Growth rate rather than temperature affects the B/Ca ratio in the calcareous red alga *Lithothamnion corallioides*

Giulia Piazza¹, Valentina A. Bracchi¹, Antonio Langone², Agostino N. Meroni³, Daniela Basso¹

¹ Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Milano-Bicocca, Piazza della Scienza 4, 20126 Milano, Italy; CoNISMa Research Unit of Milano-Bicocca
² CNR – Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources, Via Ferrata 1, 27100 Pavia, Italy
³ Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Politecnico of Milan, Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, 20133 Milano, Italy

Correspondence to: Giulia Piazza (g.piazza15@campus.unimib.it)

Abstract. The B/Ca ratio in calcareous marine species is informative of past seawater CO₃²⁻ concentrations, but scarce data exist on B/Ca in coralline algae. Recent studies suggest influences of temperature and growth rates on B/Ca, the effect of which could be critical for the reconstructions of surface ocean pH and atmospheric pCO₂. In this paper, we present the first LA-ICP-MS analyses of Mg, Sr, Li and B in the coralline alga *Lithothamnion corallioides* collected from different geographic settings and depths across the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic Ocean. We produced the first data on putative temperature proxies (Mg/Ca, Li/Ca, Sr/Ca, Mg/Li) and B/Ca in a coralline algal species grown in different Basins, from across the photic zone (12 m, 40 m, 45 m, and 66 m depth). We tested the B/Ca correlation with temperature proxies and growth rates, in order to evaluate their possible effect on B incorporation. Our results suggested a growth rate influence on B/Ca, evident in the sample with the lowest growth rate of 0.10 mm/yr (Pontian Isl., Italy; 66 m depth) and in Elba (Italy; 45 m depth), where the algal growth rate was the highest (0.14 mm/yr). In these two sites, the measured B/Ca was respectively the lowest, 462.8 ± 49.2 μmol/mol, and the highest, 757.7 ± 75.5 μmol/mol. A positive correlation between B/Ca and temperature proxies was found only in the shallowest sample from Morlaix (Atlantic coast of France; 12 m depth), where the amplitude of temperature variation (ΔT) was the highest (8.9 °C). Still, fluctuations in B/Ca did not mirror yearly seasonal temperature oscillations as for Mg/Ca, Li/Ca, and Sr/Ca. We concluded that growth rates, triggered by the different ΔT and light availability across depth, affect the B incorporation in *L. corallioides*.

1 Introduction

Warming and acidification are major anthropogenic perturbations of present-day oceans (Callendar, 1938; Fairhall, 1973; Brewer, 1997; Gattuso, 1999; Caldeira, 2005; Höntsch et al., 2012; Masson-Delmotte et al., 2021). Ocean acidification reduces the saturation state of calcite and aragonite, lowering the dissolution threshold of biominerals and threatening habitat-forming species of critical ecological importance such as coralline red algae and corals (Morse et al., 2006; Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2007; Andersson et al., 2008, 2011; Basso, 2012; Ragazzola et al., 2012; Ries et al., 2016). Coralline algae, which precipitate
high Mg-calcite (>8-12 mol% MgCO₃) (Morse et al., 2006), are particularly suitable as proxy archives for paleoclimate reconstruction because of their worldwide distribution and longevity. Importantly, they show indeterminate growth, with no ontogenetic trend (Halfar et al., 2008), that is the growth trend of coralline algae does not slow down asymptotically with age, as in bivalves, thus preserving the resolution of the geochemical signals in all stages of growth (Adye, 1965; Frantz et al., 2005; Halfar et al., 2008). Moreover, coralline algae thin sections under optical microscopy reveal bands that reflect the growth pattern (Cabioch, 1966; Basso, 1995a, b; Foster, 2001), similarly to tree rings (Ragazzola et al., 2016) that can be targeted for high-resolution geochemical analyses. Seasonal growth bands, indeed, consist of the perithallial alternation of dark and light bands that together constitute the annual growth patterns (Freiwald and Henrich, 1994; Basso, 1995a, b; Kamenos et al., 2009). Dark bands correspond to slow-growing cells produced in the cold season, which are shorter, thick-walled and with lower Mg contents; while light bands are fast-growing cells produced in the warm season, which are longer, less calcified and with higher Mg concentrations (Kamenos et al., 2009; Ragazzola et al., 2016). The high Mg-calcite of calcareous red algae records ambient seawater temperature (Halfar et al., 2000; Kamenos et al., 2008; Nash et al., 2016; Hetzinger et al., 2018), primary productivity (Chan et al., 2017; Hou et al., 2019) and salinity (Kamenos, 2012), proving to be a suitable paleoclimate archive. Most of the data were collected from high-latitude (Kamenos et al., 2008; Anagnostou et al., 2019) and tropical species (Caragnano et al., 2014; Darrenougue et al., 2014), whereas less attention has been given to coralline algae from mid-latitudes. Trace element variations in marine calcareous species inform the reconstruction of changes in the environmental parameters, which characterized the seawater during their growth (Hetzinger et al., 2011; Montagna and Douville, 2017). Boron is incorporated into the mineral lattice of calcareous marine species during calcite precipitation. In the ocean, B occurs in two molecular species: boric acid B(OH)₃ and borate ion B(OH)₄⁻ (Dickson, 1990), which are related by the following acid-base equilibrium reaction:

\[
\text{B(OH)}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \leftrightarrow \text{B(OH)}_4^- + \text{H}^+ \tag{1}
\]

that shows the dependence of the two species concentration on pH. The first analyses of the isotopic signal of marine carbonates evidenced a strong similarity with the isotopic composition of B(OH)₄⁻ in solution, suggesting that borate would preferentially be incorporated into marine carbonates (Vengosh et al., 1991; Hemming and Hanson, 1992; Zeebe and Wolf Gladrow, 2001; DeCarlo et al., 2018). The B content and its isotopic signature (δ¹¹B) in calcareous marine species record information about the seawater carbonate system. The δ¹¹B is used to reconstruct past seawater pH (Hönisch and Hemming, 2005; Foster, 2008; Douville et al., 2010; Paris et al., 2010; Rae et al., 2011). The boron-to-calcium ratio (B/Ca) proved to be informative about past seawater CO₃²⁻ concentrations in different empirical studies on benthic foraminifera (Yu and Elderfield, 2007; Yu et al., 2007; Rae et al., 2011) and in synthetic aragonite (Holcomb et al., 2016). Most of the literature on boron studies is focused on its isotopic composition (Hemming and Hönsich, 2007; Klochko et al., 2009; Henehan et al., 2013; Fietzke et al., 2015; Cornwall et al., 2017; Ragazzola et al., 2020), whereas less attention has been given to B/Ca records, especially in coralline algae. Recent studies suggest that B/Ca is function of seawater pH, as well as of other environmental variables such as temperature, whose effect should be considered in the attempt to reconstruct surface ocean pH and atmospheric pCO₂ (Wara et al., 2003; Allen et al., 2012; Kaczmarek et al., 2016).
To achieve the best reliability of geochemical proxies for climate reconstructions, it is important to recognize the influence of multiple factors on a single proxy (Kaczmarek et al., 2016; Donald et al., 2017). For instance, more recently the effects of temperature and growth rate on B incorporation have been investigated through experiments on both synthetic and biogenic carbonates (Wara et al., 2003; Yu et al., 2007; Gabitov et al., 2014; Mavromatis et al., 2015; Uchikawa et al., 2015; Kaczmarek et al., 2016; Donald et al., 2017). In particular, culture experiment on the coralline alga Neogoniolithon sp. showed a positive correlation of B/Ca with growth rate, and a negative correlation with Sr/Ca, which was proposed as proxy of DIC (Donald et al., 2017). Moreover, a culture experiment on the high latitude species Clathromorphum compactum (Kjellman) Foslie 1898 revealed non-significant temperature influences on B/Ca and a significant inverse relationship with growth rate (Anagnostou et al., 2019). The factors which influence the B incorporation in calcareous red algae are therefore still debated. Recent experiments also suggest that coralline algae can control the calcifying fluid pH (pH\textsubscript{cf}) (Cornwall et al., 2017), as already observed in corals (Comeau et al., 2017). Both organisms have a species-specific capability to elevate pH at calcification sites in response to variations of ambient pH, also influencing precipitation rates (Cornwall et al., 2017). Differences between carbonate polymorphs were also highlighted (McCulloch et al., 2012; Cornwall et al., 2018), showing more elevated pH\textsubscript{cf} in aragonitic corals than calcites, pointing to the relevance of the mineralogical control on biological up-regulation. So far, no investigations on pH\textsubscript{cf} modifications in natural systems have been performed on calcareous red algae.

No studies have been conducted so far on the correlation between temperature proxies (Mg, Sr, Li /Ca) and B/Ca. The Mg/Ca ratio is extensively used as a temperature proxy in coralline algae (Halfar et al., 2008; Kamenos et al., 2008; Fietzke et al., 2015; Ragazzola et al., 2020), since the substitution of Mg\textsuperscript{2+} with Ca\textsuperscript{2+} ions in the calcite lattice is an endothermic reaction. Accordingly, Mg incorporation increases with temperature (Moberly, 1968; Berner, 1975; Ries, 2006; Caragnano et al., 2014; 2017). Sr/Ca and Li/Ca ratios in calcareous red algae have also been investigated as climate proxies, showing significant positive correlations with temperature in different species, e.g. Lithothamnion spp. (Kamenos et al., 2008; Hetzinger et al., 2011; Caragnano et al., 2014; Darrenougue et al., 2014). The Mg/Li ratio showed a strong correlation with seawater temperature in cultured C. compactum (Anagnostou et al., 2019), and in empirical studies on high-Mg calcites, including coralline algae (Stewart et al. 2020). Conversely, the Mg/Li calibration did not reveal improvements in the Mg/Ca or Li/Ca proxies in Lithophyllum spp. (Caragnano et al., 2014; 2017).

