

Mussel shells of *Mytilus edulis* as Bioarchives of the Distribution of Rare Earth Elements and Yttrium in Seawater and the Potential Impact of pH and Temperature on their Partitioning Behaviour

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Abstract

Mussel shells are potential bioarchives of proxies for changes of the physico-chemical conditions in the bivalve's habitat. One such proxy is the distribution of the Rare Earths and Yttrium (REY) in seawater, as REY speciation in seawater is sensitive to pH and temperature variations, due to the impact of these parameters on the activity of CO_3^{2-} in seawater. We present a new protocol for sample preparation and determination of ultratrace concentrations of REY in bulk bivalve shells (comprised of calcite and aragonite), that includes sample treatment with NaOCl followed by REY separation and preconcentration. The data obtained was used to calculate REY partition coefficients between bulk bimineralic shells of *Mytilus edulis* (calcite aragonite mix) and ambient seawater, and acquired results were then used to investigate the potential effects of pH and temperature on REY partitioning.

Shells of *Mytilus edulis* mussels from the North Sea show consistent shale-normalized ("SN") REY patterns that increase from the light REY to the middle REY and decrease from the middle REY to the heavy REY. Despite being different to the general seawater REY_{SN} pattern, the shells still display distinct REY features of seawater, such as a negative Ce_{SN}

33 anomaly and small positive Y_{SN} and Gd_{SN} anomalies. Apparent REY partition coefficients
34 between shells and seawater ($_{app}D_{Tot.REY}^{shell/seawater}$) are low and decrease strongly from the
35 light REY (4.04 for La) to the heavy REY (0.34 for Lu). However, assuming that only the
36 free REY^{3+} are incorporated into the shell, $_{mod}D_{FreeREY3+}^{shell/seawater}$ values are higher and rather
37 similar for all REY (102.46 for La; 113.44 for Lu), but show a slight maximum at Tb (199.18).
38 Although the impact of vital effects such as REY speciation in a mussel's extrapallial fluid
39 from which the carbonate minerals precipitate, cannot be quantified yet, it appears that *M.*
40 *edulis* shells are bioarchives of some REY features of seawater.

41 We modelled the REY_{SN} patterns of a hypothetical mussel shell at pH 8.2 and 7.6 and
42 at temperatures of 25°C and 5°C, assuming that only free REY^{3+} are incorporated into the
43 carbonate's crystal lattice and that vital effects do not obliterate the REY signal of the shells.
44 The results suggest that with lower pH, REY concentrations in shells increase, but with little
45 effect on the shape of the REY_{SN} patterns, while a temperature change has an impact on the
46 REY_{SN} pattern, but only minor effects on REY concentrations. Hence, after additional
47 calibration studies, the REY systematics in mussel shells may become a valuable proxy for
48 paleo-pH and ocean acidification.

49

50 **1. Introduction**

51 Mussels and mussel shells have increasingly gained importance as bioarchives of proxies that
52 record physico-chemical changes in their marine or freshwater habitat (Bau et al. 2010,
53 Gillikin et al. 2006a, Merschel and Bau 2015, Puente et al. 1996, Vander Putten et al. 2000,
54 Scourse et al. 2006, Stuesson 1976, Wanamaker et al. 2008). The chemical composition of
55 bivalve shells is known to contain a record of their past growth, based on the sequential
56 deposition of layers of mineralized material during their lifetime (Lindh et al. 1988, Weiner
57 2008, Wilbur and Saleuddin 1983). Hence, mussel shells may be valuable high-resolution
58 bioarchives of past marine, estuarine, fluvial and limnic conditions.

59 Trace elements such as the rare earths and yttrium (REY) have been shown to be
60 useful indicators of environmental change (Bau and Dulski 1996, Bau et al. 2010, Bolhar et
61 al. 2004, Kulaksız and Bau 2013, Lee et al. 2003, Möller et al. 2000, Murray et al. 1990,
62 Nothdurft et al. 2004, Tepe et al. 2014, Viehmann et al. 2014, Webb and Kamber 2000,
63 Wyndham et al. 2004). The REY are a group of elements that are similar in atomic structure
64 and chemical properties and hence behave coherently in natural systems. Their speciation in
65 seawater and the distinct REY patterns exhibited by different geological materials make them
66 very useful as geochemical proxies of oceanic change (Byrne 2002, Byrne and Miller 1985).

67 Other trace elements have also been shown to be incorporated into the shells during
68 annual layer formation and are assumed to be essentially immobile (Lindh et al. 1988). Stable
69 isotope studies of mussel shells and particularly of *Mytilus edulis* corroborate the use of shells
70 as paleoceanographic bioarchives (Gillikin et al. 2006b, Wanamaker et al. 2006, 2007).

71 Various mussel species have already been used as environmental indicators to monitor
72 pollution and bioavailability of (micro)contaminants (Liang et al. 2004, Lindh et al. 1988,
73 Merschel and Bau 2015, Puente et al. 1996, Stuesson 1976, Wagner and Boman 2004,
74 Zuykov et al. 2013) . However, the focus so far has often been on major and minor elements
75 such as Mg and Sr, while REY data for mussel shells are still rather scarce and
76 underrepresented. Given the growing importance of mussels in proxy development for the
77 ocean-climate system including ocean acidification, there is an ample need to better
78 understand these organisms and how they may be used as bioarchives of trace elements and
79 their isotopes.

80 Numerous studies have provided insights into the composition of ancient seawater and
81 the evolution of the environmental system based on the distribution of rare earth elements
82 (REEs) in chemical sediments (Alexander et al. 2009, Alibert and McCulloch 1993, Bau et al.
83 1997, Bau and Alexander 2006, 2009, Derry and Jacobsen 1990, Nothdurft et al. 2004,
84 Viehmann et al. 2014, 2015; and references therein). Similarly, other studies have
85 demonstrated the potential of bivalve shells to track the environmental conditions they were
86 exposed to (Bau et al. 2010, Dunca et al. 2005, Heinemann et al. 2011, Klein et al. 1996,
87 McCoy et al. 2011, Thébault et al. 2009, Weiner 2008) . Bau et al. (2010) have shown that the
88 positive Eu anomalies in the REY distribution patterns of shells of marine *Bathymodiolus*
89 mussels can be used as tracers for hidden or fossil high-temperature hydrothermal systems,
90 while Merschel and Bau (2015) demonstrated that shells of freshwater *Corbicula* mussels
91 may be used to study the bioavailability of anthropogenic REE microcontaminants. This
92 already gives a hint that mussel shells archive certain REY signatures of the environment in
93 which they grow. However, not much has been done to evaluate how accurately mussel shells
94 reflect REY patterns of seawater and what impacts their partitioning behavior.

95 In this study, we approached this issue via an *in situ* culture experiment using Blue
96 Mussels, *Mytilus edulis*, belonging to the family Mytilidae under the phylum Mollusca. This
97 species is endemic in the Northern Hemisphere and can be found in littoral and sublittoral
98 zones. Blue Mussels are tolerant to wide temperature and salinity ranges (Seed 1992), making
99 them good model organisms to study the aquatic environment. The *M. edulis* used in our
100 study were cultured offshore with no contact to the ocean floor, hence avoiding any

101 contamination from porewater or resuspended sediment.

102 We compared the REY distribution in *M. edulis* mussel shells and ambient seawater
103 with the aim to (i) establish a sample preparation and analytical protocol that allows for the
104 reliable and reproducible determination of the ultralow REY concentrations in mussel shells,
105 (ii) investigate which REY species is incorporated into the shells of *M. edulis*, and (iii)
106 illustrate and provide hints as to how such shells may reflect the REY characteristics of
107 ambient seawater and how they can be used as environmental proxies. Results from this study
108 show that mussel shells can serve as bioarchives of the REY distribution in their habitat and
109 can thus provide the basis for using mussel shells as bioarchives that host geochemical
110 proxies for paleoceanographic environmental reconstructions.

