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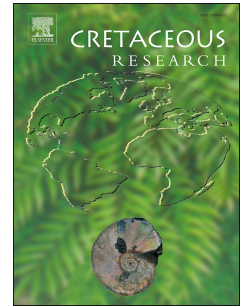


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Ait-Itto Fatima-Zahra: I participated in the field trip, collecting and analyzing samples, and taking the lead in writing the original draft manuscript.

Mathieu Martinez: Significant contributions to the conceptualization and investigation of this work, which greatly contributed to the improvement of the manuscript. He's suggestions and inputs played a vital role in shaping the overall direction of the research.

Jean-François Deconinck : Participation in the field and sample collection with strong implication in the preparation and analysis of samples for $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ measurement was crucial to obtaining reliable data. Additionally, he made valuable contributions to manuscript correction and provided insightful recommendations, enhancing the quality of the final publication.

Stéphane Bodin: Contribution to the fieldwork, including sample collection and organic matter analysis (TOC/ HI/ OI) with significant contribution in the amelioration of the quality of the manuscript.

The collaborative efforts of all the co-authors were integral to the successful completion of this research. Their individual contributions, ranging from fieldwork to data analysis and manuscript improvement, have enriched the study's findings and its overall scientific value.

Astronomical calibration of the OAE1b from the Col de Pré-Guittard section (Aptian-Albian), Vocontian Basin, France

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Abstract

A high-resolution spectral analysis was performed on magnetic susceptibility (MS) in the Col de Pré-Guittard section (CPG), Vocontian Basin, France to provide a new astronomical time scale of the Aptian-Albian transition and to explore the link between Milankovitch cycles and the occurrence of four laminated black shales events, namely Jacob, Kilian, Paquier and Leenhardt constituting the OAE 1b. The spectral analysis performed on the CPG section records the imprint of a strong predominance of the precession, and 100-kyr and 405-kyr eccentricity cycles. Based on the number of 405-kyr eccentricity cycles, the duration of the interval encompassing the Jacob to Leenhardt levels is calculated at 4.03 myr. The duration between Jacob, Kilian, Paquier and Leenhardt Events are respectively calculated at 1.55 myr, 1.62 myr, and 0.93 myr. The duration calculated for the occurrence of these events is not related to the Milankovitch cycles. However, these events are recorded near local maxima of the 405-kyr filter. Our results show that the 405-kyr eccentricity impacted the recurrence of anoxic levels in the Vocontian Basin, although additional factors, such as the emplacement of flood basalts or oceanic basaltic plateaus have contributed to the development of larger scale marine anoxia.

Keywords: Aptian – Albian, Cyclostratigraphy, Magnetic Susceptibility, OAE1b, Vocontian Basin

1. Introduction

The Aptian-Albian transition (~113 Ma) is punctuated by a series of widespread black shale deposits, collectively known as OAE1b. Four levels are frequently mentioned from the oldest to the youngest: Jacob, Kilian, Paquier, and Leenhardt levels (Br        , 1985, 1988, 1997; Kennedy et al., 2000; F      , 2012; Coccioni et al., 2014; Herrle et al., 2015; Matsumoto et al., 2020; Leandro et al., 2022). The Aptian-Albian boundary is located at the first occurrence of the planktonic foraminifer *Microhedbergella renilaevis*, within the Kilian Level (Kennedy et al., 2017) and the OAE 1b interval started at a time of decreasing temperatures, which reached a minimum near the Jacob or in between the Jacob and Kilian levels before increasing through the early Albian (McAnena et al., 2013; Bodin et al., 2015; Bottini et al., 2015; Bottini and Erba, 2018). This minimum in temperatures is described as the Aptian-Albian boundary cold snap (Mutterlose et al., 2009) and likely led to the development of polar ice (Price, 1999; Rodr           et al., 2016). Within this broad trend, the anoxic levels corresponded to warm pulses (Wagner et al., 2008; Bottini and Erba, 2018), accompanied by rapid sea-level rise phases, increased weathering conditions, and detrital supply (Mill     et al., 2014; Benamara et al., 2020) and decreased sea-surface salinity (Wagner et al., 2008). In pelagic environments, the anoxic layers marked a decrease in benthic foraminifera diversity and abundance, while opportunistic species prevailed (Erbacher et al., 1999; Friedrich, 2010). Species turnover and change in morphology occurred among the planktic foraminifera, likely in response to these paleoceanographic changes (Huber and Leckie, 2011). Radiolaria also experienced stepwise extinctions around the Aptian-Albian boundary (Erbacher and Th      , 1997).

