Degradation of Methylmercury and Its Effects on Mercury Distribution and Cycling in the Florida Everglades

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Methylmercury (MeHg) is recognized as one of the major water quality concerns in the Florida Everglades. Degradation of MeHg in the water is thought to be one of the most important processes to the cycling of MeHg, but there is a lack of quantitative estimations of its effect on the distribution and cycling of MeHg in this ecosystem. Stable isotope (Me⁸⁰Hg) addition method was implemented to investigate the degradation of MeHg in the Everglades. By combining these results with the field monitoring data, effects of photodegradation on MeHg distribution and its contribution to MeHg cycling were estimated. The results indicate that degradation of MeHg in Everglades waters is mediated by sunlight and that UV-A and UV-B radiations are the principal driver. The spatial pattern of MeHg photodegradation potential (Pdo) generally illustrated an increasing trend from north to south in the Everglades, which was opposite to the distribution of PAR (327 μmol m⁻² d⁻¹) in the Everglades, but few studies have focused on another important process, the degradation of MeHg in Everglades water. A mass balance model was previously developed and used to estimate the mass budget of MeHg in the Everglades. However, the photodegradation of MeHg was absent from that model because of the lack of data. As MeHg degradation, especially the photoinduced degradation, could contribute a large extent to the cycling of MeHg, the absence of MeHg degradation would underestimate the mass of MeHg diffusing into the water. MeHg photodegradation was found to account for about 80% of the MeHg mobilized annually from sediments in the Toolik Lake water (2), and about 83% of MeHg flowing into the lake was found to be removed by photodegradation in the Lake 240 of northwestern Ontario. As a subtropical wetland, the intensity of sunlight in the Everglades is high (with an average photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) of 327 μmol m⁻² d⁻¹). The rayleigh scattering (327 μmol m⁻² d⁻¹) of sunlight was long (average 1977-1987) 3218 h per year. Therefore, the photodegradation of MeHg in the water is expected to play an important role in the biogeochemical cycling of MeHg in the Everglades. The objectives of this study were to investigate the degradation of MeHg in Everglades water and to assess the role of this process in spatial distribution and cycling of MeHg in the Everglades. Stable isotope (Me⁸⁰Hg) spiked incubation experiments were conducted to study the effects of microorganisms and different spectra of sunlight (UV-A, UV-B, and visible light) on the degradation of MeHg. Based on the measurement of the degradation rate in Everglades water, the annual MeHg degradation flux was calculated to estimate its contribution to the cycling of MeHg in this ecosystem.
addition, the spatial distribution pattern of MeHg degradation potential was derived from these experimental results to evaluate its effect on the distribution of MeHg in Everglades water.

**Methods**

**Materials and Chemicals.** MeHg standard was purchased from Ultra Scientific (N. Kingstown, RI, USA). Enriched $^{201}$HgO (atomic percentage, 96.17 ± 0.56) was purchased from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Oak Ridge, Tennessee). Other reagents were used of reagent grade or higher. Cellulose nitrate membranes (0.22 μm) in Corning Sterile Filter Systems were purchased from Corning Life Sciences (Corning, New York). Five kinds of films were used (UV block film 1 and 2, UV-B block film, transparent film, and aluminum foil); detailed information about these films was provided in the Supporting Information.

**Collection of Waters.** Water samples were collected from the Everglades by using gloved hands to fill precleaned 2-L Teflon bottles. The samples were kept in a cooler and transported to the laboratory within 3 h. MeHg degradation experiments were conducted immediately upon arrival at the laboratory. Two batches of samples were collected at site FL3 (Figure S2) on July 22 (Exp 1) and September 16, 2009 (Exp 2) to study the degradation of MeHg in Everglades water and the effects of light quality. The water chemistry in the Everglades varies from north to south. For instance, total phosphorus, sulfate, and dissolved organic matter (DOM) concentrations generally bear a decreasing gradient from north to south (12). Therefore, waters at the other four sites (sites FL1, FL2, FL4, and FL5, see Figure S2) located from north to south were additionally collected in October 2009 for the purpose of measuring the average rate constant of MeHg degradation. The trace-metal clean techniques were followed during sample collection, shipment, and analysis (21).