111

112 **2. Materials and Methods**

113 **2.1 Samples and Sites**

114 The mussels for this study originate from three locations in the North Sea along the coast of
115 the German Bight, namely; (a) nearshore in the *Jade Bay* (JD) (53° 35' 05'' N; 008° 09' 14''
116 E), (b) offshore at the lighthouse *Roter Sand* (RS) near the entrance of the Weser estuary (53°
117 51' 00'' N; 008° 04' 20'' E) and (c) offshore west of the island of Sylt at the *ODAS* site (OD)
118 (Messpfahl Süd/Southern pole: 54° 59' 36'' N; 007° 54' 46'' E) (*Fig. 1*). The mussels at *Jade*
119 *Bay* and *Roter Sand* settled on suspended artificial spat collectors (harnesses made from
120 polypropylene ropes and plastic binders) while those at the *ODAS* site grew wild on a steel
121 pile from a 25 years old research platform of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency
122 (BSH), formerly used to fix oceanographic measuring instruments. The testing areas were
123 specifically selected and designed to have the mussels grow on suspended artificial substrate,
124 which eliminates any potential contribution of porewater- or sediment-derived REY. The
125 mussels from *Jade Bay* and *Roter Sand* were approximately 18 months old, while those from
126 the *ODAS* site were approximately 24 months old.

127

128 **2.2 Shell Preparation**

129 Eight to eleven mussels from each site were pooled together based on the sampling site and
130 date. The mussels were lyophilized and the soft tissue was removed leaving the shells intact.
131 The obtained shell sizes ranged from 40 to 55 mm.

132 The shells obtained from the *ODAS* site were categorized in different sample pools
133 (ODAS I-III and ODAS IV-VIII) to evaluate two different protocols for the removal of the
134 periostracum, i.e. of the outer organic layer that covers the shell surface (Bellotto and Miekely

135 2007). For the ODAS I-III shell pools, the shells were soaked in NaOCl overnight before the
136 shells were rinsed several times with de-ionized water to remove remaining NaOCl and then
137 air-dried. For the ODAS IV-VIII pools, the shells were put in an oven and the periostracum
138 was then removed using a spatula. This difference in sample preparation does not affect the
139 analytical results (*Fig. 2*), and hence the method using NaOCl is strongly recommended,
140 because it is much more convenient and efficient, less time consuming and minimizes
141 potential contamination.

142 The bulk carbonate shells of each individual pool were then crushed in an agate mortar
143 and homogenized. One and half grams of each shell powder were digested for 2 h at 90°C in
144 30 ml of 5 M Suprapur®HNO₃ (Carl Roth GmbH + Co.KG, Germany) in pre-cleaned Teflon
145 beakers covered by small Teflon plates. After two hours, the beakers were uncovered and the
146 sample solutions were evaporated to incipient dryness. The residues were dissolved in 25 ml
147 of 0.5 M HNO₃ (Carl Roth GmbH + Co.KG, Germany), and filtered into a small polyethylene
148 bottles using an acid-cleaned 0.2 µm cellulose acetate filter and syringe. The international
149 reference standard JLS-1 (a Permian limestone from Japan) was used as the certified reference
150 material, because it is similar in composition to the carbonate shell matrix and contains low
151 REY concentrations.

152 A separation and preconcentration procedure (Bau et al. 2010), adapted from a method
153 used to determine REY in seawater and freshwater (Shabani et al. 1992, Bau and Dulski
154 1996) was utilized owing to the low REY concentrations and potential matrix problems that
155 may occur due to the Ca-rich shell matrix. A 12 mL aliquot of the digested sample solution
156 was diluted in 500 mL de-ionized water, acidified to a pH value between 1.8 and 2.0 with
157 Suprapur® HCl (Merck KGaA, Germany), and subsequently spiked with 0.5 ml of a 100 ppb
158 Tm solution to monitor the recovery rates of the REY during the preconcentration procedure,
159 while the remaining solution was set aside and labelled as ‘digest’. A 15 mL aliquot of each
160 filtered, acidified and spiked sample was labelled as ‘original’ and set aside to be used to
161 determine the reference concentration of the Tm spike.

162 Each shell sample solution was then passed through a C¹⁸ cartridge (Waters, Sep-Pak®
163 Classic C¹⁸, single use) pre-loaded with a 2-ethylhexyl phosphate ester (Merck KGaA,
164 Germany), in order to quantitatively retain the REY. Each cartridge was then ‘washed’ with
165 0.01 M Suprapur® HCl (Merck KGaA, Germany) to remove remaining matrix elements like
166 major alkali and alkali earth elements before the REY were eluted using 40 ml of 6 M
167 Suprapur® HCl (Merck KGaA, Germany). The eluate was then evaporated in a Teflon beaker

168 to incipient dryness, and the residue was eventually dissolved in 10 ml of 0.5 M Suprapur®
169 HNO₃ (Carl Roth GmbH + Co.KG, Germany).

170 A 100 ppb internal standard consisting of Ru, Re and Bi was added to each sample
171 solution. Procedural blanks and the JLs-1 reference standard were processed along with the
172 samples for analytical quality control.

173

174 **2.3 Water Sample Preparation**

175 A 1000 mL sample of North Sea water from the ODAS area was filtered using a filter tower
176 mounted with 0.2 µm membrane filters (Sartorius AG, Germany). The pH of the filtrate was
177 adjusted to 2.0 using Suprapur® HCl (Merck KGaA, Germany). Furthermore, 0.4 mL of a
178 100 ppb Tm solution was added to monitor the recovery rates of the REY during the
179 subsequent separation and preconcentration procedure. 20 mL of this solution was set aside as
180 ‘original’ to determine the Tm reference concentration. A separation and preconcentration
181 procedure similar to the one used for the shell samples was then employed (see *Sect. 2.2*).

182

183 **2.4 Analysis**

184 The sample solutions were analyzed for REY using an inductively coupled plasma mass
185 spectrometer, ICP-MS (Perkin-Elmer/Sciex ELAN DRC-e), at Jacobs University Bremen. As
186 0.5 g of 100 ppb Tm had been added as an internal standard to each sample solution to
187 evaluate REY recovery during pre-concentration, Tm data for the shells is not reported.

188

189 **2.5 Analytical Quality Assessment**

190 To validate the method, the analytical precision was determined by applying our analytical
191 procedure of sample digestion, REY separation and preconcentration, and measurement by
192 ICP-MS to multiple aliquots (n=4) of homogenized *M. edulis* shells that were milled together
193 to form a single large sample pool, and to an aliquot of the international reference standard
194 JLs-1 which is a REY-poor Permian limestone from Japan.

195 It is common practice to present REY data normalized to Post-Archean Australian
196 Shale, PAAS (subscript “_{SN}”; PAAS after McLennan 1989) . The REY_{SN} patterns for the
197 multiple aliquots of homogenized *M. edulis* shells for the quality assessment are presented in
198 *Fig. 3*. Anomalies of Ce_{SN}, Gd_{SN} and Y_{SN} have been quantified using *Eq. (1a-c)*.

199

$$200 \text{ Ce}_{\text{SN}} \text{ anomaly} = \text{Ce}_{\text{SN}} / (2\text{Pr}_{\text{SN}} - \text{Nd}_{\text{SN}}) \quad (1a)$$

$$201 \text{ Gd}_{\text{SN}} \text{ anomaly} = \text{Gd}_{\text{SN}} / (0.33\text{Sm}_{\text{SN}} + 0.67 \text{Tb}_{\text{SN}}) \quad (1b)$$

202 $Y_{SN} \text{ anomaly} = Y_{SN} / Ho_{SN}$ (1c)

203

204 Precision (*Fig. 3*), expressed as relative standard deviation (RSD) from the average, is <4%
205 for Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Mo, Er and Yb, <9% RSD for Lu and <34% RSD for La.
206 The reason for the high RSD for La is unclear. Except for La, however, the reproducibility is
207 excellent and falls within the symbol size used in *Fig. 3*. The analytical accuracy of the
208 applied method was established from the JLs-1 values obtained and compared to published
209 reference values from Dulski (2001), and did not show any significant systematic difference
210 between our data and published values (*Fig. 3*).

