1   **A record of Neogene seawater δ^{11}B reconstructed from paired δ^{11}B**

2   **analyses on benthic and planktic foraminifera.**

4   Greenop Rosanna[1,2*], Hain, Mathis P.[1], Sosdian, Sindia M.[3], Oliver, Kevin I.C.[1],

5   Goodwin, Philip[1], Chalk, Thomas B.[1,4], Lear, Caroline H.[3], Wilson, Paul A.[1], Foster,

6   Gavin L.[1],

7   [*]Corresponding author

8   [1] *Ocean and Earth Science, National Oceanography Centre Southampton, University*

9   *of Southampton, Waterfront Campus, European Way, Southampton SO14 3ZH, UK*

10 [2]*School of Geography & Geosciences, Irvine Building, University of St Andrews,*

11 *North Street, St Andrews, KY16 9AL, UK*

12 [3]*School of Earth & Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University, Cardiff, CF10 3AT, UK*

13 [4] *Department of Physical Oceanography, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution,*

14 *Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA*

16 **Abstract:**

17 The boron isotope composition (δ^{11}B) of foraminiferal calcite, which reflects

18 seawater pH, is a well-established proxy for reconstructing past seawater carbonate

19 chemistry and, in the case of planktic foraminifera, past atmospheric CO_2. However,

20 to translate δ^{11}B measurements determined in calcareous fossils into pH we need to

21 know the boron isotope composition of the seawater in which they grew ($\delta^{11}B_{sw}$).

22 While a number of $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ reconstructions exist, more work is needed to build

23 confidence in our knowledge of this important parameter. Here we present a new

24 Neogene $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record based on the δ^{11}B difference between paired measurements of

25 planktic and benthic foraminifera and an estimate of the coeval water column pH

26 gradient derived from planktic/benthic δ^{13}C data. To underscore this approach we

27 present extensive tests using the CYCLOPS and GENIE carbon cycle models to

28 demonstrate that the planktic/benthic ΔpH/$\Delta\delta^{13}$C relationship is relatively insensitive

29 to ocean and carbon cycle changes. In keeping with previously published records, our

30   reconstruction suggests that $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ was ~ 37.5 ‰ during the early and middle

31   Miocene and rapidly increased from ~12 to 5 Ma to reach a plateau near the modern

32   value of 39.61 ‰. A similar pattern of change is evident in the seawater composition

33   of the Mg, Li and Ca stable isotope systems. Concurrent shifts in the seawater

34   isotopic composition of all four of these elements during the late Miocene are

35   suggestive of a common forcing mechanism. Based on the observed direction of

36   change we hypothesise that an increase in secondary mineral formation during

37   continental weathering may have affected the isotopic composition of the riverine

38   input to the ocean since ~12-15 Ma.

39   **1. Introduction**

40   Key to determining the relationship between CO_2 and climate in the geological past is

41   the calculation of reliable estimates of absolute CO_2 through time. In recent years the

42   boron isotope composition ($\delta^{11}B$) of foraminiferal calcite has become a high-profile

43   tool for reconstructing CO_2 beyond the last 800 kyrs and throughout the Cenozoic Era

44   (Foster, 2008; Hönisch et al., 2009; Pearson et al., 2009; Bartoli et al., 2009; Foster et

45   al., 2012; Badger et al., 2013; Henehan et al., 2013; Greenop et al., 2014; Martínez-

46   Botí, et al., 2015a). Yet long-term change in the boron isotope composition of

47   seawater ($\delta^{11}B_{sw}$) is currently poorly constrained and represents a major source of the

48   uncertainty associated with $\delta^{11}B$-determined CO_2 estimates (e.g. Pearson et al., 2009).

49   In the modern ocean boron is a conservative element with a spatially invariant

50   isotope ratio (39.61‰; Foster et al., 2010), but this value is subject to change through

51   geological time. The residence time of boron in the ocean is estimated to lie between

52   11 and 17 Myrs (Lemarchand et al., 2000). Therefore we can expect the uncertainty

53   associated with $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ to be an important factor in CO_2 estimates beyond the late

54   Pliocene (~ 4-5 Ma, Palmer et al., 1998; Lemarchand et al., 2000; Pearson et al.,

55   2009; Foster et al., 2012).

56   The ocean boron budget and its isotopic composition are controlled by a number of

57   inputs and outputs (Fig. 1). However, because the magnitude of the boron fluxes

58   between land, the ocean and the atmosphere in the modern are still poorly

59   understood, the residence time and changes in both concentration ([B]$_{sw}$) and isotopic

60   composition ($\delta^{11}B_{sw}$) through time remain uncertain. The main inputs of B into the

61 ocean are silicate weathering delivered to the ocean by rivers (Lemarchand et al.,

62 2000), hydrothermal vents (You et al., 1993) and fluid expelled from accretionary

63 prisms (Smith et al., 1995). The major loss terms are oceanic crust alteration (Smith

64 et al., 1995), adsorption onto sediments (Spivack and Edmond, 1987) and co-

65 precipitation into carbonates (Hemming and Hanson, 1992). In case of all three

66 outputs the light ^{10}B isotope is preferentially removed relative to ^{11}B, such that the

67 seawater ^{11}B/^{10}B ratio ($\delta^{11}B_{sw}$, 39.61‰) is significantly greater than that of the

68 cumulative inputs (δ^{11}B of ~10.4‰; Lemarchand et al., 2000). Our understanding of

69 the modern boron fluxes outlined above, and illustrated in Fig. 1, implies a significant

70 imbalance between inputs and outputs and consequently the poorly constrained

71 ocean-atmosphere boron fluxes may also be an important part of the ocean's modern

72 boron mass balance (Park and Schlesinger, 2002). In the context of this study,

73 however, we follow Lemarchand et al., (2000) and assume atmospheric fluxes are

74 unlikely to have varied significantly on geological timescales and therefore will not

75 be discussed further in reference to the Neogene record.

76

77 Unlike many other isotopic systems (e.g. δ^7Li_{sw}, $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$, $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$, $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$) to date

78 no archive has been discovered that simply records unaltered $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$. This is a result

79 of the pH-dependent boron speciation in seawater upon which the δ^{11}B-pH proxy is

80 based (Hemming & Hanson 1992) that imparts a pH dependency on the δ^{11}B of all

81 marine precipitates so far examined. Empirical reconstructions of $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ must

82 therefore use "indirect" approaches. So far four approaches have been applied to the

83 problem (Fig. 2): (1) geochemical modeling (Lemarchand et al., 2000), (2) δ^{11}B

84 analysis of halites (Paris et al., 2010), (3) measurements of benthic foraminiferal δ^{11}B

85 coupled to various assumptions about past changes in ocean pH (Raitzsch and

86 Hönisch, 2013), and (4) measurements of δ^{11}B in surface and thermocline dwelling

87 foraminifera coupled with additional information on the pH gradient of the surface

88 ocean (Palmer et al., 1998; Pearson and Palmer 1999, Pearson and Palmer 2000;

89 Anagnostou et al., 2016). Geochemical modelling of the changes in the flux of boron

90 into and out of the ocean through time has been used to suggest that $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ increased

91 from 37‰ at 60 Ma to 40‰ ± 1‰ today, driven by a combination of processes

92 including changing boron continental discharge (Lemarchand et al., 2000). In the

93 case of approach 2, while modern natural halites reflect $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ (39.7 ‰) with no

94 apparent fractionation, measurement of δ^{11}B in ancient halites yield isotopic ratios

95   that are significantly lower than all other approaches (Fig. 2; Paris et al., 2010), with

96   implausible variability among samples of the same age (7‰ range), thereby casting

97   doubt over the reliability of this approach (Raitzsch and Hönisch, 2013). In the case

98   of approach 3, $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ is calculated from globally distributed benthic $\delta^{11}B$ data with an

99   imposed degree of deep-ocean pH change (Fig. 2; Raitzsch and Hönisch, 2013). This

100   method hinges on two key assumptions: (a) a near linear surface water pH increase of

101   0.39 over the past 50 Myrs taken from the intermediate pH output from two modeling

102   studies (Berner and Kothavala, 2001; Tyrrell and Zeebe, 2004; Ridgwell, 2005), and

103   (b) a prescribed constant surface-to-deep ocean pH gradient of 0.3 (Tyrrell and

104   Zeebe, 2004, and modern observations). The modeled surface pH and estimated fixed

105   pH gradient is then used to estimate deep ocean pH, and then convert benthic

106   foraminiferal $\delta^{11}B$ measurements to $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$. This approach yields broadly similar

107   results to geochemical modeling (Fig. 2). The fourth approach exploits the non-linear

108   relationship between $\delta^{11}B$ and pH alongside estimated pH gradients in the ocean to

109   constrain $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ (Palmer et al., 1998; Pearson and Palmer 1999, Pearson and Palmer

110   2000) and is the basis of the approach used in this study. The advantage of this

111   method is that $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ can be reconstructed empirically without relying on dependent

112   pH constraints. The non-linear relationship between $\delta^{11}B$ and pH means that the pH

113   difference between two $\delta^{11}B$ data points varies as a function of $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ (Fig. 3).

114   Consequently, if the size of the pH gradient can be estimated then there is only one

115   $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ value that is consistent with the foraminiferal $\delta^{11}B$ measurements and the

116   specified pH gradient irrespective of the absolute pH (Fig. 3c). Previously this

117   approach has been applied to pH variations in the surface ocean and used in studies

118   of Cenozoic pCO$_2$ to account for changes in $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ (determined using $\delta^{11}B$ in surface

119   and thermocline-dwelling foraminifera) (Fig. 2) (Palmer et al., 1998; Pearson and

120   Palmer 1999, Pearson and Palmer 2000; Anagnostou et al., 2016). This approach uses

121   a constant pH gradient between the surface and some depth proximal to the oxygen

122   minimum zone and the boron isotope values of a mixed layer dwelling species and

123   thermocline dweller to calculate a value for $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ (Pearson and Palmer, 1999). The

124   resulting record suggests that $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ varies between 37.7‰ and 39.4‰ through the

125   Neogene (Fig. 2) (Pearson and Palmer, 2000).

126   The same method, but using planktic-benthic instead of surface planktic- thermocline

127   planktic $\delta^{11}B$ gradients to calculate $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$, was recently applied to the middle

128 Miocene where it yielded a $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ of 37.6 $^{+0.4}_{-0.5}$ ‰ (Foster et al., 2012). A further

129 modification to the method of Pearson and Palmer (1999) was also proposed in that

130 study wherein $\delta^{13}C$ in foraminiferal calcite was used to estimate the surface-to-deep

131 pH gradient (Foster et al., 2012). Here, we reconstruct $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ for the last 23 Ma, the

132 Neogene, based on this modified approach. We undertake extensive sensitivity tests

133 using both the CYCLOPS carbon cycle box model and the GENIE Earth system

134 model to define the plausible range in the relationship between surface/deep pH

135 difference and $\delta^{13}C$ difference, which is an essential parameter for this approach.

136 Finally, we employ a Monte Carlo approach for comprehensive propagation of

137 uncertainty in all input parameters and we focus on reconstructing $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ – the

138 implications of our work for understanding the evolution of Neogene ocean pH and

139 atmospheric pCO$_2$ will be documented elsewhere.

140 **2. Methods**

141 **2.1 Site Locations and Age Models**

142 Foraminifera from four sites are used to construct the planktic-benthic $\delta^{11}B$ pairs;

143 Ocean Drilling Program, ODP, Site 758 and ODP Site 999 for the Pleistocene and

144 Pliocene samples and ODP Site 926 and Site 761 for the Miocene (Fig. 4) (this study;

145 Foster et al., 2012; Martìnez-Botì et al., 2015a, Sosdian et al., *in prep*). We also

146 incorporate the middle Miocene planktic-benthic pair from Site 761 in Foster et al.

147 (2012). To place all data from all sites on a single age model we use the nanno and

148 planktic foraminifera stratigraphy from sites 999, 926 and 761 (Shipboard Scientific

149 Party, 1997; Shipboard Scientific Party, 1995; Zeeden et al., 2013; Holbourn et al.,

150 2004) updated to GTS2012 (Gradstein et al., 2012). At Site 758 the

151 magnetostratigraphy (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1989) is used and updated to

152 GTS2012 (Gradstein et al., 2012).

153 **2.2 Boron Isotope Analysis and pH Calculation**

154 The boron isotope measurements (expressed in delta notation as $\delta^{11}B$ – permil

155 variation) were made relative to the boric acid standard SRM 951; (Catanzaro et al.,

156 1970). Boron was first separated from the Ca matrix prior to analysis using the boron

157   specific resin Amberlite IRA 743 following Foster et al. (2013). The boron isotopic

158   composition was then determined using a sample-standard bracketing routine on a

159   ThermoFisher Scientific Neptune multicollector inductively coupled plasma mass

160   spectrometer (MC-ICPMS) at the University of Southampton (following Foster et al.,

161   2013). The relationship between δ^{11}B of B(OH)$_4^-$ and pH is very closely

162   approximated by the following equation:

$$pH = pK_B^* - \log\left(-\frac{\delta^{11}B_{SW} - \delta^{11}B_{CaCO_3}}{\delta^{11}B_{SW} - \propto_B . \delta^{11}B_{CaCO_3} - 1000 . (\propto_B - 1)}\right) \qquad (1)$$

163

164   Where pK_B^* is the equilibrium constant, dependent on salinity, temperature, pressure

165   and seawater major ion composition (i.e., [Ca] and [Mg]), $\propto_B$ is the fractionation

166   factor between the two boron species and δ^{11}B$_{sw}$ is the boron isotope composition of

167   seawater. Here we use the fractionation factor of 1.0272, calculated from

168   spectrophotometric measurements (Klochko et al., 2006). No temperature correction

169   was applied as a number of recent studies suggest that it is not significant over our

170   investigated temperature range (Rae et al. 2011; Henehan et al., 2013; Martìnez-Botì

171   et al. (2015b); Kaczmarek et al. 2016). Although the δ^{11}B of foraminifera correlates

172   well with pH and hence [CO$_2$]$_{aq}$, the δ^{11}B$_{calcite}$ is often not exactly equal to δ^{11}B$_{borate}$

173   (Sanyal et al., 2001; Foster, 2008; Henehan et al., 2013). The planktic species used to

174   construct the benthic-planktic pairs changes through time, as a single species is not

175   available for the entire Neogene (this study; Foster et al., 2012; Martìnez-Botì et al.,

176   2015a, Sosdian et al., in prep). Here *Globigerinoides ruber* is used for 0 to 3 Ma,

177   *Trilobatus sacculifer* (formally *Globigerinoides sacculifer* and including *Trilobatus*

178   *trilobus*; Hembleden et al., 1987; Spezzaferri et al., 2015) for 0 to 20 Ma and

179   *Globigerina praebulloides* for 22 to 23 Ma. The calibration for *G. ruber* (300-

180   355μm) is derived from culturing data supported by core top data (Henehan et al.,

181   2013). The *T. sacculifer* calibration (300-355μm) is from Sosdian et al., (*in prep*)

182   where the *T. sacculifer* calibration of Sanyal et al., (2001) is used with a modified

183   intercept so that it passes through the core top value for *T. sacculifer* (300–355 μm)

184   from ODP Hole 999A (Seki et al., 2010). Unlike the asymbiotic modern *G. bulloides*,

185   *G. praebulloides* appears to be symbiotic at least in the latest Oligocene (Pearson and

186   Wade, 2009). Therefore, we apply the *T. sacculifer* (300-355μm) calibration to this

187   species. For *T. sacculifer* (500-600μm) between 0 and 1 Ma, we use the calibration

188   from Martìnez-Botì et al. (2015b) where the calibration of Sanyal et al. (2001)

189   measured using NTIMS is corrected for the offset between MC-ICPMS and NTIMS

190   using a comparison of core-top *T. sacculifer* measured by the two different methods

191   from adjacent sites (Foster, 2008; Sanyal et al., 1995). In order to constrain deep-

192   water pH, analysis was conducted on benthic foraminifera *Cibicidoides wuellestorfi*

193   or *Cibicidoides mundulus* depending on which species were most abundant in each

194   sample. The $\delta^{11}B$ of both *Cibicidoides* species shows no offset from the theoretical

195   $\delta^{11}B$ of the borate ion and therefore no calibration is needed to adjust for species-

196   specific offsets (Rae et al., 2011).

197   As mentioned above, in addition to $\delta^{11}B_{calcite}$, temperature, salinity, water depth

198   (pressure) and seawater major ion composition are also needed to calculate pH from

199   $\delta^{11}B$. We use the MyAMI specific ion interaction model (Hain et al., 2015) to

200   calculate the appropriate equilibrium constants based on existing [Ca] and [Mg]

201   reconstructions (Horita et al., 2002; Brennan et al., 2013). Sea surface temperature

202   (SST) is calculated from tandem Mg/Ca analyses on an aliquot of the $\delta^{11}B$ sample

203   (with a conservative 2σ uncertainty of 2°C). Adjustments were made for changes in

204   Mg/Ca_{sw} using the records of Horita et al. (2002) and Brennan et al. (2013), and

205   correcting for changes in dependence on Mg/Ca_{sw} following Evans and Muller (2012)

206   using H = 0.41 calculated from *T. sacculifer* (where H describes the power

207   relationship between test Mg/Ca incorporation and Mg/Ca_{sw}; Delaney et al., 1985;

208   Hasiuk and Lohmann, 2010; Evans and Muller, 2012) using the equations:

$$Mg/Ca_{sw.c} = (Mg/Ca_{sw.a} \ / Mg/Ca_{sw.m})^{0.41} \qquad (2)$$

209   Where $Mg/Ca_{sw.c}$ is the correction factor applied to the temperature equation for

210   changing Mg/Ca_{sw}, $Mg/Ca_{sw.a}$ is the estimated Mg/Ca_{sw} for the age of the sample and

211   $Mg/Ca_{sw.m}$ is modern Mg/Ca_{sw}. Temperature is then calculated using the generic

212   planktic foraminifera calibration of Anand et al. (2003) and including a correction

213   factor for Mg/Ca_{sw}.

$$Temperature = ln(Mg/Ca_{test}/(0.38 * Mg/Ca_{sw.c}))/0.09 \qquad (3)$$

214   Mg/Ca analysis was conducted on a small aliquot of the sample dissolved for isotope

215   analysis at the University of Southampton using a ThermoFisher Scientific Element 2

216   XR. Al/Ca was also measured to assess the competency of the sample cleaning.

217   Because of complications with the Mg/Ca-temperature proxy in *Cibicidoides* species

218   (Elderfield et al., 2006), bottom water temperatures (BWTs) are estimated here by

219   taking the global secular temperature change from the Mg/Ca temperature

220   compilation of Cramer et al. (2011), using the calibration of Lear et al. (2010) and

221   applying this change to the modern bottom water temperature at each site taken from

222   the nearest GLODAP site (with a conservative 2σ uncertainty of 2°C). Salinity is held

223   constant at modern values determined from the nearest GLODAP site (2σ uncertainty

224   of 2 ‰ uncertainty) for the entire record. Note that temperature and salinity have

225   little influence on the calculated pH and the uncertainty in $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ is dominated by the

226   uncertainty in the $\delta^{11}B$ measurement and the estimate of the pH gradient.

