

FRACTIONS AND TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PHOSPHORUS IN THE SEDIMENTS OF SANCHA LAKE

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Abstract. The fraction and distribution characteristics of phosphorus in the sediments of Sancha Lake were studied using the SMT Phosphorus fraction method and its influencing factors were discussed. According to the research results, total phosphorus (TP) content in the sediments was 270.00-3,722.80 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, the organophosphorus (OP) content was 64.00-774.43 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, the inorganic phosphorus (IP) content, a main phosphorus fraction, was 164.00-3,006.99 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, accounting for about 69.32% of TP, the HCl-P content, a main phosphorus fraction of IP, was 125.00-2,474.04 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, accounting for about 69.19% of IP, and the NaOH-P content was less, i.e. 51.00-689.72 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, accounting for about 30.73% of IP. Different phosphorus fractions had obvious temporal and spatial variation; all the sampling sites showed a general trend where the phosphorus fraction content was higher in winter and lower in summer, similar in spring and autumn. The content of organic matter in the sediments had significant correlation with OP, NaOH-P had significant correlation with Fe in the sediments, between HCl-P in the sediments had significant correlation with Ca, APA had significant positive correlation with OP. However, the pH, TN, dissolved oxygen and temperature had no significant correlation with various phosphorus fractions.

Keywords: *phosphorus fractions, spatial and temporal distribution, sediment, Sancha Lake, eutrophication*

Introduction

Phosphorus is the main restrictive factor (Zhang et al., 2012) of Lake Eutrophication, and most phosphorus nutrient salt entering into lakes will eventually be stored in the sediments under various conditions, forming endogenous pollution (Zhu et al., 2004). The fraction of phosphorus in the sediment has an important effect on its migration and transformation mechanism (Fan et al., 2010; Hupfer et al., 1995; Chuai et al., 2014; Li et al., 2014). The distribution characteristics of phosphorus in the sediments have already been confirmed to have a direct relation to the internal load of the lake, and different fractions and contents of phosphorus in the sediments play different roles in Lake Eutrophication (Yang et al., 2013; Zhou et al., 2013). Therefore, the analysis of different fractions of phosphorus in the sediments of a lake and their temporal and spatial distribution characteristics is of great significance to further research Lake Eutrophication. This paper mainly studied the fractions, contents, temporal and spatial distribution of phosphorus in the sediments of Sancha Lake, and discussed the factors influencing the content distribution of each phosphorus fraction, so as to provide data and theoretical support for further research on the mechanisms of lake eutrophication of Sancha Lake.

Materials and methods

Brief introduction to study area

Sancha Lake is located in Tianfu New Area of Sichuan Province, east longitude 104°11'16" to 104°17'16", north latitude 30°13'08" to 30°19'56", its average depth is 8.3 m, and the maximum depth is 32.5 m. The area is under subtropical moist monsoon climate, the annual average temperature is 15.2 to 16.9 °C, and the annual average rainfall is 786.5 mm. Sancha Lake water mainly derives from the Minjiang River which accounts for about 80%, and the rest of about 20% comes from the rainfall and two streams (Tiaodeng River and Longyun River). The drainage area above the dam site is 161.25 km², the average runoff depth is 275.1 mm, and the average sediment discharge through surface runoff is 200,000 t. Sancha Lake and its surrounding are an important part of "International Tourism Culture Area with Two Lakes and One Mountain" in Tianfu New Area. Sancha Lake is the source of drinking water for population in Sancha Town. Moreover, it can maintain biodiversity, store water, prevent and control flood, and adjust surface runoff and climate. According to the characteristics of lake and different human activities, Sancha Lake is divided into five functional areas as shown in *Figure 1*: (I) Main runoff area of lake; (II) Highly dense area of original cage culture; (III) Adjacent human activity intensive area; (IV) Relatively dense area of enclosure culture of Dahu Lake; (V) Tail water area of reservoir. According to the monitoring results of many years, the COD_{Cr} and BOD₅ of the waters of Sancha Lake decline year by year, while TN and TP have been rising, the corresponding chlorophyll increases year by year while transparency declines year by year, showing that the eutrophication has been formed in Sancha Lake (Li, et al., 2019).

