Microbial community and diversity along a salinity gradient of seawater intrusion: the study of microbiological and hydro-geochemical environments in the Pearl River Delta, China

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Hydrochemical analyses of water samples

The physicochemical parameters such as oxidation-reduction potential (ORP), TDS, pH, and temperature were measured using a portable meter (Hanna Instrument, Milan, Italy). Water samples used for physicochemical analyses were filtered through a sterile 0.45-µm nitrocellulose membrane filter (Millipore, Sigma., Burlington, MA, USA) with a vacuum system.

Cations (K⁺, Ca²⁺, Na⁺ and Mg²⁺) were measured using Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICAP 7600, ICP-OES; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Anions (NO₃⁻, Cl⁻ and SO₄²⁻) were measured using ion chromatography (Swiss Wantong type 883 chromatograph; Metrohm Schweiz AG, Zofingen, Switzerland). HCO₃⁻ was measured using acid-based titration analysis (DZ/T 0064.49-93). Total nitrogen (TN) was detected using the alkaline potassium persulfate digestion and UV spectrophotometric method; total phosphorus (TP) was detected using the persulfate digestion and spectrophotometric method; total organic carbon (TOC) was measured using a total carbon analyzer (Elementar, Liquid TOCII; Elementar Analysensysteme GmbH, Langenselbold, Germany)^[1]. Correlation analysis of hydrochemical factors were performed by SPSS ^[2]

Physicochemical analyses were measured according to the research ^[3]. Groundwater samples were collected in 600mL Pyrex Brand square bottles for radiocarbon (¹⁴C) and tritium (³H) analyses. Each bottle was sealed carefully to avoid the existence of bubbles within the water sample. δ^2 H and δ^{18} O were measured using a Finnigan GasBench II Auto carbonate and water device interfaced to a Finnigan MAT DELTAplus XP stable isotope ratio mass spectrometer in the Stable Isotope Laboratory at Florida State University, and reported relative to the VSMOW Standard (Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water) in permil (‰), with precision ±2 and ±0.1‰, respectively. The measurements of ³H were performed in the Analytical Laboratory of Beijing Research Institute of Uranium Geology and they were electrolytically enriched and measured using the liquid scintillation counting method with an error from ±0.4 to ±0.7 TU. The

measurement of ¹⁴C was conducted in the Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Lab in Miami (Florida) for the radiocarbon analysis with an error of ± 0.5 pMC.

Molecular analyses for water samples

Total DNA was extracted from 5 L of water filtered through a sterile 0.2-µm nitrocellulose membrane filter (Millipore, Sigma., Burlington, MA, USA) using a vacuum system. A MOBIO PowerSoil® DNA Isolation Kit (Qiagen/MO BIO Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, CA, USA) was used to extract the DNA. The V4 region of the prokaryotic microbial 16S rRNA gene was amplified by PCR using the forward primer 515F (5'-GTGCCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA-3') and the reverse primer 806R (5'-GGACTACHVGGGTWTCTAAT-3')^[4]. The functional gene mcrA of the methanogens was amplified by PCR using the forward primer ME1-F (5'- GCMATGCARATHGGWATGTC-3') and the reverse primer ME2-R (5'- TCATKGCRTAGTTDGGRTA-3')^[5]. The functional gene *dsrA* of the sulfate reducers was amplified by PCR using the forward primer dsrA 290-F (5'-CGGCGTTGCGCATTTYCAYACVVT-3') and the reverse primer dsrA 660-R (5'- GCCGGACGATGCAGHTCRTCCTGRWA-3')^{[6][5]58}. PCR reactions were conducted on a BioRad S1000 thermocycler (Bio-Rad Laboratories Inc., Hercules, CA, USA) under the following conditions: 94°C for 5 min; 30 cycles: 94°C for 30 s, 52°C for 30 s and 72°C for 30 s; and 72°C for 10 min. Amplicons were extracted from 1.0% agarose gels and purified using an EZNA Gel Extraction Kit (Omega, Bio-Tek, Norcross, GA, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Libraries were prepared using an NEBNext® Ultra[™] DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina[®] (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions, and sequencing was performed on an Illumina HiSeq 2500 system at Magi Gene Technology (Guangzhou, China).

Paired-end raw reads were demultiplexed, quality-filtered by Trimmomatic and merged by the Fast Length Adjustment of SHort reads (FLASH) using the method as described previously ^[7]. Then, the sequences were assigned into operational taxonomic units (OTUs) with a 97% similarity cutoff in the UPARSE platform ^[8] and chimeric microbial sequences were screened using UCHIME ^[9]. The taxonomy of each 16S rRNA gene sequence was analyzed by the RDP Classifier algorithm (http://rdp.cme.msu.edu/) against the Silva 16S rRNA database using a confidence threshold of 70% ^[10].

