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## Batch soil adsorption and column transport studies of 2,4-dinitroanisole (DNAN) in soils



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### ABSTRACT

The explosive 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT) is currently a main ingredient in munitions; however the compound has failed to meet the new sensitivity requirements. The replacement compound being tested is 2,4-dinitroanisole (DNAN). DNAN is less sensitive to shock, high temperatures, and has good detonation characteristics. However, DNAN is more soluble than TNT, which can influence transport and fate behavior and thus bio-availability and human exposure potential. The objective of this study was to investigate the environmental fate and transport of DNAN in soil, with specific focus on sorption processes. Batch and column experiments were conducted using soils collected from military installations located across the United States. The soils were characterized for pH, electrical conductivity, specific surface area, cation exchange capacity, and organic carbon content. In the batch rate studies, change in DNAN concentration with time was evaluated using the first order equation, while adsorption isotherms were fitted using linear and Freundlich equations. Solution mass-loss rate coefficients ranged between  $0.0002 \text{ h}^{-1}$  and  $0.0068 \text{ h}^{-1}$ . DNAN was strongly adsorbed by soils with linear adsorption coefficients ranging between  $0.6$  and  $6.3 \text{ L g}^{-1}$ , and Freundlich coefficients between  $1.3$  and  $34 \text{ mg}^{1-n} \text{ L}^n \text{ kg}^{-1}$ . Both linear and Freundlich adsorption coefficients were positively correlated with the amount of organic carbon and cation exchange capacity of the soil, indicating that similar to TNT, organic matter and clay minerals may influence adsorption of DNAN. The results of the miscible-displacement column experiments confirmed the impact of sorption on retardation of DNAN during transport. It was also shown that under flow conditions DNAN transforms readily with formation of amino transformation products, 2-ANAN and 4-ANAN. The magnitudes of retardation and transformation observed in this study result in significant attenuation potential for DNAN, which would be anticipated to contribute to a reduced risk for contamination of ground water from soil residues.

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### 1. Introduction

The United States military uses the high explosive compound 2, 4, 6-trinitrotoluene (TNT) as one of the main ingredients in munitions. TNT is sensitive to shock and temperature, presenting a significant danger for unintended detonation. The Department of Defense is transitioning to so-called insensitive munitions (IM) to increase soldier safety (Jurgensen, 2000). This effort has resulted in the replacement of TNT with 2,4-dinitroanisole (DNAN) a compound that meets sensitivity requirements (Boddu et al., 2009). DNAN is a nitrated aromatic compound similar to TNT in composition and structure (Fig. s1). It is much less

sensitive to stimuli than TNT and, as its melting point is similar to that of TNT, it can replace TNT in melt cast munitions (Davies and Provatas, 2006).

Limited information is available regarding DNAN's environmental fate and potential impact on humans and the environment. Both DNAN and its transformation products exhibit microbial toxicity (with amino products being less toxic than DNAN) (Liang et al., 2013); as well as toxicity to higher organisms (Dodard et al., 2013). However, DNAN toxicity is comparable to or less than that of TNT (Dodard et al., 2013; Stanley et al., 2015).

Incomplete or low-order detonations that scatter explosives on training ranges is one of the main ways explosives enter the environment. IMs containing DNAN are more likely to result in incomplete detonations than traditional explosives (Walsh et al., 2013). DNAN is also

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more soluble than TNT in water, 276.2 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (Boddu et al., 2008) versus 103.1 (Ro et al., 1996) at 25 °C, and laboratory studies show that DNAN is readily dissolved from IM formulations when exposed to water (Taylor et al., 2013; Taylor et al., 2015).

Like TNT, DNAN can transform in the environment via reduction of nitro groups to amino groups and form a series of products, such as 2-amino-4-nitroanisole (2-ANAN), 4-amino-2-nitroanisole (4-ANAN), and 2,4-diaminoanisole (DAAN) (Olivares et al., 2013; Hawari et al., 2015). While transformation pathways have been determined, transformation rates in soils have not been measured.

DNAN's adsorption behavior is less well known. DNAN reactions with lignin may remove DNAN from contaminated water (Saad et al., 2012) by H-bonding. The effectiveness of lignin as a DNAN sorbent suggests that soil organic matter may adsorb DNAN. It was also observed that cellulose can weakly adsorb DNAN through H-bonding (Shukla and Poda, 2016). Mesocosm studies, using an insensitive formulation containing DNAN, in the presence of plants reported no DNAN in drainage nor in plant biomass, indicating soil retention, adsorption and/or transformation (Braidia et al., 2011).

Hawari et al. (2015) investigated the environmental fate of DNAN and its reduced products, 2-ANAN, 4-ANAN, and DAAN. These researchers conducted batch adsorption studies for these compounds with two sterilized soil materials. Their findings showed that DNAN was reversibly adsorbed by the soils, while 2-ANAN and 4-ANAN sorbed both reversibly and irreversibly, and DAAN sorbed irreversibly. This behavior is similar to that of TNT, which becomes easily reduced in the environment (nitro to amino groups) with resulting compounds adsorbing both reversibly (Dontsova et al., 2006) and irreversibly (Thorn and Kennedy, 2002; Thorn et al., 2002) to the organic matter in the soils. Reversible adsorption of TNT can happen through several mechanisms, depending on polarity of organic matter, including hydrophobic interactions mediating association with particulate organic carbon and polar interactions with dissolved organic carbon (Eriksson and Skyllberg, 2001).

Since environmental behaviors of DNAN and TNT are similar, we can expect that DNAN would interact with the same soil components as TNT. In general, organic carbon is often the best predictor of adsorption behavior of organic compounds, particularly non-ionic ones like DNAN (e.g., Site, 2001). However, TNT is adsorbed by both OC and phyllosilicate clays (Haderlein et al., 1996; Dontsova et al., 2009) suggesting that DNAN may also be adsorbed by clays. This was confirmed by Linker et al. (2015). The sorption is influenced by the type of exchangeable cation, similar to other nitroaromatic compounds (Haderlein et al., 1996), with DNAN interacting directly with the cation.

Given the paucity of information concerning the sorption and transport behavior of DNAN, the main objective of the present work is to: examine the fate of DNAN in soils; quantify the extent of DNAN reversible adsorption; quantify mass loss through other mechanisms related to the chemical and physical properties of the soils; and assess relationships between DNAN adsorption and soil properties. Batch and column experiments were conducted using soils collected from military installations located across the United States. The 11 soils were characterized for pH, specific surface area (SSA), electrical conductivity (EC), OC content, and cation exchange capacity (CEC) to help understand the interactions between DNAN and soils.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. Soil collection and characterization

Surface soils (0–20 cm depth) were collected from uncontaminated sites on ten U.S. Army National Guard training ranges and one from the University of Illinois farm. Soil series names and classifications for all soils are listed in Table 1. The selected soils represent a range of climates and conditions on military ranges where live fire training occurs. These soils span several soil orders with different moisture regimes, including

**Table 1**

Soils used to study interaction with DNAN. Soil names, classification according to US Taxonomy, and location where collected is listed.