Here, we present a laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) conducted on a wild grown coralline alga with a wide geographic scope. This technique, which allows high-resolution analysis of a broad range of trace elements in solid-state samples, has been widely used in biogenic carbonates to extract records of seawater temperature, salinity, and water chemistry (Schöne et al., 2005; Corrège, 2006; Hetzinger et al., 2009, 2011; Fietzke et al., 2015; Ragazzola et al., 2020). Measurements were made on the non-geniculate coralline alga Lithothamnion corallioides (P. Crouan & H. Crouan) P. Crouan & H. Crouan 1867, which is widely distributed in the Mediterranean Sea and in the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean, from Scotland to Canary Islands (Irvine and Chamberlain, 1999; Wilson et al., 2004; Carro et al., 2014), usually constituting maerl beds (Potin et al., 1990; Foster, 2001; Martin et al., 2006; Savini et al., 2012; Basso et al., 2017). It forms rhodoliths as unattached branches (Basso et al., 2016) with obvious banding in longitudinal sections (Basso, 1995b). These
characteristics combine to make this species a suitable model for the measurement of geochemical proxies, by comparing different environmental settings.

In this paper, we provide the first LA-ICP-MS data of putative temperature proxies (Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca, Li/Ca, Mg/Li) and B/Ca measured on *L. corallioides* collected from different geographic settings and depths across the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic Ocean. We test the influence of temperature and growth rate on the B/Ca ratio, which could be crucial in assessing the reliability of B/Ca as a proxy of the seawater carbonate system.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Sampling sites and collection of *Lithothamnion corallioides*

Samples of the coralline alga *L. corallioides* were collected in the Western Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic Ocean (Fig. 1). In the Mediterranean Sea, the samples collected in Pontian Islands (Italy) at 66 m depth were gathered by grab during the cruises of the R/V Minerva Uno, in the framework of the Marine Strategy Campaigns 2017 (Table 1). The last two Mediterranean samples were collected by one of the authors (DB) by SCUBA diving during local surveys at 45 m off the coasts of Pomonte (Elba Island, Italy) (Basso and Brusoni, 2004) and at 40 m depth in the Aegadian Islands (Marettimo, Italy). The Atlantic sample was collected by grab at 12 m depth in Morlaix Bay (Brittany, France) (Table 1).

![Figure 1: Map showing the distribution of sampling sites where *Lithothamnion corallioides* samples were collected: Morlaix Bay (48°34'42"N, 3°49'36"W); Aegadian Islands (37°97'36"N, 12°14'12"E); Elba (42°44'56.4"N, 10°07'08.4"E) and Pontian Islands (40°54'N, 12°45'E). Service layer credits: Source Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, Garmin, geonames.org and other contributors.](image)

The identification of the algal samples was achieved by morphological analyses of epithallial and perithallial cells using a Field Emission Gun Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM-FEG) Geomini 500 Zeiss. Samples were prepared for SEM
according to Basso (1995a). Morphological identification was based on Adey and McKibbin (1970) and Irvine and Chamberlain (1994). Other information about maerl species distribution in Morlaix was provided by Carro et al. (2014) and Melbourne et al. (2017). *L. corallioides* was selected as the target species because of its presence in both Mediterranean and Atlantic waters. The Atlantic sample (Morlaix) was used as voucher specimen for the subsequent identification of the Mediterranean samples, since *Phymatolithon* spp. and *L. corallioides* are the only components of the Morlaix maerl (Carro et al., 2014; Melbourne et al., 2017). Hence, once its inclusion under the genus *Phymatolithon* was excluded, the Morlaix sample identified as *L. corallioides* was used as a reference for the most reliable identification of the other Mediterranean samples.

### 2.2 Sample preparation

The selected algal branches were embedded in Epo-Fix resin, which was stirred for 2 minutes with a hardener (13% w/w); they were then left to dry at room temperature for 24 hours. Afterwards, the treated branches were cut by an IsoMet diamond wafering blade 15HC along the direction of growth. In the laboratory of the Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources (IGG) of the National Research Council (CNR) in Pavia (Italy), the sections were polished with a MetaServ Grinder-Polisher (400 RPM) using a diamond paste solution, finally cleaned ultrasonically in distilled water for 10 minutes and dried at 30°C for 24 hours.

### 2.3 Trace elements analyses and environmental data

LA-ICP-MS analyses were carried out at the IGG-CNR laboratory of Pavia (Italy), on one algal branch per sampling site. $^{43}$Ca, $^7$Li, $^{25}$Mg, $^{88}$Sr and $^{11}$B contents were measured using an Agilent ICP-QQQ 8900 quadrupole ICP-MS coupled to an Excimer laser ablation system (193 nm wavelength, MicroLas with GeoLas optics). Element/Ca ratios were calculated for these isotopes, as well as Mg/Li ratio. Measurements were performed with laser energy densities of 4 J/cm$^2$ and helium as carrier gas.

The laser transects crossed the algal growth direction with a spot size of 50 μm, attempting to target each growth band change which marked the transition between the cells usually produced in the warm season and those usually produced in the cold season, hereinafter referred to as long and short cells (Fig. 2, S1, S2, S3). NIST 612 was used as an external standard (e.g. Fietzke et al., 2010; Jochum et al., 2012), whereas Ca was adopted as an internal standard. Accuracy and precision were better than 4% for NIST 612 and 8% for Ca standard. Minimum detection limits (99% confidence) of measured elements were: Ca = 16.91 ppm, Li = 0.07 ppm, Mg = 0.11 ppm, Sr = 0.004 ppm, B = 2.64 ppm. Each analysis was carried out in MS/MS mode for 3 minutes by acquiring 60 seconds of background before and after the sampling period by the laser on the polished surface. The first part of the signal was not used for the integration to avoid surface contamination. The Glitter software (v. 4.4.4) was used for data reduction.
In the absence of in-situ environmental data, the seawater temperature has been extracted by 11 years of monthly reanalysis spanning 1979-2017 from ORAS5 (Ocean ReAnalysis System 5), at 0.25-degree horizontal resolution (Zuo et al., 2019). The time interval of extraction in each site corresponded to 11 years before sample collection. Minimum, maximum, and mean values, as reported in Table 1, refer to the temperature at sampling depth and have been measured on the entire time interval of extraction.

For the purpose of this work, we considered temperature data in terms of a) the amplitude of temperature variation (ΔT), and b) the temperature maxima and minima. ΔT represents the temperature fluctuations during the algal growth and has been measured as the difference between the maximum and minimum temperature registered in the site over 11 years. We used ΔT when comparing the sampling sites, given their differences in depth and geographical regions. The temperature peaks (maximum and minimum) have rather been used when considering data corresponding to long and short cells, since they are related to warm and cold periods of growth, respectively. We used the temperature peaks over the entire time interval of extraction (11 years) when comparing the mean elemental ratios of long and short cells per sampling sites. The maximum and minimum temperature within each year have been used instead for the reconstruction of the algal age model. In the sample from Morlaix Bay, indeed, the good visibility of the growth bands allowed us to relate the temperature record with the algal growth at annual resolution. We therefore plotted all the element ratios against the average seawater temperature values of the coldest and warmest months of the year to reconstruct the temperature variations during the algal growth (Moberly, 1970; Corrège, 2006; Williams et al., 2014; Ragazzola et al., 2020; Caragnano et al., 2014). Missing element ratios possibly due to non-targeted consecutive bands were calculated as the means of known values.

Carbon system parameters for each site have also been estimated. Even if they were not available in the same time interval of temperature data, the seasonal variations occurring in the extracted period have allowed the characterization of the sampling
sites. Monthly mean seawater pH has been derived by the CMEMS (E.U. Copernicus Marine Service Information) global biogeochemical hindcast spanning 1999-2017, at 0.25-degree horizontal resolution. Monthly means of DIC in the time interval 1999-2017 have been extracted by CMEMS biogeochemical reanalysis for the Mediterranean Sea, at 0.042-degree horizontal resolution (Teruzzi et al., 2021). In the Atlantic site, monthly means of DIC in 1999-2017 were derived from CMEMS IBI biogeochemical model, at 0.083-degree horizontal resolution. The pH and DIC data showed consistent variations among sites, despite being derived from different biogeochemical models. The mean values of DIC and pH, as reported in Table 1, refer to sampling depth and have been measured on the entire time interval of extraction. The complete timeline of temperature and carbon data used in this paper is shown in Supplement Fig. S5, S6, S7, S8.

2.4 Growth rate estimation

Growth rates were estimated under light microscope by measuring the length of the LA-ICP-MS transect and dividing it by the number of annual growth bands crossed by the transect. The obtained values have been expressed in linear extension over year (mm/yr). In the samples where the growth bands were not easily detectable under microscope, i.e. the Elba sample, we also used the Mg/Ca results in order to check for the correspondence of Mg peaks with growth bands.

2.5 Statistical analysis

Statistics were performed on both the dataset with all the spot analyses and the dataset with the records from long and short cells separately. Short cells were referred to slow-growing cells in dark bands, usually produced in the cold season; long cells corresponded to fast-growing cells in light bands, usually produced in the warm season (Kamenos et al., 2009; Ragazzola et al., 2016). For each spot, a distinction between the cells was thus made by image analyses, except for the Elba sample, given the poor resolution of the growth bands. The Spearman’s correlation was tested to provide the statistical comparisons between Mg/Ca, Li/Ca, Sr/Ca and B/Ca records from the LA-ICP-MS analyses in L. corallioides. The Kruskal-Wallis test followed by the Dunn’s test for comparisons and the One-way ANOVA followed by the Tukey’s test for post-hoc analysis were used to compare the geochemical signals among sampling sites and to evidence the differences between group medians and means. All statistical analyses were run in R 3.6.3 software.

3 Results

3.1 Environmental data

The temperature data obtained by ORAS5 reanalysis revealed a lower amplitude of the seasonal temperature change in the Mediterranean samples with respect to the Atlantic site, as shown by the standard deviation and ΔT values in Table 1. This difference is explained in terms of the different sampling depths, with the seasonal variations decreasing with increasing depth. Temperature variations in Morlaix Bay (Atlantic Ocean) were higher, registering overall a mean seawater temperature of 12.4 °C (Table 1). Among Mediterranean samples, mean seawater temperatures were highest in the Aegadian Isl., followed by the
Elba and the Pontian Isl. (Table 1). Aegadian Isl. also registered the highest temperature variations among the Mediterranean sites (Table 1). Moderate temperature variations characterized the site in Elba, which registered the lowest monthly mean temperature among Mediterranean sites (Table 1). At the Pontian Isl., consistently with the fact that it is the deepest sampling site at 66 m depth, the lowest seawater temperature variations were found (Table 1).