227   The majority of the $\delta^{13}C$ data were measured at Cardiff University on a

228   ThermoFinnigan MAT 252 coupled with a Kiel III carbonate device for automated

229   sample preparation. Additional samples were measured on a gas source mass

230   spectrometer Europa GEO 20-20, University of Southampton equipped with

231   automated carbonate preparation device and on a Finnigan MAT 253 gas isotope

232   ratio mass spectrometer connected to a Kiel IV automated carbonate preparation

233   device at the Zentrum für Marine Tropenökologie (ZMT), Bremen. The Pliocene

234   benthic $\delta^{13}C$ from Site 999 were taken from the nearest sample in Haug and

235   Tiedemann, (1998). In almost all cases $\delta^{13}C$ was analysed on the same foraminiferal

236   species as $\delta^{11}B$ and Mg/Ca (38/44 samples). Where this was not possible another

237   surface dweller/benthic foraminifera was used from the same depth habitat. *C.*

238   *wuellestorfi* or *C. mundulus* were measured in all cases for benthic $\delta^{13}C$. Stable

239   isotope results are reported relative to the Vienna Peedee belemnite (VPDB)

240   standard. We use a carbon isotope vital effect for *G. ruber* (+0.94 ‰; Spero et al.,

241   2003), *T. sacculifer/G. praebulloides* (+0.46 ‰; Spero et al., 2003; Al-Rousan et al.,

242   2004;), *C. mundulus* (+0.47 ‰; McCorkle et al., 1997) and *C. wuellestorfi* (+0.1 ‰;

243   McCorkle et al., 1997) to calculate the $\delta^{13}C$ of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC).

244   **2.3 Carbon isotopes as a proxy for vertical ocean pH gradient**

245   The use of $\delta^{13}C$ in foraminiferal calcite to estimate the surface to deep pH gradient

246   requires knowledge of the slope of the pH-$\delta^{13}C$ relationship in the past. In this section

247   we briefly outline the main factors that contribute to the pH-δ^{13}C relationship in order

248   to underpin our analysis of extensive carbon cycle model simulations.

249   The production, sinking and sequestration into the ocean interior of low-δ^{13}C organic

250   carbon via the soft-tissue component of the biological pump (e.g., Hain et al., 2014a)

251   leads to a broad correlation between δ^{13}C, $[CO_3^{2-}]$ and macronutrients in the ocean.

252   The remineralization of this organic matter decreases δ^{13}C and titrates $[CO_3^{2-}]$ so as to

253   reduce pH, while nutrient concentrations are increased. In waters that have

254   experienced more soft tissue remineralization both pH and δ^{13}C will be lower (Fig.

255   5a,b), which is the dominant cause for the positive slope between δ^{13}C and pH in the

256   modern ocean (e.g., Foster et al., 2012; Fig. 5c).

257   Another significant factor affecting the spatial distribution of both δ^{13}C and pH is

258   seawater temperature, which affects both the equilibrium solubility of DIC and the

259   equilibrium isotopic composition of DIC. Warmer ocean waters have decreased

260   equilibrium solubility of DIC and so increased local $[CO_3^{2-}]$ and pH (Goodwin and

261   Lauderdale, 2013), while warmer waters have relatively low equilibrium δ^{13}C values

262   (Lynch-Stieglitz et al, 1995). This means that a spatial gradient in temperature acts to

263   drive δ^{13}C and pH in opposite directions: warmer waters tend to have higher pH but

264   lower δ^{13}C. These opposing temperature effects act to reduce the pH difference

265   between two points with greatly different temperature to below the value expected

266   based on δ^{13}C alone. That is, when using δ^{13}C differences to estimate the pH gradient

267   between the warm low latitude surface and cold deep waters the appropriate pH-δ^{13}C

268   relationship will be less than expected when only considering the effect of the

269   biological pump. For this reason, in our modeling analysis we focus on the warm-

270   surface to cold-bottom $\Delta pH/\Delta\delta^{13}$C rather than the slope of the overall pH-δ^{13}C

271   relationship, with the latter expected to be greater than the former.

272   In the modern ocean, and for the preceding tens of millions of years, the two

273   dynamics described above are likely dominant in setting spatial variation in δ^{13}C and

274   pH (and $[CO_3^{2-}]$). However, other processes will have a minor effect on either pH or

275   δ^{13}C. For instance, the dissolution of $CaCO_3$ shells increases $[CO_3^{2-}]$ and pH

276   (Broecker and Peng, 1982), but does not significantly affect δ^{13}C (Zeebe and Wolf-

277   Gladrow, 2001). Moreover, the long timescale of air/sea isotopic equilibration of CO_2

278   combined with kinetic isotope fractionation during net carbon transfer is an important

279   factor in setting the distribution of $\delta^{13}C$ on a global ocean scale (Galbraith et al.,

280   2015; Lynch-Stieglitz et al., 1995), while the effect of CO_2 disequilibrium on $[CO_3^{2-}]$

281   and pH is modest (Goodwin and Lauderdale, 2013).

282

283   **2.4 Modelling the pH to $\delta^{13}C$ relationship**

284   After correcting for the shift in $\delta^{13}C$ due to anthropogenic activity, or Suess effect

285   (Keeling 1979), modern ocean observations demonstrate a near linear relationship

286   between global ocean data of seawater *in situ* pH and $\delta^{13}C$ DIC with a slope of

287   0.201± 0.005 (2σ) (Foster et al., 2012; Fig 5c.) This empirically determined slope

288   might well have been different in past oceans with very different nutrient cycling,

289   carbon chemistry and circulation compared to today, and it does not appropriately

290   represent the temperature effect described above (i.e., warm-surface to cold-bottom

291   water $\Delta pH/\Delta\delta^{13}C$). Here we use an ensemble approach with two independent carbon

292   cycle models to investigate changes in the $\Delta pH/\Delta\delta^{13}C$ regression. Below we provide

293   pertinent information on the GENIE and CYCLOPS model experiments:

294   We use the Earth System model GENIE-1 (Edwards and Marsh, 2005; Ridgwell et al.

295   2007) to assess the robustness of the pH-to-$\Delta\delta^{13}C$ relationship and its sensitivity to

296   physical and biogeochemical ocean forcing. The configuration used here is closely

297   related to that of Holden et al. (2013), in which the controls on oceanic $\delta^{13}C$

298   distribution were assessed, with an energy and moisture balance in the atmosphere,

299   simple representations of land vegetation and sea ice, and frictional geostrophic

300   ocean physics. In each of 16 vertical levels in the ocean, increasing in thickness with

301   depth, there are 36x36 grid cells (10° in longitude and nominally 5° in latitude, with

302   higher resolution at low latitudes). Modern ocean bathymetry and land topography is

303   applied in all simulations. The ocean biogeochemical scheme (Ridgwell et al. 2007)

304   is based on conversion of DIC to organic carbon associated with phosphate uptake

305   with fixed P:C:O stoichiometry. Organic carbon and nutrients are remineralized

306   according to a remineralization profile with a pre-defined *e*-folding depth scale. This

307   depth scale, as well as the rain ratio of inorganic to organic carbon in sinking

308   particulate matter, is among the parameters examined in the sensitivity study. In these

309   simulations, there is no interaction with sediments. As a result of this, the steady state

310   solutions reported here are reached within the 5000-year simulations, but are not

311   consistent with being in secular steady state with regard to the balance of continental

312   weathering and ocean $CaCO_3$ burial.

313   The sensitivity study consists of seven sets of experiments, each varying a single

314   model parameter relative to the control simulation with preindustrial atmospheric

315   pCO$_2$. This enables us to assess which processes, if any, are capable of altering the

316   ocean's ΔpH-to-$\Delta\delta^{13}$C relationship, and the uncertainty in the predictive skill of this

317   relationship due to spatial variability. These experiments are therefore exploratory in

318   nature and intended to study plausible range rather than determine magnitude of past

319   changes. The seven parameters varied are (1) the ocean alkalinity reservoir; (2) the

320   ocean's carbon reservoir; (3) the parameter "S. Lim gas exchange" which blocks air-

321   sea gas exchange south of the stated latitude, significant here because of the

322   dependence of δ^{13}C on surface disequilibrium (Galbraith et al., 2015); (4) inorganic

323   to organic carbon rain ratio, controlling the relationship between DIC and alkalinity

324   distributions; (5) "Antarctic shelf FWF", a freshwater flux adjustment (always

325   switched off in control experiments with GENIE) facilitating the formation of brine

326   rich waters, which produces a high-salinity poorly-ventilated deep ocean at high

327   values; (6) "Atlantic-Pacific FWF", a freshwater flux adjustment equivalent to

328   freshwater hosing, leading to a shut-down of the Atlantic meridional overturning

329   circulation at low values; (7) remineralization depth-scale of sinking organic matter,

330   which affects the vertical gradient both of pH and δ^{13}C. A wide range of parameter

331   values is chosen for each parameter in order to exceed any plausible changes within

332   the Cenozoic.

333   For the second exploration of the controls on the slope of ΔpH-$\Delta\delta^{13}$C relationship we

334   use the CYCLOPS biogeochemical 18-box model that includes a dynamical

335   lysocline, a subantarctic zone surface box and a polar Antarctic zone box (Sigman et

336   al., 1998; Hain et al., 2010, 2014b). The very large model ensemble with 13,500

337   individual model scenarios is designed to capture the full plausible range of (a)

338   glacial/interglacial carbon cycle states by sampling the full solution space of Hain et

339   al. (2010), and (b) reconstructed secular changes in seawater [Ca] (calcium

340   concentration), carbonate compensation depth (CCD), weathering and atmospheric

341   CO_2 (Table 1). The following seven model parameters are systematically sampled to

342   set the 13,500 model scenarios: (1) shallow versus deep Atlantic meridional

343   overturning circulation represented by modern reference north Atlantic deep water

344   (NADW) versus peak glacial North Atlantic intermediate water (GNAIW)

345   circulation; (2) iron driven changes in nutrient drawdown in the subantarctic zone of

346   the Southern Ocean; (3) changes in nutrient drawdown of the polar Antarctic; (4)

347   changes in vertical exchange between the deep Southern Ocean and the polar

348   Antarctic surface; (5) range in seawater [Ca] concentration from 1x to 1.5x modern as

349   per reconstructions (Horita et al., 2002); (6) Pacific CCD is set to the range of 4.4-4.9

350   km via changes in the weathering flux, as per sedimentological evidence (Pälike et

351   al., 2012); (7) atmospheric CO_2 is set from 200 ppm to 1000 ppm by changes in the

352   'weatherability' parameter of the silicate weathering mechanism. The ensemble spans

353   predicted bulk ocean DIC between 1500 and 4500 μmol/kg, a wide range of ocean

354   pH and $CaCO_3$ saturation states consistent with the open system weathering cycle,

355   and widely different states of the ocean's biological pump. All 13,500 model

356   scenarios are run for two million years after every single 'weatherability' adjustment,

357   part of the CCD inversion algorithm, guaranteeing the specified CCD depth and

358   steady state with regard to the balance of continental weathering and ocean $CaCO_3$

359   burial for the final solution (unlike the GENIE simulations $CaCO_3$ burial was entirely

360   neglected due to computational cost of the long model integrations it would require).

361   The inverse algorithm typically takes at least ten steps to conversion, resulting in

362   ~300 billion simulated years for this ensemble.

363   **2.5 Assessing uncertainty**

364      $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ uncertainty was calculated using a Monte Carlo approach where pH was

365   calculated for deep and surface waters at each time slice using a random sampling

366   (n=10000) of the various input parameters within their respective uncertainties as

367   represented by normal distributions. These uncertainties (2σ uncertainty in

368   parentheses) are: temperature ($\pm$ 2 °C), salinity ($\pm$2 units on the practical salinity

369   scale) [Ca] ($\pm$ 4.5 mmol/kg), [Mg], ($\pm$ 4.5 mmol/kg), $\delta^{11}B_{planktic}$ ($\pm$ 0.15-0.42 ‰) and

370      $\delta^{11}B_{benthic}$ ($\pm$ 0.21-0.61 ‰). For the estimate of the surface to sea floor pH gradient we

371   use the central value of the ΔpH-to-$\Delta\delta^{13}C$ relationship diagnosed from our

372   CYCLOPS and GENIE sensitivity experiments (i.e., 0.175/‰, see section 3.2 below)

373 and then we assign a ± 0.05 uncertainty range with a uniform probability (rather than

374 a normal distribution) to the resulting surface to sea floor ΔpH estimate (see also

375 Table 2). Thus, the magnitude of this nominal uncertainty is equivalent to a 0.14/‰

376 to 0.21/‰ ΔpH/$\Delta\delta^{13}$C uncertainty range that spans the vast majority of our

377 CYCLOPS and GENIE simulations, and the prediction error (RMSE) of fitting a

378 linear relationship to the GENIE pH and δ^{13}C output (see section 3.2 below). The

379 uncertainty in the δ^{11}B measurements is calculated from the long-term reproducibility

380 of Japanese Geological Survey *Porites* coral standard (JCP; δ^{11}B=24.3‰) at the

381 University of Southampton using the equations:

382 $$2\sigma = 2.25 \exp^{-23.01[^{11}B]} + 0.28 \exp^{-0.64[^{11}B]} \qquad (4)$$

383 $$2\sigma = 33450 \exp^{-168.2[^{11}B]} + 0.311 \exp^{-1.477[^{11}B]} \qquad (5)$$

384 where $[^{11}B]$ is the intensity of ^{11}B signal in volts and equation (4) and equation (5)

385 used with 10^{11} Ω and 10^{12} Ω resistors, respectively.

386 From the 10,000 Monte Carlo ensemble solutions of our 22 benthic-planktic pairs we

387 construct 10,000 randomized records of δ^{11}B$_{sw}$ as a function of time. Each of these

388 randomized δ^{11}B$_{sw}$ records are subjected to smoothing using the locally weighted

389 scatterplot smoothing (LOWESS) algorithm with a smoothing parameter (span) of

390 0.7. The purpose of the smoothing is to put some controls on the rate at which the

391 resulting individual Monte Carlo δ^{11}B$_{sw}$ records are allowed to change, which in

392 reality is limited by the seawater boron mass balance (~0.1 ‰ per million years;

393 boron residence time is 11-17 million years; Lemarchand et al., 2000). Our choice of

394 smoothing parameter allows for some of the individual Monte Carlo records to

395 change as fast as ~1 ‰ per million years, although in reality the average rate of

396 change is much smaller than this (see section 3.3). Consequently this method

397 removes a significant amount of uncorrelated stochastic noise (resulting from the

398 uncertainty in our input parameters) while not smoothing away the underlying signal.

399 As a result of anomalously low δ^{11}B differences (< 1‰) between benthic and planktic

400 pairs, two pairs at 8.68 Ma and 19 Ma were discarded from the smoothing. It may be

401 possible that preservation is not so good within these intervals in the core and the

402 planktic foraminifera are affected by partial dissolution (Seki et al., 2010). The

403 spread of the ensemble of smoothed δ^{11}B$_{sw}$ curves represents the combination of the

404 compounded, propagated uncertainties of the various inputs (i.e., Monte Carlo

405 sampling) with the additional constraint of gradual $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ change over geological

406 time imposed by the inputs and outputs of boron to the ocean and the total boron

407 inventory (i.e., the smoothing of individual Monte Carlo members. Various statistical

408 properties (i.e., mean, median, standard deviation (σ), various quantiles) of this

409 $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ reconstruction were evaluated from the ensemble of smoothed $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ records.

410 Generally, for any given benthic-planktic pair the resulting $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ estimates are not

411 perfectly normally distributed and thus we use the median as the metric for the

412 central tendency (i.e., placement of marker in Figure 10).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 $\delta^{11}B$ benthic and planktic data

415 Surface and deep-ocean, $\delta^{11}B$, $\delta^{13}C$ and temperature broadly show a similar, but

416 inverse, pattern to one another throughout the Neogene (Fig. 6). The $\delta^{11}B$ benthic

417 record decreases from ~15 ‰ at 24 Ma to a minimum of 13.28 ‰ at 14 Ma before

418 increasing to ~17 ‰ at present day (Fig. 6). This pattern and the range of values in

419 benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{11}B$ is in keeping with previously published Neogene $\delta^{11}B$

420 benthic records measured using NTIMS (Raitzsch and Hönisch, 2013), suggesting

421 that our deep-water $\delta^{11}B$ record is representative of large scale pH changes in the

422 global ocean. While the surface $\delta^{11}B_{planktic}$ remained relatively constant between 24

423 and 11 Ma at ~16 ‰, there is a significant increase in $\delta^{11}B$ between the middle

424 Miocene and present (values increase to ~20 ‰) (Fig. 6b). The reconstructed surface

425 water temperatures show a long-term decrease through the Neogene from ~28°C to

426 24°C, aside from during the Miocene Climatic Optimum (MCO) where maximum

427 Neogene temperatures are reached (Fig. 6c). Following Cramer et al. (2011) deep-

428 water temperatures decrease from ~12°C to 4°C at the present day and similarly show

429 maximum temperatures in the MCO. Surface and deep-water $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ both broadly

430 decrease through the Neogene and appear to covary on shorter timescales (Fig. 6e, f).

431

3.2 The relationship between $\delta^{13}C$ and pH gradients

As noted above, in the global modern ocean data, after accounting for the anthropogenic carbon, the empirical relationship between *in situ* pH and DIC $\delta^{13}C$ is well described by a linear function with a slope of 0.201± 0.005 (2σ) (Fig. 5; Foster et al., 2012). However, this slope is only defined by surface waters in the North Atlantic due to a current lack of modern data where the impact of the Suess effect has been corrected (Olsen and Ninneman, 2010). Consequently we are not currently able to determine the slope between the warm-surface and cold-deep ocean in the modern ocean at our sites. Instead, here we use the two modeling experiments to define this slope. In the control GENIE experiment (green star; Fig. 7) , the central value for the slope of the pH/$\delta^{13}C$ relationship is slightly greater than 0.2/‰ for the full 3D data regression (not shown) and about 0.175/‰ for the warm-surface-to-cold-deep ΔpH-to-$\Delta\delta^{13}C$ relationship (Fig. 7) – consistent with theory for the effect of temperature gradients (see section 2.3). For both ways of analysing the GENIE output the prediction uncertainty of the regressions, the root-mean-squared error (RMSE), is ~0.05/‰ under most conditions (open red circles in Fig. 7), with the exception of where large changes in either DIC or ALK result in somewhat larger changes in the relationship between pH and $\delta^{13}C$ (see below). In our CYCLOPS model ensemble, the central value of the slopes of the full 3D pH/$\delta^{13}C$ regressions and of the warm-surface-to-cold-deep ΔpH/$\Delta\delta^{13}C$ is 0.2047/‰ (1σ of 0.0196/‰; Fig.8a) and 0.1797/‰ (1σ of 0.0213/‰; Fig.8b), respectively. If we restrict our analysis of the CYCLOPS ensemble to only the Atlantic-basin warm-surface-to-cold-deep ΔpH/$\Delta\delta^{13}C$, where most of our samples come from, we find a relationship of only 0.1655/‰ (1σ of 0.0192/‰; Fig.8c). That is, overall, we find near-perfect agreement between modern empirical data and our GENIE and CYCLOPS experiments. Encouraged by this agreement we select the warm-surface-to-cold-deep ΔpH/$\Delta\delta^{13}C$ central value of 0.175/‰ to estimate the surface/sea floor pH difference from the planktic/benthic foraminifera $\delta^{13}C$ difference. To account for our ignorance as to the accurate value of ΔpH/$\Delta\delta^{13}C$ in the modern ocean, it's changes over the course of the study interval and the inherent prediction error from using a linear ΔpH-to-$\Delta\delta^{13}C$ relationship we assign a nominal uniform uncertainty range of ±0.05 around the central ΔpH estimate for the purpose of Monte Carlo uncertainty propagation. Our

464   analysis also suggests that where surface-to-thermocline planktic/planktic gradients

465   are employed, the plausible $\Delta pH/\Delta\delta^{13}C$ range should be significantly higher than

466   applied here, in order to account for the relatively lower temperature difference.