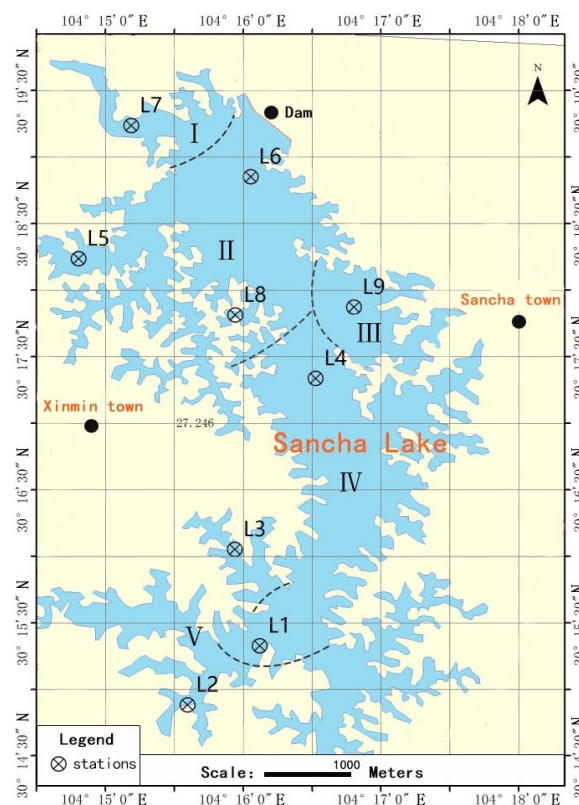


Figure 1. Sampling sites in the Sancha Lake

Sample collection and pretreatment

According to the distribution characteristics of the sediments of Sancha Lake and eutrophication status (Jia et al., 2013), 9 sampling sites as shown in *Figure 1* were selected, and the latitude and longitude of sampling sites were determined by GPS. In January (winter), April (spring), August (summer) and November (autumn) of 2016, the surface sediment at the bottom of Sanch Lake at each sampling site was collected using a grab bucket, then the surface sediment (0-5 cm) was collected using a organic glass column and placed in a clean sealed polyethylene bag. Three parallel samples of each sampling site were collected and mixed as the representative sample of such sampling site, and then they were stored in an ice box at 4 °C and brought back to the lab. One part of the sediment samples was immediately used for isolation of microbes and counting cultivation experiment, and the other part was grinded using a 100-mesh screen after freeze drying, and then packed in a sealed bag for the determination of phosphorus fraction and its physicochemical properties. Meanwhile, the overlying water at the bottom of the sediments of each sampling site was collected using an airtight water sampler for analysis of the index of water environment.

Determination method

The various fractions of phosphorus in the sediments were determined using the SMT chemical continuous extraction method (Ruban et al., 1999, 2001) recommended by European Standards Committee. The contents of TP, IP, OP, NaOH-P and HCl-P in the sediments were determined using the ammonium molybdate spectrophotometric method (Huang et al., 2003) Three parallel samples were determined for each fraction and then their average value was selected. Alkaline phosphatase activity (APA) was determined using the Anupama method (Anupama et al., 2008). The alkaline phosphatase can catalyze and hydrolyze p-nitrophenyl phosphate (p – NPP) to produce steady yellow p-nitrophenol (PNP). Therefore, the production rate of PNP was measured using the colorimetric method, as an index of alkaline phosphatase activity (APA). The specific methods were as follows: Firstly, about 0.5 g of wet sediments was selected and placed in a sterilized reaction tube, then 10 ml of Tris-HCl buffer with the pH of 8.4 and 0.5 mol·L⁻¹ concentration was added to the tube and blended well at 37 °C for 1h of reaction, then 2 ml of NaOH solution with 1 mol/L concentration was added to terminate the reaction, supernatant was filtered by centrifugation, 600 nm of solution was selected for colorimetric determination and the result was converted into the activity of dried mud of unit mass, and the PNP solution with different concentration was used to made the standard curve.

Total organic carbon (TOC) in the sediments was determined as per the regulations of On the Determination of Total Organic Carbon in Sediments issued by Chinese GB/T 19145-2003 (General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China, 2003). The Fe, Al and Ca were determined as per the regulations of Monitoring and Distinguishing Method for Water and Wastewater issued by National Environmental Protection Bureau (State Environmental Protection Administration of China, 2002). The moisture content was determined using the weight-loss method, namely the sediment was put at 105 °C and dried to constant weight. The pH, temperature and electrical conductivity of the overlying water were determined using an HI991301 portable multi-parameter temperature meter, and the dissolved oxygen was determined using an HQ30D portable dissolved oxygen meter.