Questions arose on the forcing factor of these recurrent short-lived anoxic events. A negative Os-isotope excursion has been found in the Kilian Level in the Umbria-Marche Basin, that

correlate with the planktonic foraminiferal turnover suggesting a multiple submarine volcanic events (central Italy; Matsumoto et al., 2020). The link was confirmed by significant enrichments in Hg in DSDP Site 545, offshore Morocco, Eastern North Atlantic (Bracquart et al., 2022) suggest a link with the activity of the Kerguelen Plateau. Conversely, no evidence of volcanic activity has been found in the Paquier Level (Benamara et al., 2020; Matsumoto et al., 2020). According to the last Geologic Time Scale 2020, the duration between the OAE 1b events are; *ca.* 1.3 myr from the Jacob to the Kilian levels, *ca.* 1.9 myr from the Kilian to the Paquier levels and *ca.* 1 myr from the Paquier to the Leenhardt levels (Gale et al., 2020). These durations are close to the periods of the long obliquity cycle (1.2 myr) and long eccentricity cycle (2.4 myr) (Laskar et al., 2004), which questions the role of these long orbital cycles on the recurrence of anoxia around the Aptian-Albian transition (Wang et al., 2022). However, the durations estimated between the anoxic levels have demonstrated to be unstable from geologic time scale to another, which prevents from determining the forcing factors at the onset of these events.

Here, we perform spectral analyses on magnetic susceptibility signal acquired at very high-resolution in the Col de Pré-Guittard reference section (Albian GSSP, Vocontian Basin, SE France), in which these four well-exposed anoxic events have been defined (Bréhéret, 1997; Kennedy et al., 2017) to propose a new astronomical calibration of the Aptian-Albian transition and test the role of the orbital forcing on the inception of these anoxic events.

2. Geological setting

The Vocontian Basin (SE France) was located at a paleolatitude of 25-30 °N and corresponded to a paleo-passive margin between the NW part of the Alpine Tethys Ocean and the Atlantic Rift (Dercourt et al., 1993) surrounded by slopes and platforms (Fig. 1A, B). In the latest Hauterivian – early Aptian the basin was surrounded by the Urgonian carbonate platforms including the Provence platform to the South, the Ardèche-Vivarais platform to the West and Chartreuse-Vercors (Dauphiné platform) to the North. The Urgonian carbonate platform was drowned in the early Aptian and never recovered (Arnaud et al., 2017). After this event, during the Aptian-Albian, the Vocontian Basin was characterized by the deposition of the “Marnes Bleues” (Blue Marls) Formation, an hemipelagic marl-dominated sedimentation regime characterized by terrigenous fluxes comprising quartz and various clay minerals dominated by illite, smectite and kaolinite (Ghirardi et al., 2014, Corentin et al., 2020) mixed with biogenic components dominated by nannofossils and foraminifers. The paleo-water depth of the Vocontian Basin is estimated to have been several hundred meters based on palynological investigations (Wilpshaar and Leerveld, 1994). The Aptian-Albian transition is mainly composed by a monotonous succession of marly hemipelagic deposits intercalated by rare limestone layers and recurrent black shale levels (Bréhéret, 1997), some of these being prominent in the landscape in the Vocontian series and correlated at a supra regional scale (Jacob, Kilian, Paquier, Leenhardt). Slumps, turbidites and occasional diagenetic barite concretion accumulations are also observed (Bréhéret and Brumsack, 2000).

