

1 **Long term trends in diatom diversity and palaeoproductivity: a 16,000-**  
2 **year multidecadal study from Lake Baikal, southern Siberia**

3  
4  
5  
6 **Anson W. Mackay<sup>1\*</sup>, Vivian A. Felde<sup>2</sup>, David W. Morley<sup>1</sup>, Natalia Piotrowska<sup>3</sup>, Patrick**  
7 **Rioual<sup>4</sup>, Alistair W.R. Seddon<sup>2</sup>, George E.A. Swann<sup>5</sup>**

8  
9 <sup>1</sup>Anson W. Mackay\*

10 Environmental Change Research Centre, Department of Geography, UCL, London UK,  
11 WC1E 6BT.

12 [ans.mackay@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ans.mackay@ucl.ac.uk)

13 \*Corresponding Author

14  
15 <sup>2</sup>Vivian Astrup Felde

16 Department of Biological Sciences, and Bjerknes Centre of Climate Research, University of  
17 Bergen, PO Box 7803, Bergen N-5020, Norway

18 Vivian.Felde@uib.no

19  
20 <sup>1</sup>David W. Morley

21 Environmental Change Research Centre, Department of Geography, UCL, London UK,  
22 WC1E 6BT.

23 d.w.morley@gmail.com

24  
25 <sup>3</sup>Natalia Piotrowska

26 Department of Radioisotopes, Institute of Physics - CSE, Silesian University of Technology,  
27 Konarskiego 22B, 44-100 Gliwice, Poland

28 Natalia.Piotrowska@polsl.pl

29  
30 <sup>4</sup>Patrick Rioual

31 Key Laboratory of Cenozoic Geology and Environment, Institute of Geology & Geophysics,  
32 Chinese Academy of Sciences, P.O. box 9825, Beijing 100029, China

33 prioual@mail.iggcas.ac.cn

34  
35 <sup>2</sup>Alistair W. R. Seddon

36 Department of Biological Sciences, and Bjerknes Centre of Climate Research, University of  
37 Bergen, PO Box 7803, Bergen N-5020, Norway

38 alistair.seddon@uib.no

39  
40 <sup>5</sup>George E. A. Swann

41 School of Geography, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD,  
42 UK

43 George.Swann@nottingham.ac.uk

44  
45  
46 Correspondence to: Anson W. Mackay ([ans.mackay@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ans.mackay@ucl.ac.uk))

47

48 **Abstract**

49

50 Biological diversity is inextricably linked to community stability and ecosystem functioning,  
51 but our understanding of these relationships in freshwater ecosystems is largely based on  
52 short-term observational, experimental, and modelling approaches. Using a multidecadal  
53 diatom record for the past c. 16,000 years from Lake Baikal, we investigate how diversity  
54 and palaeoproductivity have responded to climate change during periods of both rapid  
55 climate fluctuation, and relative climate stability. We show dynamic changes in diatom  
56 communities during the past 16,000 years, with decadal shifts in species dominance  
57 punctuating millennial-scale seasonal trends. We describe for the first time in Lake Baikal a  
58 gradual shift from spring to autumnal diatom communities that started during the Younger  
59 Dryas and peaked during the Late Holocene, and likely represent orbitally-driven ecosystem  
60 responses to long-term changes in seasonality. Using a multivariate classification tree, we  
61 show that trends in planktonic and tychoplanktonic diatoms broadly reflect both long-term  
62 climatic changes associated with the demise of Northern Hemisphere ice sheets, and abrupt  
63 climatic changes associated with, for example, the Younger Dryas stadial. Indeed, diatom  
64 communities are most different before and after the boundary between the Early and Middle  
65 Holocene periods c. 8.2 cal kyr BP, associated with the presence and demise of northern  
66 hemisphere ice sheets respectively. Diatom richness and diversity, estimated using Hill's  
67 species numbers, are also shown to be very responsive to periods characterised by abrupt  
68 climate change, and using knowledge of diatom autecologies in Lake Baikal, diversity trends  
69 are interpreted in terms of resource availability. Using diatom biovolume accumulation rates  
70 (BVAR;  $\mu\text{m}^3 \text{cm}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ), we show that spring diatom crops dominate palaeoproductivity for  
71 nearly all of our record, apart from a short period during the late Holocene, when autumnal  
72 productivity dominated between 1.8–1.4 cal kyr BP. Palaeoproductivity was especially  
73 unstable during the Younger Dryas, reaching peak rates of  $18.3 \times 10^3 \mu\text{m}^3 \text{cm}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$  at c. 12.3  
74 cal kyr BP. Generalized additive models (GAM) to explore productivity–diversity  
75 relationships (PDR) during pre-defined climate periods, reveal complex relationships.  
76 Strongest statistical evidence for GAMs were found during the Younger Dryas, the Early  
77 Holocene and the Late Holocene, i.e. periods of rapid climate change. We account for these  
78 differences in terms of climate-mediated resource availability, and the ability of endemic  
79 diatom species in Lake Baikal to adapt to extreme forms of living in this unique ecosystem.  
80 Our analyses offer insight into how productivity–diversity relationships may develop in the

81 future under a warming climate.

82

83 **Key words:** palaeoproductivity, abrupt climate change, palaeolimnology, Holocene, Late

84 glacial, productivity–diversity relationship, generalized additive models, multivariate

85 classification trees

86

87

88

89

## 90 **1. Introduction**

91

92 Understanding the role that biological diversity plays in ecosystem stability and function is an  
93 important challenge in ecological research (Tilman et al. 1997; McCann 2000; Loreau et al.  
94 2001; Isbell et al. 2015; Hagen et al. 2021). An ecosystem with higher biodiversity is  
95 assumed to be more stable, due to a number of factors, including the presence of species  
96 which have considerable plasticity, such that they have wide responses to disturbances  
97 (McCann 2000; Luethje and Snyder 2021), and the “insurance effect” (Yachi and Loreau  
98 1999) where species redundancy plays an important stabilizing role. Biodiversity loss can  
99 lead to reduced ecosystem functioning (Cardinale et al. 2012), which poses serious threats to  
100 ecosystem health in general, and human well-being in particular (e.g. Chivian 2003). While  
101 the mechanisms behind how diversity controls functioning are not completely understood,  
102 dominant species with distinct functional roles are important (Winfree et al. 2015). For  
103 example, primary production, a key ecosystem function which helps regulate the global  
104 carbon cycle, is tied to species diversity (Tilman et al. 1997; Cardinale et al. 2009; Tilman et  
105 al. 2012). However, our understanding of productivity–diversity relationships (PDR) is  
106 largely based on short-term observational (Dodson et al. 2000; Ptacnik et al. 2008; Korhonen  
107 et al. 2011), experimental (McGrady-Steed et al. 1997; Interlandi & Kilham 2001; Winfree et  
108 al. 2015) and modelling approaches (Aoki 2003), with very few long-term studies undertaken  
109 (Rusak et al. 2004). This constitutes an important gap in our knowledge because in terms of  
110 climate change, productivity–diversity relationships and resource use efficiency (Gross and  
111 Cardinale 2007; Ptacnik et al. 2008) will be fundamentally different over long (e.g. climate  
112 and landscape evolution) and short (e.g. pulse disturbances such as climate disturbance  
113 events (Kéfi et al. 2019)) timescales.

114

115 Palaeoecological approaches provide a potential solution to this challenge, since they can  
116 reveal ecological dynamics in response to environmental change which unfold only over very  
117 long timescales (National Research Council 2005; Seddon et al. 2014). For example, diatoms  
118 are some of the most important primary producers in lake ecosystems, and their sub-  
119 fossilised remains provide a record of community variations through time. In addition,  
120 because the species composition, biovolume and concentration of diatom valves can be  
121 directly measured on sediment sequences, there is a unique opportunity to investigate how  
122 community dynamics, diversity and the stability of ecosystem functions such as productivity

123 change over long-timescales. In particular, because the last 16,000 years have been  
124 punctuated by a series of large-scale and abrupt climatic shifts, such records open the door  
125 for an investigation into the links between biodiversity and the stability of ecosystem  
126 functioning associated with climate disturbance events.

127

128 Here we investigate the relationship between diatom diversity and ecosystem functioning in  
129 Lake Baikal, an ancient lake with a long continuous record with evidence of only very recent  
130 human perturbation (Izmest'eva et al. 2016; Roberts et al. 2018) restricted to its coastline  
131 (Kravtsova et al. 2014; Timoshkin et al. 2016). We focus on aquatic productivity as a  
132 measure of ecosystem function, because of the direct link between diatoms and primary  
133 production in the modern lake (Kozhova and Izmest'eva 1998).

134

135 As yet we do not assume to know the precise nature of the potential productivity–diversity  
136 relationships that may have occurred in Lake Baikal over such long timescales. We do know  
137 however, that local diversity will be influenced by a range of chemical, biological and  
138 physical factors such as nutrient availability, species interactions, and disturbance events such  
139 as rapid climate change. Our approach therefore is to explore productivity–diversity  
140 relationships over specific timescales independently determined from palaeoclimate studies.  
141 We might hypothesise for example, that productivity and diversity will co-vary linearly  
142 during rapid warming because increased energy results in increased metabolic rates in the  
143 system, but that this relationship might change during periods of relative climate stability. We  
144 investigate the range of possible response functions based on those identified by Smith  
145 (2007), whether they be negative or positive, whether they be humped or U-shaped, flat or  
146 just random (Smith 2007).

147

148 One of the most relevant independent climate studies for this time period is by Tarasov et al.  
149 (2009), who modelled pollen-inferred palaeotemperature for neighbouring Lake Kotokel  
150 (Fig. 1) for the past 15,000 years. Their reconstructions indicate a period of rapid warming  
151 (during the Bølling–Allerød interstadial), rapid cooling (during the Younger Dryas stadial)  
152 and relative temperature stability of the Holocene in southern Siberia. However, given that  
153 the Holocene has recently been formally subdivided into three ages/subepochs (Walker et al.  
154 2018), it is possible to compare productivity–diversity relationships during the Younger  
155 Dryas and the Bølling–Allerød, with the Greenlandian/Early, Northgrippian/Middle, and  
156 Meghalayan/Late ages/subepochs of the Holocene (henceforth referred to as Early, Middle,

157 and Late Holocene). Our approach is to coax history to conduct experiments (Deevey 1969)  
158 in order to deepen our understanding of (very) long-term biodiversity–ecosystem functioning  
159 (Loreau 2001) through the exploration of relationships between diatom diversity and  
160 productivity, and to test hypotheses related to how rapid climate change may disrupt these  
161 relationships on sub-orbital timescales. We do this by:

- 162 • reconstructing trends in diatom communities, diatom diversity and palaeoproductivity  
163 in Lake Baikal at a multidecadal resolution for the past c. 16,000 years.
- 164 • hypothesizing that relationships between productivity–diversity will differ during  
165 periods of rapid climate change and periods of relative climate stability.

166

## 167 **2. Methods**

168

### 169 Study site

170 Lake Baikal is situated in southern Siberia at the forest – steppe ecotone (Fig. 1), and is the  
171 world’s oldest, deepest, and most voluminous lake. The lake is a World Heritage Site, due to  
172 its diverse flora and fauna; it contains over 2,500 species of which over 75% are thought to  
173 be endemic (Galazii 1989). Its sediments have accumulated for over 25 million years, and  
174 decades of research have exploited this sedimentary record to reconstruct environmental  
175 change (Williams et al. 2001; Mackay 2007). Sedimentary cores were obtained in 2001 from  
176 the research vessel *Vereschagin*, from the Vydrino Shoulder (51.585° N, 104.855° E; water  
177 depth 675 m), an underwater high (between 500 – 800 m) off the south-eastern coast of Lake  
178 Baikal (Fig. 1). The Vydrino Shoulder was selected because it is an area of stable, fine-  
179 grained sedimentation relatively undisturbed by tectonic activity and reworking (Charlet et al.  
180 2005). The cores obtained included a 1.73 m trigger core (CON01–605–3a), a 10.45 m piston  
181 core (CON01–605–3), and a 2.50 m box core (CON01–605–5). These records were  
182 supplemented with a short gravity core taken from an ice platform in 2001 (CON01–105–6)  
183 from the same region.

184

### 185 Dating

186 Radiocarbon dates for the Vydrino sequence were obtained by accelerated mass spectrometry  
187 (AMS) from pollen and spore concentrates (Piotrowska et al. 2004; Demske et al. 2005). The  
188 age model is based upon twelve AMS <sup>14</sup>C pollen dates from the box core (CON01–605–5)  
189 (Piotrowska et al. 2004) and an additional five AMS <sup>14</sup>C pollen dates from the piston core

190 (CON01–605–3) (Demske et al. 2005). Full details are given in Mackay et al. (2011).  
191 Radiocarbon dates were calibrated using IntCal20 radiocarbon calibration curve (Reimer *et*  
192 *al.*, 2020), and age-depth modelling was done using ‘Bacon2.2’ (Blaauw & Christen, 2011).  
193 No reservoir effect was applied to the calibration because the organic material used for  
194 dating, i.e. pollen and spore concentrates, is assumed to be uncontaminated by old carbon.

195

#### 196 Diatom analysis

197 Diatoms amount to between 50-90% of the phytoplankton biomass during spring bloom  
198 under ice and after ice break-up (Popovskaya et al. 2015; Panizzo et al. 2017). Spring bloom  
199 contributes a significant proportion of overall annual primary productivity (Popovskaya  
200 2000). With the onset of summer warming and surface water stratification, diatoms are  
201 succeeded by non-siliceous autotrophic picoplankton and other green algae (Fietz et al. 2005;  
202 Belykh et al. 2006). During autumn turnover, a smaller diatom bloom dominates primary  
203 production. Nitrogen and phosphorus co-limit photic zone productivity in Lake Baikal (Satoh  
204 et al. 2006; O’Donnell et al. 2017), with rates of deep-water nutrient supply increasing  
205 markedly since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (Swann et al. 2020).

206

207 Diatoms are siliceous, so they generally preserve well in sedimentary environments. We  
208 prepared diatom samples for microscopy from sediments sampled every 5mm from the  
209 composite sequence derived from the gravity / trigger / piston cores detailed above. Unlike  
210 standard diatom preparation analyses (Battarbee et al. 2001), no chemical treatments were  
211 needed, although we enabled diatom concentrations to be calculated through the addition of  
212 divinylbenzene microspheres (Mackay et al. 1998). Diatom taxa were identified to species  
213 level or lower using a range of Russian and other floras, detailed in Mackay et al. (1998).  
214 With few exceptions, at least 300 valves from each sample were counted using oil immersion  
215 phase-contrast light microscopy at x1000 magnification. Planktonic and tychoplanktonic  
216 diatoms account for on average, c. 90 % of all diatoms counted, and here we detail diatom  
217 compositional change for planktonic and tychoplanktonic species only, as these were used to  
218 determine palaeoproductivity estimates below. The diatom taxonomical nomenclature was  
219 updated according to the global online database AlgaeBase <https://www.algaebase.org/>.

