Characterizing the reactivity of metallic iron in Fe⁰/EDTA/H₂O systems with column experiments 2 3 Noubactep C.

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6 Abstract

7 Characterizing the intrinsic reactivity of iron materials for environmental remediation has 8 received relative little interest. Available results are mostly based on the removal extent of 9 selected contaminants in batch systems. Under static conditions however, contaminant 10 removal depends on the properties of the oxide-film. The present study was performed to investigate the chemical reactivity of nine Fe⁰ materials under conditions that minimize the 11 12 formation of an oxide-film on the metal surface. Ethylenediaminetetraacetate (EDTA) was used to sustain Fe^{0} dissolution during column testing for two months. The results confirm Fe^{0} 13 14 dissolution rate in 2 mM EDTA as a good tool for comparative reactivity characterization. 15 Moreover, long-term column studies with 2 mM EDTA enable: (i) the evidence of increased powdered Fe⁰ reactivity relative to granular materials, and (ii) a clear differentiation among 16 17 granular materials which exhibited very closed extents of iron dissolution under static conditions. Future works comparing Fe⁰ intrinsic reactivity should ideally characterize 18 19 material behaviour in an oxide-free system and compare the results to those obtained under 20 relevant experimental conditions.

Key words: Column study; EDTA; Electrochemical reactivity; Water Remediation; 21 22 Zerovalent iron.

23 1. Introduction

24 Iron-based permeable reactive barriers (iron walls) have been successfully used as an efficient 25 in situ remediation technology for groundwaters contaminated with various organic and inorganic compounds over the past 15 years [1-5]. The real mechanism of contaminant 26

27 removal is yet to be elucidated. Despite a broad consensus on reductive transformations [1], quantitative contaminant removal by other mechanisms has been reported. Currently, it is 28 assumed that Fe⁰/H₂O systems may remove chlorinated organics by reductive degradation, 29 whereas metals, metalloids and radionuclides may be removed via reductive precipitation, 30 31 surface adsorption or complexation, or co-precipitation with the Fe oxyhydroxides that are 32 generated in the system [2-4]. The validity of this concept is progressively questioned [6-12]. 33 In fact, some of the enumerated processes must be fundamental and valid for all possible 34 pollutants while others will be valid only in particular situations (e.g., the contaminant is reducible). In addition to the diversity of successfully removed contaminants in Fe⁰/H₂O 35 systems, there is diversity among Fe^0 sources (intrinsic properties) and thus diversity in the 36 37 chemical reactivity of used materials.

Over the past 20 years Fe^0 materials used in laboratory and field Fe^0/H_2O systems was 38 available from a variety of commercial sources including [13-15]: (i) chemical reagents (e.g. 39 Merck, Across, Aldrich), (ii) untreated scrap iron and by-products [15, 16], and (iii) Fe⁰ 40 41 materials manufactured for environmental remediation (e.g. Connelly-GPM Inc., G. Maier 42 GmbH, ISPAT GmbH, Peerless Metal Powders & Abrasive). The results of experiments 43 using such different materials have been compared to each other with little care on the 44 intrinsic material reactivity (see next section). To date there is no standard parameter to evaluate the intrinsic reactivity of Fe^0 materials [17]. However, it is well known that, the 45 46 metal type and method of manufacture are as important as the environment (solution 47 corrosiveness) for corrosion processes [18]. Clearly, the presence and amount of alloying and 48 other foreign elements, the size of the material, and whether the metal is cast, forged, wrought 49 or welded are critical to material intrinsic reactivity (corrodibility). A further problem with the majority of commercially available Fe^{0} is that the materials are produced from scrap iron and 50 51 steel obtained from a number of primary industries using iron in the production of automotive and related industrial parts [13]. Therefore, the "feedstock" for commercially available Fe⁰ is 52

a mixture including scrap iron and steel. The mixture is heated at 700 to 1200° C in rotary kilns to burn off the non-metallic materials, especially the cutting oils [13]. Accordingly, the real manufacturing history of commercially available Fe⁰ is not traceable. This is the major reason why materials should be characterized "as received".

