Geochemistry and Iron Isotope Systematics of Hydrothermal Plume Fall-out at East Pacific Rise 9°50'N

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Manuscript in revision to *Chemical Geology*

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Abstract

While gross hydrothermal fluxes entering the ocean are known to be significant, much remains unknown about the fate of this material as it disperses through the oceans, and its impact upon ocean biogeochemistry. Mineral precipitation within hydrothermal plumes removes hydrothermally-sourced metals from solution and also acts to scavenge trace elements from the surrounding water column. Here, we investigate the fate of particulate Fe released from high-temperature hydrothermal venting at EPR 9°50'N and its potential impact on local deep-ocean Fe-isotopic and geochemical budgets. We measured the geochemical composition, mineralogy and Fe isotope systematics of hydrothermal plume products in order to determine whether mineral precipitation imposes characteristic Fe-isotope “fingerprints” for hydrothermally sourced Fe in the deep ocean. Our sampling includes sediment trap deployments after the eruptive event of Jan. 2006, allowing the examination of temporal changes of hydrothermal fluxes over a 160 day period. Results show that Fe isotope composition in the high-temperature vent fluids is rather constant over the sampling period 2004-2008, and that secular variations of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of plume particles from -0.03 to -0.91‰ (relative to IRMM-14 standard) could be explained by local processes leading to variable mixing extents of hydrothermal, biogenic and lithogenic particles. Through geochemical modeling, we have calculated the relative abundances of hydrothermal plume components such as sulfides, Fe oxyhydroxides, organic matter, biogenic and lithogenic phases. We demonstrate that Fe isotope fractionation in the hydrothermal plume occurs during the formation and rapid settling of Fe-sulfides that are characterized by $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values ranging from $-0.73 \pm 0.13\text{‰}$ to $-0.86 \pm 0.13\text{‰}$, which is systematically lower than the end-member hydrothermal fluids ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe} = -0.4\text{‰}$). This study suggests that both the initial Fe isotope composition of the high-temperature vent fluids and its initial Fe/H₂S ratio (i.e. Fe-sulfide precipitation versus Fe-oxyhydroxide precipitation) should impose characteristic Fe isotope “fingerprints” for hydrothermally derived Fe in the deep ocean.

Keywords: Iron Isotopes, Seafloor Hydrothermal Systems, hydrothermal plume, marine particles, sediment traps, mid-ocean ridges

53 **Highlight:**

54 * Iron isotope composition of high temperature vents is fractionated relative to igneous rocks
55 with limited temporal variability

56 * The relative abundances of hydrothermal plume components are determined using a
57 geochemical model

58 * Mineral precipitation within hydrothermal plumes impacts local deep-ocean Fe-isotopic
59 budgets

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1. Introduction

Seafloor hydrothermal activity at mid-ocean ridges (MOR) and ridge-flanks is one of the fundamental processes controlling the exchange of heat and chemical species between seawater and ocean crust (Edmond et al., 1979; Elderfield et al., 1993; Stein and Stein, 1994; Wheat and Mottl, 2000). The interactions between hydrothermal plumes and the surrounding ocean might also significantly impact whole-ocean biogeochemical budgets (Kadko, 1993; Elderfield and Schultz, 1996; German and Von Damm, 2003; German and Seyfried, 2014). Buoyant hydrothermal plumes typically rise $\geq 100\text{m}$ over time-scales of ~ 1 hour, undergoing dilution by $\sim 10,000:1$ with seawater before neutral buoyancy is attained (Lupton et al., 1998). Mineral precipitation within the buoyant plume and the far-field non-buoyant plume removes hydrothermally-sourced metals from solution and also acts to scavenge trace elements from the surrounding water column (Cowen et al., 1986; Cowen et al., 1990; Kadko et al., 1994; Feely et al., 1996; German et al., 1997; Feely et al., 1998). Microbial and geochemical studies have shown that biological productivity and diversity within hydrothermal plumes can be significant, which could be, in part, attributed to CH_4 , NH_4^+ , Mn^{2+} and possibly Fe^{2+} oxidation (Cowen et al., 1986; DeAngelis et al., 1993; Mandernack and Tebo, 1993; O'Brien et al., 1998; Lam et al., 2008; Dick and Tebo, 2010; Bennett et al., 2011a; Sylvan et al., 2012; Dick et al., 2013).

It has been commonly considered that dissolved metals were largely removed from hydrothermal plumes through the precipitation of a range of iron-bearing minerals, including Fe-sulfides and Fe oxyhydroxides, and therefore deposited at the seafloor, primarily close to their vent-site sources (Edmond et al., 1982; Mottl and McConachy, 1990; Rudnicki and Elderfield, 1993; Klevenz et al., 2011). More recent studies, however, have demonstrated that the contribution of hydrothermal fluxes to the ocean metal budget is not as negligible as originally thought. Research in near-vent settings have identified several mechanisms enhancing the input of hydrothermally sourced metals to the open ocean, including: (i) formation of stable metal-complexes with dissolved and particulate organic carbon (DOC and POC) (Bennett et al., 2008; Toner et al., 2009; Sander and Koschinsky, 2011); (ii) nanoparticulate minerals, in particular pyrite (Yucel et al., 2011; Gartman et al., 2014); (iii) metal uptake by water-column microorganisms (Li et al., 2014). These studies raised fundamental questions regarding the residence time of hydrothermal particles in seawater, their dissolution kinetics and the role of

physical and biological processes (Adams et al., 2011; Carazzo et al., 2013). Investigations of far-field vent settings have also highlighted clear hydrothermal contributions for Fe, Mn and probably other metals such as Zn (John and Conway, 2014; Roshan et al., 2016). Long-range transport of hydrothermal Fe has been revealed by mid-water column Fe "anomalies" in the central and south Pacific ocean (Wu et al., 2011a; Fitzsimmons et al., 2014; Resing et al., 2015), the Southern and Arctic oceans (Klunder et al., 2012), the equatorial and North Atlantic ocean (Saito et al., 2013; Conway and John, 2014), and the Indian ocean (Nishioka et al., 2013). As a consequence, the global contribution of hydrothermal Fe to the open ocean should be considered in order to balance oceanic Fe budgets (Tagliabue et al., 2010).

Despite these studies, our current ability to quantify the impact of hydrothermal venting on the deep ocean iron reservoir is far from satisfactory. Since high-temperature vent fluids define a narrow range in Fe isotope-space slightly lower than igneous rocks, with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values from -0.9‰ to 0.1‰ (Sharma et al., 2001; Beard et al., 2003b; Rouxel et al., 2004; Severmann et al., 2004; Rouxel et al., 2008a; Bennett et al., 2009), it has been hypothesized, previously, that Fe isotope composition may help to better constrain the proportion of hydrothermally-derived deep-ocean dissolved iron. This approach was first proposed for interpreting Fe isotope compositions in hydrogenous crusts (Beard et al., 2003b; Chu et al., 2006; Horner et al., 2015) and later for the Fe isotope composition of seawater (John and Adkins, 2012; Conway and John, 2014). Because Fe-sulfide and Fe-oxide precipitation in hydrothermal plumes can fractionate Fe isotopes toward lighter and heavier values respectively (Severmann et al., 2004; Bennett et al., 2009), it is expected that the Fe isotope composition of any remaining dissolved Fe in seawater will vary significantly depending on the type of minerals formed and the extent of Fe precipitation in the dispersing plume. In addition, the relatively large variations in $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values measured so far in high-temperature hydrothermal fluids compared to other oceanic sources (e.g. rivers, groundwater and diagenetic fluids Bergquist and Boyle, 2006; Severmann et al., 2006; Rouxel et al., 2008b) further complicate the identification of a diagnostic isotopic signature for hydrothermal Fe exported to the ocean.

Another difficulty is the assessment of the temporal variability of hydrothermal discharge, in particular with respect to volcanic events (Baker et al., 1987; Baker et al., 2012). This is particularly important for Fe since "episodes" of hydrothermal discharge may dominate time-averaged biogeochemical fluxes (Pester et al., 2014). This issue has been

generally addressed by examining the chemistry of hydrothermal vents and suspended plume particles overlying hydrothermal fields over repeated periods of time (Baker, 1994; Feely et al., 1994; Breier et al., 2012; Baumberger et al., 2014) and through study of the metalliferous sediments deposited beneath dispersing hydrothermal plumes (Mills and Elderfield, 1995; Cave et al., 2002). Another and more direct approach involves the use of sediment traps to measure *in situ* hydrothermal fluxes over the time frame of weeks to months. Sediment traps have been employed to collect samples in time-series of hydrothermal plume fallout at the Endeavour Segment of the Juan de Fuca Ridge (JdFR) (Dymond and Roth, 1988; Roth and Dymond, 1989; Cowen et al., 2001), 13°N EPR (German et al., 2002) and more recently at EPR 9°50'N (Toner et al., 2009; Adams et al., 2011; Bennett et al., 2011b; Sylvan et al., 2012). In particular, the spatial and temporal variability of vent fluid chemistry at 9°50'N EPR is among the most thoroughly studied of any vent field (Von Damm et al., 1995; Von Damm, 2000; Fornari et al., 2012; Yucel and Luther, 2013). Multiyear time-series of annual to semi-annual sampling at this site have revealed both temporal variability between samplings and differences between vents that are tens of meters apart (Von Damm, 2004; Fornari et al., 2012).

Here, we investigate the fate of particulate Fe released from high-temperature hydrothermal venting at EPR 9°50'N and its potential impact on local deep-ocean Fe-isotopic and geochemical budgets. We aim to investigate Fe isotope systematics in hydrothermal plume products, formed through Fe-sulfide and Fe-oxyhydroxide precipitation, in order to determine whether mineral precipitation impose characteristic Fe-isotope “fingerprints” for hydrothermally sourced Fe in the deep ocean. Because our sampling includes sediment trap deployments after the eruptive event of Jan. 2006, we also examine temporal changes of metal hydrothermal fluxes in the aftermath of a recent volcanic eruption. Our approach includes calculation of the relative proportions of hydrothermal plume components such as sulfides, Fe oxyhydroxides, organic matter, biogenic and lithogenic components so that the relative contributions of these phases to hydrothermal fluxes and Fe-isotope fractionation can be assessed. Furthermore, we present additional data for Fe isotopes in high-temperature hydrothermal fluids at EPR 9-10°N (Rouxel et al., 2008a) that afford the opportunity to study Fe isotope systematics in vent fluids during the early stage of hydrothermal deposit formation at the seafloor.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Site description and sample selection

The hydrothermal field at EPR 9-10°N is located in a well-studied segment of the EPR between the Clipperton and Siqueiros Fracture Zones (Detrick et al., 1987; Haymon et al., 1991; Haymon et al., 1993; Fornari et al., 1998; Shank et al., 1998; Von Damm, 2004). The vent fluid chemistry in the area has been well documented and previous studies have reported temporal evolution of chemical and isotopic properties of the vent systems in relation to magmatic events (Shanks et al., 1995; Von Damm et al., 1997; Shanks, 2001; Von Damm, 2004). Eighteen high temperature hydrothermal vent sites have been identified along the EPR between 9°N and 10°N, including ten vent sites between 9°49'N and 9°51'N (**Figure 1**). Hydrothermal activity has ranged from focused discharge of phase-separated high-temperature fluids (up to 403°C) to low-temperature (<20°C) diffuse venting (Von Damm, 2004).

Since the discovery of vents at 9°50'N, two major eruptions were detected, one in 1991/1992 (Haymon et al., 1993) and a second in 2005/2006 (Tolstoy et al., 2006). The former eruption resulted in unprecedented chemical changes, probably related to phase separation and changes in the depth to the heat source driving the hydrothermal system at this site. Those changes were reflected in the variations of temperature as well as Cl and Na contents of the fluids that changed by more than an order of magnitude during this time period (Von Damm et al., 1995; Von Damm et al., 1997; Von Damm, 2000). The latter eruption introduced a major perturbation into local vent communities. New lava emerged between 9°46'N and 9°56'N and reached as far as 2 km off axis (Soule et al., 2007) (**Figure 1**), covering existing biological communities and even some high-temperature vents. Changes in the iron and sulfide contents and speciation of the high-temperature fluids in the 3 years following the 2005/2006 eruption have been also reported (Yucel and Luther, 2013; Pester et al., 2014).

We examined descending particles from the buoyant hydrothermal plume near Bio 9 (9°50.27N; 104°17.49W) and Tica (9°50.43N; 104°17.49W) vents using 21-position time-series trap sediment traps deployed ~5 m above the seafloor (**Figure 1**). Samples were collected continuously, from May 16 to June 27, 2006 (“RESET” traps “Tica” and “Bio9”), and July 1 to November 4, 2006 (“LADDER 1” trap R1 and R2). The two “RESET” traps

near Tica and Bio9 lacked precise navigation and were positioned out of the trough (Mullineaux et al., 2010). Trap R1 was located ~ 30 m southwest of the Bio9 vent complex within the axial summit caldera in an area with a series of small chimneys, black smokers and spires (Von Damm, 2004; Rouxel et al., 2008a). Trap R2 was located outside the axial summit caldera, 115 m southwest of Ty-Io black smoker vents and ~370 m southwest of Trap R1 (**Figure 1**). Following retrieval of Trap R2, it was discovered that a jellyfish had become lodged in the opening at the bottom of the trap during the collection of sample 11 (which began collection on August 30, 2006) and remained there for the duration of the experiment. In this study, we only selected the first 6 samples collected by Trap R2.