2.1 Studied section

The Col de Pré-Guittard outcrop is located in the northwestern part of the Vocontian Basin, SE France, near the village of Arnayon in the *Département de la Drôme* (F-26470), *ca.* 11 km northwest of Rémuzat and 2 km from la Motte-Chalançon (Fig. 2A). The section is well exposed over hundreds of meters. The lithological succession has been described in detail by Bréhéret (1997). It is characterized by monotonous sequences of marly hemipelagic to pelagic deposits of the Marnes Bleues Formation, in which intercalate limestone and black shale levels (Fig. 1C, D), among which are the Jacob, Kilian, Paquier and Leenhardt have been identified as prominent levels correlated beyond the Vocontian Basin. The Col de Pré-Guittard section is well studied, notably because it hosts the GSSP of the Aptian-Albian boundary (Kennedy et al., 2017). The Col de Pré-Guittard section has been chosen for our purpose considering both the detailed biostratigraphy and the lithology consisting mainly of monotonous hemipelagic marls with rare syn-sedimentary slumping, which are otherwise frequent in the Vocontian Basin (Friès and Parize 2003). The biostratigraphic divisions were established by ammonites (*Hypacanthoplites jacobi*, *Leymeriella germanica*, and *Leymeriella tardefurcata* Ammonite Zone), planktonic foraminifera, and calcareous nannofossils (Kennedy et al., 2000; Herrle et al., 2003). The studied section has been measured from the upper part of the Fromaget calcareous bundle (uppermost Aptian) to *ca.* 10 m above the Leenhardt horizon. It covers the four main black levels of the OAE 1b (Jacob, Kilian, Paquier, and Leenhardt).

2.2. Location of the GSSP section compared to Kennedy et al. (2017)

In the formal proposal of the GSSP of the Albian stage (Kennedy et al., 2017), the location of the GSSP section in their Figure 2 does not correspond to the picture shown in their Figure 3. After discussions, it appeared that it misled several teams working in the area, so we aim here at clarifying the location of the sections. The photograph picture of the section shown in Figure

3 of Kennedy et al. (2017) is actually located 1.38 km further NW (44°30'28" N, 5°17'50"E). In our Figure 2A, it is labelled as "CPG-1 – GSSP". This section extends from the Jacob Event to the Kilian Event. In this section, the Kilian Level was labelled in the photograph picture in Kennedy et al. (2017) and perfectly observed as a prominent black shale layer. The Jacob Level corresponds to a black shale layer outcropping 1.5 m above a bundle of prominent limestone beds called "Fromaget bundle", also labelled in the photograph picture in Kennedy et al. (2017). The section indicated as the GSSP in Figure 2 of Kennedy et al. (2017) is referred in our Figure 2B as "CPG-2" and extends from the Kilian Event to the Middle Albian. The Paquier Level is visible in the landscape as a prominent black shale horizon, as documented in the photograph picture in Figure 8 of Corentin et al. (2020). The Kilian and Leenhardt levels did not appear as prominent after a first investigation of the series, so we undertook 280 analyses of $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ measurements and 113 organic matter analyses to locate the Kilian and Leenhardt levels. Both the Kilian and the Leenhardt should appear with higher TOC and drastic increase Hydrogen Index (HI) in the organic-matter analysis. The Kilian Level should in addition be documented by a negative excursion both in $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{carb}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ (Herrle et al., 2004; Bodin et al., 2023). The samples were selected after performing the astrochronology of the section, so that there is at least a sample per precession cycle (~20 kyr). The intervals where we suspected the presence of the Kilian and the Leenhardt Levels were more densely covered. The intervals analyzed for spectral analyses are not affected by slumps. A decimetric glauconitic sandstone layer nonetheless outcrops at level 33.7 m in CPG-2. The durations calculated will be based on the longest cycles to limit the probability of missed cycles and the durations thereafter are described as minimum durations.

3. Material and methods

3.1. Field sampling

A total of 3249 samples were collected with a high-resolution stratigraphic step of 0.05 m recovering the four black levels (Jacob, Kilian, Paquier, and Leenhardt). The sample distance was selected to preserve the quality of the high frequencies. The measurements have been undertaken using a Jacob stick to limit the errors in the sample position. The weathered surface was removed and the samples were cleaned. The samples were crushed using a clean hammer and then weighted for magnetic susceptibility measurements. For chemical analysis, the samples were powdered using an agate mortar.

3.2. Magnetic susceptibility

The magnetic susceptibility (MS) measurement was conducted with Agico KLY-3 at the University of Rennes, in a total of 3249 samples were measured. The weighted samples are placed in a small plastic bag and introduced manually inside to the instrument. Before each series of measurements, an empty bag is measured for the blank correction and normalized to sample mass. The mass-specific MS is reported in m^3/kg .