467   Based on the appropriate $\Delta pH/\Delta\delta^{13}C$ relationship we reconstruct a time varying

468   surface to deep pH gradient, which ranges between 0.14 and 0.35 pH units over our

469   study interval (Fig. 9) and apply a flat uncertainty of ±0.05. The reconstructed pH

470   gradient remains broadly within the range of the modern values (0.19 to 0.3) although

471   there is some evidence of multi-million year scale variability.

472   As a caveat to our usage of the ΔpH-to-$\Delta\delta^{13}C$ relationship we point to changes of that

473   relationship that arise in our GENIE sensitivity experiments where carbon and

474   alkalinity inventories are manipulated, which can yield values outside of what is

475   plausible. We note that our CYCLOPS ensemble samples a very much wider range of

476   carbon and alkalinity inventories with $\Delta pH/\Delta\delta^{13}C$ remaining inside that range. While

477   CYCLOPS simulates the balance between weathering and $CaCO_3$ burial, which is

478   known to neutralize sudden carbon or alkalinity perturbations on timescales much

479   less than one million years, the configuration used for our GENIE simulations does

480   not and is therefore subject to states of ocean carbon chemistry that can safely be

481   ruled out for our study interval and likely for most of the Phanerozoic. The differing

482   outputs from CYCLOPS and GENIE in the DIC and ALK experiments does highlight

483   that $\Delta pH/\Delta\delta^{13}C$ actually depends on background seawater acid/base chemistry, in

484   ways that are not yet fully understood. That said, the generally coherent nature of our

485   results confirms we likely constrain the plausible range of $\Delta pH/\Delta\delta^{13}C$ for at least the

486   Neogene, if not the entire Cenozoic, outside of extreme events such as the

487   Palaeocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum.

488

489   **3.3 $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record through the Neogene**

490   Using input parameter uncertainties as described in section 2.5 yields individual

491   Monte Carlo member $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ estimates between 30 ‰ and 43.5 ‰ at the overall

492   extreme points and typically ranging by ~10 ‰ (dashed in Fig. 10a) for each time

493   point, suggesting that the uncertainties we assign to the various input parameters are

494   generous enough not to predetermine the quantitative outcomes. However, for each

495   planktic/benthic time point most individual Monte Carlo $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ estimates fall into a

496   much narrower central range (~1 ‰ to 4 ‰; thick black line showing interquartile

497   range in Fig. 10a). The $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ for Plio-Pleistocene time-points cluster around ~40 ‰

498   while middle/late Miocene values cluster around ~36.5 ‰. The estimates at

499   individual time points are completely independent from each other, such that the

500   observed clustering is strong evidence for an underlying long-term signal in our data,

501   albeit one that is obscured by the uncertainties involved in our individual $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$

502   estimates. The same long-term signal is also evident when pooling the individual

503   Monte Carlo member $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ estimates into 8 million year bins and evaluating the

504   mean and spread (2σ) in each bin (Fig. 10b). This simple treatment highlights that

505   there is a significant difference between our Plio-Pleistocene and middle Miocene

506   data bins at the 95% confidence level and that $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ appears to also have been

507   significantly lower than modern during the early Miocene.

3.3.1 Data smoothing

509   The ~1 to 4 ‰ likely ranges for $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ would seem to be rather disappointing given

510   the goal to constrain $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ for pH reconstructions. However, most of that uncertainty

511   is stochastic, random error that is uncorrelated from time point to time point.

512   Furthermore, we know from mass balance considerations that $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ of seawater

513   should not change by more than ~0.1 ‰ per million years (Lemarchand et al., 2000)

514   and we use this as an additional constraint via the LOWESS smoothing we apply to

515   each Monte Carlo time series. One consideration is that each and every individual

516   Monte Carlo $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ estimate is equally likely and the smoothing should therefore

517   target randomly selected individual Monte Carlo $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ estimates, as we do here,

518   rather than smoothing over the likely ranges identified for each time point. In this

519   way the smoothing becomes integral part of our Monte Carlo uncertainty propagation

520   and the spread among the 10,000 individual smoothed $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ curves carries the full

521   representation of propagated input uncertainty conditional on the boron cycle mass

522   balance constraint. A second consideration is that the smoothing should only remove

523   noise, not underlying signal. As detailed above, for this reason the smoothing

524   parameter we choose has enough freedom to allow the $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ change to be dictated

525   by the data, with only the most extreme shifts in $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ removed. We also tested the

526   robustness of the smoothing procedure itself (not shown) and found only marginal

527   changes when changing algorithm (LOESS versus LOWESS, with and without

528   robust option) or when reducing the amount of smoothing (i.e., increasing the

529   allowed rate $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ change). The robustness of our smoothing is further underscored

530   by the good correspondence with the results of simple data binning (Fig.10b).

531

3.4 Comparison to other $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ records

533   The comparison of our new $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record to those previously published reveals that

534   despite the differences in methodology the general trends in the records show

535   excellent agreement. The most dominant common feature of all the existing estimates

536   of Neogene $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ evolution is an increase through time from the middle Miocene to

537   the Plio-Pleistocene (Fig. 11). While the model-based $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record of Lemarchand et

538   al. (2000) is defined by a monotonous and very steady rise over the entire study

539   interval, all three measurement-based records, including our own, are characterized

540   by a single dominant phase of increase between roughly 12 and 5 Ma. Strikingly, the

541   Pearson and Palmer (2000) record falls almost entirely within our 95% likelihood

542   envelope, overall displaying very similar patterns of long-term change but with a

543   relatively muted amplitude and overall rate of change relative to our reconstruction.

544   Conversely, some of the second-order variations in the reconstruction by Raitzsch

545   and Hönisch (2013) are not well matched by our reconstruction, but the dominant

546   episode of rapid $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ rise following the middle Miocene is in almost perfect

547   agreement. We are encouraged by these agreements resulting from approaches based

548   on very different underlying assumptions and techniques, which we take as indication

549   for an emerging consensus view of $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ evolution over the last 25 Ma and as a

550   pathway towards reconstructing $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ further back in time. Below we discuss in

551   more detail the remaining discrepancies between our new and previously existing

552    $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ reconstructions.

553   The record by Pearson and Palmer (2000) is well correlated to our reconstruction, but

554   especialy during the early Miocene there is a notable ~0.5 ‰ offset (Fig. 11). This

555   discrepancy could be due to a number of factors. Firstly, the applicability of this

556    $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record (derived from $\delta^{11}B$ data measured using NTIMS) to $\delta^{11}B$ records

557   generated using the MC-ICPMS is uncertain (Foster et al., 2013). In addition, this

558    $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record is determined using a fractionation factor of 1.0194 (Kakihana et al.,

559 1977), whereas recent experimental data have shown the value to be higher (1.0272 $\pm$

560 0.0006, Klochko et al., 2006), although foraminiferal vital effects are likely to mute

561 this discrepancy. Thirdly, given our understanding of the $\delta^{11}B$ difference between

562 species/size fractions (Foster, 2008; Henehan et al., 2013), the mixed species and size

563 fractions used to make the $\delta^{11}B$ measurements in that study may have introduced

564 some additional uncertainty in the reconstructed $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$. Conversely, there is

565 substantial spread between our three time points during the earliest Miocene, which

566 combined with the edge effect of the smoothing gives rise to a widening uncertainty

567 envelope during the time of greatest disagreement with Pearson and Palmer (2000).

568 This could be taken as indication that our reconstruction, rather than that of Pearson

569 and Palmer, is biased during the early Miocene.

570

571 The $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record calculated using benthic $\delta^{11}B$ and assumed deep ocean pH changes

572 (Raitzsch and Hönisch, 2013) is also rather similar to our $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ reconstruction. The

573 discrepancy between the two records in the early Miocene could plausibly be

574 explained by bias in our record (see above) or may in part be as a result of the

575 treatment of surface water pH in the study of Raitzsch and Hönisch (2013) and their

576 assumption of constant surface-deep pH gradient (see Fig 9). The combined output

577 from two carbon cycle box models is used to make the assumption that surface ocean

578 pH near-linearly increased by 0.39 over the last 50 Myrs. The first source of surface

579 water pH estimates is from the study of Ridgwell et al. (2005), where CO_2 proxy data

580 including some derived using the boron isotope-pH proxy is used, leading to some

581 circularity in the methodology. The second source of surface water pH estimates is

582 from Tyrrell & Zeebe (2004) and based on GEOCARB where the circularity problem

583 does not apply. While this linear pH increase broadly matches the CO_2 decline from

584 proxy records between the middle Miocene and present, it is at odds with the CO_2

585 proxy data during the early Miocene that show CO_2 was lower than the middle

586 Miocene during this interval (Beerling and Royer, 2011). Consequently the proxy

587 CO_2 and surface water pH estimates are not well described by the linear change in pH

588 applied by Raitzsch and Hönisch (2013) across this interval, potentially contributing

589 to the discrepancy between our respective $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ reconstructions..

590 Our new $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record falls within the broad uncertainty envelope of boron mass

591 balance calculations of Lemarchand et al. (2000), but those modelled values do not

592 show the same level of multi-million year variability of either Raitzsch and Hönisch

593 (2013) or our new record, therefore suggesting that the model does not fully account

594 for aspects of the changes in the ocean inputs and outputs of boron through time on

595 timescales less than ~10 million years.

596 In line with the conclusions of previous studies (e.g., Raitzsch and Hönisch, 2013),

597 our data show that the $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ signal in the fluid inclusions (Paris et al., 2010) is

598 mostly likely a combination of the $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ and some other factor such as a poorly

599 constrained fractionation factor between the seawater and the halite. Brine-halite

600 fractionation offsets of -20‰ to -30‰ and -5‰ are reported from laboratory and

601 natural environments (Vengosh et al., 1992; Liu et al., 2000). These fractionations

602 and riverine input during basin isolation will drive the evaporite-hosted boron to low-

603 $\delta^{11}B$ isotope values such that the fluid inclusion record likely provides a lower limit

604 for the $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ through time (i.e. $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ is heavier than the halite fluid inclusions of

605 Paris et al. (2010)). In order for this halite record to be interpreted directly as $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$,

606 a better understanding of the factor(s) controlling the fractionation during halite

607 formation and any appropriate correction need to be better constrained.

608

609 **3.5 Common controls on the seawater isotopic ratios of B, Mg, Ca and Li**

610 Our new record of $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ has some substantial similarities to secular change seen in

611 other marine stable isotope records (Fig. 12). The lithium isotopic composition of

612 seawater ($\delta^{7}Li_{sw}$; Misra and Froelich, 2012) and the calcium isotopic composition of

613 seawater ($\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$;Griffith et al., 2008) both increase through the Neogene, whereas

614 the magnesium isotopic composition of seawater ($\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$) decreases (Pogge von

615 Strandmann et al., 2014) suggesting a similar control on the isotopic composition of

616 all four elements across this time interval (Fig. 12). To further evaluate the

617 correlation between these other marine isotope records and $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$, we interpolate and

618 cross-plot $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ and the $\delta^{7}Li_{sw}$, $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$ and $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$ records. This analysis suggests

619 that the isotopic composition of $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$, $\delta^{7}Li_{sw}$, $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$ and $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$ are well

620 correlated through the Neogene, although there is some scatter in these relationships

621   (Fig. 13). Although the Sr isotope record shows a similar increase during the

622   Neogene (Hodell et al., 1991), we focus our discussion on $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$, $\delta^{7}Li_{sw}$, $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$ and

623   $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$ given that the factors fractionating these stable isotopic systems are similar

624   (see below).

625   To better constrain the controls on $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$, $\delta^{7}Li_{sw}$, $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$ and $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$ it is

626   instructive to compare the size and isotopic composition of the fluxes of boron,

627   lithium, calcium and magnesium to the ocean (Table 3). The major flux of boron into

628   the ocean is via riverine input (Lemarchand et al., 2000), although some studies

629   suggest that atmospheric input may also play an important role (Park and

630   Schlesinger, 2002). The loss terms are dominated by adsorption onto clays and the

631   alteration of oceanic crust (Spivack and Edmond, 1987; Smith et al., 1995).

632   Similarly, the primary inputs of lithium into the ocean come from hydrothermal

633   sources and riverine input and the main outputs are ocean crust alteration and

634   adsorption onto sediments (Misra and Froelich, 2012). The two dominant controls on

635   magnesium concentration and isotope ratio in the oceans is the riverine input, ocean

636   crust alteration and dolomitization (Table 3) (Tipper et al., 2006b). The main controls

637   on the amount of calcium in the modern ocean and its isotopic composition is the

638   balance between riverine and hydrothermal inputs and removal through $CaCO_3$

639   deposition and alteration of oceanic crust (Fantle and Tipper, 2014, Griffith et al.,

640   2008). Dolomitization has also been cited as playing a potential role in controlling

641   $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$, although the contribution of this process through time is poorly constrained

642   (Griffith et al., 2008).

643   Analysis of the oceanic fluxes of all four ions suggests that riverine input may be an

644   important factor influencing the changing isotopic composition of B, Li, Ca and Mg

645   over the late Neogene (Table 3). In the case of all four elements, a combination of the

646   isotopic ratio of the source rock and isotopic fractionation during weathering

647   processes are typically invoked to explain the isotopic composition of a particular

648   river system. However, in most cases the isotopic composition of the source rock is

649   found to be of secondary importance (Rose et al., 2000; Kısakűrek et al., 2005;

650   Tipper et al., 2006b; Millot et al., 2010). For instance, the $\delta^{11}B$ composition of rivers

651   is primarily dependent on isotopic fractionation during the reaction of water with

652   silicate rocks and to a lesser extent the isotopic composition of the source rock (i.e.

653   the proportion of evaporites and silicate rocks; Rose et al., 2000). While some studies

654   have suggested that the isotopic composition of rainfall within the catchment area

655   may be an important factor controlling the $\delta^{11}B$ in rivers (Rose-Koga et al., 2006),

656   other studies have shown atmospheric boron to be a secondary control on riverine

657   boron isotope composition (Lemarchand and Gaillardet, 2006). The source rock also

658   appears to have limited influence on the δ^7Li composition of rivers and riverine δ^7Li

659   varies primarily with weathering intensity (Kısakűrek et al., 2005; Millot et al.,

660   2010). The riverine input of calcium to the oceans is controlled by the composition of

661   the primary continental crust (dominated by carbonate weathering) and a recycled

662   component, although the relative influence of these two processes is not well

663   understood (Tipper et al., 2006a). In addition, vegetation may also play a significant

664   role in the $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ of rivers (Fantle and Tipper, 2014). For Mg, the isotopic

665   composition of the source rock is important for small rivers, however, lithology is of

666   limited significance at a global scale in comparison to fractionation in the weathering

667   environment (Tipper et al., 2006b). Given the lack of evidence of source rock as a

668   dominant control on the isotopic composition of rivers, here we focus on some of the

669   possible causes for changes in the isotopic composition and/or flux of riverine input

670   over the Neogene.

671   In this regard, of the four elements discussed here, the Li isotopic system is the most

672   extensively studied. Indeed, the change in δ^7Li_{sw} has already been attributed to an

673   increase in the δ^7Li_{sw} composition of the riverine input (Hathorne and James, 2006;

674   Misra and Froelich, 2012). The causes of the shift in δ^7Li riverine have been variably

675   attributed to: (1) an increase in incongruent weathering of silicate rocks and

676   secondary clay formation as a consequence of Himalayan uplift (Misra and Froelich,

677   2012), (2) a reduction in weathering intensity (Hathorne and James, 2006; Froelich

678   and Misra, 2014), (3) an increase in silicate weathering rate (Liu et al., 2015) and 4)

679   an increase in the formation of floodplains and the increased formation of secondary

680   minerals (Pogge von Strandmann and Henderson, 2014). In all four cases the lighter

681   isotope of Li is retained on land in clay and secondary minerals. A mechanism

682   associated with either an increase in secondary mineral formation or the retention of

683   these minerals on land is also consistent across Mg, Ca and B isotope systems. For

684   instance, clay minerals are preferentially enriched in the light isotope of B (Spivack

685   and Edmond, 1987; Deyhle and Kopf, 2004; Lemarchand and Gaillardet, 2006) and

686   Li (Pistiner and Henderson, 2003) and soil carbonates and clays are preferentially

687   enriched in the light isotope of Ca (Tipper et al., 2006a; Hindshaw et al., 2013;

688   Ockert et al., 2013). The formation of secondary silicate minerals, such as clays, is

689   assumed to preferentially take up the heavy Mg isotope into the solid phase (Tipper et

690   al., 2006a; Tipper et al., 2006b; Pogge von Strandmann et al., 2008; Wimpenny et al.,

691   2014), adequately explaining the inverse relationship between $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ and $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$.

692   Consequently the increased formation or retention on land of secondary minerals

693   would alter the isotopic composition of the riverine input to the ocean in the correct

694   direction to explain the trends in all four isotope systems through the late Neogene

695   (Fig. 13). The increased formation and retention of clays on land may have been

696   related to the growth of the Himalayan orogeny and increased clay formation in the

697   newly formed floodplains and foreland surrounding the mountains (Pogge von

698   Strandmann and Henderson, 2014).

4   Conclusions

699

700   Here we present a new $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record for the Neogene based on paired planktic-

701   benthic $\delta^{11}B$ measurements. Our new record suggests that $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ (i) was ~ 37.5 ‰ at

702   the Oligocene-Miocene boundary, (ii) remained low through the middle Miocene,

703   (iii) rapidly increased to the modern value between 12 and 5 Ma, and (iv) plateaued at

704   modern values over the Plio-Pleistocene. Despite some disagreements, the fact that

705   our new record, and both of the published data based reconstructions capture the first-

706   order late Miocene $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ rise suggests that consensus is building for the $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$

707   evolution through the Neogene. This emerging view on $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ change provides a vital

708   constraint required to quantitatively reconstruct Neogene ocean pH, ocean carbon

709   chemistry and atmospheric CO_2 using the $\delta^{11}B$-pH proxy. When our new $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$

710   record is compared to changes in the seawater isotopic composition of Li, Ca and Mg

711   the shape of the records across the Neogene is remarkably similar. In all four cases

712   riverine input is cited as one of the key control of the isotopic composition of the

713   elements in seawater. When we compare the isotopic fractionation of the elements

714   associated with secondary mineral formation, the trends in the $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$, $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$

715    $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ and δ^7Li_{sw} records are all consistent with an increase in secondary mineral

716   formation through time. While a more quantitative treatment of these multiple stable

717   isotope systems is required, the $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ record presented here provides additional

718   constraints on the processes responsible for the evolution of ocean chemistry through

719   time.

