

Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

This discussion paper is/has been under review for the journal Biogeosciences (BG).  
Please refer to the corresponding final paper in BG if available.

# Temperature response of denitrification and anammox reveals the adaptation of microbial communities to in situ temperatures in permeable marine sediments that span 50° in latitude

A. Canion<sup>1,\*</sup>, J. E. Kostka<sup>1,\*\*</sup>, T. M. Gihring<sup>1</sup>, M. Huettel<sup>1</sup>,  
J. E. E. van Beusekom<sup>2,\*\*\*</sup>, H. Gao<sup>3,\*\*\*\*</sup>, G. Lavik<sup>3</sup>, and M. M. M. Kuypers<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Earth, Ocean, and Atmos. Science Dept, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA

<sup>2</sup>Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, List, Germany

<sup>3</sup>Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology, Bremen, Germany

\* now at: St. Johns River Water Management District, Palatka, Florida, USA

\*\* now at: Schools of Biology and Earth and Atmospheric Science, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

\*\*\* now at: Institute of Coastal Research, Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht, Geesthacht, Germany

\*\*\*\* now at: School of Ocean and Earth Sciences, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

Received: 22 August 2013 – Accepted: 23 August 2013 – Published: 3 September 2013

Correspondence to: A. Canion (acanion@gmail.com)

Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

**BGD**

10, 14595–14626, 2013

**Temperature  
response of  
denitrification and  
anammox**

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Abstract

Despite decades of research on the physiology and biochemistry of nitrate/nitrite-respiring microorganisms, little is known regarding their metabolic response to temperature, especially under in situ conditions. The temperature regulation of microbial communities that mediate anammox and denitrification was investigated in near shore permeable sediments at polar, temperate, and subtropical sites with annual mean temperatures ranging from  $-5$  to  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Total  $\text{N}_2$  production rates were determined using the isotope pairing technique in intact core incubations under diffusive and simulated advection conditions and ranged from 2 to  $359 \mu\text{mol N m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ . For the majority of sites studied,  $\text{N}_2$  removal was 2 to 7 times more rapid under advective flow conditions. Anammox comprised 6 to 14 % of total  $\text{N}_2$  production at temperate and polar sites and was not detected at the subtropical site. Potential rates of denitrification and anammox were determined in anaerobic slurries in a temperature gradient block incubator across a temperature range of  $-1$  to  $42^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The highest optimum temperature ( $T_{\text{opt}}$ ) for denitrification was  $36^{\circ}\text{C}$  and was observed in subtropical sediments, while the lowest  $T_{\text{opt}}$  of  $21^{\circ}\text{C}$  was observed at the polar site. Seasonal variation in the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  was observed at the temperate site with values of  $26$  and  $34^{\circ}\text{C}$  in winter and summer, respectively. The  $T_{\text{opt}}$  values for anammox were  $9$  and  $26^{\circ}\text{C}$  at the polar and temperate sites, respectively. The results demonstrate adaptation of denitrifying communities to in situ temperatures in permeable marine sediments across a wide range of temperatures, whereas marine anammox bacteria may be predominately psychrophilic to psychrotolerant. To our knowledge, we provide the first rates of denitrification and anammox from permeable sediments of a polar permanently cold ecosystem. The adaptation of microbial communities to in situ temperatures suggests that the relationship between temperature and rates of N removal is highly dependent on community structure.

### Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## 1 Introduction

Denitrification and anammox are the dominant processes for nitrogen loss in the ocean. These microbially-mediated reactions convert dissolved inorganic nitrogen to  $N_2$  and are limited to suboxic and anoxic regions of the ocean, including oxygen minimum zones and surficial sediments (Thamdrup and Dalsgaard, 2008). A large portion of nitrogen removal occurs in coastal sediments, where high primary productivity and export production provide abundant organic matter and dissolved inorganic nitrogen that fuels denitrification and anammox. Current nitrogen budgets attribute up to 50 % of the global ocean nitrogen loss to near shore coastal and continental shelf sediments (Codispoti, 2007). Continental shelves are dominated (up to 70 %) by relatively coarse-grained, relict sediments (Emery, 1968); however, the contribution of these permeable continental shelf sediments to nitrogen removal remains poorly constrained (Galloway et al., 2004).

Recent evidence from laboratory and field experiments support the emerging paradigm that sandy permeable sediments serve as a substantial sink for land-derived nitrogen (Deek et al., 2012; Eyre et al., 2013; Deutsch et al., 2010). The transport of solutes and particles by pressure-gradient-driven pore water advection enhances mineralization processes in permeable sediments by delivering dissolved and particulate carbon and removing metabolic end products (Huettel and Rusch, 2000). When pore water advection has been simulated in intact core incubations, an enhancement of denitrification of 1 to 2 orders of magnitude has been observed (Gao et al., 2012; Gihring et al., 2010). Models that account for pore water advection predict higher rates of denitrification due to advective transport of nitrate into the sedimentary denitrification zone (Cardenas et al., 2008), but at the same time, rapid flushing of ammonium from the sediment may decrease coupled nitrification-denitrification (Cook et al., 2006).

To parameterize large-scale models of nitrogen removal from continental shelves, the response of denitrification and anammox to environmental controls must be quantified. Major environmental controls of denitrification and anammox activity have been

BGD

10, 14595–14626, 2013

### Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

[Title Page](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[References](#)

[Tables](#)

[Figures](#)

[⏪](#)

[⏩](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

[Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

[Interactive Discussion](#)

extensively studied in fine-grained sediments and include, but are not limited to, the availability of organic matter, nitrate concentration in the overlying water, O<sub>2</sub> penetration depth, and the extent of bioturbation (Cornwell et al., 1999). Temperature is often considered a master variable because it exerts a modulating effect on multiple physical and biogeochemical processes. The effect of temperature on microbial communities mediating denitrification is limited to a few studies. In previous studies from saltmarsh sediments, seasonal variation in the temperature response of denitrification rates showed that communities with lower optimal temperatures for denitrification became active during winter months (Kaplan et al., 1977; King and Nedwell, 1984). Ogilvie et al. (1997) demonstrated that lower temperatures led to the enrichment of denitrifying isolates, whereas higher temperatures enriched for bacteria that performed dissimilatory nitrate reduction to ammonium, demonstrating that temperature may have an effect on the dominant nitrate reduction pathway. Denitrification and anammox in arctic fjord muds were shown to have optimal temperatures of 25 and 12 °C, respectively, indicating that the anammox bacteria were better adapted to cold conditions (Rysgaard et al., 2004). Together, these studies illustrate that the response of nitrogen removal pathways to the in situ temperature may be strongly dependent on the community structure.

Despite decades of research on the physiology and biochemistry of nitrate-respiring microorganisms, little is known regarding their metabolic response to temperature, especially under in situ conditions. In the present study, we examined the temperature adaptation of denitrifying and anammox communities in near shore permeable sediments spanning a 50° latitudinal range. Permeable sediments were chosen because they dominate continental shelf sediments and are important sites for nitrogen removal. We hypothesized that the temperature response of denitrification and anammox will vary according to the in situ temperature of the sediment. To this end, rate measurements employing the isotope pairing technique (<sup>15</sup>N tracer) and temperature gradient block incubations were performed with permeable sediments from subtropical (north-eastern Gulf of Mexico), temperate (German Wadden Sea), and arctic (Svalbard, Norway) sites with annual mean temperatures of 23, 11 and −5 °C, respectively. The results





The slurries were performed by adding 1 mL of homogenized wet sediment from the surface (0–5 cm) to a 12 mL Exetainer<sup>®</sup>, which was then filled without headspace with site water containing 100  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Na}^{15}\text{NO}_3^-$ . Vials were incubated for 24–48 h at the in situ temperature and sampled every 6 h in triplicate by addition of 250  $\mu\text{L}$  of 50 %  $\text{ZnCl}_2$ .