3.3. Spectral analyses

Prior to the spectral analyses, the long-term evolutions of the magnetic susceptibility were calculated and subtracted using LOWESS method (LOcally WEighted Scatterplot Smoothing; Cleveland, 1979) to ensure the stationarity of the signal. Then, a multi-taper spectral analysis was performed using three 2π prolate tapers (2π -MTM spectrum; Thomson, 1982, 1990). The confidence levels against a red-noise were calculated using the robust procedure of Mann and Lees (1996). It consists in calculating the moving median over 20 % of the spectrum and fitting a red-noise model on this moving median. The confidence levels are then extrapolated assuming a χ^2 distribution. The spectral peaks exceeding the 95 % confidence levels are decreased to their

adjacent spectral power and the procedure is iterated another time. This procedure allows the spectral peaks not to be counted in the background estimation). Then a time-frequency weighted Fast Fourier transform (TF-WFFT; Martinez et al., 2015) was performed to trace the evolution of the periods along the sedimentary series. A correlation coefficient (COCO) was also applied to quantify which sedimentary rate leads to the best correlation between the spectrum of the sedimentary series and the spectrum of the orbital periods (Li et al., 2019). In this study 10.000 Monte Carlo simulations were applied to ensure stability of the results and reproducibility. Evolutive COCO (eCOCO) were also applied on each series. The size of the window was adapted to each series, depending on the estimated most likely sedimentation rates from COCO. Each interpreted signal as orbital forcing is isolated and filtered using Taner lowpass and bandpass filters (Prokopenko et al., 2006). The sedimentary cycles were then anchored to their corresponding orbital periods, allowing depth-time conversions to be done. The orbital procedure used here assumes a constant duration of 405 kyr between two repetitions of the filter of the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle and a constant sedimentation rate between two consecutive anchor points. To precisely locate the black levels in the CPG-2, 290 samples were selected according to a precession 20-kyr filter to be analyzed on carbonate content, Total Organic Carbon (TOC), and carbon isotope on organic matter ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$).

3.4. Carbonate content and carbon isotope

The calcium carbonate content and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ were measured on 280 powdered samples at Biogéosciences laboratory, Université de Bourgogne/Franche-Comté in Dijon, France. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ was measured on carbonate-free residues. Sample powders were reacted with HCl (2 N) at room temperature for 2 h to remove carbonate phases. Residues were rinsed with deionized distilled water until neutral, centrifuged (4500 rpm for 15 min), and dried at 50 °C overnight. Aliquots of dried decarbonated samples (~ 7–50 mg) were then weighed in tin capsules. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ measurements were performed on a Vario MICRO cube elemental analyzer (Elementar,

Hanau, Germany) coupled in continuous flow mode to an IsoPrime stable isotope ratio mass spectrometer (Isoprime, Manchester, UK). USGS40 L-Glutamic acid ($C = 40.8 \text{ wt\%}$; $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}} = -26.39 \pm 0.04 \text{ ‰}$) and IAEA-600 Caffeine ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}} = -27.77 \pm 0.04 \text{ ‰}$) certified reference materials were used for calibration. The carbon isotopic composition is expressed in delta notation and reported in per mil (‰) relative to the Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (V-PDB) standard; external reproducibility based on duplicate analyses of samples is better than $\pm 0.2 \text{ ‰}$ (1σ).

3.5. Total organic carbon (TOC)

The organic matter characterization was performed on samples from the CPG-2 section using the Hawk (Wildcat Technology) anhydrous pyrolysis carbon analysis system at the Lithospheric Organic Carbon (LOC) lab, Department of Geoscience, Aarhus University, Denmark. A total of 113 samples were measured and calibrated using IFP 160000 standard. Precision and accuracy of measurements were better than 5 %. Four parameters are considered here: total organic carbon (TOC, wt%), oxygen index (OI, mg $\text{CO}_2/\text{g TOC}$), Hydrogen index ((HI, mg HC/ g TOC, HC = hydrocarbons), and $T_{\text{max}}(^{\circ}\text{C})$.