720   **Acknowledgements:**

721   This work used samples provided by (I)ODP, which is sponsored by the U.S.

722   National Science Foundation and participating countries under the management of

723   Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc. We thank W. Hale and A. Wuelbers of the

724   Bremen Core Repository for their kind assistance. The work was supported by NERC

725   grants NE/I006176/1 (G.L.F. and C.H.L.), NE/H006273/1 (G.L.F), NE/I006168/1

726   and NE/K014137/1 and a Royal Society Research Merit Award (P.A.W), a NERC

727   Independent Research Fellowship NE/K00901X/1 (M.P.H.) and a NERC studentship

728   (R.G). Matthew Cooper, J. Andy Milton, and the B-team are acknowledged for their

729   assistance in the laboratory.

730

731

732   **References:**

733   Al-Rousan, S., Pätzold, J., Al-Moghrabi, S., and Wefer, G., 2004, Invasion of
734   anthropogenic CO_2 recorded in planktonic foraminifera from the northern Gulf
735   of Aqaba: International Journal of Earth Sciences, v. 93, no. 6, p. 1066-1076.
736   Anagnostou, E., John, E.H., Edgar, K.M., Foster, G.L., Ridgewell, A., Inglis, G.N.,
737   Pancost, R.D., Lunt, D.J., Pearson, P.N., 2016, Changing atmospheric CO_2
738   concentration was the primary driver of early Cenozoic climate, v. 533, p. 380-
739   384.
740   Anand, P., Elderfield, H., and Conte, M. H., 2003, Calibration of Mg/Ca
741   thermometry in planktonic foraminifera from a sediment trap time series:
742   Paleoceanography, v. 18, no. 2, DOI: 10.1029/2002PA000846.
743   Bartoli, G., Hönisch, B., Zeebe, R.E., 2011, Atmospheric CO_2 decline during the
744   Pliocene intensification of Northern Hemisphere glaciations:
745   Paleoceanography, v.26, DOI: 10.1029/2010PA002055.
746   Badger, M. P. S., Lear, C.H., Pancost, R.D., Foster, G.L., Bailey, T.R., Leng, M.J.,
747   and Abels, H.A., 2013, CO_2 drawdown following the middle Miocene
748   expansion of the Antarctic Ice Sheet: Paleoceanography, v. 28,
749   doi:10.1002/palo.20015.
750   Beerling, D. J., and Royer, D. L., 2011, Convergent Cenozoic CO_2 history: Nature
751   Geosci, v. 4, no. 7, p. 418-420.

752 Berner, R. A., and Kothavala, Z., 2001, GEOCARB III: A revised model of
753  atmospheric CO_2 over Phanerozoic time: American Journal of Science, v. 301,
754  no. 2, p. 182-204.
755 Brennan S. T., Lowenstein T. K., Cendón D. I., 2013, The major-ion composition of
756  Cenozoic seawater: the past 36 million years from fluid inclusions in marine
757  halite: American Journal of Science, v. 313, p. 713–775.
758 Broecker, W. S. and T. H. Peng, 1982, Tracers in the Sea, Lamont-Doherty Earth
759  Observatory, Palisades, N. Y.
760 Burton, K.W., Vigier, N., 2012, Lithium isotopes as tracers in Marine and terrestrial
761  environments, Handbook of Environmental Isotope Geochemistry, Springer,
762  Berlin, Heidelberg, p. 41–59.
763 CARINA Group, 2009, Carbon in the Atlantic Ocean Region - the CARINA project:
764  Results and Data, Version 1.0: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center,
765  Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge,
766  Tennessee. doi: 10.3334/CDIAC/otg.CARINA.ATL.V1.0
767 Catanzaro, E. J., Champion, C., Garner, E., Marinenko, G., Sappenfield, K., and W.,
768  S., 1970, Boric Acid: Isotopic and Assay Standard Reference Materials NBS
769  (US) Special Publications. National Bureau of Standards, Institute for
770  Materials Research, Washington, DC.
771 Cramer, B., Miller, K., Barrett, P., and Wright, J., 2011, Late Cretaceous-Neogene
772  trends in deep ocean temperature and continental ice volume: Reconciling
773  records of benthic foraminiferal geochemistry ($\delta^{18}O$ and Mg/Ca) with sea
774  level history: Journal of Geophysical Research-Oceans, v. 116,
775  doi:10.1029/2011JC007255.
776 Delaney, M. L., Be, A. W. H., and Boyle, E. A., 1985, Li, Sr, Mg and Na in
777  foraminiferal calcite shells from laboratory culture, sediment traps and
778  sediment cores: Geochimica Et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 49, no. 6, p. 1327-
779  1341.
780 Deyhle, A., and Kopf, A., 2004, Possible influence of clay contamination on B
781  isotope geochemistry of carbonaceous samples: Applied Geochemistry, v. 19,
782  no. 5, p. 737-745.
783 Edwards, N. R. and Marsh, R., 2005, Uncertainties due to transport- parameter
784  sensitivity in an efficient 3-D ocean-climate model: Clim. Dynam., 24, 415–
785  433, doi:10.1007/s00382-004-0508-8.
786 Elderfield, H., Yu, J., Anand, P., Kiefer, T., and Nyland, B., 2006, Calibrations for
787  benthic foraminiferal Mg/Ca paleothermometry and the carbonate ion
788  hypothesis: Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 250, no. 3-4, p. 633-649.
789 Evans, D., and Muller, W., 2012, Deep time foraminifera Mg/Ca paleothermometry:
790  Nonlinear correction for secular change in seawater Mg/Ca:
791  Paleoceanography, v. 27, DOI: 10.1029/2012PA002315.
792 Fantle, M.S., Tipper, E.T, 2014, Calcium isotopes in the global biogeochemical Ca
793  cycle: Implications for development of a Ca isotope proxy, Earth-Science
794  Reviews, v. 129, p. 148-177.
795 Foster, G., Hönisch, B., Paris, G., Dwyer, G., Rae, J., Elliott, T., Gaillardet, J.,
796  Hemming, N., Louvat, P., and Vengosh, A., 2013, Interlaboratory comparison
797  of boron isotope analyses of boric acid, seawater and marine $CaCO_3$ by MC-
798  ICPMS and NTIMS: Chemical Geology, v. 358, p. 1-14.
799 Foster, G., Lear, C. H., and Rae, J.W.B., 2012, The evolution of pCO_2, ice volume
800  and climate during the middle Miocene: Earth and Planetary Science Letters,
801  v. 341-344, p. 243-254.

802 Foster, G. L., 2008, Seawater pH, pCO$_2$ and [CO$_3^{2-}$] variations in the Caribbean Sea
803   over the last 130 kyr: A boron isotope and B/Ca study of planktic forminifera:
804   Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 271, no. 1-4, p. 254-266.
805 Foster, G. L., Pogge von Strandmann, P. A. E., and Rae, J. W. B., 2010, Boron and
806   magnesium isotopic composition of seawater: Geochemistry Geophysics
807   Geosystems, v. 11, DOI: 10.1029/2010GC003201.
808 Froelich, F., and Misra, S., 2014. Was the late Paleocene-early Eocene hot because
809   Earth was flat? An ocean lithium isotope view of mountain building,
810   continental weathering, carbon dioxide, and Earth's Cenozoic climate:
811   Oceanography, v. 27, no.1, p. 36–49.
812 Galbraith, E.D., Kwon, E.Y., Bianchi, D., Hain, M.P., Sarmiento, J.L., 2015, The
813   impact of atmospheric pCO$_2$ on carbon isotope ratios of the atmosphere and
814   ocean: Global Biogeochemical Cycles, 9, 307–324,
815   doi:10.1002/2014GB004929
816 Goodwin, P., and J. M. Lauderdale 2013, Carbonate ion concentrations, ocean carbon
817   storage, and atmospheric CO$_2$: Global Biogeochem. Cycles, 27,
818   doi:10.1002/gbc.20078.
819 Gradstein F.M., Ogg J.G., Schmitz M., Ogg G., 2012, The Geologic Time Scale
820   2012: Boston, Elsevier, 1144 p., doi:10.1016/B978-0-444-59425-9.00004-4.
821 Greenop, R., Foster, G. L., Wilson, P. A., and Lear, C. H., 2014, Middle Miocene
822   climate instability associated with high-amplitude CO$_2$ variability:
823   Paleoceanography, v. 29, no. 9, DOI: 2014PA002653.
824 Griffith, E., Paytan, A., Caldeira, K., Bullen, T., and Thomas, E., 2008, A Dynamic
825   Marine Calcium Cycle During the Past 28 Million Years: Science, v. 322, no.
826   5908, p. 1671-1674.
827 Hain, M.P., Sigman, D.M., and Haug, G.H., 2010, Carbon dioxide effects of
828   Antarctic stratification, North Atlantic Intermediate Water formation, and
829   subantarctic nutrient drawdown during the last ice age: Diagnosis and
830   synthesis in a geochemical box model: Global Biogeochem. Cycles, v. 24,
831   doi:10.1029/2010GB003790.
832 Hain, M.P, Sigman, D.M., and Haug, G.H., 2014a, The Biological Pump in the Past,
833   Treatise on Geochemistry 2nd ed., vol. 8, chapter 18, 485-517,
834   doi:10.1016/B978-0-08-095975-7.00618-5
835 Hain, M.P, Sigman, D.M., and Haug, G.H., 2014b, Distinct roles of the Southern
836   Ocean and North Atlantic in the deglacial atmospheric radiocarbon decline:
837   Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v.394, p.198-208, doi:
838   10.1016/j.epsl.2014.03.020
839 Hain, M.P, Sigman, D.M., Higgins, J.A., and Haug, G.H., 2015, The effects of
840   secular calcium and magnesium concentration changes on the
841   thermodynamics of seawater acid/base chemistry: Implications for Eocene
842   and Cretaceous ocean carbon chemistry and buffering: Global Biogeochem.
843   Cycles, v. 29, doi:10.1002/2014GB004986.
844 Hasiuk, F., and Lohmann, K., 2010, Application of calcite Mg partitioning functions
845   to the reconstruction of paleocean Mg/Ca: Geochimica Et Cosmochimica
846   Acta, v. 74, no. 23, p. 6751-6763.
847 Hathorne, E. C., and James, R. H., 2006, Temporal record of lithium in seawater: A
848   tracer for silicate weathering?: Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 246,
849   no. 3–4, p. 393-406.

850 Haug, G. H., and Tiedemann, R., 1998, Effect of the formation of the Isthmus of
851   Panama on Atlantic Ocean thermohaline circulation: Nature, v. 393, no. 6686,
852   p. 673-676.
853 Hemleben Ch, Spindler M, Breitinger, Ott R., 1987, Morphological and physiological
854   responses of *Globigerinoides sacculifer* (Brady) under varying laboratory
855   conditions: Marine Micropaleontology, v.12, p. 305-324.
856 Hemming, N. G., and Hanson, G. N., 1992, Boron isotopic composition and
857   concentration in modern marine carbonates: Geochimica et Cosmochimica
858   Acta, v. 56, no. 1, p. 537-543.
859 Henehan, M. J., Rae, J. W. B., Foster, G. L., Erez, J., Prentice, K. C., Kucera, M.,
860   Bostock, H. C., Martìnez-Botì, M. A., Milton, J. A., Wilson, P. A., Marshall,
861   B. J., and Elliott, T., 2013, Calibration of the boron isotope proxy in the
862   planktonic foraminifera Globigerinoides ruber for use in palaeo-CO_2
863   reconstruction: Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 364, no. 0, p. 111-122.
864 Hindshaw, R. S., Bourdon, B., Pogge von Strandmann, P. A. E., Vigier, N., and
865   Burton, K. W., 2013, The stable calcium isotopic composition of rivers
866   draining basaltic catchments in Iceland: Earth and Planetary Science Letters,
867   v. 374, no. 0, p. 173-184.
868 Hodell, D.A., Mueller, P.A., Garrido, J.R., 1991, Variations in the strontium isotopic
869   composition of seawater during the Neogene: Geology, v.11, p. 24-27.
870 Holbourn, A., Kuhnt, W., Simo, J., and Li, Q., 2004, Middle Miocene isotope
871   stratigraphy and paleoceanographic evolution of the northwest and southwest
872   Australian margins (Wombat Plateau and Great Australian Bight):
873   Palaeogeography Palaeoclimatology Palaeoecology, v. 208, no. 1-2, p. 1-22.
874 Holden, P. B., N. R. Edwards, S. A. Müller, K. I. C. Oliver, R. M. De'ath and A.
875   Ridgwell, 2013. Controls on the spatial distribution of oceanic $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$:
876   Biogeosciences 10, 1815-1833.
877 Hönisch, B., Hemming, N. G., Archer, D., Siddall, M., and McManus, J. F., 2009,
878   Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Concentration Across the Mid-Pleistocene
879   Transition: Science, v. 324, no. 5934, p. 1551-1554.
880 Horita, J., Zimmermann, H., and Holland, H. D., 2002, Chemical evolution of
881   seawater during the Phanerozoic: Implications from the record of marine
882   evaporites: Geochimica Et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 66, no. 21, p. 3733-3756.
883 Kaczmarek, K., Nehrke, G., Misra, S., Bijma, J., Elderfield, H., 2016, Investigating
884   the effects of growth rate and temperature on the B/Ca ratio and $\delta^{11}B$ during
885   inorganic calcite formation, v. 421, p. 81-92.
886 Kakihana, H., Kotaka, M., Satoh, S., Nomura, M., and Okamoto, M., 1977,
887   Fundamental studies on ion-exchange separation of boron isotopes: Bulletin
888   of the Chemical Society of Japan, v. 50, no. 1, p. 158-163.
889 Keeling, C.D., 1979, The Suess effect: ^{13}Carbon-^{14}Carbon interrelations: Environment
890   International, v. 2, no. 4-6, p. 229-300.
891 Key, R. M., Kozyr, A., Sabine, C. L., Lee, K., Wanninkhof, R., Bullister, J. L., Feely,
892   R. A., Millero, F. J., Mordy, C., and Peng, T. H., 2004, A global ocean carbon
893   climatology: Results from Global Data Analysis Project (GLODAP): Global
894   Biogeochem. Cycles, v. 18, no. 4, doi:10.1029/2004GB002247.
895 Kısakűrek, B., James, R. H., and Harris, N. B. W., 2005, Li and δ^7Li in Himalayan
896   rivers: Proxies for silicate weathering?: Earth and Planetary Science Letters,
897   v. 237, no. 3–4, p. 387-401.

898   Klochko, K., Kaufman, A. J., Yao, W. S., Byrne, R. H., and Tossell, J. A., 2006,
899   Experimental measurement of boron isotope fractionation in seawater: Earth
900   and Planetary Science Letters, v. 248, no. 1-2, p. 276-285.
901   Lear, C. H., Mawbey, E. M., and Rosenthal, Y., 2010, Cenozoic benthic foraminiferal
902   Mg/Ca and Li/Ca records: Toward unlocking temperatures and saturation
903   states: Paleoceanography, v. 25, doi:10.1029/2009PA001880.
904   Lee, K., Kim, T. W., Byrne, R. H., Millero, F. J., Feely, R. A., and Liu, Y. M., 2010,
905   The universal ratio of boron to chlorinity for the North Pacific and North
906   Atlantic oceans: Geochimica Et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 74, no. 6, p. 1801-
907   1811.
908   Lemarchand, D., and Gaillardet, J., 2006, Transient features of the erosion of shales
909   in the Mackenzie basin (Canada), evidences from boron isotopes: Earth and
910   Planetary Science Letters, v. 245, no. 1–2, p. 174-189.
911   Lemarchand, D., Gaillardet, J., Lewin, E., and Allegre, C. J., 2000, The influence of
912   rivers on marine boron isotopes and implications for reconstructing past ocean
913   pH: Nature, v. 408, p. 951-954.
914   Liu, W. G., Xiao, Y. K., Peng, Z. C., An, Z. S., and He, X. X., 2000, Boron
915   concentration and isotopic composition of halite from experiments and salt
916   lakes in the Qaidam Basin: Geochimica Et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 64, no. 13,
917   p. 2177-2183.
918   Liu, X.-M., Wanner, C., Rudnick, R. L., and McDonough, W. F., 2015, Processes
919   controlling δ^7Li in rivers illuminated by study of streams and groundwaters
920   draining basalts: Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 409, no. 0, p. 212-
921   224.
922   Lynch-Steiglitz, J., T.F. Stocker, W.S. Broecker and R.G. Fairbanks (1995), The
923   influence of air-sea exchange on the isotopic composition of oceanic carbon:
924   Observations and modeling: Global Biogeochemical Cycles, vol. 9, 4, p653-
925   665.
926   Martìnez-Botì, M. A., Foster, G. L., Chalk, T. B., Rohling, E. J., Sexton, P. F., Lunt,
927   D. J., Pancost, R. D., Badger, M. P. S., and Schmidt, D. N., 2015a, Plio-
928   Pleistocene climate sensitivity from on a new high-resolution CO_2 record:
929   Nature, v. 518, p. 49-54.
930   Martìnez-Botì, M.A., Marino, G., Foster, G. L., Ziveri, P., Henehan, M. J., Rae, J. W.
931   B., Mortyn, P. G. and Vance, D., 2015b, Boron isotope evidence for oceanic
932   CO_2 leakage during the last deglaciation: Nature, v. 518, p. 219-222.
933   McCorkle, D. C., Corliss, B. H., and Farnham, C. A., 1997, Vertical distributions and
934   stable isotopic compositions of live (stained) benthic foraminifera from the
935   North Carolina and California continental margins: Deep Sea Research Part I:
936   Oceanographic Research Papers, v. 44, no. 6, p. 983-1024.
937   Millot, R., Vigier, N., and Gaillardet, J., 2010, Behaviour of lithium and its isotopes
938   during weathering in the Mackenzie Basin, Canada: Geochimica et
939   Cosmochimica Acta, v. 74, no. 14, p. 3897-3912.
940   Misra, S., and Froelich, P., 2012, Lithium Isotope History of Cenozoic Seawater:
941   Changes in Silicate Weathering and Reverse Weathering: Science, v. 335, no.
942   6070, p. 818-823.
943   Ockert, C., Gussone, N., Kaufhold, S., Teichert, B.M.A., 2013, Isotope fractionation
944   during Ca exchange on clay minerals in a marine environment: Geochimica et
945   Cosmochimica Acta, v. 112, p. 374-388.
946   Olsen, A., Ninneman, U.S., 2010, Large δ^{13}C gradients in the preindustrial North
947   Atlantic revealed: Science, v. 330, p. 658–659.