We also selected several hydrothermal vent fluid samples from the EPR 9°50'N area in order to report geochemical properties of the high-temperature fluid sources prior to mixing with seawater. Vent sites Tica and Bio9 vents were sampled during the Atlantis/Alvin cruise AT11-20 in November 2004 and Fe-isotope compositions together with other chemical characteristics were already reported in (Rouxel et al., 2008a). High temperature fluid samples were also selected after the 2005/2006 eruption for comparison. P-vent, Ty-Io and Bio-9 vent sites were sampled during the Atlantis/Alvin cruise AT15-28 in December 2007/January 2008 (Pester et al., 2014). Hydrothermal fluids from Tica vent (344°C) were sampled from large beehive structures while fluids from Bio 9 vents (383°C) were sampled from a typical black smoker chimney.

2.2. Sediment trap samples

The sediment traps (McLane Parflux Mark 78H-21; McLane Research Laboratories) have a sampling aperture of 0.5 m² (80 cm diameter at top, 2.5 cm diameter at bottom) and 21 cups. Prior to deployment, each 250 mL polyethylene sample cup was filled with 20% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) in 4.0% NaCl solution and buffered to pH 9.0 ± 0.5 with NaOH. This preservative stops significant biological activity within the samples, retaining sample integrity for mineralogical, geochemical, and molecular microbiological investigations. The use of DMSO, however, prevents the robust analysis of sulfur concentration in plume particles. Upon trap recovery, each sample cup was capped and refrigerated at 4 °C. Subsamples for mineralogy were collected in a laminar flow hood using sterile plastic pipettes after vigorous shaking. Subsequently, all sample processing in the laboratory, including splitting and filtration, was conducted using standard methods established for sediment trap analyses (Honjo et al., 1995). Particulate samples were first water-sieved through 1-mm mesh

and < 1 mm fractions were further split into 10 equal aliquots using a McLane WSD-IO rotating wet-sediment splitter. Only the < 1 mm fraction was analyzed for the “RESET” traps while both fractions (> 1 mm and < 1 mm) were recovered and analyzed for the “LADDER 1” trap. Because of the small amounts of materials recovered in the RESET traps, geochemical analyses were completed on pooled samples by combining the materials from 3 or 4 consecutive cups.

Total dry mass for mass flux calculations was determined by summing three fractions of the < 1 mm sample splits. The standard error determined from dividing all < 1 mm samples was generally better than 4% (Honjo et al., 1995). Mass flux calculations for > 1 mm samples were done directly by weighting the totality of particles recovered. Subsequent geochemical analyses were done on dried subsamples obtained after 0.4 μm filtration. Between 5 to 10 mg of dried subsamples were analyzed for particulate inorganic carbon (PIC) using a UIC Coulometric analyzer and total particulate carbon (TOC) using a CHN analyzer. Particulate organic carbon (POC) was determined by difference.

The larger (> 1 mm) and fine (< 1 mm) fractions of the traps were measured for major element concentrations (Al, Ba, Ca, Fe, Mg, Mn, Si, Sr and Ti) by ICP-OES (Jobin Yvon) at WHOI after complete dissolution using lithium metaborate fusion and final dilution into 20-40 mL of 0.28 M HNO_3 . Accuracy was within 3% as determined by repetitive measurements of a standard (USGC marine sediment MAG-1). Trace element analyses (P, V, Co, Cu, Zn) were done on the same solutions after an additional dilution and analyzed by high-resolution ICPMS Element 2 (Thermo Scientific) at WHOI. The detection limit was calculated from repeat analysis of procedural blanks. Indium was added to each sample as an internal standard to correct for changes in instrument sensitivity. Stock standards (Specpure, Spex) of each element of interest were diluted in preparation for instrument calibration. A number of geo-reference standards (BHVO-1 and IFG) were also analyzed along with the samples to determine analytical accuracy, which is better than 5% for all trace elements reported.

2.3. Hydrothermal fluids

Eight hydrothermal fluids from four active vents were collected by submersible Alvin (WHOI) using two types of pressurized, piston driven sampling devices, made entirely of titanium. Samples recovered using the 'Major' samplers (Von Damm et al., 1985) were previously described in Rouxel et al. (2008a) while samples recovered using the 'IGT' samplers (Seewald et al., 2002) were partly reported in Pester et al. (2014). Briefly, the Ti-

samplers were filled via a titanium snorkel that was inserted directly into the vent orifice. Importantly, the snorkel was adapted to contain a thermocouple with ICL communication, which permitted monitoring vent fluid temperature in the course of sampling, effectively minimizing seawater entrainment. Immediately following recovery, fluid pH was measured onboard ship. Several fluid aliquots were extracted from the Ti-samplers and transferred into acid cleaned bottles and acidified with ultrapure HCl. Due to the high concentrations of metals in the hydrothermal solutions, precipitation often occurred within the titanium samplers as they cooled to ambient temperature. These insoluble or precipitated particles were also recovered for chemical analysis by rinsing the disassembled Ti-sampler with Milli-Q water and acetone and filtering the resultant 'dregs' through 0.45 μm filters. Based on the total volume of the sampler, the amount of metals measured in this 'dregs' fraction was recombined with data obtained for the dissolved fraction in order to calculate the original *in situ* composition of the vent fluid samples. The fluid samples were stored acidified for about 6 months before analysis. In some case, suspended particles remaining in the acidified bottles (presumably sulfides) were filtered through 0.2 μm filters. Both 'dregs' and suspended fluid particles were digested with distilled concentrated HNO_3 and HCl, evaporated and analyzed using the same procedure as for fluid samples.

For 'Major' fluid samples, Na and Mg concentrations were determined by ion-chromatography while trace elements (Fe, Cu, Mn, Zn) were determined by high-resolution ICPMS Element 2 (Thermo Scientific) as described in Rouxel et al. (2008a). For 'IGT' fluid samples, Na and Mg concentrations were determined by ion-chromatography while trace elements (Fe, Cu, Mn, Zn) were determined by ICP-OES as described in Pester et al. (2011).

2.4. Fe isotope analysis

Fe-isotope ratios were determined at WHOI and IFREMER on a Thermo Scientific Neptune MC-ICPMS following the method described in Rouxel et al. (2008a). A portion of the fluid samples, including both the dissolved fraction and the digested 'dregs' fraction was dried down in PTFE beakers on hot plates with 1 mL of concentrated HNO_3 (ultrapure grade). The dry residue was then dissolved with 4 mL of 6 M HCl and a trace of H_2O_2 . Similarly, a portion of the dissolved samples obtained after LiBO_3 fusion was first dried down in PTFE beakers with concentrated HNO_3 . After further evaporation in HNO_3 -HF mixtures, the solid residue was dissolved in 6 M HCl. In general, between 1 μg to 100 μg of Fe were processed through the entire chemical purification. Each sample in 6 M HCl was loaded onto AG1-X8

chromatographic resin. The iron fraction was collected after elution with 0.24 M HCl, dried down, re-dissolved in 0.28 M HNO₃ and analyzed on a Neptune ICP-MS as described elsewhere (Rouxel et al., 2008a; Escoube et al., 2009).

Our analytical technique on the Neptune MC-ICP-MS at WHOI and IFREMER involves both "sample-standard bracketing" and "internal normalization" using Ni of known isotope composition. It yields an external precision better than 0.07‰ (2σ_d) for total quantities of Fe down to 500 ng. Based on > 50 replicate dissolutions, purifications and analyses of internal standard BHVO-1 and BHVO-2 (Hawaiian basalt), we have obtained a long-term average of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe} = 0.09 \pm 0.07\text{‰}$ (2σ_d). We also measured the Fe isotope composition of synthetic seawater-like matrices by adding known amounts of a Fe standard solution (Spex solution) to Fe-depleted seawater to obtain a final Fe concentration similar to hydrothermal fluids. Throughout, we obtained an average $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ value of $-0.19 \pm 0.09\text{‰}$ (2sd, n=10) indistinguishable from the values obtained for the pure standard solution. We also measured several aliquots of MAG-1 georeference materials (marine sediment) processed in a similar manner to the sediment trap particles (i.e. digestion using LiBO₃ fusion) and obtained an average $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ value of $0.08 \pm 0.09\text{‰}$ (2sd, n=5) similar to the expected values for lithogenic marine sediments (Beard et al., 2003a).

2.5. X-ray microprobe

Iron speciation was measured by Fe 1s X-ray absorption near edge structure (XANES) spectroscopy in fluorescence mode at the hard X-ray microprobe beamline 10.3.2 (Manceau et al., 2002; Marcus et al., 2004), Advanced Light Source (ALS), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA using methods previously published for EPR plume materials (Toner et al., 2009; Breier et al., 2012). The application of these tools to plume particles was reviewed by Toner et al. (2014; 2016). Briefly, the monochromator was calibrated by setting the inflection point of an Fe 1s XANES spectrum, collected from an Fe foil, to 7110.75 eV (Kraft et al., 1996). The distribution of elements in particles on filters (polycarbonate 0.2 μm) was determined by micro-focused X-ray fluorescence (μXRF) mapping using a 7-element Ge solid-state fluorescence detector (Canberra). XRF map measurements used a 3 × 3 μm² beam spot on the sample and were used to find sample locations for point Fe XANES data collection. Iron 1s XANES spectra were used to survey the oxidation state and mineral class of the Fe-bearing phases (Toner et al. 2012). Linear

combination fitting (LCF) of XANES spectra was performed using a library of standards (Marcus et al., 2008) and custom beamline software (Marcus et al., 2004). The best LCF was chosen based on the normalized sum square parameter (NSS):

$$NSS = 100 \times [\sum (\mu_{exp} - \mu_{fit})^2 / \sum (\mu_{exp})^2] \quad (1)$$

where the addition of a spectral component to the fit required a 10 % or greater improvement in the NSS value. Best LCF results are provided in the supplemental materials (**Table S1**). Fits to specific reference materials were later binned into broad mineralogical/speciation categories using the key presented in **Table S2**.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Hydrothermal vent fluids

The hydrothermal fluids collected from P-vent, Bio9, Tica, Ty-Io and Biovent sites (**Table 1**) display a significant range in temperature (331 to 383 °C), salinity (Na concentrations between 228 to 389 mM), and Fe concentrations (from 156 µM at Bio vent to 3280 µM at P vent). The low-Mg contents (below 6 mM) for most of the high-temperature hydrothermal fluids reflect minimal dilution with seawater (Mg=53 mM). In some cases, hydrothermal fluids with Mg contents up to 25 mM (e.g. Biovent) were obtained suggesting significant entrainment of seawater during sampling.

End-member Fe concentrations and Fe isotope compositions are also reported in **Table 1**. For most samples, the dissolved fraction represents more than 90% of the total Fe, suggesting that the dregs represent a minor fraction. Hence, potential entrainment of small pieces of the sulfide chimney is not expected to affect Fe concentrations and Fe isotope ratios of the end-member vent fluids reported here. Triplicate analyses of P vent fluids sampled in 2008 yield an average Fe concentration of 3143 ± 166 µM (1se) and identical $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of $-0.41 \pm 0.09\text{‰}$ (2sd, n=3). As previously reported by Pester et al. (2014), end-member Fe concentrations at Bio9 showed a marked decrease between 2004 and 2008, with values decreasing from 3584 ± 71 in 2004 (Rouxel et al., 2008a) to 2750 ± 120 µM. Despite the change in end-member Fe concentrations, $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values for the Bio 9 vent fluids show a remarkable homogeneity between 2004 and 2008, yielding an overall $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ value at $-0.41 \pm$

0.04‰ (2sd, n=4). This value is also indistinguishable from P-vent values located close by. As reported by Rouxel et al. (2008a), Fe isotope values at Tica vent differ significantly from other vent sites at EPR 9°50'N with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values (averaging $-0.36 \pm 0.07\text{‰}$, 2sd) that are slightly lower than the nearby Bio 9 vent site. In addition, Tica vent fluids display the largest differences between dissolved and precipitated (i.e. 'dregs' fraction) Fe pools, with $\Delta\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{Particles-Fluid}}$ ranging from -1.38 to -1.57‰.

The single analysis of Ty-Io vent fluids shows much lower Fe concentrations than P vent and Bio9, with end-member values at 583 μM . Ty-Io also yields the heaviest $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values at $-0.22 \pm 0.11\text{‰}$. Bio vent, located at the northern limit of the study area (**Figure 1**), displays even lower Fe concentrations (290 μM) but lighter $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values at about -0.66‰. Hence, vent sites showing the lowest Fe concentrations yield the largest range of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values, with a total range of about 0.4 ‰. Because these vents are both located away from the sediment traps and contain relatively low Fe concentrations, it is to be expected that their contribution to the total input of hydrothermal Fe recorded in our sediment trap records is negligible.

So far, all reported high-temperature ($>300^\circ\text{C}$) vent-fluids have been characterized by a range in Fe isotope compositions that is systematically shifted toward light $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values compared to igneous and mantle rocks. Values as low as -0.67‰ and as high as -0.09‰ were previously reported in hydrothermal vent fluids along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and East Pacific Rise (Sharma et al., 2001; Beard et al., 2003b; Severmann et al., 2004; Rouxel et al., 2008a; Bennett et al., 2009). Heaviest values were found for high-temperature hydrothermal fluids from the Rainbow field, an ultramafic-influenced hydrothermal system from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (Severmann et al., 2004) while lighter values were reported for Fe-depleted vents from basaltic-hosted vent sites at EPR 9°50'N (e.g. Bio-vent, Rouxel et al., 2008a). In general, high-temperature hydrothermal fluids from basaltic-hosted fields exhibit a restricted range from -0.3 down to -0.5‰ (Rouxel et al., 2008a; Bennett et al., 2009).