5 The calculations of Thamdrup and Dalsgaard (2002) were used to determine the contribution of anammox.

### 2.3 Vertical profiles of denitrification and anammox

Vertical profiles of the potential rates of denitrification and anammox were determined in the Sylt sediments in June 2007. Cores were sectioned at 2 cm intervals, and sediment was slurried with bottom water in sealed gas-impermeable bags. The bottom water was amended with 100  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Na}^{15}\text{NO}_3^-$  (99 atom %), and the bags were flushed with helium to ensure anaerobic conditions. The slurries were incubated at the in situ temperature. Samples for the determination of  $^{29}\text{N}_2$  and  $^{30}\text{N}_2$  production were taken at 3, 6, 12, and 20 h and preserved in 6 mL Exetainers with  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  as described above.

15 Potential denitrification and anammox were calculated according to the equations of Thamdrup and Dalsgaard (2002). Vertical profiles of pore-water nitrate, nitrite, and ammonium concentrations were measured at the time of core collection using Rhizon samplers (Rhizosphere Research Products) that were inserted into ports drilled at 1 cm intervals in polycarbonate core liners (9.5 cm diameter) (Seeberg-Elverfeldt et al., 2005). Rhizons were rinsed with the first 0.5 mL of extracted pore-water, and 2 mL were collected for each 1 cm depth interval for a total depth of 10 cm.

### 2.4 Temperature gradient block experiments

25 The temperature response of potential denitrification and anammox rates was determined using temperature gradient block incubators (cf., Sagemann et al., 1998) located at either the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology (Bremen, Germany) or Florida State University (Tallahassee, Florida). The two temperature blocks were identi-

BGD

10, 14595–14626, 2013

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion





cal in size: each consisted of a 2 m-long (cross section 15 × 15 cm) insulated aluminum block that was electrically heated at one end and cooled at the other by a circulating water bath. Each block had 4 parallel rows of 30 vertical wells (1.8 cm diameter, 15 cm length), with 3 rows for samples and one row for temperature monitoring.

At the time of intact core collection, samples for temperature gradient experiments were collected from the upper 5 cm of the sediments into pre-sterilized plastic containers and stored at the in situ temperature. Potential rates of denitrification and anammox were determined in time series incubations of anaerobic slurries across a temperature range of -1.0 to 42°C. Slurries were prepared by adding 1 mL of wet sediment to a 12 mL Exetainer<sup>®</sup> vial followed by filling of the vials with helium-degassed site water that was amended with Na<sup>15</sup>NO<sub>3</sub> to a final concentration of 100 μM. One set of samples was sacrificed at each time point by the addition of 250 μL of 50 % ZnCl<sub>2</sub> to each vial, followed by vigorous mixing. Four time points were sampled for each experiment over a period of 15–24 h. Parallel anaerobic slurries were incubated at the in situ temperature and sampled in triplicate at each time point to verify homogeneity between vials. The production of labeled N<sub>2</sub> was calculated as described for the core incubations by the regression of <sup>29</sup>N<sub>2</sub> and <sup>30</sup>N<sub>2</sub> against time, and the calculations of Thamdrup and Dalsgaard (2002) were used to partition <sup>29</sup>N<sub>2</sub> and <sup>30</sup>N<sub>2</sub> production into potential denitrification and anammox rates.

An additional temperature block experiment was performed determine anammox activity at each site, whereby production of <sup>29</sup>N<sub>2</sub> and the absence of <sup>30</sup>N<sub>2</sub> after addition of 100 μM <sup>15</sup>NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and 100 μM Na<sup>14</sup>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> tracer in anaerobic slurries indicated anammox activity. Nitrification can lead to artifacts when using <sup>15</sup>NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> tracer, but the absence of <sup>30</sup>N<sub>2</sub> production indicated that the slurries were sufficiently anaerobic to preclude nitrification. The rate of N<sub>2</sub> production by anammox was determined from the regression of <sup>29</sup>N<sub>2</sub> production against time, which was then corrected for the fraction of <sup>15</sup>N-labeled NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> according to Holtappels (2011).

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

[Title Page](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[References](#)

[Tables](#)

[Figures](#)

[⏪](#)

[⏩](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

[Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

[Interactive Discussion](#)



The optimum temperature ( $T_{\text{opt}}$ ) was visually determined from plots of rates against temperature. Additionally, a range for  $T_{\text{opt}}$  was defined where rates did not fall below 90 % of the optimum rate. The slope of temperature response was modeled using the Arrhenius function. A regression through the linear range of the plot of inverse temperature against the natural log of denitrification (or anammox) rate provided an estimate of activation energy according the equation:

$$\ln(k) = \ln(A) + \left( \frac{-E_a}{RT} \right) \quad (1)$$

where  $k$  is the reaction rate, and  $E_a$  is the activation energy ( $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ ). In addition to the activation energy, the ratio of the potential rate at  $5^\circ\text{C}$  to the rate at in situ temperature was calculated as an indicator of psychrophilic adaptation.

## 2.5 Analytical procedures

Dissolved nitrate + nitrite ( $\text{NO}_x^-$ ) and nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2^-$ ) were determined by chemiluminescence detection after reduction to NO gas on a Thermo model 42i  $\text{NO}_x$  analyzer (Thermo Scientific). Nitrate + nitrite were reduced with an acidic  $\text{VnCl}_2$  solution (Braman and Hendrix, 1989), and nitrite was reduced using an acidic iodide solution (Gar-  
side, 1982). Dissolved ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) was determined by the colorimetric method of Bower and Holm-Hansen (Bower and Holm-Hansen, 1980). Concentrations of  $^{29}\text{N}_2$  and  $^{30}\text{N}_2$  in excess of natural abundance were measured by either isotope ratio mass spectrometry (IRMS) (Sylt) or membrane-inlet mass spectrometry (St. George and Ymerbukta). For IRMS, a gas sample from the helium-equilibrated (2 mL) headspace of each Exetainer was analyzed. The membrane inlet mass spectrometer was configured and calibrated according to An et al. (2001). An air-equilibrated standard of  $0.2\ \mu\text{m}$  filtered site water or seawater was maintained at in situ temperature in a thermostatic water bath and was analyzed every 20 min to correct for instrument drift. Oxygen was removed from the vacuum system inlet before entering the mass spectrometer using a heated ( $600^\circ\text{C}$ ) quartz column with copper turnings.

### 3 Results

Sediment characteristics for each site are shown in Table 1. Sediments were comprised of fine-to-medium grained sands, except at the polar site, which contained a mix of sand and very fine gravel (Table 1). The median grain size was 211–223  $\mu\text{m}$  at the subtropical sites and 338 and 824  $\mu\text{m}$  at the temperate and polar sites, respectively. Permeabilities ranged from  $1.0 \times 10^{-10}$  to  $4.8 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^2$  and were sufficiently high to permit advective pore-water exchange (Huettel and Rusch, 2000). The organic carbon contents were  $< 0.1\%$  at the subtropical and temperate sites, and C : N ratios for these sites were between 7.1–8.4. The polar site had an organic carbon content of 0.49 % and a C : N ratio of 22.6.

#### 3.1 Rates and pathways of $\text{N}_2$ production

The isotope pairing technique, modified according to Risgaard-Petersen et al. (2003), was used to estimate the rate of unlabeled  $\text{N}_2$  production, p14, in intact 3.5 cm diameter cores. Areal rates of p14 varied between 1.9–359  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  (Table 2). Simulated pore-water advection by perfusion led to substantial increases in  $\text{N}_2$  production rates at all sites. An approximately 2-fold increase in p14 was observed upon perfusion of the subtropical sediments. Perfusion led to a larger increase of p14 in the winter temperate and polar (5-fold) and summer temperate (7-fold) sediments. The highest denitrification rate (359  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ ) was observed with sediment perfusion at the temperate site. For all sites, denitrification was the dominant pathway for  $\text{N}_2$  production. At Sylt, the contribution of anammox to  $\text{N}_2$  production was 14 % in winter and 6 % in summer, and anammox was responsible for 6.5 % of  $\text{N}_2$  production at Ymerbukta. The contribution of anammox was below the detection limit in sediments from St. George Island.

