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桑沟湾鳗草分布区表层沉积有机碳 来源分析与草床碳储量评估*

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摘要 海草床是浅海典型的生态系统之一,其积聚和储存碳的能力备受关注。沉积有机碳是海草床碳汇的重要组成部分,而沉积有机碳的来源与海草的种类及其所处的生态场景密切相关。本研究聚焦我国北方规模化养殖海湾桑沟湾 2 处主要鳗草(*Zostera marina*)分布区,基于稳定碳氮同位素($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 和 $\delta^{15}\text{N}$)技术研究了潮间带鳗草床表层沉积有机碳的来源及其碳储量。结果显示,2 处草床沉积有机碳均来自浮游植物,约占 34.0%~41.4%,鳗草自身贡献约占 8.3%和 17.1%,贝类生物沉积物的贡献约为 23.9%~25.3%,大型藻类约贡献 25.0%。在楮岛草床周围,鳗草输出碳对周围 2 km 内站位表层沉积有机碳的贡献约为 5.2%~10.7%。碳储量估算结果显示,2 处草床沉积物为 0~30 cm 的有机碳储量为 2.01 Mg C/hm² 和 3.75 Mg C/hm²,平均为 2.88 Mg C/hm²,来自生物沉积的有机碳储量约为 0.71 Mg C/hm²。研究结果为深入解析桑沟湾鳗草床分布区沉积碳汇的来源及与规模化海水养殖活动的贡献提供了数据支撑。

关键词 鳗草; 有机碳储量; 稳定同位素; 海水养殖; 桑沟湾

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与红树林和珊瑚礁同为三大典型海洋生态系的海草系统是浅海生态系中最丰富最重要的系统之一,它们极具初级生产力,构成多种海洋食物链的基础部分,大大增加了周围环境的生物多样性,维持着浅海生态环境的健康稳定(Nordlund *et al.*, 2016; Unsworth

et al., 2019; Syukur *et al.*, 2021)。同时,由于海草系统吸收隔离了大量的 CO₂,并通过沉积碳累积成为重要的蓝碳系统。虽然,海草床面积不足海洋总面积的 0.1% (Duarte *et al.*, 2013),但它们碳埋藏速率极高,达 48~112 Tg C/yr,埋藏量占海洋总碳埋藏的 10%~18%

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(McLeod *et al.*, 2011)。海草床强大的吸收 CO_2 和储存有机碳(C_{org})的能力,一方面源于它们所具有的将 CO_2 转化为植物生物量的能力;另一方面,源于海草床可以通过减少水流和沉积物再悬浮来捕获来自生态系统内外的有机颗粒(Oreska *et al.*, 2018; Barcelona *et al.*, 2021)。

沉积碳汇是海草床生态系统碳汇最为主要的组成部分,远高于生物量碳(Fourqurean *et al.*, 2012)。全球海草床的同位素综合分析发现,海草床表层沉积碳中仅有约 50%的贡献来自海草,其余则来自草床捕获的其他颗粒碳,如浮游植物碳等(Kennedy *et al.*, 2010)。近年来的研究显示,该值仍然对海草自身碳贡献甚至存在一定程度的高估(Oreska *et al.*, 2018),即多数草床中,外源有机质(如浮游植物、悬浮颗粒物及毗邻系统中的红树等)占主导地位(Chen *et al.*, 2017; Reef *et al.*, 2017; Oreska *et al.*, 2018)。主要是因为海草与周围系统因水体流动而时刻进行着物质和能量的交换,有机碳是主要载体。印尼的北苏拉威西的海草沉积碳中,来自邻近红树林系统的碳是表层沉积碳的主要来源(Chen *et al.*, 2017)。尽管海草碳在一些草床内直接贡献较小,但由于海草本身极高的初级生产力,海草凋落物和释放的光合溶解有机碳在水动力作用下被不断的带出草床,最终被埋藏在系统外或输送至深海。这部分来自海草的初级生产力碳,是海草碳封存贡献中被低估的部分,这导致草床碳汇量约被低估 30% (Duarte *et al.*, 2017)。

潮间带和浅潮下带是海草生长分布的环境,其周边也是发展贝类养殖的区域。毗邻的海草系统和养殖系统间不可避免的存在以碳为载体的关键生源要素交换(史洁等, 2010; Li *et al.*, 2016)。桑沟湾是我国北方海草分布区之一,总面积约为 472 hm^2 ,其中,鳗草为主要种类,鳗草床面积约为 395 hm^2 ,主要分布于楮岛海区和八河港海区(李政等, 2020)。同时,该湾也是我国典型的养殖海湾,长期的规模化贝类养殖活动赋予了该区域养殖生态系统和海草床生态系统毗邻的生态场景,在该场景下,海草床有机碳来源的分析是解析草床碳汇特征的重要方面。本研究基于稳定同位素技术分析了桑沟湾主要海草区沉积物有机碳的来源,评估了其有机碳储量,拟为深入探究我国海草碳汇特征提供科学依据。