Potential processes controlling the variability of Fe isotopes in hydrothermal fluids at fast spreading ridges include phase separation, high-temperature basalt alteration, and subsurface processes leading to Fe precipitation or remobilization below the seafloor. Although phase separation is one of the fundamental processes controlling mid-ocean ridge vent fluid chemistry (Von Damm, 1988; Von Damm et al., 1995), several lines of evidence suggest that

only limited Fe-isotope fractionation occurs during this process. First, Beard et al. (2003b) measured $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of both the vapor and brine phases from the Brandon Vent at EPR 21.5°S and found less than 0.15‰ difference between these two fluids. Secondly, although not spatially related, Fe isotope compositions of the high salinity fluid at K-vent (i.e. Na above seawater) do not differ significantly from lower salinity, vapor-rich fluids at Tica vent (Rouxel et al., 2008a). Thirdly, recent experimental studies of Fe isotope fractionation during phase separation in the NaCl-H₂O system (Syverson et al., 2014) yielded a maximum Fe isotope fractionation between the vapor and liquid of $0.15 \pm 0.05\%$ with, in most cases, variations of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values that were indistinguishable within analytical uncertainties.

After the 2005/2006 eruption, hydrothermal vent fluids from Bio9 experienced an increase in dissolved Fe concentrations and a depletion in acid-volatile sulfide (i.e. free sulfide plus FeS) concentrations (Yucel and Luther, 2013). Chromium reducible sulfide (i.e. suspended pyrite) was also depleted, probably reflecting much lower Fe/H₂S ratios in the vent fluids following the eruption, due to the formation of an H₂S-laden vapor phase. Time series data for vent fluid chemistry at Bio9 also show an increase in Fe solubility relative to Mn in the aftermath of the volcanic eruptions in both 1991/1992 and 2005/2006 (Pester et al., 2014). This is consistent with experimental data suggesting a sharp increase in Fe solubility in low-salinity and low-density vapor fluids that are associated with eruptive events (Pester et al., 2014). Despite these dramatic changes in end-member Fe chemistry, $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of Bio 9 vent fluids show a remarkable homogeneity between 2004 and 2007/2008, yielding an overall $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ value of $-0.41\text{‰} \pm 0.04$ (2sd, n=4). One interpretation of these data could be that the system returned to steady state after only 1 year following the major magmatic events, but this would be in contradiction with other studies suggesting a period of 2 to 3 years for recovery after an eruption (Yucel and Luther, 2013; Pester et al., 2014). Alternately, it could be considered that magmatic events do not significantly change the Fe isotope composition of end-member high-temperature vent fluids. Relative to steady state, eruptions can result in a temporary shallowing of the heat source, leading to intersection of the two-phase boundary at lower P-T conditions. However, the lack of significant Fe isotope fractionation during phase separation should not result in large changes of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values in the resulting vent fluids.

Hence, the general enrichment in light Fe isotopes in vent fluids relative to volcanic rocks can be explained by two alternate mechanisms (Rouxel et al., 2003; Rouxel et al., 2004; Rouxel et al., 2008a):

(1) high-temperature alteration of basalt and the formation of isotopically heavy secondary minerals (e.g. Mg–Fe amphibole) in the high-temperature reaction zone. This mechanism has been observed already during low-temperature alteration of basalts at the seafloor (Rouxel et al., 2003). In particular, highly altered basalts that are depleted in Fe by up to 80% from their original Fe concentration display an increase in $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values relative to fresh values (up to 1.3‰), which suggests preferential leaching of light Fe isotopes (between –0.5‰ and –1.3‰) during alteration.

(2) precipitation of isotopically heavy pyrite in subsurface environments or in the reaction zone. Using first-principles methods based on density-functional theory (DFT) and Mössbauer spectroscopy methods, previous theoretical studies have demonstrated that pyrite should be enriched in heavy Fe isotopes under equilibrium conditions (Blanchard et al., 2009; Polyakov and Soultanov, 2011; Blanchard et al., 2012). Using the reduced isotopic partition function ratios of FeS_2 and $\text{Fe(II)-aquo-chloro}$ complexes, the isotope fractionation between FeS_2 and Fe(II)aq $\Delta\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeS}_2\text{-Fe(II)}}$ is about 1.0 to 1.5 at 350 °C. Experimentally determined equilibrium pyrite–fluid Fe isotopic fractionation also agrees with theoretical and spectrally-based predictions (Syverson et al., 2013). Under hydrothermal conditions (300–350°C, 500 bars) in NaCl- and sulfur-bearing aqueous fluids, $\Delta\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeS}_2\text{-Fe(II)}}$ was determined at $0.99 \pm 0.29\text{‰}$ (Syverson et al., 2013). Hence, in the case of pyrite precipitation in subsurface environments due to conductive cooling of the fluids, near equilibrium Fe-isotope fractionation is expected which should result in the preferential partitioning of isotopically light Fe in the hydrothermal fluids. This suggests that pyrite acts as an important mineral buffer in the iron isotope composition of high-temperature hydrothermal fluids.

3.2. Mass fluxes

The mass flux (in $\text{mg/m}^2/\text{d}$) together with the chemical composition for each cup are reported in **Table 2** and compared with previous studies at EPR 13°N in **Table 3**. Because the mass fluxes measured for each cup represent an integration of collected materials over a relatively short period of 6 days, we also calculated the fluxes and chemical compositions of each sediment traps integrating the entire duration of deployment (**Table 3**). This approach allows discussion of both short-term evolution and longer temporal records of mass flux and chemical compositions for sinking plume particles.

The fluxes measured in trap R1 (period between 07/01/2006 to 11/03/2006) ranged from 0.46 to 2.96 $\text{mg/cm}^2/\text{yr}$ for < 1mm fractions and from 0.34 to 2.36 $\text{mg/cm}^2/\text{yr}$ for > 1

mm fractions. This yields an integrated flux for trap R1 of 2.6 mg/cm²/yr, with fluxes from > 1mm and < 1mm fractions contributing equally. This flux is comparable to far-field (i.e. 300 m away) mass fluxes measured at EPR 13°N (2-3 mg/cm²/yr, German et al., 2002) but lower than near vent (i.e. 10-20 m) mass fluxes (6-16 mg/cm²/yr, German et al., 2002) (**Table 3**). Trap R1 is located ~ 30 m southwest of the Bio9 vents complex within the axial summit caldera suggesting lower hydrothermal input at EPR 9°50'N compared to 13°N. The fluxes are only slightly higher than open-ocean mesopelagic fluxes (0.5 - 1.1 mg/cm²/yr) measured in the North Central Pacific (Lamborg et al., 2008) and off-axis from the Juan de Fuca Ridge (Cowen et al., 2001).

The fluxes measured in trap R2 (period between 07/01/2006 to 08/06/2006) range from 0.53 to 1.08 mg/cm²/yr for < 1 mm fractions and from 0.08 to 0.29 mg/cm²/yr for > 1 mm fractions. This yields an integrated flux for trap R2 of 0.98 mg/cm²/yr, with fluxes from < 1mm fraction contributing more than 80% of the total flux. This mass flux is also much lower than the far-field fluxes measured at EPR13°N (German et al., 2002) located 300 m away from a vent site.

The fluxes measured in 'Tica' and 'Bio9' traps between 05/16/2006 to 06/27/2006 are remarkably similar (0.54 and 0.53 mg/cm²/yr, respectively). Because only the < 1 mm fraction was recovered, it is impossible to determine whether the missing > 1 mm fraction contributed significantly to the total mass flux. According to our results for R1 and R2 traps, the > 1 mm fraction can contribute from 20% to 50% of the total mass flux, suggesting that our mass fluxes for the 'Tica' and 'Bio9' traps are significantly underestimated. In all cases, however, mass fluxes of about 0.5 mg/cm²/yr for the < 1 mm fraction are surprisingly low, even compared to open ocean pelagic fluxes. For example, open-ocean pelagic fluxes of up to 0.66 mg/cm²/yr have been reported in the central equatorial Pacific at 9°N by Hernes et al. (2001).

Of primary importance in interpreting the variation of mass fluxes determined using sediment traps, are (i) source effects (e.g. variation of upper ocean productivity and particle export); (ii) hydrodynamic factors (i.e. biases in collecting sinking materials from overlying seawater as a result of turbulent bottom water current). It has been demonstrated previously that both distance from the vent source and bottom water currents affected by rough seafloor topography can be important drivers of temporal and spatial variability in hydrothermal mass fluxes (German et al., 2002; Adams et al., 2011). Hydrodynamic effects may also affect time-series records of mass flux over short periods (weeks to months) by changing sinking particle

488 velocities as well as modifying the effective surface area of the sediment trap (Siegel and
489 Deuser, 1997; Buesseler et al., 2007). Previous studies at the EPR 9-10°N area also
490 demonstrated an unexpected influence of surface-generated mesoscale eddies in the transport
491 of hydrothermal plume materials away from the ridge axis (Adams et al., 2011).

492
493 Hence, the relatively large range in mass fluxes recorded in traps R1 and R2 through
494 time (**Table 2**) is more likely to be due to hydrodynamic transport variations rather than any
495 changes in the gross hydrothermal fluxes emitted from the vent site. Because the “RESET”
496 traps near Tica and Bio9 lacked precise navigation and were positioned out of the trough
497 (Mullineaux et al., 2010), their mass fluxes cannot be compared to other sediment traps
498 deployed at mid-ocean ridges that show strong relationships with distance from their vent
499 sources (German et al., 2002). Because trap R2 records the lowest mass flux, it could be
500 suggested that this trap represents non-hydrothermal background fluxes in the area. The
501 fluxes of Fe, Al, Cu, Zn, P, V for R2 trap (25 $\mu\text{g Fe/cm}^2/\text{yr}$, 11 $\mu\text{g Al/cm}^2/\text{yr}$, 0.8 $\mu\text{g Cu}$
502 cm^2/yr , 0.62 $\mu\text{g Zn/cm}^2/\text{yr}$, 2.7 $\mu\text{g P cm}^2/\text{yr}$, 0.04 $\mu\text{g V cm}^2/\text{yr}$ **Table 3**) are indeed similar to
503 previously reported background data for the deep Pacific Ocean above the East Pacific Rise
504 (Cowen et al., 2001) and Juan de Fuca Ridge (Dymond and Roth, 1988; German et al., 2002)
505 as well as pelagic to mesopelagic open ocean data (Jickells et al., 1984; Lamborg et al., 2008).
506 The flux of Mn in Trap R2, however, is one order of magnitude higher than typical
507 "background" sediment (1.5 $\mu\text{g Mn/cm}^2/\text{yr}$), and is nearly identical to the Mn flux measured
508 in trap R1. The fluxes of CaCO_3 are identical between traps R1 and R2, suggesting that both
509 traps receive the same contribution of biogenic materials (organic carbon content was not
510 measured in trap R2, **Table 3**). Significant hydrothermal input is recorded in trap R1, as
511 shown by the relatively high fluxes of elements that are typically enriched in hydrothermal
512 sulfides Fe, Cu and Zn (**Table 3**). Increased fluxes of Al, P and V are also observed in trap
513 R1, suggesting higher contribution of Fe-oxyhydroxides, organic matter and Al-bearing
514 detrital or lithogenic materials entrained in plume environments. Overall, although elemental
515 fluxes measured in trap R1 are consistent with the record of a far-field plume (German et al.,
516 2002), the close location of the traps relative to Bio 9 suggest that the trap was not placed
517 directly downstream of any plume dispersion, yet still collected a significant input of
518 hydrothermal materials.

3.3. Iron mineralogy in plume particles

The mineralogy and Fe speciation of hydrothermal plume particles from the 'Tica' and 'R2' sediment traps have been investigated previously using synchrotron-based X-ray absorption near edge structure (XANES) spectroscopy (Toner et al., 2009; Toner et al., 2012). Those data, combined with XAS analyses of trap R1 and Bio9 samples indicated the presence of Fe-oxyhydroxide minerals and a variety of sulfide minerals as well detrital materials (glass and clay) and organic-rich aggregates (**Table 4**). Sulfide-associated iron accounts for ~ 90 mol % of the total iron present in trap R1 (e.g. R1-16) while it is only present as a minor proportion in trap R2 (e.g. R2-5,7,10). In contrast, oxidized Fe(III) shows the opposite pattern, with a number of trap samples (e.g. R1-16, Bio9-19, Tica-19) having nearly undetectable amounts of Fe(III) oxyhydroxides. Nonsulfide Fe(II), glasses and silicates (including Fe(III)-phyllosilicate) form the remaining 6–51 mol % of total Fe. The observed occurrence of Fe sulfide and Fe(III) oxyhydroxides are consistent with previous predictions and observations for plumes in general, and are in complete agreement with Fe XANES results for the Tica non-buoyant plume (Breier et al. 2012). The relatively high proportion of detrital materials detected in our sediment traps was not present in the near-field non-buoyant plume, indicating that these components were derived from seafloor materials (e.g. volcanic glass, sediments) and/or sinking particles.

The XRF maps reported by Toner et al. (2009) also demonstrated that Fe was often associated with other elements such as S, Ca, Zn, Cu, As and Se which is consistent with XRD analyses showing the occurrence of pyrite (FeS_2), marcasite (FeS_2), sphalerite (ZnS), and chalcopyrite (CuFeS_2). Basalt fragments, both glass and olivine, were also detected in the plume particles via Fe XANES analysis, explaining the associated of Fe with Ca, Ti, V, and Mn. Hence, X-ray spectroscopy suggest that Fe bearing particles fell into five basic categories: (1) Fe sulfide minerals, predominantly pyrite, (2) Fe oxyhydroxide derived from either weathered pyrite or direct oxidation of Fe^{2+} (3) basaltic materials such as silicates and glass, (4) sedimentary materials including phyllosilicates, and (5) biological debris and organics. Our analyses of major and trace element compositions are consistent with the observed mineralogy as discussed below.