220

221 Detrended correspondence analysis (DCA) and canonical correspondence analysis (CCA)  
222 were used to investigate the total amount of turnover, variation, and compositional changes of  
223 the diatom assemblages over time. The analyses were performed on Hellinger transformed

224 data to dampen the effects of highly abundant taxa (Legendre and Gallagher 2001).  
225 Multivariate classification tree (MCT) analyses was used to explore how much of the  
226 variation in diatom assemblages can be explained by the different climatic periods identified  
227 above. MCT is considered a powerful method when there is a non-linear relationship between  
228 response and explanatory variables, when there are missing values in the data, or there are  
229 higher level interactions between explanatory variables (Borcard et al. 2018). The minimum  
230 sized tree was chosen based on the 1se rule, which is the minimum sized tree when the cross-  
231 validated relative error (CVRE) is the minimum CVRE value plus 1 standard error (SE) of all  
232 the CVRE values (Borcard et al. 2018). The number of multiple cross-validations was set to  
233 100, and the number of  $k$  groups was set to the number of rows in the dataset. The counts  
234 were normalized prior to the analysis and since MCT is in Euclidean space it transforms into  
235 the chord distances (sensu the original chord distances proposed by Orloci 1967) between  
236 samples. Ordination analyses were done using the R package *vegan* and results plotted using  
237 *ggvegan*. The MCT was done using the R package *mvpart*. Stratigraphical profiles were  
238 constructed using C2 Data Analysis Version 1.7.7 (Juggins 2014).

239

#### 240 Palaeoproductivity

241 The palaeoecological significance of diatom concentrations can be of limited value unless  
242 they can be converted into either diatom flux rates (e.g. Battarbee et al. 2001), or estimates of  
243 biovolume (Hillebrand et al., 1999). Diatom flux rates rely on a robust chronology (as  
244 determined in this study), while biovolume estimates require representative size  
245 measurements for the dominant taxa. We estimate palaeoproductivity through community  
246 biomass calculations derived from diatom biovolume accumulation rates (BVAR;  $\mu\text{m}^3 \text{cm}^{-2}$   
247  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ ) for all major planktonic and tychoplanktonic species (Interlandi and Kilham 2001).  
248 Biovolumes ( $\mu\text{m}^3$ ) were calculated using the median of measured linear dimensions of 25  
249 valves, and geometric shape guidelines (Hillebrand et al. 1999). Species used for biovolume  
250 calculations accounted for on average, over 80 % of total relative abundance, and therefore  
251 we assume are a robust estimate of palaeoproductivity.

252

#### 253 Diatom richness, diversity and evenness

254 Richness, diversity and evenness were estimated using Hill's species numbers  $N_0$ ,  $N_1$ , and  
255  $N_2$  using diatom count data of the planktonic and tychoplanktonic flora only. We do not  
256 include benthic taxa because they represent a different habitat, far from the core location.



257 Their persistent presence in the core (average 10 %) is caused by secondary transport  
258 processes rather than species competing for the same resources as the planktonic diatoms  
259 themselves. Hill's species numbers give easily interpretable numbers by maintaining the  
260 doubling effect, and provide information on three levels as to how rare and abundant taxa are  
261 weighted in each sample (Hill, 1973; Jost, 2010; Gotelli and Ellison, 2013; Chao et al., 2014).  
262 Species richness is estimated using Hill's  $N_0$ , the expected number of taxa where rare and  
263 abundant taxa have similar weights. Species diversity is estimated using Hill's  $N_1$ , which is  
264 the expected number of equally common taxa, with less weight on rare taxa, and  $N_2$ , which  
265 provides the expected number of equally abundant taxa but puts weight on the numerically  
266 dominant taxa. The estimates are represented as the expected number of diatoms based on the  
267 smallest sample size ( $n = 150$ ) to avoid biases related to different sample sizes. To take  
268 account of variable sediment accumulation rates (SAR), Hill's measures of richness and  
269 diversity were further divided by accumulation rates over time, so these measures become  
270 estimated Hill's numbers per  $\text{cm}^2 \text{yr}^{-1}$ . To detect variation in abundance changes over time  
271 (evenness) we also include the ratio of  $N_2/N_1$  (Birks et al. 2018), i.e. the proportion of very  
272 abundant species to the number of common species identified. When the ratio is 1, it  
273 indicates that all taxa were equally abundant. The ratio is calculated based on the Hill's  
274 numbers after taking account of SAR.

275

#### 276 Palaeoproductivity – Diversity relationships

277 Relationships between palaeoproductivity and  $N_2$  diversity were investigated during pre-  
278 identified time-intervals (Tarasov et al. 2009; Walker et al. 2018) to test the hypothesis that  
279 PDR will differ during periods of rapid climate change and periods of relative climate  
280 stability. Defined climate periods are the pre-Bølling-Allerød (15.9–14.7 cal kyr BP), the  
281 Bølling-Allerød (14.7–12.9 cal kyr BP), the Younger Dryas (12.9–11.7 cal kyr BP), and the  
282 three recently designated sub-epochs of the Holocene (Early (11.7–8.2 cal kyr BP), Middle  
283 (8.2–4.2 cal kyr BP) and Late (4.2–0 cal kyr BP). We used generalized additive models  
284 (GAM) to explore PDR because we have no prior knowledge of the expected relationships,  
285 and the likelihood that the relationships were non-linear or showing different complex  
286 patterns within the different time periods. We used  $N_2$  diversity as the response variable and  
287 diatom BVAR as the explanatory variable.  $N_2$  is a continuous variable so we used a gamma  
288 distribution with a log link. Diatom BVAR as a variable was skewed so it was log  
289 transformed prior to the analyses, and climatic period was included as a factor variable that  
290 allowed for different smooths for each period. The smooths were fitted using thin-plate

291 regression splines, and the model was fitted using the restricted maximum likelihood  
292 approach. Prior to analyses, extreme outliers ( $BVAR_{\log} \mu\text{m}^3 \text{cm}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ )  $< 6$  were removed to  
293 reveal more clearly GAM relationships. This led to only 8 out of 521 samples being removed  
294 in total: three, two and one samples removed from the Late, Middle and Early Holocene  
295 subepochs respectively, and a further two from the pre-BA period. Models were then refitted.

296

297 The model is specified as follows:

298

$$299 \log([N2_{ij}]) = a_1 + f_1(\text{Productivity}_i, \text{Period}_j) + \varepsilon_i \quad N2_i \sim \text{Gamma}$$

300

301 where  $i$  represents each sample,  $j$  is each climate period and  $a_1$  is the intercept term for the  
302 periods. Since the data are time ordered, the data points may not be independent and we  
303 added a correlation term to the model attempting to reduce effects of potential temporal  
304 autocorrelation. However, adding different correlation structures did not improve the model  
305 or affect the residual variation, and we therefore removed them to keep the simplest model.

306

### 307 **3. Results**

308

#### 309 Chronology

310 The calibrated ages for our profile span the last 15.91 cal kyr BP (where kyr = thousands of  
311 years, BP = before present, i.e. 1950 CE (common era)) (Figure 2). Sediment accumulation  
312 rates ranged between 32–184 yr  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (mean 62 yr  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).

313

#### 314 Diatoms

315 The temporal resolution of species compositional change was c. 30 years for the past c.  
316 16,000 years (Fig. 3). DCA axis 1 sample scores show a strong, largely unidirectional trend  
317 since the start of the Holocene. Turnover in the planktonic/tychoplanktonic assemblages over  
318 the whole time period is 2.71 standard deviation units, reflecting the observation that several  
319 species present during the early part of our record are also present during the latter part of our  
320 record. The total inertia (variation) measured by CCA is 1.82, and of this the constraining  
321 time variable explains 10.6 % of the variation (eigenvalue = 0.193). The ratio of eigenvalues  
322 of the constrained axis 1 over the unconstrained axis 2 is 1.29 indicating that the time  
323 gradient is explaining an important component of the variation.

324

325 During the early stages of the pre– Bølling–Allerød period,  $N_0$  and  $N_2$  values were initially  
326 relatively high (Fig. 4), before declining as the tychoplanktonic *Aulacoseira skvortzowii*  
327 dominated the assemblage (Fig. 3). Dominance by *A. skvortzowii* persists into the Bølling,  
328 but is gradually reduced by increasing abundances of the planktonic *Aulacoseira baicalensis*  
329 during the later Allerød. DCA axis 1 ordination scores show very little change during the  
330 pre– Bølling–Allerød and Bølling–Allerød interstadial, indicative of a rather stable  
331 assemblage, with few equally abundant species reflected in low evenness scores ( $N_2/N_1$ ).  
332 MCT is not able to discriminate well between diatom assemblages of the pre-Bølling–Allerød  
333 and Bølling–Allerød interstadial (Fig. 5).

334

335 The Younger Dryas stadial is characterised by major changes in the diatom assemblage –  
336 abundances of *Aulacoseira* (especially *A. skvortzowii*) decline, concomitant with a rapid  
337 succession of *Ulnaria acus* and *Crateriportula inconspicua*, that bloom in spring and autumn  
338 respectively (Fig. 3). These taxa give way to a short-lived peak in *A. baicalensis* dominance,  
339 before *A. skvortzowii* once again asserts its dominance by the end of the Younger Dryas,  
340 alongside notable increases in *C. inconspicua* and *L. minuta*, resulting in increasing richness  
341 ( $N_0$ ) and diversity ( $N_2$ ) scores (Fig. 4). These changes are reflected in a rapid change in DCA  
342 axis 1 scores at the start of the Younger Dryas, with discernible changes in the evenness ratio  
343 indicative of increasing importance of different species. The Early Holocene is characterised  
344 in the main by declining dominance of *A. skvortzowii* and increasing importance of autumn  
345 blooming crops of *C. inconspicua* and *Lindavia minuta*. *U. acus* shows considerable  
346 fluctuations, with *Hannaea baicalensis* and *Cyclostephanos dubius* increasing in importance  
347 from c. 10 cal kyr BP, driving increases in diatom  $N_2$  diversity and evenness ratio.

348

349 Where the climatic periods are used as a supervised classification technique, MCT analysis  
350 reveals the highest variation between the Early and the Middle Holocene subepochs (Fig. 5).  
351 This transition also marks the time when the evenness ratio peaks, that then declines to  
352 lowest values found in our study during the Middle and Late Holocene (Fig. 4). During the  
353 Middle Holocene, several diatom species largely disappear from the stratigraphical record  
354 including *Stephanodiscus flabellatus*, *Stephanodiscus skabitchevskii*, *H. baicalensis*, and *C.*  
355 *dubius*, while *C. inconspicua* drops to low values for the remainder of the record (Fig. 3). In  
356 their place, *U. acus* and *L. minuta* increase in importance. The loss and gain of species  
357 through the Middle Holocene has resulted in a relatively high but stable  $N_2$  diversity, with

358 peak diversity occurring at the boundary between the Middle and Late Holocene, c. 4.2 cal  
359 kyr BP (Fig. 4). Despite relatively high abundances for the first time of *Stephanodiscus*  
360 *parvus* and *Stephanodiscus meyerii*, the Late Holocene sees *L. minuta* increasing to almost  
361 complete dominance of the diatom assemblage between 1.8–1.4 cal kyr BP, resulting in some  
362 of the lowest diatom diversity values for the study. During the most recent 500 years of our  
363 record, the assemblage is characterised by species commonly found in the modern-day lake  
364 communities, co-dominated by *A. baicalensis*, *U. acus* and *L. minuta* (Fig. 3).

365

#### 366 Palaeoproductivity

367 Diatom biovolume accumulate rate (BVAR) data show that spring diatom crops have  
368 dominated palaeoproductivity for much of the past c. 16,000 years, apart from a short period  
369 during the late Holocene, 1.8–1.4 cal kyr BP, when autumnal diatom production increases to  
370 more than ten times that of spring production (Fig. 6). BVAR were substantially higher and  
371 more unstable during the Younger Dryas stadial than the warm periods before and after it  
372 (Fig. 6). Peak palaeoproductivity for the whole study ( $18.3 \times 10^3 \mu\text{m}^3 \text{cm}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ) was  
373 associated with successive peaks in *U. acus* then *A. baicalensis* at c. 12.3 cal kyr BP. BVAR  
374 then declined rapidly and remained relatively low for the remainder of the Younger Dryas  
375 and the start of the Holocene. Palaeoproductivity increased during the Early and Middle  
376 Holocene, before declining to lowest rates during the Late Holocene (mean,  $1.3 \times 10^3 \mu\text{m}^3$   
377  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ).

378

379 The shapes of the productivity–diversity relationships differ among the pre-defined climate  
380 periods, with some being negative (e.g. the Younger Dryas and the Middle Holocene  
381 periods), positive (e.g. the pre-BA and the Early Holocene periods), and others more complex  
382 such as the Late Holocene, dependent on palaeoproductivity rates (Fig. 7). The relationship  
383 between palaeoproductivity and diversity during the Bølling–Allerød was flat (Smith 2007).  
384 GAMs with very low *p*-values suggest that we have higher confidence that PDR relationships  
385 existed during the Younger Dryas, the Early Holocene, and the Late Holocene in comparison  
386 to the other time periods (Table 1).

387

388

#### 389 **4. Discussion**

390

391 Over the past 16,000 years diatom trends in Lake Baikal have been dynamic, with decadal  
392 shifts in species dominance punctuating millennial-scale trends in seasonal communities.  
393 MCT analyses show that the main split in diatom composition occurs between assemblages  
394 associated with the Last Glacial – Interglacial Transition (LGIT; 16–8.2 cal kyr BP), and the  
395 Middle– Late– Holocene subepochs (8.2 cal kyr–present) (Fig. 5). This suggests that trends  
396 in community shifts in diatoms in Lake Baikal broadly reflect climatic changes associated  
397 with the demise of Northern Hemisphere ice sheets as the planet transgressed from glacial to  
398 interglacial environments (Denton et al. 2010). Here we focus on interpreting trends in  
399 diatom communities and diversity through time, before focussing on how productivity–  
400 diversity relationships (PDR) vary over long-timescales, including during periods of rapid  
401 climate change and periods of relative climate stability.

402

#### 403 4.1 Last Glacial – Interglacial Transition

404

405 Due to high obliquity (Fig. 8j), the LGIT in the Lake Baikal region was intensely seasonal,  
406 resulting in very cold winters but relatively warm, moist summers (Bush, 2005). Cold winters  
407 during the late glacial resulted in substantially longer annual ice cover on Lake Baikal of up  
408 to 8–9 months, reduced hydrological input by as much as 40 % than the modern day, and  
409 restricted inputs of key nutrients such as P, N and Si (Shimaraev & Mizandrontsev 2006). Up  
410 to the Bølling–Allerød, diatom assemblages were dominated by spores of the endemic  
411 *Aulacoseira skvortzowii* (Fig. 3). *A. skvortzowii* is tychoplanktonic, having evolved a life  
412 cycle which utilizes both pelagic and littoral habitats; viable spores remain in coastal  
413 sediments down to a water depth of 25 m, where they can be resuspended by strong autumn  
414 storms back into the pelagic zone (Jewson et al., 2008) in time to bloom the following spring.  
415 *A. skvortzowii* grows best in water temperatures below 5 °C, and to avoid lethal increasing  
416 surface water temperatures, spore formation is triggered after ice break-up when phosphate  
417 concentrations fall below a threshold level of 15–23  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  (Jewson et al., 2008). Declining  
418 phosphate concentrations are caused by P uptake by other algae (e.g. green algae and  
419 picoplankton) as surface waters start to stratify. Pigment analyses have shown that green  
420 algae were abundant at this time in the south basin of Lake Baikal (Tani et al. 2002; Soma et  
421 al. 2007). Relatively low *N2* plankton diversity and evenness values during much of the late  
422 glacial likely reflect P and Si limitation, resulting from overall lower nutrient concentrations  
423 due to colder climate (Shimaraev & Mizandrontsev 2006) but possibly also competition from

424 other algae.