1 材料与方法

1.1 取样地点与站位布设

2021 年 8—9 月,对桑沟湾楮岛鳗草床区和八河

港鳗草床区及楮岛草床周边区域开展取样调查。楮岛草床位于桑沟湾的南岸湾口,八河港草床位于西南部湾底,根据李政等(2020)的调查,2 个区域鳗草床面积分别为 154.12 和 229.96 hm^2 。由于桑沟湾内部主要进行贝类养殖,楮岛草床和八河港草床距贝类筏式养殖区距离约 0.3~2.0 km (图 1)。

草床碳储量调查的站位布设按照 Howard 等(2014)的方法开展,使用随机取样站位法,根据 2 个地点的草床特征,各分为 3 个小区,在小区中随机选择取样站位,用以分析底质特征、有机碳来源和含量特征;海草对周围区域有机碳贡献的研究以楮岛鳗草床为例进行开展,即在其周边水平方向 1.0 和 2.0 km 处各设 1 个取样站位(图 1, 1#和 2#),垂直方向 1.5 km 处设 1 个取样站位(图 1, 3#),用以评估海草对周围区域有机碳的贡献。

1.2 样品采集

2 处草床样品的采集在大潮退潮期间进行,各站位利用柱状采样器($\phi=5$ cm)手动取样。取样深度为 40~50 cm,其中,0~30 cm 的部分中,每 3 cm 分段用于样品分析($n=3$),并在各站位按照《海洋调查规范》的方法进行底质取样(每站位样品数量 $n=3$)和鳗草生物量取样(25 cm \times 25 cm, $n=6$)。

楮岛鳗草床周围布设的取样站位,利用柱状采样器($\phi=4$ cm)取表层 0~3 cm 的底质样品。将草床内发现的海草、浮游植物和大型藻 3 种主要自养生物作为有机碳来源的主要端元。此外,考虑到周围为典型的贝类养殖区,在水动力的作用下,贝类生物沉积水动力也是草床潜在的贡献源。同时,鉴于八河港和楮岛区域较小的季节性河流输入和占比较小的底栖微藻,因此,未将陆源有机碳和底栖微藻有机碳纳入计算。取样方式为在各站位随机收集草床为 25 cm \times 25 cm 内的所有大型藻[漂流大型藻:孔石莼(*Ulva pertusa*)及附着杂藻, $n=3$]作为混合样品;贝类生物沉积取样方式为取草床附近养殖的贝类[养殖种类为牡蛎(*Ostrea gigas*)],洗刷干净后至岸上的流水系统,流水 4 h,收集足量沉积物。浮游植物样由 64 μm 的浮游生物网取得(虽然含少量浮游动物,但与其摄食的浮游植物同位素相似)(Yoshii *et al.*, 1999; Post, 2002),以上所有样品在 0 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 低温下带回实验室。

1.3 样品分析

本研究取柱状样中表层 0~3 cm 层分样,烘干(60 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 下烘干 72 h)并称量,于 0.1 mol/L 的 HCl 中酸化,