3.4. Geochemical composition and phase associations

3.4.1. Organic matter.

The proportion of particulate organic carbon (POC) ranges from 2 to 15 wt% in the 'Tica', 'Bio9' and R1 traps (< 1 mm fractions only), yielding relatively similar averages for all the traps at 7.9, 7.6 and 6.5 wt% respectively (**Table 3**). This enrichment in POC for Trap R1 was previously discussed by Bennett et al. (2011b) but it remains unclear what the source of this organic carbon might be. It is well recognized that chemoautotrophic production of organic carbon in diffuse-flow hydrothermal environments has the potential to provide a source of organic carbon to the deep-ocean that can be entrained into non-buoyant plumes (German et al., 2015). We consider that the organic carbon content in our sediment traps, therefore, may be derived from entrained organic carbon and microbial biomass from the base of local buoyant hydrothermal plumes in addition to *in situ* production within the non-buoyant plume.

3.4.2. Carbonate component.

The proportion of inorganic carbon (PIC) ranges from 0.8 to 6 wt% in the 'Tica' and 'Bio9' traps and from 0.2 to 2 wt% in the R1 trap. Determined as the carbonate component, this suggests that carbonate (CaCO_3) represents on average about 20 wt% of the recovered plume materials in 'Tica' and 'Bio9', and 8 wt% for R1 trap. The strong correlation between PIC and Ca concentrations (**Figure 2a**) with a molar ratio PIC/Ca close to unity confirms the presence of biogenic carbonate in the sediment trap. Because Ca, and other carbonate-associated elements such as Sr, may be also associated with volcanic materials (glass fragment and minerals), we compared Ca/Al and Sr/Al ratios (**Figure 2b**). Results show a strong correlation between Ca/Al and Sr/Al yielding a Sr/Ca ratio of about 1.60 ± 0.12 (2se) mmol/mol for < 1 mm particles in all sediment traps. This ratio is consistent with biogenic carbonate, albeit with a slightly higher ratio than the Sr/Ca value of 1.4 - 1.5 mmol/mol measured in planktonic foraminifera (Brown and Elderfield, 1996). Enrichment of Sr versus Ca is clearly more pronounced in trap R1 for the > 1 mm particles (Sr/Ca of about 4 mmol/mol) suggesting the occurrence of aragonite in this sediment trap. These results are consistent with previous sediment trap studies showing that aragonite can account up to 50% of total calcium carbonate fluxes (Berner and Honjo, 1981).

3.4.3. Volcanic material.

The presence of volcanic material in our traps is well illustrated by the strong correlation between Al and Ti in the plume particles, regardless of size fraction or the location

of the sediment traps relative to vent sources (**Figure 2c**). The overall Ti/Al ratio is about 0.097 ± 0.008 (2se, g/g) which is indistinguishable from the average Ti/Al ratio of 0.106 ± 0.006 (2sd, g/g) determined in lavas formed from the 2005-2006 eruption at EPR 9°50'N (Goss et al., 2010). Further examination of Si versus Al relationships (**Figure 2d**) reveals the predominance of 2 distinct geochemical groups: (i) the R1 trap exhibits the highest hydrothermal contribution with $\text{Si/Al} \approx 2.64$; (ii) other traps (Tica, Bio9 and R2) reflect predominantly background sedimentation with higher Si/Al ratios >7.0 . Since the average Si/Al of volcanic glass at EPR 9°50'N is 2.95 ± 0.04 (2sd, g/g), we consider that the enrichment in Si versus Al in the background sediment traps is due primarily to the addition of biogenic silica from phytoplankton debris, although some addition of terrigenous clay material with $\text{Si/Al} \approx 4.4$ (Plank and Langmuir, 1998) may also occur. The apparent scatter in the Mg versus Al relationship (**Figure 2e**) is best explained by the fact that Mg is hosted in several mineral phases, including olivine and carbonate. Nevertheless, the overall Mg/Al ratio of 0.62 ± 0.18 is consistent with a major control of Mg and Al by volcanic glass with $\text{Mg/Al} = 0.617 \pm 0.012$ (2sd, g/g). Hence, the composition of sinking plume materials is strongly affected by the contribution of volcanic debris originating from recent lava flows in the axial summit trough. Because all traps show the overall same extent of volcanic material input, we posit that such materials are not only entrained in the ascending buoyant plume but also occur as suspended background particles in the water column. Presumably, the recent volcanic eruption that occurred less than a year before the sampling date provided an effective means for exposing fresh volcanic material at the seafloor that could be resuspended into the deep water column directly above the ridge axis.

3.4.4. Metalliferous sediments and detrital materials.

The relatively large Mn enrichment in the Tica, Bio9 and R2 sediment trap samples relative to R1 and in previous studies from EPR 13°N is intriguing (**Table 3**). Micro-XRD for the non-buoyant EPR plume showed a range of mineral phases hosting Mn, including MnS (rambergite & alabandite), MnS_2 (hauerite), CuMnO_2 (crednerite), Mn_2O_3 (bixbyite) (Breier et al., 2012). Determining the exact nature and source of mineral phases hosting Mn in our trap samples is complex since Mn may occur as (i) Mn oxyhydroxide phases freshly formed during aging and dispersing of the hydrothermal plume; (ii) Mn-rich sedimentary materials entrained in the buoyant plume rising above hydrothermal vent sites; and (iii) Mn from volcanic materials. Due to its very low oxidation kinetics (Cowen et al., 1986) Mn, in contrast to Fe, remains predominantly in solution in hydrothermal plumes, at least over short distances

and timescales. Hence, trap R1 received the highest concentration of hydrothermal materials and, closest to the vent source, should have received proportionally less Mn input than other traps. As shown in **Table 3**, all traps (i.e. < 1mm particles) received relatively similar Mn fluxes between 1.3 and 1.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{yr}$ regardless of their Fe fluxes, suggesting very limited contributions of 'freshly formed' plume-derived Mn oxyhydroxides. The examination of Mn versus Al relationships reveals two distinct geochemical groupings (**Figure 2f**). On one hand, the R1 trap displays an enrichment in Mn and Al that is broadly consistent with the addition of volcanic material with $\text{Mn}/\text{Al} = 0.018 \pm 0.002$ (2sd, g/g) (Goss et al., 2010). On the other hand, background traps R2, Tica and Bio 9 show a much larger enrichment in Mn ($\text{Mn}/\text{Al} \approx 0.5$ g/g) well above crustal values and more consistent with the addition of authigenic Mn. As shown in **Figure 3a**, Ba is also enriched in particles from these background traps, yielding $\text{Ba}/\text{Mn} \approx 0.5$ g/g for the R2 trap and 0.3 g/g for the Tica and Bio9 traps. Ba enrichment in settling particles and deep-sea sediments has been commonly associated with organic productivity (Dymond et al., 1992). Ba/POC ratios in marine sinking particles generally show an increase with depth, yielding Ba/POC ratios of about 0.02 to 0.04 (g/g) in deep water which is higher than the ratios measured in the plume particles we have collected at EPR 9°50'N where Ba/POC ratios are ~ 0.01 (g/g) (**Figure 3b**). Considering that Ba is barely scavenged by Mn oxyhydroxide phases in hydrothermal plumes (Feely et al., 1996), we favor a secondary origin for both Mn and Ba in our sediments traps including the resuspension of metalliferous sediments. This hypothesis is consistent with previous work showing that Ba may be associated with amorphous Mn oxides in hydrothermal sediments on ridge flanks (Ruhlin and Owen, 1986; Cronan and Hodkinson, 1997) and that bottom sediment resuspension is the dominant factor controlling the increase of benthic particulate Mn and Ba in seawater (Feely et al., 1994).

3.4.5. Iron oxyhydroxide component.

It has been well established that Fe oxyhydroxides provide an effective means to scavenge dissolved seawater oxyanions such as P, V, As and Cr (Trocine and Trefry, 1988; Feely et al., 1990; Feely et al., 1991; German et al., 1991b) leading to constant molar ratios of P/Fe and V/Fe dependent on the local dissolved phosphate concentration (Feely et al., 1998). Strong correlations between particulate Fe, P, V, Cr and As concentrations have been particularly well described in the hydrothermal plume at EPR 9°50'N (Feely et al., 1994; Breier et al., 2012). In theory, it is possible to calculate the relative abundance of hydrothermally-sourced Fe-oxyhydroxide materials in bulk sediment trap particles, using V

and P versus Fe relationships. This approach, which has been used in several studies of sediment trap and suspended plume particles (German et al., 2002; Bennett et al., 2009), exploits the scavenging properties of Fe oxyhydroxides for P and V oxyanions in seawater. By knowing the V/Fe and P/Fe ratios in the pure hydrothermal Fe-oxyhydroxide pool, it is possible to determine the proportion of this pool in bulk sample. An important caveat however, is that this approach assumes that all the measured P and V in the sediment traps is associated with Fe-oxyhydroxides. Since V and P are also found in association with volcanic materials and/or biogenic compounds in the sediment traps at EPR 9°50' N, we critically evaluate the phase association of P and V in our samples, below.

As shown in **Figure 3c**, V/Fe ratios in all plume fall-out materials correlate with Al/Fe, defining two groups: Reset traps (Bio9 and Tica) with an overall V/Al $\approx$ 0.003 and R1-R2 traps with V/Al $\approx$ 0.018, which is identical, within uncertainty, to the V/Al ratio measured in volcanic glass at EPR 9°50'N (V/Al = 0.0019) by Goss et al. (2010). In addition, V/Fe ratios for background traps 'Tica' and 'Bio9' yield higher values than those obtained previously for suspended non-buoyant plume particles at EPR 9°50'N (V/Fe $\approx$ 0.002) by Breier et al. (2012) and V/Fe $\approx$ 0.0038 (mol/mol) by Feely et al. (1994). Hence, to a first approximation, most of the variations in V/Fe ratios observed in plume particles collected in the aftermath of the 2005/06 eruption resulted primarily from the addition of volcanic materials. In detail, a close examination of V/Fe and Al/Fe relationships for trap R1, which received the largest hydrothermal input (**Figure 3d**), suggests that non-volcanic components in the plume material have V/Fe $\approx$ 0.0001 (i.e. intercept at Al/Fe=0, Figure 3d). This suggests that, as a whole, Fe-oxyhydroxides contribute far less than 5% of the hydrothermally-derived Fe. Note that the determination of the proportion of Fe-oxyhydroxides using mass balance consideration may differ from spatially-resolved Fe XANES analysis (Table 4) considering the heterogeneous nature of the sediment trap materials.

Another means for determining Fe-oxyhydroxide proportions is the use of P/Fe. In previous studies, P/Fe ratios of suspended particles from the non-buoyant plume at EPR 9°50'N were determined to be 0.06 (Breier et al., 2012) and 0.18 (Feely et al., 1994), with differences potentially related to particle ages (Breier et al., 2012). Excluding the background sediment trap R2, we obtained P/Fe values up to 0.30 (mol/mol) in trap R1 and up to 0.10 (mol/mol) for the Tica and Bio9 traps (**Figure 3e,f**). Because POC concentrations were only measured on the < 1 mm fractions from the R1, Tica and Bio9 traps, it is not possible to compare POC and P enrichments for all fractions of the sediment trap samples. However, as

presented in **Figure 3e** a correlation is observed between POC/Fe and P/Fe ($r^2=0.8$) defining a relationship characterized by $P/POC \approx 0.0056$ and initial $P/Fe \approx 0.01$ (i.e. calculated at $POC/Fe = 0$). This suggests an overall C/P of about 180 (mol/mol), which is higher than the classical Redfield ratio of 106 and is the highest range for marine phytoplankton anywhere in the Pacific Ocean (Sterner et al., 2008). Similarly, N/P ratios at EPR 9°50'N (Table 2) have been also determined at about 26 mol/mol which is higher than the Redfield ratio of 16-19 (Sterner et al., 2008). Hence, although organic matter in the sediment traps appears relatively depleted in P, it provides the main host for P, with only a small proportion (i.e. less than 5% based on initial $P/Fe \approx 0.01$) that could be attributed to PO_4 adsorption onto Fe-oxyhydroxides. This result is consistent with the V/Fe ratios discussed above. Observing a non-Redfield ratio for the organic matter recovered in sediment traps is not unexpected considering the fundamentally different source and nature of organic compounds in seafloor hydrothermal plumes (Toner et al., 2009). This also confirms that phytoplankton debris cannot contribute significantly to the overall organic carbon enrichment found in hydrothermal plumes as discussed previously (Bennett et al., 2011b).

3.4.6. Iron sulfide material.

The enrichment of sulfide materials in plume particles is often associated with an increase in chalcophile element concentrations such as Cu and Zn (Trocine and Trefry, 1988; Mottl and McConachy, 1990; German et al., 1991a). The main chimney-forming sulfide minerals reported from the Bio9 and Tica vents include primarily chalcopyrite ($CuFeS_2$), pyrite and marcasite (FeS_2), and sphalerite (ZnS) (Rouxel et al., 2008a). Because Fe is also hosted in detrital and volcanic materials, we have normalized sulfide-associated elements to Al. The variations of Cu/Al, Co/Al and Zn/Al all show strong correlations with Fe/Al (**Figure 4 a-c**) with $r^2 \approx 0.8$ over the entire data set confirming that, besides volcanic materials, Fe is primarily present in the form of polymetallic sulfide minerals. The normative mineralogy of these sulfides cannot be determined directly, however, due to the absence of sulfur concentration data arising from the use of DMSO as the sample preservative in the sediment trap cups. Nevertheless, the molar ratios of Cu/Fe and Zn/Fe of 0.04 and 0.023 respectively do suggest a predominance of Fe-sulfides (pyrite, marcasite and/or pyrrhotite) over other sulfide minerals such as chalcopyrite and sphalerite, which contrasts with the observed mineralogy of hydrothermal chimneys at the Bio9 site where chalcopyrite represent a major mineral (Rouxel et al., 2008a). The Cu/Fe and Zn/Fe ratios of the plume materials reported here, however, are consistent with the end-member fluid values measured at Bio9

(Cu/Fe $\approx$ 0.016 to 0.06 and Zn/Fe $\approx$ 0.016 to 0.06 ratios at Bio9, Table 1). This is consistent with the hypothesis that the sulfides recovered in the traps represent primary plume minerals, formed in situ in the buoyant plume, rather than chimney materials entrained in the ascending fluids.