The pH estimates at the Mediterranean sites were all similarly high ~8.13 and less variable than the Atlantic site (8.05). The mean pH had slightly higher values in Pontian Isl. and Elba, than Aegadian Isl. (Table 1). Similarly, DIC was higher in the Mediterranean sites and decreased in Morlaix, as this is largely dictating the pH (Table 1).

Table 1: Environmental data in each sampling site. The minimum and maximum monthly means of temperature are indicated, as well as the highest temperature variation (ΔT), the mean and the standard deviation of the time series. Data from monthly means extracted by 11 years of ORAS5 reanalysis. pH and DIC in each sampling site are also indicated. The minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation values have been measured on the time interval 1999-2017. Carbonate system parameters have been extracted from monthly means biogeochemical data provided by CMEMS.

| Sampling site | Depth (m) | Collection date | Temperature (°C) | pH | DIC (μmol/kg) | Growth rates (mm/yr) |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|----|---------------|---------------------|
|               |           |                 | min  | max  | ΔT  | mean | st. dev. | mean | st. dev. | mean | st. dev. | mean | st. dev. |               |
| Aegadian Isl. | 40        | 25/08/1993      | 13.7 | 18.8 | 5.1 | 15.9 | 1.3      | 8.11 | 0.02     | 2303.72 | 11.58 | 0.13 |
| Elba          | 45        | 01/12/1990      | 12.9 | 17.5 | 4.6 | 15.0 | 1.2      | 8.13 | 0.02     | 2322.24 | 7.08  | 0.14 |
| Pontian Isl.  | 66        | 14/07/2017      | 13.9 | 16.7 | 2.8 | 15.0 | 0.6      | 8.13 | 0.01     | 2321.29 | 6.71  | 0.10 |
| Morlaix       | 12        | 02/05/1991      | 8.3  | 17.2 | 8.9 | 12.4 | 2.5      | 8.05 | 0.04     | 2155.60 | 15.27 | 0.13 |

3.2 Mg/Ca, Li/Ca, Sr/Ca and Mg/Li

Both Li/Ca and Sr/Ca records had positive correlations with Mg/Ca in our samples of *L. corallioides* (Fig. 3 and Supplement Fig. S4). The overall mean Mg/Ca was 225.3 ± 30.4 mmol/mol, registering the minimum value in the sample from Aegadian Isl. (171.7 mmol/mol) and the maximum value in Morlaix (311.2 mmol/mol) (Fig. 4; Table 2). The Kruskal-Wallis test did not show significant differences in Mg/Ca among samples (Table A1; Fig. 4). Among Mediterranean sites, the algal sample from Aegadian Isl. had the highest Mg/Ca mean value, followed by Elba and Pontian Isl., which had the lowest Mg/Ca mean value of all sampling sites (Fig. 4). The highest mean Mg/Ca was registered in the sample from Morlaix bay, which also showed a large dispersion of data above the median Mg/Ca value (Fig. 4).
Figure 3: Correlation plots of Mg/Ca with Li/Ca and Sr/Ca. For each analyses the Spearman’s coefficient $r$, the $p$-value and the line equation are given.

Figure 4: Box plot of the statistical tests performed to evaluate the differences of Mg/Ca in *L. corallioides* collected in different sampling sites. The horizontal black lines indicate the median values. The black filled circles and the numbers inside the plot indicate the mean values.

Long cells had high Mg/Ca values; conversely, short cells corresponded to areas with low Mg/Ca ratio.

The ANOVA test followed by the Tukey’s test for multiple comparisons evidenced a significant variability of algal Mg/Ca among 3 sites in long cells (Table A2; Fig. 5). In the long cells of *L. corallioides* collected from Aegadian Isl. and Pontian Isl.,
the Mg/Ca data showed quite similar distribution (Table A2; Fig. 5). The Mg/Ca of the alga from Pontian Isl. was the lowest (Fig. 5). In Morlaix a higher Mg/Ca mean value was registered, significantly different compared to Aegadian and Pontian Isl. (Table A2; Fig. 5). In short cells, the differences in Mg/Ca among samples were not statistically significant (Table A1). The magnesium incorporation was slightly higher in Morlaix and very similar between Aegadian and Pontian Isl. samples (Fig. 5).

![Box plots of the statistical tests performed to evaluate the differences of Mg/Ca in the long and short cells of *L. corallioides* collected in different sampling sites. The horizontal black lines indicate the median values. The black filled circles and the numbers inside the plot indicate the mean values.](image)

**Figure 5:** Box plots of the statistical tests performed to evaluate the differences of Mg/Ca in the long and short cells of *L. corallioides* collected in different sampling sites. The horizontal black lines indicate the median values. The black filled circles and the numbers inside the plot indicate the mean values.

Mg/Li values in long and short cells fell in the range found by Anagnostou et al. (2019) for cultured *Clathromorphum compactum* (Fig. 8). When plotted against the extracted seawater temperature in Morlaix (Fig. 9), Mg/Li results did not reflect the seasonal oscillations in temperature.
Correlation plot between Mg/Li and seawater temperature. Data are shown for cultured *C. compactum* (Anagnostou et al., 2019) and *L. corallioides* (this paper). *L. corallioides* results are shown separately in long and short cells, per sampling site.

Figure 7: Mg/Li ratio of *L. corallioides* collected in Morlaix Bay. Note the lack of cyclic variations in Mg/Li results. In the timeline, the coldest and the warmest months have been reported. Mg/Li in the missing bands (asterisks) have been calculated as the means of the values measured in warm and cold periods. Monthly means of seawater temperature have been extracted by ORAS5 reanalysis.

**3.3 B/Ca**

The B/Ca ratio in the sample collected from Morlaix showed a moderate positive correlation with all the examined temperature proxies (Mg/Ca, Li/Ca, Sr/Ca), with a more defined trend when plotted against Li/Ca (r=0.68) and slightly less defined against Mg/Ca (r=0.58) and Sr/Ca (r=0.57) (Fig. 8). On the contrary, the Spearman’s analyses did not evidence significant correlations between B/Ca and the temperature signals in the algae collected elsewhere (p>0.05).

Overall, the B/Ca ratio in *L. corallioides* was 661.9 ± 138.9 μmol/mol, registering the minimum value in the long cells of the sample from Pontian Isl. (356.0 μmol/mol) and the maximum value in Elba (954.1 μmol/mol) (Fig. 9; Table 2).
The Kruskal-Wallis coefficient showed a highly significant difference in the B/Ca value among sites, particularly in the *L. corallioides* from the Pontian Isl., which had the lowest boron incorporation (Table A3; Fig. 9). The algae collected in Aegadian Isl. had still significantly lower B/Ca compared to those collected in Elba and Morlaix (Table A3; Fig. 9). The highest B/Ca mean value was registered in Elba, with medians comparable to Morlaix (Table A3; Fig. 9).

Figure 8: Correlation plots of B/Ca with Mg/Ca, Li/Ca and Sr/Ca in *L. corallioides* collected in Morlaix bay. For each analyses the Spearman’s coefficient $r$, the $p$-value and the line equation are given.

Figure 9: Box plot of the statistical tests performed to evaluate the differences of B/Ca in *L. corallioides* collected in different sampling sites. The horizontal black lines indicate the median values. The black filled circles and the numbers inside the plot indicate the mean values.
The ANOVA test followed by the Tukey’s test for multiple comparisons by site, for long (Table A4) and short cells (Table A5) separately, showed lower values in the Mediterranean sites and higher values in the Atlantic site (Fig. 10).

The algal cells from Pontian Isl. had the lowest mean B/Ca in both seasons, being significantly different from both the samples from Morlaix and Aegadian Isl. (Table A4, A5; Fig. 10). Morlaix had the highest mean B/Ca in both long and short cells (Table A4, A5; Fig. 10). *L. corallioides* from Aegadian Isl. had intermediate B/Ca mean value in long cells, differing significantly from both the Morlaix and Pontian Isl. samples (Table A4; Fig. 10). In short cells, the sample from Aegadian Isl. slightly differed from the one in Morlaix (Table A5; Fig. 10).

Interestingly, the long cells of all samples had higher median B/Ca values compared to short cells (Fig. 10), although only in Morlaix, the differences between B/Ca measured in long and short cells were statistically significant ($\chi^2=8.4899$, $p<0.01$).

![Box plots of the statistical tests performed to evaluate the differences of B/Ca in the long and short cells of *L. corallioides* collected in different sampling sites. The horizontal black lines indicate the median values. The black filled circles and the numbers inside the plot indicate the mean values.](image)

Table 2: Element/Ca ratio measurements in *L. corallioides*.

| Sampling site  | B/Ca (μmol/mol) | Mg/Ca (mmol/mol) | Li/Ca (μmol/mol) | Sr/Ca (mmol/mol) | Mg/Li (mol/mmol) |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|               | mean | st. dev. | mean | st. dev. | mean | st. dev. | mean | st. dev. | mean | st. dev. |
| Aegadian Isl. | 610.8 | 63.9 | 224.9 | 30.3 | 81.9 | 18.4 | 3.7 | 0.4 | 2.8 | 0.5 |
| Elba          | 757.7 | 75.5 | 223.4 | 26.4 | 85.2 | 14.3 | 3.6 | 0.4 | 2.7 | 0.3 |
| Pontian Isl.  | 462.8 | 49.2 | 216.1 | 21.9 | 79.6 | 14.6 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 2.8 | 0.4 |
| Morlaix       | 726.9 | 102.8 | 239.5 | 41.2 | 113.1 | 32.9 | 4.1 | 0.5 | 2.2 | 0.4 |
| total         | **661.9** | **138.9** | **225.3** | **30.4** | **89.0** | **23.3** | **3.7** | **0.5** | **2.6** | **0.4** |
3.4 Growth rates

In the sample from Aegadian Isl., the LA-ICP-MS transect was 1.31 mm long and 10 years of growth have been detected by coupling microscopical imaging and Mg/Ca peaks, resulting in 0.13 mm/yr of growth rate. In the Elba sample the laser transect was 1.15 mm long, crossing 8 years of growth, with a resulting growth rate of 0.14 mm/yr. The Pontian Isl. sample had 1.08 mm of transect including 11 years of growth, hence a growth rate of 0.10 mm/yr. Finally, the transect from Morlaix sample was 1.38 mm long, counting 11 years and resulting in 0.13 mm/yr of growth rate.