Factors affecting Fe⁰ reactivity in laboratory experiments can be divided into three subgroups: 57 58 (i) material-dependent factors (intrinsic reactivity - mostly not directly accessible to 59 researchers), (ii) environment-dependent factors (investigable at individual relevant sites), and (iii) operational experimental parameters (should be designated to mimic environment-60 dependent factors). Environment-dependent factors and operational experimental parameters 61 62 are not addressed in the present work. As concerning material-dependent factors, they include: Fe^0 manufacturing history, Fe^0 elemental composition, Fe^0 particle size (nm, μ m, 63 mm), Fe⁰ surface area and surface property (also of generated oxides). A decade of 64 investigations on Fe⁰ have not clarified the relative importance of the individual factors of this 65 66 subgroup [15, 19, 20]. However, an unjustified importance was attributed to one of these 67 parameters: the surface area [19, 21] and kinetic rate constant (k_{obs}) are usually normalized to the surface area [22, 23]. To characterize the Fe⁰ intrinsic reactivity, most of the tested 68 69 materials were used without any pre-treatment ("as received"). Only one material was crushed 70 and sieved to yield particle size relevant for field applications (≤ 2 mm). Their chemical 71 reactivity is evaluated as the extent of iron dissolution in the presence of Ethylenediaminetetraacetate (EDTA available as Na₂-EDTA). 72

The ability of EDTA to sustain iron oxidative dissolution is well documented in the corrosion science [24-26] and has been used to avoid the formation of oxide-film on Fe⁰ in experiments investigating contaminant removal in Fe⁰/H₂O systems [27-29]. A comprehensive discussion on the chemistry of the Fe⁰/EDTA/H₂O system is given by Pierce et al. [30]. Previous works characterizing the reactivity of Fe⁰ in the presence of EDTA (2 mM) showed that the kinetic rate constant of iron dissolution (termed k_{EDTA}) is a useful parameter to differentiate the reactivity of Fe⁰ materials in batch systems [15]. To further characterize the reactivity of Fe⁰ in batch experiments, a parameter τ_{EDTA} was introduced [31, 32]. Per definition, τ_{EDTA} is the time necessary to reach aqueous Fe saturation under given experimental condition assuming 1:1 Fe/EDTA complexation ([Fe] = 2 mM or 112 mg/L).

The objective of the present work was to investigate the feasibility of using EDTA to characterize the reactivity of Fe^0 materials in column studies. For this purpose a series of nine pre-selected Fe^0 materials are used. Their chemical reactivity in a 2 mM EDTA solution is comparatively examined. The extent of iron dissolution in individual columns is used to assess Fe^0 reactivity. For the sake of clarity the definition of chemical reactivity will be recalled.

89 2. Electrochemical reactivity of Fe^0

In discussing the suitability of Fe^0 for environmental remediation one has to properly 90 distinguish between the corrodibility of Fe⁰ and the corrosiveness of the aqueous 91 environment. Fe⁰ corrodibility is the material's susceptibility to corrosion or the material's 92 93 intrinsic chemical reactivity. Because iron corrosion is primarily an electrochemical process, Fe⁰ intrinsic reactivity can be regarded as Fe⁰ electrochemical reactivity. The corrosiveness of 94 the environment refers to the aggressiveness of the aqueous solution toward Fe^0 oxidative 95 dissolution. Consequently, Fe⁰ corrodibility and solution corrosiveness are not objective 96 parameters but subjective tendencies. Accordingly, the Fe⁰ electrochemical reactivity is its 97 98 tendency to undergo an oxidative dissolution. Similarly, the corrosiveness of a contaminant for a given Fe⁰ material is its ability to induce oxidative dissolution of the material. Efforts to 99 characterize electrochemical reactivity of Fe⁰ in neutral and close-to-neutral solutions are 100 complicated by two major parameters: (i) the formation of oxide layers on Fe^{0} , and (ii) the 101 102 interactions of dissolved species within the oxide layers. Therefore, efforts has been made to 103 characterize iron-corrosion-related processes in the absence of oxide layers [15, 26, 30, 31]. 104 One of these efforts is used in this study. It consists in using EDTA as chelating agent to avoid the formation of oxide layers on Fe^0 and thus, to sustain Fe^0 oxidative dissolution by molecular O₂ (and H₂O).