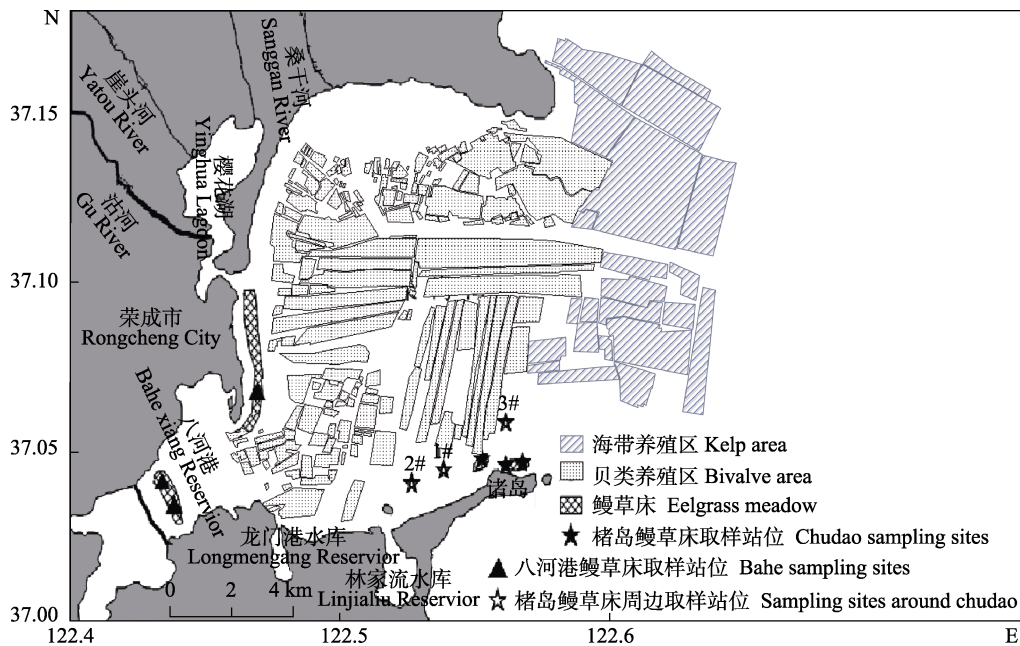


图1 研究区域及采样站位

Fig.1 Location of the study area Sanggou Bay and sampling sites

去除无机碳，多次洗净后进入连接元素分析仪 (Elementar, 美国) 的同位素质谱仪 (ISOprime 100) 进行 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 和 $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ 和有机碳含量的测定。草床碳储量的分析按照 Howard 等(2014)的方法，即 0~30 cm 的分层柱状样根据取样器内径计算体积，在 60℃ 下烘干 72 h 至恒重，并称重量，用以计算底质容重与碳密度，按照上述同样的方式称重、酸化，进入元素分析仪进行有机碳的测定。楮岛草床周边站位的表层底质样及鳗草、浮游植物和大型藻等同位素 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 和 $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ 分析如上。海草样品在去除附着生物后烘干，定量生物量。底质分析的样品按照《海洋操作规范》进行湿筛分与激光粒度仪 (Multisizer 3) 分析。

1.4 数据分析计算

1.4.1 表层沉积物有机碳来源分析 利用混合模型 (Parnell *et al.*, 2010) 对来自主要初级生产者与贝类生物沉积物的贡献进行分析，分析过程在 R 程序包 SIAR (Stable Isotope Analysis in R) 下进行，计算各成分的贡献率，其中，0.95 置信区间下的平均贡献率在文中详述。楮岛草床周围取样点的有机碳来源按照同样的方式进行分析。2 处鳗草床沉积物特征以中值粒径 (ϕ)、分选系数和粉砂含量 (%) 为主要参数。

1.4.2 草床有机碳储量估算 碳储量以两个方面的数据表征。首先是沉积物碳储量，为单位面积的 0~30 cm 的各层沉积物中有机碳的累加 (Lavery

et al., 2013)，单位为 $\text{Mg C}/\text{hm}^2$ ($1 \text{ Mg}=10^6 \text{ g}$)；总碳储量为单位面积碳储量与草床面积的乘积。其次是年平均碳埋藏量，参考刘赛等(2014)的桑沟湾楮岛和八河港海区的沉积速率为 $0.59 \text{ cm}/\text{yr}$ 和 $2.08 \text{ cm}/\text{yr}$ ，以 0~30 cm 碳储量除以底质沉积 30 cm 所用的时间，得到年均碳埋藏量，单位为 Mg。

2 结果

2.1 2 处鳗草床沉积物特征及鳗草密度与生物量

楮岛鳗草床分布于砂质和粉砂质砂区，表层 (0~3 cm) 有机碳含量为 0.15% (表 1)，有机质含量为 1.63%，容重为 1.07，平均植株密度约 $578 \text{ 株}/\text{m}^2$ ，平均总生物量为 $446.2 \text{ g DW}/\text{m}^2$ ；八河港鳗草床底质类型为砂，有机碳含量较低，为 0.11%，有机质含量为 0.98%，平均植株密度为 $467 \text{ 株}/\text{m}^2$ ，生物量为 $410.2 \text{ g DW}/\text{m}^2$ 。

2.2 草床及周围区域碳氮同位素特征与表层沉积有机碳来源分析

楮岛草床和八河港草床内鳗草碳氮同位素值相近 (图 2)，分别为 $(-12.42 \pm 0.24)\text{‰}$ 与 $(6.45 \pm 0.73)\text{‰}$ 和 $(-12.14 \pm 0.13)\text{‰}$ 与 $(6.56 \pm 0.54)\text{‰}$ ，但表层沉积物的 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 与 $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ 有较为明显的不同，其平均值分别为 $(-20.67 \pm 0.37)\text{‰}$ 和 $(4.54 \pm 0.96)\text{‰}$ 与 $(-21.64 \pm 0.32)\text{‰}$

表 1 桑沟湾鳗草床底质与鳗草特征

Tab.1 Sediment and eelgrass meadows characteristics in Sanggou Bay

鳗草床 Eelgrass meadows	中值 粒径 Median ϕ	分选 系数 σ coefficient	粉砂 含量 Silt/%	黏土 含量 Clay/%	容重 Dry density /(g/cm ³)	有机碳 含量 C _{org} /%	有机质 含量 Organic matter/%	植株密度 Shoot density /(shoot/m ²)	地上生物量 Aboveground biomass/g	地下生物量 Belowground biomass/g
楮岛 Chudao	2.35±0.33	3.14±0.26	19.7±1.1	3.1±0.9	1.07±0.13	0.15±0.03	1.63±0.16	578±234	274.6±94.3	171.3±64.5
八河港 Bahegang	2.16±0.06	2.65±0.63	15.0±3.7	2.7±1.0	0.91±0.08	0.11±0.05	0.98±0.31	467±189	263.2±105.8	146.7±60.9

