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 Authors,

I found this study very articulate in its experimental part, so hard to reproduce by some other researchers as a reference model, especially considering the environmental influence on the studied parameters, which led to regional to specific relapses of the obtained results.

Moreover, very limited consideration was given to the studied species from an environmental positive effect point of view. Indeed, the introduction section was mainly focused on the potentially adverse effects of this species on the marine benthic environment, while the coevolution of this living species with the surrounding ones and marine abiotic compartments led in some way to an equilibrium, sometimes very delicate such as for the semi-enclosed or coastal environments, but still present. In this way, the obtained results could appear less unexpectable and more obvious. Anyway, some other small revisions such as avoiding the use of keywords or terms already reported in the title, double-checking some small grammar inaccuracies and mathematical exponents by yourself, or adding the eponym to the title and first mention of the studied species in the main text are needed.

Considering all these comments and your statement reported in the discussion section:

“A repeat of our study in November/December may reveal if the influence of *E. cordatum* on the sediment–seawater solute exchange at our site in fact depends on seasonal changes in conditions for growth and production of microphytes or if what we have observed in May/June generally applies throughout the year.”

I suggest strongly enhancing the scientific rigour and soundness of this study by conducting the second experiment in a different season, to provide more solid data based on the environmental condition influences on the studied parameters, which, as stated and supposed, could be influenced by this aspect more than the *Echinocardium* activities.

I hope this sounds reasonable to you to improve the value of this study, which in the present form appears limited.

Best regards,

The Reviewer