The presentation above shows clearly that each Fe⁰ material is characterized by its 107 electrochemical reactivity and each contaminant by its corrosiveness for a given Fe⁰. More 108 109 precisely, a given concentration of a contaminant (in a given solution - ionic strength, pH value) exhibits a certain corrosiveness for a given Fe⁰. The difficulty arises when one has to 110 111 compare data obtained by various investigators under different experimental conditions even when the experiments would have used the same mass loading of a given Fe^0 material [32]. 112 113 To take these weaknesses into account, the present study comparatively investigates the kinetics and the extent of Fe⁰ oxidative dissolution by molecular O₂ (and H₂O) in the presence 114 115 of EDTA for nine materials in column experiments.

116 **3.**

. Materials and Methods

117 **3.1 Solutions**

118 Based on previous works, a working EDTA-solution of 0.002 M was used [15, 31, 32]. 119 Working EDTA solutions (0.02 M or 2 mM) was obtained by a one step dilution (1:20) of a 120 stock solution prepared from an analytical grade chemical (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt - ACROS Organics). A standard iron solution (1000 mg/L) from Baker JT® was 121 used to calibrate the Spectrophotometer. The reducing reagent for Fe^{III}-EDTA was ascorbic 122 123 acid. The ascorbic buffer was used to keep the pH <4.0. 1,10 orthophenanthroline (ACROS Organics) was used as reagent for Fe^{II} complexation. Used L(+)-ascorbic acid and L-ascorbic 124 125 acid sodium salt were of analytical grade. All solutions were prepared using deionised water.

126 **3.2** Fe^{0} materials

127 One laboratory grade iron powder (ACROS Organics - ZVI9), one scrap iron (ZVI7), and 128 seven commercially available iron materials have been tested. Table 1 summarizes the main 129 characteristics of these materials together with their iron content. Before used ZVI3 was 130 crushed and sieved; the size fraction 1.0-2.0 mm was used without any further pretreatment.

The specific surface area of the materials varies between 0.043 and 1.8 m² g⁻¹. These data 131 132 were compiled from the literature (Tab. 1). The objective of this study is to compare the 133 materials in the form in which they could be used in field applications. Accordingly, the 134 materials were compared mostly on the basis of the extent of iron dissolution from the same initial mass of Fe^{0} (1.0 g) by the same volume of 2 mM EDTA. Apart from ZVI3, all other 135 136 materials were used as obtained. Crushing and sieving ZVI3 aimed at working with materials 137 of particle size relevant for field applications. The materials differ regarding their 138 characteristics such as iron content, nature and proportion of alloying elements, and shape. No 139 information about the manufacture process (e.g. raw material, heat treatment) was available.

A survey of the elemental composition (Table 1) shows that the tested materials primarily differ in their carbon (and silicon) contents. Thereafter the tested materials can be divided into three classes: (i) ZVI1, ZVI2, ZVI4, ZVI5, ZVI6 and ZVI7 containing more than 3% carbon (cast irons), (ii) ZVI8 and ZVI9 containing less than 3% C are mild steels, and (iii) ZVI3, direct reduced iron, containing 1.96 % C belongs to the third class because of the particularity of his manufacturing technology, yielding to porous materials.

Apart from ZVI5 with a regular spherical shape, homogeneous size (d = 1.2 mm) and smooth surface [34], all other materials were irregular in shape (filings and shavings) with a rough surface. ZVI3 was of very rough surface and even porous. ZVI1, ZVI4, ZVI5, ZVI6 and ZVI9 were visibly covered with rust whereas all other samples retained their metallic glaze.

The nine used materials were selected from eighteen Fe^0 materials after characterization in batch experiments using the EDTA-test [15]. The results are presented elsewhere [32]. The results suggested that the batch EDTA-test may not be suitable for characterizing powdered Fe^0 and Fe^0 filings with high proportion of fines [32]. To test the validity of this assumption one powdered material (from six tested in [32]) was incorporated in this study together with eight materials representative for the variability of the reactivity obtained for the twelve other granular materials (chips, filings, shavings).