Growth rates did not show any linear relationship with Mg, Li and Sr/Ca, but they were positively correlated with the samples mean B/Ca values (Fig. 11).

**Figure 11:** Correlation plots of growth rates and seawater temperature with B/Ca in *L. corallioides* samples analysed in this study. Spearman’s coefficient r, the p-value and the line equation are given. Temperature variations (ΔT) correspond to the differences between the maximum and minimum temperature registered over 11 years of monthly reanalysis (ORAS5). The B/Ca means measured in long and short cells correspond respectively to the maximum and minimum temperature.

4 Discussion

In general, temperature variations affect many physiological processes involved in the biomineralization, and the rate of calcification, along with the preservation state of mineral structures, influences the content of trace elements in carbonates (Lorens, 1981; Rimstidt et al., 1998; Guasone et al., 2005; Noireaux et al., 2015; Kaczmarek et al., 2016). Trace elements concentrations recorded from the four *L. corallioides* branches analysed in this study were consistent with previously published values for other calcareous red algae (Chave, 1954; Hemming and Hanson, 1992; Hetzinger et al., 2011; Darrenougue et al., 2014). Particularly, the Mg/Ca ratios recorded in this study ranged from 172 to 311 mmol/mol, comparable to previous studies on rhodoliths of *Lithothamnion glaciale* Kjellman 1883 grown at 6-15 °C (148-326 mmol/mol) (Kamenos et al., 2008). The B/Ca ratios in *L. corallioides* from our results range from 356 to 954 μmol/mol, wider than the range measured by solution ICP-MS on bulk samples of *Neogoniolithon* sp. (352-670 μmol/mol) (Donald et al., 2017) and *C. compactum* (320-430 μmol/mol) (Anagnostou et al., 2019), both cultured with controlled pCO₂ and a pH ranging from 7.2 to 8.2. The high resolution
given by laser ablation should be more effective in measuring the heterogeneity of B/Ca across the thallus, thus explaining the wider range of our data.

The Mg/Ca results evidenced a strong relationship with the seawater temperatures extracted from ORAS5 (Table 1; Fig. 12), as expected. *L. corallioides* from Aegadian Isl. had slightly higher Mg/Ca values, followed by Elba and Pontian Isl. (Fig. 4). This was consistent with local temperature values in the Mediterranean (Table 1), since Pontian Isl. registered the lowest mean value and the lowest ΔT, while Aegadian Isl. showed the highest mean temperature and ΔT. On the contrary, the sample from Morlaix, collected at 12 m depth, showed high Mg/Ca values in both long and short cells (Table A2; Fig. 5). The monthly mean temperatures had the highest variations during the year (ΔT in Table 1), due to the shallower depth (12 m) and the geographical location. Temperature correlates to seasons, influencing primary production, respiration, and calcification in *L. corallioides* (Payri, 2000; Martin et al., 2006) as well as other calcareous red algae (Roberts et al., 2002). The high seasonality that characterized the sample from Morlaix, represented by the high ΔT (Table 1), was probably responsible for the highest variation of Mg/Ca values and undoubtedly accounted for most of the differences with Mediterranean samples. For the first time, we confirmed here the reliability of the temperature proxies Li/Ca and Sr/Ca on a wild-grown coralline alga collected at different depths and locations. Li/Ca and Sr/Ca records were positively correlated with Mg/Ca in *L. corallioides* (Fig. 3), which, in turn, showed a strong relationship with seawater temperature. Moreover, both Li and Sr/Ca showed periodical oscillations in correspondence to long and short cells, related to seasonal temperature variations (Fig. 12). Therefore, Li/Ca and Sr/Ca could be regarded as temperature proxy in *L. corallioides*, as for Mg/Ca. The coupling of the Mg/Ca ratio with Li/Ca and Sr/Ca can be considered a useful tool to gather information about past temperature for paleoclimate reconstructions (Halfar et al., 2011; Caragnano et al., 2014; Williams et al., 2014; Fowell et al., 2016; Cuny-Guirriec et al., 2019).

The B/Ca ratio in coralline algae has been rarely measured and it is not clear how the environmental factors control its incorporation. The carbonate system primarily drives the changes in B incorporation (Hemming and Hanson, 1992; Yu and Elderfield, 2007). In benthic foraminifera, B/Ca increases with [CO$_3^{2-}$] (Yu and Elderfield, 2007), whereas there is no consensus on the effect of [CO$_3^{2-}$] on Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca (Rosenthal et al., 2006; Dueñas-Bohórquez et al., 2011). Experiments with inorganic calcite showed a positive correlation between B/Ca and [DIC] (Uchikawa et al., 2015). Nevertheless, in culture experiments of the coralline algae *Neogoniolithon* sp. (Donald et al., 2017) and corals (Gagnon et al., 2021), [DIC] had a negative effect on B/Ca. DIC and B/Ca values showed a negative relationship in the samples from Morlaix, Aegadian Isl. and Pontian Isl., not observed in Elba (Fig. 9; Table 1). Significant differences among B/Ca values in the Mediterranean samples were not expected, since DIC concentrations were similar (Table 1). This evidence suggests influences others than DIC on the B signal.
The mean estimated growth rate of *L. corallioides* was 0.13 ± 0.02 mm/yr and it was supposed to decrease with increasing depth as a direct consequence of lower light availability (Halfar et al., 2011); indeed, the growth rate of the sample from Pontian Isl. was the lowest (0.10 mm/yr). As already suggested by previous studies on both synthetic and biogenic calcite, B incorporation is likely affected by growth rate (Gabitov et al., 2014; Mavromatis et al., 2015; Noireaux et al. 2015; Uchikawa et al., 2015; Kaczmarek et al., 2016). Indeed, in the cultured calcareous red alga *Neogoniolithon* sp. the B/Ca increases with increasing growth rate (Donald et al., 2017). The slowest growth rate found in Pontian Isl. possibly contributed to the lowest B/Ca value; similarly, the highest growth rate (0.14 mm/yr) in the sample from Elba, could be responsible for the highest B/Ca (Fig. 9, 11). The mean annual growth rate of the shallowest sample (Morlaix) was intermediate (0.13 mm/yr), and likely not constant during the year. In Morlaix, the alga probably significantly slowed down the growth in cold months, when the monthly mean seawater temperature was the lowest of all sampling sites (Table 1). Nevertheless, its growth rate likely speeded up in the warm season due to the abundant light availability at shallow depth and the warming of seawater (Table 1), contributing to the significantly higher B/Ca values in long cells (Fig. 10). According to this interpretation, the effect of the growth rate on B/Ca might be significant across depth and geographical regions (Fig. 11).

In Morlaix, B/Ca showed a weak positive correlation with temperature proxies (Mg/Ca, Li/Ca and Sr/Ca; Fig. 8). A positive correlation between B/Ca and Mg/Ca was already observed in planktonic foraminifera (Wara et al., 2003; Yu et al., 2007). Therefore, we reconstructed the elemental variations during the algal growth in the Morlaix sample at annual resolution, in order to highlight the influence of temperature (Fig. 12). Contrary to Mg, Li, and Sr/Ca, the B/Ca did not mirror the seasonal temperature variations accurately as the other proxies.

In the sample from the Pontian Isl., the seasonal ΔT, Mg/Ca and B/Ca values were the lowest among sites. In particular, B/Ca was significantly low (Fig. 9), differing more from the other samples than the results on Mg/Ca (Fig. 4). This suggests that in this sample the B incorporation should be influenced by factors other than those affecting Mg. In general, the poor correlation with seawater temperature (Fig. 11), and most of all the lack of distinct seasonal oscillations in B/Ca across the algal thallus (Fig. 12), excludes the suitability of B/Ca as a temperature proxy and suggests a closer relationship with growth rate rather than temperature.

Knowing the biogeochemistry and the variation of the environmental variables of seawater is crucial for a more comprehensive picture of the reliability of geochemical proxies, like the ones investigated here (Mg, Li, Sr/Ca and B/Ca). Boron incorporation in marine carbonates is still debated, rising questions about the boron isotopic fractionation, the seawater isotopic composition, and the so-called “vital effects” (i.e. the metabolic activities that can bias the proxy record). Vital effects include species-specific biologically controlled up-regulations of pH in the calcifying fluid in both corals and coralline algae, in response to pH manipulations mimicking the ongoing ocean acidification (Cornwall et al., 2017, 2018). Natural marine pH undergoes pH fluctuations with characteristic ranges of about 0.3 pH units in very shallow coastal water, in areas with restricted circulation,
or in shallow near-shore communities supporting high rates of benthic metabolism, such as seagrass beds (Cornwall et al., 2013; Duarte et al., 2013; Hofmann et al., 2011). However, this study analysed the trace element record in a single high Mg-calcite species grown in a natural wide bathymetric interval (from 10 to 66 m depth), characterized by normal marine pH (range 8.05 – 8.13, Table 1). Therefore, we considered up-regulation, if present, to be constant among our conspecific specimens, thus irrelevant for the measured B/Ca variations. Moreover, no significant yearly pH fluctuations is expected at each site. Thus, within a single specimen, the observed differences in B/Ca between short and long cells (i.e. cold and warm periods of growth) (Fig. 10) are unlikely to be related to changes in pHcf.

The paucity of B/Ca measurements from coralline algae and, most of all, the complete absence of these data on specimens grown in nature makes it difficult to compare our B/Ca data with the literature. This observation takes stock of the significance of our results and emphasizes the importance of collecting more representative B/Ca data in coralline algae. Further studies on *L. corallioides* and other calcareous red algae should be carried out to clarify the environmental factors influencing the B/Ca in these organisms, and to ensure the reliability of this proxy for paleoclimate reconstructions.

