Geochemistry of Mn anomalies in the surficial bottom deposits of the Sea of Marmara

Mustafa ERGIN and Mehmet N. BODUR

Institute of Marine Sciences, Middle East Technical University, Erdemli/ICEL (**Turkey**)

Six box-cores, one boomerang core, and two hundred-nine grab samples were collected during the 1984, and 1988-1990 cruises of R.V. *Bilim* and the 1988 cruise of R.V. *Knorr* across the Sea of Marmara (Fig.1) in an attempt to establish the metal levels in the surficial sediments and the factors controlling their distribution within the basin; these were analyzed for grain-size distribution and organic carbon, carbonate and metal contents.

The sediment composition varies regionally and in response to textural variations and the heavy metal composition of sediment samples, determined for Fe (0.42-6.31%), Ni (6-161 ppm), Zn (20-180 ppm), Cr (5-174 ppm), Co (7-30 ppm), Cu (6-92 ppm), and Pb (8-94 ppm), can be largely explained by admixture of terrigenous components of variable composition and biogenic components poor in metal contents (BODUR M.N. and ERGIN M., 1991). The usually high concentrations of metals studied occur in the fine-grained sediments. Mn (152-9127 ppm) was found to be enriched in the deep-sea sediments of Marmara Trough (Figs. 2 and 3) over the possible contributions from terrigenous sources and the results indicate that there is no significant hydrothermal contribution of Mn to the sediments. In particular, the enrichment of Mn in the surface layers and the downcore changes of color from reddish-brown to greenish-grey is interpreted as reflecting the postdepositional remobilization/precipitation processes as a result of redox changes within the sediment column. The interelement relationships in the sediments indicate similar sources for all the metals analyzed, except for Mn, that seems to be enriched owing to the diagenesis and hydrogenesis within the oxygen-depleted deep basins of the Sea of Marmara.

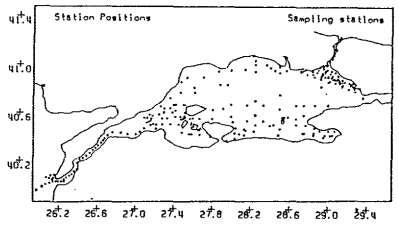

Fig.1. Sampling stations for surficial sediments in the Sea of Marmara.

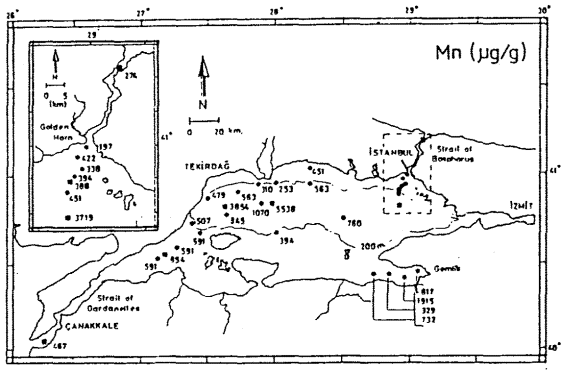

Fig. 2 . Distribution of Mn concentrations in the surficial Marmara sediments.

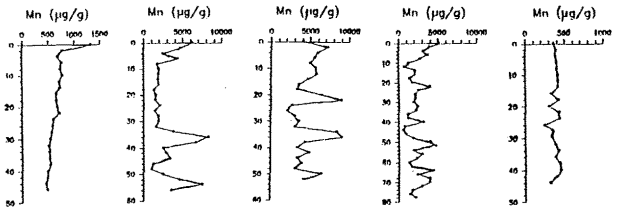

Fig. 3 . Downcore distribution of Mn concentrations in the Recent sediments across the Sea of Marmara, towards the Aegean Sea (left) and Black Sea (right) exits. Note the high Mn contents in deep-sea sediments.

