
Comparative Studies on Extraction of Sediment Interstitial Waters: Discussion and Comment on the Current State of Interstitial Water Studies*

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Abstract: The implication by Murthy and Ferrell (1972) that interstitial water studies are in a confused state is criticized on the basis that the authors have not drawn on a considerable body of data, especially Soviet studies since the 1950's, and results of the Deep Sea Drilling Project. Pressure filtration systems for extracting interstitial waters are currently the methods of choice for marine studies and have achieved substantial reliability and reproducibility. Although gaps and problems remain, many aspects of interstitial composition of marine sediments have been clarified; these include the substantial constancy of composition of interstitial waters in deep sea pelagic deposits, depletion of interstitial cations owing to authigenic mineral formation in more rapidly accumulated (especially terrigenous) sediments, and special phenomena in sediments overlying salt deposits.

Clays and Clay Minerals; August 1974 v. 22; no. 4; p. 337-343; DOI: [10.1346/CCMN.1974.0220404](https://doi.org/10.1346/CCMN.1974.0220404)

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