和(5.09±0.80)%。混合模型的结果显示, 2 处草床内来自鳗草的贡献均较低(图 3), 分别为 8.3%和 17.1%; 浮游植物的贡献在楮岛草床内为 41.4%, 在八河港为 34.0%; 贝类生物沉积的贡献率分别为 25.3%和 23.9%; 2 处草床内大型藻对表层有机碳的贡献度相似, 为 25.0%和 24.9%。

楮岛鳗草床周围 3 个站位表层沉积物的 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 相近, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ 的差异较为明显(图 2), 浮游植物是主要的贡献者, 平均贡献率为 47.0%~63.8% (图 4), 以距离海草床最近的 1#站位(距离草床 1.0 km), 浮游植物的贡献相对最小, 为 47.0%, 鳗草的贡献相对最大, 为 10.7%, 大型藻类的贡献率为 21.9%, 贝类沉积的贡献率为 20.4%; 距离草床的 2#、3#站位(距离分别为 2.0 km 与 1.5 km), 鳗草的贡献率减小至 5.2%和 6.7%, 来自贝类生物沉积的贡献率约 14.6%~16.5%, 浮游植物的贡献率升高至 57.6%~63.8%, 大型藻类与贝类沉积贡献率相近, 为 14.7%~16.3%。

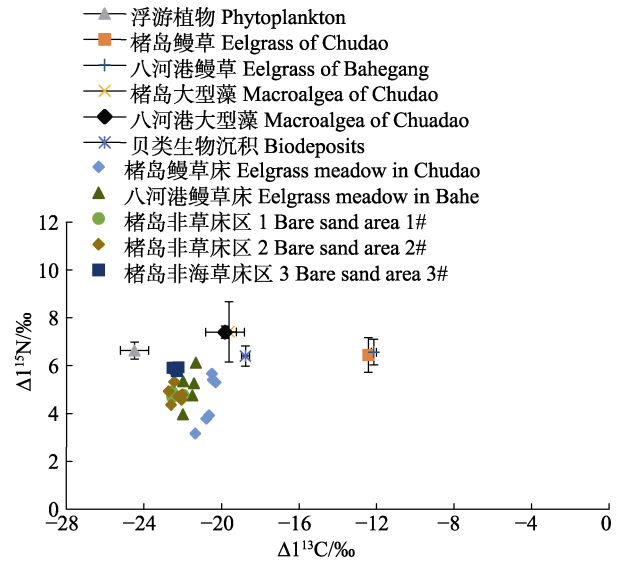


图 2 调查点表层沉积物与各有机碳源的碳氮稳定同位素($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 和 $\delta^{15}\text{N}$)特征

Fig.2 Characteristics of carbon and nitrogen stable isotopes ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$) in surface sediments and organic carbon sources at the survey sites

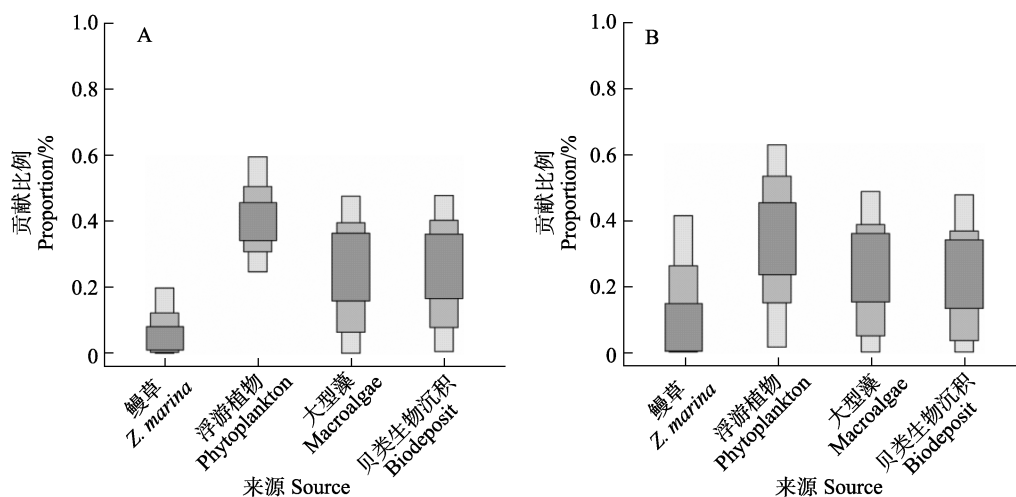


图 3 4 种主要有机碳来源(鳗草、浮游植物、大型藻和贝类生物沉积)

