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## SOIL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND REMEDIATION IN YANGTZE RIVER DELTA REGION

### III DISTRIBUTION CHARACTERISTICS OF PHENANTHRENE AND BENZO [ a ] PYRENE IN PARTICLE-SIZE SEPARATES OF AGRICULTURAL SOILS

Ni Jinzhi Luo Yongming<sup>†</sup> Zhang Changbo

(State Key Laboratory of Soil and Agricultural Sustainable Development, Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing 210008, China)

(Soil and Environment Bioremediation Research Centre, Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing 210008, China)

**Abstract** The behavior of persistent organic pollutants in soil environment largely depends on their adsorption to soil organic matter. Particle-size fractionation is usually used to differentiate organic matter pools with different composition and turnover rates. In this research, phenanthrene (Phe) and benzo[ a ] pyrene (Bap) were used as representatives of low- and high-ring polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), respectively. The distribution characteristics of them in different particle-size separates (clay, fine silt, coarse silt, fine sand and coarse sand) of nine agricultural topsoils (0~ 20 cm) from a contaminated district were studied. The results showed that the average contents of Phe in different particle-size separates decreased in the order coarse sand > fine sand > clay > fine silt > coarse silt, and those of Bap in the order coarse sand > fine sand > coarse silt > fine silt > clay. In the different particle-size separates, the contents of both Phe and Bap had significantly positive correlations with that of organic matter ( $p < 0.01$ ). The enrichment ability of organic matter for Phe in different particle-size separates decreased in the order coarse silt > fine silt > fine sand > coarse sand > clay, and for Bap in the order coarse silt > coarse sand > fine silt > fine sand > clay.

**Key words** Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); Soil; Particle-size separates; Distribution characteristics