**Effects of Sterilization and Sunlight Quality on MeHg Degradation.** Stable isotope (Me$^{201}$Hg) addition method was employed to study the degradation of MeHg. The experiments were performed under ambient temperature (28.5 ± 0.8 °C) and light conditions at Florida International University (FIU, Figure S2), which is within 10 km of the Everglades. Upon arrival at the laboratory, waters were divided into two aliquots. One aliquot was sterilized by filtration using a 0.22 μm cellulose nitrate membrane. The sterilized and unsterilized waters (200 mL) were transferred to 0.5-L FEP (fluorinated ethylene-propylene) Teflon bottles. Me$^{201}$Hg, synthesized from isotope-enriched $^{201}$HgO using methylcobalamin (22), was then spiked to each bottle to form a final concentration of about 0.6 ng L$^{-1}$ as Hg, which was within the range of MeHg (0.035–3.8 ng/L) in Everglades water. Bottles with sterilized waters were incubated under ambient temperature and light conditions for 6 days. Bottles with unsterilized waters were further divided into two groups. One group was also incubated under ambient temperature and light conditions, while the other group was incubated under dark condition by wrapping bottles with aluminum foil. During the experiment, intensity of ambient PAR was measured at 15 min intervals routinely using LI-192 Quantum Sensor (LI-COR Biosciences, Lincoln, Nebraska). Triplicates (three separate bottles) were employed for each trial, and Me$^{201}$Hg in the incubated samples was determined after 0, 2, 4, and 6 days of incubation. The preparation and sampling of the sterilization trials were conducted in a laminar flow cabinet with UV light to maintain sterile conditions. Water samples were stored by adding HCl (conc.) to form a final concentration of 1% (v/v) and were kept at 4 °C until analysis.

Another set of experiments was performed to study the effects of sunlight quality on MeHg degradation. Five trials with different sunlight levels were performed by wrapping the FEP Teflon bottles with different films: (1) full ambient sunlight (not wrapped), (2) around 80% of ambient sunlight (wrapped with transparent film), (3) UV-A+Vis (wrapped with UV-B block film), (4) Vis (wrapped with UV block film 1 or 2), and (5) dark (wrapped with aluminum foil). The other experimental procedures and storage method were the same to those aforementioned.

**Rate Constant of MeHg Degradation.** Waters (200 mL) were collected at each site, transferred to 0.5-L FEP Teflon bottles, and then spiked with isotope-enriched Me$^{201}$Hg to the average concentration of MeHg (0.38 ng L$^{-1}$) in the Everglades. Nine independent samples were prepared, among which three were collected after 0, 3, and 6 days of incubation, respectively.

**Sample Analysis.** Me$^{201}$Hg in the water samples was analyzed by aqueous phenylation and purge-and-trap preconcentration followed by gas chromatography inductively coupled plasma mass spectroscopy (GC-ICP-MS) (23). Analytical details and QA/QC procedures are provided in the Supporting Information.

**Data Analysis.** A model based on the second-order chemical kinetics was used to describe the degradation of MeHg in the water (eq 1) (2, 8). After integration of eq 1, $\ln(C_{\text{MeHg}})$ could be simulated by $\ln(C_{\text{MeHg}0})$ and cumulative PAR photon flux (J) (8), as described in eq 2. The rate constant of MeHg degradation, $k_D$, was then obtained by linear regression of $\ln(C_{\text{MeHg}})$ on J, using Origin (Version 6.0 for Windows, OriginLab Corp., Northampton, MA). The square of correlation coefficient ($r^2$) and probability (p) were employed to evaluate the quality of the fit. t test was then employed to determine whether a significant difference existed between two treatments with SPSS (version 12 for Windows, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL).

$$\frac{dC_{\text{MeHg}}}{dt} = -k_D \times C_{\text{MeHg}} \times PAR$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

$$\ln(C_{\text{MeHg}}) = \ln(C_{\text{MeHg}0} - k_D \times J)$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

where $C_{\text{MeHg}}$ is the concentration of MeHg (ng L$^{-1}$); $k_D$ is the rate constant of MeHg photodegradation (m$^2$ E$^{-1}$); PAR is the photosynthetically active radiation (E m$^{-2}$ d$^{-1}$); and J is cumulative PAR photon flux (E m$^{-2}$).

