

***Interactive comment on “Saturated CO<sub>2</sub> inhibits microbial processes in CO<sub>2</sub>-vented deep-sea sediments” by D. de Beer et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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General comments:

The paper is clearly written and contains all necessary background knowledge. The presented data required a technically very demanding operation with sophisticated equipment, and very few groups worldwide would be able to do similar analyses. The presented data on the inhibitory action of undissociated H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> associated with liquid CO<sub>2</sub> at great depths is relevant to science in general but has also great interest in the more applied sector as the seabed has been suggested as a storage environment for liquid CO<sub>2</sub>.

Specific comments (technical):

The paper is very well written but there are a few places where I feel that a little rewriting

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could help. In the introduction it is written that "Microbial kinetics can be repressed", and I do not feel that this is a valid way of expressing that microbial metabolism can be inhibited. In the figures "PC" and "MUC" should be defined as should "reference data".

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 1899, 2013.

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