Data analysis

Data analysis was conducted by Excel 2003 software and SPSS19.0. Correlation analysis was conducted using the Pearson correlation analysis to determine the relationship between fractions of phosphorus in the sediments and physicochemical properties.

Results

Physicochemical properties of the sediments and overlying water

The pH of the overlying water ranged from 7.15 to 8.73, averaging 7.53, 7.25, 7.91 and 8.54 in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, alkaline in winter and weakly alkaline in spring, summer and autumn; the temperature ranged from 11.1 °C to 27.6 °C, averaging 18.90 °C, 26.0 °C, 20.9 °C and 13.2 °C in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, with a temperature difference of about 13 °C in winter and summer, and not obvious temperature difference in spring and autumn; the DO ranged from 4.10 to 9.90 mg·L⁻¹, averaging 6.57 mg·L⁻¹, 4.60 mg·L⁻¹, 6.45 mg·L⁻¹ and 9.42 mg·L⁻¹ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, like temperature, it had huge temperature difference in winter and summer, and not obvious temperature difference in spring and autumn. The content of moisture in the sediments ranged from 55.47% to 82.7%, averaging 73.48%, 70.42%, 73.14% and 73.46% in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, changing slightly in the four seasons; the TOC in the sediments ranged from 13.7 to 36.3 mg·g⁻¹, averaging 23.3 mg·g⁻¹, 27.68 mg·g⁻¹, 23.71 mg·g⁻¹ and 22.4 mg·g⁻¹ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, higher in summer and lower in winter, similar in spring and autumn; the TN in the sediments ranged from 1.2 to 3.1 mg·g⁻¹, averaging 1.92 mg·g⁻¹, 2.57 mg·g⁻¹, 2.04 mg·g⁻¹ and 1.73 mg·g⁻¹ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, as with the variation laws of the TOC, it was higher in summer and lower in winter, similar in spring and autumn; the Fe in the sediments ranged from 25 to 128.4 mg·g⁻¹, averaging 43.93 mg·g⁻¹, 37.98 mg·g⁻¹, 47.33 mg·g⁻¹ and 61.46 mg·g⁻¹ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively; the Al in the sediments ranged from 4.72 to 21.67 mg·g⁻¹, averaging 10.94 mg·g⁻¹, 10.38 mg·g⁻¹, 11.22 mg·g⁻¹ and 13.43 mg·g⁻¹ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively; the Ca in the sediments ranged from 7.20 to 59.9 mg·g⁻¹, averaging 32.74 mg·g⁻¹, 32.86 mg·g⁻¹, 37.34 mg·g⁻¹ and 35.39 mg·g⁻¹ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively. From the seasonal variation of contents of Fe, Al, Ca in the sediments, it can be seen that the Fe content varied significantly in summer compared with winter, while the Al and Ca contents did not vary significantly with the seasons.

Temporal and spatial variation of content of phosphorus in the sediments

Content and distribution characteristics of TP in the sediments

As shown in *Table 1*, the content of TP in the sediments averaged 504.00-2,380.00 µg·g⁻¹, 270.00-1,376.00 µg·g⁻¹, 543.00-2,436.00 µg·g⁻¹ and 688.70-3722.80 µg·g⁻¹ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, highest in winter, followed by spring and autumn, and lowest in summer, which was higher than Poyang Lake (689.34 µg·g⁻¹), Yao Lake (987.93 µg·g⁻¹) and Guanting Reservoir (1,268.93 µg·g⁻¹) (Xiang et al., 2010; Jiang et al., 2016; Li et al., 2005), and higher when compared with

other similar lakes. From *Figure 2* it can be seen that different sampling sites had significantly different TP content and the same sampling site had significantly different TP content in different seasons, all the sampling sites showed a general trend where the phosphorus fraction content was higher in winter and lower in summer, similar in spring and autumn, which was due to the fact that vigorous growth of plankton of the waters had great demand for phosphorus in summer and the plankton of the waters conducted excessive decomposition of phosphorus in the sediments in the absence of phosphorus of the waters (Xie et al., 2003). The content of TP in L8, L6 and L5 of the highly dense area of original cage culture and L9 of the adjacent human activity intensive area was high, of which, it was highest in L8 and L9, reaching $3,723 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ in L8 in winter; the content of TP in L4 and L1 of the relatively dense area of enclosure culture of Dahu Lake was relatively high, reaching $1,200 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ in winter; the content of TP in L7 of the main runoff area of lake and L2 and L3 of the tail water area of reservoir was low compared with other sampling sites, of which, the content of TP averaged $643 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ in L2, a sampling site with minimum pollution, which belongs to a moderately polluted area in accordance with EPA standard.