425

426 The major shift to warmer temperatures during the LGIT occurred with the onset of the  
427 Bølling–Allerød interstadial, c. 14.7 cal kyr BP, linked to heat release from warm waters  
428 deep in the North Atlantic Ocean (Thiagarajan et al. 2014) which led to the resumption of the  
429 Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) (McManus et al. 2004) (Fig. 8g). Mean  
430 pollen-inferred temperatures of the warmest month from neighbouring Lake Kotokel  
431 however (Fig. 8b), reveal a 5 °C increase only during the latter stages of the Bølling–Allerød  
432 (Tarasov et al. 2009). At the same time, pollen-inferred mean annual precipitation records  
433 show that rainfall increased from c. 300 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> to c. 460 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> (Fig. 8c). This warmer,  
434 wetter Allerød led to extensive melting of glaciers along the shores of Lake Baikal (Horiuchi  
435 et al. 2004; Osipov and Khlystov 2010), major expansion of boreal vegetation (Tarasov et al.  
436 2009; Bezrukova et al. 2010; Reshetova et al. 2013), reduced ice duration on the lake and  
437 increased nutrient transport (Shimaraev & Mizandrontsev 2006). The impacts on diatom  
438 communities however were subtle, with diatom composition between the pre– Bølling–  
439 Allerød and Bølling–Allerød not distinguishable through MCT analyses (Fig. 5). Diversity  
440 and evenness show little variability, although relative abundances of a few species show  
441 distinct changes. For example, the heavily silicified endemic *Aulacoseira baicalensis* will  
442 have benefited from increased availability of dissolved silica (Jewson et al. 2010) while the  
443 endemic *Stephanodiscus flabellatus* may have benefited from elevated concentrations of  
444 phosphorus (Bradbury et al. 1994). The observed decline in *A. skvortzowii* spore formation  
445 may also be attributable to generally increased P availability in the south basin (Jewson et al.  
446 2008).

447

448 The Younger Dryas stadial (12.9 – 11.7 cal kyr BP) is probably the most studied climate  
449 disturbance event of the late Quaternary (Broecker et al. 2010). It was caused by an influx of  
450 freshwater from Lake Agassiz into the Arctic Ocean (Tarasov & Peltier 2005; Murton et al.  
451 2010) which led to the decline in AMOC (Fig. 8g) (Bond et al. 2001; McManus et al. 2004),  
452 and concomitant cooler temperatures across the Northern Hemisphere (Stuiver et al. 1995)  
453 (Fig. 8h). Increased GISP2 K<sup>+</sup> concentrations (Fig. 8f) indicate that the Siberian High  
454 intensified at the start of the Younger Dryas (Mayewski et al. 1997), which accounts for both  
455 an attenuated Asian summer monsoon (Fig. 8e) (Dykoski et al. 2005) and cooler and more  
456 arid climate conditions in the Lake Baikal region (Tarasov et al. 2009) (Fig. 8 b, c). These

457 cooler, more arid conditions led to a decline in hydrological input into Lake Baikal itself  
458 Mackay et al. 2011), and a short-lived expansion of the tundra biome (Tarasov et al. 2009;  
459 Bezrukova et al. 2010).

460

461 Diatom responses to climate change within the Younger Dryas were instantaneous but  
462 complex, kick-started by the first appearance and rapid growth of *Ulnaria acus* (Fig. 3)  
463 (indicative of higher dissolved silica concentrations in the water column (Bradbury et al.  
464 1994)) and increasing abundance of *C. inconspicua*. However, the decline in  $N_2$  diversity  
465 only from c. 12.6 cal kyr BP (Fig. 4), suggests that resources for diatom growth were not  
466 initially limiting. Occupying different seasonal niches, spring blooming *U. acus* and  
467 autumnal blooming *C. inconspicua* (Ryves et al. 2003) are unlikely to be directly competing  
468 for the same resources, in part because small centric diatoms do not utilise a lot of dissolved  
469 silica (Bradbury et al. 1994). Having several co-dominant species is reflected in the relatively  
470 high evenness scores for the Younger Dryas (Fig. 4), related to few resources being limiting  
471 (Interlandi & Kilham 2001).

472

473 The decline in  $N_2$  diversity is linked to peak values for *A. baicalensis* (Fig. 3), competing  
474 directly with *U. acus* for dissolved silica. Diatom population changes in Lake Baikal play an  
475 important role in controlling availability of silicic acid for other species (Callender & Granina  
476 1995; Jewson et al., 2010; Shimaraev and Domysheva, 2013; Jewson et al., 2015). In  
477 particular, when populations of *A. baicalensis* are very high, the availability of silicic acid  
478 uptake for other species declines, leading to a drop in their populations (Jewson et al., 2010;  
479 2015). Being a heavily silicified species, *A. baicalensis* needs a strong period of mixing  
480 (Huisman et al. 2004), which suggests that when abundant, turnover is strong, allowing the  
481 recycling of nutrients needed for peak palaeoproductivity (Fig. 6). Our diatom records  
482 demonstrate that species specially adapted to grow under the ice of Lake Baikal (Bondarenko  
483 et al. 2012) have flourished alongside autumnal blooming species during this cold stadial,  
484 with, initially at least, few limiting resources.

485

486 The latter stages of the Younger Dryas are characterised by a marked increase in diatom  
487 richness and diversity associated with both increases in spring and autumn diatoms, and a  
488 rapid decline in palaeoproductivity. Given that regional temperatures remain low and  
489 unchanged at this time (Demske et al. 2009), internal dynamics in the lake may be driving  
490 observed changes in diatom communities, mediating resource availability. Contemporary

491 monitoring studies have shown that populations of *A. baicalensis* can undergo dramatic  
492 changes in population size linked to complex interactions including silica availability  
493 (Izmest'eva et al. 2006); after populations peak, cells are transported to the bottom sediments,  
494 taking with them silica that then becomes unavailable for new diatom growth (Jewson and  
495 Granin 2015). But autumnal diatoms are still able to grow, as nutrients become available  
496 once more during autumnal turnover.

497

498 As detailed above, MCT analyses is unable to distinguish Younger Dryas and Early Holocene  
499 diatom communities (Fig. 5), two time periods characterised by significant millennial scale  
500 variability (Bond et al., 2001; Fisher *et al.*, 2002; Mayewski et al. 2004; Nesje et al. 2005;  
501 Wanner et al. 2014). Overall, the diatom flora is characterised by persistent spring-blooming  
502 species that need lots of dissolved silica, but also increasing abundance of autumnal  
503 blooming diatoms. A decline in species richness and diversity at the start of the Early  
504 Holocene may be indicative of fewer resources (Interlandi & Kilham 2001), coincident at  
505 least with the widely expressed cool Preboreal Oscillation (Fisher et al. 2002) and lower river  
506 flow into Baikal's south basin (Mackay et al. 2011). After c. 11.3 cal kyr BP diatom diversity  
507 and evenness increase for the next few thousand years, indicative of increasingly abundant  
508 resources, linked to regional warmer and wetter climates (Tarasov et al. 2009), and generally  
509 stronger seasonality. Co-limitation by several nutrients and light allow for greater numbers of  
510 planktonic species to co-exist (Burson et al. 2018), leading to highest evenness scores at the  
511 Early / Middle Holocene boundary.

512

#### 513 4.2 Middle – Late Holocene

514

515 Northern Hemisphere cooling, especially from c. 5 cal kyr BP, is linked to declining summer  
516 insolation (Marcott et al. 2013) in conjunction with vegetation and snow/ice feedbacks on  
517 Earth's surface albedo. This cooling culminated in the neoglacial, which in central Asia  
518 resulted in increased aridity (Ganopolski et al. 1998) expressed in the Lake Baikal region as  
519 declining mean annual precipitation (Tarasov et al. 2009). The neoglacial also resulted in  
520 increased Siberian permafrost formation (Anisimov et al. 2002). Within Lake Baikal, we  
521 document a shift from spring to autumnal diatom communities that started during the Early  
522 Holocene, concomitant with the first decline in insolation, but then continues to get stronger  
523 during the Middle and Late Holocene as both precession and obliquity decline (Fig. 8). The  
524 slow unfolding of an increasingly important autumnal diatom community has relatively little



525 impact on palaeoproductivity during much of the Holocene, although autumnal production  
526 after 10 cal kyr BP is slightly higher than it was before 10 cal kyr BP, and continues to  
527 proportionally increase especially during the Late Holocene. This long-term change in  
528 diversity and palaeoproductivity likely represents an orbitally-driven ecosystem response to  
529 long-term climate change, possibly linked to changes in seasonality and its impact on, for  
530 example, ice cover dynamics and length of summer stratification in the lake.

531

532 *L. minuta* is currently the only pelagic diatom to bloom during the autumn in Lake Baikal in  
533 substantial numbers (although it can also grow in smaller numbers during spring turnover).  
534 Because *L. minuta* can tolerate surface water temperatures up to 11 °C, cells persist higher in  
535 the surface waters for longer during summer stratification, so that when stratification breaks  
536 down in the autumn and nutrients are regenerated, cells of *L. minuta* are retrained into the  
537 photic zone first, giving them a strong competitive advantage, leading to their dominance  
538 during autumn turnover (Jewson et al., 2015). Winter ice cover is a major force driving inter-  
539 seasonal connections in lakes that freeze over every year (Sommer et al. 2012; O'Reilly et al.  
540 2015; Hampton et al. 2017), and Lake Baikal is no exception. The gradual decline in  
541 proportion of spring diatoms may have resulted in increased resource availability for other  
542 diatoms (Interlandi & Kilham 2001; Jewson et al., 2010; 2015). For example, monitoring  
543 studies have shown large autumnal populations of *L. minuta* during the 1950s CE when  
544 spring populations of *A. baicalensis* were very low (Antipova & Kozhov in Kozhov 1963).

545

546 The build-up to peak dominance in *L. minuta* during the Late Holocene is accompanied by  
547 the successive decline in spring blooming species, starting with *U. acus*, followed by *A.*  
548 *baicalensis*, species that both rely on availability of dissolved silica (Jewson et al. 2010) and  
549 under-ice turbulence to remain in the photic zone (Granin et al. 2000). These shifts are  
550 reflected in rapidly declining *N2* diversity scores since their peak at the Middle / Late  
551 Holocene boundary to their lowest values for the Holocene (Fig. 4). This decline is also  
552 coincident with a major shift in carbon dynamics in Lake Baikal, linked to increasing  
553 regional cooling and aridity (Mackay et al. 2017). The almost monospecific Late Holocene  
554 assemblage of *L. minuta* and resultant low *N2* diatom diversity in the lake are concurrent with  
555 the Dark Ages Cold Period (DCAP) (1.8–1.4 cal kyr BP; CE 400–765) (Helama et al. 2017),  
556 a climatically cool period, linked to changes in ocean circulation (Bond et al. 2001), and solar  
557 and volcanic activity (Helama et al. 2017). The near complete disappearance of *A.*

558 *baicalensis* makes this period unique in our Lake Baikal record. However, we are not yet able  
559 to say conclusively why growth of *A. baicalensis* was so inhibited during the DCAP, leading  
560 to the dominance of *L. minuta* for several centuries. This period almost certainly represents  
561 an ecosystem response to abrupt extrinsic change occurring elsewhere in the Northern  
562 Hemisphere, super-imposed on longer-term changes in orbital parameters (Williams et al.  
563 2011). It is possible that the smaller biovolume of *L. minuta* in comparison to *A. baicalensis*  
564 and *U. acus* may have conferred it a competitive advantage as resources became increasingly  
565 limited (Burson et al. 2018). Alternatively, persistent deeper snow cover on the frozen lake  
566 could have acted to reduce light penetration through the ice, (i.e. light as a resource is  
567 severely limited) resulting in a decline in sub-surface turbulence and loss of spring diatom  
568 crops to deeper waters (Granin et al., 2000). It is possible that these responses are linked to  
569 orbitally driven seasonal changes such as cooler summers (Fig. 8). It's notable that the  
570 ecosystem function of primary production did not decline overall during this period, just the  
571 timing of peak production, with autumnal palaeoproductivity far exceeding spring  
572 productivity for the only time in our record during the DCAP (Fig. 6).

573

#### 574 4.3 Palaeoproductivity–diversity relationships

575

576 Productivity–diversity relationships (PDR) in aquatic ecosystems are complex (Aoki 2003;  
577 Smith 2007), while also being scale (Chase and Leibold 2002; Korhonen et al. 2011) and  
578 time (Rusak et al. 2004) dependent. Our initial hypotheses set out to test if these relationships  
579 differ between periods of relative climate stability and periods of rapid climate change. This  
580 is borne out, as the shapes of the relationships are very different across the different climate  
581 periods (Fig. 7). The strongest evidence for GAMs (with lowest  $p$  values; (Table 1)) were  
582 found during both the Younger Dryas and Early Holocene, periods punctuated by pervasive  
583 millennial-scale variability, and the Late Holocene period, characterised by cold events  
584 linked to overlapping drivers such as solar minima and volcanic eruptions (Helama et al.  
585 2017), amplified by centennial-scale oceanic variability (Renssen et al. 2006). PDR were  
586 different during each of the pre–Bølling–Allerød, the Bølling–Allerød and the Middle  
587 Holocene periods, but statistical support for GAMs were much weaker during these periods  
588 of relative climate stability (Table 1). During the Bølling–Allerød the PDR is effectively flat  
589 (sensu Smith 2007), because  $N_2$  diversity is restricted to very low values and changes little  
590 across the magnitude of the productivity gradient, perhaps due to as yet few available  
591 resources for several species to co-exist. During the Middle Holocene,  $N_2$  diversity values are

592 again more restricted than during either the Early or Late Holocene periods,  $N_2$  are rarely low  
593 (Fig. 7), likely linked to optimal resource availability allowing several species to co-exist  
594 (Burson et al. 2018) at similar abundances (Fig. 4) during both spring and autumn (Fig. 3).