REFERENCES

BODUR M.N. and ERGIN M., 1991.- Heavy metal geochemistry of surficial bottom deposits from the Sea of Marmara. *Manuscript submitted to Marine Geology.*

Reconnaissance study of heavy metals in surface sediments from the Southern Black Sea Shelf and upper slope

Mustafa ERGIN and Fulya YUCESOY

Institute of Marine Sciences, Middle East Technical University, ICEL (**Turkey**)

A wide variety of sediment types (mud to sandy gravel) was obtained at fourty-seven stations on the Southern Black Sea shelf and upper slope and analyzed for their heavy metal geochemistry. Distribution of grain size, carbonates, organic carbon, and heavy metals show marked changes in the topography-related hydrography, biological activity, and land-geology of the region studied.

Sediments constitued up to 39% $CaCO_3$ mainly of biogenic origin from the shell remains of benthic organisms. Organic carbon contents of the sediments (0.13-3.09%) usually reflect the prevailing high primary productivities in the Black Sea although significant terrigenous influences are also inferred. The effects of both water currents and benthic activities on the grain size of sediments appeared to be important especially in the vicinity of Bosphorus Strait.

The heavy metal concentrations (Fe: 0.23-4.90%; Mn: 112-1064 ppm; Co: <1-20 ppm; Cr: 13-224 ppm; Ni: 11-202 ppm; Cu: 15-82 ppm; Zn: 24-138 ppm; Pb: 12-66 ppm) largely indicate the influences from the naturally-occurring geological sources delivered via river runoff and coastal erosion. In comparison with the average sedimentary rocks and other modern sediments from the adjacent regions YUCESOY and ERGIN, 1991, and many other references therein), the concentrations of Cr, Ni, Cu, Zn, and Pb are somehow higher in the surface sediments from Southern Black Sea. In particular, Cr (Fig. 1), Ni and Cu (Fig. 2) are found in high abundances in the Eastern parts of the study area. This is thought to reflect not only the well-mixed fine-grained nature of the sediments but also the possible contribution from metal-rich rocks (mafic and ultramafic sources) and associated economic mineral deposits in the catchment areas of rivers which drain this part of the coast. The presence of significant positive correlations between the concentrations of Cr and Ni, and Zn and Pb (Fig. 3) strongly suggest common sources and/or similar enrichment mechanisms for these metals. The relationships among the geochemical variables revealed that Fe, Mn, and organic phases together with the clay- and silt-sized grain fractions are the important associations of the studied heavy metals. Heavy metal data indicate that there is no significant anthropogenic contribution to the bottom deposits.

Fig. 1. Distribution of Cr in surface sediments along the Southern Black Sea Margin.

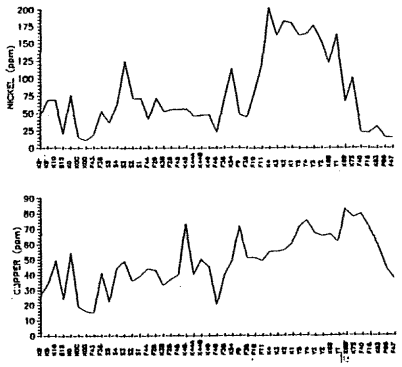

Fig. 2. Distribution of Ni and Cu in surface sediments along the Southern Black Sea Margin.

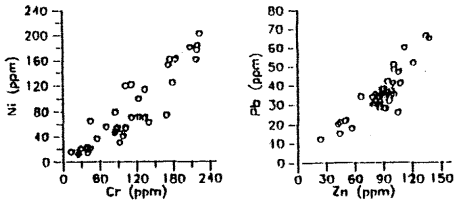

Fig. 3. Relationship between the concentrations of Cr and Ni, and Zn and Pb in surface sediments along the Southern Black Sea Margin.

REFERENCES

YUCESOY F. and ERGIN M., 1991.- Heavy metal geochemistry of surface sediments from the Southern Black Sea Shelf and upper slope. Manuscript submitted to Chemical Geology.