948 Pälike, H., Lyle, M., Nishi, H., Raffi, I., Ridgwell, A., Gamage, K., Klaus, A., Acton,
949   G., Anderson, L., Backman, J., Baldauf, J., Beltran, C., *et al.* 2012, A
950   Cenozoic record of the equatorial Pacific carbonate compensation depth:
951   Nature, v. 488, no. 7413, p. 609-614.
952 Palmer, M. R., Pearson, P. N., and Cobb, S. J., 1998, Reconstructing past ocean pH-
953   depth profiles: Science, v. 282, no. 5393, p. 1468-1471.
954 Paris, G., Gaillardet, J., and Louvat, P., 2010, Geological evolution of seawater boron
955   isotopic composition recorded in evaporites: Geology, v. 38, no. 11, p. 1035-
956   1038.
957 Park, H., and Schlesinger, W. H., 2002, Global biogeochemical cycle of boron:
958   Global Biogeochemical Cycles, v. 16, no. 4, DOI: 10.1029/2001GB001766.
959 Pearson, P. N., Foster, G. L., and Wade, B. S., 2009, Atmospheric carbon dioxide
960   through the Eocene-Oligocene climate transition: Nature, v. 461, p. 1110-
961   1113.
962 Pearson, P. N., and Wade, B. S., 2009, Taxonomy and Stable Isotope Paleoecology of
963   Well-Preserved Planktonic Foraminifera from the Uppermost Oligocene of
964   Trinidad: Journal of Foraminiferal Research, v. 39, no. 3, p. 191-217.
965 Pearson, P. N., and Palmer, M. R., 1999, Middle Eocene seawater pH and
966   atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations: Science, v. 284, no. 5421, p.
967   1824-1826.
968 Pearson, P. N., and Palmer, M. R., 2000, Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations
969   over the past 60 million years: Nature, v. 406, no. 6797, p. 695-699.
970 Pistiner, J. S., and Henderson, G. M., 2003, Lithium-isotope fractionation during
971   continental weathering processes: Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 214,
972   no. 1–2, p. 327-339.
973 Pogge von Strandmann, P. A. E., Burton, K. W., James, R. H., van Calsteren, P.,
974   Gislason, S. R., and Sigfússon, B., 2008, The influence of weathering
975   processes on riverine magnesium isotopes in a basaltic terrain: Earth and
976   Planetary Science Letters, v. 276, no. 1–2, p. 187-197.
977 Pogge von Strandmann, P. A. E., Forshaw, J., and Schmidt, D. N., 2014, Modern and
978   Cenozoic records of seawater magnesium from foraminiferal Mg isotopes:
979   Biogeosciences, v. 11, no. 18, p. 5155-5168.
980 Pogge von Strandmann, P. A. E., and Henderson, G. M., 2014, The Li isotope
981   response to mountain uplift: Geology, doi: 10.1130/G36162.1.
982 Rae, J. W. B., Foster, G. L., Schmidt, D. N., and Elliott, T., 2011, Boron isotopes and
983   B/Ca in benthic foraminifera: Proxies for the deep ocean carbonate system:
984   Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 302, no. 3-4, p. 403-413.
985 Raitzsch, M., and Hönisch, B., 2013, Cenozoic boron isotope variations in benthic
986   foraminifers: Geology, v. 41, no. 5, p. 591-594.
987 Ridgewell, A., 2005, A mid Mesozoic revolution in the regulation of ocean
988   chemistry: Marine Geology, v. 217, no. 3-4, p. 339-357.
989 Ridgwell, A., Hargreaves, J. C., Edwards, N. R., Annan, J. D., Lenton, T. M., Marsh,
990   R., Yool, A., and Watson, A., 2007, Marine geo-chemical data assimilation in
991   an efficient Earth System Model of global biogeochemical cycling:
992   Biogeosciences, 4, 87–104, doi:10.5194/bg-4-87-2007, 2007.
993 Rose, E. F., Chaussidon, M., and France-Lanord, C., 2000, Fractionation of boron
994   isotopes during erosion processes: the example of Himalayan rivers:
995   Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 64, no. 3, p. 397-408.

Rose-Koga, E. F., Sheppard, S. M. F., Chaussidon, M., and Carignan, J., 2006, Boron isotopic composition of atmospheric precipitations and liquid–vapour fractionations: Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 70, no. 7, p. 1603-1615.

Sanyal, A., Hemming, N.G., Hanson, G.N., Broecker, W.S., 1995, Evidence for a higher pH in the glacial ocean from boron isotopes in foraminifera: Nature, 373, p. 243-236

Sanyal, A., Bijma, J., Spero, H., and Lea, D. W., 2001, Empirical relationship between pH and the boron isotopic composition of Globigerinoides sacculifer: Implications for the boron isotope paleo-pH proxy: Paleoceanography, v. 16, no. 5, p. 515-519.

Schlitzer, R., Ocean Data View, 2016, http://www.awi-bremerhaven.de/GEO/ODV.

Seki, O., Foster, G. L., Schmidt, D. N., Mackensen, A., Kawamura, K., and Pancost, R. D., 2010, Alkenone and boron-based Pliocene pCO$_2$ records: Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 292, no. 1-2, p. 201-211.

Shipboard Scientific Party, 1989. Site 758. *In* Peirce, J., Weissel, J., et al., *Proc. ODP, Init. Repts.,* 121: College Station, TX (Ocean Drilling Program), 359–453. doi:10.2973/odp.proc.ir.121.112.1989

Shipboard Scientific Party, 1995. Site 926. *In* Curry, W.B., Shackleton, N.J., Richter, C., et al., *Proc. ODP, Init. Repts.,* 154: College Station, TX (Ocean Drilling Program), 153–232. doi:10.2973/odp.proc.ir.154.105.1995

Shipboard Scientific Party, 1997. Site 999. *In* Sigurdsson, H., Leckie, R.M., Acton, G.D., et al., *Proc. ODP, Init. Repts.*, 165: College Station, TX (Ocean Drilling Program), 131–230. doi:10.2973/odp.proc.ir.165.104.1997.

Sigman, D.M., McCorkle, D.C., Martin, W.R., 1998, The calcite lysocline as a constraint on glacial/interglacial low-latitude production changes: Global Biogeochem. Cycles, v. 12, no. 3, p. 409-427.

Simon, L., Lecuyer, C., Marechal, C., and Coltice, N., 2006, Modelling the geochemical cycle of boron: Implications for the long-term δ^{11}B evolution of seawater and oceanic crust: Chemical Geology, v. 225, no. 1-2, p. 61-76.

Smith, H. J., Spivack, A. J., Staudigel, H., and Hart, S. R., 1995, The boron isotopic composition of altered oceanic crust: Chemical Geology, v. 126, no. 2, p. 119-135.

Sosdian, S.M., Greenop. R., Lear, C.H., Foster, G.L., Hain, M.P, and Pearson, P.N., 2015, Future ocean acidification could be unprecedented in the last 14 million years: in prep.

Spero, H., Mielke, K., Kalve, E., Lea, D., and Pak, D., 2003, Multispecies approach to reconstructing eastern equatorial Pacific thermocline hydrography during the past 360 kyr: Paleoceanography, v. 18, no. 1, doi:10.1029/2001GC000200.

Spezzaferri S, Kucera M, Pearson PN, Wade BS, Rappo S, Poole CR, et al., 2015, Fossil and genetic evidence for the polyphyletic nature of the planktonic foraminifera "*Globigerinoides*", and description of the new Genus *Trilobatus*: PLoS ONE, v.10, no. 5, DOI:e0128108. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0128108

Spivack, A. J., and Edmond, J. M., 1987, Boron isotope exchange between seawater and the oceanic crust: Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 51, no. 5, p. 1033-1043.

Takahashi, T., Sutherland S.C., Wanninkhof, R., Sweeney, C., Feely, R.A., et al., 2009, Climatological mean and decadal change in surface ocean pCO$_2$, and net sea-air CO$_2$ flux over global oceans: Deep-Sea Research II, v.56, p.554-557.

1046 Tipper, E. T., Galy, A., and Bickle, M. J., 2006a, Riverine evidence for a fractionated
1047   reservoir of Ca and Mg on the continents: Implications for the oceanic Ca
1048   cycle: Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 247, no. 3–4, p. 267-279.
1049 Tipper, E. T., Galy, A., Gaillardet, J., Bickle, M. J., Elderfield, H., and Carder, E. A.,
1050   2006b, The magnesium isotope budget of the modern ocean: Constraints from
1051   riverine magnesium isotope ratios: Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v.
1052   250, no. 1–2, p. 241-253.
1053 Tomascak, P. B., 2004, Developments in the Understanding and Application of
1054   Lithium Isotopes in the Earth and Planetary Sciences: Reviews in Mineralogy
1055   and Geochemistry, v. 55, no. 1, p. 153-195.
1056 Tyrrell, T., and Zeebe, R. E., 2004, History of carbonate ion concentration over the
1057   last 100 million years: Geochimica Et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 68, no. 17, p.
1058   3521-3530.
1059 Vengosh, A., Starinsky, A., Kolodny, Y., Chivas, A. R., and Raab, M., 1992, Boron
1060   Isotope Variations during Fractional Evaporation of Sea-Water - New
1061   Constraints on the Marine Vs Nonmarine Debate: Geology, v. 20, no. 9, p.
1062   799-802.
1063 Wimpenny, J., Colla, C. A., Yin, Q.-Z., Rustad, J. R., and Casey, W. H., 2014,
1064   Investigating the behaviour of Mg isotopes during the formation of clay
1065   minerals: Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, v. 128, no. 0, p. 178-194.
1066 Wombacher, F., Eisenhauer, A., Böhm, F., Gussone, N., Regenberg, M., Dullo, W.
1067   C., and Rüggeberg, A., 2011, Magnesium stable isotope fractionation in
1068   marine biogenic calcite and aragonite: Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, v.
1069   75, no. 19, p. 5797-5818.
1070 You, C.F., Spivack, A. J., Smith, J. H., and Gieskes, J. M., 1993, Mobilization of
1071   boron in convergent margins: Implications for the boron geochemical cycle:
1072   Geology, v. 21, no. 3, p. 207-210.
1073 Zeebe, R. E., and Wolf-Gladrow, D. A., 2001, CO_2 in seawater, equilibrium, kinetics,
1074   isotopes IN Elsevier oceanography series, Amsterdam, PAYS-BAS, Elsevier,
1075   XIII, 346 p. p.:
1076 Zeeden, C., Hilgen, F., Westerhold, T., Lourens, L., Röhl, U., and Bickert, T., 2013,
1077   Revised Miocene splice, astronomical tuning and calcareous plankton
1078   biochronology of ODP Site 926 between 5 and 14.4 Ma: Palaeogeography,
1079   Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, v. 369, no. 0, p. 430-451.
1080

1081

1082 **Figure Captions:**

1083 Figure 1: The oceanic boron cycle. Fluxes are from Lemarchand et al. (2000) and

1084 Park and Schlesinger (2002). Isotopic compositions are from Lemarchand et al.

1085 (2000), Foster et al., (2010) and references therein.

1086 Figure 2: A compilation of published $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ records. Seawater composition

1087 reconstructed from foraminifera depth profiles (light blue squares and dark blue

1088 cross) from Pearson and Palmer (2000) and Foster et al. (2012) respectively,

1089   numerical modelling (green line), with additional green lines shows ± 1 ‰

1090   confidence interval (Lemarchand et al., 2000), benthic $\delta^{11}B$ (purple diamonds and

1091   dark purple line is using the fractionation factor of Klochko et al., 2006, light purple

1092   line using an empirical calibration) from Raitzsch and Hönisch (2013), and halites

1093   (orange crosses) from Paris et al. (2010). The orange crosses in brackets were

1094   discarded from the original study.

1095   Figure 3: Schematic diagram showing the change in pH gradient with a 3‰ change in

1096 $\delta^{11}B$ for $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ of a) 39.6‰ and b) 37.5‰. Arrows highlight the different pH

1097   gradients. Note how a $\delta^{11}B$ difference of 3 ‰ is translated into different pH gradients

1098   depending on the $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$. Calculated using $B_T= 432.6$ μmol/kg (Lee et al., 2010) and

1099 $\alpha_B= 1.0272$ (Klochko et al., 2006). (c) The pH change for a $\delta^{11}B$ change of 3 ‰ at a

1100   range of different $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$.

1101   Figure 4: Map of study sites and mean annual air-sea disequilibria with respect to

1102 pCO$_2$. The black dots indicate the location of the sites used in this study. ODP Sites

1103   758, 999, 926 and 761 used in this study are highlighted with water depth. Data are

1104   from (Takahashi et al., 2009) plotted using ODV (Schlitzer, 2016).

1105   Figure 5: Latitudinal cross-section through the Atlantic showing (a) pH variations;

1106   (b) the $\delta^{13}C$ composition. Data are plotted using Ocean Data View (Schlitzer 2016).

1107   pH data are from the CARINA dataset (CARINA group, 2009) and the $\delta^{13}C$ data are

1108   from the GLODAP data compilation (Key et al., 2004); (c) pH and $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$

1109   relationships in the modern ocean adapted from Foster et al., (2012). Because of

1110   anthropogenic acidification and the Suess effect only data from >1500 m are plotted.

1111   Also included in the plot are the data from a transect in the North Atlantic (from 0 to

1112   5000 m) where the effects of anthropogenic perturbation on both parameters have

1113   been corrected (Olsen and Ninneman, 2010).

1114   Figure 6: $\delta^{11}B_{planktic}$, temperature and $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ estimates for the surface and deep

1115   ocean through the last 23 million years. (a) $\delta^{11}B_{planktic}$ surface; (b) $\delta^{11}B_{borate}$ deep from

1116   benthic foraminifera (blue) from this study and (green) Raitzsch and Hönisch, (2013).

1117   The error bars show the analytical external reproducibility at 95% confidence; (c)

1118   Mg/Ca based temperature reconstructions of surface dwelling planktic foraminifera;

1119   (d) Deep water temperature estimates from Cramer et al. (2011); (e) $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ surface

1120   record; (f) $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ benthic record. Squares depict ODP Site 999, triangles are ODP

1121   Site 758, diamonds are ODP Site 926, circles are ODP Site 761. Species are

1122   highlighted by colour: Orange are *T. trilobus*, purple *G. ruber*, red *G. praebulloides*,

1123   dark blue *Cibicidoides wuellestorfi* and light blue *Cibicidoides mundulus*. The two

1124   benthic-planktic pairs that were removed prior to smoothing are highlighted with

1125   arrows.

1126   Figure 7: The output from GENIE sensitivity analysis showing the warm-surface-to-

1127   cold-deep ΔpH-to-$\Delta\delta^{13}$C relationship. A pre-industrial model setup was taken and

1128   perturbations were made to alkalinity inventory, carbon inventory, Antarctic shelf

1129   fresh water flux (Sv), Atlantic-Pacific freshwater flux, S. Lim gas exchange (blocks

1130   air-sea gas exchange south of the stated latitude), remineralisation depth scale (m)

1131   and rain ratio – as described in the methods section. Blue circles depict the ΔpH-to-

1132 $\Delta\delta^{13}$C relationship (where the colours reflect the CO_2 level of each experiment) and

1133   red open circles show the root mean square of the regression (RMSE). The green

1134   stars are the ΔpH-to-$\Delta\delta^{13}$C relationship for the control experiment conducted at

1135   292.67 ppm CO_2. The green (open) points show the RMSE for this control run.

1136   Inventories are dimensionless (1 is control). For the Atlantic-Pacific FWF 1 is

1137   equivalent to 0.32 Sv. The alkalinity and carbon inventory experiments are very

1138   extreme and inconsistent with geologic evidence.

1139   Figure 8: The output from sensitivity analysis of the relationship between pH gradient

1140   and δ^{13}C gradient from the 13500 run CYCLOPS ensemble (see text for model

1141   details). Panel (a) shows the mean gradient when the result from all 18 ocean boxes

1142   are included in the regression. Panel (b) shows only the boxes from the low latitude

1143   ocean from all basins and (c) shows the regression from only North Atlantic low

1144   latitude boxes. Note the lower ΔpH/$\Delta\delta^{11}$B slope at the lower latitudes due to the

1145   effect of temperature.

1146   Figure 9: The pH gradient between surface and deep through time calculated from the

1147 δ^{13}C gradient and using a flat probability derived from the low latitude ensemble

1148   regressions from the CYCLOPS model. The modern pH gradients at each site are

1149   also plotted.

1150   Figure 10: The calculated δ^{11}B$_{sw}$ from the benthic-planktic δ^{11}B pairs using a pH

1151   gradient derived from δ^{13}C . The uncertainty on each data point is determined using a

1152   Monte Carlo approach including uncertainties in temperature, salinity, δ^{11}B and the

1153 pH gradient (see text for details). Data are plotted as box and whisker diagrams

1154 where the median and interquartile range as plotted in the box and whiskers show the

1155 maximum and minimum output from the Monte Carlo simulations. The line of best

1156 fit is the probability maximum of a LOWESS fit given the uncertainty in the

1157 calculated $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$. The darker shaded area highlights the 68% confidence interval and

1158 the lighter interval highlights the 95% confidence interval. The bottom panel shows

1159 box plots of the mean and 2 standard error (s.e.) of 'binning' the individual $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$

1160 measurements into 8 Myr intervals. The middle line is the mean and the box shows

1161 the 2 s.e. of the data points in that bin. The smoothed record is also plotted for

1162 comparison where the line of best fit is the probability maximum of a LOWESS fit

1163 given the uncertainty in the calculated $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$. The darker shaded area highlights the

1164 68% confidence interval and the lighter interval highlights the 95% confidence

1165 interval. The black dot is the modern value of 39.61 ‰ (Foster et al., 2010).

1166 Figure 11: The $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ curve calculated using the variable pH gradient derived from

1167 $\delta^{13}C$. The median (red line), 68% (dark red band) and 95% (light red band)

1168 confidence intervals are plotted. Plotted with a compilation of published $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$

1169 records. Seawater composition reconstructed from foraminifera depth profiles (light

1170 blue squares and dark blue cross) from Pearson and Palmer (2000) and Foster et al.

1171 (2012) respectively, numerical modelling (green line), with additional green green

1172 lines shows ± 1 ‰ confidence interval (Lemarchand et al., 2000) and benthic $\delta^{11}B$

1173 (purple diamonds and dark purple line is using the fractionation factor of Klochko et

1174 al., 2006, light purple line using an empirical calibration) from Raitzsch and Hönisch

1175 (2013). All the published $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ curves are adjusted so that at t=0, the isotopic

1176 composition is equal to the modern (39.61 ‰).

1177 Figure 12: a) The $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ curve from this study plotted with other trace element

1178 isotopic records. On the $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ panel the darker shaded area highlights the 68%

1179 confidence interval and the lighter interval highlights the 95% confidence interval),

1180 $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$ record from Pogge von Strandmann et al. (2014) (error bars are ± 0.28 ‰

1181 and include analytical uncertainty and scatter due to the spread in modern *O. universa*

1182 and the offset between the two analysed species), $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$ record from Griffith et al.