**BGD**

10, 14595–14626, 2013

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

## 3.2 Vertical profiles of denitrification and anammox

Pore-water DIN profiles and potential rates of denitrification and anammox at Sylt (June) revealed a vertical structure of N-removal mechanisms within the sediment (Fig. 2). Pore-water DIN profiles showed elevated ammonium and nitrate concentrations below 4 cm. Concentrations were constant from 4–10 cm, and were approximately 12  $\mu\text{M}$  for both nitrate and ammonium. Potential denitrification rates exhibited a maximum of 120  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$  between 2–6 cm, whereas, anammox gradually increased with depth to a maximum rate of 20  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$  at 8–10 cm. The anammox trend with depth was confirmed in parallel incubations with  $^{15}\text{NH}_4^+$  tracer additions (data not shown).

## 3.3 Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

Potential rates of denitrification and anammox were determined between  $-1$  and  $42^\circ\text{C}$  in a temperature gradient block incubator. The optimum temperature for denitrification ( $T_{\text{opt}}$ ) varied with the in situ temperature, with a  $T_{\text{opt}}$  of  $21^\circ\text{C}$  observed at the polar site and  $35$ – $36^\circ\text{C}$  observed at the subtropical sites, respectively (Fig. 3). The temperate site exhibited a seasonal pattern in the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  of denitrification, with a  $T_{\text{opt}}$  of  $26^\circ\text{C}$  observed in the winter and  $34^\circ\text{C}$  observed in the summer. Both the temperate and polar site had broad  $T_{\text{opt}}$  peaks with widths of 7 to  $9^\circ\text{C}$  (Table 3), whereas the subtropical site had well-defined, narrow peaks ( $2^\circ\text{C}$  or less).

At the polar site, a relatively high rate of denitrification was observed at  $5^\circ\text{C}$ , corresponding to 34 % of  $T_{\text{opt}}$ ; in contrast, rates at  $5^\circ\text{C}$  comprised only 1 % of the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  rate at the subtropical site (Table 3). The ratio of rates at  $5^\circ\text{C}$  relative to the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  at the temperate site was similar during both summer and winter field samplings (11–17 %). Activation energies ( $E_a$ ) calculated from Arrhenius plots also indicated latitudinal variation in the temperature response of denitrification (Table 3). The  $E_a$  values at the temperate and polar sites were similar at 52–65  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ . In contrast, the activation energies for denitrification at the subtropical site ranged from 102.7 to 123.5  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ ,

5 corresponding to a 1.5- to 2-fold higher activation energy than at the temperate and polar sites. Normalization of the temperature response curves to the denitrification rate at  $T_{\text{opt}}$  revealed two trends:  $T_{\text{opt}}$  increased with increasing environmental temperature, and temperate and polar sediments had higher relative rates at low temperatures as compared to subtropical sediments (Fig. 5).

10 The temperature response of anammox was only determined for Sylt and Ymerbukta, as anammox could not be detected at the subtropical SGI sites. Rates from the temperature gradient block experiments using  $^{15}\text{NH}_4^+$  tracer additions are reported here rather than rates determined using  $^{15}\text{NO}_3^-$  tracer. Because denitrification rates were at least an order of magnitude higher than anammox rates in temperature block experiments, underestimation of the denitrification rate (estimated by production of  $^{30}\text{N}_2$ ) could produce a false anammox signal in experiments with  $^{15}\text{NO}_3^-$  tracer. The use of  $^{15}\text{NH}_4^+$  tracer is generally accepted as providing more conclusive evidence of anammox activity (Holtappels et al., 2011), and thus, these experiments were chosen as the best approach for estimating the anammox temperature response. Temperature optima of 9 and 26 °C were observed for anammox at the polar and temperate sites, respectively (Fig. 4). For both sites, anammox rates at 5 °C comprised 35 % of the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  rate. The activation energy for anammox was 35 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> at the temperate site (Table 3), but activation energy could not be accurately calculated from the temperature response curve at the polar site. Normalization of the temperature response curves to the anammox rate at  $T_{\text{opt}}$  clearly shows a higher  $T_{\text{opt}}$  at the temperate site versus the polar site, but similar relative rates at lower temperatures are observed (Fig. 5).

## BGD

10, 14595–14626, 2013

### Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Nitrate removal rates in sands under high nitrate loading

Intact core incubations from the temperate site, Sylt, showed the highest rates of  $N_2$  production of all sites studied. The Sylt-Romo basin receives nitrate from the Elbe and Weser Rivers, with nitrate concentrations in the List tidal basin ranging from up to  $60 \mu\text{M}$  in winter to less than  $1 \mu\text{M}$  in summer (van Beusekom et al., 2008). A recent study of sediment nitrogen dynamics in the same area measured  $N_2$  effluxes under diffusive conditions ranging from  $144$  to  $1128 \mu\text{mol N m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$  in February and April but did not detect  $N_2$  production in summer when water column nitrate concentrations were low (Deek et al., 2012). In the present study, intact core incubations showed higher rates of  $N_2$  production in March relative to June under both diffusive and simulated pore-water advective conditions. These results indicate that seasonal variation in nitrogen loading is likely the dominant driver of the seasonal variability in N removal. The production of  $N_2$  in winter months at Sylt is likely sustained by the advective transport of nitrate-rich water into the denitrification zone, whereas in summer, nitrate must be supplied from within the sediment. In June, pore-water profiles showed that  $10$ – $12 \mu\text{M}$  nitrate was present in the upper  $10 \text{ cm}$  of sediment, despite being nearly absent in the overlying water. This nitrate is likely supplied via nitrification, enhanced by bioturbation and bioirrigation of macrofauna (Huettel, 1990), as well as groundwater sources that have been shown to locally contribute inorganic nitrogen to the pore-water at Sylt (Hedtkamp, 2005).

The rates from the temperate site at Sylt ( $74$ – $359 \mu\text{mol N m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ ) add to a limited number of observations of  $N_2$  production in advection-dominated permeable sediments under high nitrogen loading. Rates from sands in the nitrogen-impacted Baltic Sea were found to be lower ( $12$ – $108 \mu\text{mol N m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ ) but were measured under diffusive conditions (Deutsch et al., 2010). At least two studies have observed higher rates of N loss in nutrient-impacted permeable sediments under advective conditions. The average  $N_2$  production rate under simulated pore-water advection in southern German Wadden

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Sea tidal flats was  $8.3 \text{ mmol N m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  (Gao et al., 2012), nearly 20-fold higher than rates observed at Sylt in the northern Wadden Sea. These higher rates in the southern Wadden Sea may be due to higher organic matter loading as compared to the less eutrophic Wadden Sea around Sylt (Van Beusekom et al., 2012). Likewise, rates of N loss were found to be high ( $0.8\text{--}2.2 \text{ mmol N m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ ) in continuous advection chambers in tropical carbonate sediment and increased to  $11.5 \text{ mmol N m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in response to the deposition of coral spawning material (Eyre et al., 2008). We observed that  $\text{N}_2$  removal rates that were 4 to 7 times more rapid under simulated advective flow in comparison to diffusive transport conditions for Wadden Sea sediments. In general, these studies show high but variable  $\text{N}_2$  removal rates in sands with high nitrogen loading, reflecting the dynamic nature of biogeochemical cycling in permeable sediments.