Soil name	Soil classification	Location
Catlin	Catlin silt loam, mixed, mesic, superactive Oxyaquic Argiudoll	Urbana, IL
Fort Harrison	Musselshell sandy loam, carbonatic, frigid Aridic Calcustepts	Fort William Henry Harrison, MT
Arnold AFB	Captina silt loam, siliceous, mesic, typic Fragiudults	Arnold Air Force Base, TN
Plymouth	Plymouth loamy sand, mesic, coated Typic Quartzipsamment	Massachusetts Military Reservation, MA
Camp Butner	Helena sandy loam, mixed, semiactive, thermic Aquic Hapludults	Camp Butner, NC
Limestone Hills	Musselshell sandy loam, carbonatic, frigid Aridic Calcustepts	Limestone Hills, MT
Sassafras	Sassafras loam, siliceous, mesic Typic Hapudult	Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
Camp Gruber	Verdigris silt loam, mixed, superactive, thermic Cumulic Hapludolls	Camp Gruber, OK
Camp Guernsey	Keeline-Turnercrest loam, mixed, superactive, calcareous, mesic Ustic Torriorthents	Camp Guernsey, WY
Florence MR	Cherioni loam, mixed, superactive, hyperthermic, shallow Typic Hapludurids	Florence Military Reservation, AZ
Camp Swift	Bergstrom sandy clay loam, mixed, superactive, thermic Cumulic Hapludolls	Camp Swift, TX

Entisols, Inceptisols, Mollisols, Aridisols, and Ultisols. Soils in the text are identified by location where they were collected except Plymouth, Catlin, and Sassafras, which are identified by series name.

Collected soils were air dried, sieved (<2 mm), and characterized before the experiments. Soil OC content was measured using a Shimadzu SSM-5000A Solid Sample Combustion Unit following pretreatment with 5% phosphoric acid (H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>) to ensure a complete removal of inorganic carbon (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2010). Cation exchange capacity was determined using the sodium acetate method (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986). A VWR SympHony SB70P Benchtop Digital pH and EC Meter was used to measure pH and EC in a 1:1 soil to solution mixture. Particle size was determined using a Beckman Coulter LS 13320 Laser Diffraction Particle Size Analyzer. A Beckman Coulter SA 3100 was used to measure SSA by N<sub>2</sub> adsorption applying Brunauer-Emmett-Teller theory (Brunauer et al., 1938). The mineralogy of the clay fraction in the soils was analyzed by X-ray diffraction for the following samples: Mg-exchanged, Mg-exchanged glycerol solvated, K-exchanged at 25, 300 and 550 °C.

### 2.2. DNAN stock solutions

DNAN was provided by Picatinny Arsenal. Stock solution of 10 mg L<sup>-1</sup> DNAN was prepared by dissolving solid DNAN in deionized water on a magnetic stir plate for 24 h. The stock solution was then diluted to a final concentration of 0.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup> with 0.005 M CaCl<sub>2</sub>. All prepared solutions were wrapped in aluminum foil to prevent phototransformation and sealed with Parafilm. Samples and stock solutions were stored in a refrigerator at approximately 4 °C.

### 2.3. Analytical methods

2,4-Dinitroanisole samples were analyzed using a Dionex Ultimate 3000 high performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) equipped with a diode array detector (ThermoFisher, MA). The running method was adapted from Olivares et al. (2013). The parameters used for analyzing DNAN samples were the following: a mobile phase ratio of 43:57 methanol and water; the Thermo Scientific Acclaim reversed phase column C-18 with 5-µm particle size; and a flow rate of 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The

wavelengths used for detection and quantification were 300 nm for DNAN, 254 nm for 2-ANAN, 4-ANAN, and 210 nm for DAAN.

#### 2.4. Batch soil adsorption

Batch adsorption methods were adapted from Roy et al. (1992). Preliminary studies were performed to determine soil solution ratios that would result in adsorption of 10 to 30% of added solute, a range shown to minimize error of determined adsorption coefficients (Roy et al., 1992; McDonald and Evangelou, 1997). A series of soil to solution ratios ranging from 1:4 to 1:60 were tested. Aliquot of 20 mL of solution was added to each 30 mL borosilicate glass centrifuge tube containing varying amounts of soil, from 0.33 to 5 g. Non-sterilized soil was used for all experiments except where specifically noted.

Blanks and samples containing soil were continuously agitated on a reciprocating shaker at 110 rpm for  $24 \pm 0.5$  h at room temperature away from light. After agitation, the samples were centrifuged for 20 min at 4700 rpm (4816 relative centrifugal force). A minimum of 3 mL of supernatant was filtered with a 0.45  $\mu$ m Millex-HV PVDF filter and placed in 4 mL amber vials. All samples were analyzed using high performance liquid chromatography as described above. The pH and EC of each sample was determined on an aliquot using a SympHony SB70P Benchtop Digital pH and EC Meter.

We used soil to solution ratios determined in the preliminary experiments (Table S1) for all subsequent tests. To determine the time needed to achieve equilibrium, samples were analyzed at eight time intervals: 1, 4, 8, 24, 48, 72, 96, and 120 h. The input concentration of DNAN used was  $0.5 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  in a 0.005 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  aqueous solution. Three replicates were prepared for each time interval, as well as blank samples without soil. After agitation for a set period of time, samples were centrifuged and filtered as described previously. The pH and EC were measured for each sample. Aliquots for each sample were collected and analyzed to determine the amount of DNAN remaining in solution, as well as presence of DNAN transformation products. The equilibrium time was defined as the minimum amount of time needed to establish a rate change of solute concentration equal or  $<5\%$  per 24 h time interval (Roy et al., 1992). The mass-loss rate coefficients,  $k$ , were determined from the change in the solute concentrations over time for the time period commencing after adsorption equilibrium.

To confirm that the removal of DNAN from solution at the determined equilibrium point represented reversible soil adsorption and was not influenced by other processes such as irreversible adsorption and transformation (microbial or abiotic), we repeated the experiments for Catlin silt loam and Sassafra loam soils using both unsterilized and sterilized samples and extracted soil samples to determine the amount of DNAN retained in the soil. The soils were sterilized by autoclaving for an hour at 120 degrees, repeated three times over 3 days. Following the sorption equilibration period, the DNAN solution was removed for analysis. The soils were then extracted by adding 20 mL of acetonitrile to each vial. The samples were agitated on a reciprocating shaker for 24 h, centrifuged and filtered. Both solution samples and acetonitrile extracts were analyzed using HPLC. The mass of DNAN recovered in soil and solution were used to calculate the DNAN mass balance.

Once the equilibration time was established, experiments were conducted to develop multipoint adsorption isotherms. Eight different input concentrations, 2.03, 4.06, 8.12, 16.2, 32.5, 65.0, and 130 ppm (or 10.3, 20.5, 41.0, 81.8, 164.1, 328.3, and 656.6  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ) of DNAN in 0.005 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , were used to construct the isotherms. Each sample was prepared in triplicate. The equilibration time used was 24 h for all soils. As previously described the samples were agitated, centrifuged, filtered, and analyzed using HPLC. We plotted soil concentrations calculated based on DNAN removal from solution against the solution concentrations and fit them using both the linear and Freundlich adsorption equation. From the plots we determined the linear adsorption coefficient,  $K_d$  ( $\text{L kg}^{-1}$ ),  $K_f$ , the Freundlich adsorption coefficient ( $\text{mg}^{1-n} \text{L}^n \text{kg}^{-1}$ ) and  $n$ , an empirical parameter that indicates the

affinity of the compound for the adsorbent. The regression analysis function in Microsoft Excel 2007 was used to determine adsorption parameters, confidence intervals for the estimate,  $R^2$  and probabilities of parameters being significantly different from zero. The Freundlich equation was linearized to allow linear regression. The linear adsorption coefficients were used to determine the retardation factor of DNAN in each soil. The retardation factor is defined as:

$$R = 1 + \frac{\rho_b K_d}{\theta} \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho_b$  represents the bulk density [ $\text{ML}^{-3}$ ],  $\theta$  is gravimetric water content and  $K_d$  is the linear adsorption coefficient [ $\text{L}^3 \text{M}^{-1}$ ]. To calculate  $R$ , the neural network prediction application in HYDRUS-1D was used to estimate the porosity of each soil based on the textural class. The porosity was then used to calculate the bulk density.

