



**Figure 3.14.** The redox buffering capacities of seawater illustrated by the ranges of pe in which electron acceptors are stable (ordinate) plotted against the concentration of the electron acceptor in seawater. Although O<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> reduction dominate the redox reactions and the range of pe in seawater and sediments of the ocean, the most abundant electron acceptors are SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and CO<sub>2</sub> and they occupy a relatively small range of pe.