对桑沟湾楮岛鳗草床(A)和八河港(B)表层沉积物(0~3 cm)的相对贡献

Fig.3 Relative contribution of four main organic matter sources (eelgrass, phytoplankton, seaweed and biodeposit) to the surface sediment (0~3 cm) in Chudao (A) and Bahegang (B) eelgrass meadows

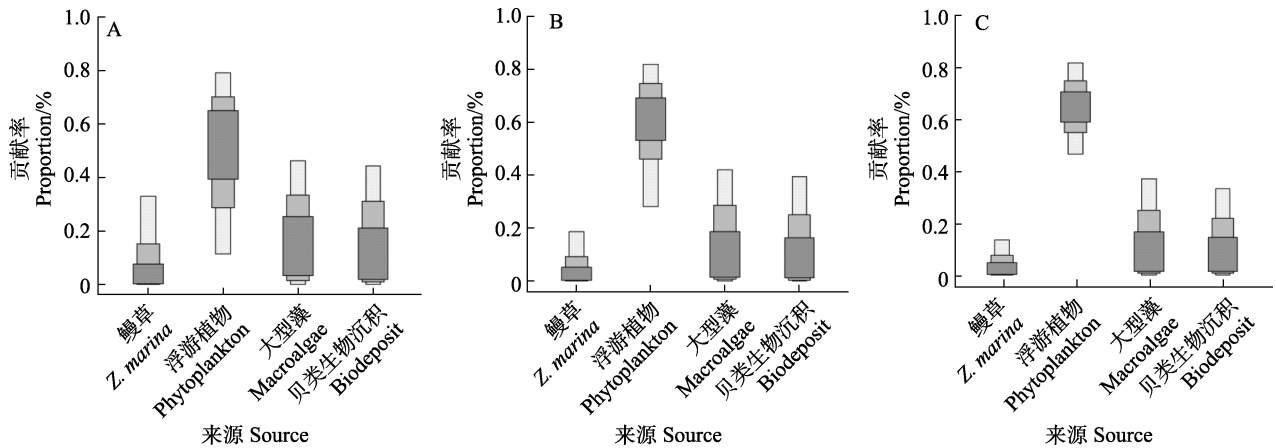


图4 4种主要有机碳来源对楮岛鳗草床周围3个站点(A: 1#; B: 2#; C: 3#)表层沉积物(0~3 cm)的相对贡献
Fig.4 Relative contribution of four main organic carbon sources to the surface sediment (0~3 cm) in eelgrass meadows (A: 1#; B: 2#; C: 3#)

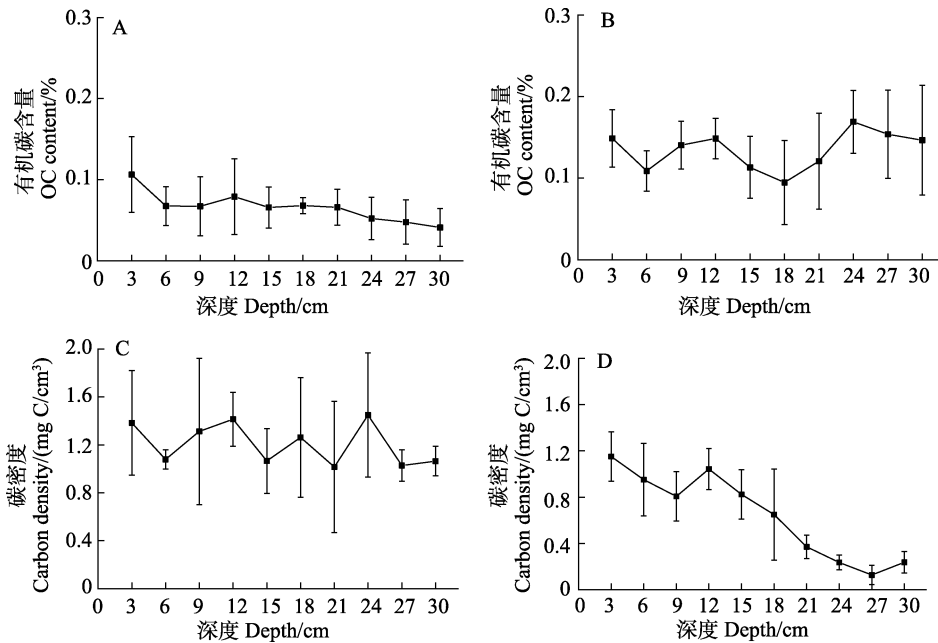


图5 桑沟湾鳗草床0~30 cm 沉积物中有机碳含量剖面
Fig.5 Sediment profiles of organic carbon content

A: 楮岛; B: 八河港; C: 楮岛; D: 八河港
A: Chudao; B: Bahegang; C: Chudao; D: Bahegang

2.3 鳗草床沉积碳特征与碳储量评估

楮岛鳗草床底质中,0~30 cm 有机碳含量波动较大(图 5A),变化范围为 0.09%~0.15%,平均为(0.13±0.02)%;八河港底质则呈较为明显的从表层至底层含量逐渐降低的趋势(图 5B),其含量为(0.04~0.11)%,平均为(0.066±0.018)%。楮岛草床底质碳密度的含量变化为 1.03~1.45 mg C/cm³,平均为(1.20±0.17) mg C/cm³(图 5C);八河港草床碳密度从