Adsorption parameters were compared between the soils to assess the effect of the soil type on adsorption. Soil properties such as OC content, pH, clay content, and CEC were evaluated for their impact on the adsorption of DNAN and to help predict the environmental fate of the compound in soil.

#### 2.5. Transport study

To provide a conservative estimate of the potential for DNAN transport in soils, two of the soils that had low DNAN attenuation (adsorption and transformation) in batch studies, Camp Guernsey and Camp Swift, were selected for the column experiments. They were packed into Supelco (Belfonte, PA) glass columns with 7 cm length and 1.18 cm internal diameter and sealed with PTFE caps. Glass wool was placed at the bottom of the columns and on top of the soil profile to prevent soil movement. Approximately 11 to 12 g of soil was packed homogeneously resulting in the average bulk density ( $\rho$ ) of  $1.54 \pm 0.02 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  for Camp Swift and  $1.62 \pm 0.02 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  for Camp Guernsey soil. Column study experiments were conducted in duplicate.

The columns were saturated with 0.005 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  for one hour from the bottom to avoid trapping air in the pores. After saturation, the column pore volume (PV) was determined as the volume of solution required to saturate the packed column, minus the dead volume associated with the column. A Gilson 305 piston pump (Middleton, WI), attached to the top of the column using stainless steel tubing, delivered a  $0.5 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  ( $2.8 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ) DNAN solution with 0.005 M  $\text{CaBr}_2$  tracer at  $\sim 0.015 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$  flow rate, equivalent to a mean Darcy flux of  $0.81 \text{ cm h}^{-1}$ . The effluent was collected in 4-mL amber glass vials using a custom fraction collector with 49-vial capacity built by Bric Management (Tucson, AZ). Volumetric flow rate was calculated by measuring the weight of the collected effluent. After the effluent reached steady-state concentrations the solution was switched back to the background solution (0.005 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) to observe DNAN desorption from the soil. Flow interruption studies were also conducted to further investigate mass transfer behavior (Brusseu et al., 1989; Brusseu et al., 1997). Flow was interrupted for 24 h to allow DNAN to equilibrate with the soil. During the flow interruption the column remained saturated.

DNAN and its transformation products were quantified using HPLC as described above. The conservative tracer,  $\text{CaBr}_2$ , was analyzed using Ion Chromatography (Dionex ICS 5000 with diode array). The bromide breakthrough curves were analyzed to determine longitudinal dispersivity ( $\lambda$ ) and observe for preferential flow for each soil.

After the end of each experiment, the column was divided into thirds and weighed. Extractions were performed on each soil sample to determine the amount of DNAN and its transformation products remaining in the soil. A mixture of soil and acetonitrile in 1:2 ratio was agitated for 24 h, centrifuged, filtered through 0.45  $\mu$ m Millex-HV PVDF filter (EMD Millipore Darmstadt, Germany), and analyzed using HPLC (U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2006).

## 2.6. Numerical analysis

Numerical analysis of effluent concentrations for the column experiments was performed using temporal moment analysis (TMA) and the HYDRUS-1D code. TMA, a non-parametric statistical analysis tool used to describe solute behavior in a time series of samples taken at a particular point, quantified solute transport parameters such as the  $K_d$ , retardation factor,  $R$ ,  $\lambda$ , and mass balance ratio.

Experiments were also analyzed using HYDRUS-1D (Šimůnek et al., 2008) for simulating the one-dimensional movement of water, heat and multiple solutes in variably saturated porous media. Transport of the  $\text{Br}^-$  tracer and solute was described using the advection-dispersion equation:

$$\theta \partial C_w / \partial t + \rho \partial C_s / \partial t = (\partial / \partial z) * [\theta D (\partial C_w / \partial z)] - \partial q C_w / \partial z - \varphi \quad (2)$$

where  $C_s$  is the sorbed concentration [ $\text{MM}^{-1}$ ],  $\theta$  is the volumetric water content [ $\text{LL}^{-3}$ ],  $\rho$  represents the bulk density of the porous medium [ $\text{ML}^{-3}$ ],  $C_w$  represents the solute concentration [ $\text{ML}^{-3}$ ],  $\varphi$  is the sink/source term that accounts for zero, first order and other reactions [ $\text{ML}^{-3} \text{T}^{-1}$ ], and  $q$  is the volumetric fluid flux density [ $\text{LT}^{-1}$ ] evaluated by Darcy-Buckingham law.  $D$  is the dispersion coefficient, which represents both hydrodynamic dispersion and molecular diffusion [ $\text{L}^2 \text{T}^{-1}$ ]:

$$D = \lambda \nu + D^* \quad (3)$$

where the term  $\lambda$  is the longitudinal dispersivity [ $\text{L}$ ],  $\nu$  is the average linear velocity [ $\text{LT}^{-1}$ ] and  $D^*$  represents the effective diffusion coefficient [ $\text{L}^2 \text{T}^{-1}$ ]. In this model  $\varphi$  is the first-order rate constant for the solution only [ $\text{ML}^{-3} \text{T}^{-1}$ ]:

$$\varphi = k \cdot \theta \cdot C_w \quad (4)$$

where  $k$  represents the mass-loss rate coefficient due to transformation and/or irreversible adsorption ( $\text{T}^{-1}$ ),  $C_w$  and  $\theta$  were as defined previously.

The inverse mode was used to analyze breakthrough curves to obtain estimated best-fit values for selected parameters. Numerical analysis of the experimental data was performed by first simulating the conservative tracer breakthrough curves to characterize water flow and estimate  $\lambda$ . TMA calculated values for  $\lambda$  were used as the initial inputs for HYDRUS-1D simulations of  $\text{Br}^-$  breakthrough curves. It was observed that the HYDRUS-1D estimates of  $\lambda$  determined from  $\text{Br}^-$  breakthrough better characterized dispersivity in DNAN simulations than TMA estimates for DNAN (Table 4). Batch adsorption results for

$K_d$  ( $\text{L kg}^{-1}$ ) and  $k$  ( $\text{h}^{-1}$ ) were used as initial estimates for DNAN transport parameters in HYDRUS-1D. Mass balance calculations were also performed for DNAN and its transformation products (Table 5).

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Soil characterization

Results of chemical and physical analyses of the eleven soils selected for this study are presented in Table 2. Soils are listed in order of decreasing OC content. The soils differed significantly in all measured parameters, including OC content (0.34–5.28%), pH (4.23–8.21), clay content (4.1–32.3%), SSA (1.7–38.3  $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ ), and mineralogy.