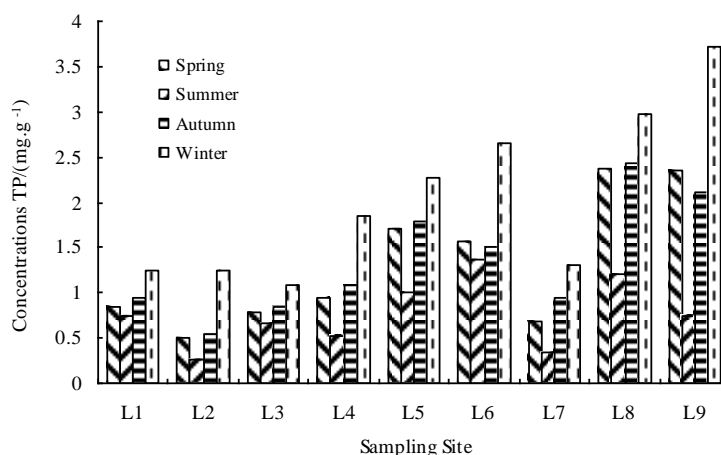


Figure 2. Seasonal variation of content of TP in different sampling sites

Content and distribution characteristics of IP in the sediments

As shown in *Table 1*, the IP content was $431.00\text{--}1,627.00 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, $164.00\text{--}900.00 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, $291.00\text{--}1,568.00 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ and $531.95\text{--}3,006.99 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, accounting for about 69.32% of TP, thus IP was the main factor influencing the TP variation. IP mainly included two phosphorus fractions namely NaOH-P and HCl-P, presenting $\text{HCl-P} > \text{NaOH-P}$ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, showing that HCl-P was the main factor influencing the IP variation. As shown in *Table 2*, the correlation analysis indicated that there was significant correlation between IP and TP ($P < 0.01$). As shown in *Figure 3*, the spatial distribution of IP in spring, summer, autumn and winter was similar to that of TP, with basically same high value point, except for L5 and L6 in which the IP content of L5 was higher than that of L6. *Table 1* showed that the NaOH-P content was $144.00\text{--}592.00 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, $51.00\text{--}371.00 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, $168.00\text{--}504.00 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ and $197.02\text{--}689.72 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, averaging 32.84%, 38.64%, 36.44% and 27.00% of IP, respectively, changing slightly in summer and autumn, and low in winter may be due to

the fact that weak reduction condition was favorable for NaOH-P to release to the overlying water on account of low oxygen content in the waters. In the spatial distribution, as shown in *Figure 3*, the content of NaOH-P in the sediments of L9 of the adjacent human activity intensive area was high, followed by L8, L6 and L5 of the highly dense area of original cage culture, and similar to TP in spatial distribution in other sampling sites in spring, summer, autumn and winter. The HCl-P content was 234.00-1,433.00 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, 125.00-545.00 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, 278.00-1,063.00 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ and 330.98-2,474.04 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, averaging 71.33.00%, 63.17%, 69.52% and 76.74% of IP, respectively, thus HCl-P was the main constituent of IP, changing slightly in summer and autumn, highest in winter, and low in summer may be due to the fact that the microorganism activity was highly favorable for HCl-P to release to the overlying water, showing the characteristics (Lau et al., 2002) of the sediments in eutrophic lakes. As shown in spatial distribution diagram 5, the HCl-P content was similar to TP in spatial distribution in spring, summer, autumn and winter, with basically same high value point.

