

Winner of the 2009 IAG Early Career Researcher Award

Adrien Mestrot

Our 2009 IAG Early Career Researcher Award was won by Adrien Mestrot with his paper entitled *Biovolatilisation of arsenic: Validation of a low level, field deployable, chemo-trapping technique*. This reported research undertaken as part of the PhD he was then working towards at the Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of Aberdeen, under the supervision of Professors Andrew Meharg and Joerg Feldmann. He had taken up the challenge of developing and characterising a novel approach for the direct field sampling of volatile arsenic species, which marked a significant advance beyond previously available methods. Adrien's method, based on silver nitrate-impregnated silica gel tubes, provides information beyond total arsenic flux and can actually identify arsine (AsH_3) and a number of organo-arsine compounds, thereby providing further information about environmental cycling. The judges, who selected Adrien's paper from amongst 614 potential candidates, were impressed by his efforts to validate the reliability of his new technique.

Adrien subsequently moved to the Institute of Geography of the University of Bern, Switzerland, where he is currently Assistant Professor. He has expanded his research into biomethylation and biovolatilisation of toxic elements in soils to include mercury and antimony, and studies how these interact with agricultural practices and climate change effects such as flooding.