3.4. Fe isotope composition of sediment traps

Fe isotope compositions of plume particles are presented in **Table 2**. Trap R1, receiving the greatest input of hydrothermal materials yields a relatively restricted range of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values between -0.84 and -0.40‰, with an average of -0.63 ± 0.04 ‰ (2se, n=42). These values are systematically lighter than the end-member vent-fluid $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of -0.41 ± 0.04 ‰ (2sd, n=4) measured at Bio9 after and before the 2006/2007 eruption. The background traps 'Tica' and 'Bio9' yield similar average $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values at -0.55 ± 0.13 ‰ (2se, n=6) with an overall range of -0.30 to -0.78‰. In comparison, the other background trap R2 yields the largest range of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values from -0.91 to -0.03‰. These values span those of igneous $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values at $\approx +0.09$ ‰ and isotopically light sulfides measured in the Bio9 chimney, in particular pyrite/marcasite assemblages with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values as low as -1.26 ‰ (Rouxel et al., 2008a). In trap R1, the fine < 1 mm fraction displays the same average $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ value as the coarse > 1 mm fraction ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe} = -0.62 \pm 0.05$ ‰ vs. -0.64 ± 0.06 ‰ (2se, n=42)) suggesting a homogeneous distribution of Fe isotopes among both particle pools.

Previous experimental investigations have highlighted the importance of Fe redox cycling, mineral precipitation and dissolution as factors contributing to Fe isotope fractionation. In plume environments, Fe isotopes can be fractionated by abiotic and/or biotic Fe(II) oxidation and precipitation of ferric hydroxides (Bullen et al., 2001; Balci et al., 2006; Wu et al., 2010; Wu et al., 2011b) and Fe-sulfide precipitation (Butler et al., 2005; Guilbaud et al., 2011; Wu et al., 2012). Fe-rich particles in buoyant and non-buoyant plume samples from the Rainbow vent-field (Mid-Atlantic Ridge) have been investigated previously and yielded heavier $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values from 0.1 to 1.1‰ relative to their source vent-fluid (Severmann et al., 2004), consistent with isotopic fractionation during partial oxidation of Fe(II)aq to Fe(III)aq in plume environments. In another study at 5°S, Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR), Bennett et al. (2009) investigated the Fe isotope systematics of both end-member vent fluids, and the rising buoyant plume particles collected directly above the same vents. They demonstrated that the isotope fractionation caused by the formation of Fe-sulfides in plume

environments favor an enrichment in light Fe isotopes in Fe-sulfides, with an overall fractionation factor of $+0.60 \pm 0.12\text{‰}$. More recently, Revels et al. (2015) showed that both total-digestible and labile Fe within a hydrothermal plume sampled at the TAG hydrothermal field on MAR are characterized by heavier $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ relative to the vent source. Decreasing Fe concentration and $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ with distance from the vent are consistent with the water-column precipitation of Fe-oxyhydroxides within the buoyant plume. Hence, the precipitation of Fe-oxyhydroxides or Fe-sulfides have opposite effects on the Fe isotope composition of plume particles.

Because volcanic materials are also an important component of the plume materials recovered by our sediment traps, the Fe isotope composition of the plume particles should represent mixing of at least 3 components: (1) sulfides with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values lower than source vent-fluids, (2) Fe-oxyhydroxides with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values higher than source vent-fluids and (3) volcanic materials with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values near crustal values. Considering that Al/Fe ratios are good proxies for the relative proportion of volcanic versus hydrothermal materials in plume fall-out particles, we compared $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ versus Al/Fe in **Figure 4d**. Results show that $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ are globally consistent with the mixing of isotopically light hydrothermal end-members (Al/Fe = 0) and volcanic materials characterized with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe} = 0.09\text{‰}$ (Beard et al., 2003a; Rouxel et al., 2003; Teng et al., 2013) and Al/Fe = 2.2 mol/mol (Goss et al., 2010). The correlation, however, is relatively weak ($r^2 = 0.56$). This suggests significant variations in $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of the hydrothermal components, probably in the range of -0.2 down to -1.2 ‰ in order to explain the entire variation of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ versus Al/Fe values (**Figure 4d**). While the heaviest and lightest values are consistent with precipitation of Fe-oxyhydroxides and Fe-sulfides respectively, the isotopic signature of each component requires a careful examination of their relative proportions, as discussed in the following section.

4. Geochemical model

4.1. Determination of mixing components

The examination of the mineralogy and elemental composition of our plume particles has suggested seven major components: (1) Fe-sulfide precipitates (pyrite/marcasite, pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite) enriched in Cu, Co, and Zn; (2) volcanic materials defined by their strong correlation between Al and Ti (e.g. volcanic glass from recent volcanic eruption) (3) Fe-oxyhydroxides formed through partial oxidation of Fe(II), scavenging P and

V; (4) metalliferous sediment enriched in Mn and Ba remobilized from seafloor environments; (5) biogenic carbonate controlling Ca and Sr enrichment; (6) biogenic silica from phytoplankton debris yielding an excess Si enrichment; (7) organic matter-rich materials, derived both from sinking planktonic debris and from new production associated with seafloor venting.

To define further the fluxes of the different components, a normative analysis approach, which quantitatively partitions the trap compositions into the seven components listed above, was carried out. The analysis uses linear programming to determine the mixture of these components which best accounts for the observed Al, Si, Ca, Sr, Fe, Mn, P, V, Cu and Zn contents of the trap samples. The results have been also used to assess the relative contributions of the different Fe pools in the plume particles and their Fe-isotope composition. The geochemical compositions of the different components are listed in **Table 5** together with their uncertainty. End-member values for Fe-oxyhydroxides, metalliferous sediments and volcanic materials have been derived from previously published values (Feely et al., 1994; Goss et al., 2010; Mills et al., 2010; Breier et al., 2012) while carbonate and organic matter values were determined from the relationships between TOC versus P and TIC versus Ca and Sr.

Considering a total number of plume components of 7, a minimum of 7 equations defined by the mass conservation relationships of 7 elements is required to determine each component. Since our geochemical composition dataset contains a larger number of elements, the system is typically over-constrained. Here, we use the concentrations of 10 elements Al, Si, Ca, Sr, Fe, Mn, P, V, (Cu+Zn) (**Table 5**) which optimally describe the main geochemical variations of the system. The approach used to determine the amount of each component is similar to the determination of normative mineralogy as described in several models (Banks, 1979; Cohen and Ward, 1991; Pruseth, 2009). Independent knowledge about the abundance of several of the minerals in the sample can be done through solving a set of linear equations. We first consider species i held in phase j . M_j is the mass (or mass flux) of phase 'j' and m_j^i the mass of species i contained in phase j . Mass conservation requires:

$$M_o = \sum_{j=1}^n M_j \quad (2)$$

The sum of all the phases for element i is defined by

$$m_o^i = \sum_{j=1}^n m_j^i \quad (3)$$

The concentration of species i in phase j is thus defined as $C_j^i = m_j^i / M_j$. Table 4 therefore represents the matrix composition of C_j^i values.

For the determination of each M_j values, we implement a simple calculation scheme using Microsoft Excel spreadsheet formulas and matrix solving, such as:

$$M_j = C_j^{i^{-1}} * m_j^i \quad (4)$$

We also applied a stochastic error propagation scheme using a Monte Carlo simulation.

Because the chemical composition of each component is relatively simple (**Table 5**), the calculation scheme was done by establishing priority among minerals while preventing negative input data generation. The results of the average mass fluxes for each component are presented in **Table 6** and individual data are presented in **Figures 5 & 6**.

Next, we calculated the contribution of each component to the total Fe inventory and established an Fe isotope mass balance according to the equation.

$$\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{bulk}} = X_{\text{FeFeOOH}} \delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeOOH}} + X_{\text{FeFeS}_2} \delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeS}_2} + X_{\text{FeVolc}} \delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{Volc}} + X_{\text{FeSed}} \delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{Sed}}$$

Because the Fe isotope compositions of metalliferous sediments ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{Sed}}$), sulfides ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeS}_2}$) and Fe oxyhydroxides ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeOOH}}$) are all unknown, we grouped them together as $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HYD+SED}}$. The proportion of Fe distributed among different components (X_{FeFeOOH} , X_{FeFeS_2} , X_{FeVolc} , X_{FeSed}) was determined using results the results generated for the determination of mass fluxes. We determined $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HYD+SED}}$ values by assuming $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{Volc}} = 0.09\text{‰}$. Results are presented in **Table 6** and **Figures 7 & 8**. We also applied an error propagation scheme for the determination of all results presented.

4.2. Dynamics of plume components

The temporal variations of calculated mass fluxes for each plume component in trap R1 show pulses at the beginning and end of the deployment (i.e. at 40 and 160 days elapsed since May 16th 2006) and also at 90 and 120 days (**Figure 5**). This 30-40 day periodicity in mass flux is seen for both particle size fractions (i.e. < 1 mm and > 1 mm) and is directly related to pulses in both hydrothermal (i.e. Fe sulfides) and volcanic material deposition (**Figure 5**). The co-variation between hydrothermal and volcanic fluxes suggests common

sources, probably from the entrainment of seafloor volcanic materials in the buoyant part of the plume in chimney environments. The R1 sediment trap is located 25 m away from Bio9 and therefore underlies the buoyant plume. Although changes in primary vent output cannot be ruled out, analyses of changes in current flow at this site are sufficient to explain the observed temporal variability in mass fluxes for both hydrothermal and volcanic materials. In particular, subinertial variability of the near-bottom currents on time scales of 30-40 days was previously reported on the EPR crest at 9°50'N (McGillicuddy et al., 2010; Liang and Thurnherr, 2011; Liang and Thurnherr, 2012). Some of this variability may be related to mesoscale eddies (Adams et al., 2011), as well as different flow regimes or turbulence levels associated with different water masses on the ridge crest (Liang and Thurnherr, 2012).

In contrast, mass fluxes for metalliferous sediments, biogenic components and organic materials seem unrelated to hydrothermal and volcanogenic fluxes (**Figure 6**). The increase of organic matter flux from large particles observed within the first 30 days of trap deployment (**Figure 6**) probably corresponds to an increase in larval supply. Both larval supply and mass flux are derived from independent pools built up over time, so changes in production should not be correlated with hydrothermal fluxes (Adams et al., 2011). Both biogenic and metalliferous sediment fluxes show marked increases at the beginning and end of R1 trap deployment, which might best be explained by the resuspension of thin Mn-coatings and sediment dusting that covered ancient lava flows nearby (Templeton et al., 2005; Santelli et al., 2008). This is similar to the “rebound” model used by Walsh et al. (1988) which assumes that material settling to the seafloor is resuspended without particle sorting.

4.3. *Fe isotope systematics*

In order to discuss the processes affecting Fe isotope composition in plume particles, a first priority is to demonstrate that Fe-isotope variability is not the result of mixing between hydrothermal and lithogenic particles derived from the surrounding volcanic rocks. As shown in **Table 6**, the average Fe isotope compositions of plume particles corrected for volcanic components ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HYD+SED}}$) range from $-0.86 \pm 0.12\text{‰}$ (1s, R2 trap < 1mm) to $-0.66 \pm 0.16\text{‰}$ (Bio9 trap). Trap R1 yields identical $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HYD+SED}}$ values for both size fractions with $-0.69 \pm 0.11\text{‰}$ and $-0.73 \pm 0.14\text{‰}$ for the < 1mm and > 1mm fractions, respectively. The Tica trap also yields similar average values of $-0.72 \pm 0.15\text{‰}$. These values are systematically lighter and more variable than the hydrothermal fluid end-member values at Bio9: $-0.41 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$

(Table 1). Only one $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HYD+SED}}$ value from the background R2 trap (> 1mm fraction) shows heavier values of $-0.14 \pm 0.28\text{‰}$. This trap also features the largest range of values, down to $-1.3 \pm 0.19\text{‰}$. Trap R2, as well as Tica and Bio9, exhibits the largest contribution from metalliferous sediments up to 60% with Fe-oxyhydroxide up to 25% relative to the total non-volcanic Fe pool (**Figure 8**). In particular, the largest variations in $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HYD+SED}}$ are observed for samples with significant contributions of sedimentary material enriched in Mn, suggesting the input of exotic and heterogeneous materials derived from surrounding environments.