## 4.2 Temperature adaptation of denitrification

The adaptation of denitrifying microbial communities to in situ temperatures was inferred from multiple parameters of the temperature response curves, including the temperature optima ( $T_{\text{opt}}$ ), activation energies ( $E_a$ ), and the ratio of denitrification at  $5^\circ\text{C}$  to  $T_{\text{opt}}$ , all of which varied directly with in situ temperatures. It is important to note that the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  of growth rates are used to define psychrophiles and mesophiles according to the classification scheme of Morita (1975), but  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for respiration rates were measured in the present study. Temperature gradient block incubations were carried out over short ( $< 24 \text{ h}$ ) timescales, and  $T_{\text{opt}}$  values most likely reflect the optimal respiratory enzyme activity of the in situ microbial community, which may deviate from the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for growth.

The  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for denitrification fell into two ranges: a  $T_{\text{opt}}$  of approximately  $20\text{--}25^\circ\text{C}$  for polar and cold temperate sediments (Sylt winter) and a  $T_{\text{opt}}$  of approximately  $35^\circ\text{C}$  for subtropical and warm temperate sediments (Sylt summer). All  $T_{\text{opt}}$  values were greater than the in situ sediment temperature, although the subtropical sites had the smallest difference between  $T_{\text{opt}}$  and the in situ temperature, suggesting that these communities may be closer to their maximum efficiency at in situ temperatures than are the polar

BGD

10, 14595–14626, 2013

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

and cold temperate communities. However, many purified psychrophilic enzymes have optimal catalytic rates between 15–30 °C, and the primary adaptation in psychrophilic enzymes is the maintenance of relatively high specific catalytic rates at low temperature (Feller and Gerday, 2003). The  $T_{\text{opt}}$  values for permeable sediments examined in this study are consistent with previous results from cold Arctic muds, where  $T_{\text{opt}}$  values of 20–28 °C have been observed for aerobic respiration, denitrification, and sulfate reduction (Arnosti et al., 1998; Rysgaard et al., 2004). The community at the polar site (where  $T_{\text{opt}}$  was lowest at 21 °C) may still be psychrophilic based on  $T_{\text{opt}}$  values for growth, as denitrifying isolates obtained from this site had optimal growth rates between 5–15 °C (Canion et al., 2013). Similar results from pure cultures of psychrophilic sulfate-reducing bacteria corroborate our observations: values of  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for growth were found to be up to 10 °C lower than those for sulfate respiration (Isaksen and Jorgensen, 1996). Results indicate that the properties of respiratory enzymes may be important in determining the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for growth of mesophiles, whereas metabolic pathways other than respiration limit the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for growth in psychrophiles.

Activation energy ( $E_a$ ) can also be used as an indicator of adaptation to low temperatures in conjunction with the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for denitrification. The  $E_a$  values for the denitrification temperature response integrate multiple enzymatic reactions of denitrifiers with a range of thermal adaptation, although lower values of  $E_a$  generally indicate high relative rates at low temperatures as a result of psychrophilic adaptation. Subtropical sediments had  $E_a$  values of 102–123 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, approximately twice that of the polar and temperate sites, which is interpreted as the presence of an exclusively mesophilic community. In contrast, the lower  $E_a$  values at the polar and temperate sites were indicative of a significant contribution of psychrophilic to psychrotolerant populations. The range of  $E_a$  we observed for polar and temperate sites (50–65 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) is comparable to previous observations of  $E_a$  of 60.6 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> for denitrification in Arctic marine muds (Rysgaard et al., 2004). The ratio of denitrification at 5 °C to  $T_{\text{opt}}$  also confirms an increasing contribution of psychrophilic communities to denitrification across the gradient from subtropical to polar sediments. Specifically, polar sites exhibited rates of denitrification at 5 °C that



were 34 % of the rate at  $T_{opt}$ , whereas the temperate and subtropical sites had rates at 5°C that were 14 % and 1 % of  $T_{opt}$ , respectively.

Seasonal variation in  $T_{opt}$  was observed at the temperate site, Sylt, and the broadening of the  $T_{opt}$  in summer, rather than a clear shift towards a higher  $T_{opt}$ , suggests that psychrophilic to psychrotolerant denitrifying communities remain active in the summer when mesophilic activity is also apparent. Similarly, the  $E_a$  for denitrification at Sylt was similar between summer and winter months, indicating that psychrophilic/psychrotolerant populations still contributed to denitrification in the summer. Seasonal variation in  $T_{opt}$  for nitrate reduction has been observed in temperate salt-marsh sediments, where two distinct temperature optima for nitrate reduction at 12.8 and 28°C were observed in winter and spring, respectively (King and Nedwell, 1984). These two temperature optima were interpreted as evidence of two nitrate-reducing communities with distinct temperature adaptation. In the present study, such a low temperature optima in the winter was not observed; however, the  $T_{opt}$  of 12.8°C in the study of King and Nedwell (1984) may have been the result of a seasonal development of an anammox community (see below), but the study was conducted prior to the discovery of anammox.

### 4.3 Temperature adaptation of anammox

Multiple lines of evidence in this study indicate that the anammox process is well-adapted to cold conditions. At both the polar and temperate sites, low  $T_{opt}$  and  $E_a$  values of anammox relative to denitrification and the ratio of the anammox rate at 5°C to  $T_{opt}$  (35 %) all support cold adaptation. Anammox activity was also absent from the subtropical sites. A  $T_{opt}$  of 9°C at the polar site is consistent with the optima of 12–15°C previously observed in Arctic fjord and deep North Sea muds, with in situ temperatures of –1.3 and 6°C, respectively (Dalsgaard and Thamdrup, 2002; Rysgaard et al., 2004). Nitrification, which supplies nitrite for the anammox reaction, was found to have  $T_{opt}$  values of 8–16°C in Svalbard fjord muds, closely corresponding to the  $T_{opt}$  for anammox (Thamdrup and Fleischer, 1998). The  $T_{opt}$  of 26°C at the temperate

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

[Title Page](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[References](#)

[Tables](#)

[Figures](#)

[⏪](#)

[⏩](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

[Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

[Interactive Discussion](#)

site is similar to previously reported  $T_{\text{opt}}$  values of approximately 25 °C for enrichments of marine anammox bacteria performed at 15–30 °C (Kawagoshi et al., 2012; van de Vossenberg et al., 2008). The temperate  $T_{\text{opt}}$  of 26 °C for anammox indicates a psychrotolerant rather than a mesophilic response (see the previous section for rationale).

5 Based on previous observations of the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for respiration and growth on sulfate in pure cultures of mesophiles (Isaksen and Jorgensen, 1996), a  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for anammox higher than 30 °C would be expected if the anammox community at the temperate site were dominated by mesophiles.

10 Anammox bacteria detected in the marine environment belong almost exclusively to the genus *Scalindua* within the Planctomycetes, and evidence for temperature-selected ecotypes has been found in enrichments from temperate fjord sediments (van de Vossenberg et al., 2008). However, reports of anammox activity in marine samples are generally limited to environmental temperatures of 25 °C or less. The compilation of the marine anammox activity measurements in Schmid et al. (2007) includes oxygen  
15 minimum zone water columns, temperate sediments, and polar sediments with a range of in situ temperatures between –1.5 and 17 °C, with one observation at 20 °C. Anammox activity has been detected in temperate estuarine sediments with in situ temperatures ranging from 15–19 °C (Dale et al., 2009; Teixeira et al., 2012), and rates were depressed or undetectable in summer months when temperatures were above 20 °C.  
20 The presence of anammox has been confirmed in subtropical and tropical mangrove sediments (Fernandes et al., 2012; Meyer et al., 2005); however, anammox communities in brackish mangrove sediments may be more metabolically diverse than those of marine sediments exposed to higher salinities (Amano et al., 2011). Along with the evidence from temperature block incubations in the present study, these studies suggest  
25 that marine anammox bacteria (*Scalindua*) are predominately psychrophilic to psychrotolerant. However, more surveys of the activity and diversity of anammox bacteria are required to thoroughly test this observation.

