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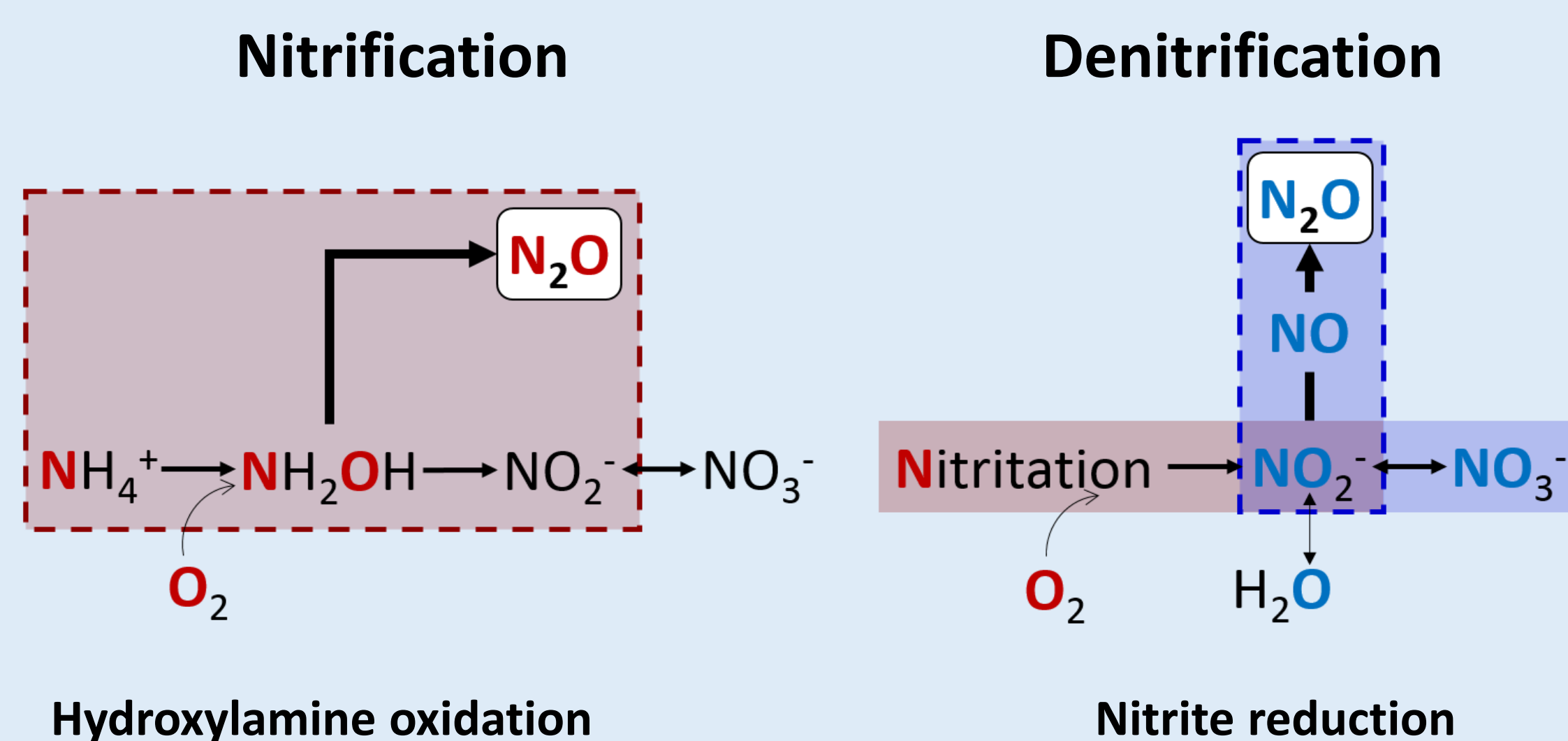
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# N<sub>2</sub>O Track Isotopic evidence for alteration of nitrous oxide emissions and producing pathways contribution under nitrifying conditions

Guillaume Humbert<sup>1, 2, \*</sup>, Mathieu Sébilo<sup>1, 3</sup>, Justine Fiat<sup>4</sup>, Longqi Lang<sup>5</sup>, Ahlem Filali<sup>4</sup>, Véronique Vaury<sup>1</sup>, Mathieu Spérandio<sup>5</sup>, Annet M. Laverman<sup>2</sup>