### 5 Conclusion

This paper presents the first measures of trace elements (Mg, Sr, Li and B) from the coralline alga *L. corallioides* collected across the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic Ocean, at different oceanographic settings and depths (12 m, 40 m, 45 m, and 66 m depth), providing the first geochemical data of a wild-grown coralline algal species, sampled at different depths and geographical locations. LA-ICP-MS records of Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca and Li/Ca have shown a similar trend, primarily controlled by seawater temperatures in the algal habitat. On the contrary, Mg/Li did not provide a valuable temperature proxy in this species.

In order to evaluate the control exerted by temperature over B incorporation, we also tested the correlation between B/Ca with Mg/Ca, Li/Ca and Sr/Ca. This led us to provide the first B/Ca data on wild grown coralline algae from across the photic zone in different Basins. The correlation between B/Ca and Mg/Ca in *L. corallioides* was statistically significant only in the shallow Atlantic waters of Morlaix, where seasonality, hence the seasonal temperature variations, during the algal growth was the strongest among sites. Accordingly, B incorporation differences between long and short cells of *L. corallioides* strongly depend on seasonality, being statistically significant just in Morlaix. Nevertheless, in contrast to Mg, Li and Sr/Ca, B/Ca oscillations across the algal growth showed a poor relationship with seasonal variations in seawater temperature. We found high B/Ca values in the Atlantic sample, where pH and DIC were the lowest. Carbon data did not explain the low B concentration in the Pontian Isl. sample (66 m depth), though, where pH and DIC were similar to the other Mediterranean sites. The estimation of growth rate, that was low in the Pontian Isl. sample (0.10 mm/yr) and got higher in the other Mediterranean samples and in Morlaix (~0.13 mm/yr), led us to conclude that B/Ca relates to growth rate rather than seawater temperature. B incorporation is therefore subject to the specific algal growth patterns and rates, whose knowledge is essential in order to assess the reliability of B/Ca in tracing seawater carbon variations.
Appendix A

Table A1: (a) Statistically non-significant results of tests performed to evaluate (a) the differences of Mg/Ca in *L. corallioides* and (b) the differences of Mg/Ca in the short cells of *L. corallioides* collected in different sampling sites. Test significance at $\alpha = 0.05$.

| (a) Kruskal-Wallis test (Mg/Ca) |
|-------------------------------|
| **SITE** | Df | $\chi^2$ | P |
|---------|----|---------|---|
| SITE    | 3  | 3.799   | 0.284 |

| (b) One-way ANOVA test (Mg/Ca) |
|--------------------------------|
| **Short cells** |
| Df | Sum sq. | Mean sq. | F value | Pr(>F) |
|---|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| SITE | 2 | 788.1 | 394.0 | 1.4647 | 0.2496 |
| Residuals | 26 | 6994.5 | 269.0 | |

Shapiro-Wilk normality test  
P=0.6442

Bartlett's K-squared  
P=0.5856

Table A2: Results of statistical tests performed to evaluate the differences of Mg/Ca in the long cells of *L. corallioides* collected in different sampling sites. Statistically significant p-values are given in bold. ANOVA test significance at $\alpha = 0.05$; Tukey’s test significant at $p \leq \alpha$.

| One-way ANOVA test (Mg/Ca) |
|-----------------------------|
| **Long cells** |
| Df | Sum sq. | Mean sq. | F value | Pr(>F) |
|---|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| SITE | 2 | 10897.7 | 5448.9 | 16.413 | **0.0001** |
| Residuals | 20 | 6639.8 | 332.0 | |

Shapiro-Wilk normality test  
P=0.1440

Bartlett’s K-squared  
P=0.5826

**Tukey’s test**

Multiple comparisons of means

| SITE | Mean difference | 95% confidence interval | P. adjusted |
|------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Morlaix-Aegadian Isl. | 38.32918 | 15.09816 | 61.56019 | **0.00130** |
| Pontian Isl.-Aegadian Isl. | -10.84361 | -35.48382 | 13.79661 | 0.51716 |
| Pontian Isl.-Morlaix | -49.17278 | -72.40380 | -25.94177 | **0.00009** |

Table A3: Results of statistical tests performed to evaluate the differences of B/Ca in *L. corallioides* collected in different sampling sites. Statistically significant p-values are given in bold. Kruskal-Wallis test significance at $\alpha = 0.05$; Dunn’s test significant at $p \leq \alpha/2$.
| SITE      | Df | \( \chi^2 \) | P          |
|-----------|----|-------------|------------|
| SITE      | 3  | 79.816      | <2.2e-16   |

**Dunn's test**
Comparisons by SITE (Bonferroni)

| Z        | P. adjusted | Aegadian Isl. | Elba | Morlaix |
|----------|-------------|---------------|------|---------|
| Elba     | -4.64580    |               |      |         |
|          | 0.00000     |               |      |         |
| Morlaix  | -3.07755    | 1.17249       |      |         |
|          | 0.00630     | 0.72300       |      |         |
| Pontian Isl. | 2.80564 | 8.38673 | 6.15663 |      |
|          | 0.01510     | 0.00000       | 0.00000 |         |

Table A4: Results of statistical tests performed to evaluate the differences of B/Ca in the long cells of \( L. \ corallioides \) collected in different sampling sites. Statistically significant p-values are given in bold. ANOVA test significance at \( \alpha = 0.05 \); Tukey’s test significant at \( p \leq \alpha \).

**One-way ANOVA test (B/Ca)**
Long cells

| SITE | Df | Sum sq. | Mean sq. | F value | Pr(>F) |
|------|----|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| SITE | 2  | 428364  | 214182   | 33.066  | 0.0000 |
| Residuals | 20 | 129546  | 6477     |         |        |

Shapiro-Wilk normality test
P=0.5527

Bartlett’s K-squared
P=0.5470

**Tukey's test**
Multiple comparisons of means

| SITE       | Mean difference | 95% confidence interval | P. adjusted |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|            | SITE            | lower bound | upper bound | P. adjusted |
| Morlaix-Aegadian Isl. | 190.11730 | 87.50374 | 292.73094 | 0.00040 |
| Pontian Isl.-Aegadian Isl. | -135.42490 | -244.26303 | -26.58672 | 0.01342 |
| Pontian Isl.-Morlaix | -325.54220 | -428.15581 | -222.92862 | 0.00000 |

Table A5: Results of statistical tests performed to evaluate the differences of B/Ca in the short cells of \( L. \ corallioides \) collected in different sampling sites. Statistically significant p-values are given in bold. ANOVA test significance at \( \alpha = 0.05 \); Tukey’s test significant at \( p \leq \alpha \).
The Shapiro-Wilk normality test resulted in a P-value of 0.1699. Bartlett's K-squared test gave a P-value of 0.0576.

### Tukey's test

Multiple comparisons of means:

| SITE                  | Mean difference SITE | 95% confidence interval | P. adjusted |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Morlaix-Aegadian Isl. | -43.09640            | -19.61932 - 105.81212   | 0.22146     |
| Pontian Isl.-Aegadian Isl. | -156.90170        | -223.66771 - 90.13574   | 0.00001     |
| Pontian Isl.-Morlaix  | -199.99810           | -260.58727 - 139.40898  | 0.00000     |

**Data availability**

Data resulting from this study are available at [https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.932201](https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.932201).

Environmental data were provided by E.U. Copernicus Marine Service Information.

DIC data in the Mediterranean: [https://doi.org/10.25423/CMCC/MEDSEA_MULTIYEAR_BGC_006_008_MEDBFM3](https://doi.org/10.25423/CMCC/MEDSEA_MULTIYEAR_BGC_006_008_MEDBFM3)

DIC data in the Atlantic Ocean:
[https://resources.marine.copernicus.eu/?option=com_csw&view=details&product_id=IBI_MULTIYEAR_BGC_005_003](https://resources.marine.copernicus.eu/?option=com_csw&view=details&product_id=IBI_MULTIYEAR_BGC_005_003)

pH data:
[https://resources.marine.copernicus.eu/?option=com_csw&view=details&product_id=GLOBAL_REANALYSIS_BIO_001_029](https://resources.marine.copernicus.eu/?option=com_csw&view=details&product_id=GLOBAL_REANALYSIS_BIO_001_029)

Temperature data: [https://icdc.cen.uni-hamburg.de/daten/reanalysis-ocean/easy-init-ocean/ecmwf-oras5.html](https://icdc.cen.uni-hamburg.de/daten/reanalysis-ocean/easy-init-ocean/ecmwf-oras5.html)

**Author contributions**

DB, VB, and GP conceptualized the research question and study design. AL, DB, and VB conducted the experimental work; AM and GP the environmental data extraction. GP performed the data analysis and prepared the draft of the paper. All authors contributed to the editing and reviewing of the paper.

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Acknowledgements**

This paper is a contribution to the Project MIUR-Dipartimenti di Eccellenza 2018-2022 DISAT-UNIMIB.
The Pontian Isl. sample has been collected in the framework of "Convenzione MATTM-CNR per i Programmi di Monitoraggio per la Direttriva sulla Strategia Marina (MSFD, Art. 11, Dir. 2008/56/CE)". Captain, crew and scientific staff of RV Minerva Uno cruise STRATEGIA MARINA LIGURE-TIRRENO are acknowledged for their efficient and skilful cooperation at sea. Financial support for GP was provided by the University of Milano-Bicocca as a PhD fellowship.