157 3.3 **Iron dissolution studies**

158 Laboratory scale glass columns were operated in up-flow mode. Nine glass columns (40 cm 159 long, 2.6 cm inner diameter) were used. The columns were packed with sand. Each column contains 1.0 g of a different Fe^0 material in its most upper part. The effective length, the bulk 160 161 density and the porosity of the packed columns were not characterized as they were not 162 necessary for the discussion of the results. The kinetics and the extent of iron oxidative 163 dissolution by EDTA were the sole targets. The influent solution contained 2 mM EDTA and 164 was pumped upwards from PE bottles using a peristaltic pump (Ismatec, ICP 24). Tygon 165 tubes were used to connect inlet reservoir, pump, column and outlet. The experiment was performed at room temperature (21-25 °C). A stable flow rate of about 11.0 mLh⁻¹ was 166 167 maintained throughout the experiment. Samples for analysis were collected in flow through 168 bottles at periodic intervals. The experiments were stopped after 62 days.

169 3.4 **Analytical methods**

170 The aqueous iron concentration was determined with a Varian Cary 50 UV-VIS 171 spectrophotometer, using a wavelength of 510 nm for iron determination and following the 172 1,10 orthophenanthroline method [38, 39]. The instrument was calibrated for iron concentration $\leq 10 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$. The pH value was measured by combined glass electrodes (WTW 173 174 Co., Germany). Electrodes were calibrated with five standards following a multi-point 175 calibration protocol in agreement with the current IUPAC recommendation [40].

- 176 4. **Results and discussion**
- 177 4.1

Expression of experimental results

178 The amounts of Fe dissolved during 62 d are expressed as a percentage, on a mass basis, of 179 the total mass (1 g) of the used materials and summarized in Table 2. Although the Fe content 180 of individual materials was available, the leaching percentage was referenced to the initial 181 mass of material (1.0 g). This choice is justified by the fact that materials are characterized on 182 the weight basis for their capacity to be used for contaminant removal. Regardless from the

183 actual removal mechanism, the extent of contaminant mitigation is necessarily coupled with 184 the extent of Fe dissolution. Therefore, not the total Fe content is essential, but rather the 185 reactive proportion (leaching extent) and the kinetics of the leaching process. The changes in 186 pH was not recorded. The kinetics of Fe dissolution is expressed as variation of aqueous Fe concentration with the cumulative volume which is directly proportional to the elapsed time. 187 188 The experiment was stopped after that 16.0 to 16.8 L of EDTA has flowed through the 189 columns. Potentially, 16 L of EDTA (2 mM) can dissolved 1.8 g Fe. Depending on the 190 electrochemical reactivity of the individual materials, the amount of leached Fe during the test varies from 27 to 73 % of the initial weight of Fe^0 material (1.0 g). 191

192 **4.2** Ki

Kinetics of Fe⁰ oxidative dissolution

Figure 1a shows that two from the nine tested materials exhibited markedly increased 193 194 dissolution kinetics after the half time of the experiment (1 month corresponding to the date 195 where 8 L of EDTA has flowed through the columns): ZVI3 (direct reduced iron) and ZVI8 196 (powder). After 1 month all materials exhibited very similar dissolution kinetics (Fig 1a). The 197 powdered material exhibited the most rapid kinetic of iron dissolution with 77 % of the total 198 leached amount of Fe (729 mg after 62 d, Table 2) been leached after 1 month. The extent of 199 iron leaching after 1 month for all other materials, relative to the total leached amount at the 200 end of the experiment, varies between 54 and 66 %. The order of reactivity of the material 201 deduced from the extent of leached iron after 1 month (31 d) is the following:

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$$ZVI5 < ZVI7 < ZVI2 < ZVI9 < ZVI4 < ZVI6 < ZVI3 < ZVI1 < ZVI8.$$

The order of reactivity derived from the total amount of leached iron at the end of the experiment (62 d) is the following:

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ZVI5 < ZVI4 < ZVI6 < ZVI9 < ZVI11 < ZVI2 < ZVI7 < ZVI3 < ZVI8

