

**Table S4. Results of hierarchical partitioning analysis of DOC compound-specific characteristics as predictors for mass transfer to the streambed.** Given are percentage independent contributions applicable to each single variable as predictor of compound-specific mass transfer coefficients (n=276). The sum of independent contributions corresponds to R<sup>2</sup> of the full model (given in the last line). Predictor variables are: In-transformed relative peak intensity in the inflow ( $rI_{\text{inflow}}$ ), aromaticity index ( $AI$ ), indication of aromatic structures ( $AI>0.5$ ), ratio of oxygen to carbon atoms ( $O:C$ ), ratio of hydrogen to carbon atoms ( $H:C$ ), presence of nitrogen ( $N$ ), molecule size ( $m/z$ ). Significance was tested using 500 random permutations of values of each variable and calculating critical percentiles of distributions of randomized independent contributions (\*\*\*...P<0.001, \*\*...P<0.01, \*...P<0.05, <sup>ns</sup>...non-significant). Subsets of predictor variables identified by the Akaike and Schwarz Bayesian Information Criteria to define the most parsimonious model are marked by <sup>AIC</sup> and <sup>BIC</sup>.

Height of bedforms in the mesocosms – flow heterogeneity treatment						
	no bedforms	2 cm	4 cm	6 cm	8 cm	10 cm
$rI_{\text{inflow}}$	43.2 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	60.2 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	65.1 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	33.4 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	63.7 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	45.5 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>
$O:C$	30.7 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	17.1 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	12.7 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	30.9 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	10.6 <sup>**BIC,AIC</sup>	22.3 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>
$H:C$	9.1 <sup>***AIC</sup>	8.4 <sup>**</sup>	6.3 <sup>**</sup>	24.9 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	11.1 <sup>**AIC</sup>	18.3 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>
$AI>0.5$	8.4 <sup>***BIC,AIC</sup>	9.1 <sup>**BIC,AIC</sup>	8.1 <sup>**BIC,AIC</sup>	6.8 <sup>**AIC</sup>	11.2 <sup>**BIC,AIC</sup>	10.1 <sup>**AIC</sup>
$m/z$	5.5 <sup>**AIC</sup>	0.7 <sup>ns</sup>	2.7 <sup>ns</sup>	0.6 <sup>ns</sup>	0.8 <sup>ns</sup>	1.2 <sup>ns</sup>
$AI$	2.1 <sup>ns</sup>	2.4 <sup>ns</sup>	2.4 <sup>ns</sup>	2.7 <sup>ns</sup>	1.5 <sup>ns</sup>	1.9 <sup>ns</sup>
$N$	1.1 <sup>ns</sup>	2.2 <sup>ns</sup>	2.7 <sup>ns</sup>	0.7 <sup>ns</sup>	1.1 <sup>ns</sup>	0.7 <sup>ns</sup>
R <sup>2</sup>	0.48	0.31	0.38	0.44	0.27	0.26