



# TOTAL MERCURY DETERMINATION IN MICROWAVE-ASSISTED ACID DIGESTED MERCURY-CONTAMINATED SOIL FROM THE IDRIJA MINE SITE IN SLOVENIA WITH ADVANCED MERCURY ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROMETRY



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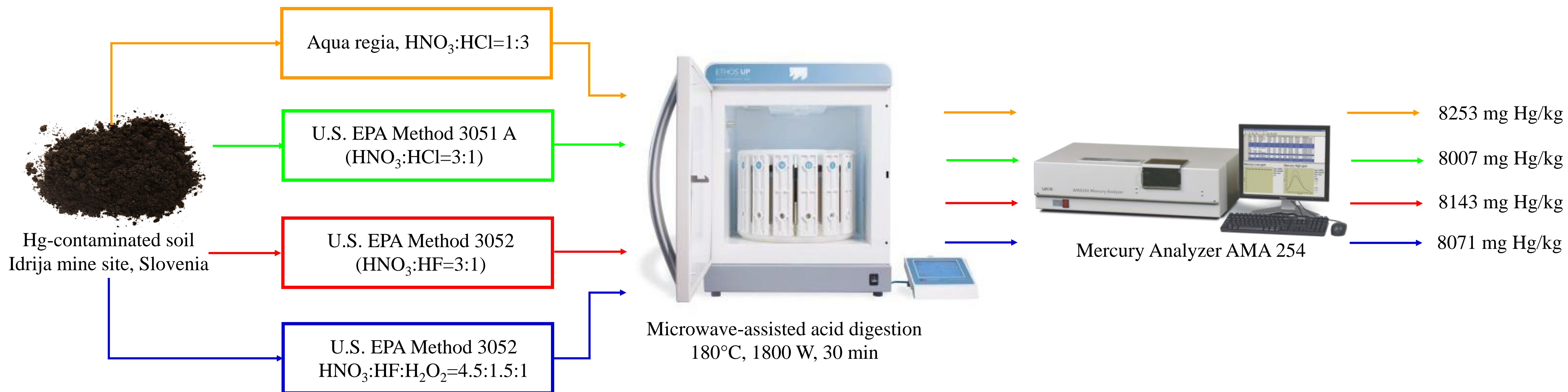
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Mercury is a highly toxic heavy metal, with methyl mercury being even more toxic. Both forms are mobile, persistent, non-biodegradable, and prone to bioaccumulation and biomagnification. Accurately determining mercury concentration in contaminated soil is crucial for assessing environmental impact and developing remediation strategies. This paper aims to determine the total mercury concentration (inorganic and organic) in soil from the Idrija mine site in Slovenia.



The results show that the amount of mercury in the soil exceeds the critical value 800-fold compared to the Slovenian national guidelines (10 mg/kg). In conclusion, the results indicate the exceptional toxicity of the soil and the need for adequate remediation strategies to prevent the spread of mercury to more distant locations.