which locally changes the color to light blue. Petrographically, it is a leucogranitic orthogneiss characterized by a micro-“Augen” texture (Sandrone et al. 2000). It pertains geologically to the Dora-Maira Massif (Sandrone et al. 1993) and it outcrops in quite a wide area (approximately 50 km²) in the Cottian Alps (Fig. 2); it shows a sub-horizontal attitude, with a marked foliation that is mostly associated to a visible lineation. The layers rich in mica give the flat schistous aspect to the rock; the average distance between the layers is 7–8 cm (range 2–40 cm). The principal components of the rock are quartz, mica, and feldspar (Table 1) and its chemical composition is shown in Table 2.

Sludge from the working plant

The products which reach the stone market are mostly slabs, squared blocks, often sold to other companies, *mosaico* (split face pieces for “crazy” paving), belgian blocks, and kerbstones. The transformation from block to slab is carried out by means of gangue saw with abrasive shot (GSS), or diamond frame saw or by manual wedging. Samples from GSS, sludge from diamond frame saw (DSS), and mixed sludge (MS)—from gangue and diamond frame saw in the case of a single productive line—were collected in accordance with the method ISO/DIS 10381-1-2. Samples were air-dried, gently crushed and sieved to <2 mm with plastic sieves to reduce metal contamination. Grain-size analysis was performed by sieving according to ASTM standards (D421-85; D422-63). A portion of the sample was further ground to <0.15 mm for *aqua regia* (HCl/HNO₃, 3:1 solution) digestion. Metal content (As, Cd, Co, Cr, Fe, Hg, Mn, Ni, Pb, and Zn) was determined by ICP-OES (TJA IRIS Advantage/1000 radial plasma spectrometer) in the *aqua regia* extracts. The analyses were performed by following the standard methods of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture (Mipaf 1999). Triplicates were made for all samples and results accepted when the coefficient of variation was within 5 %. A blank and soil CRM BCR 141 R reference material (Joint Research Centre—Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, Geel, Belgium) were included in each batch of analyses for quality control. Results were considered satisfactory when within a range of ±10 % from the certified value. Furthermore, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) were determined by ISO 16703:2004 method.

Fig. 1 Geographical setting: in the enlargement on the left the quarry in Rorà (TO): Cava del Tiglio–Pra del Torno (44°47'36"N 7°11'07"E) is indicated

169 Mixing materials

170 The materials employed for the experimentation were
171 compost, shredded pruning material (green manure), and a
172 soil material taken from a grassland near the quarry area.
173 The compost from municipal organic waste and the green
174 manure (clippings from gardening operations) were
175 obtained from the ACEA Pinerolese company which
176 operates in Pinerolo (Turin, Italy). These materials were
177 characterized by following the same methodology
178 employed for sludge characterization. Organic C and total
179 N were measured by dry combustion (Methods ISO 10694;
180 13878). Approximately 35 m³ (60 t) of each sludge type
181 (humidity around 30 %) and 60 m³ (40 t) of mixing
182 material were used to obtain the mixtures. Previous
183 experiments had demonstrated that these proportions gen-
184 erated the optimal conditions for the physical and biolog-
185 ical functioning of the mixture. In particular, another
186 research (Dino et al. 2003a, b) on the recovery of diamond
187 frame saw sludge (gneiss material from Canton Ticino,
188 Switzerland) was conducted; the products obtained from
189 sludge bioremediation treatment were employed for envi-
190 ronmental rehabilitation.

191 Composting process

192 The composting of the four mixtures (Fig. 3) was started in
193 the spring and was carried on for 12 weeks. The mix-
194 tures were arranged in triangular-shaped heaps (70 m³:

2.5 × 1.6 × 35 m) placed under a shed. Completion of the
composting process was ensured by regular suction filtra-
tion and air regulation, wetting, and mechanical mixing and
homogenization of the material. These operations were
programmed on the basis of the results obtained by peri-
odical physical and biological parameter tests. Process
operating conditions (temperatures, colony forming units-
CFU/g, pH, and moisture) were monitored and occasion-
ally reassessed during the fermentation (4 weeks), as well
as during the maturing phase (8 weeks) (Dino et al. 2006).
The mixtures were chemically and physically characterized
following the same methodology employed for their start-
ing materials.

