

1 **List of figures:**

2 **Fig. 1** Map of the sampling sites in the river-estuary continuum of Yangtze River.

3 **Fig. 2** The spatial distribution of REGs in the river-estuary continuum of Yangtze River. The box
4 diagram on the top left shows the differences of REGs in different sections, and the small letters
5 above the box diagram denote statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) differences among Anhui, Jiangsu
6 and estuary sections.

7 **Fig. 3** The spatial distribution of Upots in the river-estuary continuum of Yangtze River. The box
8 diagram on the top left shows the differences of Upots in different sections, and the small letters
9 above the box diagram denote statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) differences among Anhui, Jiangsu
10 and estuary sections.

11 **Fig. 4** The spatial distribution of CBAD in the river-estuary continuum of Yangtze River. The box
12 diagram on the top left shows the differences of CBAD in different sections, and the small letters
13 above the box diagram denote statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) differences among Anhui, Jiangsu
14 and estuary sections.

15 **Fig. 5** A schematic illustration of different N sources in the Yangtze River.

16 **Fig. 6** The relationship between SS and REG (black square), U_{pot} (red circle), and CBAD (blue
17 triangle) in the river-estuary column of Yangtze River.

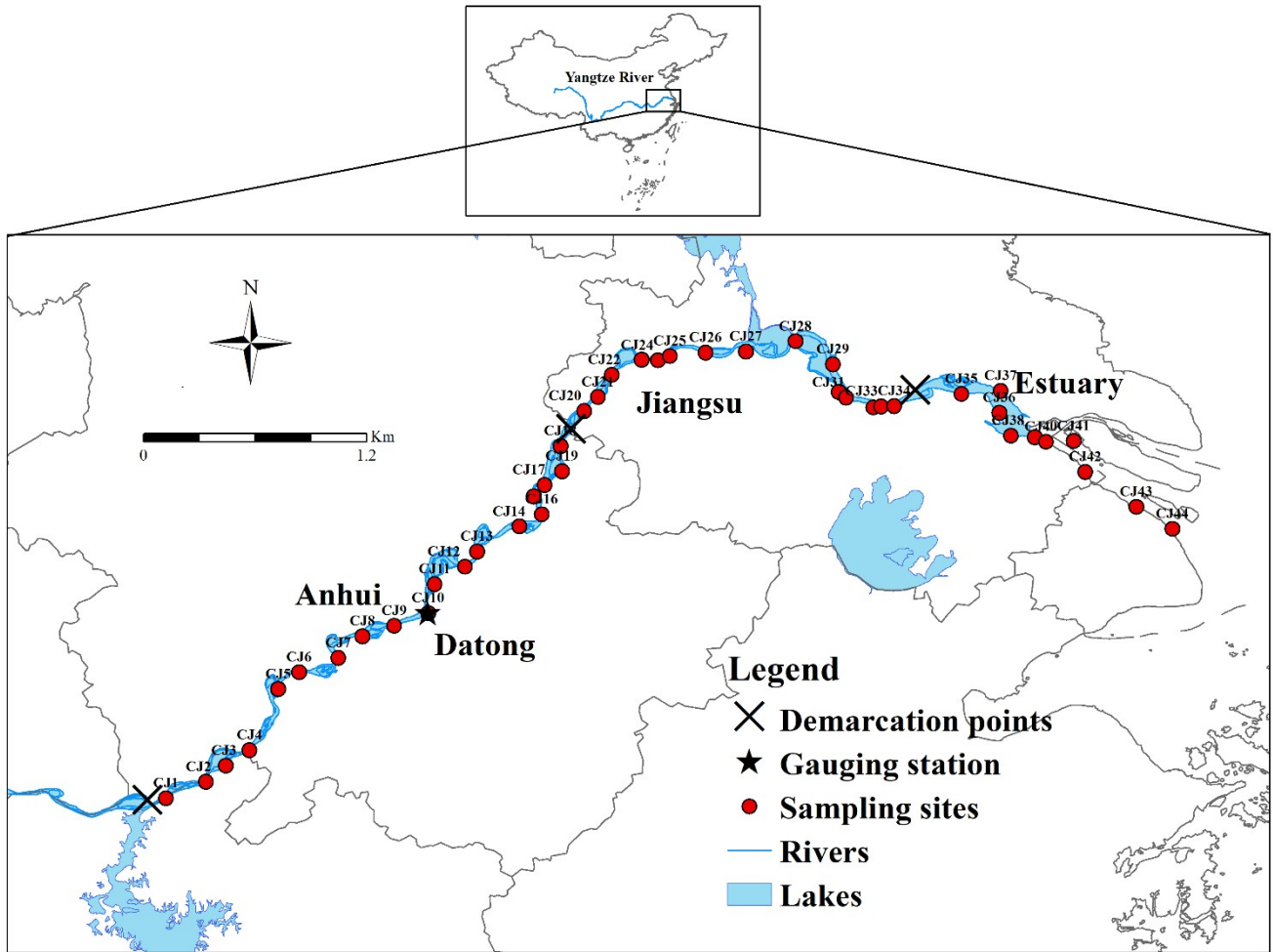


Fig. 1 Map of the sampling sites in the river-estuary continuum of Yangtze River.

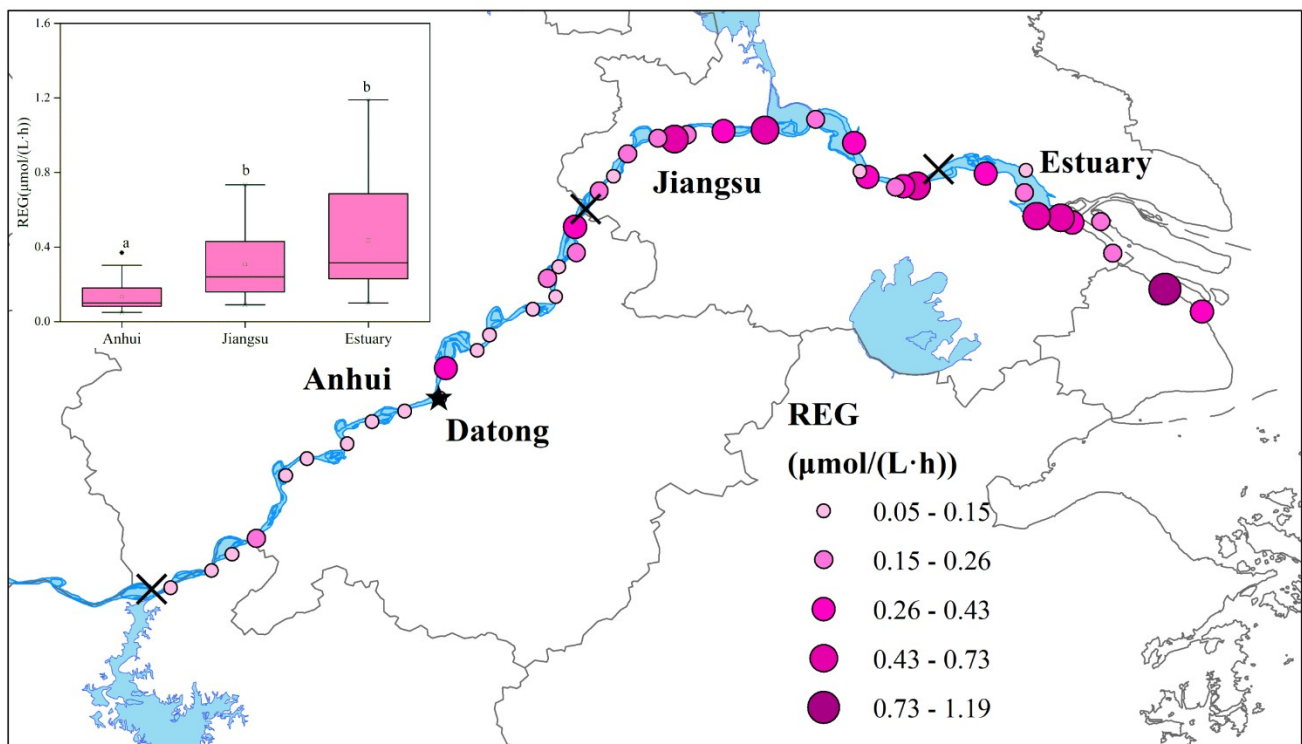


Fig. 2 The spatial distribution of REGs in the river-estuary continuum of Yangtze River. The box diagram on the top left shows the differences of REGs in different sections, and the small letters above the box diagram denote statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) differences among Anhui, Jiangsu and estuary sections.