1183 (2008) (error bars show 2 σ uncertainty) and δ^7Li_{sw} record from Misra and Froelich

1184 (2012) (error bars show 2 σ uncertainty). Blue dashed lines show middle Miocene

1185 values, red dashed lines highlight the modern.

1186 Figure 13: Crossplots of the records of $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ using the variable pH gradient derived

1187 from $\delta^{13}C$ (error bars show 2 σ uncertainty) with $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$ from Griffith et al. (2008)

1188 (error bars show 2 σ uncertainty), $\delta^{7}Li_{sw}$ from Misra and Froelich (2012) (error bars

1189 show 2 σ uncertainty) and $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$ from Pogge von Strandmann et al. (2014) (error

1190 bars are ± 0.28 ‰ and include analytical uncertainty and scatter due to the spread in

1191 modern *O. universa* and the offset between the two analysed species). The colour of

1192 the data points highlights the age of the data points where red = modern and blue =

1193 23 Ma.

1194 Table 1: CYCLOPS model parameter values defining the ensemble of 13,500

1195 simulations.

1196 Table 2: Uncertainty inputs into the Monte Carlo simulations to calculate $\delta^{11}B$. The

1197 sources of uncertainty are also added. All uncertainty estimates are 2σ.

1198 Table 3: The average $\delta^{11}B$, $\delta^{26}Mg$, $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ and $\delta^{7}Li$ composition of major fluxes into

1199 and out of the ocean. Colour coding reflects the relative importance of each the

1200 processes (darker shading reflects greater importance). The colour coding for boron is

1201 based on Lemarchand et al. (2000) and references therein, lithium from Misra and

1202 Froelich (2012) and references therein, magnesium from Tipper et al. (2006b) and

1203 calcium from Fantle and Tipper (2014) and Griffin et al. (2008) and references

1204 therein. The isotopic ratio of each process is: (a) Lemarchand et al. (2000) and

1205 references therein; b) Misra and Froelich (2012) and references therein; (c) Burton

1206 and Vigier (2012); (d) Tipper et al. (2006b); e) Wombacher et al. (2011); f) includes

1207 dolomitisation; g) removal through hydrothermal activity; h) Griffith et al. (2008); i)

1208 Fantle and Tipper (2014) and references therein; j) dolomitisation may be an

1209 important component of the carbonate flux. Modern $\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$ and $\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ from Foster

1210 et al. (2010), $\delta^{7}Li_{sw}$ from Tomascak (2004). The $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ presented here was

1211 measured relative to seawater and hence seawater has a $\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$ of 0 permil by

1212 definition.

1213
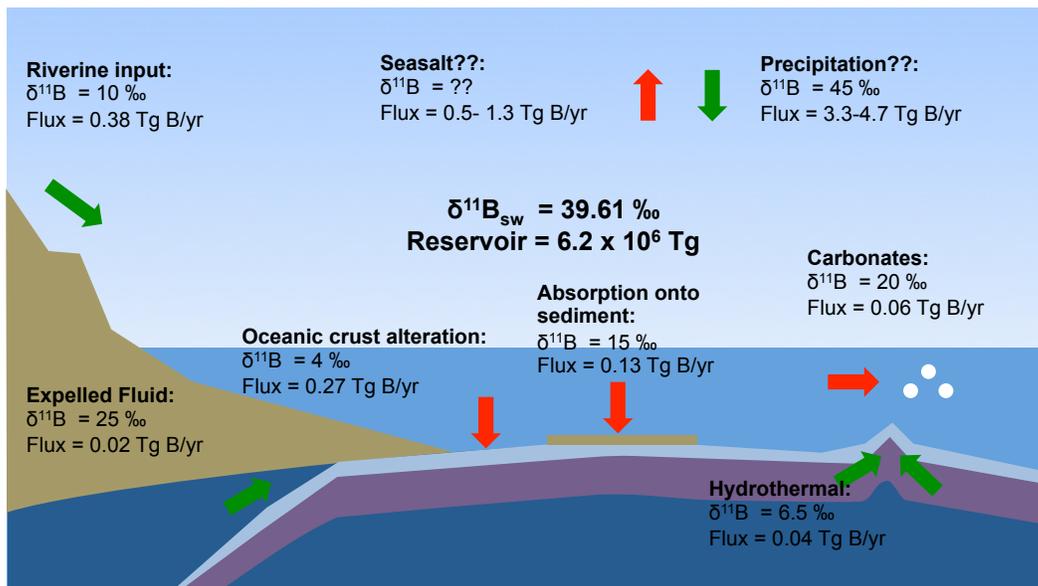
Figure 1
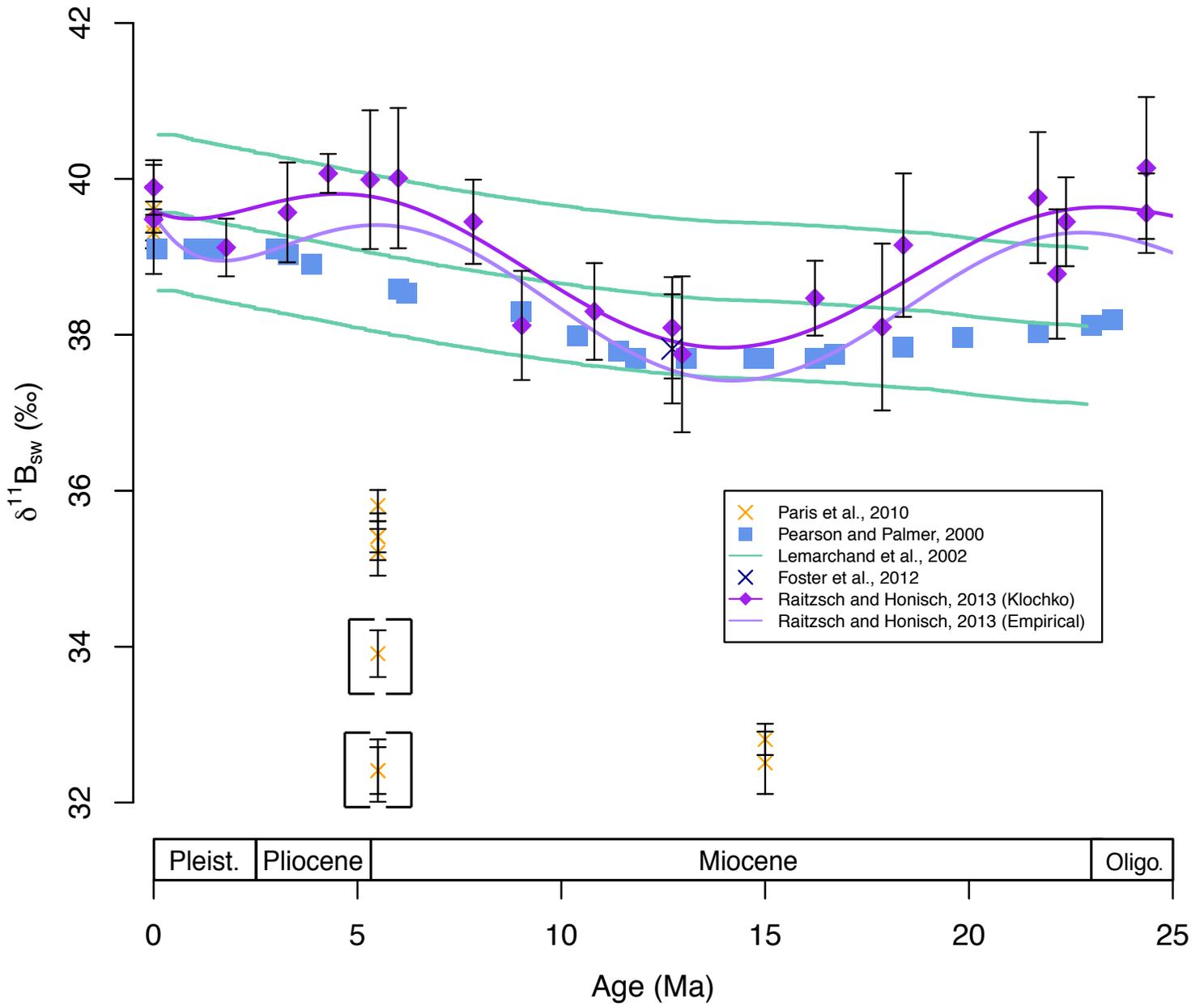
Figure 2
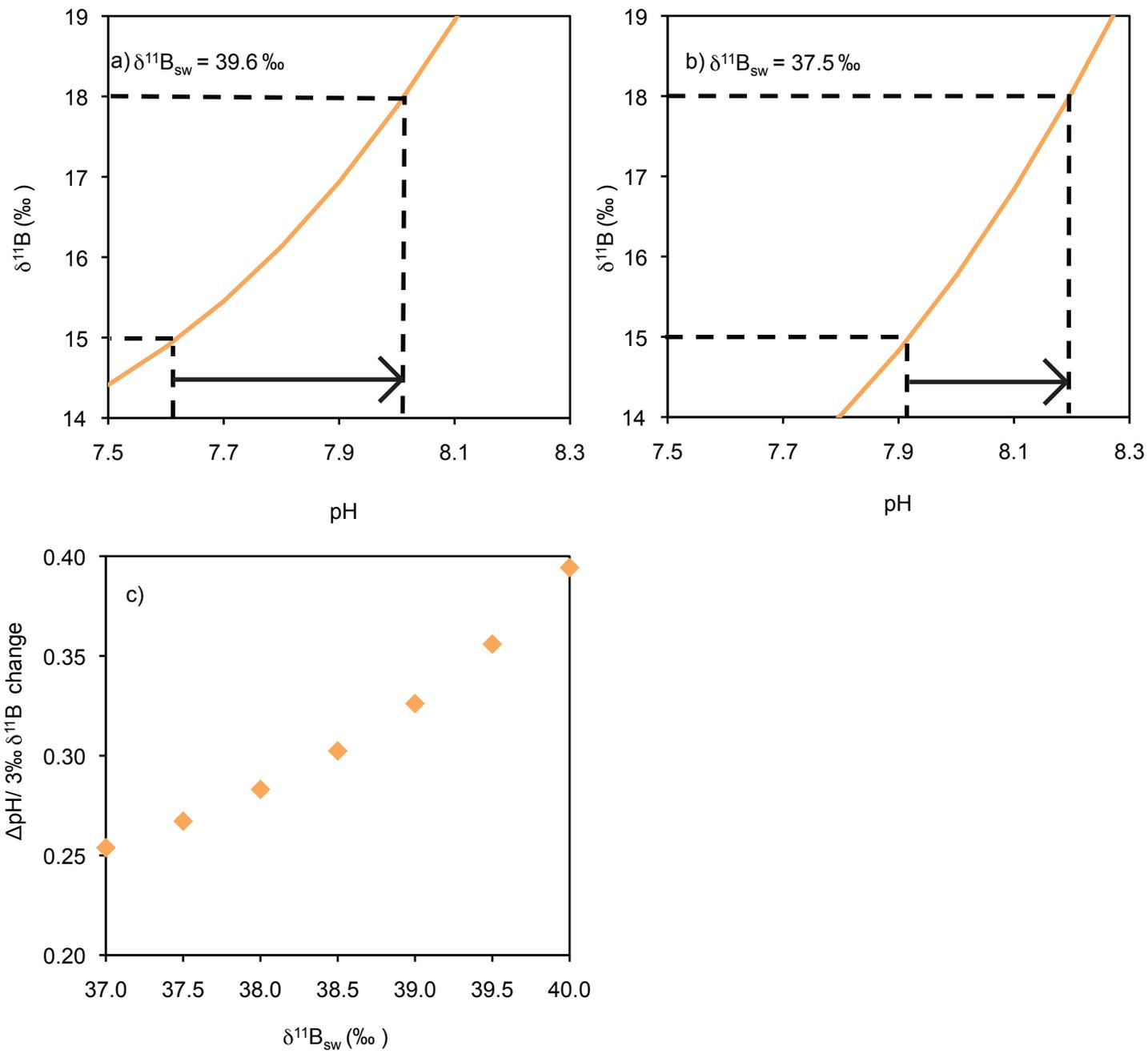
Figure 3
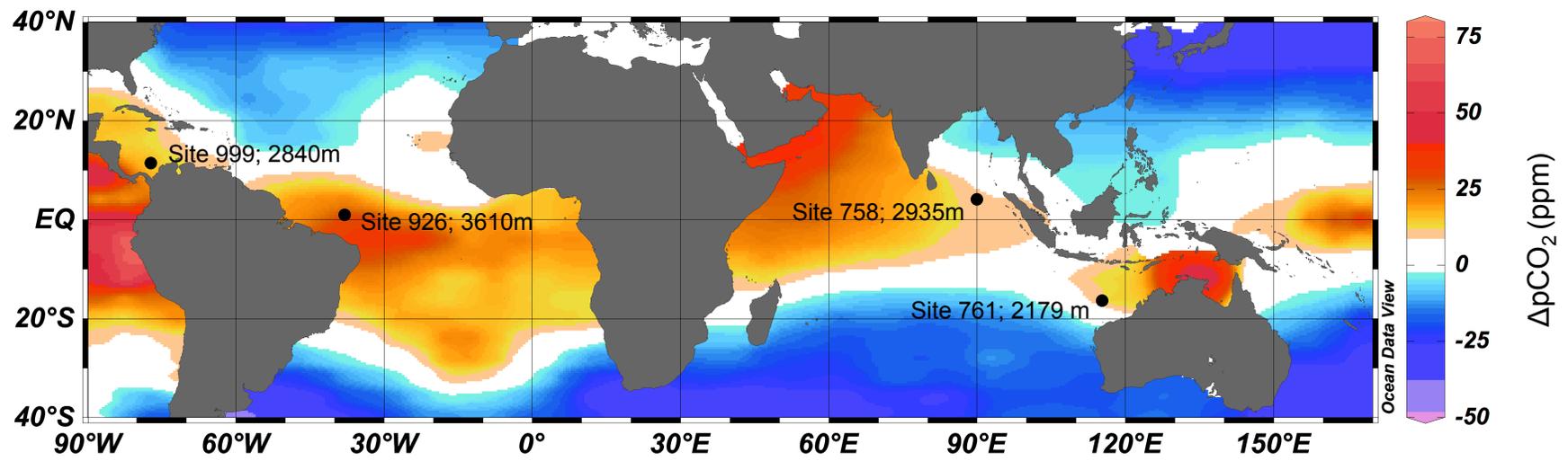
Figure 4
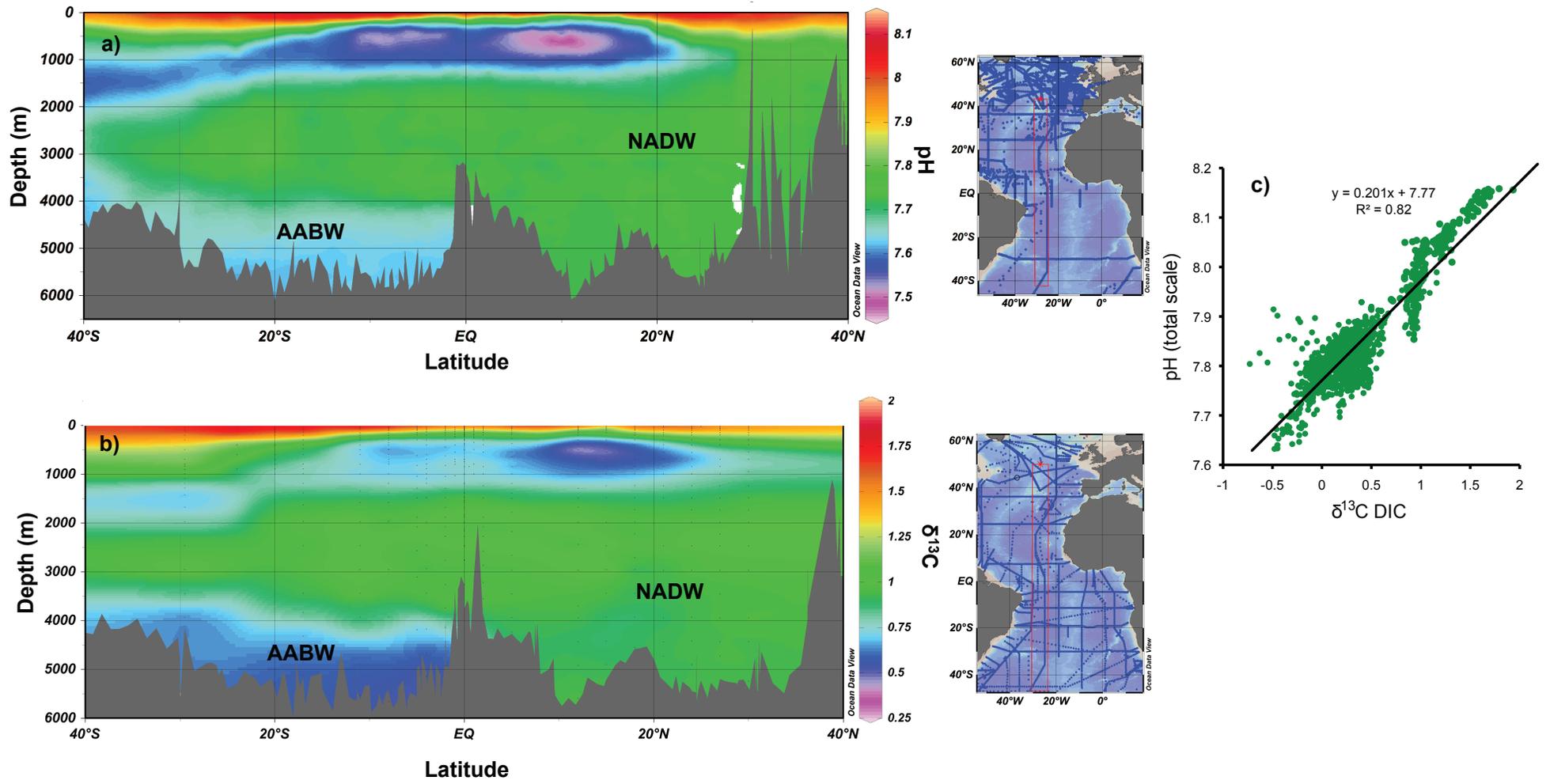
Figure 5

