

## **Author Responses to Editor:**

*All author responses appear in grey italics below specific comments from the Editor. The authors thank the Editor for the time and energy they have spent facilitating reviews and providing constructive feedback on this body of work.*

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## **Editor Comments:**

Referee #3 Line 194: The method for determining normal distribution needs to be mentioned. Your response: The authors have added text to provide these relevant details on L 213: “Data collected had normal distribution (identified through comparison of p-values to significance levels)...” I believe referee asks for the specific test used for determining that data was normally distributed (e.g. a chi square test with  $p < 0.05$ , or similar information). Please provide some additional information in response to this comment.

Upon further conversations with the first author, we identified that this line was unintentionally misleading as it was the *isotopic data* associated with this study that had normal distributions, but the *concentration data* associated with this study were non-normally distributed. With the transition of the isotopic work to the Supplement, all concentration data presented in the main text had non-normal distributions. Because Mann-Whitney rank sum tests were performed to assess significance, no statistical re-evaluation is needed as this test is appropriate for non-normal distributions. Corresponding edits have been made to section 2.6 to communicate that the concentration data had non-normal distributions and provide details of determining this. The first line of section 2.6 now reads: “Concentration data collected had non-normal distribution (identified visually via box plot asymmetry of concentration data) and no outliers were identified.”

Please also note the comment from review file validation: Please add the Last name "Wullschleger" to the co-author Stan D. in title page of \*.pdf manuscript file.

Our apologies for this unintentional deletion. The full names and affiliations of all authors are now verified.

With this final revision I hope we can soon see the publication of this manuscript in TC, after a long review process.

We thank the Editor for their facilitation and insights throughout this process and we also hope that this revision will result in the publication of this work.