In trap R1, $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{Bulk}}$ values are clearly related to the relative mixing between volcanic materials and Fe-sulfides, with pulses of heavier values that mirror an increase in the proportion of volcanic materials (**Figure 7**), and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of Fe-sulfides. In contrast, no systematic co-variations of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HYD+SED}}$ with the proportion of Fe-oxyhydroxide is observed, although lowest $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HYD+SED}}$ values at day 84 also correspond to the lowest proportion of Fe-oxyhydroxide present (**Figure 8**). This suggests that the overall negative Fe isotope composition in plume particles dominated by Fe-sulfides may be muted by the addition of small amounts of isotopically heavier Fe-oxyhydroxides, likely derived from the non-buoyant plume sample (Breier et al., 2012)

4.4. Implications for the marine iron isotope budget

If no Fe is lost from (or gained by) the buoyant plume, the bulk Fe isotope composition of the plume should remain constant and should be similar to the initial composition of the hydrothermal fluids ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HT}}$). This enables us to establish an iron isotope budget, such as:

$$\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}} = \delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HT}} = X_{\text{PFe}} * \delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{PFe}} + (1 - X_{\text{PFe}}) * \delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}} \quad (5)$$

with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}}$ the Fe isotope composition of dissolved Fe (DFe) and X_{PFe} the fraction of total Fe precipitated as Fe-sulfides. Although Fe-oxyhydroxides are potentially present in the plume particles, they represent only a small fraction of the total Fe in near-vent plume particles, as is especially the case for trap R1. Hence, X_{PFe} may be theoretically determined by knowing the Fe isotope fractionation factor ($\Delta\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeS-DFe}}$) between Fe-sulfide particles and dissolved Fe such as:

$$X_{\text{PFe}} = 1 + (\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{HT}} - \delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{PFe}}) / \Delta\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeS-DFe}} \quad (6)$$

Based on previous studies in the hydrothermal plume at MAR 5°S (Bennett et al., 2009), the fractionation factor for Fe-sulfide precipitation has been calculated at $\Delta\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeS-DFe}} = -0.60 \pm 0.12\text{‰}$. This is consistent with experimental studies by Butler et al. (2005), where a kinetic isotope fractionation of up to $-0.85 \pm 0.30\text{‰}$ was observed for zero age Fe-sulfides over a temperature range between 2 and 40°C. During aging, the degree of fractionation during that study decreased to -0.3‰ between the precipitates and the fluid. In more recent experimental studies (Guilbaud et al., 2011; Wu et al., 2012), the equilibrium fractionation factor has been determined to range from $+0.32 \pm 0.29\text{‰}$ (2s) to $+0.64 \pm 0.36\text{‰}$ (2s) between mackinawite (FeS_m) and $\text{Fe}^{2+}_{\text{aq}}$ (with minor FeS_{aq} also present in the experiment) at temperature $< 25^\circ\text{C}$. This implies that depending on the degree of FeS_m precipitation from solution, and the degree of isotope exchange during equilibration, $\Delta\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeS-DFe}}$ values may display a 1.4‰ range, from positive values in the case of equilibrium processes to negative values in the case of kinetic processes. Considering that the precipitation of Fe-sulfides occurs rapidly in buoyant plumes as hydrothermal fluids mix with seawater, it is expected that a significant kinetic Fe isotope effect will be observed. These results are also consistent with previous studies by Rouxel et al. (2008) who reported light $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values for suspended particles from Ti end-member sample bottles (down to -1.8‰ , **Table 1**) which precipitated upon sampling of high-temperature fluids at Tica vent.

Considering a range of $\Delta\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{FeS-DFe}}$ values between -0.6 to -1.2‰ , we obtain a range of X_{PFe} between 0.5 to 0.8 suggesting that about 50 to 20% of the total Fe remained in dissolved form in material toward the top of the buoyant plumes at the EPR 9°50'N site. Considering a molar ratio of Fe/H₂S between 0.2 and 0.4 measured in the end-member vent fluids at Bio9 (Von Damm, 2004; Yucel and Luther, 2013), dissolved Fe should predominantly occur as soluble Fe-sulfides in the buoyant plume. Hence, it can be suggested that our sediment traps preferentially collected coarse, rapidly-sinking pyrite and other Fe-rich sulfide particles falling out in the near-field at EPR 9°50'N while the remaining Fe was exported through the buoyant plume as finer-grained particles or aqueous Fe complexes. Using our mass balance approach, we also determine that the Fe isotope composition of the remaining dissolved or suspended Fe pool ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}}$) should range from -0.1 to $+0.5\text{‰}$, which is significantly heavier than hydrothermal fluid values at -0.4‰ . As the majority of hydrothermal venting, especially at fast spreading ridges, occurs in basalt-hosted systems, Fe isotopes are expected to be fractionated due to Fe-sulfide precipitation in the buoyant plumes. By non-buoyant plume height, a large amount of Fe-sulfide precipitates will have been lost

from the plume with a concomitant removal of isotopically light Fe. A similar model has been also proposed to explain the relatively heavy Fe isotope signatures of the water column Fe enrichment attributed to the EPR at 25°S; 105-90°W (Fitzsimmons et al., 2013). In this previous study, $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}}$ signatures were found to be relatively invariant at $+0.54 \pm 0.14\text{‰}$ (n=9) over two stations. Hence, from our study and others (Bennett et al., 2009; Fitzsimmons et al., 2013), we can hypothesize that the Fe exported from hydrothermal vents should have an isotopic signature heavier than the original vent fluid.

The isotopic composition of dissolved Fe in seawater has received great interest in recent years (Lacan et al., 2008; John and Adkins, 2010; Lacan et al., 2010; Rouxel and Auro, 2010; Radic et al., 2011; Boyle et al., 2012; Conway and John, 2014). Radic et al. (2011) reported Fe isotope values for open ocean seawater from the equatorial Pacific. Dissolved Fe (DFe) concentrations ranged from 0.1 to 1.5 nM, yielding $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values of +0.01 to +0.58‰ consistent with other Fe isotope results from the Southeastern Atlantic, with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}} = -0.14$ to +0.23‰ (Lacan et al., 2008) and from the North Atlantic near Bermuda with $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}} = +0.30$ to +0.71‰ (John and Adkins, 2010). Conway and John (2014) also reported a high-resolution transect of $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}}$ values along a section of the North Atlantic Ocean. That study allowed a first-order assessment of the potential contribution of different Fe sources to the ocean, such as Fe derived from dust dissolution ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}}$ as high as 0.68‰), Fe released through reductive and non-reductive sedimentary dissolution ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}}$ considered at -2.4 and +0.09‰ respectively), and Fe from seafloor hydrothermal venting ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}}$ measured at -1.35‰ in the hydrothermal plume). This mass balance approach, however, implied that the Fe isotope signatures of the different Fe sources are well characterized and conservative during oceanic mixing. Our results at EPR 9°50'N and at MAR 5°S (Bennett et al., 2009) suggest that (1) the Fe isotope composition of high-temperature vent fluids from basalt-hosted settings is unlikely to be as light as -1.35‰ since the global average of fluid values is $-0.43 \pm 0.16\text{‰}$ (1SD; n=39), including our data and those reported elsewhere (Sharma et al., 2001; Beard et al., 2003b); (2) the Fe isotope composition of a distal, non-buoyant hydrothermal plume is expected to be shifted toward isotopically heavy values, *i.e.* in the opposite direction from far-field $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}_{\text{DFe}}$ values, unless Fe-oxyhydroxide precipitation in the plume is dominating over Fe-sulfide precipitation as found in a number of slow-spreading ridge settings (Severmann et al., 2004; Revels et al., 2015). As discussed by Saito et al. (2013), measurements of dissolved Fe to hydrothermal helium ratios in the far-field plume along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge suggest proportionally higher iron fluxes from slow-spreading ridges, probably due both to the higher

concentration of focused vs diffuse axial heat flow along slow versus fast ridges (German et al., 2016). In particular, both the fluxes of high temperature fluids and their Fe concentrations are particularly pronounced in vent sites from slow spreading ridge and frequently ultramafic-influenced settings. In those cases, where hydrothermal plumes exhibit unusually high Fe/H₂S ratios (German et al., 2010) we should expect the generation of isotopically lighter values for dissolved Fe in distal plumes due to the precipitation of isotopically heavy Fe-oxyhydroxide particles before non-buoyant plume height is reached, just as has previously been reported for the Rainbow hydrothermal field (Severmann et al., 2004) and observed in dissolved $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ data from a plume at the TAG site in the North Atlantic (Conway and John, 2014). The same has also been seen in low-temperature hydrothermal deposits at the seafloor (Rouxel et al., 2003). Hence, depending upon the geological setting, the Fe isotope composition of far-field hydrothermal sources to the deep ocean could be expected to exhibit $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values that are either heavier or lighter than their source high-temperature vent fluids. Additional studies bridging near-field and oceanic transects will be required, in future, to investigate these processes further.

5. Conclusion

Considering the growing evidence for the far-field export of hydrothermally-sourced Fe to the deep ocean (Bennett et al., 2008; Toner et al., 2009; Yucel et al., 2011; Carazzo et al., 2013; Saito et al., 2013; Fitzsimmons et al., 2014), Fe isotopes should provide a means to quantify such hydrothermal contributions to the global ocean. At EPR 9-10°N, we have demonstrated that Fe isotope fractionation in the buoyant hydrothermal plume occurs during the formation of Fe-sulfide precipitates. Their calculated $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values range from $-0.73 \pm 0.13\text{‰}$ to $-0.86 \pm 0.13\text{‰}$, *i.e.* systematically lower than their source hydrothermal vent-fluids ($\delta^{56}\text{Fe} = -0.4\text{‰}$). These results contrast directly with previous work at the ultramafic-influenced and sulfide poor Rainbow vent field on the MAR, where the Fe isotope composition of hydrothermal sediments beneath the plume were found to be indistinguishable from the vent fluid, and where Fe particles within the buoyant and non-buoyant plume exhibited values from 0.1 to 1.1‰ relative to the vent fluid, consistent with partial oxidation of Fe(II) to Fe(III). To date, however, the majority of hydrothermal venting that has been located occurs along fast-spreading ridges in the Pacific Ocean where vents are almost exclusively found in basalt-hosted settings (Beaulieu et al., 2016). In such situations, we

predict that Fe isotopes should be fractionated to varying degrees during buoyant-plume Fe sulfide precipitation. By non-buoyant plume height, significant amounts of Fe-rich sulfides should be expected to have precipitated out of those plumes, and settled rapidly back toward the underlying seafloor causing a net removal of isotopically light Fe. Hence, it can be hypothesized that the stabilized dissolved Fe fraction that is exported to the deep ocean via non-buoyant hydrothermal plumes should have an Fe isotope signature that is heavier than its original vent fluid. This suggests that both the initial Fe isotope composition of any high-temperature vent fluids and the Fe/H₂S ratio of that source should combine to impose characteristic Fe isotope “fingerprints” for hydrothermally sourced Fe exported to the deep ocean. Using a time series approach, we have also demonstrated that the Fe isotope composition for high-temperature vent fluids is rather constant, even in response to an episode of seafloor eruptive volcanism, and that variations in the $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values for rapidly sinking near-vent plume particles can most readily be explained by local processes leading to variable mixing of hydrothermal, biogenic and lithogenic inputs. Hence, our study highlights the importance for undertaking biogeochemical process-oriented studies at the scale of hydrothermal plumes and integrating geological and hydrological parameters into those studies.

Acknowledgments

We thank Diane Adams and Lauren Mullineaux for sediment trap deployments at the EPR and Bill Seyfried for providing hydrothermal fluid samples from the oceanographic cruise AT-15. Support for sediment trap analysis was funded by OCE-0647948, awarded to CRG and OJR. We thank Maureen Auro for laboratory assistance at WHOI, Lary Ball and Emmanuel Ponzevera for daily maintenance of the MC-ICPMS and Yoan Germain for help with hydrothermal fluid analysis. We thank Bill Seyfried and Andrea Thurnherr for their helpful comments on the manuscript. Financial support for this work was also provided by the Labex Mer (ANR-10-LABX-19-01), Europole Mer and FP7 (#247837) grants to OJR. We thank M.A. Marcus for research support at the Advanced Light Source beamline 10.3.2. The Advanced Light Source is supported by the Office of Science, Basic Energy Sciences, Division of Materials Science of the U.S. Department of Energy (DE-AC02-05CH11231).

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1481 **Table captions**

1482 **Table 1:** Temperature, pH and chemical and Fe isotope composition of the hydrothermal
1483 fluids at 9°50'N EPR. Individual data obtained for the dissolved (Diss) and particulate fraction
1484 (Dregs) are also shown.

1485 **Table 2:** Time series of mass flux and geochemical composition of plume particulates
1486 collected in sediment traps at 9°50'N EPR.

1487 **Table 3:** Average mass flux and geochemical composition of plume particulate collected in
1488 sediment traps at 9°50'N EPR and other locations.

1489 **Table 4:** Summary of sediment trap samples analyzed using Fe XANES spectroscopy and
1490 corresponding Fe species bins (mol %) obtained from linear combination fitting of
1491 experimental spectra with references.

1492 **Table 5:** End-member chemical composition of the different components used for
1493 geochemical modeling

1494 **Table 6:** Mass fluxes, Fe distribution and Fe isotope composition of the different components
1495 of plume particles determined by geochemical modeling. Only average data are presented.

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1497

1498 **Supplementary materials:**

1499 **Table S1.** Summary of all linear combination fit results for Fe XANES data from samples
1500 listed in Table 4. Variables P1, P2, and P3 represent that best fit mol fraction. Variables C1,
1501 C2, and C3 represent the best fit component as listed by the reference standard. The sum is
1502 the mol fraction component sum. The NSS is the normalized sum square parameter. Key to
1503 reference standard naming is provided in Table BMT-S2.

1504 **Table S2.** List of reference standards used in final best linear least squares fits to Fe XANES
1505 data. Component names and the Fe category or bin represented by each component
1506 represents are described.

1507

1508 **Figure captions**

1509 **Figure 1:** Bathymetric map of the East Pacific Rise study area near 9°50'N modified from
1510 Fornari et al. (2012). Red dots indicate the location of high-temperature vents active that
1511 remained active through the 2005/2006 eruption, and are labeled at right. The estimated
1512 extent of 2005–2006 lava flows between 9°47.5' and 9°55.7'N is shown as a blue line, based
1513 on Soule et al. (2007). Sediment trap locations are shown as inverted triangles.

1514 **Figure 2:** Chemical compositions and elemental ratios of plume particulates collected in
1515 sediment traps at 9°50'N EPR. Linear regression lines for the entire sample set are shown in
1516 plots (a), (c), (e) while regression lines for the < 1 mm and > 1 mm size fractions have been
1517 distinguished in plots (b), (d), (f).