Table 1. Variation of phosphorus fractions in the sediments

	Spring			Summer		
	Variation range ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Average value \pm standard deviation ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Variation factor ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Variation range ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Average value \pm standard deviation ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Variation factor ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)
TP	504.00-2380.00	1304.39 \pm 720.85	0.55	270.00-1376.00	762.01 \pm 377.15	0.49
IP	431.00-1627.00	903.72 \pm 455.50	0.50	164.00-900.00	533.01 \pm 269.50	0.51
OP	110.00-848.00	399.26 \pm 245.48	0.61	64.00-360.00	230.00 \pm 113.09	0.49
NaOH-P	144.00-592.00	296.61 \pm 154.20	0.52	51.00-371.00	205.98 \pm 110.45	0.54
HCl-P	234.00-1433.00	644.69 \pm 381.63	0.59	125.00-545.00	336.69 \pm 159.98	0.48
	Autumn			Winter		
	Variation range ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Average value \pm standard deviation ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Variation factor ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Variation range ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Average value \pm standard deviation ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)	Variation factor ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$)
TP	543.00-2436.00	1352.88 \pm 638.53	0.47	688.70-3722.80	1977.31 \pm 1003.71	0.51
IP	291.00-1568.00	866.12 \pm 452.74	0.52	531.95-3006.99	1449.53 \pm 840.60	0.58
OP	172.00-868.00	437.63 \pm 264.26	0.60	177.15-774.43	525.56 \pm 202.36	0.38
NaOH-P	168.00-504.00	315.61 \pm 141.87	0.45	197.02-689.72	393.15 \pm 193.08	0.49
HCl-P	278.00-1063.00	602.42 \pm 296.86	0.49	330.98-2474.04	1112.07 \pm 698.38	0.54

Table 2. Coefficients of correlation between different phosphorus fractions in the sediments ($n = 36$)

	TP	OP	IP	HCl-P	NaOH-P
TP	1				
OP	0.906**	1			
IP	0.598**	-0.542**	1		
HCl-P	0.435*	-0.364*	0.462**	1	
NaOH-P	0.414*	-0.202	0.282	-0.722**	1

* $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$

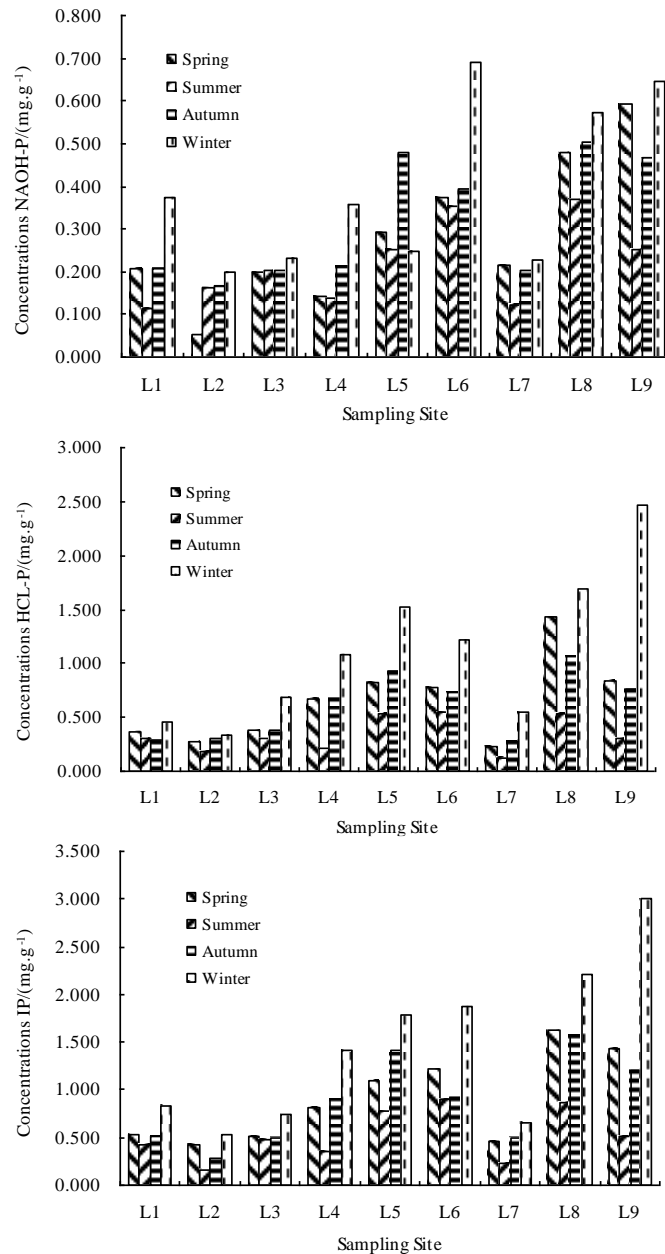


Figure 3. Seasonal variation of contents of NaOH-P, HCL-P and IP in the sediments in different sampling sites

