

scatter, while the smallest impactors are systematically higher. The departures for hypervelocity data are increased when equation (10d) is applied (Figure 5, bottom) but accommodates small projectile data at low velocities. The difference between low and high velocity impact data could reflect a contributing role of cohesion. From analysis by Schmidt and Holsapple [1980], cohesion effects would be expressed by a lower than expected value of $k\pi_2^{\alpha}\pi_v$, at higher impact velocities. Under vacuum conditions, however, higher

impact velocities do not result in comparable reduction. The presence of even a 0.03-bar atmosphere significantly reduces cratering efficiency to 20% and 35% the expected value for pumice and sand, respectively, referenced to vacuum conditions.

Application of equation (10d) to the microsphere, coarse sand, and sand-mixture targets is shown in Figure 6 with no. 140-200 and pumice shown for reference. As might be expected from Figure 3a, the effects of an atmosphere on

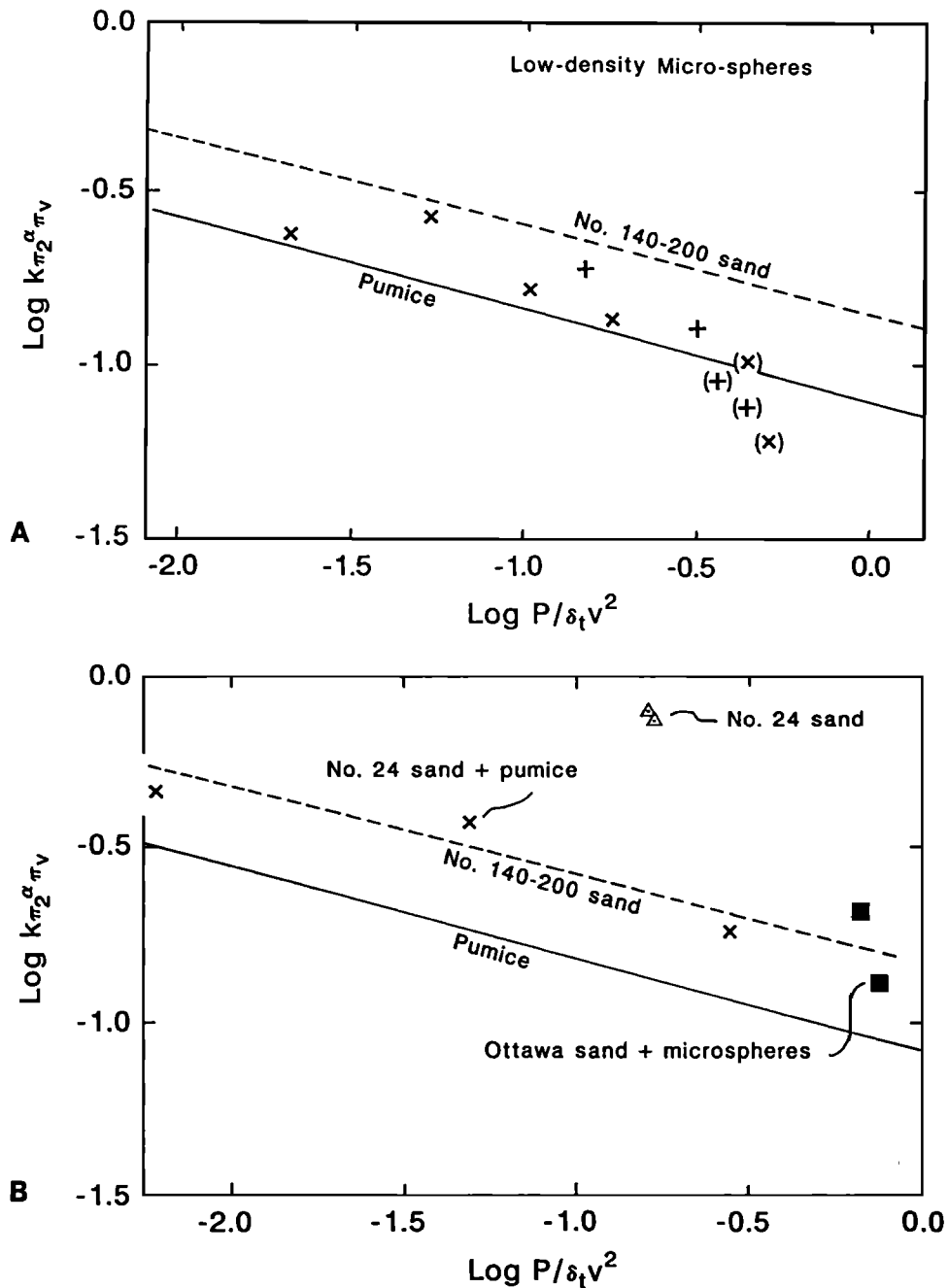


Fig. 6. (a) Reduction in cratering efficiency as a function of the dimensionless pressure scaling parameter given by equation (10c) for impacts into a target of low-density microspheres. Although the internal angle of friction for target of microspheres (20°) is significantly less than both sand (30°) and pumice (80°), the observed response is similar. Parentheses indicate experiments where rim collapse was observed to occur immediately following formation. Pressure is in bars; velocity is in kilometers per second. (b) The

effect of an atmosphere on cratering efficiency for coarse sand targets and targets mixed with a small component of fine-grained material. Introduction of only 8% pumice by weight to no. 24 sand or 5% microspheres to Ottawa sand dramatically reduces cratering efficiency. Introduction of either fine-grained fraction to the sand produced no observable effect on the internal angle of friction. Pressure is in bars; velocity is in kilometers per second.