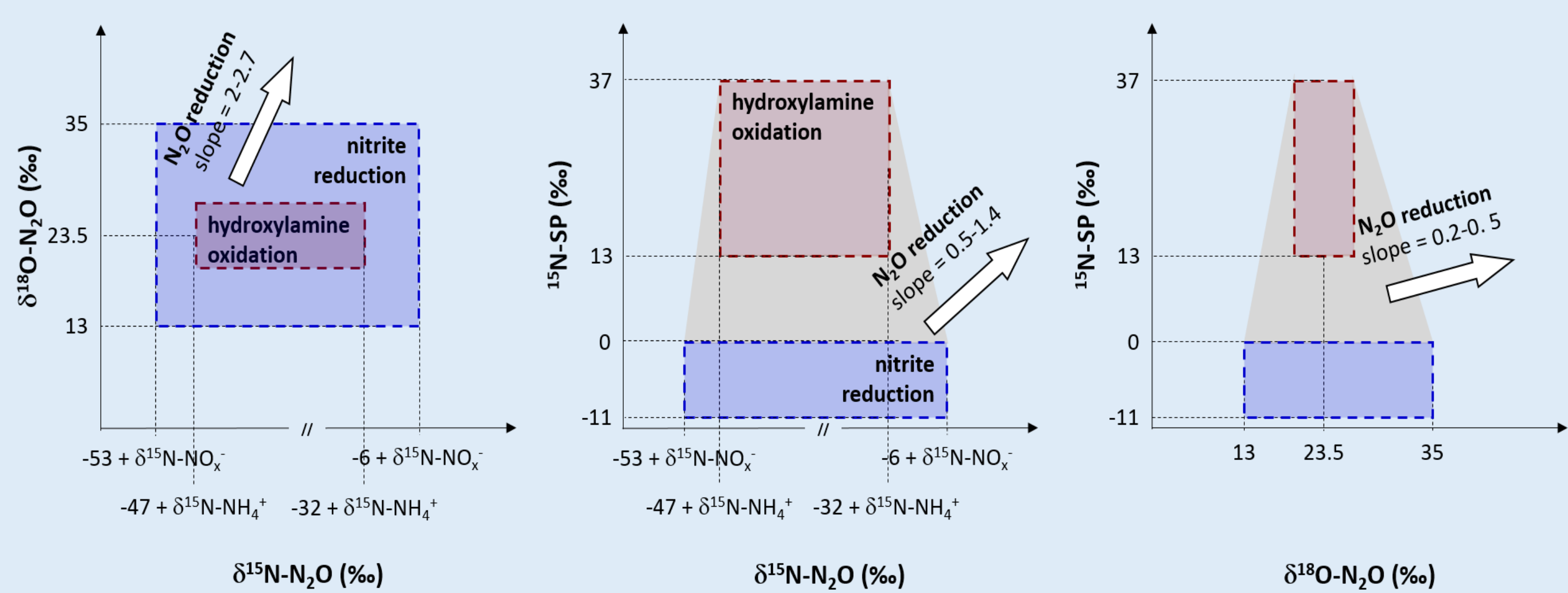
<sup>1</sup>Sorbonne Université, CNRS, INRA, IRD, UPD, UPEC, Institute of Ecology and Environmental Sciences – Paris, iEES, F 75005 Paris, France; <sup>2</sup>Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), ECOBIO – UMR 6553, Université de Rennes, 35042 Rennes, France; <sup>3</sup>CNRS/Univ. Pau & Pays Adour/E2S UPPA, Institut des Sciences Analytiques et de Physico-Chimie pour l'Environnement et les Matériaux, UMR 5254, 64000, Pau, France; <sup>4</sup>Irstea, UR PROSE, CS 10030, F-92761, Antony Cedex, France; <sup>5</sup>LISBP, Université de Toulouse, CNRS, INRA, INSA, Toulouse, France

## N<sub>2</sub>O producing pathways



### Hypothesis on N<sub>2</sub>O production Koba et al. 2009, GCA :

- ✓ Substrate isotope composition Snider et al. 2013, GCA
- ✓ Referenced isotope effects Denk et al. 2017, SBB
- ✓ Referenced <sup>15</sup>N-SP Lewicka-Szczepak et al., 2014, GCA; Sutka et al., 2006, AEM; Yamazaki et al., 2014, BG



## Research questions

- Can we deduce N<sub>2</sub>O producing pathways using isotope measurements under nitrifying conditions?
- Do oxygenation, temperature, and ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) concentration alter N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, and what are the involved processes?