Content and distribution characteristics of OP in the sediments

As shown in *Table 1*, the OP content was $110.00\text{--}848.00\ \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, $64.00\text{--}360.00\ \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, $172.00\text{--}868.00\ \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ and $177.15\text{--}774.43\ \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively, averaging 32.84%, 38.64%, 36.44% and 27.00% of TP, respectively, lower than IP of TP, however, the content of OP in the sediments was rich, higher than that of the same type of lakes such as Taihu, Chaohu and Longgan Lake (Fan, et al., 2007). As shown in spatial distribution *Figure 4*, in terms of OP content, L8 of the highly dense area of original cage culture and L9 of the adjacent human activity intensive area were high, L6 and L5 of the highly dense area of original cage culture were lower than that of L8 in the same area, L7 of the main runoff area of lake was higher than L4 of the

relatively dense area of enclosure culture of Dahu Lake, which may be due to the fact that the organic matter was deposited in this area, and L2 and L3 of the tail water area of reservoir were the lowest. Furthermore, like TP, all the sampling sites showed a general trend where the phosphorus fraction content was higher in winter and lower in summer, similar in spring and autumn.

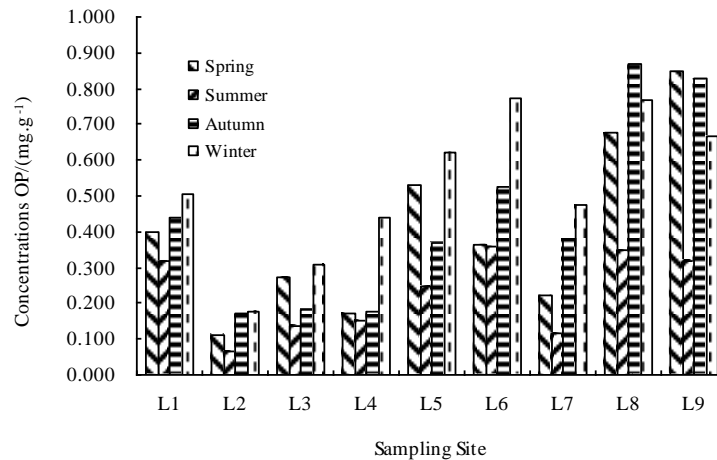


Figure 4. Seasonal variation of content of OP in the sediments in different sampling sites

Temporal and spatial variation of alkaline phosphatase in the sediments

The alkaline phosphatase (APA) in the sediments ranged from 1.40 to 9.80 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$, averaging 5.63 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$, 6.86 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$, 5.89 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ and 4.17 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ in spring and summer autumn and winter, respectively. From *Figure 5*, it can be seen that the APA of different sampling sites in summer was higher than that in winter, and similar in spring and autumn. The study showed that the enzyme activity was high in summer due to high temperature and low in winter due to low temperature (Wilczek et al., 2005), and the temperature increase can increase the affinity between enzyme and substrate, thus leading to enzyme catalytic rate increase (Chróst and Rai, 1993); in addition, the metabolic rate of microorganism will increase with the increase of temperature and then induce the microorganism to produce more enzyme (Wallenstein et al., 2010), therefore, the APA in the study area showed obvious seasonal variation. In the spatial distribution of APA, like OP, L8, L6 and L5 of the highly dense area of original cage culture and L9 of the adjacent human activity intensive area were high, followed by L1 of the relatively dense area of enclosure culture, L7 of the main runoff area of lake was higher than L4 of the relatively dense area of enclosure culture of Dahu Lake, and L2 and L3 of the tail water area of reservoir were the lowest. It can be seen that the high APA of the highly dense area of original cage culture and the adjacent human activity intensive area indicated that the APA was closely related to the input of pollutants (Zhang et al., 2007), in culture dosing and human activity area, the more nutrients input, the more organic phosphorus or enzymatic hydrolysis phosphorus increase, thus inducing the higher APA, such a mechanism was known as the substrate inducing mechanism (Li et al., 2007). Therefore, APA can be used as an indicator of the degree of sediment pollution to a certain extent (Huang et al., 2013). By correlation analysis, it can be seen that the APA had a significant correlation ($P < 0.05$) with OP only in winter, while poor correlation with other phosphorus fractions.