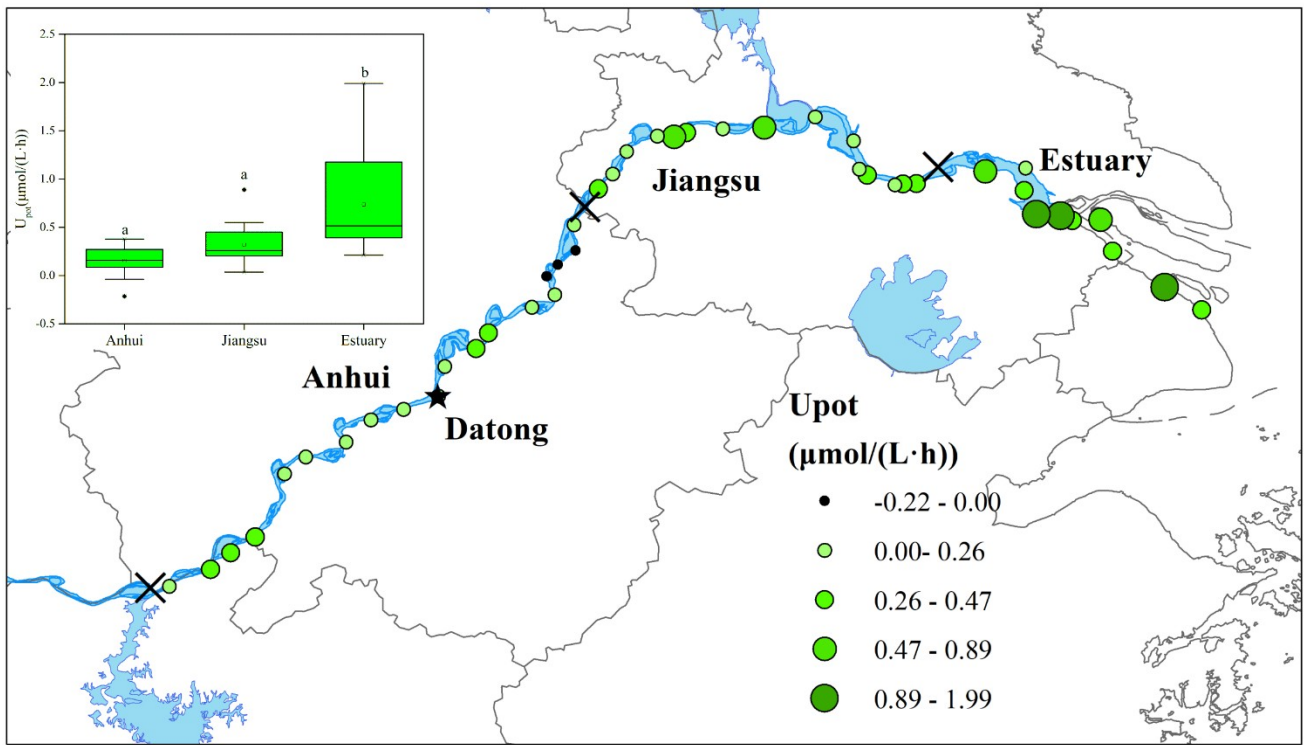


Fig. 3 The spatial distribution of U_{pot} s in the river-estuary continuum of Yangtze River. The box diagram on the top left shows the differences of U_{pot} s in different sections, and the small letters above the box diagram denote statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) differences among Anhui, Jiangsu and estuary sections.