References

Adey, W. H.: The genus Clathromorphum (Corallinaceae) in the Gulf of Maine, Hydrobiologia, 26, 539–573, doi:10.1007/BF00045545, 1965.
Adey, W. H., and McKibbin, D.: Studies on the maerl species Phymatolithon calcareum (Pallas) nov. comb. and Lithothamnion coralloides Crouan in the Ria de Vigo, Botanica marina, 13, 100–106, doi:10.1515/botm.1970.13.2.100, 1970.
Allen, K. A., Hönsch, B., Eggins, S. M., and Rosenthal, Y.: Environmental controls on B/Ca in calcite tests of the tropical planktic foraminifer species Globigerinoides ruber and Globigerinoides sacculifer, Earth. Planet. Sci. Lett., 351–352, 270–280, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.epsl.2012.07.004, 2012.
Anagnostou, E., Williams, B., Westfield, I., Foster, G. L., and Ries, J. B.: Calibration of the pH-δ11B and temperature-Mg/Li proxies in the long-lived high-latitude crustose coralline red alga Clathromorphum compactum via controlled laboratory experiments, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 254, 142–155, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2019.03.015, 2019.
Andersson, A. J., Mackenzie, F. T., and Bates, N. R.: Life on the margin: implications on Mgcalcite, high latitude and cool-water marine calcifiers, Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser., 373, 265–273, doi:10.3354/meps07639, 2008.
Andersson, A. J. and Mackenzie, F. T.: Technical comment on Kroeker et al. (2010) Meta-analysis reveals negative yet variable effects of ocean acidification on marine organisms, Ecol. Lett., 13, 1419–1434, doi:10.1111/j.1461-0248.2011.01646.x, 2011.
Barker, S., Cacho, I., Benway, H. and Tachikawa, K.: Planktonic foraminiferal Mg/Ca as a proxy for past oceanic temperatures: a methodological overview and data compilation for the Last Glacial Maximum, Quat. Sci. Rev., 24, 821–834, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2004.07.016, 2005.
Basso, D.: Study of living calcareous algae by a paleontological approach: the non-geniculate Corallinaceae (Rhodophyta) of the soft bottoms of the Tyrrhenian Sea (western Mediterranean). The genera Phymatolithon Foslie and Mesophyllum Lemoine, Riv. Ital. Paleontol. S., 100, 575–596, doi:10.13130/2039-4942/8602, 1995a.
Basso, D.: Living calcareous algae by a paleontological approach: the genus Lithothamnion Heydrich nom. cons. from the soft bottoms of the Tyrrhenian Sea (Mediterranean), Riv. Ital. Paleontol. S., 101, 349–366, doi:10.13130/2039-4942/8592, 1995b.
Basso, D.: Carbonate production by calcareous red algae and global change, Geodiversitas, 34 (1), 13–33, doi:10.5252/g2012n1a2, 2012.
Basso, D., Babbini, L., Kaleb, S., Bracchi, V.A. and Falace, A.: Monitoring deep Mediterranean rhodolith beds, Aquat. Conserv., 26, 549–561, doi:10.1002/aqc.2586, 2016.
Basso, D., Babbini, L., Ramos-Esplá, A.A. and Salomidi, M.: Mediterranean rhodolith beds, in: Rhodolith/maërl beds: A global perspective, edited by: Riosmena-Rodriguez, R., Wendy Nelson, W. and Aguirre, J., Springer, Cambridge, 281–298, doi:10.1007/978-3-319-29315-8_11, 2017.

Basso, D. and Brusoni, F.: The molluscan assemblage of a transitional environment: the Mediterranean maerl from off the Elba Island (Tuscan Archipelago, Tyrrhenian Sea), Boll. Malacol., 40 (1–4), 37–45, 2004.

Berner, R. A.: The role of magnesium in the crystal growth of calcite and aragonite from sea water, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 39, 489–504, doi:10.1016/0016-7037(75)90102-7, 1975.

Brewer, P. G.: Ocean chemistry of the fossil fuel signal: The haline signature of “Business as Usual”, Geophys. Res. Lett., 24, 1367–1369, 1997.

Cabioch, J.: Contribution à l’étude morphologique, anatomique et systématique de deux Mélobésiées: Lithothamnium calcareum (Pallas) Areschoug et Lithothamnium corallioides Crouan, Bot. Mar., 9, 33–53, 1966.

Caldeira, K., Akai, M., Brewer, P., Chen, B., Haugan, P., Iwama, T., Johnston, P., Keshgi, H., Li, Q., Ohsumi, T., Poertner, H., Sabine, C., Shirayama, Y., and Thomson, J.: Ocean Storage, in: Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage: A Special Report of IPCC Working Group III, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge UK, 2005.

Callendar, G. S.: The artificial production of carbon dioxide and its influence on temperature. Quarterly Journal Roy. Met. Soc., 64, 223–240, 1938.

Caragnano, A., Basso, D., Jacob, D. E., Storz, D., Rodondi, G., Benzoni, F. and Dutrieux, E.: Coralline red alga Lithophyllum kotschyanum f. affine as proxy of climate variability in the Yemen coast, Gulf of Aden (NW Indian Ocean), Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 124, 1–17, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2013.09.021, 2014.

Caragnano, A., Basso, D., Storz, D., Jacob, D. E., Ragazzola, F., Benzoni, F. and Dutrieux, E.: Elemental variability in the coralline alga Lithophyllum yemenense as an archive of past climate in the Gulf of Aden (NW Indian Ocean), J. Phycol., 53, 381–395, doi:10.1111/jpy.12509, 2017.

Carro, B., Lopez, L., Peña, V., Bábara, I. and Barreiro, R.: DNA barcoding allows the accurate assessment of European maerl diversity: a proof-of-concept study, Phytotaxa, 190, 176–189, doi:10.11646/phytotaxa.190.1.12, 2014.

Chan, P., Halfar, J., Adey, W., Hetzinger, S., Zack, T., Moore, G. W. K., Wortmann, U. G., Williams, B. and Hou, A.: Multicentennial record of Labrador Sea primary productivity and sea-ice variability archived in coralline algal barium, Nat. Commun., 8, 15543, doi:10.1038/ncomms15543, 2017.

Chave, K.E.: Aspects of the biogeochemistry of magnesium 1. Calcareous marine organisms, J. Geol., 62 (3), 266–283., 1954.

Cornwall, C. E., Comeau, S. and Mcculloch, M. T.: Coralline algae elevate pH at the site of calcification under ocean acidification, Glob. Change Biol., 23 (10), 1–12, doi:10.1111/gcb.13673, 2017.

Cornwall, C. E., Comeau, S., DeCarlo, T. M., Moore, B., D’Alexis, Q. and McCulloch, M. T.: Resistance of corals and coralline algae to ocean acidification: physiological control of calcification under natural pH variability, Proc. R. Soc. B, 286: 20181168, doi:10.1098/rspb.2018.1168, 2018.
Cornwall, C. E., Hepburn C. D., McGraw C. M., Currie K. I., Pilditch C. A., Hunter K. A., Boyd P. W., Hurd C. L.: Diurnal fluctuations in seawater pH influence the response of a calcifying macroalga to ocean acidification, Proc R Soc B, 280: 20132201, doi:10.1098/rspb.2013.2201, 2013.

Corrège, T.: Sea surface temperature and salinity reconstruction from coral geochemical tracers, Palaeogeogr., Palaeoclimatol., Palaeoecol., 232, 408–428, doi:10.1016/j.palaeo.2005.10.014, 2006.

Comeau, S., Cornwall, C. E. and McCulloch, M. T.: Decoupling between the response of coral calcifying fluid pH and calcification under ocean acidification, Sci. Rep., 7, 7573, doi:10.1038/s41598-017-08003-z, 2017.

Cuny-Guirriec, K., Douville, E., Reynaud, S., Allemand, D., Bordier, L., Canesi, M., Mazzoli, C., Taviani, M., Canese, S., McCulloch, M., Trotter, J., Rico-Esenaro, S. D., Sanchez-Cabeza, J.-A., Ruiz-Fernández, A. C., Carricart-Ganivet, J. P., Scott, P. M., Sadekov, A. and Montagna, P.: Coral Li/Mg thermometry: Caveats and constraints, Chem. Geol., 523, 162–178, doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2019.03.038, 2019.

Darrenougue, N., De Deckker, P., Egging, S. and Payri, C.: Sea-surface temperature reconstruction from trace elements variations of tropical coralline red algae, Quat. Sci. Rev., 93, 34–46, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2014.03.005, 2014.

DeCarlo, T. M., Holcomb, M., and McCulloch, M. T.: Reviews and syntheses: Revisiting the boron systematics of aragonite and their application to coral calcification, Biogeosciences, 15, 2819–2834, doi:10.5194/bg-15-2819-2018, 2018.

Dickson, A.G.: Thermodynamics of the dissociation of boric acid in synthetic seawater from 273.15 to 318.15 K, Deep-Sea Res., 37, 755–766, doi:10.1016/0198-0149(90)90004-F, 1990.

D’Olivo, J. P., Sinclair, D. J., Rankenburg, K. and McCulloch, M. T.: A universal multi-trace element calibration for reconstructing sea surface temperatures from long-lived Porites corals: removing ‘vital-effects’, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta 239, 109–135, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2018.07.035, 2018.

Donald, H. K., Ries, J. B., Stewart, J. A., Fowell, S. E. and Foster, G. L.: Boron isotope sensitivity to seawater pH change in a species of Neogoniolithon coralline red alga, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 217, 240–253, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2017.08.021, 2017.

Douville, É., Patene, M., Cabioch, G., Louvat, P., Gaillardet, J., Juillet-Leclerc, A. and Ayliffe, L.: Abrupt sea surface pH change at the end of the Younger Dryas in the central sub-equatorial Pacific inferred from boron isotope abundance in corals (Porites), Biogeosciences, 7(8), 2445–2459, doi:10.5194/bg-7-2445-2010, 2010.

Duarte, C. M., Hendriks, I. E., Moore, T. S., Olsen, Y. S., Steckbauer, A., Ramajo, L., Jacob Carstensen, J., Trotter, J. A., McCulloch, M.: Is ocean acidification an open-ocean syndrome? Understanding anthropogenic impacts on seawater pH, Estuaries and Coasts, 36 (2), 221-236, 2013.

Dueñas-Bohórquez, A., Raitzsch, M., Nooijer, L. J. and Reichart, G.-J.: Independent impacts of calcium and carbonate ion concentration on Mg and Sr incorporation in cultured benthic foraminifera, Mar. Micropaleontol., 81 (3–4), 122–130, doi:10.1016/j.marmicro.2011.08.002, 2011.