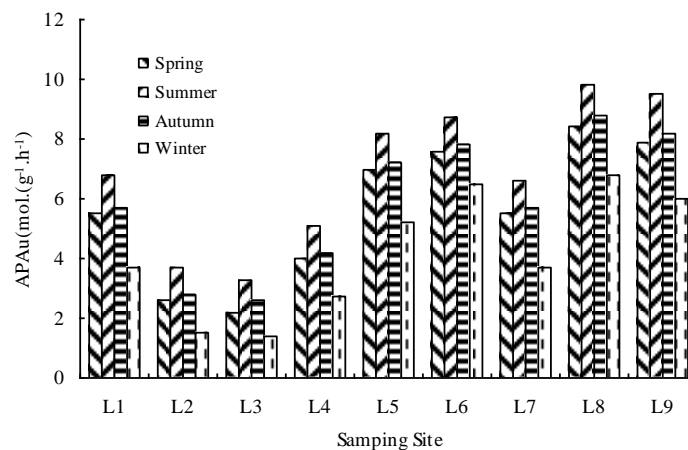


Figure 5. Seasonal variation of content of APA in the sediments in different sampling sites

Discussion

Distribution characteristics of different phosphorus fractions in the sediments of Sancha Lake

The phosphorus fractions in the sediments are closely related to the migration process of phosphorus to the overlying water, therefore, comprehending the distribution characteristics of different phosphorus fractions in the sediments has important practical significance to control the internal source pollution and reduce the endogenous phosphorus release. In this study, 9 sampling sites were selected as the representative samples of the sediments, and statistical analysis was conducted for the composition of different phosphorus fractions. The OP, NaOH-P and HCl-P in the sediments of Sancha Lake averaged 30%, 20.5% and 49.5% of TP, respectively, suggesting that HCl-P was the main constituent of phosphorus, followed by OP, while NaOH-P, mostly easily to release and with most biological activity, was the lowest. The decomposition of NaOH-P was closely related to the environmental conditions such as oxidation-reduction potential, while the morphological transformation and release process of HCl-P and OP were mostly related to the microorganism. Previous studies have indicated that microorganism dissolves HCL-P by secretion of organic acid, while phosphatase secreted by microorganism is an indispensable mediator of OP degradation pathway (Wu and Zhou, 2005). Therefore, in the sediments of Sancha Lake that are rich in HCl-P and OP, microorganism should play an important role in the migration and transformation process of phosphorus. The distribution characteristics of phosphorus fractions of different sampling sites were different, L8 of the highly dense area of original cage culture had high OP content, accounting for approximately 49% of TP, which was significantly higher than the average level of the whole lake, L9 of the adjacent human activity intensive area had high NaOH-P content, accounting for approximately 36% of TP, L6 and L5 of the highly dense area of original cage culture also had high OP content, averaging close to 40%, L1 and L4 of the relatively dense area of enclosure culture of Dahu Lake had low OP and NaOH-P contents, but high absolute content of HCl-P, which may be due to the fact that the fish of the upper water consumed and absorbed the phosphorus of the waters in the growth process, thus promoting the release of OP and NaOH-P in the sediments, and L2 and L3 of the tail water area of reservoir had low OP, NaOH-P and HCl-P contents on account of little

water flow and low pollution. Since OP and NaOH-P were phosphorus with release potential, so L8 and L9 had the most endogenous phosphorus release potential, meanwhile, L6, L5, L4 and L1 could exhibit strong phosphorus release capability under appropriate environmental conditions such as high temperature and hypoxia.

Correlation between different phosphorus fractions in the sediments of Sancha Lake

Correlation between different phosphorus fractions in the sediments of Sancha Lake was as shown in *Table 2*. TP had significant correlation with four phosphorus fractions, among which, the coefficient of correlation between TP and OP was higher, presenting extremely significant correlation, suggesting that the variation of content of TP in the sediments of Sancha Lake was closely related to OP fluctuation. IP had extremely significant correlation with HCl-P and positive correlation with NaOH-P, but not significant correlation, which may be due to the fact that the microbial activity was highly favorable for HCl-P to release to overlying water. IP had extremely significant negative correlation with OP, suggesting a presence of mutual transformation between IP and OP. HCl-P had significant negative correlation with OP, suggesting that the orthophosphate released from decomposition of these two phosphorus fractions may transform towards fraction of each other under suitable environmental conditions. Furthermore, there was significant negative correlation between HCl-P and NaOH-P, two main phosphorus fractions of IP.