### 3.2. DNAN batch adsorption studies

Preliminary studies showed that DNAN was strongly adsorbed by the soils, and for many soils the lowest soil to solution ratio, 1:60, was needed to achieve target solute removal from solution (Table s1).

#### 3.2.1. Rate studies

Rate studies provide the equilibration time for adsorption and the mass-loss rate coefficients of DNAN after adsorption equilibrium is attained. DNAN concentration in the blank solutions did not change significantly over 120 h and the slope of  $\ln(C/C_0)$  was not different from zero (Fig. s2). For samples with soils, a sharp drop in DNAN concentration in the first hours was followed by a steady decrease over time. Adsorption equilibrium was attained by 24 h for all soils except Sassafras loam, for which 48 h was required. We chose to conduct all isotherm experiments using a 24-h equilibration time for easy comparison between the soils.

The change in DNAN concentration over time after adsorption equilibrium followed 1st order kinetics. This behavior is attributed to transformation and/or irreversible adsorption, as discussed below. The first order mass-loss rate coefficients ranged between 0.0002 and 0.0068  $\text{h}^{-1}$  for Florence and Plymouth soils, respectively (Table 3), equivalent to 144 to 4 day half lives. The  $k$  values were not significantly correlated with soil parameters such as, pH, OC, SSA, CEC, and clay content. No known products of DNAN transformation were measured in solution.

#### 3.2.2. DNAN mass balance

Mass balance studies evaluated the recovery of DNAN in solution and in soil for sterilized and unsterilized Catlin silt loam and Sassafras

**Table 2**  
Measured physical and chemical properties of soils used in experiments (Mark et al., 2016).

Soil	Texture	Clay %	Silt %	Sand %	pH <sup>a</sup>	EC <sup>b</sup>	SSA <sup>c</sup> $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$	OC <sup>d</sup> %	CEC <sup>8,2e</sup> $\text{cmol}_c \text{kg}^{-1}$	Mineralogy <sup>f</sup>
Catlin	Silt loam	25.6	65.5	8.9	7.31	492	6.4	5.28	21.4	S, M, K, Q
Fort Harrison	Sandy loam	8.7	36.5	54.9	6.67	449	7.4	3.88	18	V, M, K, C
Arnold AFB	Silt loam	11.4	65.5	23.1	6.66	131	7.8	2.68	8.7	HIV, K, Q, C
Plymouth	Loamy sand	4.4	20.4	75.2	4.23	206	1.7	2.45	6.8	V, K
Camp Butner	Sandy loam	7.7	25.9	66.4	6.69	219	4.8	2.42	6.1	K, V, HIV, Q, M
Limestone Hills	Sandy loam	11.2	35.7	53.1	7.54	539	10.5	1.99	13	K, M, C, S, Q
Sassafras	Loam	16.4	42.3	41.4	4.4	212	7.17	1.3	7.9	K, HIV, M, C
Camp Gruber	Clay loam	32.3	44.9	22.8	5.39	74	38.3	0.83	14.3	S, K, M, Q
Camp Guernsey	Loam	4.1	12.5	83.4	8.21	477	3.9	0.77	2.9	S, M, K, C, Q
Florence MR	Loam	26.8	33.5	39.7	8	417	33	0.45	12.2	S, M, K, Q
Camp Swift	Sandy clay loam	23.7	20.8	55.6	7.83	203	15.1	0.34	6.5	K, M, S, Q

<sup>a</sup> In 1:1 soil:water.

<sup>b</sup> EC = Electrical conductivity.

<sup>c</sup> SSA = specific surface area.

<sup>d</sup> OC = organic carbon.

<sup>e</sup> Mineralogy, listed in order of decreasing content: C = chlorite, HIV = hydroxyl-interlayered vermiculite, K = kaolinite, M = mica, Q = quartz, S = smectite, V = vermiculite.

<sup>f</sup> CEC<sub>8.2</sub> = cation exchange capacity at pH 8.2.

**Table 3**  
Fate and transport parameters for DNAN: linear adsorption coefficient,  $K_d$ ; adsorption coefficient normalized to fraction of organic carbon in soils,  $K_{oc}$ ; calculated retardation factor,  $R$ ; Freundlich adsorption parameters,  $K_f$  and  $n$ ; mass-loss rate coefficient,  $k$ ;  $R^2$  values, and 95% confidence intervals (CI). All fits for adsorption isotherms were highly significant ( $P$ -value  $\leq 0.01$ ), significance of the  $k$  estimates is indicated in the table (Sig.).

Soils	$K_d$		$R^2$	$K_{oc}$		$R$	$K_f$		$n$	$R^2$	$k$		$R^2$	Sig.
	Mean L kg <sup>-1</sup>	95% CI		Mean L kg <sup>-1</sup>	95% CI		Mean L kg <sup>-1</sup>	95% CI			Mean mg <sup>1-n</sup> L <sup>n</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup> h <sup>-1</sup>	95% CI		
Catlin	6.0	4.9–7.1	0.92	112.7	21.2	34	29.6–39.0	0.62	0.58–0.67	0.98	0.003	0.0006–0.0054	0.85	*
Fort Harrison	6.3	5.7–6.9	0.93	162.9	27.5	13.9	9.7–19.8	0.77	0.65–0.89	0.90	0.0004	0.0022–0.003	0.08	ns
Arnold AFB	3.4	2.9–3.9	0.78	126.5	12.4	14.4	10.9–18.9	0.68	0.59–0.77	0.93	0.0016	0.0006–0.0025	0.90	**
Plymouth	4.4	3.8–5.0	0.94	178.6	19.1	10.1	8.3–12.2	0.83	0.75–0.90	0.98	0.0068	0.0045–0.0091	0.96	**
Camp Butner	2.1	1.8–2.3	0.92	84.8	9.6	15.4	11.7–20.2	0.56	0.47–0.65	0.91	0.0006	0.0014–0.0025	0.22	ns
Limestone Hills	5.0	4.4–5.5	0.92	250.0	21.8	10.8	8.7–13.2	0.77	0.70–0.85	0.96	0.0025	0.0003–0.0046	0.76	*
Sassafras	1.9	1.5–2.3	0.72	228.3	8.5	2.3	1.2–4.3	0.97	0.77–1.16	0.85	0.0009	0.0024–0.0043	0.21	ns
Camp Gruber	2.0	1.7–2.3	0.91	240.6	7.6	7.6	4.9–11.9	0.72	0.57–0.87	0.84	0.0003	0.0015–0.002	0.06	ns
Camp Guernsey	0.9	0.8–1.0	0.97	121.4	4.7	1.7	1.1–2.6	0.85	0.69–1.02	0.93	0.0033	0.0021–0.0044	0.96	**
Florence MR	1.9	1.6–2.2	0.94	424.4	8.6	6.6	5.4–7.9	0.74	0.68–0.80	0.98	0.0002	-0.0023 - 0.0027	0.03	ns
Camp Swift	0.6	0.4–0.7	0.84	175.5	3.1	1.3	0.6–2.8	0.84	0.58–1.11	0.70	0.0006	0.0003–0.0009	0.91	**

\*\* =  $P$  value  $\leq 0.01$ .