595

596 The negative PDR during the Younger Dryas likely reflects a complex set of processes linked  
597 to both ecosystem responses to abrupt cooling (e.g. increased ice duration but stronger  
598 overturn in the lake (Shimaraev & Mizandrontsev 2006), and a reduction in resource  
599 heterogeneity due to severe limitation by a few or even single resource (Interlandi & Kilham  
600 2001). Productivity in Lake Baikal is dependent on a sustained supply of nutrients from  
601 deeper waters to the photic zone, stimulated by shifting wind dynamics and enhanced deep  
602 ventilation (Swann et al. 2020). While increased supply of Si ensured initial resources for  
603 *Ulnaria* and *Aulacoseira* growth, Si will ultimately have become unavailable to most other  
604 diatoms, due to massive increases in the abundances of *A. baicalensis* (Fig. 3) (Jewson et al.,  
605 2010; 2015), leading to declines in diversity while productivity peaked. During the Early  
606 Holocene however, there is a positive PDR, especially when palaeoproductivity levels are  
607 initially lower. We suggest that rapid melting of glaciers and increased fluvial input (Osipov  
608 and Khlystov 2010), and opening up of new habitats as ice-cover duration on the lake  
609 declined, contributed to an increased supply of nutrients and habitat availability, such that  
610 both diversity and productivity were able to increase from the very low values at the start of  
611 the Holocene period. It's notable that during the Early Holocene the ratio of autumnal to  
612 spring species increases markedly, indicative of autumnal overturn niches opening up,  
613 allowing increased growth of *C. inconspicua* and *L. minuta* (Fig. 3).

614

615 During the Late Holocene however, a negative PDR is apparent only when  
616 palaeoproductivity is very low at the transition between the Middle and Late Holocene  
617 periods (Fig. 7). Low palaeoproductivity at c. 4.2 cal kyr may be linked to a period of  
618 regional cooling and aridity (Mackay et al. 2017) concurrent with weaker Asian summer  
619 monsoons (Dixit et al. 2014). It is at this time that new *Stephanodiscus* species become  
620 established in the lake (*S. meyeri* and *S. parvus*) alongside existing diatom communities,  
621 hence higher  $N_2$  diversity. *Stephanodiscus* species tend to reflect higher phosphorus than  
622 silicon loading rates (Kilham et al. 1986), and may be a community response to cooler, more  
623 arid climate (Bradbury et al. 1994) as experienced during the Late Holocene neoglacial.  
624 However for the majority of the Late Holocene there is little relationship between

625 palaeoproductivity and diversity, indicative of abundant resources allowing for many  
626 planktonic species to co-exist.

627

#### 628 4.4 Comparisons to other studies within Lake Baikal

629

630 It has long been recognised that Quaternary biogenic silica and diatom concentrations in Lake  
631 Baikal sediments mirror changes in insolation (Khursevich et al. 2001), such that very low  
632 concentrations characterise glacial periods, likely due to a number of factors including lower  
633 productivity and higher rates of diatom dissolution, as well as dilution due to increased inputs  
634 of clastic material (Mackay 2007). The Vydrino LGIT record has an almost identical diatom  
635 assemblage to those identified for the same time period in long cores extracted from  
636 elsewhere in the lake, including both the Posolskaya Bank (BDP-99) and Academician Ridge  
637 (BDP-96-2) (Khursevich et al. 2005) (Fig. 1). In another study of Quaternary Lake Baikal  
638 diatoms, this time from the Buguldieka Saddle (Fig. 1), Edlund (2006) found that although  
639 earlier glaciations also contained few diatoms, the ‘Sartan glaciation’, i.e. Marine Isotope  
640 Stage 2, still contained at least 10 species of planktonic diatoms, and an assemblage again  
641 very similar to our Vydrino sequence. Bradbury et al. (1994) produced a similar but much  
642 lower resolution record for diatom changes spanning the past 15,000 years from station 305  
643 off the southern margins of the Selenga Delta (Fig. 1), where both the assemblage and  
644 sequence of diatoms are similar to Vydrino. However, while observations and conclusions  
645 drawn in this study related to PDR are likely applicable to other regions of this vast lake, one  
646 of the reasons why Lake Baikal contains a diverse endemic diatom flora is down to its size  
647 and heterogeneity of habitats (Jewson et al. 2015). Thus while species declines may be  
648 evident in one region, those same species may well persist in other regions of the lake.

649

#### 650 Conclusions

651

652 This study provides important insights into our understanding of productivity–diversity  
653 relationships (PDR) in aquatic ecosystems. We show that diatom communities and  
654 palaeoproductivity are sensitive to extrinsic drivers of climate change. These drivers operate  
655 at different time scales, from abrupt events during the Younger Dryas resulting in (negative)  
656 coupling between palaeoproductivity and diversity, to slower changes in boreal insolation  
657 and seasonality, leading to varied PDR relationships. These differences are likely related to  
658 resource availability and limitation (or not) of specific nutrients, linked to climate and surface

659 water overturn. We therefore provide important perspective to complement existing short-  
660 term observational (Dodson et al. 2000) and experimental (Winfree et al. 2015) approaches.  
661 PDR in aquatic systems should not be expected to occur in one direction (Smith 2007), but  
662 are very much dependent on other factors such as external disturbances, resource availability,  
663 species interactions and abiotic constraints on ecosystem function. Even given the sheer  
664 volume of Lake Baikal, diatom responses to abrupt events can be almost instantaneous,  
665 showing how tightly coupled ecology and climate have been in the past.

666

667 Over sub-orbital timescales, our records suggest that ecosystem function in Lake Baikal is  
668 rather resilient to natural disturbance. Following the concept of operation criteria as defined  
669 by Jovanovska et al. (2016), after disturbance or “press” events like the Younger Dryas,  
670 diatom communities and palaeoproductivity return to pre-disturbance states. Moreover, rather  
671 than leading to the demise of certain species, new species are actually ushered into the palaeo  
672 record, likely due to increased resources (Fig. 3). And even when a regime shift looks  
673 possible with respect to the increasing dominance of an autumnal flora as the Holocene  
674 unfolded, in the past 1000 years a spring-dominated flora has returned. These observations  
675 may hold insights into observed diversity changes occurring in recent decades, linked to  
676 global warming (Roberts et al., 2018). However, what our record cannot provide information  
677 on is the resilience of the lake’s flora to multiple stressors such as human driven climate  
678 change and anthropogenic nutrient enrichment, which is currently impacting the lake’s  
679 littoral communities.

680

#### 681 **Author Contributions:**

682 Study was conceived by AWM and PR. Diatom counting was undertaken by DWM. Age  
683 modelling was done by NP. Data analyses was undertaken by VAF, AWRS and AWM.  
684 AWM led the paper writing with significant contributions from AWRS and GEAS. All  
685 authors made comments on earlier drafts of the paper.

686

687

#### 688 **Acknowledgements:**

689 We wish to acknowledge the various agencies who helped to fund this work, especially the  
690 EU FPV programme (EVK2-CT-2000-0057), UK NERC (NE/J010227/1), and the  
691 Norwegian Research Council (IGNEX ref: 249894/F20). We thank UCL Geography  
692 Cartography Unit who helped prepare the figures. And we especially thank the three

693 reviewers whose observations and comments have helped to improve the focus of the study  
694 immensely. AWM would like to say a special thanks to the editorial team of CP guiding the  
695 study's publication over an extended period of time due to illness. The flexibility and  
696 understanding shown should be a model for other journals to follow.

697

698 **References**

699

700 Anisimov, O. A., Velichko, A. A., Demchenko, P. F., Eliseev, A.V., Mokhov, I. I., Nechaev, V.P.:

701 Effect of climate change on permafrost in the past, present, and future. *Izvestiya Atmospheric and*

702 *Ocean Physics*, 38, 25-39, 2002.

703

704 Aoki, I.: Diversity–productivity–stability relationship in freshwater ecosystems: Whole-systemic view  
705 of all trophic levels, *Ecol. Res.*, 18, 397-404, 2003.

706

707 Battarbee, R. W., Jones, V. J., Flower, R. J., Cameron, N.J ., Bennion, H., Carvalho, L., Juggins, S.:

708 Diatoms, in: *Tracking environmental change using lake sediments Vol 3*, edited by: Smol, J. P., Birks,

709 H. J., and Last, W. M., Dordrecht, Springer, 155-202, 2001.

710

711 Belykh, O. I., Ekaterina, G., Sorokovikova, T., SaphonovaI. A., Tikhonova, V: Autotrophic  
712 picoplankton of Lake Baikal: Composition, abundance and structure. *Hydrobiol.*, 568,

713 9-17, 2006.

714

715 Berger, A., and Loutre, M. F.: Insolation values for the climate of the past 10 million years, *Quat. Sci.*

716 *Rev.*, 10, 297–317, 1991

717

718 Bezrukova, E. V., Tarasov, P. E., Solovieva, N., Krivonogov, S. K., and Riedel, F.: Last glacial–  
719 interglacial vegetation and environmental dynamics in southern Siberia: Chronology, forcing and  
720 feedbacks, *Palaeogeogr., Palaeoclimatol., Palaeoecol.*, 296, 185-198, 2010.

721

722 Blaauw, M., and Christen, J. A.: Flexible paleoclimate age-depth models using an autoregressive  
723 gamma process, *Bayesian Analysis*, 6, 457-474, 2011.

724

725 Bondarenko, N. A., Belykh, O. I., Golobokova, L. P., Artemyeva, O. V., Logacheva, N. F., Tikhonova,

726 I. V., Lipko, I. A., Kostornova, T. Y., Parfenova, V. V., Khodzher, T. V., Ahn, T. S., Zo, Y. G.: Stratified

727 distribution of nutrients and extremophile biota within freshwater ice covering the surface of Lake

728 Baikal, *J. Microbiol.*, 50, 8-16. 2012.

729

730 Bond, G., Kromer, B., Beer, J., Muscheler, R., Evans, M., Showers, W., Hoffmann, S., Lotti-Bond, R.,  
731 Hajdas, I., and Bonani, G.: Persistent solar influence on North Atlantic climate during the Holocene,  
732 Science, 294, 2130-2136, 2001.  
733

734 Borcard, D., Gillet, F., and Legendre, P.: Numerical ecology with R, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Use R! series,  
735 Springer International Publishing AG. Xv + 435 pp 2018.

736

737 Bradbury, J. P., Bezrukova, Ye. V., Chernyaeva, G. P., Colman, S. M., Khursevich, G., King, J. W.,  
738 Likoshway, Ye. V.: A synthesis of post-glacial diatom records from Lake Baikal. J. Paleolim., 10, 213–  
739 252, 1994.

740

741 Broecker, W. S., Denton, G. H., Edwards, R. L., Cheng, H., Alley, R. B., and Putnam, A. E.: Putting  
742 the Younger Dryas cold event into context, Quat. Sci. Rev., 29,1078-1081, 2010.  
743

744 Burson, A., Stomp, M., Greenwell, E., Grosse, J., and Huisman, J.: Competition for nutrients and  
745 light: testing advances in resource competition with a natural phytoplankton community, Ecology, 99,  
746 1108-1118, 2018.

747

748 Bush, A. B. G.: CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O and orbitally driven climate variability over central Asia through the  
749 Holocene. Quat. Int., 136, 15–23, 2005.

750

751 Callander, E., and Granina, L.: Biogeochemical silica mass balance in Lake Baikal, Russia, in:  
752 Proceedings 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Water–Rock Interaction, edited by Kharaka, Y. K.,  
753 Chudaev, O. V., Balkema, Rotterdam, 341–344, 1995.

754

755 Cardinale, B. J., Hillebrand, H., Harpole, W. S., Gross, K., and Ptačnik, R.: Separating the influence  
756 of resource ‘availability’ from resource ‘imbalance’ on productivity–diversity relationships, Ecol.  
757 Lett., 12, 475-487, 2009.

758

759 Cardinale, B. J., Duffy, J. E., Gonzalez, A., Hooper, D. U., Perrings, C., Venail, P., Narwani, A.,  
760 Mace, G. M., Tilman, D., Wardle, D. A., and Kinzig, A. P.: Biodiversity loss and its impact on  
761 humanity, Nature, 486, 59-67, 2012.  
762



763 Chao, A., Gotelli, N. J., Hsieh, T. C., Sander, E. L., Ma, K. H., Colwell, R. K., and Ellison, A. M.:  
764 Rarefaction and extrapolation with Hill numbers: a framework for sampling and estimation in species  
765 diversity studies, *Ecol. Monogr.*, 84, 45-67, 2014.

766

767 Charlet, F., Fagel, N., De Batist, M., Hauregard, F., Minnebo, B., Meischner, D., and SONIC Team.:  
768 Sedimentary dynamics on isolated highs in Lake Baikal: evidence from detailed high-resolution  
769 geophysical data and sediment cores, *Global Planet. Change*, 46, 125-144, 2005.

770

771 Chase, J., and Leibold, M.: Spatial scale dictates the productivity–biodiversity  
772 relationship. *Nature*, 416, 427–430, 2002.

773

774 Chivian, E.: Biodiversity: its importance to human health. Interim Executive Summary. Published by  
775 Centre for Global Health and the Environment, Harvard Medical School, Harvard. 2003.

776

777 Deevey, E.: Coaxing history to conduct experiments, *Bioscience*, 19, 40–43, 1969.

778

779 Demske, D., Heumann, G., Granoszewski, W., Nita, M., Mamakowa, K., Tarasov, P. E., and  
780 Oberhänsli, H.: Late glacial and Holocene vegetation and regional climate variability evidenced in high-  
781 resolution pollen records from Lake Baikal, *Global Planet. Change*, 46, 255-279, 2005.

782

783 Denton, G. H., Anderson, R. F., Toggweiler, J. R., Edwards, R. L., Schaefer, J. M., and Putman, A. E.:  
784 The Last Glacial Termination. *Science*, 328, 1652-1656, 2010.

785

786 Dixit, Y., Hodell, D.A., and Petrie, C.A.: Abrupt weakening of the summer monsoon in northwest  
787 India ~4100 yr ago. *Geology*, 42, 339–342, 2014.

788

789 Dodson, S. I., Arnott, S. E., Cottingham, K. L.: The relationship in lake communities between primary  
790 productivity and species richness, *Ecology*, 81, 2662-2679, 2000.

791

792 Dykoski, C. A., Edwards, R. L., Cheng, H., Yuan, D., Cai, Y., Zhang, M., Lin, Y., Qing, J., An, Z., and  
793 Revenaugh, J.: A high-resolution, absolute-dated Holocene and deglacial Asian monsoon record from  
794 Dongge Cave, China, *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, 233, 71-86, 2005.

795

796 Edlund, M. B.: Persistent low diatom plankton diversity within the otherwise highly diverse Lake Baikal  
797 ecosystem. *Nova Hedwigia* 1310, 339–356, 2006.