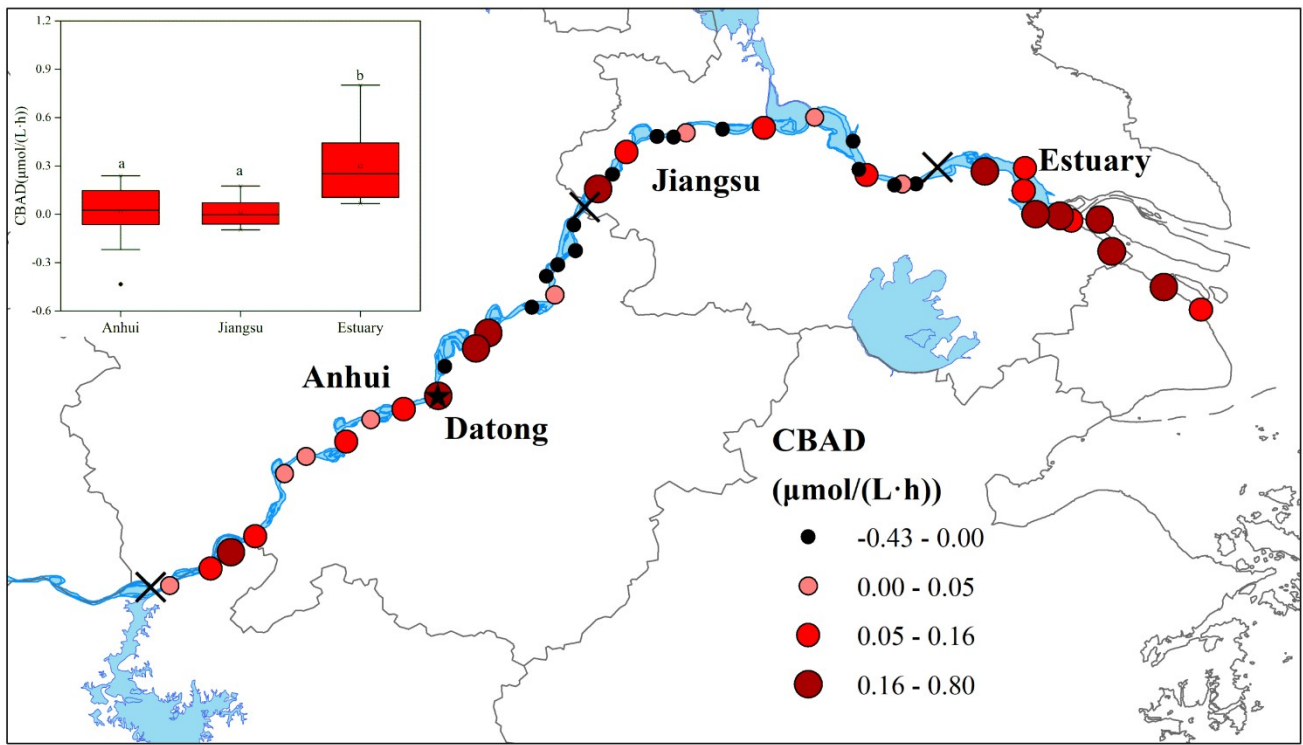
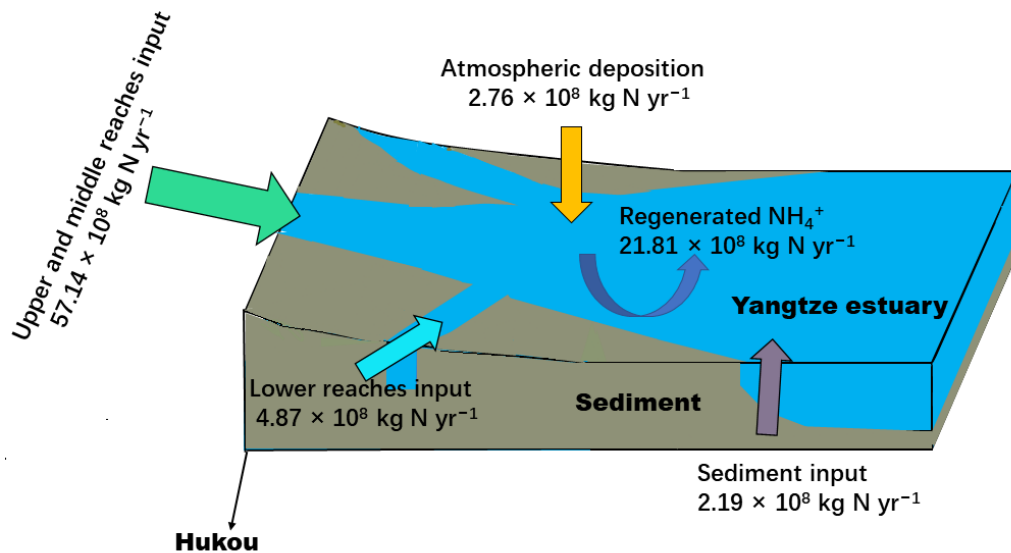


Fig. 4 The spatial distribution of CBAD in the river-estuary continuum of Yangtze River. The box diagram on the top left shows the differences of CBAD in different sections, and the small letters above the box diagram denote statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) differences among Anhui, Jiangsu and estuary sections.