表层至底层急剧降低(图 5D),平均含量为(0.64±0.37) mg C/cm³。

由楮岛草床和八河港草床沉积物为 0~30 cm 的平均碳密度计算得到碳储量分别为 3.75 Mg C/m²和 2.02 Mg C/m²(1 Mg=10⁶ g,即 1 t)。由 2 处的鳗草床的面积计算得到桑沟湾总的碳储量为 1 041.5 Mg。根据楮岛和八河港海域平均沉积速率分别为 0.59 cm/yr 和 2.08 cm/yr(刘赛等,2014),得到每年的碳埋藏量的平均值分别为 11.36 Mg/yr 和 32.15 Mg/yr(表 2)。

表 2 桑沟湾鳗草床有机碳储量与年均碳埋藏速率

Tab.2 Carbon stocks and annual areal carbon accumulation in eelgrass (*Z. marina*) meadows of Sanggou Bay

鳗草床 Eelgrass meadows	面积 Area /hm ²	碳密度 Carbon density /(mg C/cm ³)	碳储量 Carbon stock /(g C/m ²)	碳储量 Carbon stock /(Mg C/hm ²)	总碳储量 Total carbon stock/Mg	年均碳埋藏速率 Annual carbon accumulation/Mg
楮岛 Chudao	154.12	1.20±0.17	374.82±21.42	3.75±0.21	577.7±33.00	11.36±0.65
八河港 Bahegang	229.96	0.64±0.37	201.70±16.38	2.02±0.16	463.83±37.70	32.15±2.62
总计 Total	384.08	-	-	-	1041.50	43.50

3 讨论

3.1 海草区表层沉积有机碳的来源

海草碳是蓝碳的直接贡献者,但在不同草床及不同区域,其贡献比例的估算值具有较大的差异。Kennedy 等(2010)研究表明,计算得到的全球草床 50% 的有机碳来自海草,这一数值因区域而异,既与草床内潜在贡献源的多样性和复杂性有关,也与特定草床的结构和组成有关(Oreska *et al.*, 2018)。桑沟湾鳗草床 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 的变化为(-20.31~21.99)‰,与鳗草自身的-12.30‰相比,差值为-8.2‰,呈现较为典型的外源性有机碳的特征(Kennedy *et al.*, 2010); Röhr 等(2018)和 Stankovic 等(2021)分析表明,2 处草床表层有机碳中来自鳗草自身的贡献较小,仅为 8.3%~17.1%,而北温带鳗草床中,鳗草的贡献率为 20%~40%。一方面,鳗草自身较低的碳贡献可能与 2 处草床均处于近岸水动力较强的环境有关(毛兴华等, 1988),在较强的水动力作用下,叶片脱落物因较强浮力更多的被携带出草床,因此,海草自身对草床表层的碳贡献相对较小(高亚平等, 2016; Rahayu *et al.*, 2019)。另一方面,较强的动力使周围养殖贝类的生物沉积被再悬浮作用携带至草床,大型藻类也因阻力被滞留在草床底部(Dahl *et al.*, 2018),这从楮岛鳗草床比周围站位具有更高的来自大型藻类和贝类生物沉积的比例可以体现(图 4)。同时,从距离草床 1.5~2.0 km 的 2#、3# 站位浮游植物碳占比达 57.6%~63.8%,远高于草床内 34.0%~41.4% 的比例,也反映出海草床较强的滞留大型藻和生物沉积等大颗粒物高于以 2~20 μm 为主的浮游植物细小颗粒(李凤雪等, 2020)的能力,尤其在桑沟湾草床斑块区较多,大型藻类等更易进入斑块区(Ricart *et al.*, 2017)并在此积聚。

滤食性养殖贝类耦合水体与沉积环境。浮游植物等颗粒有机碳被消化吸收后,以生物沉积的形式在表层底质沉降(Kautsky *et al.*, 1987),并随再悬浮作用扩散至其他系统,因此,在桑沟湾规模化养殖使得贝类