211

212 **2.6 Modelling of the Speciation of REY**

213 To get a better insight as to how REY behave during their incorporation in the shells of *M.*
214 *edulis*, the inorganic speciation of REY in North Sea seawater at the ODAS site was modelled
215 complementing previous work on the REE speciation in seawater by Byrne et al. (1988) by
216 including Y. Following Byrne et al. (1988) and Millero (1992), modelling was done for pH
217 8.2 and pH 7.6 at 25°C and 5°C using the Hyperquad Simulation and Speciation 2009
218 (HySS2009) modelling software. The inorganic speciation of REY was modelled for REY³⁺
219 (as the free uncomplexed REY), REY(OH)²⁺, REY(F)²⁺, REY(Cl)²⁺, REY(SO₄)⁺,
220 REY(CO₃)⁺, REY(CO₃)₂⁻ and REY(HCO₃)⁺. Stability constants and ligand concentrations
221 were obtained from Byrne et al. (1988), and Millero (1992). The percentage of the REY
222 complexes relative to the total REY concentration was calculated using *Eq. (2)* (where the
223 brackets denote the dissolved concentration in seawater).

224

225
$$\% \text{ Complex of Total REY} = \frac{\{\text{REY Complex}\}}{\{\text{Total REY}\}} \times 100 \quad \text{Eq. (2)}$$

226

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234 3. Results

235 3.1 REY in *Mytilus edulis* shells and ambient seawater from the ODAS site

236 All REY_{SN} data for the mussel shells from ODAS, Jade and Roter Sand are summarized in
237 Fig. 4. The *M. edulis* shells from the North Sea have Nd concentrations of 8.0 µg kg⁻¹ (mean
238 for ODAS, 1σ: 0.0017), 6.1 µg kg⁻¹ (Jade Bay) and 8.7 µg kg⁻¹ (Roter Sand), respectively. The
239 REY_{SN} patterns of the shells from the three different sites are also very similar and increase
240 from the light REY (LREY) to the middle REY (MREY) and decrease from the MREY to the
241 heavy REY (HREY) (Fig. 4). All patterns display negative Ce_{SN} (0.70) and positive Gd_{SN}
242 (1.49) and Y_{SN} (1.70) anomalies (Fig. 4).

243 The Nd concentration in the North Sea water sample from the ODAS site is 32 pM and
244 its REY_{SN} pattern is a “typical” seawater pattern with depletion of LREY relative to HREY,
245 positive Y_{SN} anomaly, and a negative Ce_{SN} anomaly (Fig. 4). The characteristic small
246 anthropogenic positive Gd_{SN} anomaly present in the southern North Sea (Kulaksiz and Bau,
247 2007) is also seen in the ODAS seawater sample.

248

249 3.2 REY Speciation in North Sea Seawater

250 As previously shown for seawater in general (Byrne et al. 1988, Cantrell and Byrne 1986,
251 Millero 1992), the mono- and di-carbonate complexes (REY(CO₃)⁺ and REY(CO₃)₂⁻,
252 respectively) are the dominant inorganic REY complex species in North Sea seawater of
253 temperature 25°C at pH 8.2 (Fig. 5a). Only a small fraction (<5%) of each REY occurs as free
254 REY³⁺, but this percentage increases to 13.5% (for La) when the pH is reduced to 7.6. As pH
255 decreases, REY(CO₃)⁺ complexes increase at the expense of REY(CO₃)₂⁻ complexes (Fig. 5b).
256 Yttrium displays a very similar speciation to Ho (Fig. 5), conforming the similarity between
257 these two geochemical twins. The modelled percentages of free REY³⁺ available in the North
258 Sea seawater at 5°C for the two pH conditions can be found in the online supplementary
259 material provided.

260

261 4. Discussion

262 4.1 Partitioning of REY

263 Apparent bulk distribution coefficients of REY between *M. edulis* shells and ambient
264 seawater, $_{app}D_{Tot.REY}^{shell/seawater}$, may be calculated from Eq. (3):

265

$$appD_{Tot.REY}^{shell/seawater} = \frac{\left(\frac{[REY]}{[Ca]} \right)^{Shell}}{\left(\frac{\{Total REY\}}{\{Ca\}} \right)^{Seawater}}$$

Eq. (3)

266

267 where;

268 Ca in seawater = 0.01 mol/l;

269 Ca in shells = 10 mol/l.

270

271 This equation has previously been used to calculate the distribution coefficients of trace
 272 elements between the two major polymorphs of calcium carbonate namely calcite and
 273 aragonite, and ambient seawater (e.g., Akagi et al. 2004, Sholkovitz and Shen 1995). Shells of
 274 *M. edulis* are known to be bimineralic, i.e. composed of the two polymorphs of Ca carbonate:
 275 calcite and aragonite (e.g., Lorens and Bender 1980). The apparent distribution coefficients of
 276 REY between the shells and seawater from the *ODAS* site are shown in *Fig. 6*. The
 277 $appD_{Tot.REY}^{shell/seawater}$ of our shells reveal fractionation with a preferential uptake of LREY as
 278 compared to HREY from seawater into the carbonate shell.

279 Certain differences and similarities are observed when published field and
 280 experimental apparent bulk partition coefficients are compared with our results (*Fig. 7*). A
 281 clear separation with regard to partition coefficients for calcite and aragonite can be observed
 282 in the field observations, showing that $appD_{Tot.REY}^{shell/seawater}$ values for corals of aragonitic
 283 composition vary between approximately 1 and 10 (Akagi et al. 2004, Sholkovitz and Shen
 284 1995), while those of calcitic composition such as foraminifera, microbialites and other
 285 marine calcites, are much higher and range between 70 and 1656 (Palmer 1985, Parekh et al.
 286 1977, Webb and Kamber 2000) . Laboratory experiments exploring the partitioning of REE
 287 and Y between calcite or aragonite and aqueous solutions have also been carried out to
 288 elucidate the incorporation process. Terakado and Masuda (1988) obtained values ranging
 289 between 2.5 to ~ 10 for calcite and ~ 2.5 to ~ 5 for aragonite. Zhong and Mucci (1995) on the
 290 other hand found much higher partition coefficients for their experimental calcite, ranging
 291 from 4169 (Pr) to 794 (Lu) and fractionation between the LREE and HREE. This pattern is
 292 quite similar to that of the *M. edulis* shells and ambient North Sea seawater determined in our
 293 study, despite much lower absolute values (between 4.23 for La and 0.17 for Lu). A study of
 294 *Bathymodiolus puteoserpentis* mussels that lived close to a high-temperature hydrothermal
 295 system (Bau et al. 2010) indicate partition coefficient values which define a pattern showing

296 preferential incorporation of the MREY and a decrease towards the HREY with a maximum
 297 at Eu.

298 Comparisons of the $_{app}D_{Tot.REY}^{shell/seawater}$ pattern of our *M. edulis* shells shown in *Fig. 6*
 299 with the REY speciation in North Sea seawater shown in *Fig. 5a*, and of the REY_{SN} patterns
 300 of the ODAS shells with the free REY³⁺_{SN} patterns of North Sea seawater (*Fig. 8*) suggest that
 301 (i) free REY³⁺ may be the REY species which are actually removed from seawater and
 302 incorporated into the *M. edulis* shell, and that (ii) scavenging of REY carbonate complexes
 303 and formation of ternary surface-complexes may only play a minor role. Based on this
 304 hypothesis, we recalculated the apparent partition coefficients following *Eq. (4)*, using only
 305 the concentrations of free REY³⁺ in North Sea seawater instead of the *total* REY
 306 concentrations:
 307

$$\text{mod}D_{FreeREY3+}^{shell/seawater} = \frac{\left(\frac{[REY]}{[Ca]} \right)^{Shell}}{\left(\frac{\{Free REY^{3+}\}}{\{Ca\}} \right)^{Seawater}} \quad \text{Eq. (4)}$$

308

309

310 The resulting new pattern of distribution coefficients (modelled mean
 311 $_{mod}D_{FreeREY3+}^{shell/seawater}$) (*Fig. 6*), show preferential incorporation of the MREY and suggest
 312 that Ce is not taken up to the same extent as its redox-insensitive REY neighbors. However,
 313 all other REY anomalies that are present in the shells and in ambient seawater have
 314 disappeared, indicating only minor fractionation of neighboring REY during removal from
 315 seawater.