\* =  $P$ -value  $\leq 0.05$ .

ns = not significant,  $P$ -value  $> 0.05$ .

loam soils equilibrated for 24 and 120 h (Fig. 1). Catlin and Sassafras were selected to determine mass balance because they differed significantly in a number of properties that are commonly associated with sorption behavior, such as OC and clay content, and pH of soil solution (Table 2). A full or close to full recovery was observed at 24 h for both soils with or without sterilization (Fig. 1, Table s2). However, sterilized soils adsorbed less DNAN (difference significant for 24 h for both soils) (Table s2), possibly as a result of the impact of autoclaving on soil properties and resultant influence on adsorption (e.g., Xie and Mackenzie, 1991; Lotrario et al., 1995). The complete mass balance of DNAN obtained at 24 h means that calculation of sorbed concentrations and  $K_d$  values from measures of solution-phase concentrations only are valid.

Complete DNAN recovery was not obtained at 120 h for either of the studied soils for the unsterilized treatment. The smaller recoveries could be the result of transformation, both abiotic and biotic, irreversible adsorption, or some combination thereof. Known transformation products were not observed in solution.

The 24-h and 120-h recoveries were similar for the sterilized Sassafras soil, and were close to 100%. In addition, the 120-h recovery for the unsterilized treatment was much lower than for the sterilized treatment. These results indicate that the significant mass loss observed for the unsterilized Sassafras soil treatment is due almost exclusively to biotic transformation, with minor impacts of abiotic transformation or irreversible adsorption. Conversely, for the Catlin soil, the 120-h recovery is lower than the 24-h recovery for the sterilized treatment. This indicates a contribution of abiotic transformation and/or irreversible adsorption.

### 3.2.3. Adsorption isotherms

All studied soils adsorbed DNAN and the magnitude of adsorption depended on the properties of the soil. The  $K_d$ s ranged from 0.6 to 6.3 L kg<sup>-1</sup> and the estimated retardation factors ranged between 3.5 and 27.5 (Table 3) indicating potentially significant retardation of DNAN in soil during transport. Catlin and Fort Harrison soils with high OC and CEC absorbed more DNAN from solution and had the highest retardation factors. Conductivity and pH of soil suspensions was not significantly affected by addition of DNAN (not shown).

Both linear and Freundlich isotherms resulted in highly significant fits to the measured data (Fig. 2). The parameter  $n$ , the exponent in the Freundlich equation, ranged between 0.56 and 0.97. The 95% confidence intervals of  $n$  estimates overlapped for several of the soils and for Sassafras, Camp Guernsey and Camp Swift,  $n$  was not significantly different from 1 (linear isotherm) (Table 3).

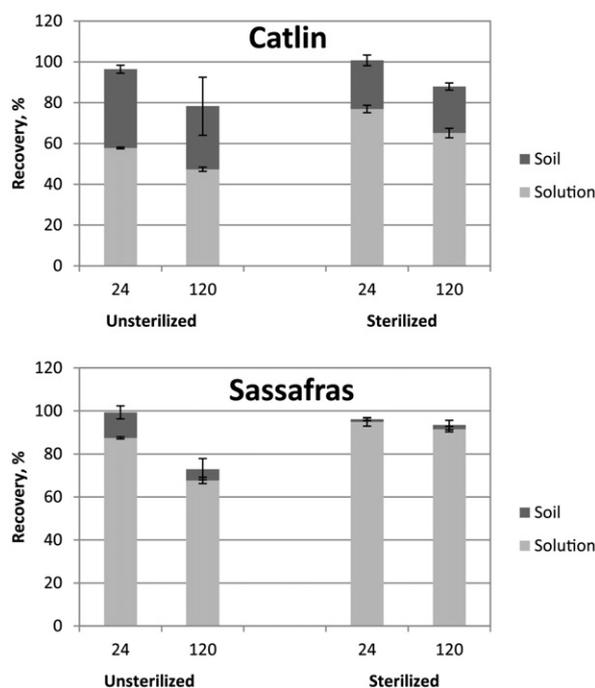
DNAN adsorption was best described by the Freundlich isotherm for a majority of the soils, however, for five soils, Camp Butner, Camp Guernsey, Camp Gruber, Fort Harrison, and Camp Swift the linear

isotherm resulted in a better fit to the data based on  $R^2$  value (Table 3). Linear regressions were highly significant, with  $K_d$  values different from zero. Estimated mean log  $K_{oc}$  ( $K_d$  normalized to OC) equaled 2.24  $\pm$  0.20.

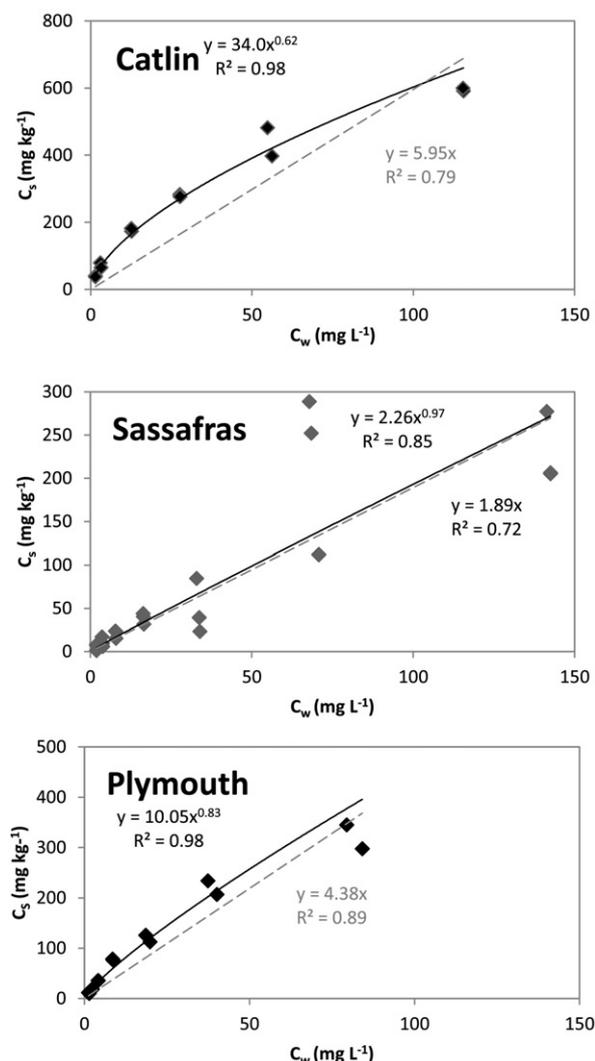
Both linear and Freundlich adsorption coefficients for DNAN had a highly significant positive relationship with percent OC in soil (Fig. 3). Neither  $K_d$  or  $K_f$  correlated to clay content, but a good correlation was produced between  $K_f$  and the product of percent OC and clay content (Fig. s3). In addition, there was a highly significant relationship between both  $K_d$  and  $K_f$  and CEC. Significant correlations were not obtained for other measured soil properties such as pH and SSA.

### 3.3. Transport studies

Breakthrough of the conservative tracer (Figs. 4 and 5) occurred at 1 pore volume (2.33 h), which indicates there was no preferential flow or air entrainment in the columns. The curves were sharp and



**Fig. 1.** Mass balance of DNAN in unsterilized and sterilized Catlin (a) and Sassafras (b) soils for 24 and 120 h of contact. Soil to solution ratio was 1:60 for both soils. Error bars equal confidence interval of the mean (Table s2).