生物沉积对表层沉积碳的贡献远高于其他海区,并成为为了养殖碳汇的重要组成部分(聂梦晨等, 2022)。而海草由于其冠层结构带来的机械阻碍降低了水流速度,更多的悬浮颗粒尤其是大颗粒在草床内沉降并累积(Oreska *et al.*, 2018; Barcelona *et al.* 2021),但在桑沟湾,贝类沉积同时也成为了海草碳汇的重要组成部分。同时,除了碳的输入,贝类沉积对海草的生长亦有潜在的促进作用(吴亚林等, 2018)。近年来,随着研究的深入,海草与草床内开展的贝类养殖间的关系被逐渐揭示,贝类对海草的正面作用或负面作用取决于养殖方式。通常草床内进行筏式养殖会因遮光等作用降低海草的密度、覆盖度和繁殖力,而底播养殖虽存在与海草的空间竞争,使得海草密度降低,但由于营养的输入,促进了海草的生长和繁殖(Ferriss *et al.*, 2019)。Reusch 等(1994)和 Vinthe 等(2008)的研究也表明,贝类沉积带来的营养输入,促进了海草的生长。桑沟湾内的贝类养殖在海草系统外部,不仅不存在遮光等负面作用,来自贝类沉积的输送,还可能在一定程度上对海草生长具有有潜在的促进作用。

3.2 草床有机碳储量及影响因素

沉积有机碳是海草最为重要的组成部分,草床有机碳储量备受关注。桑沟湾 2 处主要海草床表层有机碳密度平均为 0.92 mg C/cm³,仅为世界鳗草床平均值 2721 mg C/cm² 的 1/10。Röhr 等(2016)研究表明,桑沟湾鳗草床碳密度与芬兰 Fårö 和 Kolaviken 海区相近,但远低于温带鳗草床的平均值(11.4±4.3) mg C/cm³ (Röhr *et al.*, 2018),与我国北方沿海海草系统相比,也处于低值,远低于东营潮间带的矮鳗草床的碳密度(12.31 mg C/cm³)(Yue *et al.*, 2021),此外,与我国广西海草床的碳密度相比也处于较低的水平(李梦, 2018)。

近年的研究报道中,无论从世界范围内大的区域尺度,还是从局部地区的中小尺度,有机碳储量都存在巨大的差异(Lavery *et al.*, 2013; Röhr *et al.*, 2018)。以波罗的海和地中海鳗草床为例,二者碳储量相差 15 倍。Röhr 等(2018)对温带鳗草床碳储量的分析发现,

引起碳储量差异的主要原因是草床的底质特性(如泥含量、容重和分选系数)和环境特性(水深与盐度),二者对差异的解释占 62%。其他的研究则表明,底质特性尤其是粒度分布特征是草床碳储量最为重要的预测因子(Miyajima *et al.*, 2015; Dahl *et al.*, 2016; Mazarrasa *et al.*, 2021)。与碳储量较高的区域相比,桑沟湾草床的底质粒度相对较大,而泥含量相对较低(表 1);与朝鲜半岛南部 Dongdae Bay 的鳗草床相比,桑沟湾草床泥含量甚至不足其 1/30 (Kim *et al.*, 2022)。通常泥含量小于 10% 的草床,其碳储量均 $<1 \text{ kg C/m}^2$,而 2~10 kg C/m^2 的区域其泥含量在 30% 以上,甚至高达 80%。这是由于在细颗粒的泥或粉砂中,更容易因氧的扩散受阻而处于厌氧环境,微生物的分解作用减弱,使得各个来源的有机碳更易积累。因此,桑沟湾较低的碳储量也与其底质特性相关。目前,桑沟湾的海草分布仅余 400 hm^2 左右,且多处斑块状,草床面积大小是影响碳积聚速率的重要因素(Ricart *et al.*, 2017),因此,较低的碳储量也可能与目前的草床规模有关。尽管如此,桑沟湾鳗草床的初级生产力水平处于高值,年均值达 543.5 $\text{g C}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{yr})$,这部分以植物体尤其是叶片组织固定下来的有机碳,虽未能在草床内积聚,多被输送至草床外,但这部分仍然是蓝碳的重要组成部分,至少在楮岛草床周围 2.0 km 内,海草的有机碳贡献率仍在 5.2%~10.7% (图 4),成为向周边区域输送碳的。

3.3 草床修复对蓝碳扩增的重要意义

海草的衰退会引起沉积有机碳的大量损失(Marbà *et al.*, 2015; Thorhaug *et al.*, 2017; Stankovic *et al.*, 2021)。研究发现,即便在实验尺度上,去除海草后的 18 个月内,表层有机碳含量显著降低,0~5 cm 的碳损失量约 2.21 Mg/C hm^2 (Githaiga *et al.*, 2019)。值得注意的是,草床修复是抑制该趋势的有效手段。在佛吉尼亚、牡蛎港和墨西哥湾,海草修复均显著增加了碳储量,其碳储量与自然草床相近,甚至更高(Greiner *et al.*, 2013; Marbà *et al.*, 2015; Thorhaug *et al.*, 2017)。尤其是墨西哥湾其表层为 20 cm 的有机碳扩增量达 $(20.96 \pm 8.59) \text{ Mg/hm}^2$ (Thorhaug *et al.*, 2017),其修复 1~2 年的草床也可实现蓝碳的有效扩增。因此,加大对桑沟湾海草的保护,并进行有效的移植修复是提高桑沟湾海草碳储量,同时,发挥诸如增加生物多样性与环境健康的维持(Heiss *et al.*, 2000; Heck *et al.*, 2003; Lamb *et al.*, 2017; Hossain *et al.*, 2019)等更多生态服务功能的重要手段。