1518 **Figure 3:** Chemical compositions and elemental ratios of plume particulates collected in
1519 sediment traps at 9°50'N EPR. Linear regression lines for the entire sample set are shown in
1520 plots (b), (d), (e) while regression lines for Reset traps (Bio9 and Tica), and for the R1 and R2
1521 traps have been distinguished from each other in plots (a), (c), (f). Large square symbol
1522 correspond to the composition of basaltic glass measured in recent lava flows at 9°50'N EPR
1523 (Goss et al., 2010). Red cross correspond at the composition of suspended particles of the
1524 nonbuoyant plume collected in November 2007 (Breier et al., 2012).

1525 **Figure 4:** Chemical compositions and elemental ratios of plume particulates collected in
1526 sediment traps at 9°50'N EPR. Linear regression lines for the entire sample set are shown in
1527 each plot. Dashed lines in plot (d) correspond to theoretical mixing lines between basaltic
1528 glass (black square symbol) and pure hydrothermal components (defined at Al/Fe=0). In order
1529 to explain the entire variability of the composition of plume particles, two hydrothermal
1530 components should be considered, one having $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values lighter (down to 1.2‰) than the
1531 hydrothermal vent fluid values (about -0.4‰), consistent with sulfide-rich particles, and the
1532 other having heavier $\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$ values or heavier (up to -0.2‰) consistent with Fe-oxyhydroxide-
1533 rich particles.

1534 **Figure 5:** Plot of mass fluxes of plume particles (total), Fe-sulfides (FeS_2), volcanic material
1535 (Volc) and Fe-oxyhydroxides (FeOOH) for plume particulates collected in all sediment traps
1536 over a period of 170 days at 9°50'N EPR.

1537 **Figure 6:** Plot of mass fluxes of metalliferous sediment (SED), carbonate (CaCO₃), biogenic
1538 silica (Bio SiO₂) and organic matter (orgC) for plume particulates collected in all sediment
1539 traps over a period of 170 days at 9°50'N EPR.

1540 **Figure 7:** Plots of Fe isotope composition in bulk plume particulates and in the proportions of
1541 Fe present in volcanic (volc) and Fe sulfide (FeS₂) fractions in all sediment trap samples
1542 collected over a period of 170 days at 9°50'N EPR. Gray bar corresponds to the Fe isotope
1543 composition of high-temperature hydrothermal fluids at the adjacent Bio9 vent [Rouxel et al.,
1544 2008].

1545 **Figure 8:** Plot of Fe isotope composition in plume particulates corrected for the contribution
1546 from volcanic materials, and the relative proportion of Fe in metalliferous sediments (SED)
1547 and Fe-oxhydroxides (FeOOH). Hydrothermal components are determined as the sum of
1548 FeOOH and Fe-sulfides (FeS₂) in all sediment traps collected over a period of 170 days at
1549 9°50'N EPR. Gray bar corresponds to the Fe isotope composition of high-temperature
1550 hydrothermal fluids at Bio9

1551

Figure1

Figure 1

Figure2-8

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

Table1

Table 1: Temperature, pH and chemical and Fe isotope composition of the hydrothermal fluids at 9°50'N EPR. Individual data obtained for the dissolved (Diss) and particulate fraction (Dregs) are also shown.

Sample	Sampling date (a)	T (°C) (b)	pH (25°C, 1atm)	Mg (mM)	Na (mM)	Fe (mM)	Mn (mM)	Cu (mM)	Zn (mM)	d ⁵⁶ Fe	2sd	Fe EM (mM) (e)	d ⁵⁶ Fe EM (f)	2sd
ALV-4386-IGT1/Diss (c)				1.97		2699	578.4	0.4	10.5	-0.45	0.13			
ALV-4386-IGT1/Dregs (d)						34	0.9	16.9	78.7	-0.43	0.04			
ALV-4386-IGT1/Total	P-vent	01/02/2008	310	3.12	1.97	313	2733	579.3	17.3	89.2		2835	-0.45	0.13
ALV-4393-IGT5/Diss						3129	600.9	33.3	69.0	-0.40	0.07			
ALV-4393-IGT5/Dregs						151	0.8	103	45.2	-0.59	0.07			
ALV-4393-IGT5/Total	P-vent	01/08/2008	360	3.61	1.99	331	3280	601.7	136.5	114.2		3404	-0.41	0.07
ALV-4395-IGT6/Diss						2838	563.4	18.6	41.3	-0.36	0.12			
ALV-4395-IGT6/Dregs						42	0.4	22.6	12.5	-0.31	0.02			
ALV-4395-IGT6/Total	P-vent	01/10/2008	374	3.4	5.31	339	2880	563.8	41.2	53.8		3189	-0.36	0.12
ALV-4057-W1/Diss						3165	483	50.33	71.49	-0.43	0.05			
ALV-4057-W1/Dregs						8	0.14	2.85	3.65	-0.56	0.04			
ALV-4057-W1/Total	Bio9	11/20/2004	383	3.21	5.30	307	3173	483.1	53.2	75.1		3513	-0.43	0.05
ALV-4057-W2/Diss						3045	461	45.79	53.55	-0.38	0.07			
ALV-4057-W2/Dregs						43	0.15	16.70	19.83	-0.45	0.07			
ALV-4057-W2/Total	Bio9	11/20/2004	383	3.30	8.50	318	3088	461.2	62.5	73.4		3655	-0.38	0.07
ALV-4386-IGT6/Diss						2456	382.5	8.6	23.9	-0.42	0.09			
ALV-4386-IGT6/Dregs						316	0.6	168	23.3	-0.44	0.11			
ALV-4386-IGT6/Total	Bio9	01/01/2008	330	3.23	1.83	268	2772	383.1	176.5	47.1		2868	-0.42	0.09
ALV-4395-IGT5/Diss						2459	388.9	21.9	58.4	-0.40	0.10			
ALV-4395-IGT5/Dregs						32	0.6	12.0	22.1	-0.45	0.02			
ALV-4395-IGT5/Total	Bio9	01/10/2008	332	3.37	2.93	277	2491	389.4	33.9	80.4		2632	-0.40	0.10
ALV-4059-W1/Diss						1365	377	8.45	40.97	-0.33	0.18			
ALV-4059-W1/Dregs						52	0.23	2.98	14.14	-1.71	0.07			
ALV-4059-W1/Total	Tica	06/26/2005	344	3.16	5.20	228	1417	377.0	11.4	55.1		1565	-0.38	0.17
ALV-4059-W2/Diss						1282	369	7.45	39.31	-0.22	0.05			
ALV-4059-W2/Dregs						99	0.30	3.33	15.73	-1.79	0.05			
ALV-4059-W2/Total	Tica	11/22/2004	344	3.13	7.20	238	1381	369.3	10.8	55.0		1590	-0.33	0.05
ALV-4393-IGT6/Diss						411	81.0	0.1	10.8	-0.18	0.10			
ALV-4393-IGT6/Dregs						172	0.3	129	8.4	-0.33	0.14			
ALV-4393-IGT6/Total	Ty-lo	01/08/2008	300	3.8	2.48	146	583	81.3	128.6	19.2		611	-0.22	0.11
ALV-4061-W3/Diss						151	101	8.45	19.85	-0.64	0.11			
ALV-4061-W3/Dregs						5	0.10	1.43	2.84	-0.72	0.10			
ALV-4061-W3/Total	Biovent	11/24/2004	331	4.45	25.3	389	156	100.80	9.88	22.69		290	-0.64	0.11
ALV-4061-W4/Diss						264	180	12.34	27.00	-0.69	0.16			
ALV-4061-W4/Dregs						1	0.10	0.59	1.11	-0.72	0.22			
ALV-4061-W4/Total	Biovent	11/24/2004	331	3.79	4.3	320	266	180.46	12.93	28.11		289	-0.69	0.16

(a) 2008 data from Pester et al., 2014; 2004 data from Rouxel et al., 2008

(b) Maximum temperature measured using ICL temperature probe prior fluid sampling

(c) Diss: dissolved fraction recovered from Ti-sampler and acidified

(d) Dregs: insoluble particles precipitated inside the Ti-sampler

Table2

Table 2: Time series of mass flux and geochemical composition of plume particulates collected in sediment traps at 9°50'N EPR.

Name	Fraction	Days	Flux (mg/m ² /d)	d ⁵⁶ Fe	2sd	d ⁵⁷ Fe	2sd	Al	Ba	Ca	Fe	Mg	Mn	Si	Sr	Ti	PIC	POC	TN	P	V	Co	Cu	Zn
								(wt. %)												(mg/g)				
Bio9 Trap (05/16/06 - 06/27/06)																								
BIO9#1-3	<1mm	6	9.93	-0.52	0.14	-0.83	0.05	1.05	0.09	8.68	6.42	0.33	0.32	10.57	0.04	0.05	1.48	####	1.97	1523	54.9	62	2208	1125
BIO9#4-7	<1mm	8	6.90	-0.45	0.10	-0.69	0.16	0.96	0.06	16.24	5.75	0.43	0.27	6.62	0.07	0.06	6.09	7.26	1.19	1288	55.4	36	1751	1225
BIO9#8-10	<1mm	6	17.93	-0.30	0.02	-0.41	0.11	1.48	0.12	9.36	4.14	0.84	0.53	10.40	0.04	0.10	2.77	7.14	1.10	1655	96.2	22	295	563
BIO9#11-14	<1mm	8	20.70	-0.63	0.06	-0.98	0.06	1.00	0.07	5.98	12.14	0.59	0.18	6.09	0.03	0.08	1.68	5.17	0.81	1474	64.0	194	7708	4708
BIO9#15-18	<1mm	8	13.45	-0.59	0.06	-0.86	0.08	1.04	0.08	8.01	8.67	0.64	0.20	7.79	0.03	0.07	2.69	7.44	0.93	1758	62.3	108	4516	4611
BIO9#19-21	<1mm	6	18.67	-0.78	0.06	-1.15	0.11	0.61	0.04	4.40	22.09	0.35	0.09	4.00	0.02	0.05	1.23	6.47	0.95	1050	43.7	215	11136	7915
Tica Trap (05/16/06 - 06/27/06)																								
TICA#1-3	<1mm	6	9.43	-0.54	0.07	-0.82	0.19	0.88	0.06	2.45	4.40	0.31	0.22	8.61	0.01	0.06	0.84	####	1.91	1676	57.3	51	746	1664
TICA#4-7	<1mm	8	10.80	-0.58	0.04	-0.86	0.06	1.24	0.08	9.15	10.58	0.62	0.37	8.98	0.04	0.08	2.11	9.48	1.51	1308	69.9	107	4030	3228
TICA#8-10	<1mm	6	25.67	-0.30	0.04	-0.46	0.07	1.24	0.10	7.88	3.16	0.46	0.45	8.46	0.03	0.08	1.70	7.14	1.08	1495	86.1	26	521	413
TICA#11-14	<1mm	8	17.85	-0.71	0.05	-1.09	0.08	1.29	0.06	6.46	6.99	0.43	0.23	7.37	0.03	0.11	0.99	6.39	1.03	1300	72.5	47	2099	5200
TICA#15-18	<1mm	8	14.68	-0.68	0.04	-1.00	0.09	0.78	0.05	8.17	5.23	0.30	0.14	6.44	0.03	0.05	3.67	7.22	1.17	1157	46.5	83	1810	1332
TICA#19-21	<1mm	6	11.27	-0.49	0.10	-0.87	0.12	0.67	0.03	13.50	2.69	0.40	0.08	5.56	0.05	0.05	4.99	6.70	1.11	1263	40.4	23	813	981
R2 Trap (07/01/06 - 08/05/06)																								
R2-01	<1mm	6	14.47	-0.43	0.16	-0.65	0.16	1.37	0.09	8.25	3.10	1.43	0.18	10.75	0.04	0.10	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	1376	47.2	15	225	1070
R2-01	>1mm		2.14	-0.03	0.11	-0.16	0.16	0.63	0.02	9.71	1.13	0.47	0.04	3.47	0.03	0.05	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	1101	27.0	5	155	344
R2-02	<1mm	6	29.57	-0.40	0.17	-0.60	0.20	1.34	0.06	11.36	3.30	0.99	0.15	7.75	0.04	0.11	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	1169	54.8	22	849	789
R2-02	>1mm		6.23	-0.26	0.12	-0.29	0.21	0.92	0.01	31.28	1.22	0.56	0.03	3.06	0.07	0.09	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	847	24.7	6	435	386
R2-03	<1mm	6	21.03	-0.50	0.17	-0.79	0.20	1.36	0.07	7.50	3.75	1.08	0.17	8.61	0.03	0.10	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	1180	48.5	26	995	1209
R2-03	>1mm		2.24	-0.59	0.06	-0.77	0.07	0.24	0.01	5.95	0.89	0.30	0.03	1.82	0.03	0.01	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	5525	8.6	8	888	709
R2-04	<1mm	6	14.63	-0.33	0.16	-0.49	0.17	2.13	0.09	7.49	3.15	1.28	0.21	14.06	0.04	0.17	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	1997	76.7	16	1022	455
R2-04	>1mm		6.09	-0.53	0.04	-0.62	0.19	0.61	0.02	9.22	1.09	0.79	0.04	3.01	0.05	0.05	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	33176	23.5	15	2196	492
R2-05	<1mm	6	24.43	-0.40	0.17	-0.54	0.22	0.86	0.08	11.10	1.63	0.83	0.16	7.39	0.04	0.05	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	984	34.7	7	124	359
R2-05	>1mm		2.18	-0.48	0.17	-0.59	0.13	0.35	0.02	9.70	0.94	0.29	0.04	3.16	0.03	0.02	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	880	11.9	3	55	269
R2-06	<1mm	6	23.90	-0.53	0.18	-0.81	0.20	1.16	0.12	10.96	2.96	1.00	0.22	9.73	0.05	0.07	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	1066	43.6	51	1032	544
R2-06	>1mm		7.99	-0.91	0.05	-1.31	0.22	0.07	0.01	8.37	0.58	0.28	0.01	0.59	0.04	0.00	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	6764	2.5	2	346	258
R1 Trap (07/01/06 - 11/05/06)																								
R1-01	<1mm	6	80.97	-0.58	0.07	-0.77	0.20	1.34	0.03	3.95	17.80	0.78	0.09	4.49	0.02	0.11	1.24	2.24	0.38	1433	62.7	153	7277	5531
R1-01	>1mm		33.33	-0.64	0.07	-1.03	0.15	0.42	0.00	3.79	5.12	0.98	0.01	1.07	0.05	0.04	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	7987	19.0	64	2324	2151
R1-02	<1mm	6	79.63	-0.63	0.08	-0.97	0.17	1.80	0.02	3.16	20.30	1.30	0.08	5.56	0.02	0.16	0.31	2.06	0.35	1711	79.0	179	10190	7545
R1-02	>1mm		62.97	-0.58	0.06	-0.85	0.30	1.41	0.00	3.65	9.16	1.27	0.02	2.62	0.04	0.15	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	5681	62.1	290	2549	7872
R1-03	<1mm	6	16.93	-0.56	0.04	-0.84	0.14	1.77	0.02	3.13	15.54	1.37	0.04	5.37	0.02	0.16	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	3614	75.4	148	9284	6545
R1-03	>1mm		33.57	-0.58	0.12	-0.85	0.10	1.15	0.01	3.46	6.60	1.01	0.02	2.96	0.04	0.11	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	8251	46.2	78	4151	2318
R1-04	<1mm	6	20.03	-0.64	0.11	-0.99	0.16	1.42	0.01	1.73	15.18	2.12	0.05	4.12	0.01	0.15	0.41	4.84	0.87	2853	71.7	130	8605	5418
R1-04	>1mm		33.73	-0.40	0.11	-0.65	0.07	1.55	0.00	5.44	6.04	1.19	0.02	3.65	0.05	0.14	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	6781	55.2	109	3362	1309
R1-05	<1mm	6	26.27	-0.53	0.18	-0.76	0.11	1.91	0.02	3.15	14.62	1.06	0.07	5.92	0.02	0.17	0.36	8.12	1.68	2945	76.9	128	6562	5551
R1-05	>1mm		47.94	-0.42	0.09	-0.50	0.05	1.15	0.01	5.05	6.01	1.28	0.03	3.19	0.04	0.11	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	7081	45.2	49	2141	2459
R1-06	<1mm	6	12.47	-0.59	0.13	-0.76	0.15	0.74	0.01	2.04	20.22	1.48	0.05	2.64	0.01	0.06	0.55	3.95	0.66	1257	53.8	140	9119	5012
R1-06	>1mm		20.31	-0.72	0.09	-1.00	0.06	0.90	0.00	2.59	8.33	1.41	0.01	1.61	0.02	0.09	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	4799	49.0	34	2223	1879
R1-07	<1mm	6	21.97	-0.74	0.16	-1.01	0.12	0.79	0.03	3.61	25.33	0.74	0.07	3.35	0.02	0.07	0.73	3.77	0.66	1315	49.9	305	11830	5561
R1-07	>1mm		28.71	-0.68	0.03	-0.87	0.07	1.27	0.01	3.61	17.49	1.08	0.04	3.00	0.02	0.12	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	1448	59.2	196	5158	3576