798

799 Fietz, S., Sturm, M., and Nicklisch, A.: Flux of lipophilic photosynthetic pigments to the surface  
800 sediments of Lake Baikal. *Global Planet. Change*, 46, 29-44, 2005.  
801

802 Fisher, T. G., Smith, D. G., and Andrews, J. T.: Preboreal oscillation caused by a glacial Lake Agassiz  
803 flood, *Quat. Sci. Rev.*, 21, 873-878, 2002.  
804

805 Galazii, G. I.: State of the ecosystem of Lake Baikal and its catchment area: problems of conservation  
806 and rational use of resources. In: *Conservation and Management of Lakes* (Ed. By J. Sal-nki & S.  
807 Herodek), (Symp. Biol. Hung.) 38, 349-359, 1989.  
808

809 Ganopolski, A., Kubatzki, C., Claussen, M., Brovkin, V., and Petoukhov, V.: The influence of  
810 vegetation-atmosphere-ocean interaction on climate during the mid-Holocene. *Science*, 280, 1916-  
811 1919, 1998.  
812

813 Gotelli, N. J., and Ellison, A.: *A Primer of Ecological Statistics*, Sinauer, Sunderland, 2013.  
814

815 Granin, N. G., Jewson, D. H., Gnatovsky, R. Yu., Levin, L. A., Zhdanov, A. A., Gorbunova, L. A.,  
816 Tsekhanovsky, V. V., Doroschenko, L. M., and Mogilev, N. Yu: Turbulent mixing under ice and the  
817 growth of diatoms in Lake Baikal. *Verh. Internat. Verein. Limnol.*, 27, 2812-2814, 2000.  
818

819 Gross, K., and Cardinale, B. J.: Does species richness drive community production or vice versa?  
820 Reconciling historical and contemporary paradigms in competitive communities, *The American*  
821 *Naturalist*, 170, 207-220, 2007.  
822

823 Hagan, J. G., Vanschoenwinkel, B., and Gamfeldt, L.: We should not necessarily expect positive  
824 relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in observational field data. *Ecol. Lett.*,  
825 00, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.13874> 2021.  
826

827 Hampton, S. E., Galloway, A. W. E., Powers, S. M., Ozersky, T., Woo, K. H., Batt, R. D., Labou, S. G.,  
828 O'Reilly, C. M., Sharma, S., Lottig, N. R., Stanley, E. H., North, R. L., Stockwell, J. D., Adrian, R.,  
829 Weyhenmeyer, G. A., Arvola, L., Baulch, H. M., Bertani, I., Bowman, L. L. Jr., Carey, C. C., Catalan,  
830 J., Colom-Montero, W., Domine, L. M., Felip, M., Granados, I., Gries, C., Grossart, H.-P., Haberman,  
831 J., Haldna, M., Hayden, B., Higgins, S. N., Jolley, J. C., Kahilainen, K. K., Kaup, E., Kehoe, M. J.,  
832 MacIntyre, S., Mackay, A. W., Mariash, H. L., McKay, R. M., Nixdorf, B., Nöges, P., Nöges, T.,  
833 Palmer, M., Pierson, D. C., Post, D. M., Pruett, M. J., Rautio, M., Read, J. S., Roberts, S. L., Rucker,  
834 J., Sadro, S., Silow, E. A., Smith, D. E., Sterner, R. W., Swann, G. E. A., Timofeyev, M. A., Toro, M.,

835 Twiss, M. R., Vogt, R. J., Watson, S. B., Whiteford, E. J., and Xenopoulos, M. A.: Ecology under lake  
836 ice. *Ecol. Lett.*, 20, 98-111, 2017.

837

838 Hampton, S. E., McGowan, S., Ozersky, T., Viridis, S. G. P., Vu, T. -T., Spanbauer, T., Kraemer, B.,  
839 Swann, G., Mackay, A. W., Powers, S., Meyer, M. F., Labou, S. G., O'Reilly, C. M., DiCarlo, M.,  
840 Galloway, A. W. E., and Fritz, S.: Recent ecological change in ancient lakes, *Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 63,  
841 2277-2304, 2018.

842

843 Helama, S., Jones, P. D., and Briffa, K. R.: Dark Ages Cold Period: a literature review and directions  
844 for future research, *The Holocene*, 27, 1600-1606, 2017.

845

846 Hill, M. O.: Diversity and evenness: A unifying notation and its consequences, *Ecology*, 54, 427-432,  
847 1973.

848

849 Hillebrand, H., Dürselen, C. D., Kirschtel, D., Pollinger, U., and Zohary, T.: Biovolume calculations  
850 for pelagic and benthic microalgae, *J. Phycol.*, 35, 403-424, 1999.

851

852 Horiuchi, K., Matsuzaki, H., Osipov, E., Khlystov, O., and Fujii, S.: Cosmogenic  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^{26}\text{Al}$  dating  
853 of erratic boulders in the southern coastal area of Lake Baikal, Siberia, *Nucl. Instrum. Methods Phys.*  
854 *Res. Sect.*, 223, 633-638, 2004.

855

856 Huisman, J., Sharples, J., Stroom, J. M., Visser, P. M., Kardinaal, W. E. A., Verspagen, J. M.,  
857 Sommeijer, B.: Changes in turbulent mixing shift competition for light between phytoplankton species,  
858 *Ecology*, 85, 2960-2970, 2004.

859

860 Interlandi, S. J., and Kilham, S. S.: Limiting resources and the regulation of diversity in phytoplankton  
861 communities, *Ecology*, 82, 1270-1282, 2001.

862

863 Isbell, F., Craven, D., Connolly, J., Loreau, M., Schmid, B., Beierkuhnlein, C., Bezemer, T. M., Bonin,  
864 C., Bruelheide, H., De Luca, E., Ebeling, A., Griffin, J. N., Guo, Q., Hautier, Y., Hector, A., Jentsch,  
865 A., Kreyling, J., Lanta, V., Manning, P., Meyer, S. T., Mori, A. S., Naeem, S., Niklaus, P. A., Polley,  
866 W., Reich, P. B., Roscher, C., Seabloom, E. W., Smith, M.D., Thakur, M. P., Tilman, D., Tracy, B. F.,  
867 van der Putten, W.H ., van Ruijven, J., Weigelt, A., Weisser, W. W., Wilsey, B., and Eisenhauer, N.:  
868 Biodiversity increases the resistance of ecosystem productivity to climate extremes, *Nature*, 526, 574-  
869 577, 2015.

870

871 Izmet'seva, L. R., Moore, M. V., and Hampton, S.E.: Seasonal dynamics of common phytoplankton in  
872 Lake Baikal. Proceedings of Samara RAS (Russian Academy of Sciences) Scientific Centre. 8, 191-  
873 196, 2006. (In Russian)  
874  
875 Izmet'seva L. R, Moore, M. V., Hampton, S. E., Ferwerda, C. J., Gray, D. K., Woo, K. H., Pislegina,  
876 H. V., Krashchuk, L. S., Shimaraeva, S. V., and Silow, E. A.: Lake-wide physical and biological trends  
877 associated with warming in Lake Baikal. Journal of Great Lakes Research, 42, 6-17, 2016.  
878  
879 Jewson, D. H., and Granin, N. G.: Cyclical size change and population dynamics of a planktonic diatom,  
880 *Aulacoseira baicalensis*, in Lake Baikal. Eur. J. Phycol., 50, 1-15, 2015.  
881  
882 Jewson, D. H., Granin, N. G., Zhdanov, A. A., Gorbunova, L. A., Bondarenko, N. A., and Gnatovsky,  
883 R. Yu.: Resting stages and ecology of the planktonic diatom *Aulacoseira skvortzowii* in Lake Baikal,  
884 Limnol. Oceanogr., 53, 1125-1136, 2008.  
885  
886 Jewson, D. H., Granin, N. G., Zhdanov, A. A., Gorbunova, L. A., and Gnatovsky, R.Y.: Vertical  
887 mixing, size change and resting stage formation of the planktonic diatom *Aulacoseira baicalensis*. Eur.  
888 J. Phycol., 45, 354-364, 2010.  
889  
890 Jewson, D. H., Granin, N. G., Gnatovsky, R. Y., Lowry, S. F., and Teubner, K., Coexistence of two  
891 *Cyclotella* diatom species in the plankton of Lake Baikal, Freshwat. Biol., 60, 2113-2126, 2015.  
892  
893 Jost, L., The relation between evenness and diversity, Diversity, 2, 207-232, 2010.  
894  
895 Jovanovska, E., Cvetkoska, A., Hauffe, T., Levkov, Z., Wagner, B., Sulpizio, R., Francke, A.,  
896 Albrecht, C., and Wilke, T.: Differential resilience of ancient sister lakes Ohrid and Prespa to  
897 environmental disturbances during the Late Pleistocene, Biogeosciences, 13, 1149–1161,  
898 <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-13-1149-2016>, 2016.  
899  
900 Juggins S. C2 version 1.7.7: Software for ecological and palaeoecological data. University of  
901 Newcastle, Newcastle, 2014.  
902  
903 Kéfi, S., Domínguez-García, V., Donohue, I., Fontaine, C., Thébault, E., and Dakos, V.: Advancing out  
904 knowledge of ecological stability. Ecol. Lett., 22, 1349-1356, 2019.  
905

906 Khursevich, G. K., Karabanov, E. B., Prokopenko, A. A., Williams, D. F., Kuzmin, M. I., Fedenya, S.  
907 A., Gvozdkov, A. A.: Insolation regime in Siberia as a major factor controlling diatom production in  
908 Lake Baikal during the past 800,000 years. *Quat. Int.* 80–81, 47–58, 2001.

909  
910 Khursevich, G. K., Prokopenko, A. A., Fedenya, S. A., Tkachenko, L. I., Williams, D. F.: Diatom  
911 biostratigraphy of Lake Baikal during the past 1.25 Ma: new results from BDP-96-2 and BDP-99 drill  
912 cores. *Quat. Int.*, 136, 95–104, 2005.

913  
914 Kilham, R., Kilham, S.S., and Hecky, R. E.: Hypothesized resource relationships among African  
915 planktonic diatoms. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* 31, 1169-1181, 1986.

916  
917 Korhonen, J. J., Wang, J., and Soininen, J.: Productivity–diversity relationships in lake plankton  
918 communities, *PloS One*, 6, p.e22041, 2011.

919  
920 Kovhova, O. M., and Izmet'seva, L.R.: *Lake Baikal: evolution and diversity*, Backhuys, Leiden, 1998.

921  
922 Kozhov, M.: *Lake Baikal and its life*. W. Junk, The Hague. 344pp, 1963.

923  
924  
925 Kravtsova, L. S., Izhboldina, L. A., Khanaev, I. V., Pomazkina, G. V., Rodionova, E. V., Domysheva,  
926 V. M., Sakirko, M. V., Tomberg, I. V., Kostornova, T. Y., Kravchenko, O. S., and Kupchinsky, A. B.:  
927 Nearshore benthic blooms of filamentous green algae in Lake Baikal, *J. Great Lakes Res.*, 40, 441-  
928 448, 2014.

929  
930 Legendre P, and Gallagher E. D.: Ecologically meaningful transformations for ordination of species  
931 data. *Oecologia*, 129, 271–280, 2001.

932  
933 Luethje, M., and Snyder, J.: Climate-related morphological changes in *Pantocsekiella* (Mediophyceae)  
934 spanning 0-1.2 Ma in the Lake El'gygytgyn, northeastern Russia including *Pantocsekiella*  
935 *elgygytgynensis* sp. nov. *Phytotaxa*, 478, 67-91, 2021.

936  
937 Loreau, M., Naeem, S., Inchausti, P., Bengtsson, J., Grime, J. P., Hector, A., Hooper, D. U., Huston,  
938 M. A., Raffaelli, D., Schmid, B., and Tilman, D.: Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning: current  
939 knowledge and future challenges, *Science*, 294, 804-808, 2001.

940  
941 Mackay, A. W.: The paleoclimatology of Lake Baikal: a diatom synthesis and prospectus, *Earth Sci.*  
942 *Rev.*, 82, 181-215, 2007.

943

944 Mackay, A. W., Flower, R. J., Kuzmina, A. E., Granina, L. Z., Rose, N. L., Appleby, P. G., Boyle, J.  
945 F., and Battarbee, R. W.: Diatom succession trends in recent sediments from Lake Baikal and their  
946 relation to atmospheric pollution and to climate change, *Philos. T. R. Soc. B: Biol. Sci.*, 353, 1011-  
947 1055, 1998.

948

949 Mackay, A. W., Swann, G. E. A., Brewer, T. S., Leng, M. J., Morley, D. W., Piotrowska, N., Rioual,  
950 P., and White, D.: A reassessment of late glacial - Holocene diatom oxygen isotope record from Lake  
951 Baikal using a geochemical mass-balance approach, *J. Quat. Sci.*, 26, 627-634, 2011.

952

953 Mackay, A. W., Seddon, A. W. R., Leng, M. J., Heumann, G., Morley, D. W., Piotrowska, N., Rioual,  
954 P., Roberts, S., and Swann, G.E.A.: Holocene carbon dynamics at the forest-steppe ecotone of southern  
955 Siberia, *Global Change Biol.*, 23, 1942-1960, 2017.

956

957 Marcott, S. A., Shakun, J. D., Clark, P.U., and Mix, A.C.: A reconstruction of regional and global  
958 temperature for the past 11,300 years. *Science*, 339, 1198-1201, 2013.

959

960 Mayewski, P. A., Meeker, L. D., Twickler, M. S., Whitlow, S., Yang, Q., and Prentice, M.: Major  
961 features and forcing of high latitude Northern Hemisphere atmospheric circulation using a 110,000 year  
962 long glaciochemical series, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 102, 26345-26366, 1997.

963

964 Mayewski, P. A., Rohling, E. E., Stager, J. C., Karlén, W., Maasch, K. A., Meeker, L. D., Meyerson,  
965 E. A., Gasse, F., van Kreveland, S., Holmgren, K., Lee-Thorp, J., Rosqvist, G., Rack, F., Staubwasser,  
966 M., Schneider, R. R., and Steig, E. J.: Holocene climate variability, *Quat. Res.*, 62, 243-255, 2004.

967

968 McCann, K.S.: The diversity-stability debate, *Nature* 405, 228-233, 2000.

969

970 McGrady-Steed, J., Harris, P. M., and Morin, P. J.: Biodiversity regulates ecosystem predictability,  
971 *Nature*, 390, 162–165, 1997.

972

973 McManus, J. F., Francois, R., Gherardi, J.-M., Keigwin, L. D. and Brown-Leger, S.: Collapse and rapid  
974 resumption of Atlantic meridional circulation linked to deglacial climate changes. *Nature*, 428, 834-  
975 837, 2004.

976

977 Murton, J. B., Bateman, M. D., Dallimore, S. R., Teller, J. T., and Yang, Z.: Identification of Younger  
978 Dryas outburst flood path from Lake Agassiz to the Arctic Ocean, *Nature*, 464, 740-743, 2010.