**Results and Discussion**

**MeHg Degradation in Everglades Water and Effects of Light Quality.** Figure 1A illustrates the effects of sterilization and light on the degradation of MeHg in Everglades water. The concentration of spiked Me$^{201}$Hg decreased from 0.6 to around 0.2 ng L$^{-1}$ after 6 days of exposure to the sunlight (p < 0.05) with or without sterilization, while degradation of MeHg was not observed in the dark (p > 0.1) (Figure 1A, Figure S3C). To further validate the effect of microorganisms on the MeHg degradation, $k_D$ values at trials with and without sterilization (Table 1) were calculated according to eq 2. The MeHg in unsterilized water had a $k_D = 0.945 \pm 0.23 \times 10^{-3}$ m$^2$ E$^{-1}$, while the filter-sterilized samples had a $k_D = 10.87 \pm 0.46 \times 10^{-3}$ m$^2$ E$^{-1}$ (Table 1). t test analysis showed that removing microorganisms had no significant effect on the degradation of MeHg (p > 0.05). These results suggest that photodegradation is the key pathway of MeHg degradation in Everglades water. This conclusion is consistent with some previous studies, most of which were conducted in clear and oligotrophic lakes (2, 3, 8). However, some contrary evidence also exists. MeHg demethylation was found to be primarily driven by microorganisms in five small forest lakes (7), and microbial or no light-mediated chemical pathways were reported to be contributed to MeHg degradation in the waters of Mediterranean Sea (6). These debatable results suggest
that the pathways of MeHg degradation in natural water may vary in different ecosystems.

Effects of sunlight quality on the degradation of MeHg are shown in Figure 1B. In samples exposed to dark or visible light, no significant MeHg degradation occurred (p > 0.1) (Figure 1B, Figure S3I, G, H), while significant degradation of MeHg was observed in waters exposed to full ambient sunlight, 80% of ambient sunlight and “UV-A+Vis” (Figure 1B). The $k_d$ values were calculated to further estimate the contribution of different spectra of sunlight on MeHg photodegradation (Table 1). The $k_d$ values obtained from the trials blocking UV-B were significantly lower than those under full ambient sunlight (p < 0.05), decreasing from 10.39 × 10^{-3} to 7.59 × 10^{-3} m² E⁻¹ (27%). However, this decrease in $k_d$ could be attributed to the decrease in UV-A radiation because UV-B block film also blocked about 21% of UV-A. Therefore, the transparent film, which blocked 23% of UV-A radiation (similar to UV-B block film) and 24% of UV-B (much lower than UV-B block film), was employed to validate the effect of UV-B. The $k_d$ values for this treatment, 9.35 × 10^{-3} m² E⁻¹, was significantly different from that (7.59 × 10^{-3} m² E⁻¹) obtained by wrapping the bottle with the UV-B block film (p < 0.05), confirming the effect of UV-B on MeHg photodegradation. Finally, the proportion of $k_d$ derived from different spectra of sunlight relative to the global $k_0$ ($P$(UV-B), $P$(UV-A), $P$(Vis)) were calculated. $P$(Vis) was calculated as the division of $k_0$ obtained under full sunlight by $k_0$ obtained under full sunlight. $P$(UV-B) was calculated as division of the difference between $k_0$ obtained by blocking with transparent film and UV-B block film by $k_0$ obtained under full sunlight. Then $P$(UV-A) was determined using the function of “1- $P$(UV-B) $P$(Vis)” The values of $P$(UV-B), $P$(UV-A), and $P$(Vis) were found to be 15, 85, and 0%, respectively, suggesting that photoinduced degradation of MeHg in the Everglades was principally driven by UV-A and UV-B radiation. Similar studies have been conducted to study the effect of light spectra on MeHg photodegradation in a lake ecosystem (δ).

UV-A and UV-B radiation were also found to be the primary driver in that ecosystem. The consistent conclusions obtained from the two different ecosystems indicate that it may also apply in other ecosystems.