316 Incorporation of REY into CaCO₃ is assumed to occur through the coupled
 317 substitution of a REY³⁺ plus a charge-balancing monovalent cation for two Ca²⁺ ions in the
 318 calcite's crystal structure (Elzinga et al. 2002, Zhong and Mucci 1995), due to the similarity
 319 of the ionic radii of REY³⁺ and Ca²⁺. Since the ionic radius of Nd³⁺ is most similar to that of
 320 Ca²⁺, it may be expected that patterns of REY partition coefficients show a maximum at Nd
 321 and decrease slightly towards the lighter and heavier REY. However, the maximum in *Fig. 6*
 322 for the modelled partition coefficient, $_{mod}D_{FreeREY3+}^{shell/seawater}$, occurs at Tb, suggesting that
 323 additional factors besides ionic size also affect the incorporation of REY into the carbonate
 324 shells of *M. edulis*.

325 Judging from *Fig. 7* and considering that *M. edulis* shells are bimineralic, it would be
326 desirable to study REY distributions and partition coefficients for calcite and aragonite
327 individually, and not for bulk mussel shells. However, the ultralow REY concentrations and
328 the intimate association of the two carbonate minerals are severe limitations that prevent such
329 data to be determined. Thus, we have to accept that we are restricted to REY data for bulk
330 shell carbonate until microanalytical techniques such as Laser-Ablation ICP-MS have become
331 more sensitive.

332 In any case, the calculation of an apparent partition coefficient between a mussel shell
333 and ambient seawater is a severe simplification, of course. From what is currently known, it
334 appears that the shell of a bivalve does not directly precipitate from seawater, but from the
335 extrapallial fluid (EPF) of the mussel, which is secreted from the epithelial cells of the
336 bivalve's mantle (Wilbur 1972). The speciation of the REY in the EPF, therefore, will also
337 affect REY incorporation into Ca carbonate. Although the exact chemical composition of the
338 EPF is not known, the combination of elevated concentrations of organic compounds such as
339 (amino)carboxylic acids, in the EPF (Misogianes and Chasteen 1979, Weiner 1979) and high
340 stability constants of REY complexes with such carboxylic acids (e.g., Martell and Smith
341 1974) renders it very likely that REY speciation in the EPF is rather different from REY
342 speciation in seawater, and that this "vital" effect will affect REY incorporation into the shell.
343 Available thermodynamic data, however, suggest that carboxylic acids are often characterized
344 by REY stability constants that strongly increase from the LREY to the HREY (Byrne and
345 Kim 1990, Martell and Smith 1974) and thus may produce similar LREY-HREY fractionation
346 between the available REY³⁺ species in the EPF as the (di)carbonate complexes produced in
347 seawater.

348 As the exact chemical composition of the EPF is not known, it is currently impossible
349 to decide whether the decrease of the REY partition coefficients between *M. edulis* shells and
350 ambient seawater with decreasing REY ionic radius is controlled by the REY speciation in
351 seawater or by the REY speciation in the EPF. Nevertheless, in the following we will address
352 the impact of seawater pH and temperature on REY partitioning, assuming that REY
353 speciation in the EPF is of minor importance, because this will reveal whether or not the REY
354 distribution in *M. edulis* shells *a priori* has any potential to serve as a pH or temperature
355 proxy.

356

357

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359 **4.2 Impact of temperature and pH on REY patterns in *Mytilus edulis* shells**

360 Environmental parameters such as pH and temperature affect the speciation of REY in
361 seawater via their impact on the activity of CO_3^{2-} , and hence the amount of free REY^{3+}
362 available for uptake by the mussels (*Fig. 5*). The REY signature of mussel shells, therefore,
363 might be an indicator for pH and/or temperature changes in a mussel's habitat, unless this
364 proxy is obliterated by the vital effects discussed earlier.

365 Using the partition coefficients calculated from *Eq. (4)* and the concentrations of free
366 REY^{3+} in seawater at pH 7.6 and 8.2 (as calculated using the HySS software), we modelled
367 from *Eq. (5)* the REY concentrations and REY_{SN} pattern of a hypothetical *M. edulis* shell that
368 grew in seawater of pH 7.6 and 8.2 and at temperatures of 25°C and 5°C, respectively (*Fig.*
369 *9*).

370

$$371 \quad [\text{REY}]_{\text{Shell}} = \text{mod} D_{\text{FreeREY}^{3+} \text{ shell/seawater}} \times \left(\frac{\{\text{Free REY}^{3+}\}}{\{\text{Ca}\}} \right) \times [\text{Ca}]_{\text{Shell}} \quad \text{Eq. (5)}$$

372 where;

373 Ca in seawater = 0.01 mol/l;

374 Ca in shells = 10 mol/l.

375

376 At a given temperature, the shape of the resulting REY_{SN} patterns of such hypothetical shells
377 are very similar at both pH values (*Fig. 9*), but due to higher availability of free REY^{3+} in
378 seawater at pH 7.6, more REY are incorporated into the Ca carbonate at pH 7.6 as compared
379 to pH 8.2. In contrast, at a given pH, a temperature change results in slightly different REY_{SN}
380 patterns (particularly between the MREY and HREY), but has an only minor impact on
381 overall REY concentrations (*Fig. 9*). Hence, it appears that absolute REY concentrations may
382 have the potential to be used as a pH proxy, whereas REY distribution patterns are more
383 sensitive to temperature changes.

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386 **5. Conclusion**

387 A new and efficient protocol for sample preparation and determination of REY concentrations
388 in bivalve shells was established. This quick and clean method includes sample treatment with
389 NaOCl followed by REY separation and preconcentration.

390 The shells of *Mytilus edulis* used in our study demonstrate the potential of using
391 bivalve shells as bioarchives of proxies for changes in the physico-chemical conditions in the

392 bivalve's habitat. All shells from three different sites in the southern North Sea show distinct
393 REY_{SN} distribution patterns that increase from the LREY to the MREY and decrease from the
394 MREY to the HREY. Despite the REY_{SN} patterns of the shells being different to that of
395 general seawater, the shells still exhibited distinct signatures of the seawater they grew in,
396 such as small positive Y_{SN} and Gd_{SN} anomalies and a negative Ce_{SN} anomaly. Apparent
397 partition coefficients $_{app}D_{Tot.REY}^{shell/seawater}$ of REY between the shells and seawater are low and
398 decrease strongly from the LREY to the HREY. Comparison of $_{app}D_{Tot.REY}^{shell/seawater}$ patterns
399 to the REY speciation in the North Sea seawater suggest that the free REY³⁺ may be the most
400 likely REY species that are actually removed from seawater and incorporated into the *M.*
401 *edulis* shell and that scavenging of REY carbonate complexes and formation of ternary
402 surface-complexes may only play a minor role.

403 Although the impact of vital effects and particularly that of REY speciation in the
404 extrapallial fluid from which the carbonate minerals precipitate cannot be quantified yet, we
405 demonstrate in this study that mussel shells like those of *M. edulis* can still be used as
406 bioarchives of some REY features of seawater. Following our assumptions that only the free
407 REY³⁺ are incorporated into the carbonate's crystal lattice and further modelling of the
408 REY_{SN} patterns of a hypothetical mussel shell grown at pH of 8.2 and 7.6 and at temperatures
409 of 25°C and 5°C reveals that with lower pH, REY concentrations in shells increase, but with
410 little effect on the shape of the REY_{SN} patterns, while a temperature change has an impact on
411 the REY_{SN} pattern, but only minor effects on absolute REY concentrations. The absolute REY
412 concentrations in shells of *M. edulis* may thus have the potential to be used as a pH proxy,
413 whereas REY_{SN} distribution patterns of the shells may rather be used as a temperature proxy.