Phytotoxicity of the composted mixtures

Phytotoxicity was tested in greenhouse bioassays, in order
to evaluate their effects on the germination and growth of
crops. Corn, winter wheat, and lentils were planted
(10 seeds/pot) in each of the mixture in a random block
scheme (five replicates). After 4 and 17 weeks, total
number of plants, plants height (in cm), and dry matter
production were determined. The compost and the soil used
for the mixtures were used as controls.

The total (150 m³) of the four mixes was employed for
quarry rehabilitation in *Luserna Stone Basin*: it was dis-
tributed in plots of 10 m in width and length (thickness
8–10 cm) on a hill side in “Cava del Tiglio” Loc. Pra del
Torno (Fig. 4), in Rorà village (Turin) and sown with a

Fig. 2 Structural sketch map of the Western Alps (Dino et al. 2003a, b). 1 Delphinois-Helvetic domain (dashed line external crystalline massifs). Penninic Domain—2 Prealps, 3 Subbriançonnais Zone, 4 Briançonnais Zone, 5 Simplon-Tessin Nappes (A Antigorio, ML Monte Leone) and Camughera-Orselina-Moncucco Zone (CM), 6 Internal crystalline massifs (MR Monte Rosa, GP Gran Paradiso, DM Dora Maira), 7 Piedmontese Zone; North-Penninic Calcschists; Triassic-Neocomian succession of Versoyen, Montenotte and Sestri-Voltaggio Units, 8 Alpine Helminthoid Flysch of Ubaye-Embrunais and Liguria, 9 Sesia-Lanzo Zone (SL) and Dent Blanche Nappe (DBL), 10 Southern Alps, 11 Post-Alpine intrusives of Traversella and Valle del Cervo, 12 Appennines and Tertiary sediments of the Turin Hill, 13 Quaternary and Tertiary sediments of the Ligurian-Piedmontese Basin, 14 Main tectonic lines (CL Canavese Line, SVL Sestri-Voltaggio line), 15 Granite, 16 Serizzo, 17 Beola, 18 Luserna Stone

Table 1 Modal composition (% w/v) range of Luserna Stone

Quartz	K-feldspar	Plagioclase (% anorthite)	Biotite and/or chlorite	Phengite	Others
30–45	10–25	15–25 (2–5)	4–8	10–20	≤3

Data from Vialon (1966) and Barisone et al. (1979)

mixture of *Lolium perenne* L., *Festuca rubra* L., and *Poa pratensis* L. (Dino et al. 2006). A geotextile was placed over the plots to protect them from erosion.

In October 2013, all the plots were sampled, and all the sampled materials were characterized following the same methodology employed for the starting materials.

Table 2 Chemical composition (% weight of oxides) of Luserna Stone (Sandrone et al. 1982)

SiO ₂	TiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	Fe ₂ O ₃	FeO	CaO	MgO	K ₂ O	Na ₂ O	P ₂ O ₃
71.6–75.8	0.1–0.2	13.1–15.6	0.4–1.0	0.3–0.7	0.8–1.2	0.4–1.1	3.7–5.2	2.9–4.7	0.1–0.4

Fig. 3 Treatment flow sheet

Fig. 4 Scheme of plots present on the hill side of “Cava del Tiglio” Loc. Pra del Torno—Rorà, Turin (44°47′36″N 7°11′07″E). **a** 1st step of quarry rehabilitation; **b** plant growth 3 months after seeding; **c** quarry rehabilitation after 8 years

Results and discussion

The characteristics of the residual sludge depend on the nature of the mother rock and on the working activities they undergo. In all cases, the sludge material was characterized by an alkaline pH, due to the use of lime as an antioxidant in the sawing operation. The average pH was 10.7 for GSS, 9.2 for DSS, and 11.2 for MS. The size distribution is fine (more than 40 % is <25 µm average diameter) all samples being clayey silt weakly sandy. The solid fraction of the sludge constitutes, for its physical characteristics, an impermeable massive material which would not be usable, as such, for plant growing. The sludge contains variable amounts of metals and hydrocarbons (TPH) coming from working activities (Table 3). GSS contains notable amounts of metals coming from abrasive shot, in particular Cr and Cu, and Zn; DSS contains metals from the binder material of diamond cutting tools—Co, Cu—and has also the highest Zn concentration. The MS samples are heavily enriched in Cr, Cu, and Ni. Compared to the Italian legislative thresholds for soils (Ministero dell’Ambiente 2006), Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, and Ni and TPH in all materials result to be above the limits for residential

areas reinforcing the notion that sludge cannot be used as such (Dino 2004). Magnetic separation of the metals from the GSS sludge was tested in a specific project (PIC Interreg III A “Residual sludge exploitation”). The metal concentration was decreased, but the technical feasibility of the method is still debated (Dino et al. 2003a, b).