Figure 6
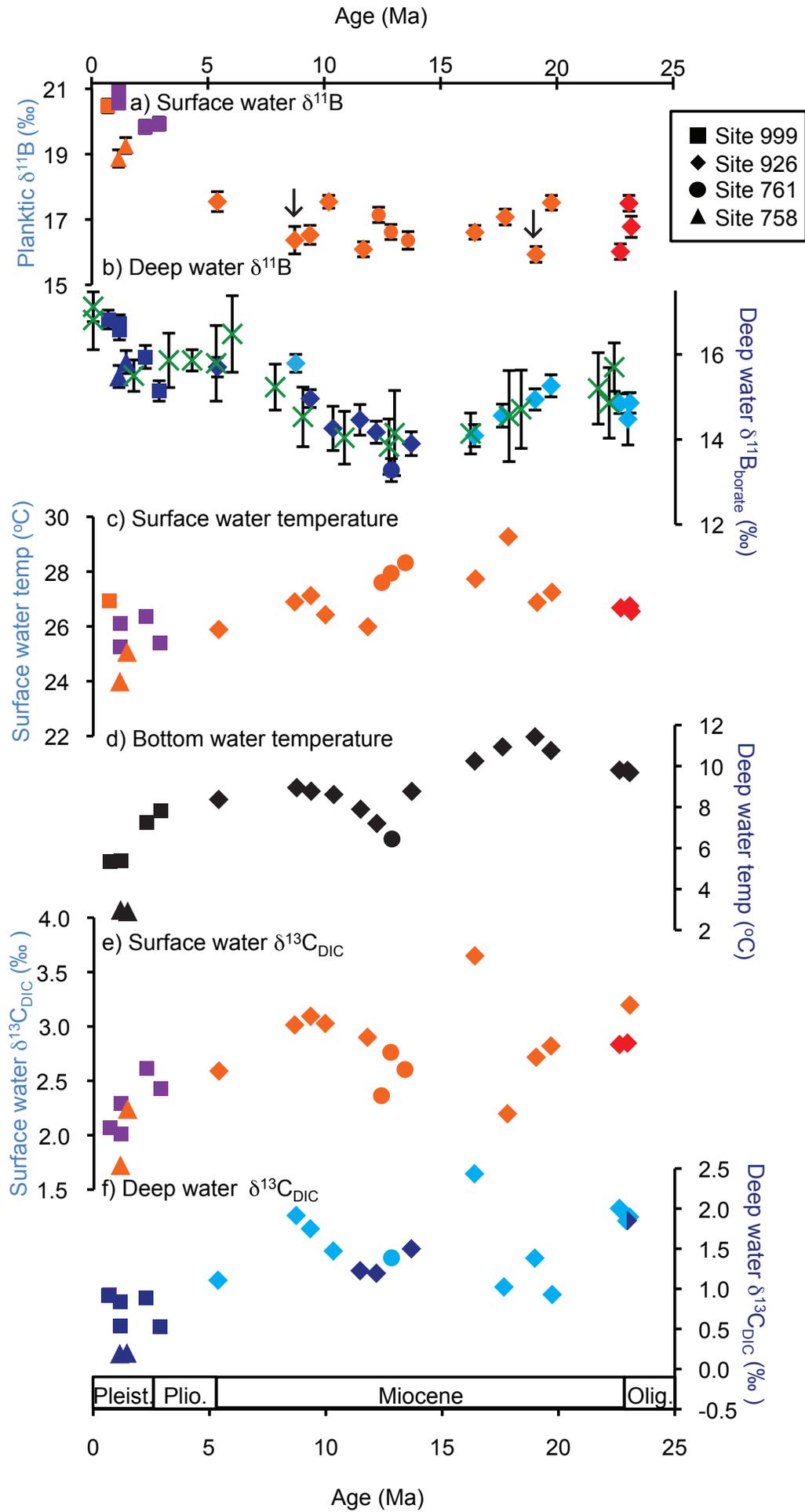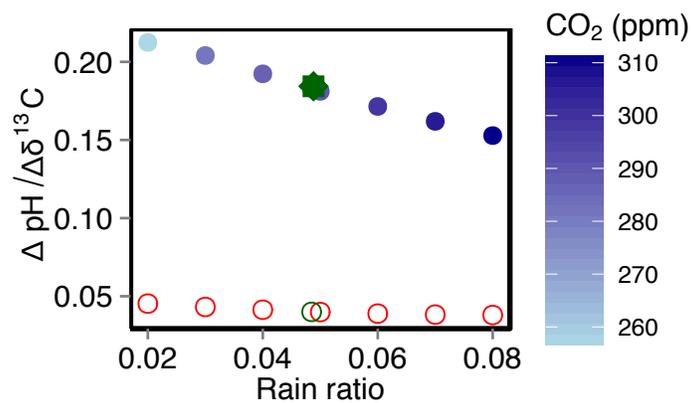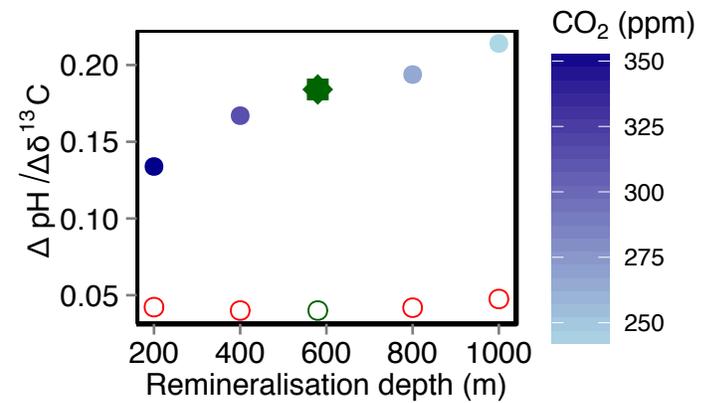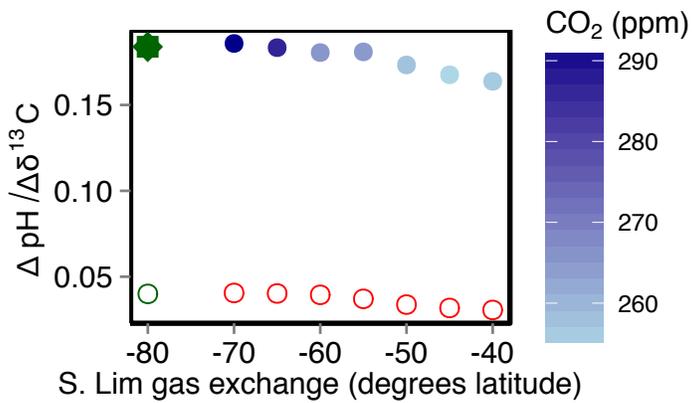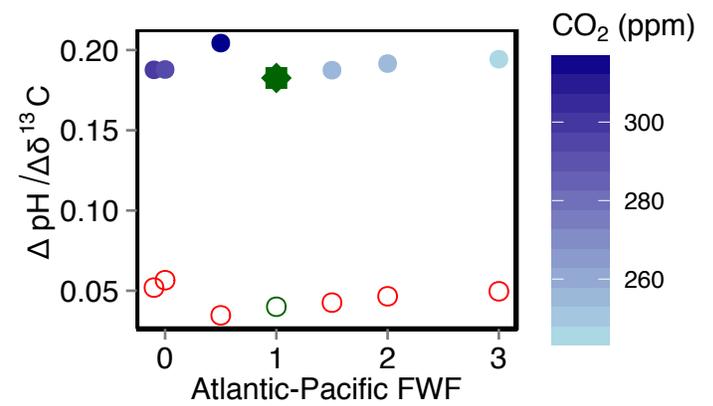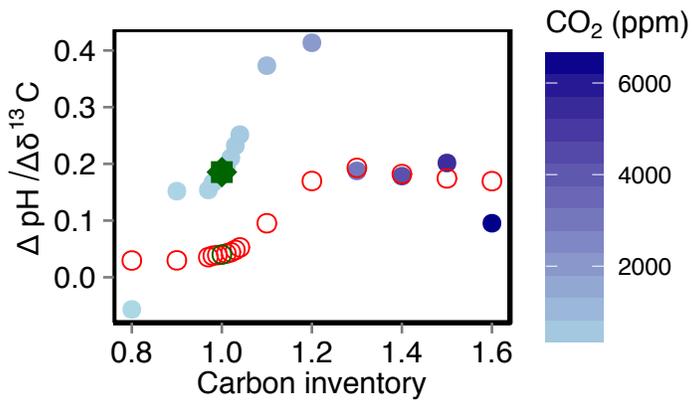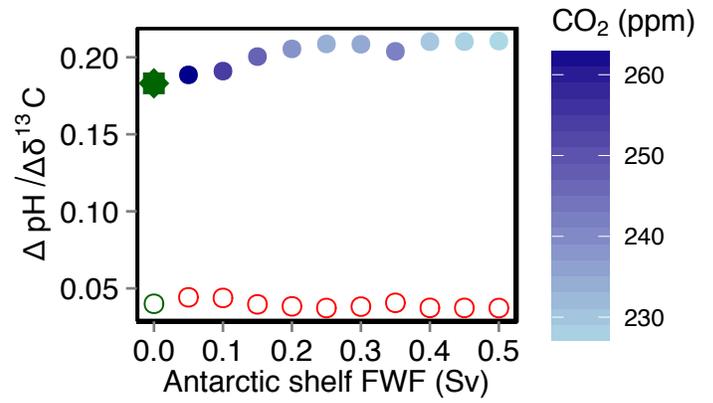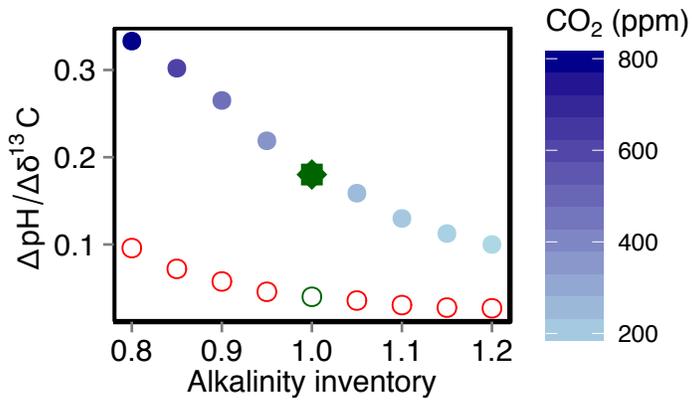
Figure 7
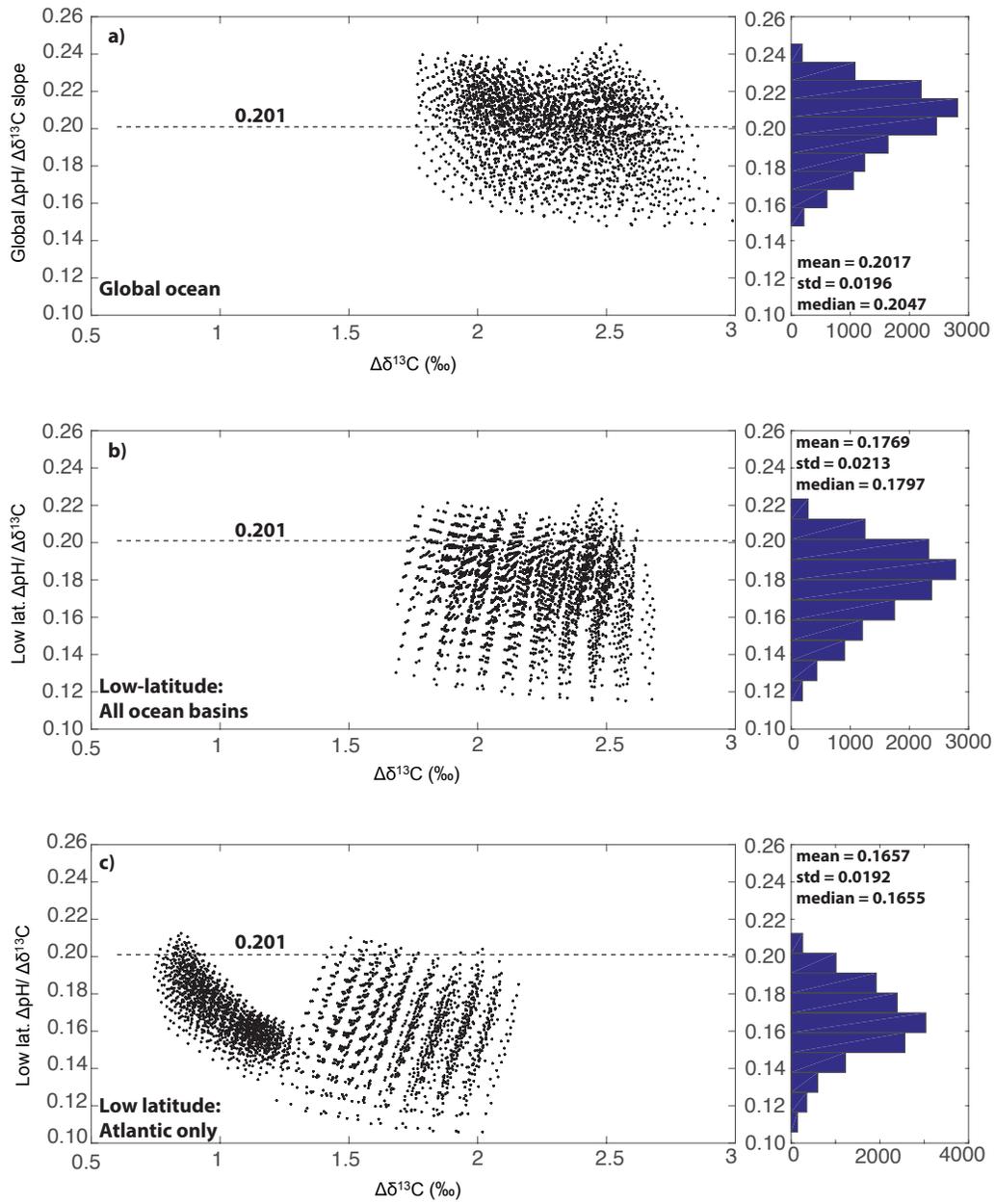
Figure 8
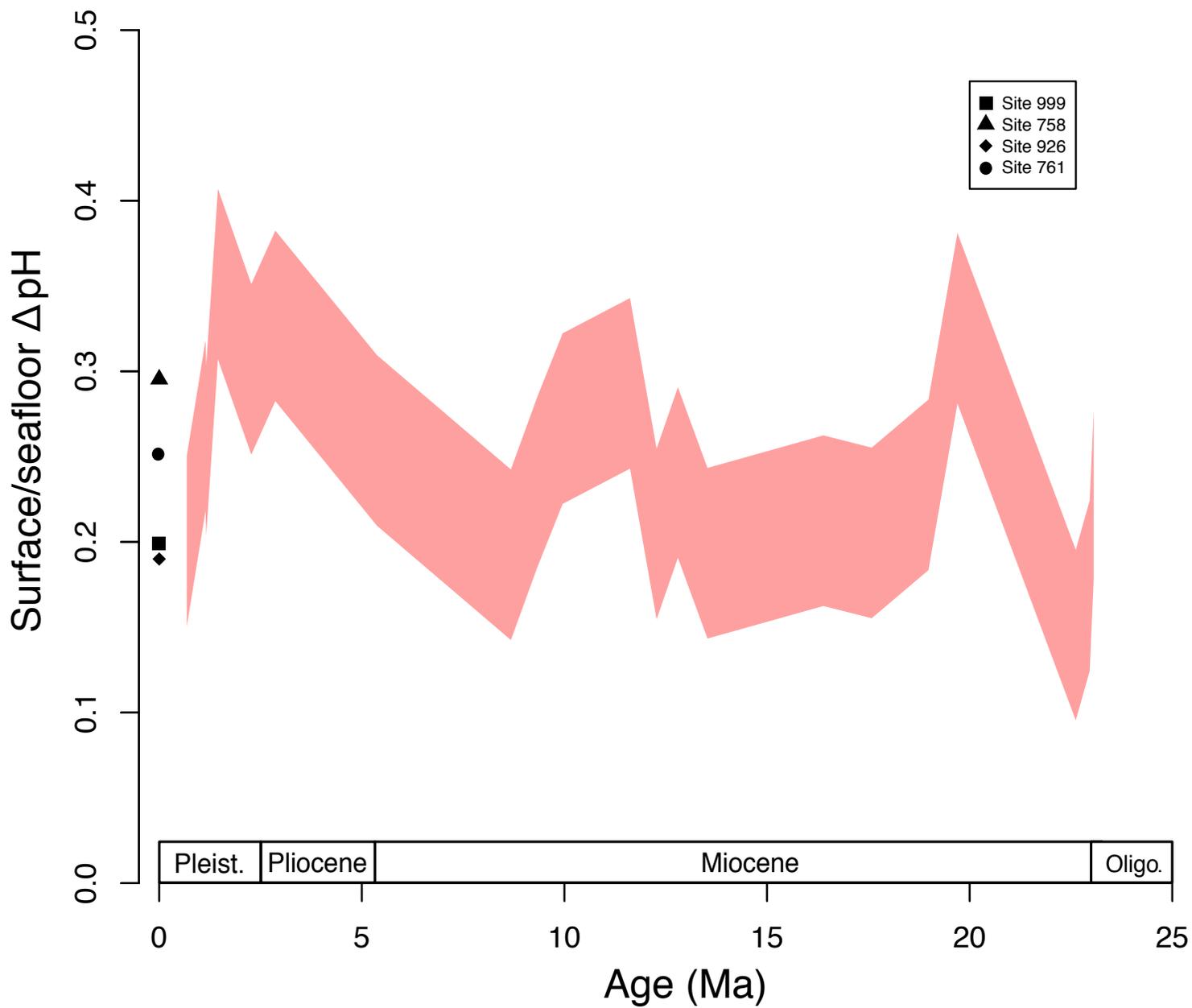
Figure 9
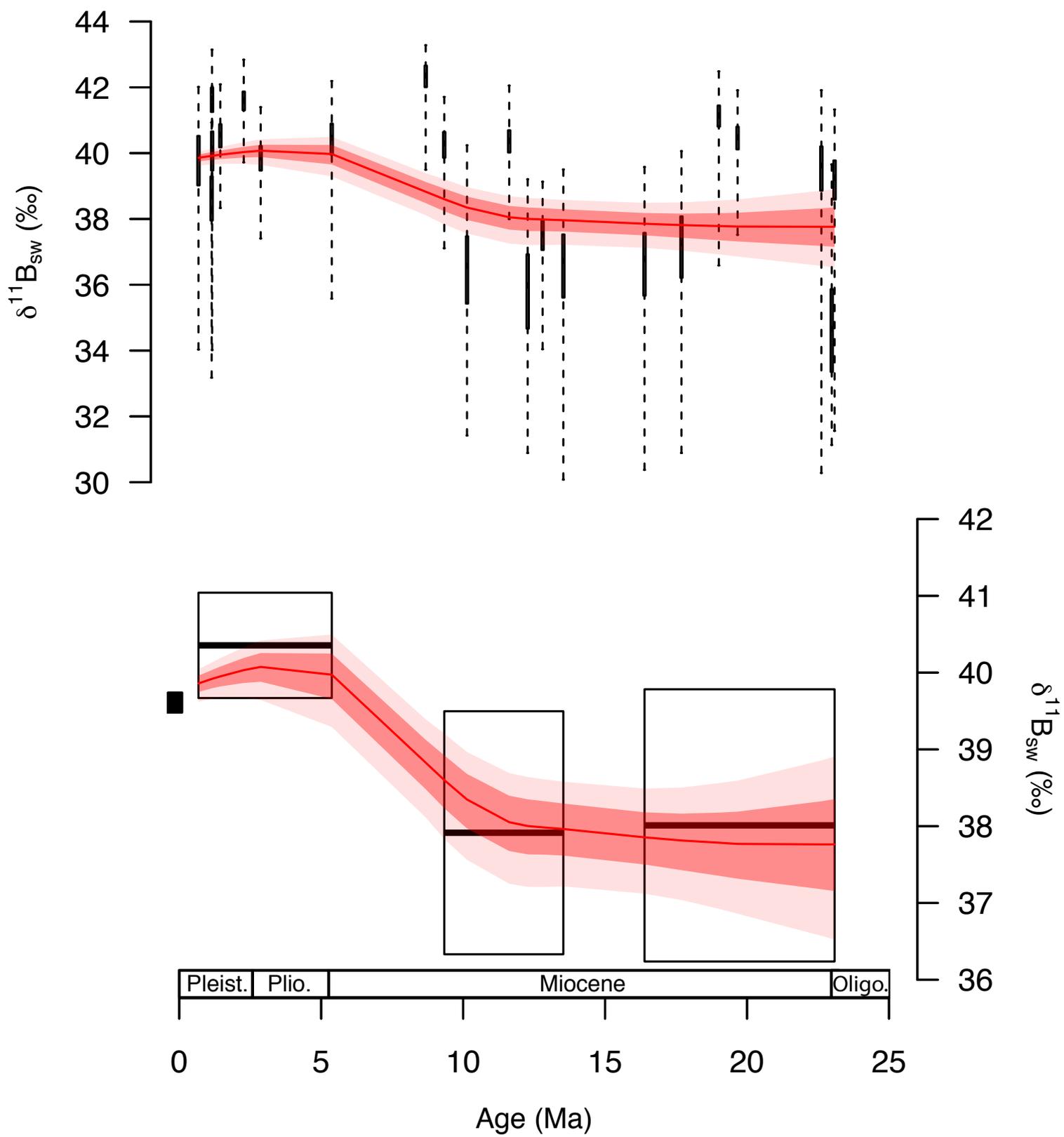
Figure 10

