



Controls of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DIC in lakes: Geochemistry, lake metabolism, and morphometry

Bade, Darren L., Stephen R. Carpenter, Jonathan J. Cole, Paul C. Hanson, Raymond H. Hesslein

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ABSTRACT: We investigated $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ carbon (C)-dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) values in 72 lakes from diverse regions using literature data as well as new measurements for 32 lakes. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DIC varied broadly among lakes from -31 to $+2.6\text{‰}$. This variation of surface-water $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DIC among lakes is greater than the seasonal variation within most lakes. Several statistical models account for a large portion of the interlake variation and indicate that geochemical (e.g., DIC, pH, alkalinity) and morphometric (area) variables are important, whereas biological (e.g., gross primary productivity [GPP], respiration [R], chlorophyll a) variables are generally not significant. A process-based model including gas exchange with the atmosphere, inorganic carbon speciation, and ecosystem metabolism was also constructed. The model provides a reasonable fit to the data for lakes, in which respiration exceeded GPP (heterotrophic lakes; 75% of lakes sampled). Lakes for which GPP exceeded respiration (autotrophic) were not fit well by the process-based model. The data and models indicate that metabolism creates substantial variation in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DIC around the potential $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DIC that is set by geochemical factors of the watershed.

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