Either Fe^0 material used in this study (including powdered ZVI8) might be suitable for use in field reactive wall applications unless it is not affordable. The different reactivity for dissolution in 2 mM EDTA would certainly influence the choice of Fe^0 with regard of site 209 specific conditions. It is interesting to notice that ZVI9 with one of the largest surface area $(1.8 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1})$ is one of the poorest reactive materials. Also ZVI5 and ZVI6 with the largest 210 211 carbon content are among the less reactive materials. Given the similarities in surface area of 212 used materials due to similarity in the particle size (except for powdered ZVI8 and porous ZVI3), it is definitively clear that Fe⁰ manufacture history causes the observed differences in 213 214 reactivity. Due to lack of information on these two aspects, their importance can not be 215 accurately accessed or discussed in the remainder of the paper. Although discussing the effects of Fe⁰ manufacture history is over the scope of this work, a brief discussion on the 216 217 impact of iron content and surface area will be given bellow.

Figure 2 summarises the extent of iron dissolution from tested materials as function of specific surface area (Fig. 2a) and the iron content (Fig. 2b) of the materials. It is obvious that neither the iron content nor the SSA correlated with the extent of Fe leaching by EDTA. From Fig. 2a the material with the highest surface area exhibited one of the lowest Fe leaching efficiency and from Fig. 2b the material with the lowest iron content exhibited the highest Fe leaching efficiency.

224 Figure 1b summarises the kinetics of iron dissolution from the seven granular materials (filings, chips) with similar reactivity in fig 1a. Due to a change in the scale on the 225 226 concentration axe (\leq 50 mg/L) a certain reactivity differentiation can be made graphically. For 227 example it can be seen that ZVI5 (cast iron having the least surface area) is the least reactive 228 material whereas ZVI1, ZVI2 and ZVI7 exhibit an increased initial dissolution kinetic. After 229 about one month ZVI7 (and to some extent ZVI2) was the sole material exhibiting an 230 increased dissolution kinetics. These results indicated that systems containing powdered and 231 granulated materials will loss their efficiency sometimes after their field implementation. For 232 systems with powdered materials the loss of efficiency is due to depletion of readily reactive 233 site at the surface. Efficiency loss for granular material is due to intrinsic properties. Note that 234 no passivation due to hydroxide/oxide precipitation is expected under flowing conditions in

EDTA. Considering intrinsic reactivity loss in material selection will certainly reduce the 235 probability of barrier failure. For example, Morrison et al. [41], reported on a Fe⁰/H₂O system 236 237 that showed sooner breakthrough than expected for molybdenum and uranium. Performance failure was attributed to: (i) the continual build-up of mineral precipitates on the Fe⁰ surface, 238 239 (ii) the loss of pore space, (iii) the development of preferential flow paths, and (iv) the complete bypass of the $Fe^{0}/H_{2}O$ system resulting in the loss of hydraulic control. The results 240 241 of the present study suggest that a non purposeful material selection could have been an 242 important factor as well.

243 **4.3** Extent of Fe⁰ oxidative dissolution

244 Figure 3 summarises the evolution of the cumulative mass of leached iron as function of the 245 volume passed through the columns. As for the kinetics, a net difference is observed for ZVI8 246 and ZVI3 (Fig. 3a). All other seven materials exhibited very similar dissolution behaviour in 247 the initial phase of the experiment (4 L of EDTA passed or 2 weeks) and a clearer reactivity 248 differentiation with increasing experimental duration. Most of available experiments are 249 performed in batch systems (iron precipitation after saturation) and the experimental durations are rarely greater than 2 days. In such experiments only the initial reactivity of Fe⁰ materials 250 are tested. Even though tested materials are often those used for field Fe⁰/H₂O systems. 251 252 accurate long-term data are very difficult to obtain, particularly when service life in the range 253 of decades are needed. This study shows that long-term column experiments (together with 254 purposeful modelling efforts) can help to bridge the gap between field and laboratory.

