Deep sea gradients in [DOC]

Figures removed due to copyright restrictions. Figures from Hansell, D., C. Carlson. Deep-ocean gradients in the concentration of dissolved organic carbon. Nature 395, 1998

NMR and carbohydrate analyses of deep sea HMWDOC



NMR and carbohydrate analyses of deep sea HMWDOC

¹³C- and ¹HNMR of HMWDOC from deep samples in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans appear to be very similar, suggesting similar composition throughout the deep ocean



[DOC] can vary in space and time in the ocean due to changes in DOC production



Production of DOC by phytoplankton in laboratory culture



Mague et al, 197X

Photosynthesis and excretion of photosyntheitc products during logarithmic growth of axenic algal cultures

Dunaliella tertiolecta

Hours	90	114	138	152
POM	9600	38600	103000	280000
DOM	373	1360	4140	11400
DOM(% total)	3.7	3.4	3.8	3.9

Skeletonema costatum

Hours	90	114	138	152
POM DOM	9190 457	46400 1230	116000 6700	484000 28200
DOM (% total)	4.7	2.6	5.5	5.5

Monchrysis lutheri

Hours	59	71	83	108	120	163
cells/ml	6530	11700	20200	57000	90500	576000
POM	3680	7070	12800	43200	68000	353000
DOM	86	134	320	1110	1710	10000
DOM (% total)	2.3	1.9	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.8

Rate of CO₂ fixation and excretion of photosynthetic products

Incubation time	depth	Total CO ₂ fixation (µg C/I day)	Excretion (µg C/I day)	%Excretion
6/9				_
07:45-12:30	0	5.7	< 0.04	<1
	10	5.4	< 0.04	<1
	50	7.0	<0.04	<1
13:15-17:55	0	6.7	0.11	1.6
	10	6.1	0.13	2.1
	50	12.7	1.30	10
6/11				
15:00-19:45	0	3.3	0.55	17
	10	2.2	0.50	23
	50	2.3	0.37	16
6/12				
08:00-13:00	0	4.1	0.42	10
	10	3.1	0.09	З
	50	6.9	0.41	6
7/23				
08:15-15:15	0	3.1	0.25	8
	10	2.2	0.20	9
	50	3.4	0.22	7
14:10-19:10	0	1.7	0.04	2
	10	2.5	0.06	З
	50	3.5	0.14	4
7/24				
09:00-13:30	0	2.5	0.10	4
	10	3.0	0.36	12
	50	2.6	0.17	7
		4.3	0.26	7



Production of DOC during grazing by macrozooplankton

Production of DOC in laboratory culture grazing experiments



¹⁴C activity with time for Calanus pacificus feeding on labeled Thalassiosira fluviatilis.

DOC dynamics in a simulated algal bloom



Most DOC accumulation occurs after nutrients are exhausted (bloom crashes)

During early log phase growth DOC is being respired by bacteria

Two pools of DOC, reactive and nonreactive (timescale of exp!). Are they being produced by two different classes of microbes?



Production of reactive and non reactive DOC by phytoplankton and bacteria



DOC cycling and bacterial production in the ocean



DOC is the presumed substrate that supports bacterial metabolism in seawater.

There are three "types" of DOC that Occur in seawater:

Very reactive DOC- supports bacterial Production

Reactive DOC that is produced and Accumulates in surface seawater. Lost During convective mixing.

Non reactive DOC (most DOC)

Bacterial production and Bacterial Carbon demand

Bacteria are believed to be the principal sink for DOC in seawater. DOC fuels free-living bacterial production (BP) of biomass It is assumed that bacteria can out compete phytoplankton for nutrients, and that bacteria are substrate (C) limited.

Bacterial production is most often measured by changes in cell #s in a sample over time, or the uptake of ³H-leucine to measure protein synthesis or ³H-thymidine to measure nucleic acid synthesis.

Current estimates of global bacterial production have a wide range of values, but a mean of about 15% PP.

Bacterial production is the product of bacterial carbon demand (BCD) and efficiency. Estimates of bacterial efficiency also vary from About 10-50%. Therefore BCD may be 30-50% of PP.

