

Review of: "Effects of Sediment Disturbance by the Heart Urchin *Echinocardium Cordatum* on the Sediment–Seawater Solute Exchange: An Exclusion Experiment"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Author,

I am writing to provide feedback on your manuscript. Overall, I find the manuscript to be very well written, clear, and structured. The subject matter is both intriguing and significant, and the execution of the experiment is commendable. The insights provided are crucial for understanding the factors influencing the sediment–seawater solute exchange. The results revealed a distinct disparity between light and dark treatments concerning certain compounds; however, no discernible variances were observed between treatments in the presence or absence of the sea urchin.

However, I have identified a few areas for improvement and clarification:

1. Introduction: Consider removing outdated quotations, such as those from Nichols (1962) and Robertson (1871), to ensure the introduction remains focused and concise.
2. Materials and Methods: The citation for Wilson & Vopel (2012) is referenced but not included in the bibliography. Please ensure consistency and include all necessary citations.
3. Statistical Analysis: While reviewing the reported p-values, it is evident that the interactions are not significant. Therefore, conducting post-hoc TukeyHSD analyses may not be appropriate in this context.
4. Results (Table 2): It would enhance clarity to include actual p-values in Table 2 to facilitate better understanding. Additionally, consider removing the TukeySD column since the reported interactions are not statistically significant.
5. Figures (Figure 3): Consider marking significant differences between boxplots with asterisks and providing an explanation in the figure caption to enhance interpretation and clarity.

Overall, your manuscript presents valuable findings, and addressing these minor revisions will strengthen its impact and readability.

Well done!

Melisa