38

Fig. 5 A schematic illustration of different N sources in the Yangtze River.

39

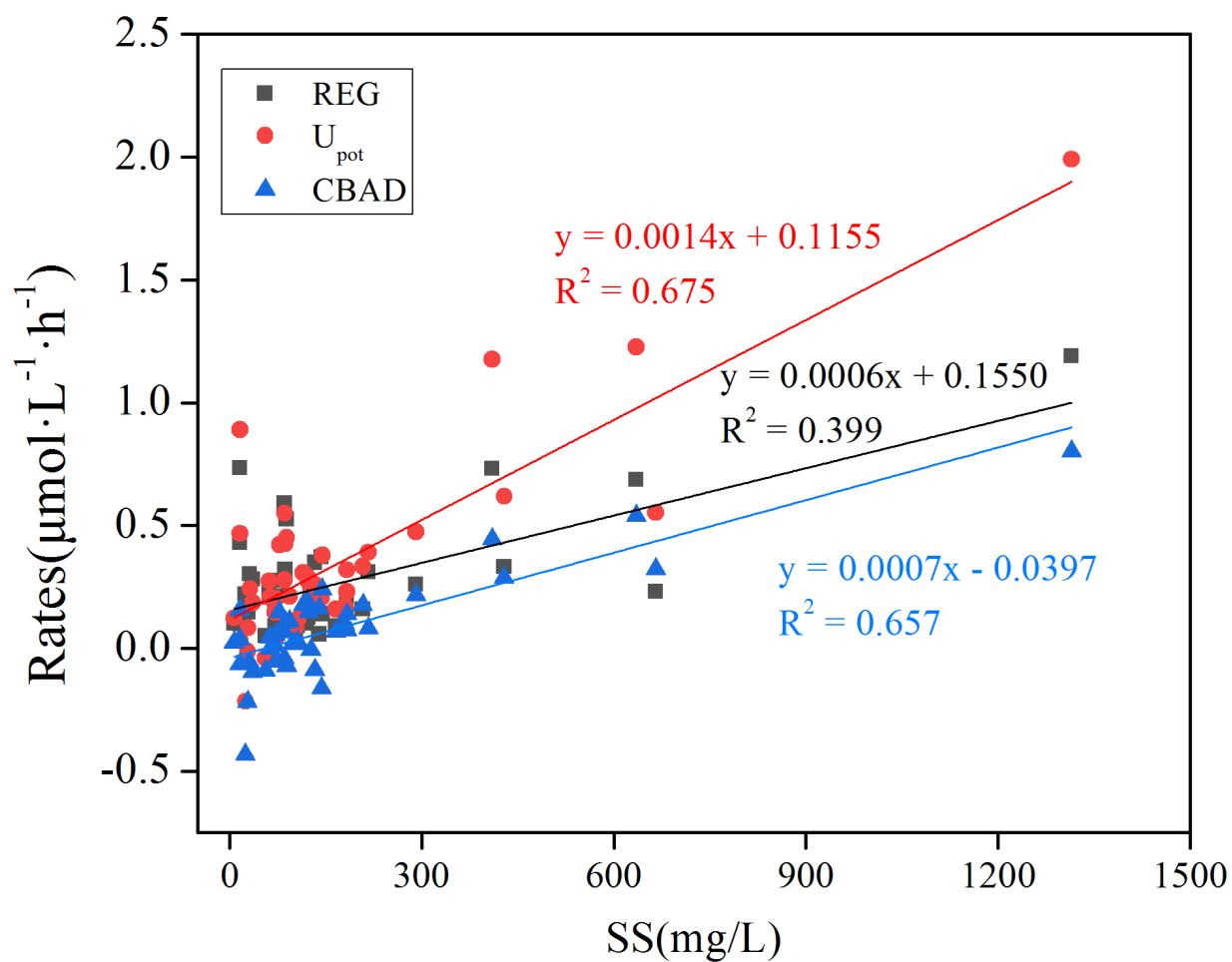


Fig. 6 The relationship between SS and REG (black square), U_{pot} (red circle), and CBAD (blue triangle) in the river-estuary column of Yangtze River.