

# 南海碳循环：通量、调控机理及其全球意义

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**摘要** 基于多年观测研究,南海CO<sub>2</sub>源汇及其时空格局的总体特征是:南海海盆是大气CO<sub>2</sub>的弱源区,年均海-气CO<sub>2</sub>通量为 $2.1\pm 0.3 \text{ mmol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$ ;而南海北部陆架是碳汇区,年均CO<sub>2</sub>通量为 $-2.2\pm 3.5 \text{ mmol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$ ;南海总体上每年向大气释放的碳量为1330万 $\pm$ 1880万t。由于南海位于陆地-大洋交界带,存在多个界面过程,根据物质交换发生的不同界面,可将南海海盆和北部陆架视为大洋主控型边缘海(OceMar)和河流主控型陆架海(RiOMar)。这两类系统分别接受大洋和河流输入的外源无机碳和营养盐,经由一系列动力过程进入真光层后同时被生物消耗,无机碳和营养盐之间的“竞争”最终决定CO<sub>2</sub>源汇格局。在南海海盆,无机碳相对过剩,部分以CO<sub>2</sub>形式向大气释放,即为源;而在南海北部陆架,无机碳相对不足,系统需从大气补充CO<sub>2</sub>,即为汇。南海碳循环机理及其框架对于更好地理解全球其他陆架边缘海系统具有重要的借鉴意义。

**关键词** 南海;碳通量;碳源汇格局;大洋主控型边缘海;河流主控型陆架海

边缘海位于陆地-大洋交界带,是地表系统中海-陆-气交互作用最为剧烈的区域,具有独特的地理、地质、物理、化学和生物特征,其中的碳通量及其调控过程具有高度时空变异性,受人类活动的干扰程度也大,因此,边缘海碳循环的研究极具科学挑战性。

南海于南北部拥有宽广陆架,受珠江、湄公河等大河输入的影响显著;东北部则通过2500 m深

的吕宋海峡与西菲律宾海进行物质交换(图1),并呈现“三明治”式的交换模态,其中,上层的交换以黑潮分支进入南海为主要特征,深部以密度较高太平洋深层水入侵为主,而南海中层水则以反气旋方向流出吕宋海峡<sup>[1]</sup>。因此,南海兼具微型大洋与陆架海的双重特征。

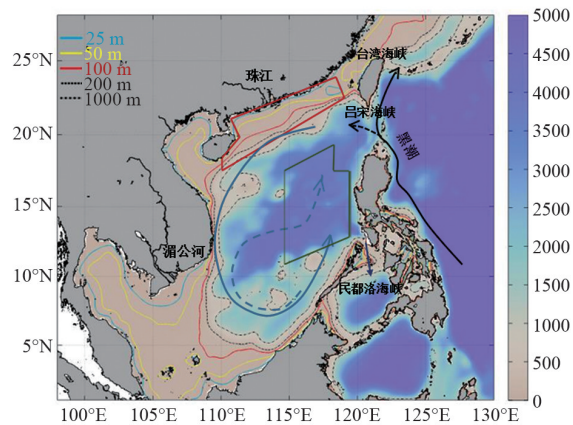
本研究简要总结南海CO<sub>2</sub>源汇的时空格局,在此基础上介绍在南海并存的两类边缘海特征系统

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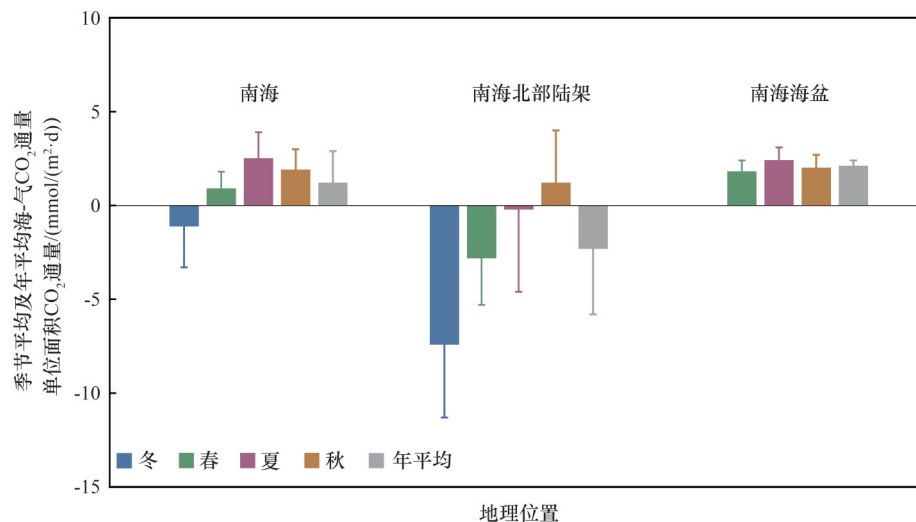
注:红色框所示区域为南海北部陆架,水深小于200 m;绿色框所示区域为南海海盆,水深大于3000 m。冬季南海海盆表层呈现气旋式环流(蓝色实线),夏季南海南部表层呈现反气旋式环流(蓝色虚线);黑色线为黑潮流径。南海表层环流根据参考文献[2]绘制

图1 南海地形及表层环流示意

一大洋主控型边缘海(ocean-dominated margin, OceMar)和河流主控型陆架海(river-dominated ocean margin, RiOMar),解析南海海-气CO<sub>2</sub>通量的调控机理。

