Table of Contents

TABLES V

FIGURES VII

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS XI

PUBLICATIONS XII

THESIS ABSTRACT XIII

NOMENCLATURE XV

1. INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Transport and Sorption of Contaminants in Aquifers 1

1.2 Sorption Impact on the Mobility of Contaminants 2

1.3 Objective 3

1.4 Outline of This Thesis 4

2. LITERATURE REVIEW 6

2.1 Chlorinated Ethenes 7

2.1.1 Contamination Sources 7

2.1.2 Selected Properties 9

2.2 Surface Chemistry of Silica Gel 10

2.3 Mass Transport in Saturated non-Sorbing Porous Media 12

2.3.1 The Advection-Dispersion Equation 12

2.3.2 Pore Water Velocity, Effective Porosity, Hydrodynamic Dispersion 13

2.3.3 Initial and Boundary Conditions for Solving the Advection-Dispersion Equation ... 14

2.4 Retardation of Mass Transport in Saturated Porous Media 14

2.4.1 The Transport Equation with an Equilibrium Sorption Process 15

2.4.2 Single-solute Adsorption Isotherms 16

2.4.3 Kinetically Controlled Sorption Process 16

2.4.4 Physical Non-Equilibrium Model 17

2.4.5 Kinetic Sorption Models 17

2.4.6 The Transport Equation with a Kinetic Sorption Process 18

2.4.7 Multiprocess Non-Equilibrium Model 19

2.5 Competitive Sorption Models 19

2.5.1 Transport of Multiple Solutes in the Aquifer 20

2.5.2 Multicomponent Isotherm Models 20

2.5.3 Overshoot as an Evidence for Competitive Sorption 22

3. THEORY AND MATHEMATICAL MODELLING 24

3.1 The Underlying Physical Processes for the Model 24

3.2 Multiprocess Non-Equilibrium Model 26

3.2.1 Governing Equations for the Mobile Region 27

3.2.2 Governing Equations for the Immobile Region 28

3.2.3 Governing Equations for the Two-Site Model 29

3.3 Multicomponent Isotherm Models 33

3.4 Pore Diffusion Model 34

3.5 Mass Transfer Coefficient Estimation 36

3.5.1 Global Mass Transfer Coefficient 36

3.5.2 External Mass Transfer 37

3.5.3 Internal Mass Transfer Coefficient 38

3.5.4 Molecular Diffusivity 38

3.5.5 Diffusion in Porous Solids 39

3.5.6 Tortuosity 39

3.6 The Moving Concentration Slope Model 40

3.6.1 Origin of the Moving Concentration Slope Model 40

3.6.2 Analytical Solution of the Solute Flux Equation 42

3.6.3 Forward-Time Finite Difference 43

3.6.4 Stability Criteria 45

3.6.5 The Numerical Code NEMMCS 46

4. MATERIALS AND EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES 47

4.1 General Material and Equipment Description 47

4.1.1 Materials 47

4.1.2 SPME Device 47

4.1.3 Gas Chromatography 48

4.1.4 Column Equipment for Breakthrough Experiments 48

4.1.5 Optimised Column Effluent Sampling 50
4.1.6 Optimised SPME Sampling 51

4.2 General Procedure for Column Experiments 51

4.3 Optimisation of SPME Analytical Method for Column Experiments 52

4.3.1 Porous Material for Preliminary Experiments 52
4.3.2 Preliminary Column Experiments 52
4.3.3 Study of the Equilibrium Between the Liquid and Gas Phase in Sampling Bottles 53
4.3.4 Effect of V_T/V_w Ratio. Optimisation of V_T/V_w in the Sampling Bottles 53

4.4 Column Experiments with Silica Gel 54

4.4.1 Silica Gel Characteristics 54
4.4.2 Silica Gel Column Experiments 54
4.4.3 Concentration Dependency of cis-DCE and TCE 55

5. SOLID PHASE MICROEXTRACTION TECHNIQUE 56

5.1 Solid-phase Microextraction Literature Review 56

5.2 Analysis of Raw GC-Response Results 57

5.3 SPME-Based Analytical Method for Column Experiments 58

5.3.1 Preliminary Results 58
5.3.2 Liquid/Gas Phase Equilibration Time, Influence of the Extraction Temperature 59
5.3.3 V_T/V_W Ratio Optimisation Results 63
5.3.4 Results After Optimising Sampling Conditions 66

5.4 Summary 68

6. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS 69

6.1 Single Solute Sorption Isotherm Analysis in Silica Gel 69

6.1.1 Breakthrough Curve Data Using SPME-GC Technique 69
6.1.2 Isotherm Experimental Data from Breakthrough Curves 70
6.1.3 Freundlich Isotherm Analysis 72
6.1.4 Langmuir Isotherm Analysis 73

6.2 Competitive Sorption of *cis*-DCE and TCE in Silica Gel 76

6.2.1 Effect of the Competitive Sorption on the Breakthrough Curves 76
6.2.2 Competitive Isotherm Analysis with the Extended Isotherm Models 77
6.2.3 Analysis of the Competitive Sorption with the Extended Freundlich Isotherm 78
6.2.4 Analysis of the Competitive Sorption with the Extended Langmuir Isotherm 79

6.3 Mathematical Modelling of the Breakthrough Curves 80
6.3.1 General Assumptions for the Mathematical Modelling 80
6.3.2 Comparison of Local Equilibrium Assumption and the Pore Diffusion Model 81
6.3.3 Influence of the Effective Diffusivity and the Inhibition Coefficient 84
6.3.4 Influence of the Effective Diffusivity and the Langmuir Isotherm Parameters 87

6.4 Inverse Modelling of the Breakthrough Curves 89
6.4.1 Optimisation of the Effective Diffusivity, Modelling with Freundlich Isotherm 90
6.4.2 Optimisation of the Effective Diffusivity, Modelling with Langmuir Isotherm 91
6.4.3 Optimisation of a Full Parameter Set 93

6.5 Overshoot Development Through the Length of the Column 96

6.6 Overshoot Estimation with the Adsorption/Desorption Cycle 97
6.6.1 Characteristic Path Grid in the Hodograph Plane 97
6.6.2 Analysis of the Path Lines in the Hodograph Plane 99
6.6.3 Overshoot Interpretation in the Hodograph Plane 100

6.7 Concentration Dependency of the Overshoot 102
6.7.1 Adsorption Analysis with the Extended Isotherm Models 104
6.7.2 Modelling the Breakthrough Curves with an Inverse Modelling Approach 107

6.8 The Competitive Sorption of *cis*-DCE and TCE at Molecular Scale 113

6.9 Summary 117

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 119

7.1 HS-SPME/GC-FID Analytical Method 119

7.2 The Mathematical Modelling and the code NEMMCS 120

7.3 Competitive Sorption of *cis*-DCE and TCE 120

SCHLUSSFOLGERUNGEN UND EMPFEHLUNGEN 123

BIBLIOGRAPHY 128

APPENDICES 142