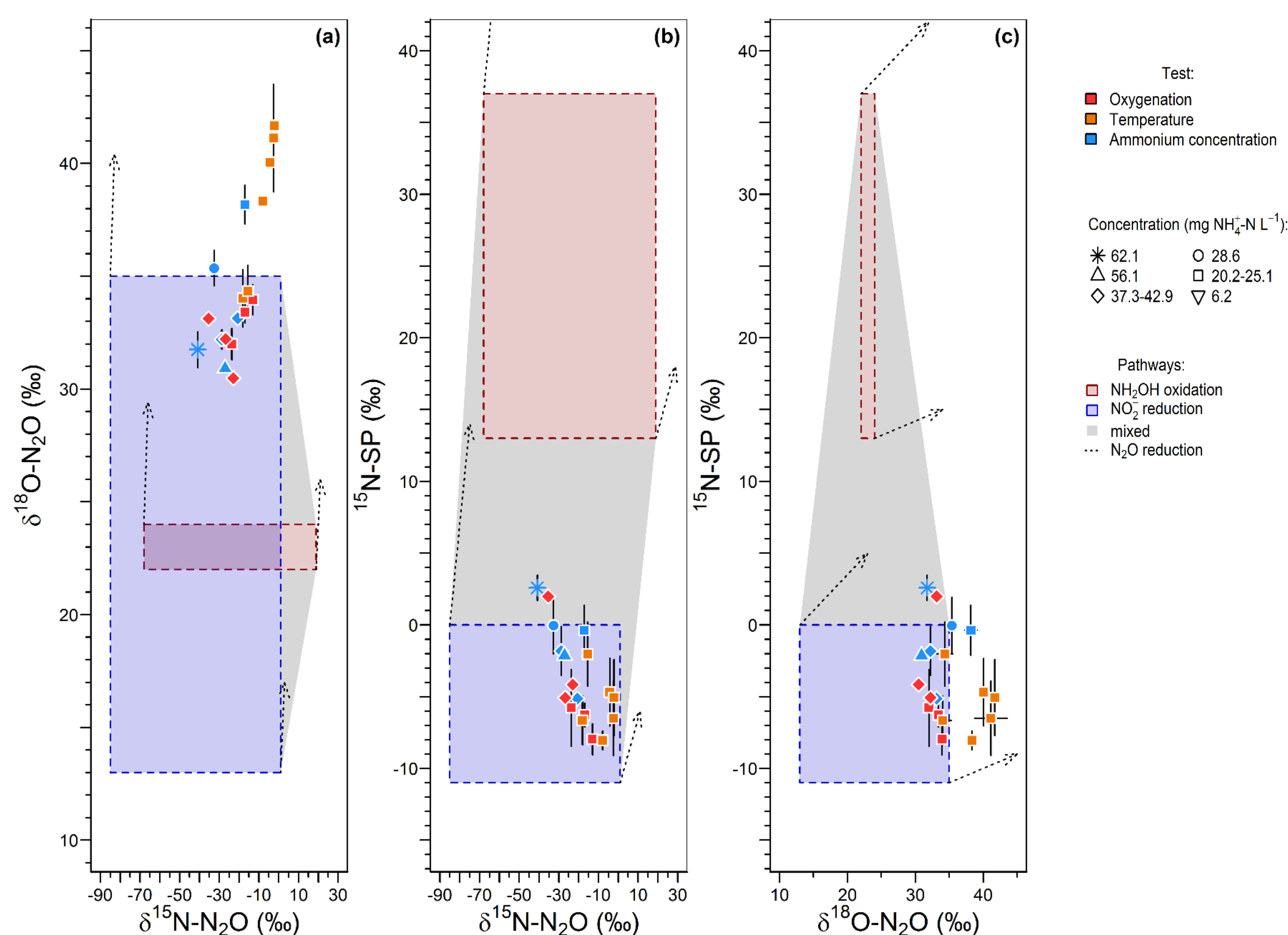
## Material & Methods

- Lab-scale nitrifying biologically active filter**
  - ✓ Oxygenation: 0- 21 % O<sub>2</sub> in gas mix
  - ✓ Temperature: 13- 22 °C
  - ✓ NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> 6- 62 mg N L<sup>-1</sup>
- Monitoring :**
  - ✓ Nitrification yield: NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, N<sub>2</sub>O
  - ✓ Operating conditions: O<sub>2</sub>, pH
- Isotope analysis:**
  - ✓ N and O isotope ratios (δ<sup>15</sup>N and δ<sup>18</sup>O)
  - ✓ N isotopomer site preference (<sup>15</sup>N-SP)

