

生物扰动对沉积物侵蚀和沉积的影响*

Impact of Macrobenthic Bioturbation on the Sediment Dynamics

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摘要:海洋沉积物的侵蚀和沉积过程对海底地形地貌具有重要的作用,侵蚀和沉积速率的相对比值不仅影响沉积层的稳态过程,还能改变沉积层的理化属性。侵蚀和沉积过程涉及因素复杂,不仅包括物理因素(海流、潮汐、沉积物性质)、化学因素(浑浊度、间隙水的离子组成),还包括生物因素(海草、海藻的丰度以及生物扰动作用)。生物扰动是海洋生态学重要的研究内容之一,是水层-底栖界面的耦合过程中的关键生物影响因子。自20世纪50年代以来,生物扰动逐步得到重视,尤其是在水层-底栖界面耦合过程中的作用,并逐步由定性研究过渡到定量研究,进入室内生态模拟、现场测试和构建模型相结合的阶段。但生物扰动对沉积物侵蚀和沉积的影响研究起步相对较晚,10余年前才开始得到较多关注。本文综述生物扰动对沉积物侵蚀和沉积的影响,包括目前研究状况,常用的研究材料和方法以及研究热点,为今后深入研究关键生物种群的生物扰动对沉积物侵蚀的影响以及地形地貌的形成提供参考。

关键词:大型底栖动物 沉积物侵蚀和沉积 水层-底栖界面 耦合

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Abstract: The sediment erosion and deposition processes play an essential role in the forming of seabed topography. The net ratio between the process of sediment erosion and deposition not only influences the sediment stabilization, but also changes the physical and chemical properties of the sediment. Many factors involve in this process, including physical (tide, current, and sediment properties), chemical (turbidity, pore-water properties) and biological factors (seagrass, sea algae density, bioturbation). Bioturbation is the key factor between the bottom water and sediment layers, which is urgently needed to be studied in marine ecosystem. The bioturbation has been drawn more attention since 1950s, and gradually changed from quality study to the status of quantity study, combining with the simulation experiments in laboratory, measurement *in situ*, and integrated with the numerical modelling. However, the research on the sediment erosion and deposition affected by the bioturbation was relatively poor, and more studies begun with only 10 years before. The aim of this paper is to review recent field and laboratory studies using flumes to quantify the erodability of sediments as a function of bioburbation, including the current status, materials and methods to

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ment *in situ*, and integrated with the numerical modelling. However, the research on the sediment erosion and deposition affected by the bioturbation was relatively poor, and more studies begun with only 10 years before. The aim of this paper is to review recent field and laboratory studies using flumes to quantify the erodability of sediments as a function of bioburbation, including the current status, materials and methods to

be adopted recently and some previous results on this topics, which provide reference for further study on the sediment erosion by bioturbation effects from key species of macrobenthic assemblages.

Key words: macrobenthos, sediment erosion and deposition, water-sediment layer, coupling

0 引言

水层-底栖界面耦合过程是构成河口、近岸和浅海水域的关键生态过程,海岸带沉积物的侵蚀作为其中一个复杂过程,涉及许多因素的共同作用,包括物理因素(海流、潮汐和水体浑浊度)、地球化学因素(沉积物粒径分布、粘合性、干容重、间隙水含量、盐度、pH值、重金属和有机质含量等)和生物因素(海草、海藻的丰度以及生物扰动作用)。沉积物特征和上述过程呈现出一种动态联系,任何一种因素对于沉积物侵蚀的净影响都取决于上述因素间的相互作用^[1]。

生物扰动是指大型底栖动物的摄食、掘穴、建管以及生理代谢等活动对沉积物环境的直接或间接影响,是水层-底栖界面耦合过程中的重要环节和枢纽。不同因素的共同作用,改变沉积物的粒径组成和表层细颗粒泥沙的转运^[2~4],影响沉积物的渗透性和生物地球化学过程^[5~7],并进而改变底栖生物群落结构和入侵种的拓殖^[8]。自20世纪50年代以来,生物扰动逐步得到重视,尤其是在水层-底栖界面耦合过程中的作用,并逐步由定性研究过渡到定量研究,进入到室内生态模拟、现场测试和构建模型相结合的阶段。但生物扰动对沉积物侵蚀和沉积的影响研究则起步相对较晚,10余年前才开始得到较多关注^[9,10]。