**Average $k_0$ Values in the Everglades.** Figure S4 shows the rate constant of MeHg degradation at the five studied sites in the Everglades. The $k_0$ values ranged from 9.92 × 10^{-3} to 13.17 × 10^{-3} m² E⁻¹, with a mean value of (10.82 ± 1.33) × 10^{-3} m² E⁻¹. By implementing the values of $P$(UV-B) and $P$(UV-A) obtained above, the average rates of MeHg degradation derived from UV-B ($k_0$(UV-B)) and UV-A($k_0$(UV-A)) were estimated to be 1.62 × 10^{-3} and 9.29 × 10^{-3} m² E⁻¹, respectively. As Teflon bottles are not completely transparent to UV radiation, values of $k_0$ obtained using Teflon bottles will underestimate the true values (δ). Therefore, values of $k_0$(UV-B) and $k_0$(UV-A) obtained with Teflon bottles were amended by using the literature reported transmittance of UV-B (66%) and UV-A (82%) through Teflon bottles (24). This amendment resulted in a $k_0$(UV-B) value of 2.45 × 10^{-3} m² E⁻¹, a $k_0$(UV-A) value of 11.22 × 10^{-3} m² E⁻¹, and a global $k_0$ value of 13.67 × 10^{-3} m² E⁻¹ in Everglades water.

Although the chemical parameters were different at the five studied sites (Table S1), the $k_0$ values at these sites were comparable (Figure S4). There were no significant differences (p > 0.05) in $k_0$ values at the studied sites except for site FL5 where $k_0$ was statistically higher (p < 0.05) than the other sites. Nevertheless, the RSD of the $k_0$ values obtained from all of these studied sites was 12.3%, suggesting that the spatial variability of $k_0$ in the Everglades is low. Compared with previous studies (2, 8), the $k_0$ values for the Everglades were higher, which could be related to the different environmental conditions of the ecosystems studied.

Since $k_0$ did not vary dramatically with site, the factors influencing UV transmission through the water likely play a dominant role in MeHg degradation in Everglades water. As UV light attenuation in waters with moderate to high DOC was primarily determined by DOC concentration (25–28),

**TABLE 1. Measured Rate Constants of MeHg Photodegradation under Various Experimental Treatments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experimental Treatment</th>
<th>$k_d$ (10^{-3} m² E⁻¹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>full ambient sunlight (unsterilized)</td>
<td>9.45 ± 0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% of ambient sunlight (unsterilized)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UV-A + Vis (unsterilized)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vis* (unsterilized)</td>
<td>7.59 ± 0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dark (unsterilized)</td>
<td>0c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>full ambient sunlight (sterilized)</td>
<td>10.87 ± 0.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Two kinds of UV block films (1 and 2) with different visible light transmission percentage were used for the purpose of comparison.  
  b Exp 1 was designed to test the effects of microorganism and sunlight on MeHg degradation. Exp 2 was designed to test the effect of sunlight quality on MeHg photodegradation. The $k_0$ was measured both in Exp 1 and 2 for full ambient sunlight, and both of these rates are reported. These rates are not statistically different (t test, p > 0.1). In calculating $k_0$ by linear regression, zero means the $p$ value was greater than 0.1.
DOC should be one of the key factors controlling the degradation of MeHg in the Everglades, a wetland with high DOC. It should be noted that, in addition to affect light attenuation, DOC may influence MeHg degradation through other processes. For instance, laboratory studies have shown that reactive oxygen species, especially hydroxyl radical (•OH), may play a major role in the photolysis of MeHg (10). If this is the case, parameters related to the production and scavenging of •OH could affect the amount of reactive oxygen in the water and subsequently affect the degradation of MeHg. DOC (29, 30), among other factors (e.g., nitrate, iron, and carbonate) (30–32), is important in regulating the cycling of •OH in the water. Further studies are necessary to clarify the mechanisms of MeHg photodegradation in the natural water and to screen the controlling factors that result in the different kPD values among different ecosystems.

The Influence of MeHg Photodegradation on Spatial Distribution of MeHg in Everglades Water. In order to examine the spatial patterns of MeHg degradation in the Everglades, the depth integrated rate and potential of MeHg photodegradation were calculated. Sunlight mediated MeHg degradation resulting from UV-B and UV-A radiation was evaluated and integrated separately. The light intensity for photodegradation were calculated. Sunlight mediated MeHg photodegradation constant of X type of sunlight with respect to PAR(X) (E m⁻² d⁻¹); kPD is the MeHg photodegradation rate within the entire water column (ng m⁻² d⁻¹); PD is the photodegradation potential within the entire water column (m d⁻¹); and D is the water depth (m).