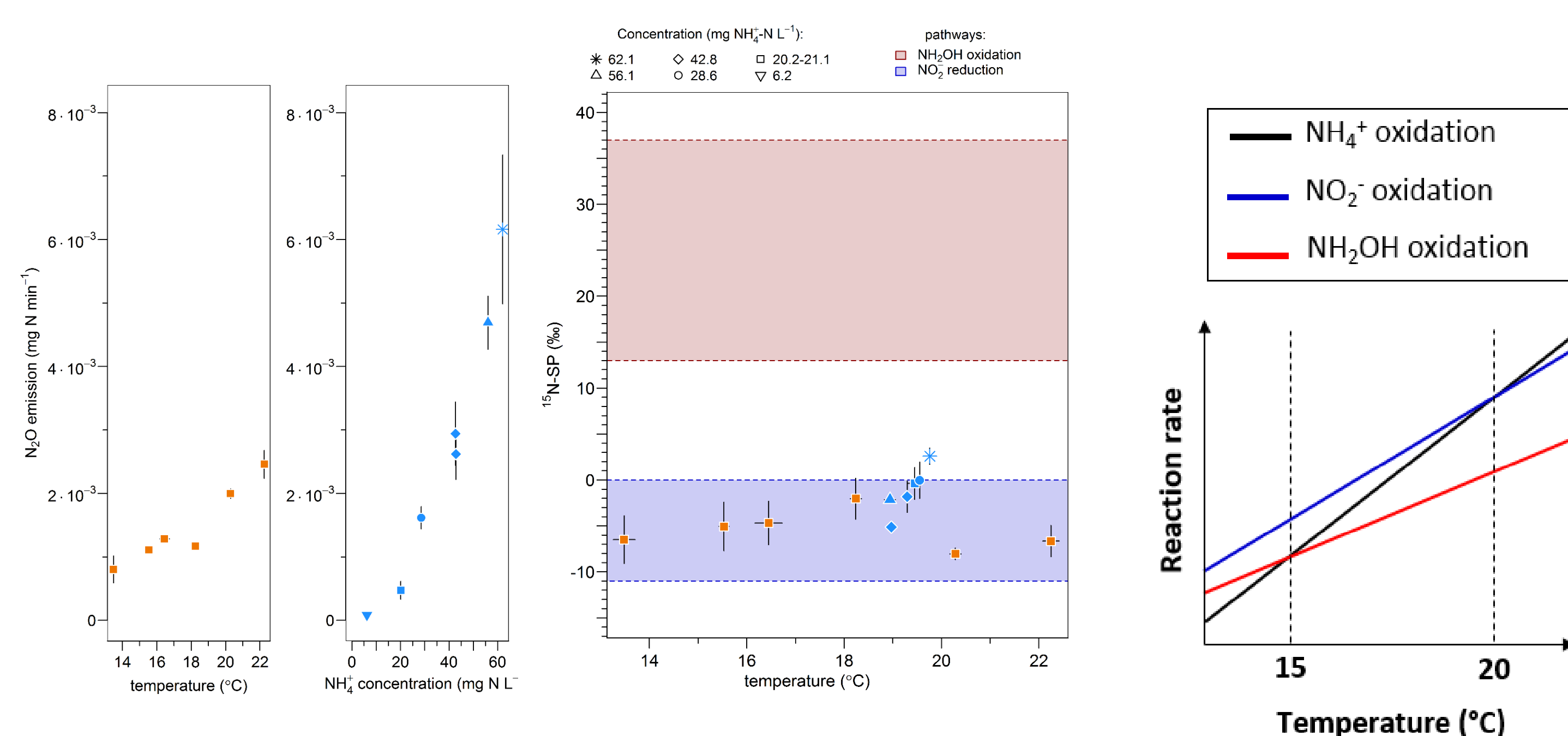


## Results

- N<sub>2</sub>O isotope composition data revealed that:
  - ✓ **Nitrite reduction** was the main N<sub>2</sub>O producing pathway
  - ✓ **Heterotrophic denitrification** occurred



- Difference in **temperature dependency** of hydroxylamine and ammonium oxidizers as driver of **hydroxylamine oxidation** contribution to N<sub>2</sub>O emissions



- 15 < T < 20 °C: linear increase in the contribution of the hydroxylamine oxidation pathway to N<sub>2</sub>O emission
- T > 20 °C: increase in the contribution of the nitrite reduction pathway to N<sub>2</sub>O emission. Ammonium oxidation rates exceed nitrite oxidation rates?

## Conclusions

- Difference in oxidation and reduction rates of nitrite as key driver of nitrite reduction contribution to N<sub>2</sub>O emissions
- The combination of low N<sub>2</sub>O emissions and high nitrification rates would occur close to 15 °C