## 4.4 Implications for N removal on continental shelves

Rates of nitrogen removal from sands under simulated pore water advection in the present study support the emerging paradigm that permeable shelf sediments are important sites of N removal. To our knowledge, we provide the first report of denitrification and anammox activity from permeable sediments of a polar or permanently cold ecosystem. The contribution of arctic permeable shelf sediments to global N removal is likely significant, given the vast continental shelf of the Arctic Ocean.

Microbial community adaptation to in situ temperatures has been previously demonstrated in fine-grained marine sediments for aerobic respiration, hydrolysis, nitrate respiration, and sulfate reduction (Rysgaard et al., 2004; Arnosti et al., 1998; Thamdrup et al., 1998). In permeable continental shelf sediments, we observed a strong temperature adaptation of microbial communities that mediate denitrification to in situ temperature, and marine anammox bacteria appear to thrive in sediments exposed to colder conditions. Thus, other environmental parameters are likely to outweigh temperature as the dominant control on sediment N loss rates from permeable sediments.

*Acknowledgements.* This study was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation (OCE-0424967 and OCE-0726754), Florida State University (PEG 513680014), and the Max Planck Society. Partial support was provided to J. E. Kostka by the Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg. T. M. Gihring was supported in part by a fellowship from the Estuarine Reserves Division, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We thank Patrick Chanton, John Kaba, and Yingfeng Xu for their assistance with sample collection and analysis. We also acknowledge cruise participants and Captain Stig Henningsen for assistance with sample collection in Svalbard in 2010, and we thank the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for permission to sample at St. George Island State Park.

**BGD**

10, 14595–14626, 2013

### Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

[Title Page](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[References](#)

[Tables](#)

[Figures](#)

[⏪](#)

[⏩](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

[Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

[Interactive Discussion](#)



## References

- Amano, T., Yoshinaga, I., Yamagishi, T., Thuoc, C. V., Thu, P. T., Ueda, S., Kato, K., Sako, Y., and Suwa, Y.: Contribution of Anammox Bacteria to Benthic Nitrogen Cycling in a Mangrove Forest and Shrimp Ponds, Haiphong, Vietnam, *Microbes Environ.*, 26, 1–6, 2011.
- 5 An, S. M., Gardner, W. S., and Kana, T.: Simultaneous measurement of denitrification and nitrogen fixation using isotope pairing with membrane inlet mass spectrometry analysis, *Appl. Environ. Microb.*, 67, 1171–1178, 2001.
- Arnosti, C., Jorgensen, B. B., Sagemann, J., and Thamdrup, B.: Temperature dependence of microbial degradation of organic matter in marine sediments: polysaccharide hydrolysis, oxygen consumption, and sulfate reduction, *Mar. Ecol.-Prog. Ser.*, 165, 59–70, 1998.
- 10 Bower, C. E. and Holm-Hansen, T.: A Salicylate-Hypochlorite Method for Determining Ammonia in Seawater, *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.*, 37, 794–798, 1980.
- Braman, R. S. and Hendrix, S. A.: Nanogram Nitrite and Nitrate Determination in Environmental and Biological-Materials by Vanadium(III) Reduction with Chemi-Luminescence Detection, *Anal. Chem.*, 61, 2715–2718, 1989.
- 15 Canion, A., Prakash, O., Green, S. J., Jahnke, L., Kuypers, M. M. M., and Kostka, J. E.: Isolation and physiological characterization of psychrophilic denitrifying bacteria from permanently cold Arctic fjord sediments (Svalbard, Norway), *Environ. Microbiol.*, 15, 1606–1618, doi:10.1111/1462-2920.12110, 2013.
- 20 Cardenas, M. B., Cook, P. L. M., Jiang, H. S., and Traykovski, P.: Constraining denitrification in permeable wave-influenced marine sediment using linked hydrodynamic and biogeochemical modeling, *Earth Planet. Sc. Lett.*, 275, 127–137, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2008.08.016, 2008.
- Chipman, L., Huettel, M., and Laschet, M.: Effect of benthic-pelagic coupling on dissolved organic carbon concentrations in permeable sediments and water column in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico, *Cont. Shelf Res.*, 45, 116–125, doi:10.1016/j.csr.2012.06.010, 2012.
- 25 Codispoti, L. A.: An oceanic fixed nitrogen sink exceeding  $400 \text{ Tg N a}^{-1}$  vs the concept of homeostasis in the fixed-nitrogen inventory, *Biogeosciences*, 4, 233–253, doi:10.5194/bg-4-233-2007, 2007.
- 30 Cook, P. L. M., Wenzhofer, F., Rysgaard, S., Galaktionov, O. S., Meysman, F. J. R., Eyre, B. D., Cornwell, J., Huettel, M., and Glud, R. N.: Quantification of denitrification in permeable sediments: Insights from a two-dimensional simulation analysis and experimental data, *Limnol. Oceanogr.-Meth.*, 4, 294–307, 2006.

### Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

- Cornwell, J. C., Kemp, W. M., and Kana, T. M.: Denitrification in coastal ecosystems: methods, environmental controls, and ecosystem level controls, a review, *Aquat. Ecol.*, 33, 41–54, 1999.
- Dale, O. R., Tobias, C. R., and Song, B.: Biogeographical distribution of diverse anaerobic ammonium oxidizing (anammox) bacteria in Cape Fear River Estuary, *Environ. Microbiol.*, 11, 1194–1207, doi:10.1111/j.1462-2920.2008.01850.x, 2009.
- Dalsgaard, T. and Thamdrup, B.: Factors controlling anaerobic ammonium oxidation with nitrite in marine sediments, *Appl. Environ. Microb.*, 68, 3802–3808, doi:10.1128/aem.68.8.3802-3808.2002, 2002.
- de Beer, D., Wenzhofer, F., Ferdelman, T. G., Boehme, S. E., Huettel, M., van Beusekom, J. E. E., Bottcher, M. E., Musat, N., and Dubilier, N.: Transport and mineralization rates in North Sea sandy intertidal sediments, Sylt-Romo Basin, Wadden Sea, *Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 50, 113–127, 2005.
- Deek, A., Emeis, K., and van Beusekom, J.: Nitrogen removal in coastal sediments of the German Wadden Sea, *Biogeochemistry*, 108, 467–483, doi:10.1007/s10533-011-9611-1, 2012.
- Deutsch, B., Forster, S., Wilhelm, M., Dippner, J. W., and Voss, M.: Denitrification in sediments as a major nitrogen sink in the Baltic Sea: an extrapolation using sediment characteristics, *Biogeosciences*, 7, 3259–3271, doi:10.5194/bg-7-3259-2010, 2010.
- Emery, K. O.: Relict sediments on continental shelves of the world, *Am. Assoc. Petr. Geo. B.*, 52, 445–464, 1968.
- Eyre, B. D., Glud, R. N., and Patten, N.: Mass coral spawning: A natural large-scale nutrient addition experiment, *Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 53, 997–1013, doi:10.4319/lo.2008.53.3.0997, 2008.
- Eyre, B. D., Santos, I. R., and Maher, D. T.: Seasonal, daily and diel N<sub>2</sub> effluxes in permeable carbonate sediments, *Biogeosciences*, 10, 2601–2615, doi:10.5194/bg-10-2601-2013, 2013.
- Feller, G. and Gerday, C.: Psychrophilic enzymes: Hot topics in cold adaptation, *Nat. Rev. Microbiol.*, 1, 200–208, doi:10.1038/nrmicro773, 2003.
- Fernandes, S. O., Michotey, V. D., Guasco, S., Bonin, P. C., and Loka Bharathi, P. A.: Denitrification prevails over anammox in tropical mangrove sediments (Goa, India), *Mar. Environ. Res.*, 74, 9–19, doi:10.1016/j.marenvres.2011.11.008, 2012.
- Forland, E. J. and Hanssen-Bauer, I.: Past and future climate variations in the Norwegian Arctic: overview and novel analyses, *Polar Res.*, 22, 113–124, doi:10.1111/j.1751-8369.2003.tb00102.x, 2003.