1 国内外研究现状

生物因素与海洋物理过程紧密结合共同改变海洋地形地貌,一方面沉积物动力过程中的物理因素可以限制生物的空间分布,另一方面底栖群落中的关键种是调节不同物理因素间相互作用的关键角色。底栖生物群落通过影响沉积物表层的沉降和侵蚀过程,调节沉积物的侵蚀度^[10]。栖息在沉积物中的细菌、底栖硅藻以及一些大型底栖动物扮演着“生态系统工程师(ecosystem engineer)”的重要角色,它们可以改变沉积层的侵蚀阈值(erosion threshold)和侵蚀速率^[11,12]。微型底栖植物(Microphytobenthos, MPBs)是大多数浅水区沉积层上主要的初级生产者,底栖型硅藻是其中的主要类群,能分泌30%~60%的胞外聚合物(EPS)至周围沉积物环境中^[13]。EPS能够粘连沉积物颗粒,进而增加侵蚀阈值(即生物膜的生物稳定作用)^[14]。一般来说,底栖生物能够

增加沉积物粗糙程度,区域性地改变底层界面,并小范围地增加底应力(bottom shear stress)的变化^[15]。

按照生活方式的不同,大型底栖动物主要分为两种功能群,即生物稳定者(bio-stabilisers)和生物不稳定者(bio-destabilisers)^[16]。一般来说,底上动物(epibenthos)能够加固和稳定沉积物表层^[17];底内动物(endobenthos)会降低沉积物的稳定性并通过生物扰动增加沉积物的侵蚀度^[10];滤食性动物则会通过产生假粪增加生物沉积^[18]。不同类型功能群的生物对沉积物表层的侵蚀效果不同,如硅藻产生的生物膜和软体动物*Hydrobia ulvae*可以调节湿地表层的侵蚀度,生物膜增加侵蚀阈值并降低侵蚀速率,而*Hydrobia ulvae*摄食活动中产生的假粪会降低侵蚀阈值^[19,20];啃食性和杂食性的大型底栖动物可以通过生物扰动和沉积物粒径的颗粒化直接影响粉砂质沉积层的侵蚀度,同时也可通过摄食底栖硅藻间接影响沉积层的侵蚀度^[12];群落中的大型种类或优势种,其产生的生物扰动作用更为明显;如海胆对沉积物的翻动速率为 $20000\text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$,这意味着该区域的表层沉积物每隔3 d就被翻动一次^[21],这样就会松动沉积层,增加沉积物的粗糙程度,进而降低侵蚀阈值。研究也表明,大于20 cm的沉积物表层每年可能被翻转数次^[22],从而不断使新沉积物暴露于水动力的影响下,受潮汐和海流的冲刷作用。如此高强度的生物扰动,将较大程度地改变沉积物的输移以及区域性的沉积动力特征,进而在长周期内改变潮间带和近岸海底地形地貌^[16,23]。

生物扰动作用对于泥质粘性沉积物和砂质非粘性沉积物的侵蚀作用也有差异,粘性沉积物颗粒之间相互吸引产生的凝聚力和粘合力远大于非粘性沉积物,因此侵蚀阈值要高于后者。已开展的实验表明,欧洲鸟尾蛤*Cerastoderma edule*的生物扰动对泥质沉积物侵蚀的影响更明显;鸟蛤降低了两种沉积物侵蚀的阈值,且对于泥质沉积物的影响更明显;流速对两种类型沉积物的侵蚀影响不同,高流速对砂质沉积物的侵蚀更明显,在高流速下,由于流速的侵蚀作用更显著,生物的扰动作用对两种类型沉积物的侵蚀作用差别不大(李宝泉, Tieerd Bouma, et al. unpublished data)。

与国外相比,国内在生物扰动方面的研究起步较

晚^[24],尤其在生物扰动对沉积物的侵蚀方面。在生物扰动的生态效应方面,中国海洋大学张志南教授领导的课题组建立了国内首个生物扰动实验系统(Annular Flux System, AFS),并开展一系列的研究工作^[25~28]。关于生物扰动的其他研究还包括:刘敏等^[29]研究长江口潮滩生态系统中大型底栖动物的扰动对氮微循环过程的生态效应;张夏梅等^[30]的研究表明小头虫的生物扰动改变沉积物的理化环境,引起烃类氧化菌生长与代谢的提高,进而提高沉积物中油污的生物降解;此外,对澳大利亚西海岸优势种海胆 *Peronella lesueurii* 在海水-沉积物界面的生物扰动的研究发现,该物种的生物扰动改变了两界面间的溶解氧(DO)通量,显著降低底栖微藻的光合作用,但对营养盐通量的影响则较小^[7]。