255 4.4 Discussion

The results of Fe^0 oxidative dissolution by molecular O_2 in 2 mM from this study are compared with that obtained by the same materials for methylene blue (MB) discoloration [42] and 2 mM EDTA Fe^0 dissolution in batch systems [32]. The order of reactivity of material for column studies for 1 month (initial dissolution) and 2 months (long term dissolution) are given separately above. The order of reactivity for the other systems are thefollowing:

ZVI5 < ZVI2 < ZVI9 < ZVI4 < ZVI6 < ZVI7 < ZVI3 < ZVI1 < ZVI8 262 EDTA: ZVI5 < ZVI2 < ZVI7 < ZVI3 < ZVI6 < ZVI9 < ZVI4 < ZVI1 < ZVI8 263 MB: The comparison of the initial kinetics of Fe^0 dissolution in batch (k_{EDTA}) and column (31 d) 264 265 studies reveals that ZVI5 and ZVI2 are the least reactive materials whereas ZVI3, ZVI1 and ZVI8 are the most reactive ones. However, ZVI1, ZVI2 and ZVI5 are all cast irons whereas 266 ZVI3 is direct reduced iron. Therefore, the relative Fe^{0} reactivity can not be predicted from 267 the elemental chemical composition. Only direct reduced iron could confirm the foreseeable 268 269 effect of increased reactivity due to porosity or increased surface area.

The relative reactivity of the four other materials do not show also a net trend. This is certainly due to the fact that 1 month is a too long time to be considered as time of initial dissolution. Therefore, the order of reactivity considering the initial dissolution is the following obtained in batch experiments:

274 ZVI5 < ZVI2 < ZVI9 < ZVI4 < ZVI6 < ZVI7 < ZVI3 < ZVI1 < ZVI8.

The order of dissolution deduced from the total mass of Fe leached after 62 days was the following:

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$$ZVI5 < ZVI4 < ZVI6 < ZVI9 < ZVI1 < ZVI2 < ZVI7 < ZVI3 < ZVI8.$$

278 It is very interesting to observe that only ZVI5 and ZVI8 conserved their ranking in both 279 classifications. However, it can be emphasized that for longer experimental duration ZVI8 280 (powder) will be depleted. Therefore, the selection of a material should take into account its 281 reactivity, the relative the flux of contaminant in the ground water and the volume of water to 282 be treated. In some cases it could be advantageous to work with a less reactive material like 283 ZVI5 which is reactive in the long-term. Some applications will need powdered and even nano-sized Fe⁰ for short-time rapid contaminant removal. Next to the iron intrinsic reactivity 284 yielding Fe⁰ dissolution, the relationship between Fe⁰ reactivity and contaminant removal 285

depends on the oxide-films formed as result of iron corrosion. To take this important aspect into account the relative reactivity of used materials as accessed by the extent of methylene blue (initial concentration 20 mg/L) discoloration for 1 month [42] was compared to the data on iron dissolution in 2 mM EDTA. The results of MB removal were more comparable to that of iron dissolution in batch systems than to that of columns systems. The slight differences can be attributed to the surface state (roughness, oxidation state) of individual materials.

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Concluding remarks

EDTA has been used for the characterization of the reactivity of Fe⁰ materials mostly of 293 294 similar particle size (comparable available surface area). The observed great differences in the chemical reactivity could not be correlated with the surface area. This suggests that surface 295 area plays a secondary role in controlling Fe⁰ electrochemical reactivity. The carbon contain 296 297 of the materials was not also determinant for electrochemical reactivity. Because intrinsic factors determining the chemical reactivity of Fe⁰ materials are of limited accessibility, 298 299 available materials should be tested in a systematic holistic approach to identify trends in their 300 general reactivity. In this effort, beside batch and column study with chelating agents (e.g. 301 EDTA), long-term batch and column experiment with various contaminants are needed. Given the large spectrum of contaminants that have been successfully removed in Fe⁰/H₂O 302 303 systems, this ambitious work can not be achieved by individuals or isolated research groups. The challenge should be to move from studies proving the viability of Fe^{0} technology to 304 investigations incorporated within a broad-based understanding of process occurring in 305 Fe⁰/H₂O systems [43]. In this effort the proper characterization of used materials is a 306 307 fundamental issue.