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

[Title Page](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[References](#)

[Tables](#)

[Figures](#)

[⏪](#)

[⏩](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

[Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

[Interactive Discussion](#)



Galloway, J. N., Dentener, F. J., Capone, D. G., Boyer, E. W., Howarth, R. W., Seitzinger, S. P., Asner, G. P., Cleveland, C. C., Green, P. A., Holland, E. A., Karl, D. M., Michaels, A. F., Porter, J. H., Townsend, A. R., and Vorosmarty, C. J.: Nitrogen cycles: past, present, and future, *Biogeochemistry*, 70, 153–226, 2004.

5 Gao, H., Matyka, M., Liu, B., Khalili, A., Kostka, J. E., Collins, G., Jansen, S., Holtappels, M., Jensen, M. M., Badewien, T. H., Beck, M., Grunwald, M., de Beer, D., Lavik, G., and Kuypers, M. M. M.: Intensive and extensive nitrogen loss from intertidal permeable sediments of the Wadden Sea, *Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 57, 185–198, doi:10.4319/lo.2012.57.1.0185, 2012.

Garside, C.: A chemiluminescent technique for the determination of nanomolar concentrations of nitrate and nitrite in sea-water, *Mar. Chem.*, 11, 159–167, doi:10.1016/0304-4203(82)90039-1, 1982.

Gihring, T. M., Canion, A., Riggs, A., Huettel, M., and Kostka, J. E.: Denitrification in shallow, sublittoral Gulf of Mexico permeable sediments, *Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 55, 43–54, 2010.

Hedtkamp, S. I. C.: Shallow subtidal sand: Permeability, nutrient dynamics, microphytobenthos, and organic matter, Ph.D., Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Kiel, 141 pp., 2005.

15 Holtappels, M., Lavik, G., Jensen, M. M., and Kuypers, M. M. M.: <sup>15</sup>N Labeling Experiments to Dissect the Contributions of Heterotrophic Denitrification and Anammox to Nitrogen Removal in the OMZ Waters of the Ocean, *Meth. Enzymol.*, 486, 223–251, 2011.

Huettel, M.: Influence of the lugworm *Arenicola marina* on porewater nutrient profiles of sand flat sediments, *Mar. Ecol.-Prog. Ser.*, 62, 241–248, 1990.

20 Huettel, M. and Rusch, A.: Transport and degradation of phytoplankton in permeable sediment, *Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 45, 534–549, 2000.

Isaksen, M. F. and Jorgensen, B. B.: Adaptation of psychrophilic and psychrotrophic sulfate-reducing bacteria to permanently cold marine environments, *Appl. Environ. Microb.*, 62, 408–414, 1996.

25 Kaplan, W. A., Teal, J. M., and Valiela, I.: Denitrification in salt-marsh sediments – Evidence for seasonal temperature selection among populations of denitrifiers, *Microb. Ecol.*, 3, 193–204, 1977.

30 Kawagoshi, Y., Fujisaki, K., Tomoshige, Y., Yamashiro, K., and Qiao, Y. W.: Temperature effect on nitrogen removal performance and bacterial community in culture of marine anammox bacteria derived from sea-based waste disposal site, *J. Biosci. Bioeng.*, 113, 515–520, 10.1016/j.jbiosc.2011.11.024, 2012.

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

[Title Page](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[References](#)

[Tables](#)

[Figures](#)

[⏪](#)

[⏩](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

[Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

[Interactive Discussion](#)



King, D. and Nedwell, D. B.: Changes in the nitrate-reducing community of an anaerobic salt-marsh sediment in response to seasonal selection by temperature, *J. Gen. Microbiol.*, 130, 2935–2941, 1984.

Meyer, R. L., Risgaard-Petersen, N., and Allen, D. E.: Correlation between Anammox Activity and Microscale Distribution of Nitrite in a Subtropical Mangrove Sediment, *Appl. Environ. Microb.*, 71, 6142–6149, doi:10.1128/aem.71.10.6142-6149.2005, 2005.

Morita, R. Y.: Psychrophilic bacteria, *Bacteriol. Rev.*, 39, 144–167, 1975.

National Data Buoy Center: <http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov>.

Nielsen, L. P.: Denitrification in Sediment Determined from Nitrogen Isotope Pairing, *FEMS Microbiol. Ecol.*, 86, 357–362, 1992.

Ogilvie, B. G., Rutter, M., and Nedwell, D. B.: Selection by temperature of nitrate-reducing bacteria from estuarine sediments: Species composition and competition for nitrate, *FEMS Microbiol. Ecol.*, 23, 11–22, 1997.

Risgaard-Petersen, N., Nielsen, L. P., Rysgaard, S., Dalsgaard, T., and Meyer, R. L.: Application of the isotope pairing technique in sediments where anammox and denitrification coexist, *Limnol. Oceanogr.-Meth.*, 1, 63–73, 2003.

Rysgaard, S., Glud, R. N., Risgaard-Petersen, N., and Dalsgaard, T.: Denitrification and anammox activity in Arctic marine sediments, *Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 49, 1493–1502, 2004.

Sagemann, J., Jorgensen, B. B., and Greeff, O.: Temperature dependence and rates of sulfate reduction in cold sediments of Svalbard, Arctic Ocean, *Geomicrobiol. J.*, 15, 85–100, 1998.

Sawicka, J. E., Robador, A., Hubert, C., Jorgensen, B. B., and Bruchert, V.: Effects of freeze-thaw cycles on anaerobic microbial processes in an Arctic intertidal mud flat, *ISME J.*, 4, 585–594, doi:10.1038/ismej.2009.140, 2010.

Schmid, M. C., Risgaard-Petersen, N., van de Vossenberg, J., Kuypers, M. M. M., Lavik, G., Petersen, J., Hulth, S., Thamdrup, B., Canfield, D., Dalsgaard, T., Rysgaard, S., Sejr, M. K., Strous, M., den Camp, H., and Jetten, M. S. M.: Anaerobic ammonium-oxidizing bacteria in marine environments: widespread occurrence but low diversity, *Environ. Microbiol.*, 9, 1476–1484, 2007.

Seeberg-Elverfeldt, J., Schluter, M., Feseker, T., and Kolling, M.: Rhizon sampling of porewaters near the sediment-water interface of aquatic systems, *Limnol. Oceanogr.-Meth.*, 3, 361–371, 2005.

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

Teixeira, C., Magalhaes, C., Joye, S. B., and Bordalo, A. A.: Potential rates and environmental controls of anaerobic ammonium oxidation in estuarine sediments, *Aquat. Microb. Ecol.*, 66, 23–32, doi:10.3354/ame01548, 2012.

Thamdrup, B. and Dalsgaard, T.: Production of N<sub>2</sub> through anaerobic ammonium oxidation coupled to nitrate reduction in marine sediments, *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.*, 68, 1312–1318, doi:10.1128/aem.68.3.1312-1318.2002, 2002.

Thamdrup, B. and Dalsgaard, T.: Nitrogen Cycling in Sediments, in: *Microbial Ecology of the Oceans*, 2 Edn., edited by: Kirchman, D. L., John Wiley and Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey, 527–568, 2008.