Is there enough production of DOC to support BCD?



Carlson and Ducklow. DSR (1995)



*Bermuda Atlantic Time Series, a JGOFs LTEM site

Region	New Production, Pg C yr ⁻¹	ΔDOC:NP	Net DOC Production, Pg C yr ⁻¹
ropical open ocean			
- Upwelling	1.5 (21)	0.2	0.3 (24.6)
- Turbulent mixing	0.7 (9.5)	0.1	0.07 (5.7)
outhern Ocean	1.1 (15.5)	0.12	0.13 (10.8)
ubarctic gyres	0.3 (4)	0.15	0.04 (3.7)
oastal upwelling	0.8 (11)	0.2	0.16 (13.1)
Ionsoonal	0.4 (5.5)	0.2	0.08 (6.6)
ubtropical gyre	0.5 (7)	0.1	0.05 (4.1)
ontinental margins			
- Western boundary currents	0.7 (9.5)	0.2	0.14 (11.5)
- Estuarine influenced shelves	1.2 (17)	0.2	0.24 (19.7)

The ratios of net DOC production to new production (Δ DOC:NP) have been taken from the analyses presented in this paper, and from assumptions listed in the text. Values in parentheses represent percentages of the global estimate.

Figure by MIT OCW.

Production of "semi"-reactive DOC by phytoplankton in culture

Is the composition of accumulating DOC similar to DOC in seawater?



Do phytoplankton produce semi-reactive DOC?

In culture, phytoplankton release a large amount of DOC. The composition of this DOC does not look like DOC in seawater however (left). After bacterial degradation, labile DOC is removed leaving the semi-labile material behind.



After 37 day of degradation

¹HNMR of seawater



Figure by MIT OCW.

Radiocarbon model of DOC cycling



Changes in the semi-reactive DOC-14C value with residence time

As the difference between DOC(sr) and DIC residence time increases the difference in RC age will increase as well due to non-steady state conditions in upper ocean 14C.



year

Radiocarbon analyses of HMWDOC carbohydrates

Sample	Hawaii	NPSG
DIC	72 <u>+</u> 7‰(n=4)	89 <u>+</u> 7‰
Glucose Galactose Mannose Xylose Arabinose Fucose Rhamnose	47, 58 67 65 52, 58 63 49, 52 40, 57	79 103 99 94 ND 69 57
Average	56 <u>+</u> 6‰	89 <u>+</u> 13‰



Purification of a modern carbohydrate fraction from HMWDOC also isolates an older "humic" like fraction for chemical and isotopic analyses.

The "humic" fraction isolated from surface seawater. $\Delta^{14}C = -416\%$

HMWDOC from the deep sea Δ^{14} C = -380 to -440 ‰

How is nonreactive DOC removed from the ocean?



Central North Pacific

Photo-oxidation of CDOM

Generally noted that DOC in surface waters is not colored

However, deep sea DOC is colored and has fluorescence

Does sunlight bleach DOC in surface water?

Is this the mechanism by which non-reactive DOC is removed from the ocean?

Ultrafiltration of 4000m NPSG water



Production of LMW highly oxidized DOC with depth in the ocean

DOC + hv --->> LMW photo-oxidation products





Not produced in dark controls, but are produced in sterile controls

Highly oxidized LMW compounds are produced every Day in seawater by photo-oxidation. They serve as a substrate For bacteria and therefore a sink for non-reactive DOC



Removal of DOC by adsorption onto POC

Why does suspended POC age so much with depth?



Summary

Isotopic evidence suggests that the large inventory of DOCi in seawater is synthesized in-situ by phytoplankton or bacteria

In culture, phytoplankton release about 10% of total PP as DOC. Most of this DOC is considered to be very reactive and is metabolized by bacteria in a few days, but some persists

Global estimates of bacterial carbon demand require a large Fraction of PP is funneled though DOC to bacteria (> 10%)

The reservoir of DOC that accumulates in the upper ocean is Not thought to fuel BP by some, but RC data suggests otherwise

Non reactive DOC is removed by photo-oxidation, and perhaps By adsorption onto sinking particles