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Source Analysis of Surface Sedimentary Organic Carbon and Assessment of Carbon Storage in Eelgrass Meadows of Sanggou Bay

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Abstract Seagrass meadows are one of the most abundant systems in the coastal area. They absorb and sequester a large amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) forming an important blue carbon system. The strong ability of seagrass beds to absorb CO₂ and store organic carbon (C_{org}) could be attributed to their ability to convert CO₂ into plant biomass and to reduce water flow and sediment re-suspension, capturing organic particles from outside the ecosystem. Thus, the source and the stock of

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carbon have attracted much attention. In certain areas, this value exhibits a large range. In some meadows, endogenous organic matter (OM) such as seagrass litter (leaves and roots) and epiphytes account for a larger contribution to carbon burial, while in most other grass beds, exogenous OM such as phytoplankton, suspended particulate matter, and mangroves in adjacent systems dominate. This is primarily because all marine ecosystems exchange energy and matter with the surrounding systems through water flow, and carbon is no exception.

Sanggou Bay is one of the main seagrass distribution areas in northern China. It is also a typical mariculture bay in China. In this bay, the long-term large-scale bivalve culture activities have given a special ecological scene to the adjacent culture ecosystem and seagrass beds. Based on stable isotopes, this study analyzed the sources of organic carbon in the sediments of the two eelgrass meadows in Sanggou Bay and evaluated the organic carbon stock. The results showed that the isotope $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of the eelgrass bed in Sanggou Bay was in the range of (20.31~−21.99)‰, compared to 12.30‰ of the eelgrass itself. The difference (8.2‰) shows the typical characteristics of allochthonous organic carbon. The estimation from the Isosource 1.3 isotope mixing model software showed that the surface organic carbon in the two eelgrass beds mainly originated from the phytoplankton (34.0%~41.4%). Bio-deposit from cultured bivalve also contributed 23.9%~25.3%, while eelgrass itself only contributed about 8.3%~17.1%. The contribution of shellfish bio-deposit was about 23.9%~25.3%, while that of macroalgae was about 25.0%. Around the Chudao eelgrass bed, the carbon output from the eelgrass contributed about 5.2% to 10.7% to the organic carbon deposited on the surface site within 2 km. The carbon stock estimation showed that the organic carbon storage at the depth of 0~30 cm in the two grass beds was 2.01 and 3.75 Mg C/hm², with an average of 2.88 Mg C/hm², and about 0.71 Mg C/hm² was from bivalve deposition. In addition, eelgrass also contributed (average 5.2%~10.7%) to sediment carbon in the surrounding system.

The contribution of eelgrass to surface sediment organic carbon in the study site was lower than that of the average contribution of eelgrass in the north temperate eelgrass beds (20%~40%). This result could be linked to the fact that both seagrass beds are in an environment with strong nearshore hydrodynamics. Under the strong hydrodynamic action, the exfoliated materials such as leaves are carried out of the grass bed and get accumulated in the surrounding environment, while the bio-deposit of the surrounding cultured shellfish are carried into the meadows by the resuspension. Strong water flow presents a weaker rate of carbon accumulation due to the high microbial decomposition. Compared to the average carbon stock in the temperate eelgrass beds (27.2 Mg C/hm²) in the world, the carbon stock in Sanggou Bay eelgrass meadows is low. The primary reason is the substrate characteristics of the eelgrass bed. The average grain size is relatively large, with relatively low mud content, which results in strong microbial decomposition, making it difficult for organic carbon from various sources to accumulate. The decline of seagrass will lead to a large loss of sedimentary organic carbon and eelgrass bed restoration could be an effective means to curb this trend. Strengthening the protection of seagrass in Sanggou Bay and carrying out effective transplantation and restoration could be an important measure to increase the carbon storage and would help to provide more ecological services such as increasing biodiversity and maintaining environmental health.

This study shows that the carbon storage of the seagrass system in Sanggou Bay is relatively low. Bio-deposit from farmed shellfish is an important source of organic carbon in eelgrass beds. The results provide an in-depth analysis of the source of sedimentary carbon sink in the eelgrass bed in Sanggou Bay and the contribution of large-scale mariculture activities to the seagrass blue carbon.

Key words Eelgrass meadow; Organic carbon stock; Stable isotope; Mariculture; Sanggou Bay