Fairhall, A. W.: Accumulation of fossil CO2 in the atmosphere and the sea, Nature, 245, 20–23 (Erratum Nature v. 246, 106), 1973.
Fietzke, J., Heinemann, A., Taubner, I., Böhm, F., Erez, J., Eisenhauer, A.: Boron isotope ratio determination in carbonates via LA-MC-ICP-MS using soda-lime glass standards as reference material, J. Anal. At. Spectrom., 12, doi:10.1039/C0JA00036A, 2010.

Fietzke, J., Ragazzola, F., Halfar, J., Dietze, H., Foster, L. C., Hansteen, T. H., Eisenhauer, A. and Steneck, R. S.: Century-scale trends and seasonality in pH and temperature for shallow zones of the Bering Sea, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 112, 2960–2965, doi:10.1073/pnas.1419216112, 2015.

Foster, G. L.: Seawater pH, pCO₂ and [CO₃²⁻] variations in the Caribbean Sea over the last 130 kyr: a boron isotope and B/Ca study of planktic foraminifera, Earth and Planet. Sci. Lett., 271, 254–266, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2008.04.015, 2008.

Foster, M.S.: Rhodoliths: between rocks and soft places, J. Phycology, 37, 659–667, doi:10.1046/j.1529-8817.2001.00195.x, 2001.

Fowell, S.E., Sandford, K., Stewart, J.A., Castillo, K.D., Ries, J.B. and Foster, G.L.: Intrareef variations in Li/Mg and Sr/Ca sea surface temperature proxies in the Caribbean reef-building coral Siderastrea sidereal, Paleoceanography, 31, 1315–1329, doi:10.1002/2016PA002968, 2016.

Frantz, B.R., Foster, M.S. and Riosmena-Rodríguez, R.: Clathromorphum nereostratum (Corallinales, Rhodophyta): The oldest alga?, J. Phycology, 41, 770–773, doi:10.1111/j.1529-8817.2005.00107.x, 2005.

Freiwald, A. and Henrich, R.: Reefal coralline algal build-ups within the Arctic Circle: morphology and sedimentary dynamics under extreme environmental seasonality, Sedimentology, 41, 963–984, doi:10.1111/j.1365-3091.1994.tb01435.x, 1994.

Gabitov, R. I., Rollion-Bard, C., Tripati, A. and Sadekov, A.: In situ study of boron partitioning between calcite and fluid at different crystal growth rates, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 137, 81–92, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2014.04.014, 2014.

Gagnon, A. C., Gothmann, A. M., Branson, O., Rae, J. W. B. and Stewart, J. A.: Controls on boron isotopes in a cold-water coral and the cost of resilience to ocean acidification, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 554, 116662, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2020.116662, 2021.

Gattuso, J.-P., Frankignoule, M., and Smith, S. V.: Measurement of community metabolism and significance in the coral reef CO₂ source-sink debate, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 96, 13017–13022, 1999.

Gussone, N., Böhm, F., Eisenhauer, A., Dietzel, M., Heuser, A., Teichert, B. M. A., Reitner, J., Wörheide, G. and Dullo, W.-C.: Calcium isotope fractionation in calcite and aragonite, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 69, 4485–4494, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2005.06.003, 2005.

Halfar, J., Zack, T., Kronz, A. and Zachos, J. C.: Growth and high-resolution paleoenvironmental signals of rhodoliths (coralline red algae): A new biogenic archive, J. Phys. Res., 105, (9), doi:10.1029/1999JC000128, 2000.

Halfar, J., Steneck, R. S., Joachimski, M., Kronz, A. and Wanamaker, A. D. Jr.: Coralline red algae as high-resolution climate recorders, Geology, 36, 463–466, doi:10.1130/G24635A.1, 2008.

Halfar, J., Williams, B., Hetzinger, S., Steneck, R.S., Lebednik, P., Winsborough, C., Omar, A., Chan, P. and Wanamaker, A.D.: 225 years of Bering Sea climate and ecosystem dynamics revealed by coralline algal growth-increment widths, Geology, 39 (6), 579–582, doi:10.1130/g31996.1, 2011.
Hemming, N. G. and Hanson, G. N.: Boron isotopic composition and concentration in modern marine carbonates, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 56 (1), 537–543, doi:10.1016/0016-7037(92)90151-8, 1992.

Hemming, N. G. and Hönisch, B.: Boron isotopes in marine carbonate sediments and the pH of the ocean, in: Proxies in Late Cenozoic Paleoceanography, edited by: Hillaire-Marcel, C. and de Vernal, A., Elsevier, 717–734, 2007.

Henehan, M. J., Rae, J. W. B., Foster, G. L., Erez, J., Prentice, K. C., Kucera, M., Bostock, H. C., Martinez-Boti, M. A., Milton, J. A., Wilson, P. A., Marshall, B. J. and Elliott, T.: Calibration of the boron isotope proxy in the planktonic foraminifera Globigerinoides ruber for use in palaeo-CO2 reconstruction, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 364, 111–122, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2012.12.029, 2013.

Henehan, M.J., Foster, G.L., Rae, J.W.B., Prentice, K.C., Erez, J., Bostock, H.C., Marshall, B.J. and Wilson, P.A.: Evaluating the utility of B/Ca ratios in planktic foraminifera as a proxy for the carbonate system: a case study of Globigerinoides ruber: investigating controls on G. ruber B/Ca, Geochem. Geophys., 16, 1052–1069, doi:10.1002/2014GC005514, 2015.

Hetzinger, S., Halfar, J., Kronz, A., Steneck, R., Adey, W. H., Philipp, A. L. and Schöne, B.: High-resolution Mg/Ca ratios in a coralline red alga as a proxy for Bering Sea temperature variations from 1902-1967, Palaeois, 24, 406–412, doi:10.2110/palo.2008.p08-116r, 2009.

Hetzinger, S., Halfar, J., Zack, T., Gamboa, G., Jacob, D.E., Kunz, B.E., Kronz, A., Adey, W., Lebednik, P.A. and Steneck, R.S.: High-resolution analysis of trace elements in crustose coralline algae from the North Atlantic and North Pacific by laser ablation ICP-MS, Palaeogeogr. Palaeoclimatol. Palaeoecol., 302 (1-2), 81–94, doi:10.1016/j.palaeo.2010.06.004, 2011.

Hoegh-Guldberg, O., Mumby, P. J., Hooten, A. J., Steneck, R. S., Greenfield, P., Gomez, E., Harvell, C. D., Sale, P. F., Edwards, A. J., Caldeira, K., Knowlton, N., Eakin, C. M., Iglesias-Prieto, R., Muthiga, N., Bradbury, R. H., Dubi, A. and Hatziolos, M. E.: Coral reefs under rapid climate change and ocean acidification, Science, 318 (5857), 1737–1742, doi:10.1126/science.1152509, 2007.

Holcomb, M., DeCarlo, T. M., Gaetani, G. A., and McCulloch, M.: Factors affecting B/Ca ratios in synthetic aragonite, Chem. Geol., 437, 67–76, doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2016.05.007, 2016.

Hönisch, B. and Hemming, N. G.: Surface ocean pH response to variations in pCO2 through two full glacial cycles, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 236, 305–314, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2005.04.027, 2005.

Hönisch, B., Ridgwell, A., Schmidt, D. N., Thomas, E., Gibbs, S. J., Sluijs, A., Zeebe, R., Kump, L., Martindale, R. C., Greene, S. E. et al.: The geological record of ocean acidification, Science, 335 (6072), 1058–1063, doi:10.1126/science.1208277, 2012. Irvine, L. M. and Chamberlain, Y. M. (Eds.): Volume 1 Rhodophyta Part 2B. Corallinales, Hildenbrandiales, Natural History Museum, London, 1994.

Hofmann, G. E., Smith, J. E., Johnson, K. S., Send, U., Levin, L. A., Micheli, F., Paytan, A. et al.: High-frequency dynamics of ocean pH: a multi-ecosystem comparison, PLoS ONE, 6: e28983, 2011.
Hou, A., Halfar, J., Adey, W., Wortmann, U. G., Zajacz, Z., Tsay, A., Williams, B. and Chan, P.: Long-lived coralline alga records multidecadal variability in Labrador Sea carbon isotopes, Chem. Geol., 526, doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2018.02.026, 2018.

Jochum, K. P., Scholz, D., Stoll, B., Weis, U., Wilson, S. A., Yang, Q., Schwab, A., Börner, N., Jacob, D. E., Andreae, M. O.: Accurate trace element analysis of speleothems and biogenic calcium carbonates by LA-ICP-MS, Chem. Geol., 318-319, 31-44, doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2012.05.009, 2012.

Kaczmarek, K., Nehrke, G., Misra, S., Bijma, J. and Elderfield, H.: Investigating the effects of growth rate and temperature on the B/Ca ratio and δ11B during inorganic calcite formation, Chem. Geol., 421, 81–92, doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2015.12.002, 2016.

Kamenos, N. A., Cusack, M. and Moore, P. G.: Coralline algae are global paleothermometers with bi-weekly resolution, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 72, 771–779, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2007.11.019, 2008.

Kamenos, N. A., Cusack, M., Huthwelker, T., Lagarde, P. and Scheibling, R. E.: Mg-lattice associations in red coralline algae, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 73, 1901–1907, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2009.01.010, 2009.

Kamenos, N. A., Hoey, T., Nienow, P., Fallick, A. E. and Claverie, T.: Reconstructing Greenland Ice sheet runoff using coralline algae, Geology, 40, 1095-1098, doi:10.1130/G33405.1, 2012.

Keul, N., Langer, G., Thoms, S., de Nooijer, L. J., Reichart, G. J. and Bijma, J.: Exploring foraminiferal Sr/Ca as a new carbonate system proxy, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 202, 374–386, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2016.11.022, 2017.

Klochko, K., Cody, G. D., Tossell, J. A., Dera, P. and Kaufman, A. J.: Re-evaluating boron speciation in biogenic calcite and aragonite using 11B MAS NMR, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 73, 1890–1900, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2009.01.002, 2009.

Lorens, R. B.: Sr, Cd, Mn and Co distribution coefficients in calcite as a function of calcite precipitation rate, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 45, 553–561, doi:10.1016/0016-7037(81)90188-5, 1981.