4. Results

4.1. Magnetic susceptibility

In Col de Pre Guittard section 1 (CPG-1), the mass-specific magnetic susceptibility (MS) ranges from $3.05 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ to $6.66 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ (Fig. 3). The MS series has an average value of $5.27 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$. The long-term trend of the MS signal (red curve) shows a low average value around $4.94 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ in the first 23 m of the section, which corresponds to the most carbonated interval. Then, from level 23 m to 38 m, the trend shows a higher value reaching an average nearby to $5.65 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$, which corresponds to an increase in detrital component (Fig. 3A). After the short period of decreasing average MS values, from level 38 m to 48 m, the

trend in the MS values increases again from the Kilian Level to the top of CPG-1 to reach $5.60 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$.

In Col de Pré-Guittard section 2 (CPG-2), the mass-specific MS series range from $7.57 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ to $6.44 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ with an average value of $4.34 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$. The long-term trend of the MS series (red curve) shows that the values decrease in the first 45 m. Then the values stabilized around level 45 m to the top of the section (Fig. 3B). In this interval, the CaCO_3 content has an average value of 47 % (measured on 290 samples). The MS and CaCO_3 are inversely correlated $r = -0.63$. Knowing that the Blue Marls are dominantly composed of clay minerals and CaCO_3 , this suggests that the paramagnetic clay minerals (illite and smectite) control the SM signal (Fig. 4). This result was expected since previous works in the same formation highlighted this inverse correlation (Ghirardi et al., 2014).

4.2. Organic carbon isotope and pyrolysis analysis

The $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ values measured at CPG-2 range from -27.69 ‰ VPDB to -23.85 ‰ VPDB, with an average value of -25.88 ‰ VPDB (Fig. 3F). The $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ values show a broad increase from -26.5 ‰ VPDB at the base of CPG-2 to -25 ‰ VPDB at level 30 m. Then the values are stable at around -26 ‰ VPDB with higher-frequency fluctuations from level 30 m to the top of the section. The lowest $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ values drop to -27.69 ‰ and are observed at the base of CPG-2, together with HI values higher than 180 mgHC/gTOC) and TOC values higher than 2 % (Fig. 5A, B and C). These features perfectly align with the organic geochemical signature of the Kilian Level at Les Briers section (Fig. 5D, E and F), eastern Vocontian Basin (Bodin et al. 2023). According to these, the identification of Kilian level can be confidently proposed at the base of the section CPG-2.

The Kilian Level thus records the most negative value of the section with values around -27.69 ‰ followed by increasing values reaching -23.85 ‰ at 5 m. At 8.4 m, a prominent negative

A last band is observed with lower amplitudes around 1.5 m at level 6 m. The second interval, from level 25 m to the top of CPG-1, shows the presence of a band at 8.6 to 8.7 m with low amplitudes up to 43 m and then with high amplitudes (Fig. 7C). Two other group of periods are recorded from 1.6 to 2.7 m and from 0.47 m to 0.45 m (Fig. 7D). Two periods at 0.95 and 0.71 m appear punctually, respectively at level 30 m and at the top of the series.

The COCO method applied to the CPG-1 show the highest significant correlation at (p -value $<1 \times 10^{-3}$) at sedimentation rates around 0.8 cm/kyr, 1.7 cm/kyr, 2.7 cm/kyr, and 3.5 cm/kyr (Fig. 6B). The eCOCO procedure applied on 25-m width windows show a significant correlation at sedimentation rates around 3.5 cm/kyr and 2.5 cm/kyr from level 0 m to level 25 m then the sedimentation rate decreases to reach 1.9 cm/kyr from level 25 m to the top of the section. (Fig. 7E). According to the spectral analysis, the section can be subdivided in two intervals to limit the effect of the sedimentation: Interval 1 from level 0 m to 30 m, in which the sedimentation rate is around 3 cm/kyr, and interval 2 from 25 m to the top of the section, in which the sedimentation rate is around 2 cm/kyr. We left 5 m of recovery between intervals 1 and 2 to ensure continuity of the filters (Fig. 7B).

