

Equilibrium partitioning of organic compounds

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Question 11

The water concentration of a compound i in a lake has decreased by 75% within 3 weeks due to degradation processes. What can you say about the change in the **equilibrium concentration** of compound i in the top sediment?

Answer: The concentrations of i in all phases that are in equilibrium with the water phase must also have decreased by 75%. Otherwise the equilibrium constant K would not be constant any more.



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