Table3

Table 3: Average mass flux and geochemical composition of plume particulate collected in sediment traps at 9°50'N EPR and other locations.

Table 6. Average mass flux and geochemical composition of plume particulate collected in sediment traps at 6–60°N, 17°N and other locations.																							
Traps		Total days	$\delta^{56}\text{Fe}$	CaCO_3	TOC	Fe	Al	Mn	P	V	Cu	Zn	Mass flux	CaCO_3 flux	TOC flux	Fe flux	Al flux	Mn flux	P flux	V flux	Cu flux	Zn flux	
				(wt%)				(mg/g)						(mg/cm ² /yr)	(mg/cm ² /yr)								
BIO9	(a)		-0.55	21.97	7.57	9.87	1.02	2655	1458	63	4602	3358	0.53	102.86	37.98	58.3	5.45	1.38	0.78	0.03	2.84	2.05	
BIO9	(b)	42.0	-0.64	19.58	7.01	10.80	1.02	2512	1466	64	5381	3880	0.53	103.41	37.03	57.0	5.39	1.33	0.77	0.03	2.84	2.05	
TICA	(a)		-0.55	19.83	7.92	5.51	1.02	2489	1366	62	1670	2136	0.55	106.78	41.43	28.5	5.81	1.51	0.75	0.04	0.83	1.12	
TICA	(b)	42.0	-0.59	19.49	7.57	5.51	1.07	2712	1352	66	1661	2244	0.54	105.83	41.11	29.9	5.82	1.47	0.73	0.04	0.90	1.22	
R1<1mm	(a)		-0.62	9.19	6.55	15.62	1.22	928	1850	65	7587	5148	1.32	122.39	72.47	215.2	17.11	1.29	2.35	0.09	10.08	7.02	
R1<1mm	(b)	126.0	-0.64	9.29	5.50	16.34	1.30	983	1786	69	7654	5330	1.32	122.39	72.47	215.2	17.11	1.29	2.35	0.09	10.08	7.02	
R1>1mm	(a)		-0.64	9.45		12.07	1.16	293	3191	52	5202	3879	1.30	111.69		170.2	15.90	0.39	4.18	0.07	7.21	5.84	
R1>1mm	(b)	126.0	-0.68	8.60		13.11	1.22	302	3219	54	5558	4497	1.30	111.69		170.2	15.90	0.39	4.18	0.07	7.21	5.84	
R2<1mm	(a)		-0.59	24.93		2.86	1.31	1892	1243	49	786	679	0.81	207.28		23.2	10.21	1.50	0.97	0.04	0.62	0.56	
R2<1mm	(b)	36.0	-0.43	25.54		2.85	1.26	1853	1193	48	768	685	0.81	207.28		23.2	10.21	1.50	0.97	0.04	0.62	0.56	
R2>1mm	(a)		-0.55	31.95		1.07	0.43	325	7981	14	1218	438	0.17	59.28		1.7	0.76	0.05	1.69	0.00	0.19	0.07	
R2>1mm	(b)	36.0	-0.53	35.03		1.01	0.45	278	9981	14	1130	404	0.17	59.28		1.7	0.76	0.05	1.69	0.00	0.19	0.07	
13°N / T4	(c)			5.5	6.2	11	0.3	590	2100	25	810	####	6.72	370	416	739	20	4	14	0.17	5	169	
13°N / T5	(c)			5.8	4.2	21	0.3	1900	2700	84	1800	####	16.2	940	679	3400	49	31	44	1.36	29	567	
13°N / T6	(c)			1.3	8.7	2.5	9.4	2900	2300	79	490	690	3.16	41	276	79	297	9.2	7.3	0.25	1.55	2.18	
13°N / T7	(c)			32.5	12.3	0.3	2	360	1700	36	300	1300	1.96	637	240	5.9	39	0.7	3.3	0.07	0.59	2.55	
13°N / T8	(c)			50	12.9	0.6	0.4	21	1600	27	440	340	2.45	1220	317	15	10	0.1	3.9	0.07	1.08	0.83	
Endeavour	(d)	336											2.44	612	92	218	31.4	3.37		3.51	14.6	44.9	
ALOHA	(e)												0.72		0.17	6.64	9.03	0.18			0.05		
BATS	(f)															11.94			0.88	0.05	0.13	0.25	

(a) arithmetic mean; (b) weighted mean; (c) Data from East Pacific Rise à 13°N (German et al., 2003); (d) Data from Endeavour ridge, 2100m depth (Dymond et al., 1988)

(e) mass flux data from the North Equatorial Pacific (Lamborg et al., 2008); (f) mass flux data from the Bermuda Atlantic Time-series Study (BATS) station (Jickells et al., 1998)

Table 4: Summary of sediment trap samples analyzed using Fe XANES spectroscopy and corresponding Fe species bins (mol %) obtained from linear combination fitting of experimental spectra with references.

Sample Name	Number of XANES observations	Fe(III) oxyhydroxide + organics	silicates	Fe(II) oxides + glasses	Fe(III) phyllosilicate	Fe sulfides	
Bio9-16	18	5	3	8	40	43	(a)
Bio9-19	19	9	6	3	5	77	(a)
R1-16	9	5	0	4	2	89	(a)
R2-05	24	60	4	16	7	13	(b)
R2-07	16	63	7	4	22	4	(a)
R2-10	13	45	8	12	8	28	(b)
Tica-01	3	22	0	0	15	62	(a)
Tica-19	8	3	20	27	2	47	(c)

References: (a) this study; (b) Toner et al., 2012; 2013; (c) Toner et al., 2009

Table 5: End-member chemical composition of the different components used for geochemical modeling

		Al	Si	Ca	Sr	Mn	P	Cu+Zn	Fe	Ba	V
(mg/g)											
FeOOH	(a)	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	44.06	0.00	661.5	0.00	1.81
	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	22.03	-	-	-	0.60
FeS2	(b)	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.18	465.8	0.00	0.00
	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.48	-	-	-
Hyd Sed.	(c)	0.79	12.6	289.9	0.01	21.56	3.06	0.34	57.5	1.40	0.16
	+/-	0.09	1.2	9.0	0.00	3.29	0.70	0.27	7.0	0.18	0.05
Volcanic	(d)	79.7	234.7	85.7	0.11	1.42	0.57	0.150	76.5	0.01	0.28
	+/-	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.00	0.08	0.07	0.003	1.2	0.00	0.07
Bio-CO3	(e)	0.00	0.0	400.5	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00
	+/-	-	-	-	0.11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bio-SiO2	(f)	0.00	467.5	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00
	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corg	(g)	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	14.32	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00
	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	1.43	-	-	-	-

(a) FeOOH: Fe-oxyhydroxides. Composition taken from published data of the non-boyant plume at EPR 9°50'N, V/Fe = 0.003 +/- 0.001 and P/Fe = 0.12 +/- 0.06 (Breier et al., 2012; Feely et al., 1994)

(b) FeS2: pyrite and other Fe-sulfides. Composition estimated from the correlation between Fe and Cu+Zn; with Fe/(Cu+Zn) = 13.24 +/- 0.6 (this study);

(c) Hyd Sed: Hydrothermal sediments. Composition taken from published data of South EPR sediment cores, average of last 200 ka (Mills et al., 2010);

(d) Volcanic: volcanic glass. Composition estimated from the average composition of volcanic glass from 2006 eruption, Axial central region (Goss et al., 2010);

(e) Bio-CO3: biogenic carbonate. Composition estimated using the correlation between Ca, Sr and TIC; Sr/Ca = 1.60 ± 0.12 (2se) mmol/mol (this study);

(f) Bio-SiO2: biogenic opale. Composition similar to pure opale;

(g) Corg: organic matter. Composition estimated from the correlation between P and C, with C/P of about 180 (mol/mol)

Table 6: Mass fluxes, Fe distribution and Fe isotope composition of the different components of plume particles determined by geochemical modeling. Only average data are presented.

Trap/fraction:	BIO9		TICA		R1 <1mm		R1 >1mm		R2 <1mm		R2 >1mm	
	Av.	1sd	Av.	1sd	Av.	1sd	Av.	1sd	Av.	1sd	Av.	1sd
Flux (mg/m² /d)												
Total	14.60	5.43	14.95	6.08	36.09	22.31	35.57	####	21.34	5.93	4.48	2.60
Sediment	1.61	1.32	1.77	1.69	1.26	1.11	0.13	0.27	1.53	0.39	0.04	0.02
Volcanic	1.87	0.92	1.98	1.17	5.88	4.75	5.45	3.80	3.47	0.88	0.27	0.27
Bio-SiO2	1.37	0.65	1.39	0.52	1.47	1.58	0.15	0.25	2.38	0.44	0.08	0.05
Bio-CaCO3	1.13	0.59	1.21	1.16	1.05	0.96	1.61	1.38	3.31	2.12	1.46	1.67
FeOOH	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.38	0.31	0.26	0.21	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00
Corg	0.75	0.27	0.69	0.23	2.83	1.85	6.73	7.23	1.35	0.18	3.21	5.50
FeS2	2.80	3.14	1.00	0.74	10.97	8.15	8.73	6.98	0.58	0.30	0.04	0.03
Distribution of Fe (%)												
FeOOH	4.1	3.0	9.3	5.4	4.3	1.5	4.3	2.1	0.7	1.8	3.7	6.5
FeS2	70.1	24.1	56.4	22.8	85.8	4.9	83.3	9.0	41.9	13.0	50.3	24.1
Sediment	10.9	11.3	12.9	11.1	1.4	1.1	0.3	0.6	15.2	4.5	6.0	2.9
Volcanic	14.4	10.4	20.5	9.0	8.4	4.4	12.0	7.6	45.4	11.4	42.2	21.6
Fe isotope compostion												
δ ⁵⁶ Fe Bulk	-0.55	0.16	-0.55	0.15	-0.62	0.11	-0.64	0.13	-0.43	0.08	-0.47	0.30
δ ⁵⁶ Fe _{HYD+SED}	-0.66	0.16	-0.72	0.15	-0.69	0.11	-0.73	0.13	-0.86	0.12	-0.91	0.42

Sediment: includes potential hydrothermal Mn-rich sediments; Bio-SiO2: biogenic opale; Bio-CO3: biogenic carbonate; FeOOH: Fe-oxyhydroxides; Corg: organic matter; FeS2: pyrite and other Fe-sulfides
δ⁵⁶Fe_{HYD+SED}: Fe isotope compositions of plume particles corrected for volcanic components