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Table 1: Origin, name and main characteristics of tested Fe^0 materials.

origin	original denotation	code	form	Ø
				(µm) ^(a)
MAZ, mbH	Sorte 69 ^(b)	ZVI6	filings	80-4000
G. Maier GmbH	FG 0300/2000	ZVI1	filings	200-2000
G. Maier GmbH	FG 1000/3000	ZVI4	filings	1000-3000
Würth	Hartgußstrahlmittel	ZVI5	spherical	1200
Hermens	Hartgußgranulat	ZVI2	granular	1500
G. Maier GmbH	Graugußgranulat	ZVI7	chips	350-1200
ISPAT GmbH	Schwammeisen	ZVI3	filings	9000
Connelly-GPM	ETC-CC-1004	ZVI9	filings	500-1000
ACROS	Fe, powder, 99%	ZVI8	powder	45

^(a) Average values from material supplier; ^(b) Scrap iron material.

433 Table 2. Elemental composition and specific surface area (SSA) of iron materials used in this
434 study. n.a. = not available and n.d. = not determined.

ZVI	Elemental (%)					SSA		
	С	Si	Mn	Cr	Mo	Ni	Fe	(m ² /g)
ZVI1 ^(a)	3.2	1.95	n.a.	0.023	n.a.	0.02	92.00	0.048 ^(b)
ZVI2	3.13	0.17	0.42	0.16	n.d.	0.23	96.7	0.50 ^(c)
ZVI3	1.96	0.12	0.09	0.003	n.d.	< 0.001	86.3	0.63 ^(d)
ZVI4 ^(a)	3.2	1.95	n.a.	0.023	n.a.	0.02	92.00	0.048 ^(b)
ZVI5	3.39	0.41	1.10	0.34	n.d.	0.088	91.5	0.043 ^(c)
ZVI6	3.52	2.12	0.93	0.66	n.d.	n.d.	99.8	0.29 ^(e)
ZVI7 ^(a)	3.13	2.17	0.36	0.077	n.d.	0.056	96.7	0.50 ^(f)
ZVI8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	99.0	n.a.
ZVI9 ^(a)	2.85	1.85	0.60	0.10	0.15	0.13	89.82	1.8 ^(g)

436 ^(a) Data of elemental composition from supplier, ^(b) ref. [33], ^(c) ref. [34], ^(d) Data from supplier,
437 ^(e) ref. [35]; ^(f) ref. [36], ^(g) ref. [37].

Table 3: Extent of Fe dissolution in column studies for the nine tested Fe⁰ materials. 'V_T' is441the total volume of EDTA (2 mM) that has flowed into the individual columns.442'm_T' is the total mass of leached Fe from individual materials and P (%) is the443corresponding percentage relative to the initial mass of 1.0 g (or 1000 mg). As a444rule, the more reactive a material the bigger the m_T and P values. General445conditions: $pH_0 = 5.2$, $[EDTA]_0 = 2 \text{ mM}$, $T = 23 \pm 2 \,^\circ\text{C}$.

Fe ⁰	form	$\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{T}}$	m _T	Р
		(L)	(mg)	(%)
ZVI5	spherical	16.6	272	27.2
ZVI4	filings	16.6	295	29.5
ZVI6	filings	16.6	298	29.8
ZVI9	filings	16.3	332	33.2
ZVI1	filings	16.6	340	34.0
ZVI2	granular	16.2	376	37.6
ZVI7	chips	16.0	430	43.0
ZVI3	filings	16.8	513	51.3
ZVI8	powder	16.5	729	72.9













466 Figure Captions

467 **Figure 1**:

468 Iron release (mg/L) from the Fe^0 materials by 2 mM EDTA for 62 days in column 469 experiments: (a) all tested Fe^0 materials and (b) the seven Fe^0 materials exhibiting similar 470 reactivity. The lines are not fitting functions, they simply connect points to facilitate 471 visualization.

472 **Figure 2**:

473 Cumulative iron release (mg) from the Fe⁰ materials as function of (a) material specific 474 surface area (SSA), and (b) material iron content. It is interesting to see that both parameters 475 play a secondary role in controlling Fe electrochemical reactivity.

476 **Figure 3**:

- 477 Cumulative iron release (mg) from the Fe^0 materials as function of the total volume of 2 mM
- 478 EDTA passed through the columns: (a) for all tested Fe^0 materials and (b) for the seven Fe^0

479 materials exhibiting similar reactivity. The lines are not fitting functions, they simply connect

480 points to facilitate visualization.