Thamdrup, B. and Fleischer, S.: Temperature dependence of oxygen respiration, nitrogen mineralization, and nitrification in Arctic sediments, *Aquat. Microb. Ecol.*, 15, 191–199, 1998.

Thamdrup, B., Hansen, J. W., and Jorgensen, B. B.: Temperature dependence of aerobic respiration in a coastal sediment, *FEMS Microbiol. Ecol.*, 25, 189–200, 1998.

van Beusekom, J. E. E., Weigelt-Krenz, S., and Martens, P.: Long-term variability of winter nitrate concentrations in the Northern Wadden Sea driven by freshwater discharge, decreasing riverine loads and denitrification, *Helgoland Mar. Res.*, 62, 49–57, doi:10.1007/s10152-007-0092-5, 2008.

Van Beusekom, J. E. E., Buschbaum, C., and Reise, K.: Wadden Sea tidal basins and the mediating role of the North Sea in ecological processes: scaling up of management?, *Ocean Coast. Manage.*, 68, 69–78, doi:10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2012.05.002, 2012.

van de Vossenberg, J., Rattray, J. E., Geerts, W., Kartal, B., van Niftrik, L., van Donselaar, E. G., Damste, J. S. S., Strous, M., and Jetten, M. S. M.: Enrichment and characterization of marine anammox bacteria associated with global nitrogen gas production, *Environ. Microbiol.*, 10, 3120–3129, 2008.



## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

[Title Page](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[References](#)

[Tables](#)

[Figures](#)

[⏪](#)

[⏩](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

[Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

[Interactive Discussion](#)



**Table 1.** Sample site locations and sediment characteristics. Sites at Ymerbukta and Sylt were intertidal, and the sites at SGI were subtidal.

Site	Coordinates	Mean water (range) temperature	Sediment Type	Median ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) Grain Size	Permeability ( $\text{m}^2$ )	$C_{\text{org}}$ (wt %)	C : N
SGI Gulf (Gulf of Mexico) <sup>1</sup>	29°41.73' N 84°46.25' W	23°C (14 to 33)	Slightly gravelly fine sand	223	$2.4 \times 10^{-11}$	0.04	8.1
SGI Bay (Gulf of Mexico) <sup>1</sup>	29°39.86' N 84°52.38' W	23°C (14 to 33)	Slightly gravelly fine sand	211	$1.3 \times 10^{-11}$	0.08	8.4
Sylt (Wadden Sea) <sup>2</sup>	55°00.90' N 08°26.20' E	11°C (2 to 19)	Moderately well sorted medium sand	338	$4.8 \times 10^{-11}$	0.13	7.1
Ymerbukta (Svalbard) <sup>3</sup>	78°16.42' N 14°01.96' E	-5°C (-20 to 9)	Sandy very fine gravel	824	$1.0 \times 10^{-10}$	0.49	22.6

<sup>1</sup> Grain size and permeability from Chipman et al. (2012).

<sup>2</sup> Sediment characteristics from Hedtkamp (2005).

<sup>3</sup> Permeability estimated for Ymerbukta site according to the Carman-Kozeny equation.



## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

**Table 3.** Optimum temperatures ( $T_{\text{opt}}$ ), apparent activation energy ( $E_a$ ), and ratio of rates at 5 °C relative to  $T_{\text{opt}}$  for anammox and denitrification in permeable sediments. The range of the  $T_{\text{opt}}$  peak where rates did not fall below 90 % of the optimum rate is noted in parentheses.

		SGI Gulf	SGI Bay	Sylt Summer	Sylt Winter	Ymerbukta
Denitrification	$T_{\text{opt}}$ (°C)	36 (35–37)	35	34 (26–35)	26 (24–32)	21 (17–24)
	Rate at 5 °C relative to $T_{\text{opt}}$	1.4 %	0.4 %	17.1 %	11.2 %	34.4 %
	$E_a$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	102.7 ± 2.1	123.5 ± 4.0	51.7 ± 3.8	65.0 ± 4.0	57.8 ± 4.4
Anammox	$T_{\text{opt}}$ (°C)	N.A.	N.A.	26 (22–29)	N.D.	9
	Rate at 5 °C relative to $T_{\text{opt}}$	N.A.	N.A.	34.8 %	N.D.	35 %
	$E_a$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	N.A.	N.A.	35.0 ± 4.9	N.D.	N.D.

N.A. = no detectable activity; N.D. = not determined.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

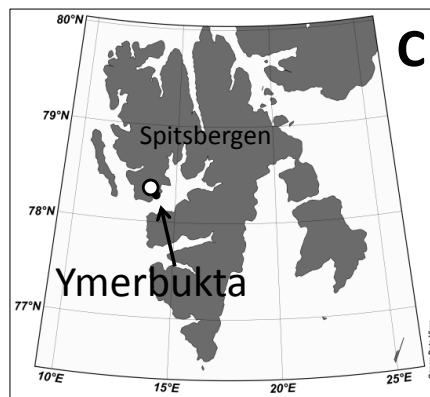
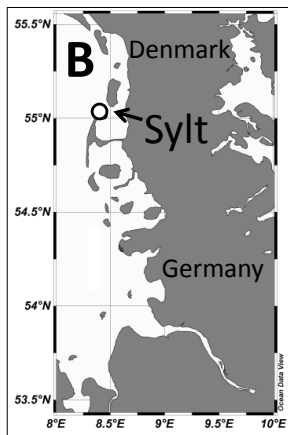
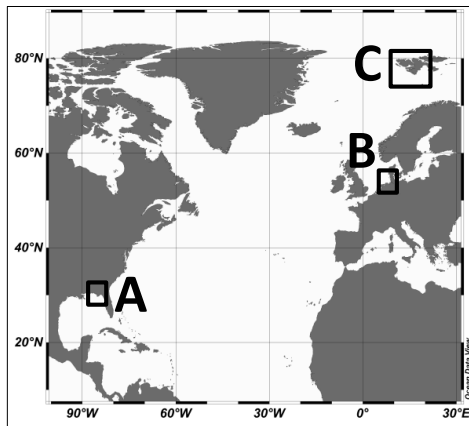
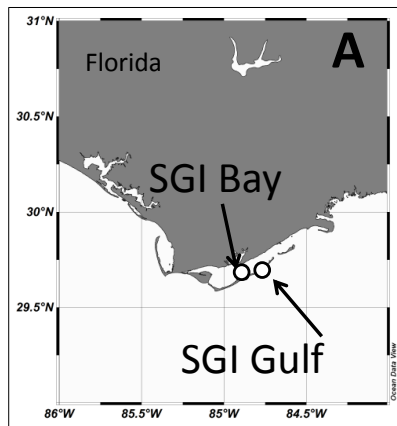
Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



**Fig. 1.** Location of the sample sites.

[Title Page](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[References](#)

[Tables](#)

[Figures](#)

[⏪](#)

[⏩](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

[Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

[Interactive Discussion](#)

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.