414 Our findings open up doors to better understand how bivalves incorporate trace
415 elements like REY into their shells and how these shells can be used to extract information
416 about their habitat. Since change in physico-chemical conditions like pH and temperature
417 affect REY speciation in seawater due to their impact on the activity of CO₃²⁻, further research
418 to calibrate these changes may turn the REY distribution into a valuable proxy for paleo-pH
419 and past ocean acidification. However, in order to successfully develop REY systematics into
420 a quantitative temperature and/or pH proxy, the impact of the EPF and other vital effects
421 needs to be assessed, for example by studying *M. edulis* mussels cultured under controlled pH
422 and temperature conditions. Additionally, before applying the REY distribution in fossil
423 shells as a paleoproxy, future studies need to investigate the potential impact of diagenesis.

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436

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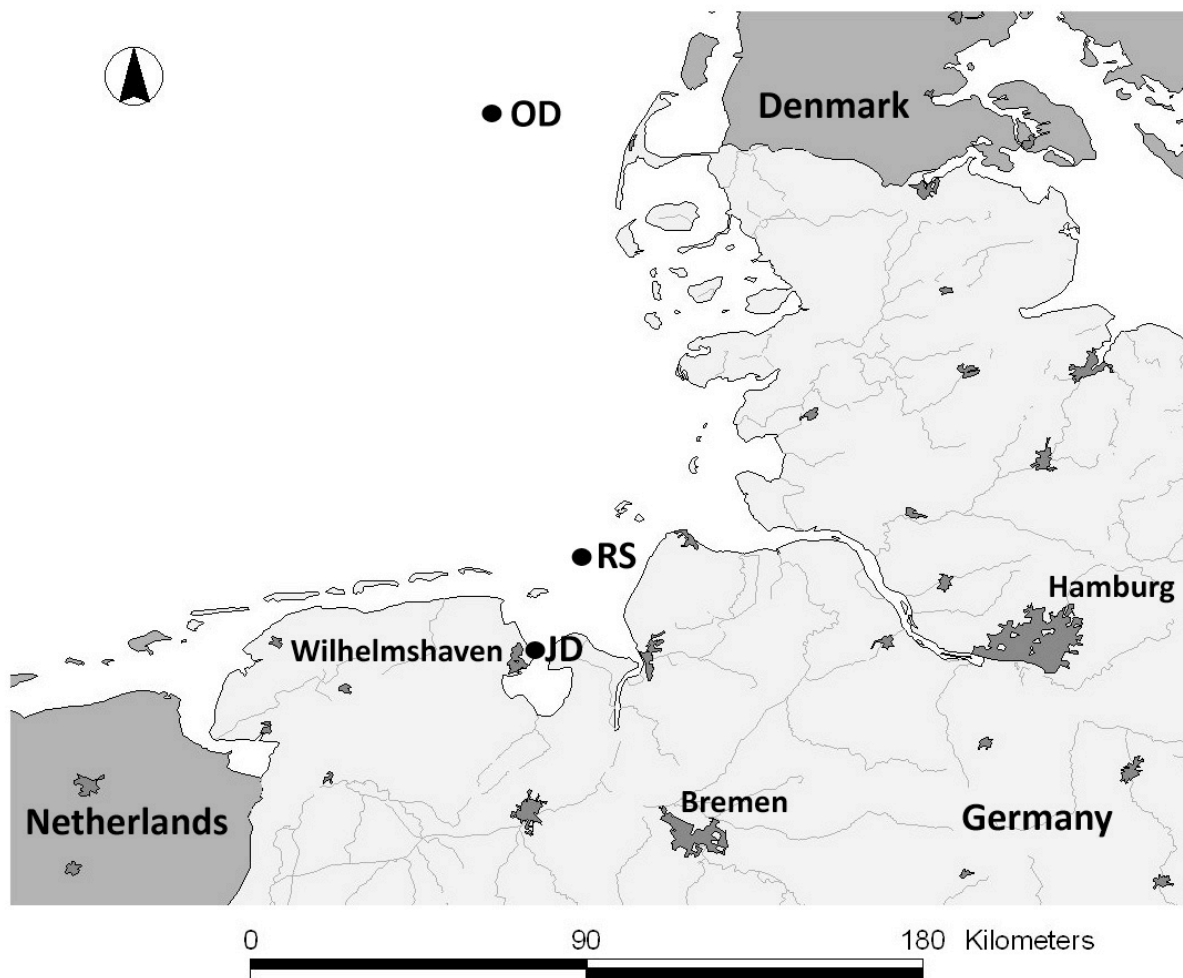
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611 **Figure 1:** Map of the German Bight showing the sampling locations of *Mytilus edulis* mussels
612 from the offshore sites *ODAS* (OD), *Jade Bay* (JD), and *Roter Sand* (RS) (after Brenner et al.
613 2009).

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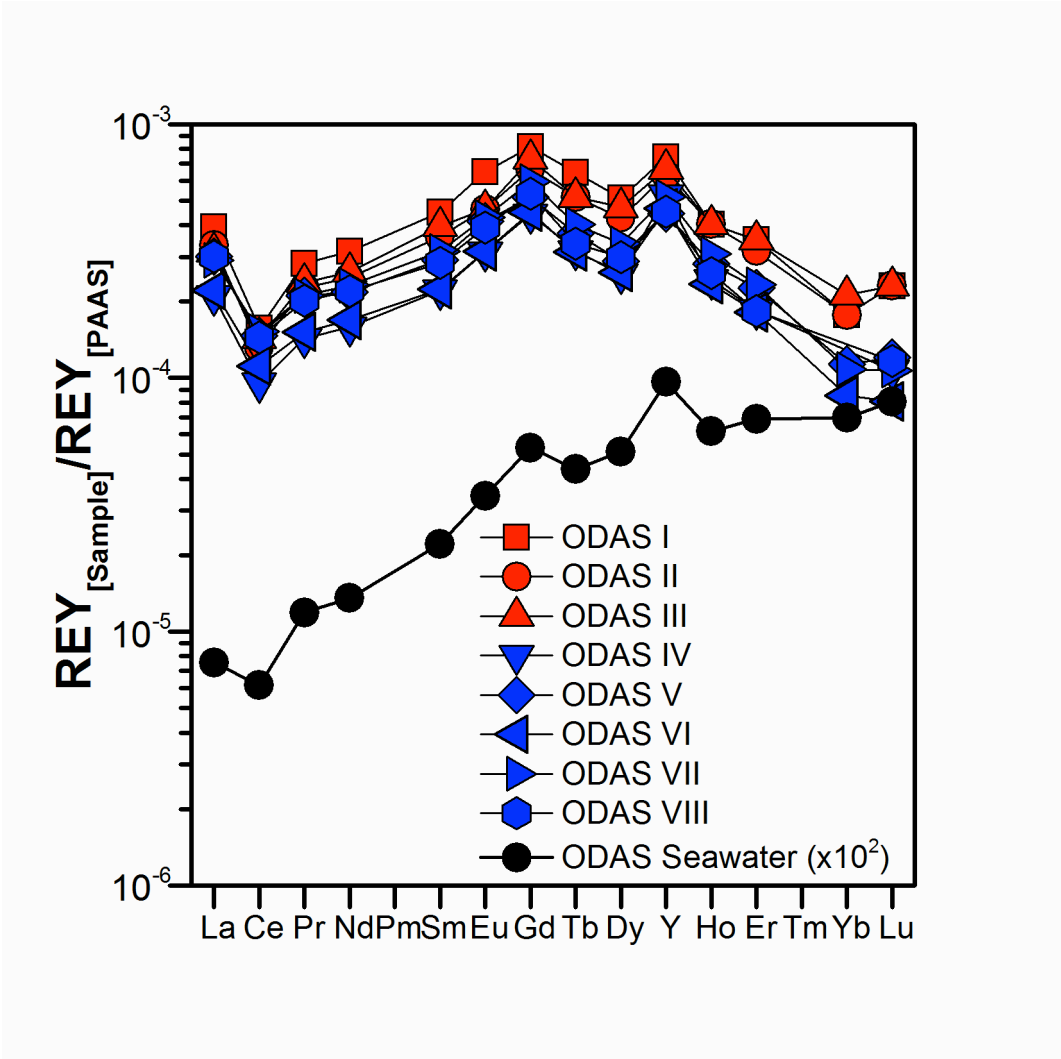


Figure 2: REY_{SN} patterns of the ODAS seawater and of all pools of *Mytilus edulis* shells from the ODAS site (ODAS I to III shell pools were treated with NaOCl; ODAS IV to VIII shell pools were heated and had their periostracum manually removed). Note the similarity of all REY_{SN} patterns.

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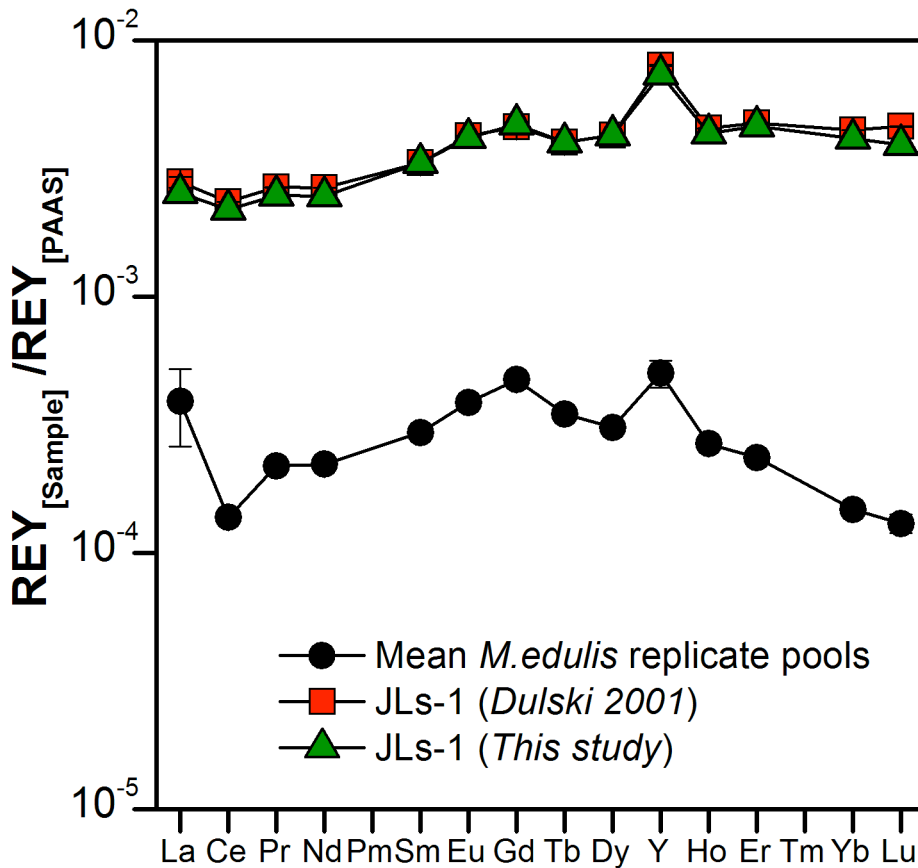


Figure 3: REY_{SN} patterns of the 4 replicate pools of *Mytilus edulis* shells determined in our study and of international reference standard JLs-1 (a Permian limestone from Japan; data from our study and from Dulski 2001) used for analytical quality assessment during method development. Note that except for La and Y, error bars (1 δ) are smaller than the symbol size.

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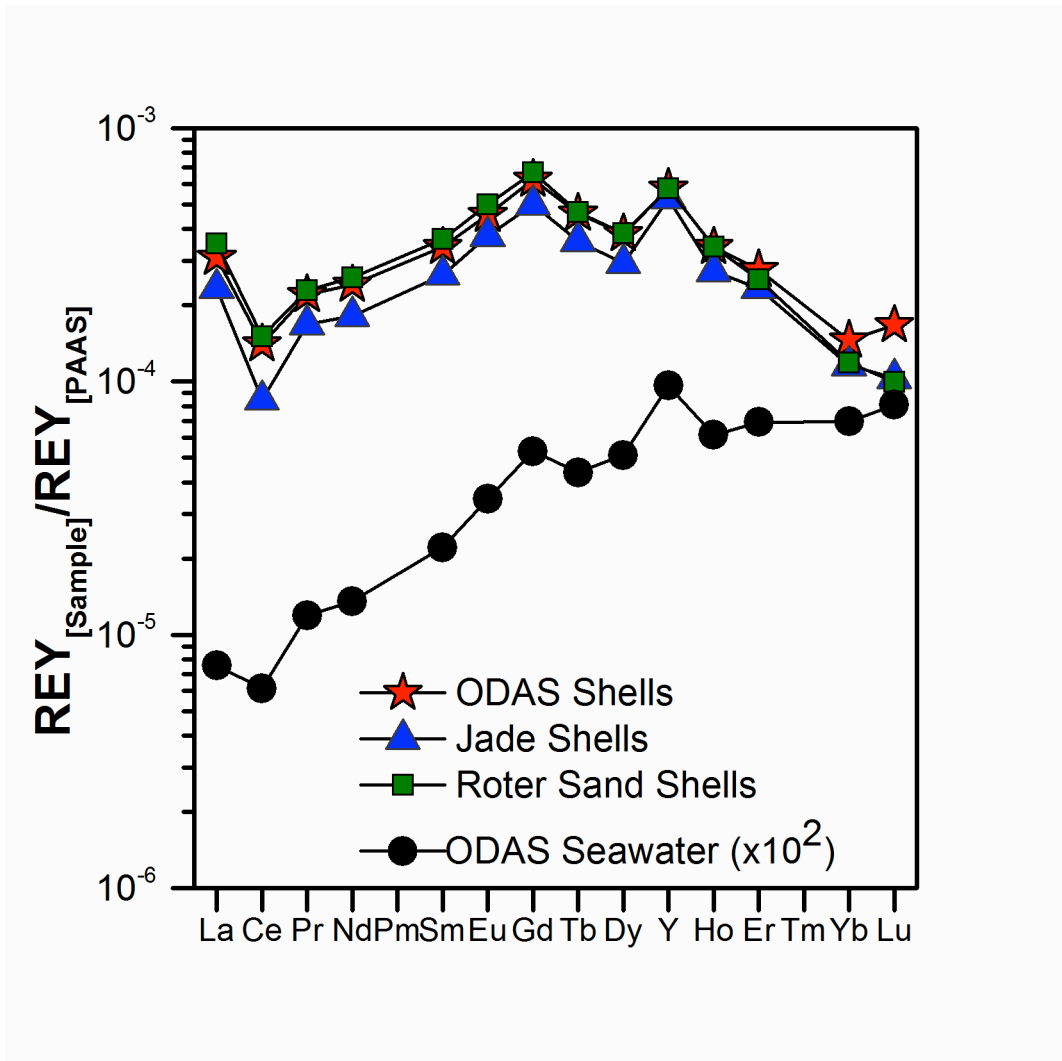
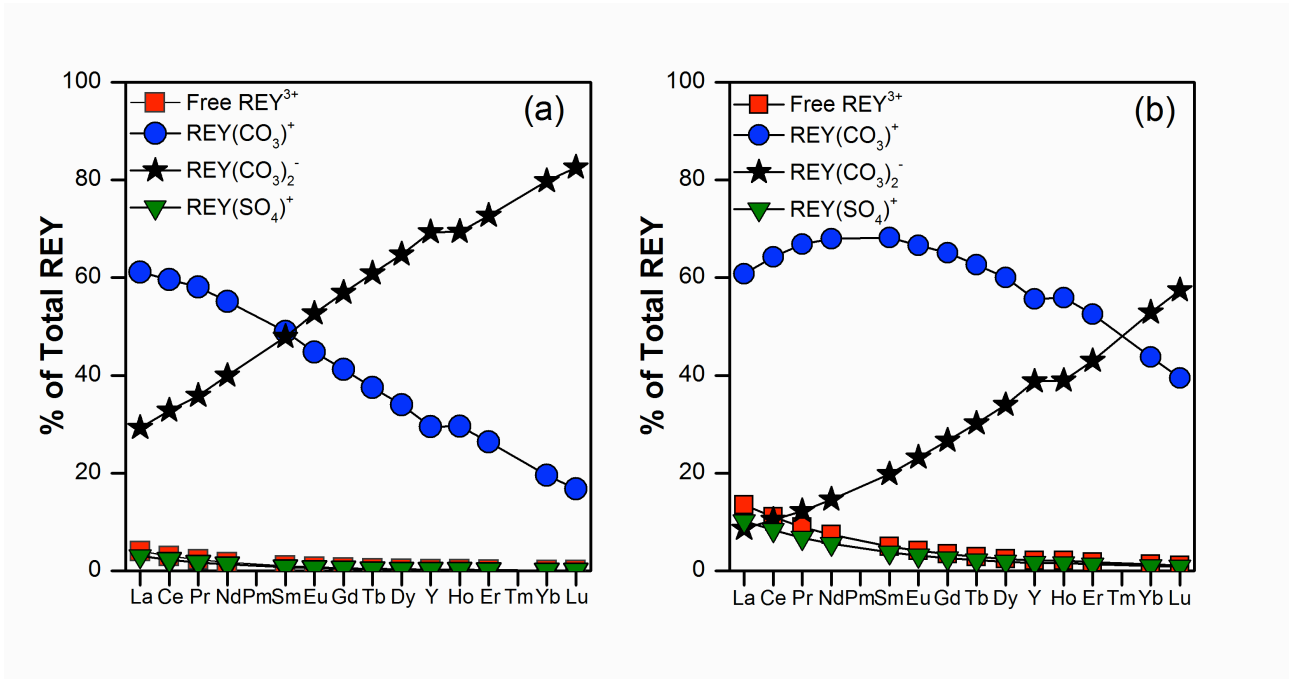


Figure 4: REY_{SN} patterns of *Mytilus edulis* shells from different sites in the North Sea in comparison to seawater from the ODAS site. Note the close similarity of all REY_{SN} patterns regardless of their origin.

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Figure 5: REY speciation in the North Sea water at 25°C for (a) pH 8.2 and (b) pH 7.6 (as modelled using HySS2009).

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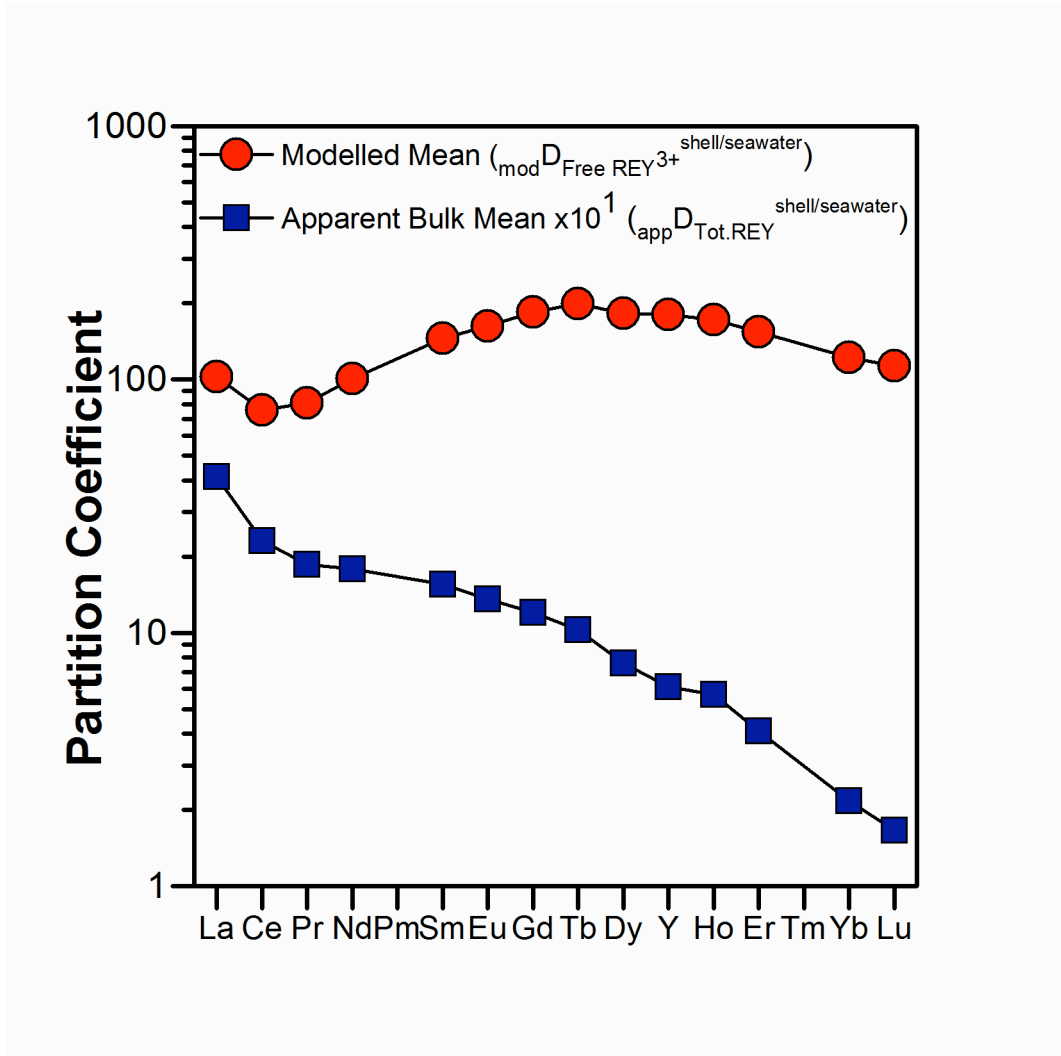


Figure 6: Mean apparent REY partition coefficients for *M. edulis* shells from the ODAS site and total REY in ambient seawater (${}_{app}D_{Tot.REY}^{shell/seawater}$), and modelled mean apparent REY partition coefficients for *M. edulis* shells from the ODAS site and free REY³⁺ in ambient seawater (${}_{mod}D_{FreeREY^{3+}}^{shell/seawater}$).

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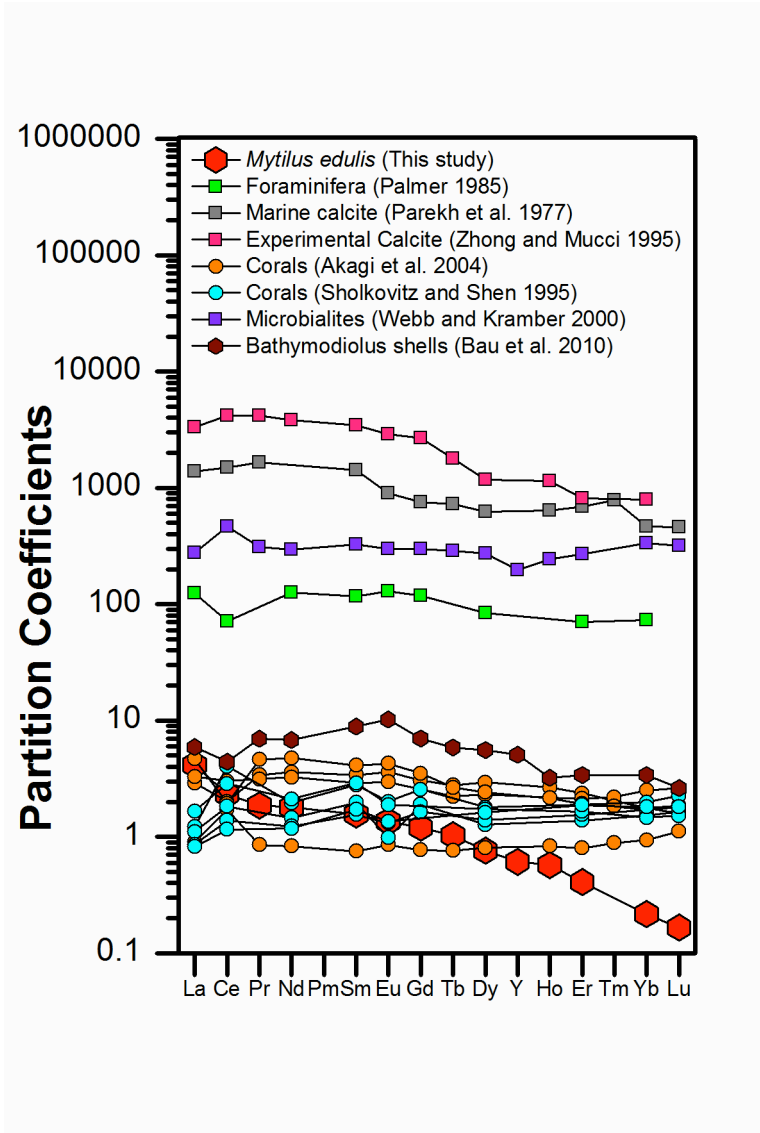


Figure 7: REY partition coefficients for different marine carbonates and ambient seawater (field studies and laboratory experiments).

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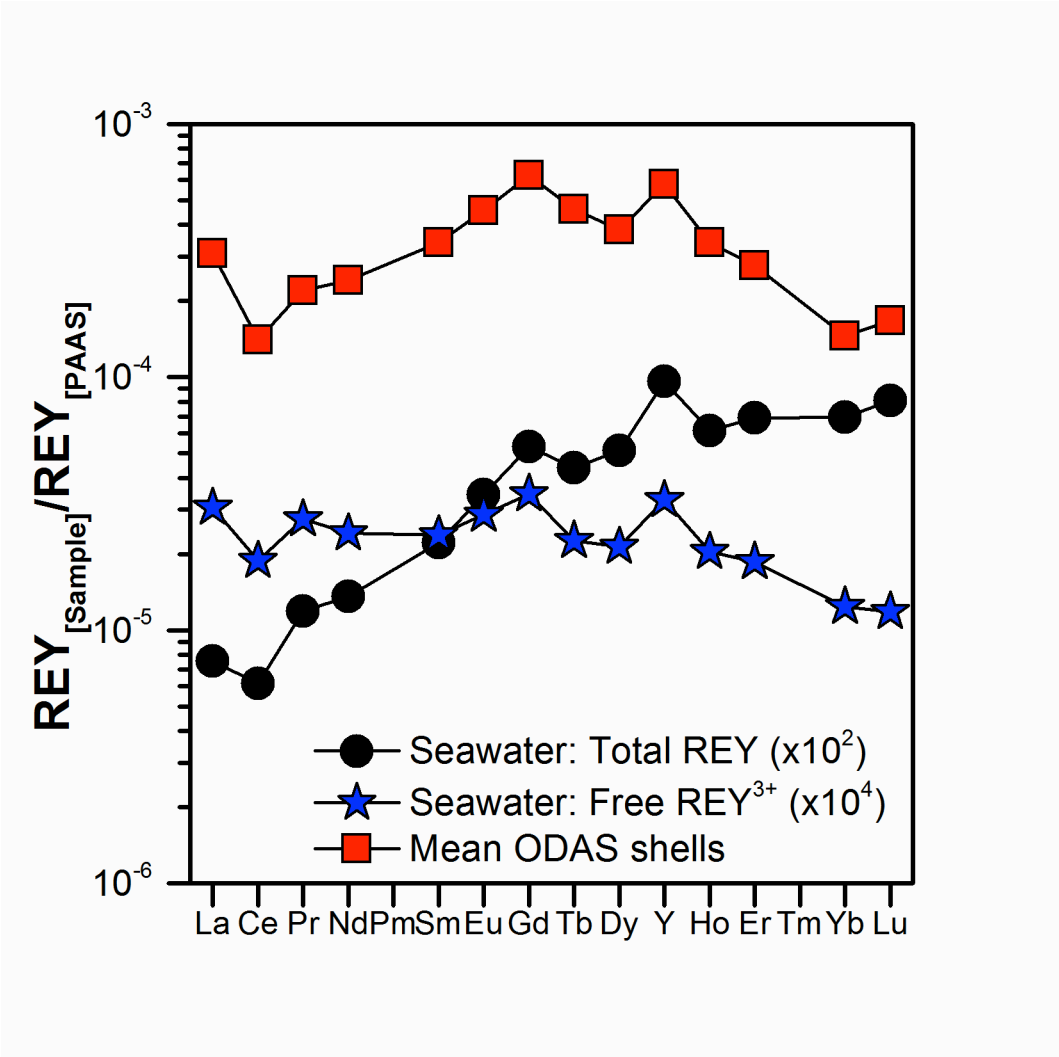
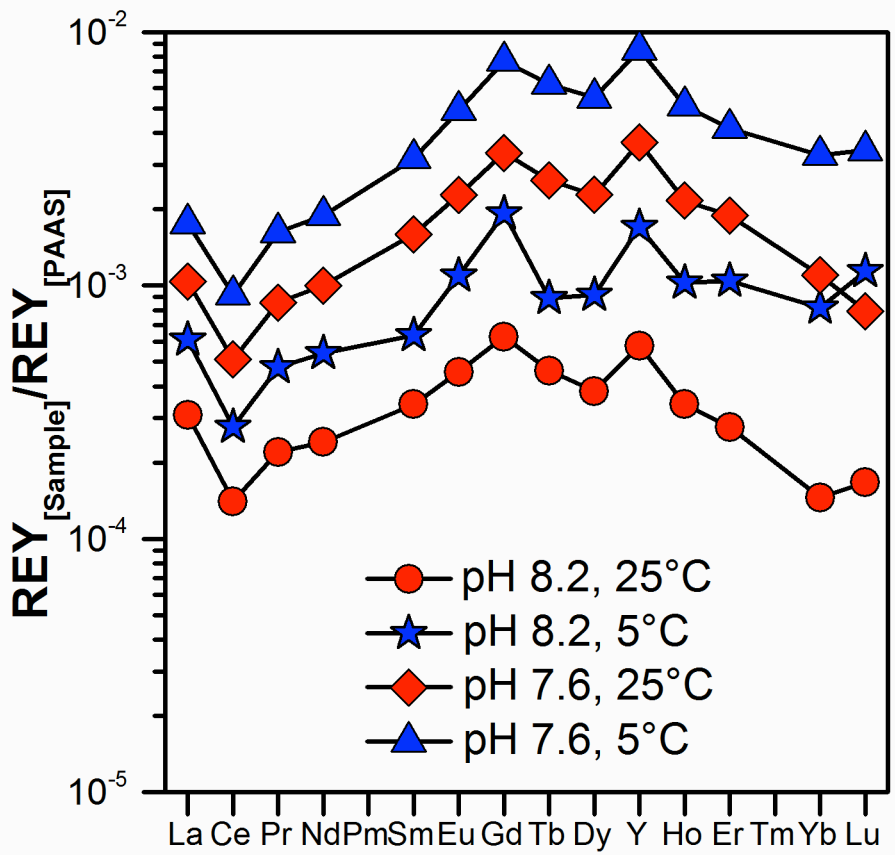


Figure 8: Total REY_{SN} and free REY³⁺_{SN} patterns of North Sea water at the ODAS site and the average REY_{SN} pattern of the ODAS shells.

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892 **Figure 9:** Modelled REY_{SN} patterns of hypothetical *M. edulis* shells from the ODAS site for
893 different pH and temperature conditions in ambient seawater.
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