**Fig. 2.** Adsorption isotherms calculated for DNAN in Catlin, Sassafra, and Plymouth soils. Grey dashed line indicates linear adsorption isotherm fit to the measured adsorption data (equation is in grey), while solid black line is a fit of the Freundlich isotherm (equation in black).

symmetrical, indicating ideal advective/dispersive transport. Longitudinal dispersivity values ranged from ~0.1 to ~3 cm (Table 4).

Figs. 4 and 5 show sample DNAN breakthrough curves for Camp Swift and Camp Guernsey soils. DNAN breakthrough was observed later than the conservative tracer bromide indicating adsorption to the solid phase. DNAN transformation product 2-ANAN was observed in all continuous and flow interruption experiments, while 4-ANAN was only observed in Camp Guernsey soil experiments. 2-ANAN and 4-ANAN both exhibited retardation. Continuous flow breakthrough curves for Camp Swift soil were symmetrical (Fig. 4), while in Camp Guernsey soil DNAN and its daughter compounds exhibited more complex behavior (Fig. 5): effluent concentrations of DNAN decreased over time while 2-ANAN and 4-ANAN either continued at similar concentrations or also decreased. During the flow interruption experiments for Camp Swift, effluent concentration decreased due to continuing transformation and then increased again to a steady state value after resuming the experiment. The decrease in DNAN concentration during flow interruption was matched by an increase in 2-ANAN concentration. For Camp Guernsey soil, after the 24-h flow interruption, no DNAN was detected but 2-ANAN concentration increased. This observed behavior is consistent with the impact of transformation reactions on transport.

For Camp Swift soil, the  $K_d$  values estimated using HYDRUS-1D ( $1.22 \pm 0.14 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$ ) and TMA ( $1.71 \pm 0.36 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$ ) for DNAN were not statistically different from each other. However, they are higher than the estimated  $K_d$  from the batch experiments ( $0.60 \pm 0.09 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$ ) (Table 4). These parameters could not be determined by HYDRUS-1D for Camp Guernsey column experiments, but,  $K_d$ s determined by TMA ( $1.13 \pm 0.19 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$ ) were similar to the estimated  $K_d$  determined by batch experiments for DNAN in Camp Guernsey soil ( $0.85 \pm 0.17 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$ ). The average DNAN retardation factors calculated using TMA were 8.5 for Camp Swift soil and 5.9 for Camp Guernsey.

Estimated mass-loss rate coefficients,  $k$ , determined by HYDRUS-1D ( $0.046 \pm 0.021 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ) and TMA ( $0.053 \pm 0.016$ ) (Table 4) for DNAN in Camp Swift soil were not statistically different according to a single factor ANOVA ( $P = 0.6$ ). However, the mass-loss rate coefficients were higher than values for batch experiment data ( $0.0006 \pm 0.0003 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ). This agrees with the fact that no transformation products of DNAN were observed in the batch experiments. TMA estimates for mass-loss rate coefficients for Camp Guernsey ( $0.421 \pm 0.088 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ) were higher than the batch study results ( $0.0033 \pm 0.0011 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ), as well. A  $K_d$  value of  $1.09 \pm 0.72 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$  was obtained for 2-ANAN in Camp Swift soil from application of HYDRUS-1D; 2-ANAN  $k$  values were not significantly different from zero.

### 3.3.1. DNAN mass balance in transport studies

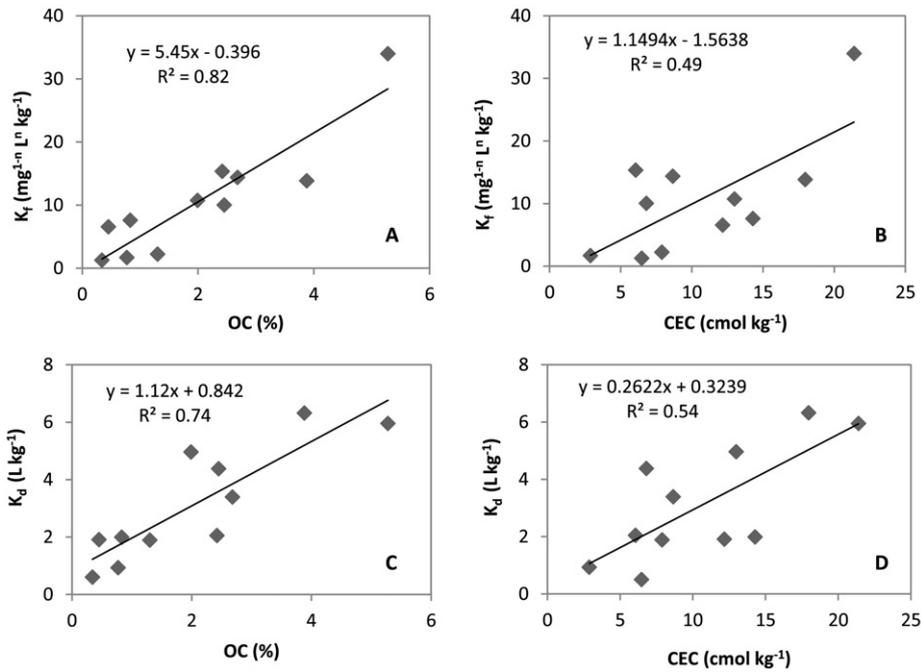
DNAN added to the columns in solution was recovered in column effluent and soil extracts as parent compound, as well as products of its reduction, 2-ANAN and 4-ANAN. Mass balance calculations (Table 5) indicate that for Camp Swift soil on average all of the DNAN (mean  $\pm$  CI:  $102.0 \pm 8.4\%$ ) was recovered as parent compound and 2-ANAN. For Camp Guernsey soil, approximately half of DNAN was recovered ( $50.7 \pm 20.7\%$ ). There was no significant difference in total recoveries between interrupted and continuous flow experiments for either soil.

## 4. Discussion

This study examined the fate (adsorption and mass loss) of DNAN in eleven soils collected from training ranges across the United States. The results are assessed and compared to TNT, a common and similar munitions compound. Implications of the correlations between fate and transport parameters and soil properties for DNAN are discussed, as is the potential that they may provide a tool for estimating these parameters for other soils.

Adsorption coefficients ranged widely as would be expected for a diverse group of soils selected. Comparing these coefficients to TNT adsorption coefficients for Plymouth and Catlin soils showed higher adsorption of DNAN in Plymouth soil ( $K_d$  of  $4.4 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$  for DNAN and  $0.63\text{--}1.6 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$  for TNT depending on the method used) (Dontsova et al., 2006) but less adsorption of DNAN in the Catlin soil (TNT  $K_d$   $17.9 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$  vs. DNAN  $K_d$   $6.1 \text{ L kg}^{-1}$ ) (Dontsova et al., 2009). The Freundlich parameters were closer for the two compounds for the Catlin soil ( $K_f = 45.6$ ,  $n = 0.57$  for DNAN and  $K_f = 32.67$ ,  $n = 0.60$  for TNT) (Dontsova et al., 2009). Hawari et al. (2015) demonstrated a link between solubility, octanol-water partition coefficient ( $K_{ow}$ ), and  $K_{OC}$  for DNAN, for several of its transformation products, and for TNT. Solubility followed the following order: TNT < DNAN < 2-ANAN < 4-ANAN < DAAN whereas  $\log K_{ow}$  and  $K_{OC}$  followed the reverse order DAAN < 4-ANAN < 2-ANAN < DNAN < TNT, so TNT had the lower solubility and the higher  $K_{ow}$  and  $K_{OC}$  than DNAN. Therefore, they predicted that DNAN would be slightly more mobile than TNT in soil.