2 常用的研究材料与方法

目前国内外对于生物扰动对沉积物侵蚀影响的研究,多是通过室内模拟和现场试验的方式。试验设备称为生物扰动实验系统(Annular Flux System, AFS),最初由英国普林莫斯海洋实验室设计(图1)^[31],该系统基本构造由3个部分构成,即环形水槽(Annular flume),微电机及控制板(microprocessor-controlled engine)和 OBS-3 型浊度传感器(OBS sensor)。环形水槽内放置海水,底部可放置沉积物及实验底栖动物;控制板可在微电机带动下旋转产生不同的流速,用以模拟不同流速下,生物扰动对沉积物侵蚀的影响。张志南等^[25]根据此系统建立国内首个生物扰动实验系统。为适应不同的实验目的和环境条件,研究者在此基础上进行各种改进,出现不同的版本^[32]。李宝泉等(unpublished data)利用荷兰皇家海洋研究所(Royal Netherlands Institute for

Sea Research, NIOZ)改进的实验生物扰动实验系统(图2)进行欧洲鸟尾蛤 *Cerastoderma edule* 的生物扰动对泥质沉积物侵蚀的影响。



图2 室内生物扰动实验系统

Fig. 2 Annular flux system

3 研究热点和展望

综上所述,大型底栖动物群落对沉积物动态和地球化学过程具有广泛和多样化的影响。在涉海工程的设计时,不仅要考虑工程本身对于环境的影响,而且还要考虑生物因素对地形地貌形成的中长期影响。在沉积物输移模型中整合生物因素具有2个明显的优点:1)对海底生态和形态演变进行同步预报;2)明确大型底栖动物对沉积物动态的影响,并进一步解释纯物理预测中生物因素导致的偏差。

鉴于海洋生态系统的复杂性,尤其是在海岸带区域,人类干扰-环境变化-生物响应之间的关系更为复杂,这样就需要对局域性生态系统进行整体研究。研究方法上则需要采用室内生态模拟、现场受控生态系统测试和构建模型三者相结合的方式。大型生物扰动整合实验系统能全面完整地反映整体实验过程,并能提供比小型系统更加详细准确的信息,能更真实地反映局域性生态系统的实际状况^[33]。

欧洲海洋生态系统模型(European Regional Seas Ecosystem Model, ERSEM)可实现动态模拟北海(North Sea)浮游和底栖食物网中C、N、P和Si的生物地球循环过程,其中生物因素按照功能群的方法以有机碳进行定量表达,并整合到ERSEM中,该模型是研究海洋生态系统模型中较大、较复杂的模型。随着对生物扰动作用的重视,研究海洋生态系统生物扰动的模型逐步增多,其中有些已经比较成熟地运用在沉积物-生物耦合关系的研究中,如利用非线性多分位数回归模型(Non-linear multi-quantile regres-

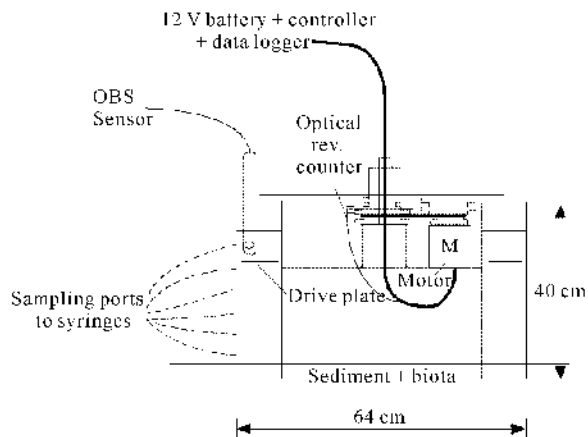


图1 现场生物扰动实验系统结构剖面图^[31]

Fig. 1 Schematic diagram showing *in situ* annular flume in cross section

sion models),结合生物因子的水动力模型 Delft3D 的物种分布模型 (Species Distribution Models, SDMs)^[34]分析大型底栖动物分布格局与沉积物输移环境变量的关系(粒径、泥含量等);生境适应性模型^[35]可预测生境适宜性变化对生物群落的影响,为环境和生态管理策略的制定提供依据。将生物扰动亚模型或参数整合到大尺度沉积物输移整体模型中,能获得更准确的预测效果^[36]。目前,我国在该领域开展的研究工作还较少,研究基础薄弱,今后需要重视并加强这方面的研究。

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