Rarefaction curves were plotted for each sample to determine the abundance of communities and sequencing data ^[11]. Alpha-diversity analyses including community diversity indexes (Shannon and Simpson), community richness parameters (Chao and ACE), community evenness indexes (Heip) as well as a sequencing depth index (Good's coverage), were calculated using the mothur software ^[12]. The tree figure of groundwater physicochemical characteristics was obtained using the Quantitative Insights Into Microbial Ecology (Qiime 1.7.0) software^[13] based on the Euclidean distance and hierarchical clustering tree of microbial communities on the OTU level based on the Unweighted-Unifrac distance.

In addition, the evolutionary history was concluded among the representative OTUs (abundance > 1% at least one sample) obtained in this study and reference 16S rRNA sequences retrieved from the NCBI GenBank using the Neighbor-Joining method ^[14]. The optimal tree with a sum of branch length = 1.9929 is shown. The phylogenetic tree was drawn to scale using the Maximum Composite Likelihood method ^[15] and the evolutionary distances were in the units of the number of base substitutions per site. The analysis involved 82 nucleotide sequences. Evolutionary analyses were conducted in MEGA 7 ^[16].

Pearson Correlation	Temperature	TOC	TN	TP	NO ₂ -	Cl-	рН	ORP	TDS	NO ₃ -	SO4 ²⁻	HCO3 ⁻	\mathbf{K}^+	Na ⁺	Ca ²⁺	Mg ²⁺
Temperature	1	-0.23	0.55	-0.43	-0.32	0.64	0.06	-0.12	0.64	0.18	-0.29	-0.2	0.32	0.55	0.49	0.55
TOC	-0.23	1	0.14	0.84*	-0.26	0.14	0.89*	-0.77	0.14	-0.93**	0.2	-0.6	0.37	0.09	0.09	0.09
TN	0.55	0.14	1	-0.15	-0.09	-0.03	0.37	-0.03	-0.03	-0.15	-0.54	0.26	-0.14	-0.09	-0.31	-0.09
ТР	-0.43	0.84*	-0.15	1	0.09	-0.03	0.52	-0.75	-0.03	-0.88	0.46	-0.46	0.32	0.06	0.03	0.06
NO ₂ -	-0.32	-0.26	-0.09	0.09	1	-0.77	-0.6	0.49	-0.77	0.32	-0.37	0.54	-0.77	-0.71	-0.6	-0.71
Cl	0.64	0.14	-0.03	-0.03	-0.77	1	0.37	-0.6	1**	-0.23	0.37	-0.77	0.89*	0.94**	0.94**	0.94**
pН	0.06	0.89*	0.37	0.52	-0.6	0.37	1	-0.71	0.37	-0.81*	0.09	-0.6	0.49	0.26	0.2	0.26
ORP	-0.12	-0.77	-0.03	-0.75	0.49	-0.6	-0.71	1	-0.6	0.9*	-0.6	0.77	-0.83*	-0.66	-0.54	-0.66
TDS	0.64	0.14	-0.03	-0.03	-0.77	1**	0.37	-0.6	1	-0.23	0.37	-0.77	0.89*	0.94**	0.94**	0.94**
NO ₃ -	0.18	-0.93**	-0.15	-0.88*	0.32	-0.23	-0.81*	0.9*	-0.23	1	-0.46	0.55	-0.55	-0.29	-0.15	-0.29
SO4 ²⁻	-0.29	0.2	-0.54	0.46	-0.37	0.37	0.09	-0.6	0.37	-0.46	1	-0.37	0.71	0.6	0.43	0.6
HCO3 ⁻	-0.2	-0.6	0.26	-0.46	0.54	-0.77	-0.6	0.77	-0.77	0.55	-0.37	1	-0.77	-0.66	-0.83*	-0.66
\mathbf{K}^+	0.32	0.37	-0.14	0.32	-0.77	0.89*	0.49	-0.83*	0.89*	-0.55	0.71	-0.77	1	0.94**	0.83*	0.94**
Na ⁺	0.55	0.09	-0.09	0.06	-0.71	0.94**	0.26	-0.66	0.94**	-0.29	0.6	-0.66	0.94**	1	0.89*	1**
Ca ²⁺	0.49	0.09	-0.31	0.03	-0.6	0.94**	0.2	-0.54	0.94**	-0.15	0.43	-0.83*	0.83*	0.89*	1	0.89*
Mg^{2+}	0.55	0.09	-0.09	0.06	-0.71	0.94**	0.26	-0.66	0.94**	-0.29	0.6	-0.66	0.94**	1**	0.89*	1

Supplementary Table S1 Pearson correlation analysis between major ions of the investigated groundwater samples

Significant correlations were marked in **Bold** (* P <0.05, ** P <0.01)

Phylum taxon	Q149	Q146	Q144	Q143	Q130	Q132
Proteobacteria	61.2%	56.1%	60.3%	85.5%	86.9%	84.4%
Firmicutes	37.8%	43.0%	36.3%	12.7%	10.6%	7.4%
Bacteroidetes	0.1%	0.2%	0.8%	0.3%	0.9%	5.8%
Cyanobacteria	0	0	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	1.2%
others	0.9%	0.7%	2.3%	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%

Supplementary Table S2 The relative abundances of dominant phyla (abundance > 1% at least one sample) in all the investigated groundwater samples.

Supplementary Table S3 The relative abundances of the presentative classes (abundance > 1% at least one sample) in all the investigated groundwater samples.

Class taxon	Q149	Q146	Q144	Q143	Q130	Q132
Gammaproteobacteria	57.7%	53.4%	43.3%	25.1%	42.2%	46.2%
Bacilli	37.8%	43.0%	36.3%	12.7%	10.6%	7.4%
Betaproteobacteria	1.0%	1.0%	4.2%	9.8%	39.9%	29.9%
Epsilonproteobacteria	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	47.0%	0.1%	1.5%
Alphaproteobacteria	1.9%	1.2%	12.0%	3.2%	4.5%	6.5%
Sphingobacteriia	0.1%	0.1%	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%	5.5%
Cyanobacteria	0	0	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	1.2%
others	1.3%	1.1%	3.1%	2.0%	1.6%	1.6%

Supplementary Table S4 The relative abundances of the top 50 genera in all the investigated groundwater samples

Genus taxon	Q130	Q132	Q143	Q144	Q146	Q149
Exiguobacterium	10.1%	6.9%	12.3%	34.6%	41.5%	36.6%
Acinetobacter	8.9%	19.6%	5.5%	17.8%	19.4%	16.3%
unclassified_fEnterobacteriaceae	5.3%	4.0%	6.2%	16.8%	22.7%	20.8%
Sulfuricurvum	0.1%	0.5%	46.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Aeromonas	20.3%	17.1%	2.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Pseudomonas	2.5%	2.0%	6.7%	7.4%	10.1%	10.4%
unclassified_fRhodocyclaceae	13.7%	2.1%	0.5%	2.9%	0.1%	0.1%
norank_fGallionellaceae	8.8%	0.6%	2.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
norank_fMethylophilaceae	1.1%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Marinobacter	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.4%
Acidovorax	6.6%	0.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Comamonas	2.5%	4.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
norank_fRhodocyclaceae	1.9%	3.6%	1.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Sediminibacterium	0.2%	5.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Methylomonas	4.1%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Methylocystis	0.7%	3.4%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
unclassified_cBetaproteobacteria	1.9%	1.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
unclassified_fMethylophilaceae	0.3%	3.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
norank_fHydrogenophilaceae	0.5%	0.1%	2.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Bacillus	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%
Magnetovibrio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Thiovirga	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sphingomonas	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%
Thiobacillus	0.1%	0.1%	1.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Pseudolabrys	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%
unclassified_fRhodospirillaceae	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0	0.0%
Aquabacterium	0.1%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
unclassified_fRhodobacteraceae	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.1%	1.0%
Novosphingobium	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hyphomicrobium	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
norank_oObscuribacterales	0.2%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0
Sulfurimonas	0.0%	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Vibrio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	1.0%
Enterococcus	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
norank_fNitrosomonadaceae	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
unclassified_f_Comamonadaceae	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
norank_oTRA3-20	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Mizugakiibacter	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Meganema	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%
norank_fGemmatimonadaceae	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Magnetospirillum	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0	0
Thioclava	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%
Chryseomicrobium	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%
Methylocaldum	0.1%	0.6%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
norank_cSoil_Crenarchaeotic_Group	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Bradyrhizobium	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
unclassified_cGammaproteobacteria	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Desulfovibrio	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
norank_fAnaerolineaceae	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rhodobacter	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Phylum	Class	Genus	OTU	Q132	Q130	Q143	Q144	Q146	Q149
Firmicutes	Bacilli	Exiguobacterium	OTU388	6.8%	10.1%	12.2%	34.5%	41.3%	36.5%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	unclassified Enterobacteriaceae	OTU402	3.9%	5.1%	5.9%	15.5%	21.1%	19.2%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Acinetobacter	OTU348	7.2%	5.8%	5.1%	16.7%	19.1%	15.6%
Proteobacteria	Epsilonproteobacteria	Sulfuricurvum	OTU242	0.2%	0.1%	45.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Aeromonas	OTU83	15.8%	19.3%	2.6%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Pseudomonas	OTU395	1.8%	2.3%	3.0%	6.6%	8.9%	8.0%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	norank Gallionellaceae	OTU47	0.6%	8.8%	2.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	norank Methylophilaceae	OTU158	8.7%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	unclassified Rhodocyclaceae	OTU25	0.2%	6.1%	0.1%	2.7%	0.1%	0.1%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Marinobacter	OTU381	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.5%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Acinetobacter	OTU59	4.8%	2.4%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	Acidovorax	OTU162	0.9%	6.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	Comamonas	OTU110	4.5%	1.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bacteroidetes	Sphingobacteriia	Sediminibacterium	OTU132	4.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	unclassified Rhodocyclaceae	OTU265	1.2%	3.9%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Proteobacteria	Alphaproteobacteria	Methylocystis	OTU141	3.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Acinetobacter	OTU84	4.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	norank Rhodocyclaceae	OTU189	2.2%	1.1%	0.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	unclassified Rhodocyclaceae	OTU24	0.5%	3.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Methylomonas	OTU21	1.3%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Supplementary Table S5 The relative abundances of the OTUs (abundance > 1% at least one sample) in all the investigated groundwater samples.

Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	unclassified Betaproteobacteria	OTU36	1.7%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	unclassified Methylophilaceae	OTU101	2.9%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Pseudomonas	OTU225	0.1%	0.0%	2.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.6%
Proteobacteria	Alphaproteobacteria	Magnetovibrio	OTU311	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Acinetobacter	OTU287	2.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	norank Rhodocyclaceae	OTU86	1.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Acinetobacter	OTU145	1.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Pseudomonas	OTU152	0.1%	0.1%	1.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Thiovirga	OTU198	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Gammaproteobacteria	Methylomonas	OTU41	0.2%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	Thiobacillus	OTU244	0.1%	0.1%	1.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Alphaproteobacteria	Pseudolabrys	OTU106	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	Aquabacterium	OTU155	1.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Alphaproteobacteria	unclassified Rhodospirillaceae	OTU284	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Betaproteobacteria	norank Hydrogenophilaceae	OTU202	0.0%	0.1%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Proteobacteria	Epsilonproteobacteria	Sulfurimonas	OTU130	1.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cyanobacteria	Cyanobacteria	norank Obscuribacterales	OTU98	1.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
others	others	others	others	13.6%	13.5%	11.6%	13.6%	7.7%	9.6%

Order taxon	Q149	Q146	Q144	Q143	Q130	Q132
Bacillales	37.38%	42.47%	35.73%	12.60%	10.43%	7.29%
Pseudomonadales	26.69%	29.60%	25.24%	12.27%	11.46%	21.68%
Enterobacteriales	20.78%	22.75%	16.82%	6.24%	5.30%	4.02%
Campylobacterales	0.15%	0.14%	0.12%	46.97%	0.12%	1.52%
Aeromonadales	0.21%	0.33%	0.27%	2.67%	20.31%	17.13%
Rhodocyclales	0.14%	0.17%	3.02%	1.67%	15.64%	5.84%
Burkholderiales	0.17%	0.18%	0.25%	0.51%	10.47%	8.19%
Nitrosomonadales	0.40%	0.39%	0.44%	2.66%	9.20%	1.27%
Methylophilales	0.12%	0.08%	0.08%	0.06%	1.63%	12.15%
Rhizobiales	0.27%	0.22%	4.18%	0.92%	3.47%	4.67%
Alteromonadales	8.52%	0.05%	0.03%	0.02%	0.04%	0.03%
Methylococcales	0.11%	0.12%	0.45%	0.15%	4.40%	2.77%
Sphingobacteriales	0.08%	0.12%	0.79%	0.18%	0.85%	5.52%
Rhodospirillales	0.04%	0.00%	5.68%	0.04%	0.45%	0.14%
Hydrogenophilales	0.05%	0.10%	0.13%	4.64%	0.64%	0.22%
Sphingomonadales	0.47%	0.45%	1.68%	1.40%	0.42%	0.77%
unclassified_Betaproteobacteria	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.05%	1.91%	1.84%
Rhodobacterales	1.11%	0.54%	0.27%	0.77%	0.05%	0.51%
Chromatiales	0.01%	0.00%	0.03%	2.65%	0.01%	0.01%
Obscuribacterales	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.23%	1.24%
others	3.28%	2.28%	4.77%	3.50%	2.97%	3.22%

Supplementary Table S6 The relative abundances of the presentative orders (abundance > 1% at least one sample) in all the investigated groundwater samples.

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