## 1 南海二氧化碳源汇时空格局

2000—2018年,在南海的大量现场观测数据<sup>[3]</sup>



注:海-气CO<sub>2</sub>通量数据来源于参考文献[3],为不同区域面积加权平均值

图2 南海、南海北部陆架、南海海盆季节平均及年平均海-气CO<sub>2</sub>通量

表明,南海海表CO<sub>2</sub>分压( $p\text{CO}_2$ )总体上高于大气,是大气CO<sub>2</sub>的源,该源汇格局存在时空变异。从季节上看,依据南海不同区域面积加权平均计算,冬季海-气CO<sub>2</sub>通量为 $-1.1 \pm 2.2 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ ,是大气CO<sub>2</sub>的汇;其余季节均为碳源,其中,春季通量为 $0.9 \pm 0.9 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ ,夏季为 $2.5 \pm 1.4 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ ,秋季为 $1.9 \pm 1.1 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ (图2)。综合各季节通量值,估算南海年平均海-气CO<sub>2</sub>通量为 $1.2 \pm 1.7 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ ,以南海主体面积为250 km<sup>2</sup>计算(不包括泰国湾和北部湾),南海每年向大气释放1330万 $\pm$ 1880万t碳<sup>[3]</sup>。

上述季节变化特征在南海的不同区域亦有不同表现<sup>[3-4]</sup>。在南海北部陆架(图1),夏季海表 $p\text{CO}_2$ 变化最为剧烈,变化幅度为150~650 matm,海-气CO<sub>2</sub>通量为 $-0.4 \pm 4.4 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ ;冬季则整个区域的海表 $p\text{CO}_2$ 都低于大气(370 matm),海-气CO<sub>2</sub>通量为 $-7.4 \pm 3.9 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ ;秋季是大气CO<sub>2</sub>的弱源,春季是汇,该区域全年平均CO<sub>2</sub>通量为 $-2.2 \pm 3.5 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ (图2)。而在南海海盆(图1),春、夏、秋季的海表 $p\text{CO}_2$ 的变化范围为380~500 matm,均高于大气值,季节变化不大,冬季略低,全年平均海-气CO<sub>2</sub>通量为 $2.1 \pm 0.3 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ ,整体表现为大气CO<sub>2</sub>的源<sup>[3]</sup>(图2)。



### 3 结论

南海整体上是大气 CO<sub>2</sub> 的源, 每年向大气释放 1330 万±1880 万 t 碳。需要指出的是, 其中的变化范围高达 1880 万 t, 源于有限调查区域数据的外推所引入的不确定性, 但主要反映的是南海 CO<sub>2</sub> 固有的时空变化<sup>[10]</sup>。

南海深部经吕宋海峡与西菲律宾海进行的物质交换, 为南海海盆向大气释放 CO<sub>2</sub> 提供了主要碳源。相反, 在季风、河流输入等过程的影响下, 南海北部陆架整体上是碳汇。

作为边缘海, 南海最大的特征是同时受陆-海、洋-海交互作用的影响, 其间由物理动力驱动的物质交换在很大程度上决定了边缘海的碳循环速率, 而以热力学和生物泵为核心的生物地球化学过程则是驱动碳循环的内因。在边缘海这种复杂的碳循环背景下, OceMar 和 RiOMar 等概念的提出有助于构建边缘海碳循环研究框架。它们从河流-边缘海-开阔大洋连续体这一传统一维框架出发, 强调了边缘海与陆地河流、开阔大洋间的相互作用应从三维角度同时进行物理和生物地球化学过程的检验。该类概念框架下的物理-生物地球化学耦合诊断方法已成功应用至典型陆架边缘海碳源汇过程和控制机制的解析, 包括阿拉伯海<sup>[11]</sup>、加勒比海<sup>[6]</sup>、俄勒冈-加利福尼亚沿岸<sup>[12]</sup>、日本海<sup>[13]</sup> 等 OceMar 系统, 并有望延用至亚马逊冲淡水、密西西比河冲淡水等典型 RiOMar 系统。

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## Carbon cycle in the South China Sea: Flux, controls and global implications

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**Abstract** This paper reviews the spatially and temporally varied air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in the South China Sea (SCS), to show that its basin area is a weak source to the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, while its northern shelf is a CO<sub>2</sub> sink. On an annual average basis, the SCS emits carbon of  $(1.33 \pm 1.88) \times 10^{10}$  g. The northern shelf includes a River-dominated Ocean Margin (RiOMar) during the peak discharges, and an SCS basin as an Ocean-dominated Margin (OceMar). The OceMar is characterized by dynamic exchange with the open ocean via a two-dimensional or even three-dimensional process, i.e., the horizontal intrusion of the open ocean water and the subsequent vertical mixing and upwelling. Depending on the different ratios of the dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and nutrients from the source waters into the margins, the relative consumption or removal between the DIC and the nutrients, while being transported into the euphotic zones taken over by biogeochemical processes, determines the CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. Thus, the excess DIC relative to the nutrients in the upper layer will lead to the CO<sub>2</sub> degassing. Similar diagnosis can also be made to the RiOMar systems with typical features of significant excess nutrients relative to the DIC. It is suggested that the framework of the carbon cycle revealed from the SCS has important implications in better understanding world's other coastal systems.

**Keywords** South China Sea; carbon fluxes; CO<sub>2</sub> source-sink nature; Ocean-dominated Margin; River-dominated Ocean Margin



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