979

980 National Research Council.: The geological record of ecological dynamics: understanding the biotic  
981 effects of future environmental change, The National Academies Press, Washington DC, USA 2005.  
982

983 Nesje, A., Jansen, E., Birks, H. J. B., Bjune, A. E., Bakke, J., Andersson, C., Dahl, S. O., Kristensen,  
984 D. K., Lauritzen, S., Lie, O., and Risebrobakken, B.: Holocene climate variability in the northern North  
985 Atlantic region: a review of terrestrial and marine evidence, *Geophysical Monograph-American*  
986 *Geophysical Union*, 158, 289-322, 2005.  
987

988 O'Donnell, D. R., Wilburn, P., Silow, E. A., Yampolsky, L. Y., Litchman, E: Nitrogen and phosphorus  
989 colimitation of phytoplankton in Lake Baikal: insights from a spatial survey and nutrient enrichment  
990 experiments. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* 62, 1383-1392, 2017.  
991

992 O'Reilly, C. M., Sharma, S., Gray, D. K., Hampton, S. E., Read, J. S., Rowley, R. J., Schneider,  
993 P., Lenters, J. D., McIntyre, P. B., Kraemer, B. M., et al.: Rapid and highly variable warming of lake  
994 surface waters around the globe. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 42, 10773-10781, 2015.  
995

996 Orłóci. L.: An agglomerative method for classification of plant communities. *J. Ecol.*, 55, 193–205,  
997 1967.  
998

999 Osipov, E. Y., and Khlystov, O. M.: Glaciers and meltwater flux to Lake Baikal during the Last Glacial  
1000 Maximum, *Palaeogeogr., Palaeoclimatol., Palaeoecol.*, 294, 4-15, 2010.  
1001

1002 Panizzo, V. N., Swann, G. E. A., Mackay, A. W., Vologina, E., Alleman, L., Andre, L., Pashley, V. H.,  
1003 Horstwood, M. S. A: Constraining modern day silicon cycling in Lake Baikal. *Global. Biogeochem.*  
1004 *Cy.* 31, 556-574, 2017.  
1005

1006 Piotrowska, N., Bluszcz, A., Demske, D., Granoszewski, W., and Heumann, G.: Extraction and AMS  
1007 radiocarbon dating of pollen from Lake Baikal sediments, *Radiocarbon*, 46, 181-187, 2004.  
1008

1009 Popovskaya, G. I.: Ecological monitoring of phytoplankton in Lake Baikal. *Aquat. Ecosyst.*  
1010 *Health.* 3, 215-225. 2000.  
1011

1012 Popovskaya, G. I. Usol'tseva, M. V. Domysheva, V. M. Sakirko, M. V. Blinov, V. V. Khodzher, T.  
1013 V: The spring phytoplankton in the pelagic zone of Lake Baikal during 2007- 2011. *Geogr. Nat.*  
1014 *Resour.* 36, 253-262, 2015.  
1015

1016 Ptacnik, R., Solimini, A. G., Andersen, T., Tamminen, T., Brettum, P., Lepistö, L., Willén, E., and  
1017 Rekolainen, S.: Diversity predicts stability and resource use efficiency in natural phytoplankton  
1018 communities, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 105, 5134-5138, 2008.

1019

1020 R Core Team.: *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing*, R Foundation for Statistical  
1021 Computing, Vienna, 2016.

1022

1023 Rasmussen, D. O., Andersen, K. K., Svensson, A. M., Steffensen, J. P., Vinther, B. M., Clausen, H. B.,  
1024 Siggaard-Andersen, M. -L., Johnsen, S. J., Larsen, L. B., Dahl-Jensen, D., Bigler, M., Rothlisberger,  
1025 R., Fischer, H., Goto-Azuma, K., Hansson, M.E., and Ruth, U.: A new Greenland ice core chronology  
1026 for the last glacial termination. *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, D06102, 2006.

1027

1028 Reimer, P. J., Austin, W. E. N., Bard, E., Bayliss, A., Blackwell, P. G., Bronk Ramsey, C., Butzin, M.,  
1029 Cheng, H., Edwards, R. L., Friedrich, M., Grootes, P. M., Guilderson, T. P., Hajdas, I., Heaton, T. J.,  
1030 Hogg, A.G., Hughen, K. A., Kromer, B., Manning, S. W., Muscheler, R., Palmer, J. G., Pearson, C.,  
1031 van der Plicht, J., Reimer, R. W., Richards, D. A., Scott, E. M., Southon, J. R., Turney, C. S. M.,  
1032 Wacker, L., Adolphi, F., Büntgen, U., Capano, M., Fahrni, S. M., Fogtmann-Schulz, A., Friedrich, R.,  
1033 Köhler, P., Kudsk, S., Miyake, F., Olsen, J., Reinig, F., Sakamoto, M., Sookdeo, A., Talamo, S.: The  
1034 IntCal20 Northern Hemisphere radiocarbon age calibration curve (0–55 cal kBP). *Radiocarbon*, 62,  
1035 725–757, 2020.

1036

1037 Renssen, H., Goosse, H., and Muscheler, R.: Coupled climate model simulation of Holocene cooling  
1038 events: oceanic feedback amplifies solar forcing. *Clim. Past*, 2, 79–90, 2006.

1039

1040 Reshetova, S. A., Bezrukova, E. V., Panizzo, V., Henderson, A., Ptitsyn, A. B., Daryin, A. V., and  
1041 Kalugin, I. A.: Vegetation of Central Transbaikalia in the Late Glacial Period and Holocene, *Geography  
1042 and Natural Resources*, 34,172-178, 2013.

1043

1044 Roberts, S., Swann, G. E. A., McGowan, S., Panizzo, V., Vologina, E., Sturm, M., Mackay, A. W.:  
1045 Evidence of 20<sup>th</sup> Century ecosystem change in Lake Baikal, Siberia, *PLoS One*, 13, e0208765. 2018.

1046

1047 Rusak, J. A., Leavitt, P. R., McGowan, S., Chen, G., Olson, O., Wunsam, S., and Cumming, B.F.:  
1048 Millennial-scale relationships of diatom species richness and production in two prairie lakes, *Limnol.  
1049 Oceanogr.*, 49, 1290-1299, 2004.

1050

1051 Ryves, D. B., Jewson, D. H., Sturm, M., Battarbee, R. W., Flower, R. J., Mackay, A. W., Granin, N.  
1052 G.: Quantitative and qualitative relationships between planktonic diatom communities and diatom



1053 assemblages in sedimenting material and surface sediments in Lake Baikal, Siberia. *Limnol. Oceanogr.*,  
1054 48, 1183-1192, 2003.

1055

1056 Satoh, Y. Katano, T. Satoh, T. Mitamura, O. Anbutsu, K. Nakano, S. Ueno, H. Kihira, M. Drucker, V.  
1057 Tanaka, Y. Mimura, T. Watanabe, Y. Sugiyama, M.: Nutrient limitation of the primary production of  
1058 phytoplankton in Lake Baikal. *Limnology* 7, 225-229, 2006.

1059

1060 Seddon, A. W., Mackay, A. W., Baker, A. G., Birks, H. J. B., Breman, E., Buck, C. E., Ellis, E. C.,  
1061 Froyd, C. A., Gill, J. L., Gillson, L., and Johnson, E.A.: Looking forward through the past: identification  
1062 of 50 priority research questions in palaeoecology, *J. Ecol.*, 102, 256-267, 2014.

1063

1064 Shimaraev, M. N., and Mizandrontsev, I. B.: Changes in the Lake Baikal ecosystem during the Late  
1065 Pleistocene and Holocene. *Hydrobio.*, 568, 259-263, 2006.

1066

1067 Shimaraev, M. N., and Domysheva, V. M.: Trends in hydrological and hydrochemical processes in  
1068 Lake Baikal under conditions of modern climate change, in: *Climatic Change and Global Warming of*  
1069 *Inland Waters*, edited by: Colman, C. R., Kumagai, M., and Robarts, R. D., John Wiley & Sons Ltd,  
1070 Chichester, UK, 43-66., 2013.

1071

1072 Simpson, G., and Birks, H. J.: Statistical Learning In Palaeolimnology, in: *Tracking Environmental*  
1073 *Change Using Lake Sediments*, edited by: Birks, H. J. B., Lotter, A. F., Juggins, S., and Smol, J. P.,  
1074 Dordrecht, Springer, 249-327, 2012.

1075

1076 Simpson, G. L., and Oksanen, J.: analogue: Analogue matching and Modern Analogue Technique  
1077 transfer function models, R package version 0.17-1, <https://cran.r-project.org/package=analogue>, 2016.

1078

1079 Smith, V. H.: Microbial diversity-productivity relationships in aquatic ecosystems, *FEMS Microbiol.*  
1080 *Ecol.*, 62, 181-186, 2007.

1081

1082 Soma, Y., Tani, Y., Soma, M., Mitake, H., Kurihara, R., Hashimoto, S., Watanabe, T., and Nakamura,  
1083 T.: Sedimentary steryl chlorin esters (SCEs) and other photosynthetic pigments as indicators of  
1084 palaeolimnological change over the last 28,000 years from the Buguldeika Saddle of Lake Baikal, *J.*  
1085 *Paleolim.*, 37, 163-175, 2007.

1086

1087 Sommer, U., Adrian, R., Domis, L. D. S., Elser, J. J., Gaedke, U., Ibelings, B. et al: Beyond the  
1088 plankton ecology group (PEG) model: mechanisms driving plankton succession. *Annu. Rev. Ecol.*  
1089 *Evol. Syst.*, 43, 429-448, 2012.

1090  
1091 Stuiver, M., Grootes, P. M., and Braziunas, T. F.: The GISP2  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  climatic record of the past 16,500  
1092 years and the role of the sun, ocean, and volcanoes, *Quat. Res.*, 44, 341-354, 1995.  
1093  
1094 Swann, G. E. A, Panizzo, V. N., Piccolroaz, S., Pashley, V., Horstwood, M. S. A., Roberts, S., Vologina,  
1095 E., Piotrowska, N., Sturm, M., Zhdanoc, A., Granin, N., Normal, C., McGowan, S., Mackay, A. W:  
1096 Changing nutrient cycling in Lake Baikal: the world's oldest lake. *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 117, 27211-  
1097 27217, 2020.  
1098  
1099 Tani, Y., Kurihara, K., Nara, F., Itoh, N., Soma, M., Soma, Y., Tanaka, A., Yoneda, M., Hirota, M.,  
1100 and Shibata, Y.: Temporal changes in the phytoplankton community of the southern basin of Lake  
1101 Baikal over the last 24,000 years recorded by photosynthetic pigments in a sediment core, *Org.*  
1102 *Geochem.*, 33, 1621-1634, 2002.  
1103  
1104 Tarasov, L., and Peltier W. R.: Arctic freshwater forcing of the Younger Dryas cold reversal. *Nature*,  
1105 435, 662-665, 2005.  
1106  
1107 Tarasov, P. E., Bezrukova, E. V., Krivonogov, S. K.: Late Glacial and Holocene changes in vegetation  
1108 cover and climate in southern Siberia derived from a 15 kyr long pollen record from Lake Kotokel,  
1109 *Clim. Past*, 5, 285-295, 2009.  
1110  
1111 Thiagarajan, N., Subhas, A. V., Southon, J. R., Eiler, J. M., and Adkins, J. F.: Abrupt pre-Bølling–  
1112 Allerød warming and circulation changes in the deep ocean, *Nature*, 511, 75-78, 2014.  
1113  
1114 Tilman, D., Knops, J., Wedin, D., Reich, P., Ritchie, M., and Siemann, E.: The influence of functional  
1115 diversity and composition on ecosystem processes, *Science*, 277, 1300-1302, 1997.  
1116  
1117 Tilman, D., Reich, P. B., and Isbell, F.: Biodiversity impacts ecosystem productivity as much as  
1118 resources, disturbance, or herbivory. *Proc. N. Acad. Sci.*, 109, 10394–10397, 2012.  
1119  
1120 Timoshkin, O A., Samsonov, D. P., Yamamuro, M., Moore, M. V., Belykh, O. I., Malnik, V. V.,  
1121 Sakirko, M. V., Shirokaya, A. A., Bondarenko, N. A., Domysheva, V. M., Fedorova, G. A.,  
1122 Kochetkov, A. I., Kuzmin, A. V., Lukhnev, A. G., Medvezhonkova, O. V., Nepokrytykh, A. V.,  
1123 Pasyukova, E. M., Poberezhnaya, A. E., Potapskaya, N. V., Rozhkova, N. A., Sheveleva, N. G.,  
1124 Tikhonova, I. V., Timoshkina, E. M., Tomberg, I.V ., Volkova, E. A., Zaitseva, E. P., Zvereva, Y. M.,  
1125 Kupchinsky, A. B., and Bukshuk, N. A.: Rapid ecological change in the coastal zone of Lake Baikal

1126 (East Siberia): Is the site of the world's greatest freshwater biodiversity in danger?, *J. Great Lakes*  
1127 *Res.*, 42, 487-497, 2016.  
1128  
1129 Walker, M., Head, M. J., Berkelhammer, M., Björck, S., Cheng, H., Cwynar, L., Fisher, D., Gkinis,  
1130 V., Long, A., Lowe, J. and Newnham, R.: Formal ratification of the subdivision of the Holocene  
1131 Series/Epoch (Quaternary System/Period): two new Global Boundary Stratotype Sections and Points  
1132 (GSSPs) and three new stages/subseries. *Episodes*, 41, 213-223, 2018.  
1133  
1134 Wanner, H., Mercolli, L., Grosjean, M., and Ritz, S. P.: Holocene climate variability and change: a  
1135 database review, *J. Geol. Soc. Lond.*, 172, 254-263, 2014.  
1136  
1137 Williams, D. F., Kuzmin, M. I., Prokopenko, A. A., Karabanov, E. B., Khursevich, G. K., and  
1138 Bezrukova, E.V.: The Lake Baikal drilling project in the context of a global lake drilling  
1139 initiative, *Quat. Int.*, 80, 3-18, 2001.  
1140  
1141 Williams, J. W., Blois, J. L., and Shuman, B. N.: Extrinsic and intrinsic forcing of abrupt ecological  
1142 change: case studies from the late Quaternary, *J. Ecol.*, 99, 664-677, 2011.  
1143  
1144 Winfree, R., W. Fox, J., Williams, N. M., Reilly, J. R. and Cariveau, D. P.: Abundance of common  
1145 species, not species richness, drives delivery of a real-world ecosystem service, *Ecol. Lett.*, 18, 626-  
1146 635, 2015.  
1147  
1148 Yachi, S., and Loreau, M.: Biodiversity and ecosystem productivity in a fluctuating environment: the  
1149 insurance hypothesis, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 96, 1463-1468, 1999.  
1150  
1151

1152 Table 1: GAMs to investigate PDR trends during pre-defined climate periods. edf = effective  
 1153 degrees of freedom, and ref.df = reference degrees of freedom. The goodness-of-fit statistics  
 1154 show the adjusted  $r^2= 0.462$  and the deviance explained is 53.2 %.

1155

<b>Climate period</b>	<b>edf</b>	<b>ref.df</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>p-value</b>
<b>Late Holocene</b>	3.719	4.481	5.242	0.0002 ***
<b>Middle Holocene</b>	1.001	1.002	6.672	0.0100 *
<b>Early Holocene</b>	2.291	2.916	7.183	0.0001 ***
<b>Younger Dryas</b>	1.001	1.001	20.168	9.18e-06 ***
<b>Bølling–Allerød</b>	1.105	1.203	0.652	0.4030
<b>pre-BA</b>	2.562	3.167	2.760	0.0443 *

1156 Significance codes: 0 ‘\*\*\*’ 0.001 ‘\*\*’ 0.01 ‘\*’ 0.05 ‘.’ 0.1 ‘ ’ 1

1157

1158

1159

1160 **Figure Legends:**

1161

1162 Fig. 1: Map of Lake Baikal and its catchment, with locations of the different cores used or mentioned  
1163 in this paper, including the coring location on the Vydrino Shoulder, where our study was undertaken.  
1164 Also shown is Lake Kotokel that has provided independent climate reconstructions used in this study  
1165 (Tarasov et al. 2009).

1166

1167 Fig. 2: ‘Bacon’ Age-depth model (Blaauw & Christen, 2011) for Vydrino box (CON01–605–05) and  
1168 piston cores (CON01–605–03) of radiocarbon AMS dates calibrated using IntCal20 radiocarbon  
1169 calibration curve (Reimer et al., 2020).