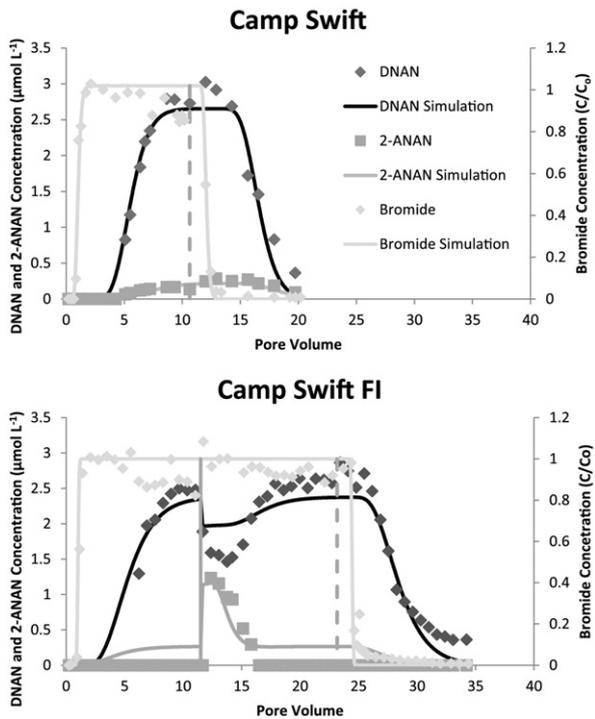
Our estimated mean  $\log K_{OC}$  ( $K_d$  normalized to OC) for DNAN was  $2.24 \pm 0.20$ , a value similar to one estimated for DNAN by Hawari et al. (2015) ( $2.45 \pm 0.16$ ), but also to values for TNT in soils ( $2.48\text{--}3.04$ ) (US Department of Health and Human Services, 1995) and in water dispersible clay extracted from soils ( $2.65 \pm 0.28$ ) (Dontsova et al., 2009). The low variability of  $K_{OC}$  values as well as their consistent decrease with decrease in  $\log K_{ow}$  implies that DNAN adsorbs to OC through



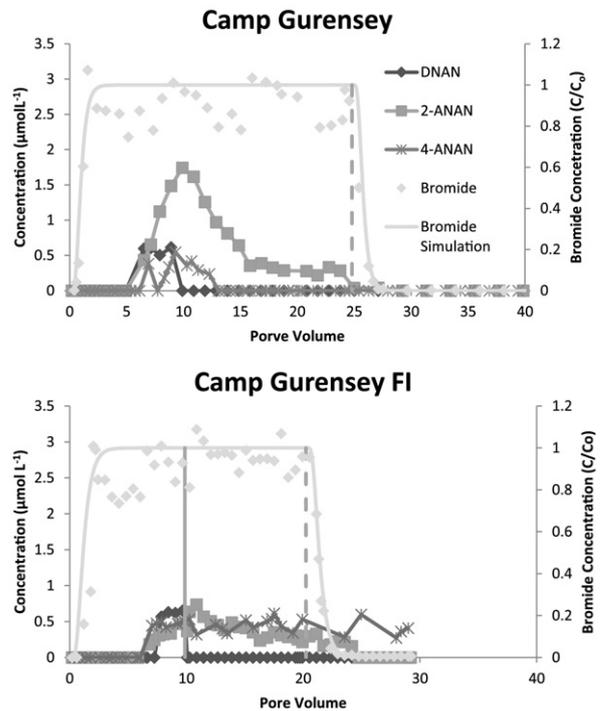
**Fig. 3.** Correlation between measured DNAN Freundlich adsorptions coefficients ( $K_f$ s) and percent organic carbon in soil (OC) (A); cation exchange capacity (CEC) (B); and linear adsorptions coefficients ( $K_d$ s) and soil OC (C); CEC (D). All relationships were significant at 95% confidence level ( $P = 0.00011$  for  $K_f$  vs. OC,  $P = 0.00061$  for  $K_d$  vs. OC;  $P = 0.016$  for  $K_f$  vs. CEC and  $P = 0.0095$  for  $K_d$  vs. CEC).

hydrophobic interactions. There were strong correlations between adsorption coefficient and OC that supports this mechanism, however the non-linear shape of the isotherms (Fig. 2) best described by the Freundlich equation (Table 3) indicates that adsorption to the soils is not solely based on partitioning to organic carbon.

Previous research conducted by Eriksson and Skyllberg (2001) studied the binding of TNT and its degradation products to soil organic matter, specifically looking at dissolved organic matter (DOM) and a two phase system of particulate organic matter (POM) and DOM. The results of their experiment with DOM showed that binding of TNT and its



**Fig. 4.** Breakthrough curves for DNAN and 2-ANAN in Camp Swift soil for continuous flow and flow interruption (FI). DNAN inflow concentration was  $2.87 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  and  $2.64 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  respectively for continuous and interrupted flow experiments. Vertical solid line indicates time of flow interruption and dashed line indicates time when input solution was switched back to background.



**Fig. 5.** Breakthrough curves for DNAN and 2-ANAN in Camp Guernsey soil for continuous flow and flow interruption (FI). DNAN inflow concentration was  $2.71 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  and  $2.78 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  respectively for continuous and interrupted flow experiments. Vertical solid line indicates time of flow interruption and dashed line indicates time when input solution was switched back to background.

**Table 4**

Comparison of fate and transport parameters, longitudinal dispersivities,  $\lambda$ , linear adsorption coefficients,  $K_d$ , and mass-loss rate coefficients,  $k$ , for DNAN and 2-ANAN determined from HYDRUS-1D and temporal moment analysis (TMA).

Soil	HYDRUS-1D						TMA						
	Bromide		DNAN		2-ANAN		DNAN			R			
	$\lambda$ cm	Estimate	95% CI	$K_d$ L kg <sup>-1</sup>	Estimate	95% CI	$k$ h <sup>-1</sup>	Estimate	95% CI	$K_d$ L kg <sup>-1</sup>	Estimate	$k$ h <sup>-1</sup>	Estimate
Camp Swift	0.17	0.14	1.19	0.06	0.028	0.005	1.93	1.72	0.00001	0.000	1.28	0.03	5.58
Camp Swift	0.28	0.41	1.05	0.04	0.041	0.01	1.46	0.69	0.00001	0.000	1.9	0.064	8.94
Camp Swift FI	0.79	0.39	1.17	0.09	0.039	0.055	0.38	0.2	0.001	0.087	1.56	0.06	6.92
Camp Swift FI	0.12	0.08	1.4	0.12	0.076	0.009	0.55	0.14	0.101	0.03	2.11	0.058	9.24
Mean & CI	0.34	0.26	1.2	0.08	0.046	0.019	1.08	0.69	0.025	0.039	1.71	0.053	7.67
Camp Guernsey	0.15	0.53	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.86	0.494	4.64
Camp Guernsey	3.35	4.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.16	0.467	6.23
Camp Guernsey FI	0.37	0.37	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.21	0.295	6.06
Camp Guernsey FI	0.77	0.76	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.28	0.427	6.49
Mean & CI	1.16	1.45	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.13	0.421	5.85

Note: Bulk density ( $\rho$ ) was determined by the mass of the air-dried soil used to pack the column and saturated water content ( $\theta$ ) was determined from the weight of the water need to saturate the column. The estimated bulk density for Camp Swift was  $1.54 \pm 0.02$  and saturated water content  $0.40 \pm 0.02$ . Camp Guernsey estimated bulk density was  $1.62 \pm 0.02$  and saturated water  $0.38 \pm 0.01$ . n.a.- data not available from HYDRUS.

degradation products was greatly increased with increasing pH, which indicated that negatively charged weak acid groups in DOM are involved in binding. The results of the two-phase system showed that binding of TNT and its degradation products to POM was less pH dependent than found for DOM. The suggested mechanism of TNT binding to POM was due to hydrophobic partitioning because the POM has a higher density of domains with hydrophobic character than DOM. We did not observe a significant relationship with pH for DNAN possibly due to working with whole soils that would have a mixture of different domains.