Among these aforementioned parameters, DOC, D, and GPD were obtained from our monitoring results in 2005 (18). From north to south, DOC generally showed a decreasing trend, both in the dry and wet seasons (Figure S6D, d). The concentration of DOC in the dry season (range 11.0–50.0 mg L⁻¹, average 22.9 mg L⁻¹) was higher than that in the wet season (range 4.6–45.0 mg L⁻¹, average 16.5 mg L⁻¹). The average concentration of DOC at the five studied sites in the wet season was 12.0 mg L⁻¹ in 2005 (Figure S6d) and was 15.6 mg L⁻¹ in 2010 (Table S1). This means that concentration of DOC in the Everglades was relatively stable over the time. Daily PAR(0) data in 2005 were estimated by linear regression of measured daily PAR during these incubation experiments on corresponding NOAA satellite radiation data (Figure S5) (33). Then the GPD and PD were calculated, both in the dry and wet seasons, and shown in contour maps illustrated in Figure S6. The spatial pattern of GPD was complicated, with several “hot spot” and “cold spot” areas, widely distributed in the Everglades in both dry and wet seasons (Figure S6a, a). The PPD, which takes into consideration MeHg concentration, showed a different distribution pattern from GPD. In the dry season, PPD generally presented an increasing trend from north to south, with a “hot spot” between 25.85° N and 26.05° N and a “cold spot” between 26.25° N and 26.37° N (Figure S6b). In the wet season, from north to south, PPD also generally presented an increasing trend (Figure S6b).

The distribution of MeHg (Figure S6C, c) was in general negatively related to that of PAR in Everglades water. For example, from north to south, MeHg generally showed a decreasing trend, both in the dry and wet seasons. At the location of the “hot spot” or “cold spot” of PPD in the dry season, there was a corresponding “cold spot” or “hot spot” of MeHg. Correlation analysis indicate that MeHg and PPD were significantly related (Figure 2). These results suggest that the spatial variation of photodegradation, which is a function of DOC, could play an important role in controlling the distribution of MeHg in the Everglades. Significant positive correlations between MeHg and DOC in Everglades water was observed in previous studies (21). It was previously attributed to the possible stabilization of MeHg after binding with DOC (21), but this hypothesis was not validated either.
by direct experimental or field data. From the results of the current study, the strong correlations between MeHg and DOC could be at least partially explained by the DOC-induced decrease in MeHg photodegradation potential within the water column, which is a result of DOC-induced reduction in UV transmittance through the water.

**Contribution of MeHg Photodegradation to the Cycling of MeHg in the Everglades.** The importance of photodegradation to the cycling of MeHg in the Everglades was estimated using the results obtained in this study. A mass balance model was previously developed and used to estimate the mass budget of MeHg produced from annual deposited Hg in the Everglades (18). However, the photodegradation of MeHg was absent from that model, which could underestimate the mass of MeHg input into the water. The mass balance model was improved by adding photodegradation of MeHg to the balance equation (eq 9). According to the aforementioned definition of MeHg photodegradation potential within the entire water column ($P_{PD}$), photodegradation of MeHg resulting from seasonally deposited Hg can be estimated from the system-averaged $P_{PD}$, as described in eq 8. Finally, a new balance equation was derived to calculate the mass budget of MeHg in the Everglades (eq 10)

$$M_{PD}^{MeHg} = \Delta C_{SW}^{MeHg} \times P_{PD} \times S \times d \times 10^{-3} \tag{8}$$

$$M_{TP}^{MeHg} = \Delta C_{SW}^{MeHg} \times V_{SW} + R_{SD}^{MMeHg} M_{SD} + R_{FC}^{MMeHg} M_{FC} + R_{PE}^{MMeHg} M_{PE} + R_{FS}^{MMeHg} M_{FS} + B_{AF}^{MMeHg} M_{FS} + V_{OE} + M_{BU}^{MeHg} + M_{PD}^{MeHg} \tag{9}$$

$$M_{TP}^{MeHg} = \Delta C_{SW}^{MeHg} \times V_{SW} + P_{PD} \times S \times d \times 10^{-3} + R_{SD}^{MMeHg} M_{SD} + R_{FC}^{MMeHg} M_{FC} + R_{PE}^{MMeHg} M_{PE} + R_{FS}^{MMeHg} M_{FS} + B_{AF}^{MMeHg} M_{FS} + V_{OE} + M_{BU}^{MeHg} \tag{10}$$