1170

1171 Fig. 3: Relative abundances of sub-fossil planktonic and tychoplanktonic diatoms spanning the past c.  
1172 16,000 years from Vydrino Shoulder. Diatoms which grow mainly before summer stratification are  
1173 shown in blue, while those that mainly grow after summer stratification are shown in green. DCA axis  
1174 1 sample scores summarize the major trend in species turnover.

1175

1176 Fig. 4: Comparison of Hill’s richness ( $N_0$ ), diversity ( $N_1$  and  $N_2$ ) and evenness ( $N_2/N_1$  ratio) trends  
1177 over the past c. 16,000 years. Richness and diversity values were further divided by sediment  
1178 accumulation rates over time, so these measures become estimated Hill’s numbers per  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$

1179

1180 Fig. 5: Multivariate classification tree (MCT) for Lake Baikal planktonic and tychoplanktonic diatoms  
1181 over the past c. 16,000 years. Time periods used in multivariate classification tree analyses are: the  
1182 pre Bølling–Allerød (pre–BA), the Bølling–Allerød (B–A) interstadial, the Younger Dryas stadial and  
1183 the three recently ratified Early, Middle and Late Holocene subepochs (Walker et al. 2018). The  
1184 histograms show the transformed abundances of the discriminating taxa within each leaf. These are  
1185 listed in decreasing order. The numbers under the histograms represent the relative error within each  
1186 leaf, and  $n =$  the total number of samples. At the bottom is the summary of the residual error (RE),  
1187 cross-validated error (CVRE), and standard error (SE). The  $r^2$  will be 1-RE.

1188

1189 Fig. 6: Stratigraphical profile showing trends in palaeoproductivity over the past c. 16,000 years: the  
1190 proportion of diatoms that bloom in the autumn versus those that bloom in the spring; estimates of  
1191 palaeoproductivity derived from spring (orange) and autumn (dark brown) diatom biovolume  
1192 accumulate rates ( $\text{BVAR } \mu\text{m}^3 \text{cm}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ); and log-transformed ratio of autumnal / spring  
1193 palaeoproductivity.

1194

1195 Fig. 7: Palaeoproductivity–diversity relationships explored using generalized additive models  
1196 (GAMs) that allow different smooths for the pre–defined climatic periods: pre Bølling–Allerød,  
1197 (Bølling–Allerød), Younger Dryas, Early Holocene, Middle Holocene, and Late Holocene. The dots  
1198 represent the data points, the thick line is the fitted GAM response for each period, and the shaded  
1199 areas represent the 95 % confidence intervals around the mean fitted response.

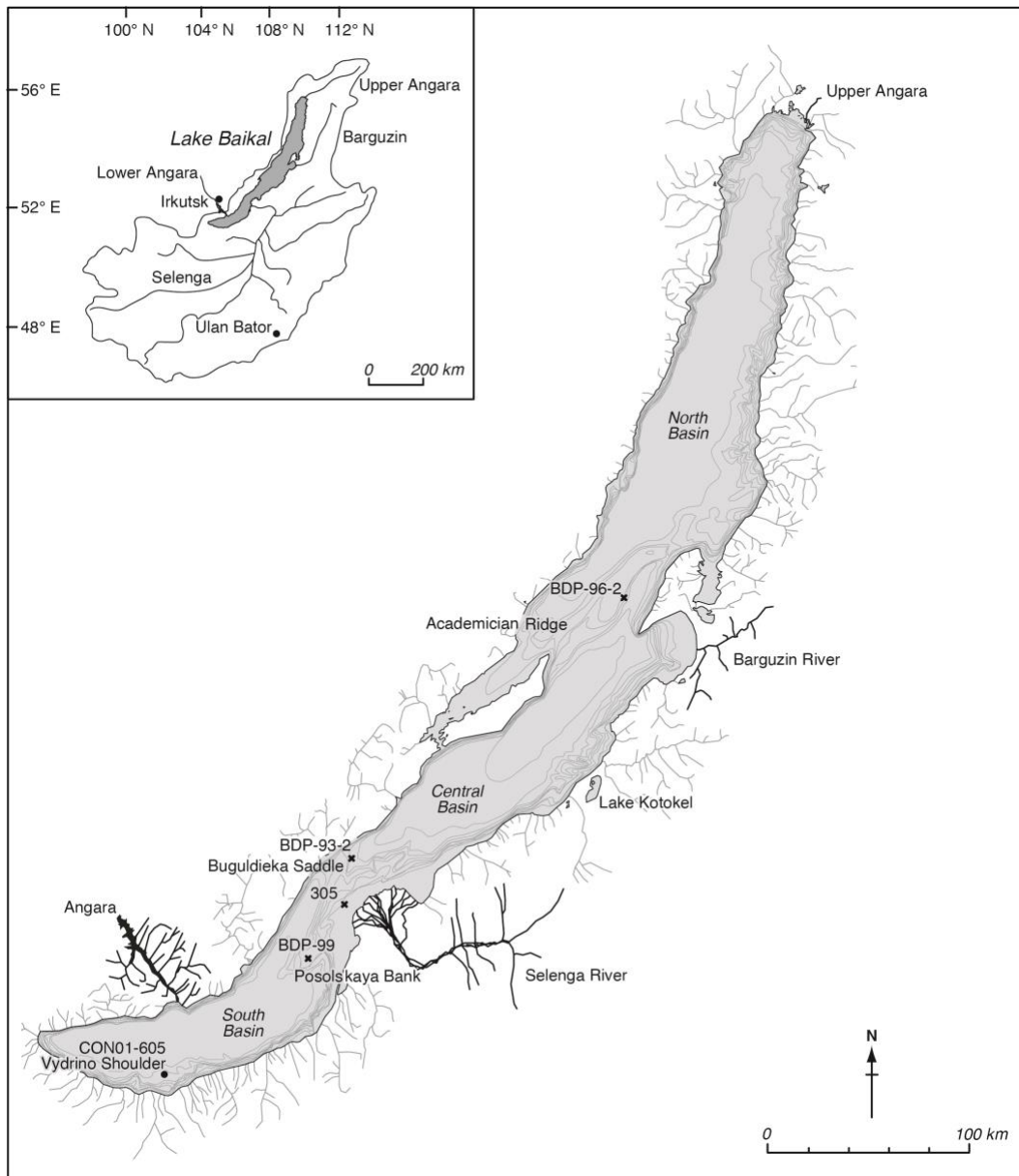
1200

1201 Fig. 8: Multi-archive data plotted alongside (a) DCA axis 1 sample scores of Lake Baikal diatoms, as  
1202 a measure of turnover over the past c. 16,000 years; (b) mean pollen–inferred annual precipitation  
1203 from Lake Kotokel, with smooth line representing the mean 3–point moving average (Tarasov et al.  
1204 2009); (c) mean pollen–inferred temperature of the warmest month from Lake Kotokel, with smooth  
1205 line representing the mean 3–point moving average (Tarasov et al. 2009); (d) mean Northern  
1206 Hemisphere temperature stack records for 60° latitude bands (30° N – 90° N; Marcott et al. 2013); (e)  
1207  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of Dongge Cave stalagmite D4 (Dykoski et al. 2005); (f)  $\text{K}^+$  ion concentrations (ppb)  
1208 from GISP2 D core (Mayewski et al. 1997); (g) North Atlantic core GGC5  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{230}\text{Th}$  meridional  
1209 circulation data; (h)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of NGRIP ice core (Rasmussen et al. 2006); (i) June insolation 60° N  
1210 ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ; Berger & Loutre, 1991); (j) obliquity ( $\epsilon$ ).