Correlation between different phosphorus fractions in the sediments of Sancha Lake and physiochemical factors

Correlation between different phosphorus fractions in the sediments of Sancha Lake and physiochemical factors was shown in *Table 3*. Based on isothermy, Zhou et al. (2005) discovered, after investigating the sediments of Taihu Lake, that the influence of pH on phosphorus adsorption was an inverted “U” shape, and positive correlation on phosphorus analysis. the pH of the sediments of Sancha Lake was neutral leaning alkalinity, i.e. weakly alkaline in the four seasons, and had significant correlation with HCl-P phosphorus fractions, while the content of organic matter in the sediments had significant correlation with OP, such similar laws were also found by Huang et al. (2005) in studies on lake and reservoir. NaOH-P had significant correlation with the content of Fe in the sediments, whose formation was closely related to the adsorption and binding of iron and aluminum compounds, HCl-P in the sediments had extremely significant correlation with Ca. APA had extremely significant positive correlation with TP and OP and significant positive correlation with IP, which was basically in agreement with the results of a study by Jiang et al. (2011), who concluded that the APA had significant correlation with TP, IP and OP in the sediments. Other studies have suggested a complex relationship between APA and OP, and Xue et al. (1995) suggested that if the IP produced by enzymolysis of ALP was used by the biological organisms in the sediments, then the APA had positive correlation with OP; if the IP produced by enzymolysis of ALP moved upward into the overlying water, then the APA had negative correlation with OP. While Huang and Huang (1999) pointed out that the dissolved IP and small molecule OP concentration were the main factors influencing the APA variation because the APA jumped to high value when the dissolved IP or small molecule OP were almost depleted. Therefore, the relationship between the APA

and phosphorus was uncertain, which may be associated with the biological effect, physicochemical conditions of the sedimentation and nutrient content.

In addition, the TN, dissolved oxygen, temperature will also have an impact on the phosphorus fractions and phosphorus content, but their correlation was not significant, which may be related to water power, environmental media conditions and biological effect.

Table 3. Coefficients of correlation between different phosphorus fractions in the sediments and physicochemical properties ($n = 36$)

	TN	TOC	Fe	Al	Ca	pH	O ₂	T	APA
TP	-0.201	-0.338	0.345	0.284	0.403*	0.020	-0.131	-0.147	0.466**
OP	0.047	0.382*	0.331	0.196	0.291	0.051	0.184	-0.37	0.596**
IP	0.247	0.245	0.157	0.257	0.462**	-0.098	-0.038	-0.117	0.344*
HCl-P	-0.236	-0.082	0.282	0.185	0.749**	-0.023*	0.072	-0.089	0.0586
NaOH-P	-0.200	0.012	0.430*	0.46*	0.281	0.133	0.256	-0.269	0.054

* $P < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$

Conclusions

(1) The content of TP in the sediments of Sancha Lake ranged from 504.00 to 2,380.00 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, 270.00 to 1,376.00 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, 543.00 to 2,436.00 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ and 688.70 to 3,722.80 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively. The contents of all phosphorus fractions were highest in winter, followed by spring and autumn, and smallest in winter. In the four seasons IP was the main phosphorus fraction of TP, averaging about 69.52% of TP, in which HCl-P was the main phosphorus fraction, averaging 71.8% of IP, and OP averaged about 29.50% of TP.

(2) In the spatial distribution, different sampling sites had significantly different phosphorus fraction content and the same sampling site had significantly different phosphorus fraction content in different seasons, all the sampling sites showed a general trend where the phosphorus fraction content was higher in winter and lower in summer, similar in spring and autumn. The contents of all phosphorus fractions were basically same, high in the highly dense area of original cage culture and adjacent human activity intensive area, relatively high in the relatively dense area of enclosure culture of Dahu Lake, and low in the main runoff area of lake and tail water area of reservoir.

(3) Correlation analysis showed that the content distribution of phosphorus in the sediments was influenced by many factors in the sedimentary environment, exhibiting different correlation in different seasons. TP had extremely significant correlation with APA and significant correlation with Ca, OP had extremely significant correlation with APA and significant correlation with TOC, HCl-P had extremely significant correlation with Ca, NaOH-P had significant correlation with Ca and Al, IP had significant correlation with Ca, and pH, TN as well as dissolved oxygen and temperature of the overlying water will also influence the phosphorus fractions and phosphorus contents, but their correlation was not significant.

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