Figure 11
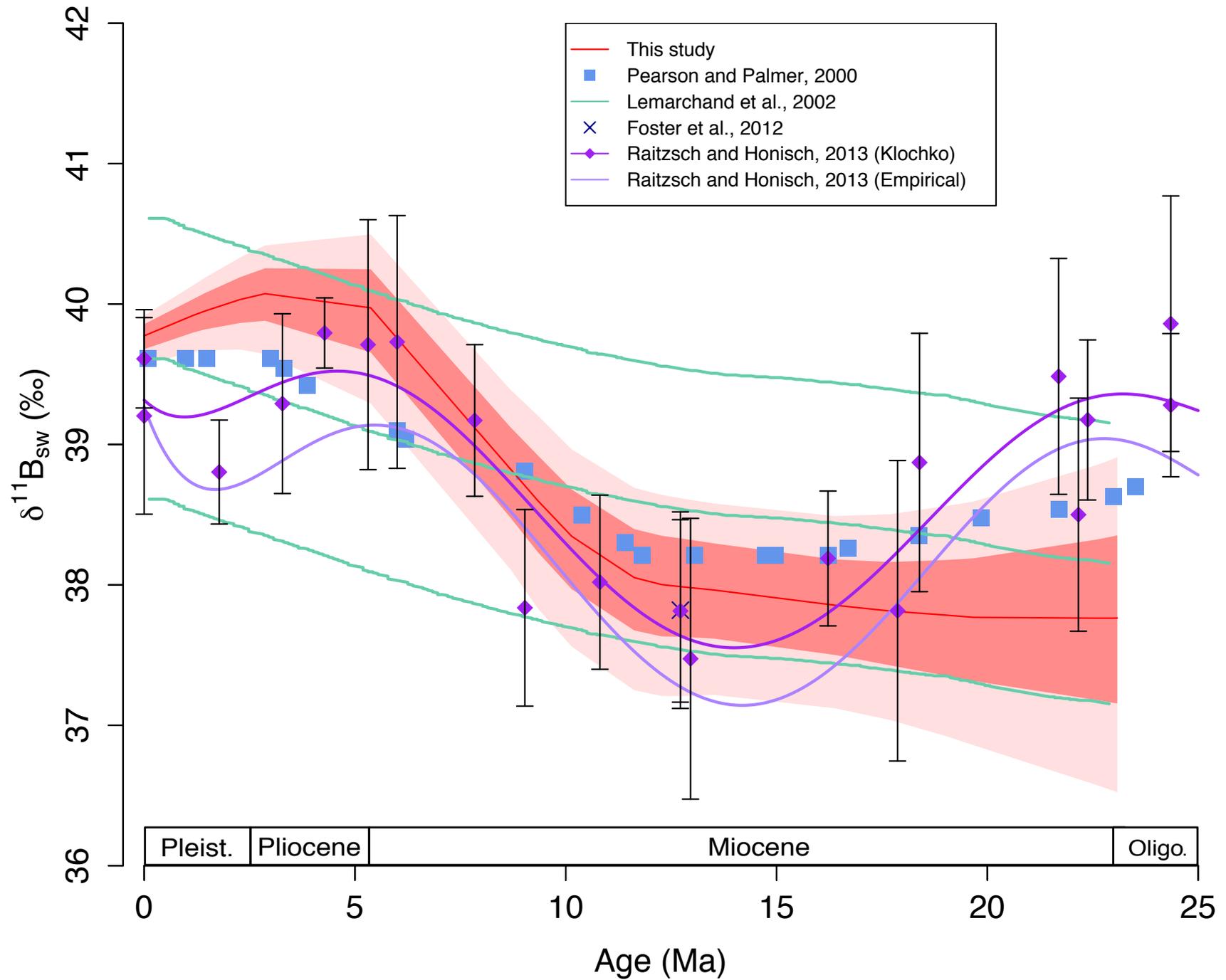
Figure 12
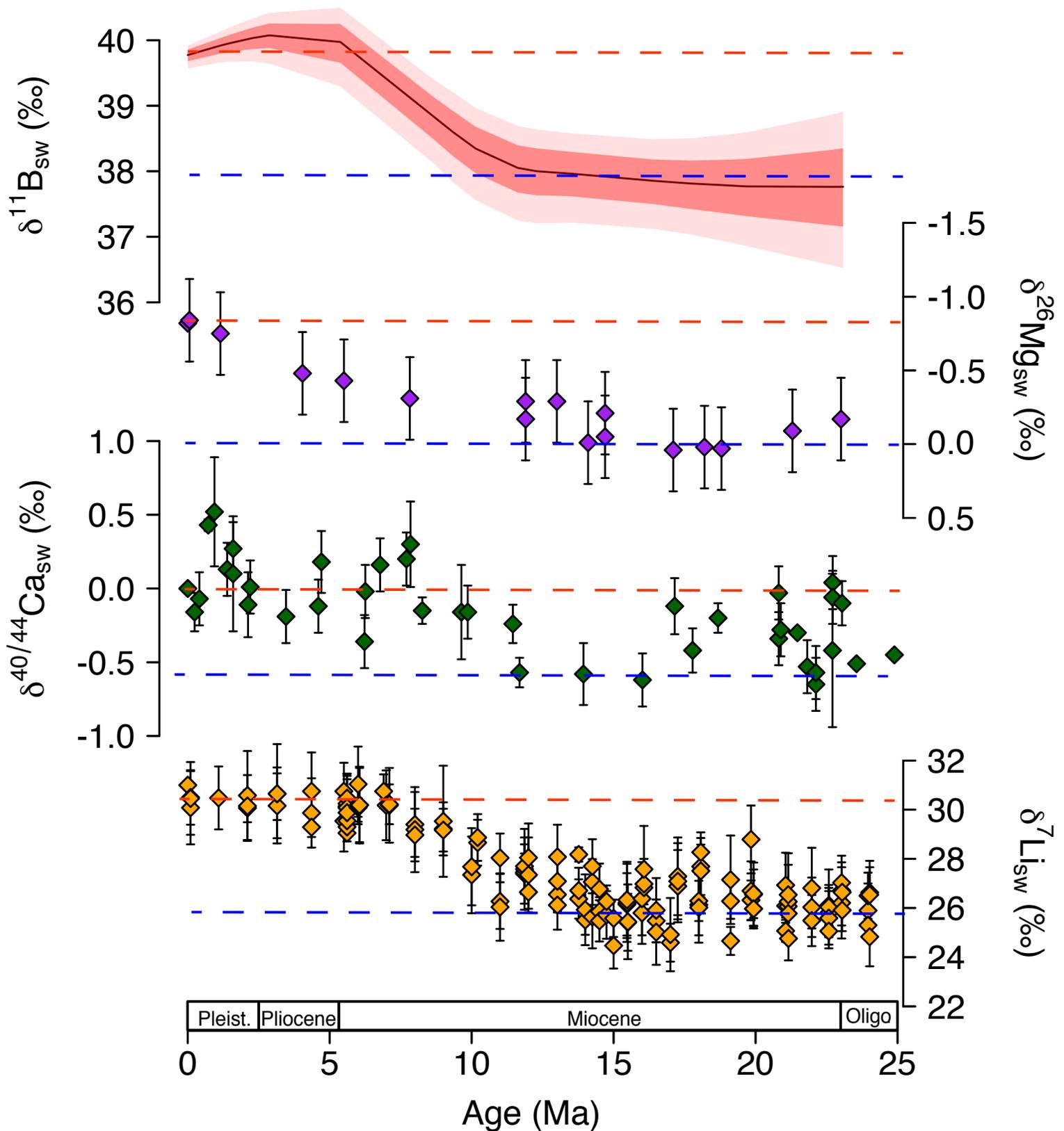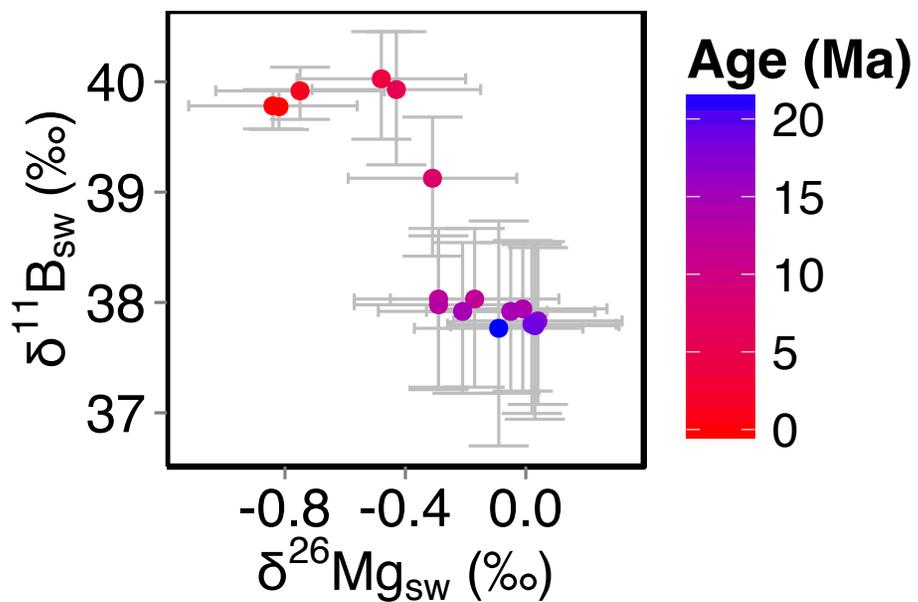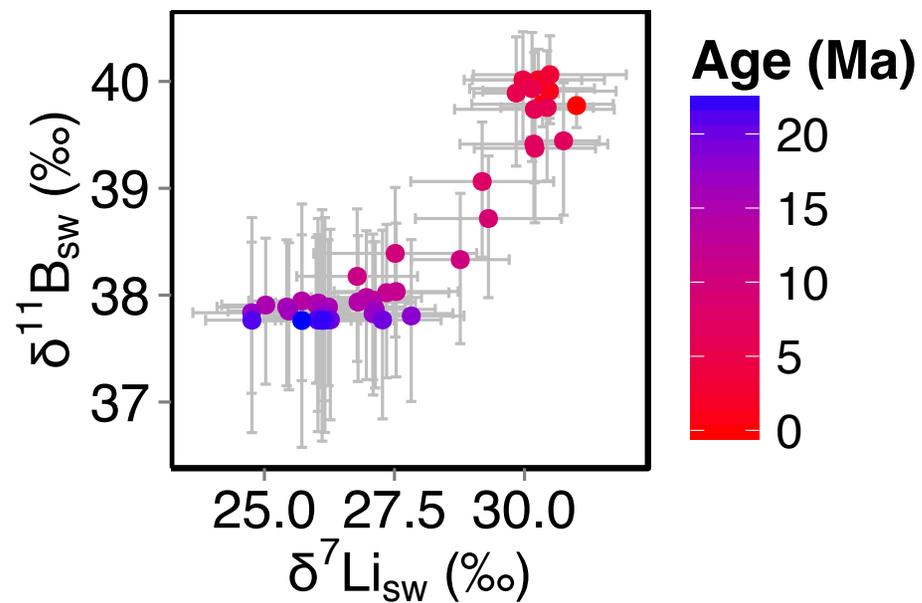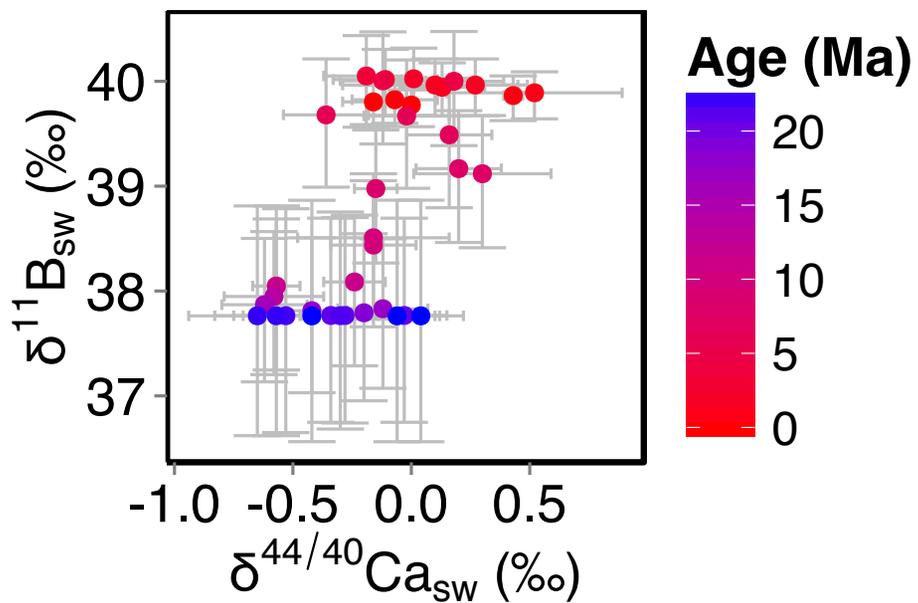
Figure 13

Table 1. CYCLOPS model parameter values defining the ensemble of 13,500 simulations*

Parameter	Description	Values assumed
PAZ surface phosphate**	unutilized polar nutrient	1µM, 1.25µM, 1.5µM, 1.75µM, 2µM
PAZ vertical exchange**	bottom water formation	2Sv, 7.75Sv, 13.5Sv, 19.25Sv, 25Sv
SAZ surface phosphate**	unutilized polar nutrient	0.7µM, 0.825µM, 0.95µM, 1.075µM, 1.2µM
AMOC circulation scheme**	deep vs. shallow overturning	NADW, GNAIW
representative timeslice***	Age ($[Ca^{2+}]$/CCD); calcium set outright; CCD set via riverine $CaCO_3$ flux using inverse scheme	0Myr (10.6mM, 4.65km), 9Myr (12.89mM, 4.4km), 11Myr (13.33mM, 4.9km), 16Myr (14.28mM, 4.7km), 18Myr (14.57mM, 4.25km), 20Myr (14.86mM, 4.7km)
atm. CO_2****	set via silicate weatherability	200ppm, 300ppm, 400ppm, 500ppm, 600ppm, 700ppm, 800ppm, 900ppm, 1000ppm

*= The six parameters assume 5, 5, 5, 2, 9 and 6 values, yielding 13,500 distinct parameter combinations

** = These parameters are intended to span the full range of ocean carbon cycling over late Pleistocene glacial-interglacial cycles, as describe in more detail in Hain et al. (2010)

*** = We selected representative timeslices based on local extrema in the CCD reconstruction of Pälike et al. (2012) and we combine these with appropriate reconstructed calcium concentrations based on Horita et al. (2002). These choices are intended to capture the range of long-term steady state conditions of the open system $CaCO_3$ cycle relevant to our study interval

**** = These atmospheric CO_2 levels are chosen to span a range wider than expected for the study interval. Following silicate-weathering-feedback paradigm, long-term CO_2 is fully determined by the balance of geologic CO_2 sources and silicate weathering, whereby faster acting processes of the open system $CaCO_3$ cycle compensate relative to that CO_2 level. All else equal, high CO_2 levels, low calcium concentrations and deep CCD correspond to high bulk ocean carbon concentrations (Hain et al., 2015) with many of the individual simulations of this ensemble exeeding 4000µM DIC.

Table 2

Input parameter	Uncertainty applied	Source of uncertainty estimate
Surface to sea floor ΔpH	Uniform +/- 0.05 pH units	Plausible range of ΔpH/$\Delta\delta^{13}$C in CYCLOPS and GENIE sensitivity tests; prediction error of linear ΔpH/$\Delta\delta^{13}$C regression in GENIE
δ^{11}B measurement	0.15-0.61‰	Long-term external reproducibility
Temperature	±2°C	Uncertainty in the Mg/Ca measurement and Mg/Ca-temperature calibration
Salinity	±2 psu	In the absence of a salinity proxy this uncertainty is applied to cover variations through time.
Seawater [Mg]	± 4.5 mmol/kg	following Horita et al., (2002)
Seawater [Ca]	± 4.5 mmol/kg	following Horita et al., (2002)

Table 3

Sources	Isotopic Ratio			
Oceanic Inputs	$\delta^{11}B_{sw}$ 39.61 ‰	$\delta^{7}Li_{sw}$ 31 ‰	$\delta^{26}Mg_{sw}$ −0.83 ‰	$\delta^{44/40}Ca_{sw}$ 0 ‰
Input from hydrothermal	6.5[a]	8.3[b]	N/A	−0.96[h]
Fluid from accretionary prisms	25[a]	15[b]	N/A	N/A
Riverine Inputs	10[a]	23[b]	−1.09[d]	-1.28[h]
Groundwater	N/A	N/A	-0.82[d]	−1.02[i]
Outputs				
Precipitation into carbonates	20[a]	29[c]	-3.5[d,e,f]	-1.15[h,j]
Ocean crust alteration	4[a]	15[b]	-0.83[d,g]	-1.2[h]
Absorption onto sediment	15[a]	15[b]	??	N/A