1211

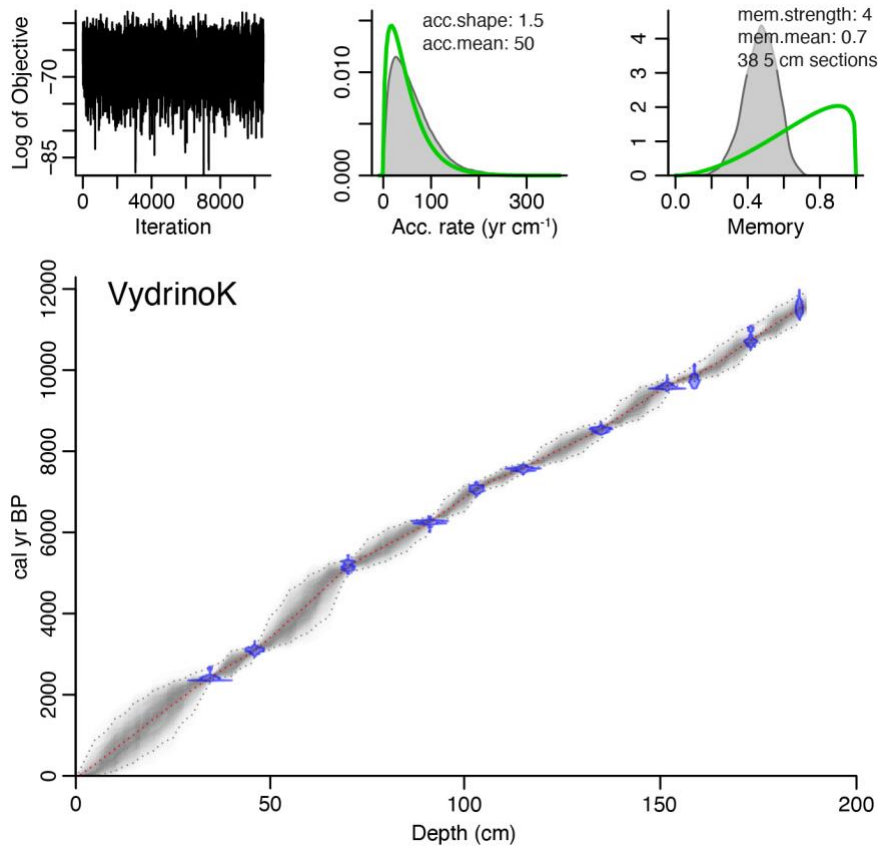
1212

1213 Fig. 1  
1214



1215  
1216  
1217  
1218  
1219

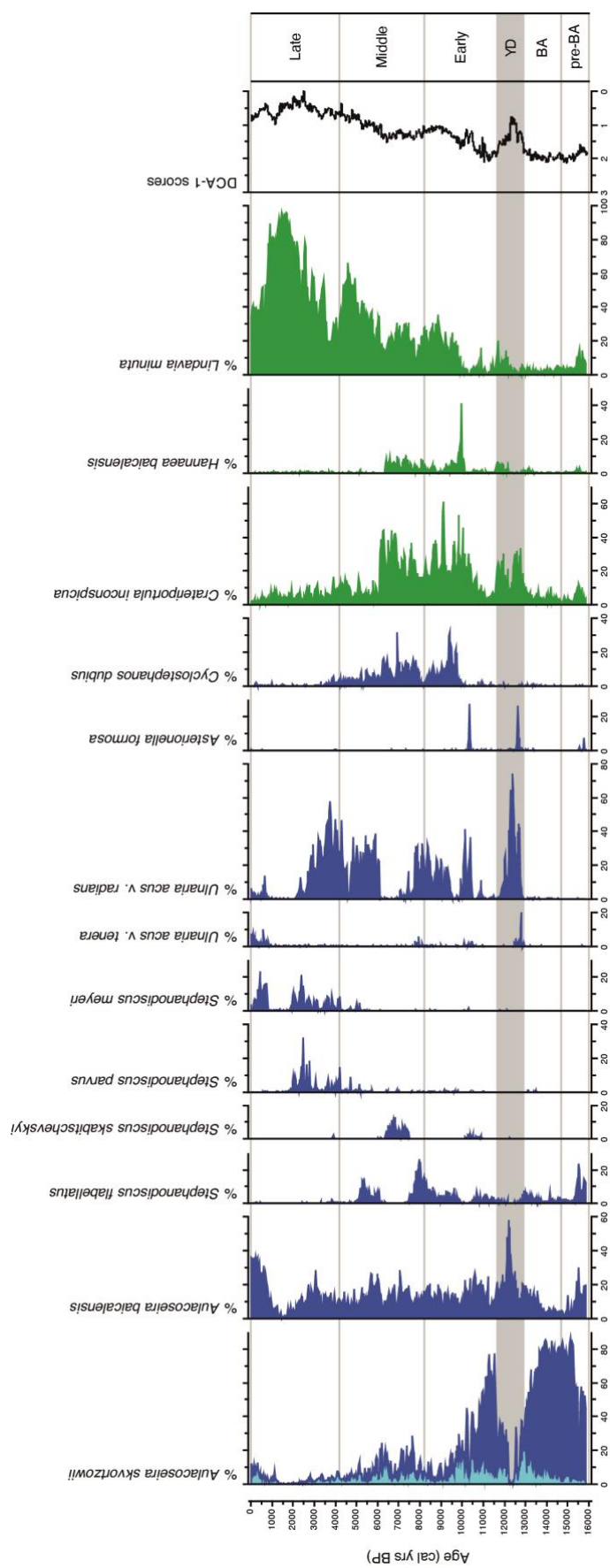
1220 Fig. 2  
1221



1222  
1223  
1224  
1225  
1226

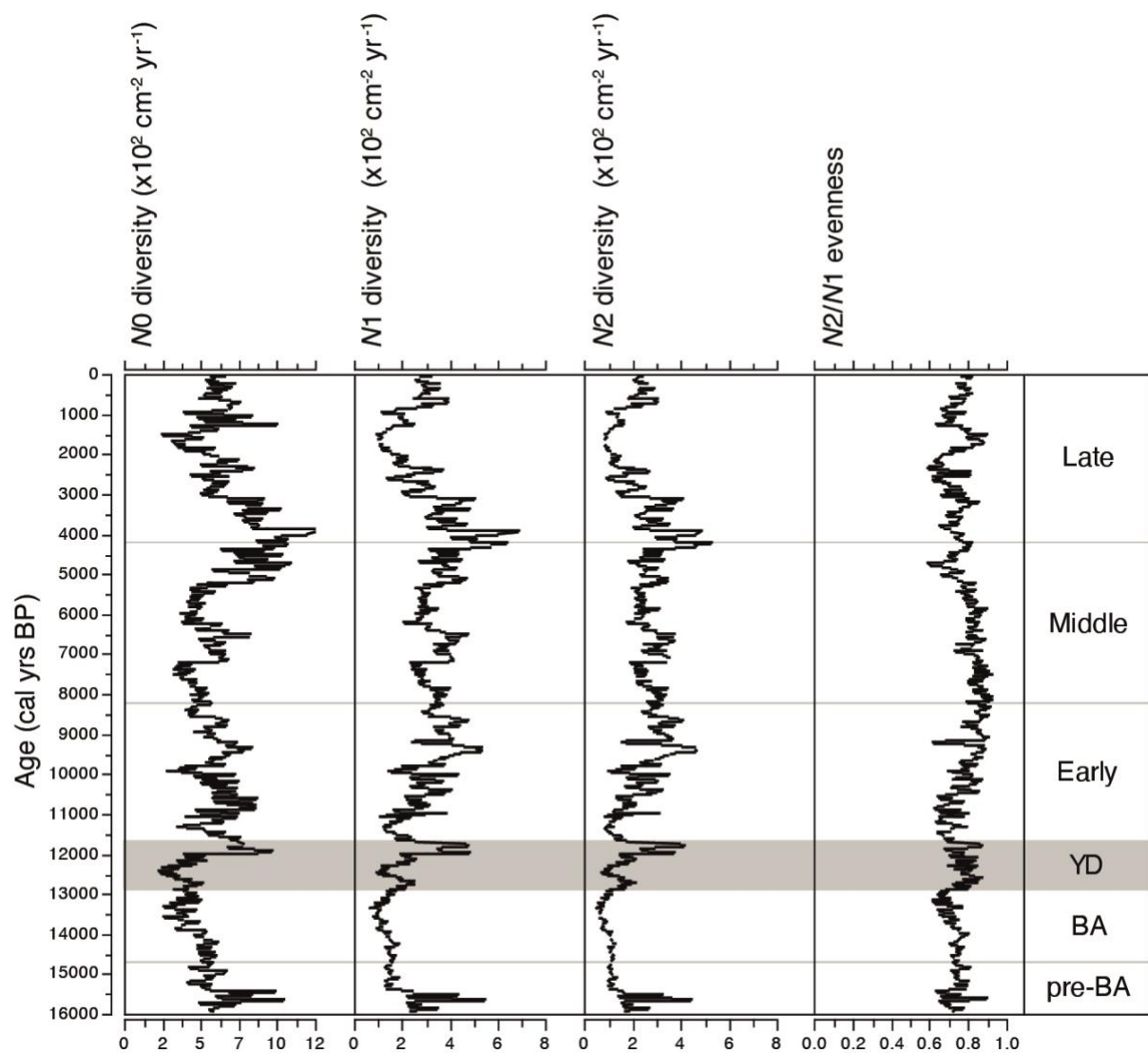


1227 Fig. 3  
1228



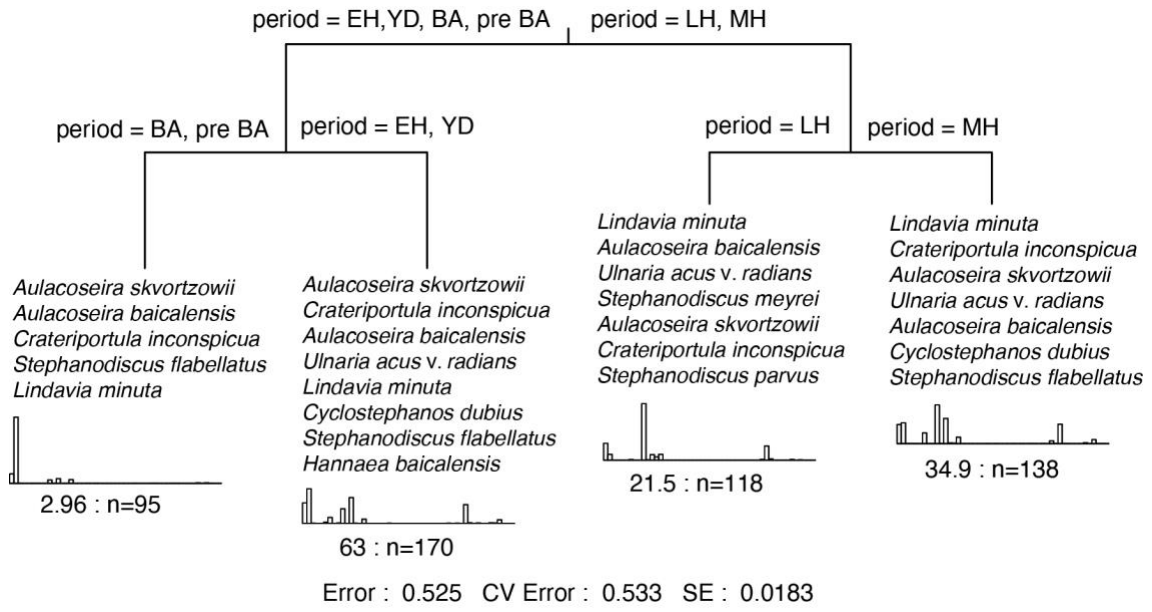
1229  
1230

1231 Fig. 4  
1232



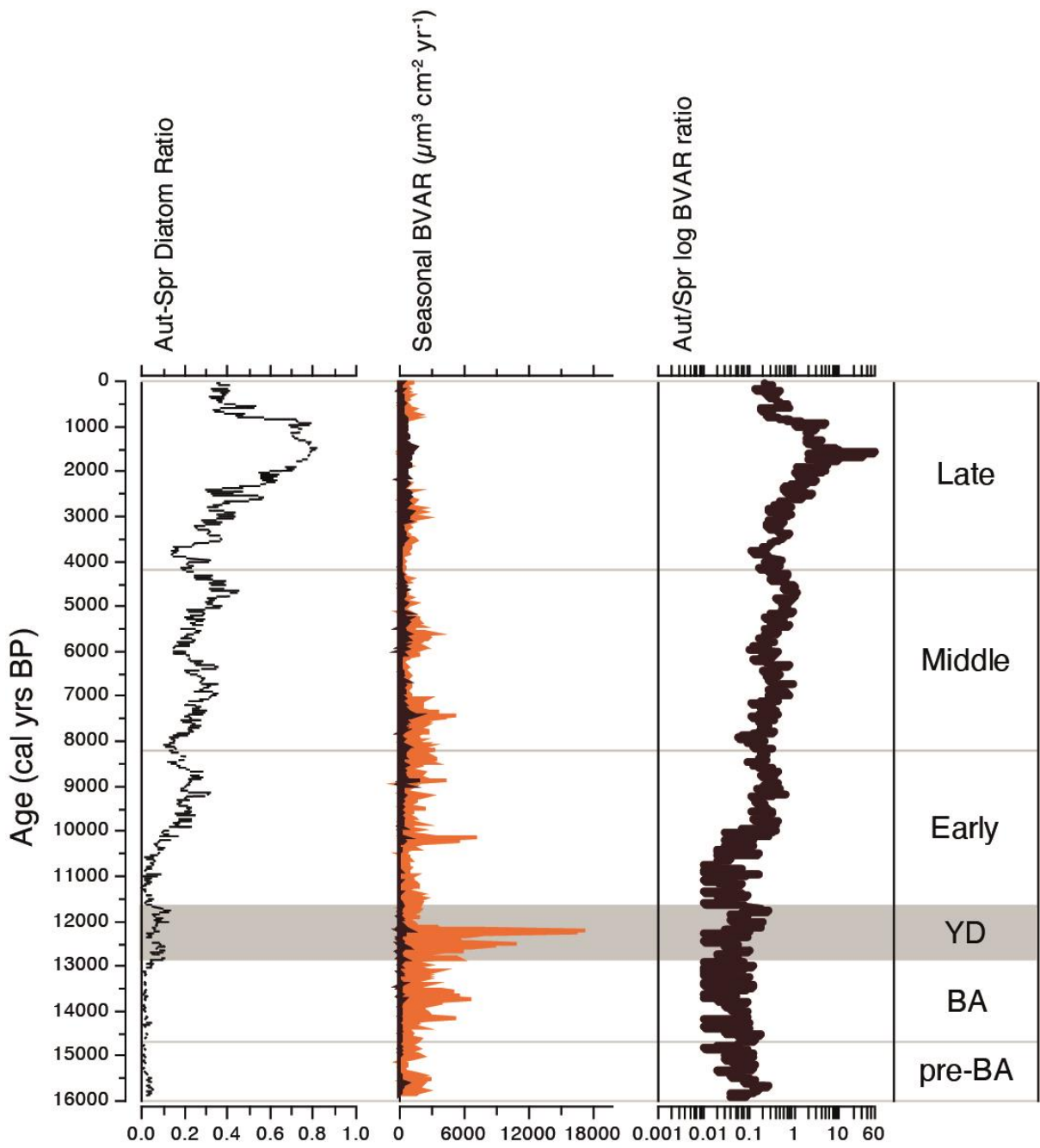
1233  
1234  
1235  
1236

1237 Fig. 5  
 1238



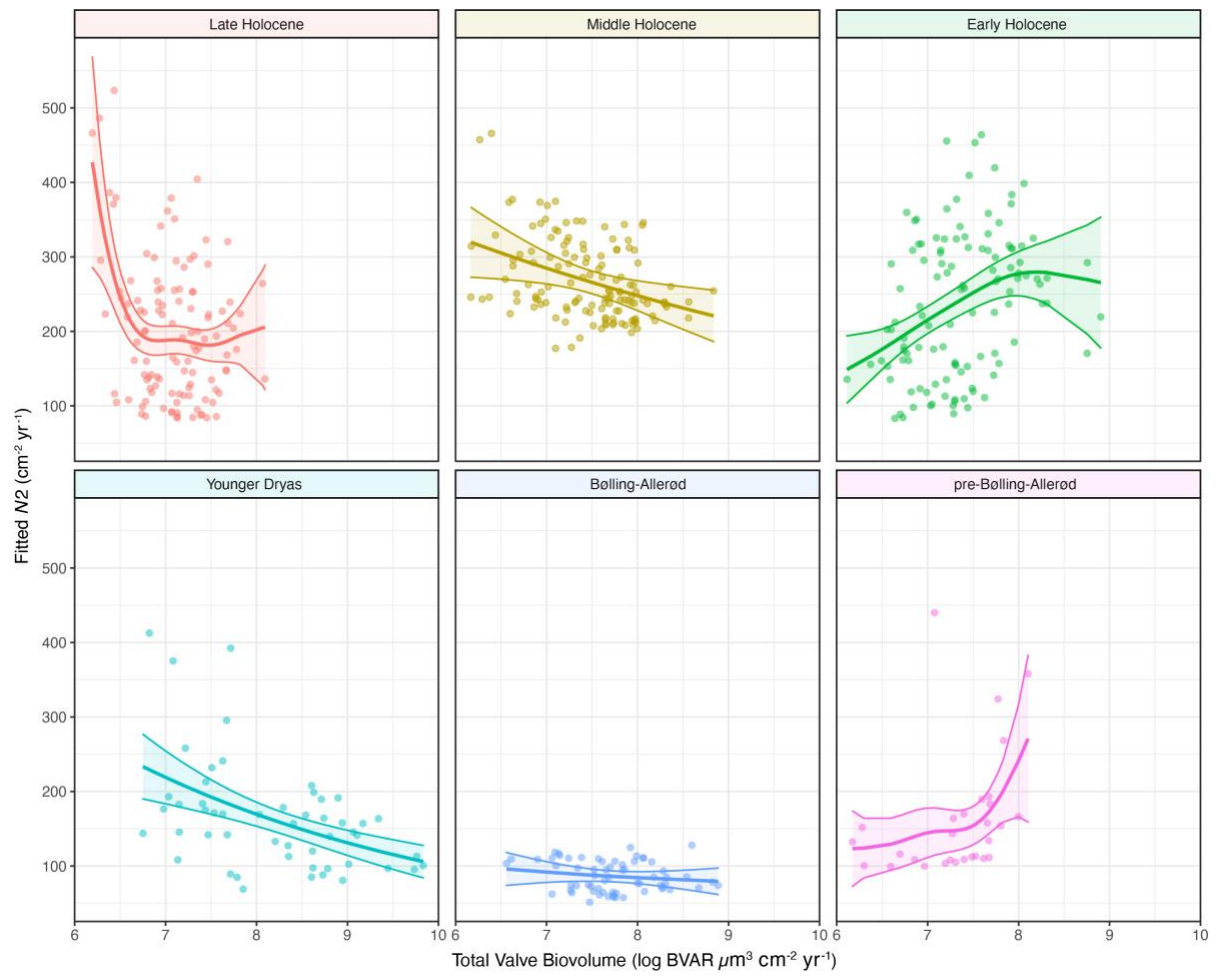
1239  
 1240  
 1241  
 1242

1243 Fig. 6  
1244



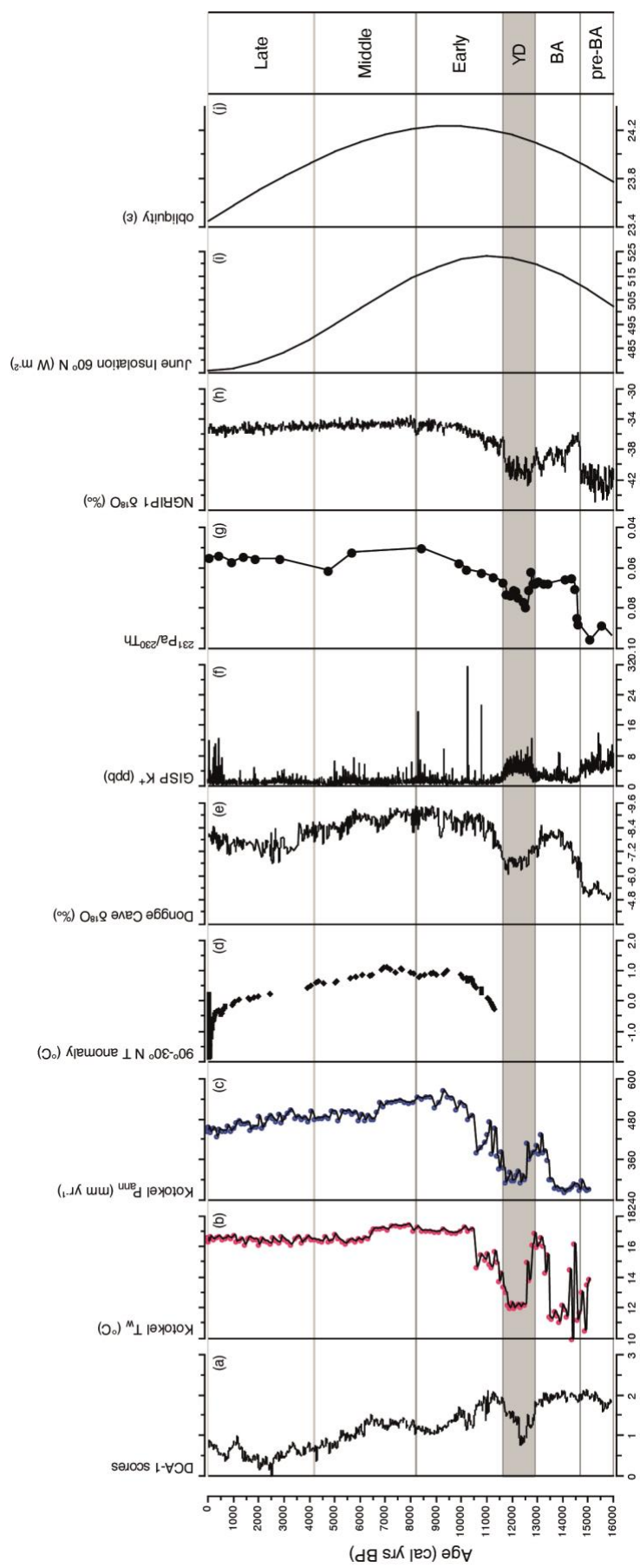
1245  
1246  
1247  
1248

1249 Fig. 7  
1250



1251  
1252  
1253

1254 Fig. 8  
 1255



1256