The sludge was mixed with organic materials and a soil in view of improving its fertility and environmental quality. The organic materials (Table 4) have a high pH and, while the compost has an equilibrated C/N, in the green manure carbon material prevails; the soil has a circum-neutral pH and an average content of C and N. The contents of contaminants (Table 4) are relatively high for some metals in the compost: Cr, Cu, and Zn are above the Italian legislative limits. This was taken into account in the composition of the mixtures (Table 5). The mixtures have properties that reflect their composition (Table 6). While the pH remains above neutrality, the C/N ratio increases in consideration of the inclusion of green manure. The general biological quality, as illustrated by the CFU count (Fig. 5), shows a definite improvement at the end of the process, fostering the use of the mixes for cultivation. The mixing and composting of the materials had some effects on the

contaminant contents. While TPH decreased sharply, the metals showed somewhat erratic results as a consequence of their relatively high concentration in the compost. Co, Cr, and Cu are still above the legislative limits for soils of green and residential areas in some of the mixes. The performance of the mixtures was tested in terms of germination (Fig. 6) and yield (Fig. 7) of lentil (*Lens culinaris*, Medik.), corn (*Zea mays*, L.), and winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum*, L.). Although in general the results were below the performance of a standard compost used as a benchmark, neither the mixes, nor the sludge itself

appeared to be harmful to the plants tested. It should be noted, in addition, that the mixes in some cases produced a better results than those of the soil.

Eight years after the implementation, the substrate was again sampled and analyzed (Table 7). The plots had never been irrigated nor the plants were removed. The results show that while the pH has remained above 7 in all cases, the content of organic C and N tends toward equilibrium with a decrease of the amount of C and a consequent decrease of the C/N ratio. The metal content, as well as the TPH concentration all are reduced after 8 year with the notable exception of Pb. No sources of Pb contamination are present in the area. It is then possible that the inorganic forms of Pb have become more labile through the years and the *aqua regia* extraction—which does not extract part of the residual, more stable forms (Rauret et al. 1999)—was more complete at the end of the experiment. The increase in mobility of metals has been observed, e.g., in experiments of repeated soil reduction–oxidation cycles (Balint

Table 3 Contaminants in the sludge

		GSS	DSS	MS	Italian legislative threshold values for soils according to their use	
					Green, residential	Commercial, industrial
As	μg/kg	9.8	14.2	12.9	20	50
Hg	μg/kg	0.9	0.1	0.4	1	5
Cd	mg/kg	1.8	0.6	3.1	2	15
Co	mg/kg	14.4	89.4	18.7	20	250
Cr	mg/kg	166	24.5	189	150	800
Cu	mg/kg	188	49.9	219	120	600
Ni	mg/kg	95.3	10.1	132	120	500
Pb	mg/kg	12.6	8.2	14.9	100	1,000
Zn	mg/kg	75.7	98.8	38.8	150	1,500
TPH	mg/kg	746	411	165	50	750

Italic values exceed the threshold values of the Italian legislations

Table 4 Characteristics and contaminants of organic materials and the soil (values are on dry weight—d.w.)

		Compost	Green manure	Soil
pH		8.6	7.5	6.4
Total organic C	%	24	32	1.9
Total N	%	2.3	0.51	0.18
C/N ratio		10.3	63.3	10.6
As	μg/kg	3.9	2.0	12.9
Hg	μg/kg	0.5	0.1	0.1
Cd	mg/kg	<0.5	<0.5	0.6
Co	mg/kg	bdl*	4	19
Cr	mg/kg	154	76	94
Cu	mg/kg	142	34	45
Ni	mg/kg	98	47	84
Pb	mg/kg	82	19	37
Zn	mg/kg	330	104	80
TPH	mg/kg	bdl*	889	319

* Below detection limit

Italic values exceed the threshold values of the Italian legislations

Table 5 Composition of the four mixes (% d.w.)