Martin, S., Castets, M.-D. and Clavier, J.: Primary production, respiration and calcification of the temperate free-living coralline alga Lithothamnion corallioides, Aquat. Bot., 85, 121–128, doi:10.1016/j.aquabot.2006.02.005, 2006.

Masson-Delmotte, V., Zhai, P., Pirani, A., Connors, S. L., Péan, C., Berger, S., Caud, N., Chen, Y., Goldfarb, Zhou, B. et al.: IPCC: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, in: Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge UK, 2021.

Mavromatis, V., Montouillout, V., Noireaux, J., Gaillardet, J. and Schott, J.: Characterization of boron incorporation and speciation in calcite and aragonite from co-precipitation experiments under controlled pH, temperature and precipitation rate, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 150, 299–313, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2014.10.024, 2015.

McCulloch, M., Trotter, J., Montagna, P., Falter, J., Dunbar, R., Freiwald, A., Försterra, G., Correa, M. L., Maier, C., Rüggeberg, A., Taviani, M.: Resilience of cold-water scleractinian corals to ocean acidification: boron isotopic systematics of pH and saturation state up-regulation, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 87, 21–34, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2012.03.027, 2012.Melbourne, L.A., Hernández-Kantún, J., Russell, S. and Brodie, J.: There is more to maerl than meets the eye: DNA
barcoding reveals a new species in Britain, *Lithothamnion erinaceum* sp. nov. (Hapalidiales, Rhodophyta), Eur. J. Phycol., 52(2), 166–178, doi:10.1080/09670262.2016.1269953, 2017.

Moberly, R.: Composition of magnesian calcites of algae and pelecypods by electron microprobe analysis, Sedimentology, 11: 61–82, doi:10.1111/j.1365-3091.1968.tb00841.x, 1968.

Moberly, R: Microprobe study of diagenesis in calcareous algae, Sedimentology, 14: 113–123, doi: 10.1111/j.1365-3091.1970.tb00185.x, 1970.

Montagna, P. and Douville, E.: Geochemical proxies in marine biogenic carbonates: New developments and applications to global change, Chem. Geol., 533: 119411, doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2019.119411, 2020.

Morse, J. W., Andersson, A. J. and Mackenzie, F. T.: Initial responses of carbonate-rich shelf sediments to rising atmospheric pCO₂ and “ocean acidification”: role of high Mg-calcites, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 70, 5814–5830, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2006.08.017, 2006.

Nash, M. C., Martin, S., and Gattuso, J.-P.: Mineralogical response of the Mediterranean crustose coralline alga *Lithophyllum cabiochae* to near-future ocean acidification and warming, Biogeosciences, 13, 5937–5945, doi:10.5194/bg-13-5937-2016, 2016.

Noireaux, J., Mavromatis, V., Gaillardet, J., Schott, J., Montouillout, V., Louvat, P., Rollion-Bard, C. and Neuville, D. R.: Crystallographic control on the boron isotope paleo-pH proxy, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 430, 398–407, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2015.07.063, 2015.

Paris, G., Bartolini, A., Donnadieu, Y., Beaumont, V. and Gaillardet, J.: Investigating boron isotopes in a middle Jurassic micritic sequence: primary vs. diagenetic signal, Chem. Geol., 275, 117–126, doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2010.03.013, 2010.

Payri, C. E.: Production primaire et calcification des algues benthiques en milieu corallien, Oceanis, 26, 427–463, 2000.

Potin, P., Floc’h, J.-Y., Augris, C. and Cabioch, J.: Annual growth rate of the calcareous red algae *Lithothamnion corallioides* (Corallinales, Rhodophyta) in the Bay of Brest, France, Hydrobiologia, 204–205, 263–267, 1990.

Rae, J. B. R., Foster, G. L., Schmidt, D. N. and Elliott, T.: Boron isotopes and B/Ca in benthic foraminifera: proxies for the deep ocean carbonate system, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 302, 403–413, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2010.12.034, 2011.

Ragazzola, F., Foster, L. C., Form, A., Anderson, P. S. L., Hansteen, T. H. and Fietzke, J.: Ocean acidification weakens the structural integrity of coralline algae, Glob. Change Biol., 18, 2804–2812, doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2012.02756.x, 2012.

Ragazzola, F., Foster, L. C., Jones, C. J., Scott, T. B., Fietzke, J., Kilburn, M. R. and Schmidt, D. N.: Impact of high CO₂ on the geochemistry of the coralline algae *Lithothamnion glaciale*, Sci. Rep., 6, 20572, doi:10.1038/srep20572, 2016.

Ragazzola, F., Caragnano, A., Basso, D., Schmidt, D. N. and Fietzke, J.: Establishing temperate crustose Early Holocene coralline algae as archived for paleoenvironmental reconstructions of the shallow water habitats of the Mediterranean Sea, Paleontology, 63, 155–170, doi:10.1111/pala.12447, 2020.

Ries, J. B.: Mg fractionation in crustose coralline algae: geochemical, biological and sedimentological implications of secular variation in Mg/Ca ratio of seawater, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 70, 891–900, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2005.10.025, 2006.
Ries, J. B., Ghazaleh, M. N., Connolly, B., Westfield, I. and Castillo, K. D.: Impacts of seawater saturation state (ΩA = 0.4–4.6) and temperature (10, 25 °C) on the dissolution kinetics of whole-shell biogenic carbonates, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 192, 318–337, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2016.07.001, 2016.

Rimstidt, J.D., Balog, A. and Webb, J.: Distribution of trace elements between carbonate minerals and aqueous solutions, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 62 (11), 1851–1863, doi:10.1016/S0016-7037(98)00125-2, 1998.

Roberts, R. D., Kühl, M., Glud, R. N. and Rysgaard, S.: Primary production of crustose coralline algae in a high Artic Fjord, J. Phycol., 38 (2), 273–283, doi:10.1046/j.1529-8817.2002.01104.x, 2002.

Rosenthal, Y., Lear, C. H., Oppo, D. W. and Braddock, K. L.: Temperature and carbonate ion effects on Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios in benthic foraminifera: Aragonitic species Hoegludina elegans, Paleoceanography, 21, PA 1007, doi:10.1029/2005PA001158, 2006.

Savini, A., Basso, D., Bracchi, V. A., Corselli, C. and Pennetta, M.: Maerl-bed mapping and carbonate quantification on submerged terraces offshore the Cilento peninsula (Tyrrenian Sea, Italy), Geodiversitas, 34 (1), 77–98, doi:10.5252/g2012n1a5, 2012.

Schöne, B.R., Fiebig, J., Pfeiffer, M., Gleß, R., Hickson, J., L. A. Johnson, A., Dreyer, W. and Oschmann, W.: Climate records from a bivalved Methuselah (Arctica islandica, Mollusca; Iceland), Palaeogeogr., Palaeoclimatol., Palaeoecol., 228, 130–148, doi:10.1016/j.palaeo.2005.03.049, 2005.

Teruzzi, A., Di Biagio, V., Feudale, L., Bolzon, G., Lazzari, P., Salon, S., Di Biagio, V., Coidessa, G. and Cossarini, G.: Mediterranean Sea Biogeochemical Reanalysis (CMEMS MED-Biogeochemistry, MedBFM3 system) (Version 1) [Data set], Copernicus Monitoring Environment Marine Service (CMEMS), 2021.

Uchikawa, J., Penman, D. E., Zachos, J. C. and Zeebe, R. E.: Experimental evidence for kinetic effects on B/Ca in synthetic calcite: Implications for potential B(OH)₄⁻ and B(OH)₃ incorporation, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 150, 171–191, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2014.11.022, 2015.

Vengosh, A., Kolodny, Y., Starinsky, A., Chivas, A.R. and McCulloch, M.T.: Coprecipitation and isotopic fractionation of boron in modern biogenic carbonates, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 55, 2901–2910, doi:10.1016/0016-7037(91)90455-E, 1991.

Wara, M. W., Delaney, M. L., Bullen, T. D. and Ravelo, A. C.: Possible roles of pH, temperature, and partial dissolution in determining boron concentration and isotopic composition in planktonic foraminifera, Paleoceanography, 18 (4), 1100, doi:10.1029/2002PA000797, 2003.

Williams, B., Halfar, J., Delong, K. L., Hetzinger, S., Steneck, R. S. and Jacob, D. E.: Multi-specimen and multi-site calibration of Aleutian coralline algal Mg/Ca to sea surface temperature, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 139, 190–204, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2014.04.006, 2014.

Wilson, S., Blake, C., Berges, J. A. and Maggs, C. A.: Environmental tolerances of free-living coralline algae (maerl): implications for European marine conservation, Biol. Conserv., 120, 279–289, doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2004.03.001, 2004.
Yu, J. M. and Elderfield, H.: Benthic foraminiferal B/Ca ratios reflect deep water carbonate saturation state, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 258, 73–86, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2007.03.025, 2007.

Yu, J. M., Elderfield, H. and Hönisch, B.: B/Ca in planktonic foraminifera as a proxy for surface water pH, Paleoceanography, 22, 2202, doi:10.1029/2006PA001347, 2007.

Yu, J., Day, J., Greaves, M. and Elderfield, H.: Determination of multiple element/calcium ratios in foraminiferal calcite by quadrupole ICP-MS, Geochem. Geophys., 6, Q08P01, doi:10.1029/2005GC000964, 2015.

Zeebe, R. E. and Wolf-Gladrow, D. (Eds.): CO₂ in seawater: equilibrium, kinetics, isotopes, Elsevier Oceanography Book Series, 65, Amsterdam, 2001.

Zinke, J., D’Olivo, J. P., Gey, C. J., McCulloch, M. T., Bruggemann, J. H., Lough, J. M. and Guillaume, M. M. M.: Multi-trace-element sea surface temperature coral re-construction for the southern Mozambique Channel reveals teleconnections with the tropical Atlantic, Biogeosciences, 16, 695–712, doi:10.5194/bg-16-695-2019, 2019.

Zuo, H., Balmaseda, M. A., Tietsche, S., Mogensen, K. and Mayer, M.: The ECMWF operational ensemble reanalysis–analysis system for ocean and sea ice: a description of the system and assessment, Ocean Sci., 15, 779–808, doi:10.5194/os-15-779-2019, 2019.