where $M_{TP}^{MeHg}$ is the annual MeHg produced from annual deposited Hg in sediment, floc, and periphyton (ng) (18), $\Delta C_{SW}^{MeHg}$ is change in concentration of MeHg resulting from seasonally deposited Hg (ng L$^{-1}$); $M_{PD}^{MeHg}$ is the mass of MeHg photodegradation (ng); the $P_{PD}$ is the system-averaged $P_{PD}$ (m d$^{-1}$); $S$ is the Everglades area ($m^2$); and $d$ is the number of days in the season. Meanings of the other symbols are the same as in ref 18 and are listed in Table S2.

From the aforementioned results of $P_{PD}$ in the Everglades, the system-averaged $P_{PD}$ was calculated to be $6.6 \times 10^{-2}$ m d$^{-1}$ in the dry season and $18.8 \times 10^{-2}$ m d$^{-1}$ in the wet season. Values of other parameters and variables in eq 10 were the same as those used in the preceding paper (18). Finally, MeHg mass budget in the dry and wet seasons was obtained, and the sum of them resulted in the annual mass budget in the Everglades. The annual MeHg distributed into all compartments in the water column (fish, macrophyte, periphyton, water, photodegradation, and outflow) (Figure 3). As shown in Figure 3, most of annually produced MeHg was compartmentalized to sediment (69.5%). About 19.4% was distributed to the compartments in water column, including fish, macrophyte, periphyton, water, photodegradation, and outflow. Although photodegradation of MeHg represented a small fraction of the annually produced MeHg (6.1%), reduction of MeHg by this process accounted for about 31.4% of the MeHg diffused into the water column. These results indicate the importance of photodegradation in the biogeochemical cycling of MeHg in the Everglades. This percent reduction in MeHg caused by photodegradation in the Everglades is much lower than that reported for other ecosystems. Photodegradation accounted for about 80% of the MeHg mobilized from sediment into water in Toolik Lake (2), and about 83% of MeHg flowing into the Lake 240 was removed by photodegradation (3). The relatively lower percent reduction in MeHg in the Everglades could be attributed to its higher DOC concentration (20 mg L$^{-1}$), which can decrease the transmittance of UV through water. Indeed, if the average DOC concentration in Everglades water is decreased to 4.4 mg L$^{-1}$ (average concentration in Toolik Lake), the average $P_{PD}$ will increase to $39.6 \times 10^{-3}$ m d$^{-1}$ in the dry season and $113.5 \times 10^{-3}$ m d$^{-1}$ in the wet season. If these hypothetical $P_{PD}$ values are used to calculate the MeHg mass budget in the Everglades, photodegradation will account for about 74% of the annual MeHg input into water column. It was reported that the ratio of MeHg to THg in Everglades water (~11%) is higher than that reported in other ecosystems (21). From the aforementioned analysis, the higher MeHg/THg ratio could be partially explained by the lower photodegradation rate, which is the result of high DOC concentration in the Everglades.

Moreover, the annual average value of MeHg photodegradation rate within the entire water column ($G_{PD}$) was calculated to be $3.4 \times 10^{-4}$ m d$^{-1}$ with the data shown in Figure 5S. If elemental mercury (Hg$^0$) is the major product of MeHg photodegradation as suggested in the literature (10), the photodegradation process would contribute a large extent to the evasion of Hg$^0$ in the Everglades (6.0 ng m$^{-2}$ d$^{-1}$ (34)). This possible contribution of MeHg photodegradation to the evasion of Hg$^0$ was also found in other ecosystems (2, 3), indicating the importance of this process on the elimination of Hg from aquatic ecosystems.

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**FIGURE 3.** Annual mass (in bold, g) and fraction (%) budget of MeHg (produced from annual deposited Hg) in the Everglades. Annual MeHg produced from annual deposited Hg was the sum of MeHg produced from sediment, floc, and periphyton (18). The fraction of MeHg distributed to each compartment was related to the annual produced MeHg. The benthic layer-water diffusing flux of MeHg was calculated as the sum of the compartmentalization of produced MeHg to the compartments in the water column (fish, macrophyte, periphyton, water, photodegradation, and outflow).
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Supporting Information Available
Additional information as noted in the text. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

Literature Cited


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