	Mix A	Mix B	Mix C	Mix D
GSS	—	—	62	—
DSS	59	59	—	—
MS	—	—	—	61
Compost	18	14	8	8
Green manure	23	17	20	20
Soil	—	10	10	11
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 6 Properties and contaminants of Mix A, B, C, and D after the composting process

		Mix A	Mix B	Mix C	Mix D
pH		7.6	7.6	7.6	8.0
Total organic C	%	7.7	4.9	7.6	6.9
Total N	%	0.26	0.18	0.23	0.28
C/N ratio		29	27	33	25
As	μg/kg	11.2	13.5	10.8	9.7
Hg	μg/kg	<1	<1	<1	<1
Cd	mg/kg	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Co	mg/kg	49	62	13	14
Cr	mg/kg	41	36	190	122
Cu	mg/kg	72	63	207	168
Ni	mg/kg	31	30	116	90
Pb	mg/kg	22	14	26	23
Zn	mg/kg	116	91	99	93
TPH	mg/kg	10	10	10	10

Italic values exceed the threshold values of the Italian legislations as reported in Table 3 (values are on dry weight—d.w.)

Fig. 5 Colony-Forming Unit (CFU) changes from t0 (start of composting) to t4 (4th week after start) and to t12 (12th week after composting start)

Fig. 6 Germination ratio versus standard compost (100 % = standard compost)

Fig. 7 Green mass development versus standard compost (100 % = standard compost)

Table 7 Characterization and contaminant contents of the four mixes after 8 years

		Mix A	Mix B	Mix C	Mix D
pH		7.5	7.4	8.1	8.1
Total organic C	%	3.2	3.0	4.0	2.9
Total N	%	0.22	0.25	0.29	0.19
C/N ratio		14	12	14	15
As	µg/kg	11.2	12.1	10.8	9.7
Hg	µg/kg	<1	<1	<1	<1
Cd	mg/kg	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7
Co	mg/kg	32	54	24	16
Cr	mg/kg	40	32	130	84
Cu	mg/kg	65	59	174	91
Ni	mg/kg	32	29	103	63
Pb	mg/kg	30	20	39	31
Zn	mg/kg	83	78	99	79
TPH	mg/kg	10	10	10	10

Italic values exceed the threshold values of the Italian legislations as reported in Table 3 (values are on dry weight—d.w.)

demonstrated a distinct effect of the components of the biosphere on the cycling of Pb in the environment.

Conclusions

A pilot experiment was conducted for the remediation of a quarry site using dimension stone sludge, soil, and/or organic waste materials such as composted municipal waste and green manure. Despite the presence of numerous inorganic and organic contaminants, the mixtures gave positive results both in terms of abatement of contaminants and improvement of mid-term fertility. After eight years from the implementation, and without external intervention—irrigation, fertilization or cropping—the mixtures host a composite vegetation and show no sign of surface erosion. The environmental quality of the substrate, in terms of concentration of contaminants, could be improved. A more scrupulous consideration of the proportion of the components in terms of environmental quality would easily improve the response of the method. The employment of such waste materials appears to be promising in view of the general adoption of the *cradle-to-cradle* principle.

Acknowledgments The ACEA Pinerolese company, Pinerolo (TO) is gratefully acknowledged for providing the MSW compost and the facility for conducting the preparation of the mixes. The collaboration of the Reviplant nursery, CORIVER branch, Moncalieri-(TO), with the germination and yield tests is also acknowledged. We are grateful to Prof. M. Fornaro, Eng. E. Fornaro and Eng. E. Corio for their precious help throughout the study.

et al. 2014) and the effect of the vegetation itself should be taken into account. In a comprehensive study of Pb in the area of Oslo (Norway) Reimann and coworkers

References

- Anonymous (2013) Stone Sector. Ed. Internazionale Marmi e Macchine Carrara. pp. 96. http://issuu.com/thetis/docs/stone_sector_2013?e=2145441/5284009. Accessed 15 July 2014
- ASTM Standard D421–85 (2007) Standard practice for dry preparation of soil samples for particle-size analysis and determination of soil constants. ASTM International, West Conshohocken. doi:10.1520/D0421-85R07
- ASTM Standard D422–63 (2007) Standard test method for particle-size analysis of soils. ASTM International, West Conshohocken. doi:10.1520/D0422-63R07
- Balint R, Nechifor G, Ajmone-Marsan F (2014) Leaching potential of heavy metals from contaminated soils under anoxia. *Environ Sci Process Impacts* 16:211–219
- Barisone G, Bottino G, Coccolo V, Compagnoni R, Del Greco O, Mastrangelo F, Sandrone R, Zucchetti S (1979) Il bacino estrattivo della “Pietra di Luserna” (Alpi Cozie). *Atti del Convegno su “La Pietra di Luserna”*, Luserna San Giovanni, 15 luglio 1979, 11–26 e *Not. Ass. Mineraria Subalpina*, 5 (3–4), 35–50
- Barrientos V, Delgado J, Navarro V, Juncosa R, Falcón I, Vázquez A (2010) Characterization and geochemical–geotechnical properties of granite sawdust produced by the dimension stone industry of O Porriño (Pontevedra, Spain). *Q J Eng Geol Hydrogeol* 43:141–155
- Bending NAD, McRae SG, Moffat AJ (1999) Soil forming materials: their use in land reclamation. The Stationery Office, London, p 237
- Bonoli A, Dall’Ara A (2012) A bioremediation case of an ex-quarry area restored by paper sludge. *J Biotechnol* 157:499–504
- Brockcom F (2001) Codice di buona pratica ambientale nell’industria estrattiva europea. Edizioni PEI srl., Parma, pp. 120
- Burrigato F, Mecella G, Scandella P (1999) Waste muds from processing of the siliceous sands from Priverno: potential use for environmental rehabilitation. 2nd National Congress “Valorisation and recycling of industrial wastes”. L’Aquila, 5–8 July 1999
- Castillejo JM, Castello R (2010) Influence of the application rate of an organic amendment (Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Compost) on gypsum quarry rehabilitation in semiarid environments. *Arid Land Research and Management* 24:344–364. doi:10.1080/15324982.2010.502920 (ISSN: 1532-4982 print/1532-4990 on line)
- Ceruti F (2013) Il settore estrattivo in Italia. Analisi e valutazione delle strategie competitive per lo sviluppo sostenibile. (Doctoral Thesis, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, 2013). dc.identifier.uri. <http://hdl.handle.net/10281/41871>
- Dino GA (2004) La gestione degli scarti dell’industria dei lapidei. (Doctoral Thesis, DIGET – Politecnico di Torino, 4 giugno 2004). pp. 222
- Dino GA, Fiora L, Fornaro M, Gambelli E, Sandrone R (2003) Sludge production and management in the Italian Granite Stone Industry: an example from two granite basins in the Alps. In: Erdogan Y (ed) *Proceedings of International Congress “Industrial Minerals and Building Stones” IMBS 2003*, Istanbul, 15–18 September 2003, pp 147–158
- Dino GA, Fiora L, Fornaro M, Gambelli E, Sandrone R (2003) Sludge production and management in the Italian Granite Stone Industry: an example from two granite basins in the Alps. In: Erdogan Y (ed) “*Industrial Minerals and Building Stones*” Congress, IMBS 2003, Istanbul, 15–18 September 2003, pp 147–158
- Dino GA, Fornaro M, Corio E, Fornaro E (2006) Residual sludge management: a possible reuse as loam. The 10th IAEG Congress. Engineering geology for tomorrow’s cities, Nottingham, 6–10 September 2006. paper number 600, pp. 10
- Dino GA, Fornaro M, Passarella I (2012) Innovative treatment and valorisation of waste coming from dimensional stones working plants: Piedmont samples. 4th International Conference on Engineering for Waste and Biomass Valorisation, Porto, September 10–13, 2012. pp. 6. In *Congress Procedia* (CD ROM)
- Dino GA, Clemente P, Lasagna M, De Luca DA (2013) Residual sludge from dimension stones: characterisation for their exploitation in civil and environmental applications. *Energy Procedia* 40:507–514. doi:10.1016/j.egypro.2013.08.058
