* Particle vertical flux were 7-times higher near the sewer than at a northward site
* Sterol followed temporal variability of particle flux, increasing in rainy months
* Huge sterol levels were measured at settling material and sediments near the sewer
* Coprostanol, followed by cholesterol were the main sterols near the sewer
* At a mildly polluted site most of the sterols derived from land plants
* Sterol preservation in sediments was higher near the sewer than at a northward site
* Sterols were best preserved under the anoxic conditions of sediments near the sewer