Other researchers also suggested that TNT and other nitroaromatic compounds alike bind to organic matter by non-hydrophobic interactions. Zhang and Zhu (2009) who investigated the mechanism of adsorption of nitroaromatics to soils suggested that non-hydrophobic sorptive interaction between nitroaromatics and soil organic matter was primarily due to the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions. Nitroaromatics are strong  $\pi$  acceptors and if soil organic matter contains several aromatics rings within its structure then  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions/stacking can occur hence binding DNAN to the soil organic matter. Since the chemical structure of DNAN is similar to TNT and other nitroaromatic compounds, it should behave similarly in organic matter.

Linker et al. (2015) demonstrated that similarly to TNT, DNAN can be also adsorbed by phyllosilicate clays with amounts adsorbed increasing when clays are saturated with cations that are not highly hydrated, as was previously reported for nitroaromatic compounds (Haderlein et

al., 1996). The mechanism of adsorption was coplanar electron donor-acceptor (EDA) formation with oxygen ligands at the external siloxane surface of clay as  $e^-$ -donors and the  $\pi$ -system of the NACs as  $e^-$ -acceptor according to Haderlein et al. (1996) and exchangeable cation-DNAN complexation or bridging according to Linker et al. (2015).

Observed correlation between DNAN adsorption coefficients and CEC confirms that both organic matter and clay adsorb DNAN, since CEC is usually influenced by the amount and type of clay, as well as organic matter content on the soil (Essington, 2015). The lack of the link between clay content alone and DNAN  $K_d$ s and  $K_f$ s may be caused by clay fraction of the soil being composed of different minerals, only some of which are phyllosilicates, or of phyllosilicates with different reactivity.

Irrespective of the adsorption mechanism, the strong correlations that have been observed between DNAN adsorption coefficients and OC give us a good predictive capability. Since the soils tested from training ranges across the United States have a wide range of values for main soil properties, the strong correlation that exists between  $K_d$ s and  $K_f$ s and OC can be used to estimate adsorption based on measured OC for any soil.

We observed mass loss of DNAN over time in both batch and column experiments. However, measured rates and whether transformation products were detected differed. We did not detect any DNAN transformation products in solution in batch studies despite decrease in DNAN recovery at 120 h. One explanation may be that DNAN transforms to

**Table 5**

Mass of added DNAN recovered in effluent and in soil during column transport experiments (%).

Soil	Solution recoveries, %			Soil recoveries, %			Total, % (Solution + soil)
	DNAN	2-ANAN	4-ANAN	DNAN	2-ANAN	4-ANAN	
Camp Swift	91.9	8.5	0.0	8.0	4.0	1.8	114.2
Camp Swift	85.0	10.3	0.0	4.5	0.0	1.9	101.7
Camp Swift FI	83.0	4.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	1.9	97.4
Camp Swift FI	59.3	21.6	0.0	5.8	5.2	2.9	94.8
Mean	79.8	11.1	0.0	5.7	3.3	2.1	102.0
CI	13.9	7.3	0.0	1.6	2.2	0.5	8.4
Camp Guernsey	3.4	19.5	0.9	0.0	4.7	4.2	32.7
Camp Guernsey	4.8	24.9	28.6	7.2	9.0	5.7	80.2
Camp Guernsey FI	5.9	24.0	11.4	2.3	11.4	3.9	58.8
Camp Guernsey FI	2.0	11.7	44.1	1.2	0.5	6.3	65.9
Mean	4.0	20.0	12.7	2.7	6.4	5.0	50.7
CI	1.7	5.9	12.5	3.1	4.7	1.1	20.7

FI = flow interruption for 24 h.

its amino reduction products with consequent irreversible adsorption of these products to the soil organic matter. This has been observed for the DNAN and its products, ANAN and DAAN, by Hawari et al. (2015), and for TNT and DNTs, which has similar transformation pathways and structure of their reduced products, by Thorn et al. (2002, 2008). It would be expected that this mechanism would play bigger role in DNAN fate when large amount of organic matter is available in the soil. However, in mass balance studies despite large differences in OC content between the soils there was no significant difference in the amount of DNAN unrecovered at 120 h. It is also possible that DNAN degraded to products that were not analyzed.

In column studies, estimated mass-loss rate coefficients,  $k$ , were significantly higher than values determined in batch experiments. In addition we measured 2-ANAN in both soils and 4-ANAN in Camp Guernsey soil. The absence of agitation in the column experiments can result in a decrease in  $O_2$  content of the solution as microorganisms consume it in respiration. If anaerobic conditions result they can promote reduction of nitro to amino groups in DNAN. However, we did not measure  $O_2$  content or redox potential of solutions, so cannot confirm this.

No relationships were observed between mass loss and any of the measured soil properties. Based on one-electron standard reduction potentials DNAN has lower tendency for nitro to amino group reductions than TNT (Salter-Blanc et al., 2015). The mass-loss rate for DNAN was slower than the ones previously observed for TNT in one of the studied soils. In Plymouth soil, TNT transformation rate was measured to be  $0.21 \text{ h}^{-1}$  (Dontsova et al., 2006) while the DNAN rate coefficient of mass loss in batch studies was  $0.0068 \text{ h}^{-1}$ . However, measurements were done in batch study for DNAN and in column study for TNT and since experimental design was shown to affect mass-loss rate coefficients, we cannot make direct comparisons between these two values.

## 5. Conclusion

This study examined the adsorption and mass loss behavior of DNAN in eleven different soils, as well as its transport behavior in a subset of these soils. The equilibrium adsorption data were fitted to Freundlich and linear isotherms with the Freundlich isotherm resulting in slightly better fit on average. A strong relationship between both linear and Freundlich adsorption coefficients ( $K_d$  and  $K_f$ ) and % OC and CEC indicates that DNAN's fate would be greatly influenced by organic matter and clays in the soils. Our measured adsorption values make it possible to predict DNAN's behavior in other soils. In transport studies, we confirmed that DNAN adsorbs to soils delaying the arrival of the contaminant to the ground water by a factor of six relative to the tracer even for sandy soil with little organic carbon. We also showed that under flow conditions DNAN transforms readily to the amino products, 2-ANAN and 4-ANAN. DNAN's soil adsorption, and often significant mass loss, indicates that DNAN is naturally attenuated in the soils.

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## Supplementary data

Supplementary material

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