- ISO 10381–1,2:2002 Soil quality—Sampling
- ISO 10694:1995 Soil quality—Determination of organic and total carbon after dry combustion (elementary analysis)
- ISO 13878:1998 Soil quality—Determination of total nitrogen content by dry combustion (elemental analysis)
- ISO 16703:2004 Soil quality—Determination of content of hydrocarbon in the range C10 to C40 by gas chromatography
- Luodes H, Kauppila PM, Luodes N, Aatos S, Kallioinen J, Luukkanen S, Aalto J (2012) Characteristics and the environmental acceptability of the natural stone quarrying waste rocks. *Bull Eng Geol Environ* 71:257–261. doi:10.1007/s10064-011-0398-z
- Milgrom T (2008) Environmental aspects of rehabilitating abandoned quarries: Israel as a case study. *Landsc Urban Plan* 87:172–179
- Ministero dell’Ambiente (2006) Norme in materia ambientale. Decreto Legislativo 3 aprile 2006, n. 152. Published in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* n. 88 del 14 aprile 2006—Supplemento Ordinario n. 96
- Mipaf—Ministero per le Politiche Agricole e Forestali (1999) Metodi ufficiali di analisi chimica del suolo. DM del 13/09/99, *Gazzetta Ufficiale* n. 248 del 21 Oct 1999
- Neri AC, Sanchez LE (2010) A procedure to evaluate environmental rehabilitation in limestone quarries. *J Environ Manage* 91:2225–2237
- Rauret G, López-Sánchez JF, Sahuquillo A, Rubio R, Davidson CM, Ure A, Quevauviller Ph (1999) Improvement of the BCR three step sequential extraction procedure prior to the certification of new sediment and soil reference materials. *J Environ Monit* 1:57–61
- Reimann C, Flem B, Arnoldussen A, Englmaier P, Finne TE, Koller F, Nordgulen Ø (2008) The biosphere: A homogeniser of Pb-isotope signals. *Appl Geochem* 23(4):705–722
- Sandrone R, Barla G, Bianco G, Compagnoni R, Giani GP (1982) Planning of quarrying operations in the “Pietra di Luserna” basin (Western Italian Alps). *Proceedings 4th International Congress I.A.E.G., New Delhi*, 10–15 December 1982, 1: 413–424
- Sandrone R, Cadoppi P, Sacchi R, Vialon P (1993) The Dora-Maira Massif. In: von Raumer JF, Neubauer F (eds) *Pre-Mesozoic geology in the Alps*. Springer, Berlin, pp 317–325
- Sandrone R, Alciati L, De Rossi A, Fiora L, Radicci MT (2000) Estrazione, lavorazione e impieghi della Pietra di Luserna. In: *Proceedings “Quarry-Laboratory-Monument” International Congress*, Pavia, 2: 41–49
- Sivrikaya O, Kiyildi KR, Karaca Z (2014) Recycling waste from natural stone processing plants to stabilise clayey soil. *Environ Earth Sci* 71:4397–4407
- Sort X, Alcañiz JM (1996) Contribution of sewage sludge to erosion control in the rehabilitation of limestone quarries. *Land Degrad Dev* 7:69–76
- Vialon P (1966) Etude géologique du Massif Cristallin Dora-Maira (Alpes Cottiniennes internes, Italie), *Trav Lab Géol Grenoble Mém*, 4: 293

Journal : **12665**
Article : **3895**

Author Query Form

Please ensure you fill out your response to the queries raised below and return this form along with your corrections

Dear Author

During the process of typesetting your article, the following queries have arisen. Please check your typeset proof carefully against the queries listed below and mark the necessary changes either directly on the proof/online grid or in the 'Author's response' area provided below

Query	Details Required	Author's Response
AQ1	The given sentence 'The size distribution...silt weakly sandy' seems to be incomplete. Please check the clarity for the mentioned sentence, and amend if necessary.	
AQ2	The sentence 'Although in general ...plants tested' has been slightly modified for clarity. Please check that the meaning is still correct, and amend if necessary.	
AQ3	Kindly check (dc.identifier.uri.) is an url and which is need to be made as external reference	
AQ4	References Reimann et al. (2008) are given in list but not cited in text. Please cite in text or delete from list.	