[Title Page](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Conclusions](#)

[References](#)

[Tables](#)

[Figures](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

[◀](#)

[▶](#)

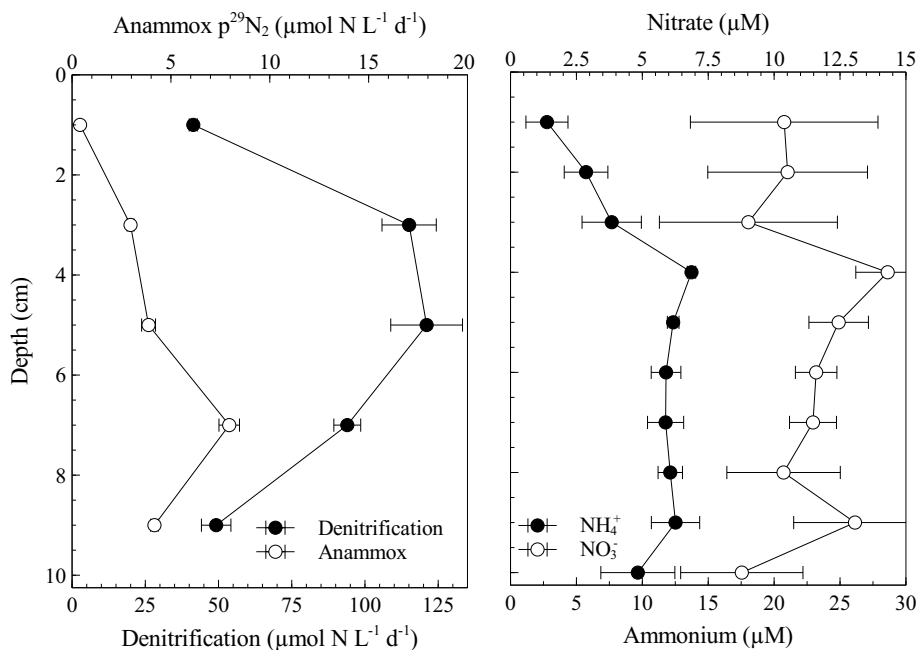
[Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Full Screen / Esc](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

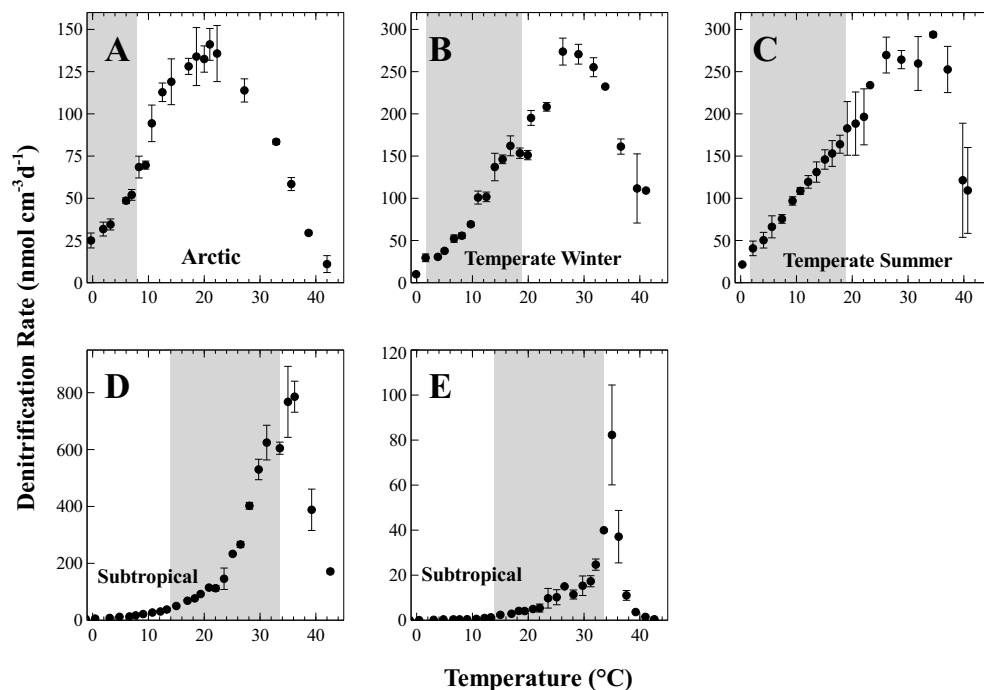
[Interactive Discussion](#)



**Fig. 2.** Left: Depth resolved potential rates of denitrification and anammox from Sylt in June 2007. Experiments using  $^{15}\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $^{15}\text{NH}_4^+$  tracer were used to estimate denitrification and anammox, respectively. Right: Pore water profiles of nitrate and ammonium from Sylt in June 2007. Error bars represent the standard error of 3 replicate profiles.

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.



**Fig. 3.** Potential denitrification rates measured in temperature gradient block experiments for **(A)** Ymerbukta, **(B)** Sylt (March 2007), **(C)** Sylt (June 2007), **(D)** SGI Gulf, and **(E)** SGI Bay. The seasonal temperature range is indicated by gray rectangles (Note that the seasonal minimum for **A** is  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Error bars represent the standard error of the regression slope calculated at each temperature. Note different y axis scaling.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

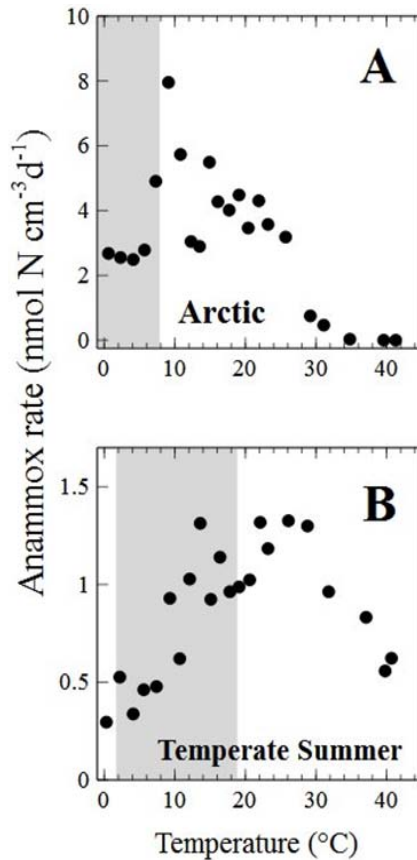
Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

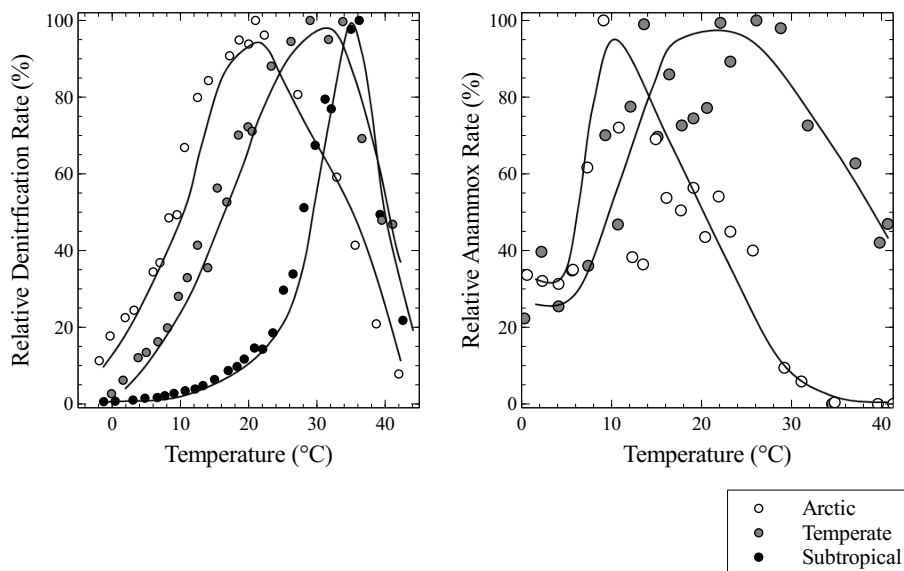
Interactive Discussion



**Fig. 4.** Potential anammox rates measured in temperature gradient block experiments for **(A)** Ymerbukta and **(B)** Sylt (June 2007). Rates were measured with  $^{15}\text{NH}_4^+$  label. Estimates of standard error were not made because rates were calculated from two time points. Note different y-axis scaling.

## Temperature response of denitrification and anammox

A. Canion et al.



**Fig. 5.** Left: Normalized temperature response of denitrification for subtropical, temperate, and arctic sites. Right: Normalized temperature response of anammox for temperate and arctic sites. Error bars are omitted for clarity

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion