

Appendix A

The biogeochemical data was separated into five preliminary classes according to the concentration of total suspended solids (TSS) aiming to facilitate the interpretation of the results. The definition of classes was based on prior knowledge of the level of mining impact on the sampled rivers and statistical tests for significant differences on TSS (non-parametric Mann-Whitney U Tests; $p < 0.10$). The non-parametric test confirmed the significant TSS difference among the five classes previously defined.

Mann-Whitney U Test for TSS concentration							
Marked tests are significant at $p < 0.10$							
	Valid N	Valid N	Rank Sum	Rank Sum	U	Z	p-value
Class 1 vs Class 2	class1 16	class2 17	class1 136.00	class2 425.00	0.00	-4.881	0.000
Class 2 vs Class 3	class2 17	class3 2	class2 153.00	class3 37.00	0.00	-2.192	0.028
Class 3 vs Class 4	class3 2	class4 3	class3 3.00	class4 12.00	0.00	-1.443	0.096
Class 4 vs Class 5	class4 3	class5 3	class4 6.00	class5 15.00	0.00	-1.746	0.081