The 2π -MTM spectrum performed on Interval 1 of CPG-1 (from level 0 m to 30 m) shows the presence of significant spectral peaks at 14 m, 3.4 m, and from 0.72 m to 0.43 m exceeding the 99 % confidence level (Fig. 6C). The COCO analysis recorded shows a highly significant correlation (p -value $<1 \times 10^{-3}$) at sedimentation rates at 3.5 cm/kyr additional correlation is registered around 2.7 cm/kyr (Fig. 6D). The 2π -MTM spectrum performed on Interval 2 of CPG-1, from level 25 m to the top of the section, shows the presence of a significant peak at the 2π -MTM spectrum with a confidence level higher than 99% at 8.7 m, 2.4 m, 1.6 m, 0.46 m and 0.34 m (Fig. 6E). An additional period is recorded with a confidence level exceeding 95% at 0.56 m. The COCO method applied to Interval 2 of CPG-1 shows a highly significant correlation at a sedimentation rate of 1.9 cm/kyr. Additional significant correlations are

observed around 2.2 cm/kyr, 2.5 cm/kyr and 1.3 cm/kyr with however less confidence (Fig. 6F).

4.3.2 CPG-2

The 2π -MTM spectrum performed along CPG-2 shows the presence of significant periods with a confidence level higher than 99% at 20 m, 10 m, 6.9 m, 3.6 m, 1.5 m, 1.0 m and 0.74 m. In addition, periods at 2.2 m and 1.2 m exceed the 95 % confidence level (Fig. 8A). A spectrogram was performed on 40-m width windows to focus on the lowest frequencies (Fig. 9C). Another spectrogram was performed on 15-m width windows after filtering the lowest frequencies with a Taner low-pass filter in order to focus on the high frequencies (frequency cut: 0.1319243cycles/m, Fig. 9D). The spectrogram focused on the low frequencies shows a low-amplitude band with periods of 15 and 8 m from the base of the series to level 25 m (Fig. 9C). These low frequencies show then a bifurcation to high-amplitude period of 30 m and a lower-amplitude period of 10 m. This bifurcation is observed from level 25 m to 70 m (Fig. 9C). This band then stabilizes to periods ranging from 26 m to 20 m from level 70 m to the top of the series (Fig. 9C). An additional band is recorded with periods increasing from 3.2 m to 4.2 m, from the base of the series to level 35 m. Periods of 6.8 to 3.6 m are observed from level 35 m to 80 m (Fig. 9C) and periods of 5.1 to 3.3 m are observed from level 85 m to the top of CPG-2 (Fig. 9C). At higher frequencies, periods around 1.5 m 0.74 m are recorded throughout CPG-2 with low amplitudes (Fig. 9D).

The COCO analysis along the CPG-2 shows highest correlations at (p -value $<1 \times 10^{-3}$) at sedimentation rates of 2.5 cm/kyr, 3.3 cm/kyr, 5.3 cm/kyr and 7 cm/kyr (Fig.8B). The eCOCO analysis performed on 40-m width windows shows significant correlations between the spectra of the sedimentary and astronomical series at the sedimentation rate around 2.4 cm/kyr, 3.3 cm/kyr from levels 0 m to 30 m (Fig. 9E). From level 30 m to the top of the section, most

significant correlation is observed at sedimentation rates decreasing from 7.2 cm/kyr at level 27 m to 4 cm/kyr at the top of CPG-2.

Based on the evolutive spectral and eCOCO analyses, CPG-2 was divided into an interval from 0 to 30 m, in which the most likely sedimentation rate appears to be around 3 cm/kyr, and from 20 m to the top of CPG-2, in which the most likely sedimentation rate is higher and progressively decreases throughout the interval (Fig. 9E). The 2π -MTM spectrum performed on Interval 1 of CPG-2 (from 0 m to 30 m), show significant periods with confidence levels higher than 99% observed at 7.5 m, 2.1 m, 1.0 m and 0.73 m (Fig. 8C). Two periods exceeding the 95 % confidence level are observed at 1.6 m and 0.33 m, and two periods exceeding the 90 % confidence level are observed at 0.47 m and 0.37 m. The COCO analysis performed on Interval 1 of CPG-2, indicates that the highest significant correlations (p -value $<1\times10^{-3}$) is at a sedimentation rate of 2.5 cm/kyr (Fig. 8D). In Interval 2 of CPG- 2 (from 20 m to the top), the 2π -MTM spectrum shows spectral peaks at 22 m, 7.3 m, 3.7 m, 1.5 m, 0.94 m, 0.83 m and 0.75 m exceeding the 99 % confidence level (Fig. 8E). The COCO analysis shows a high significant correlation (p -value $<1\times10^{-3}$) at sedimentation rates at 5.5 cm/kyr, and 7.1 cm/kyr (Fig. 8F).

5. Discussion

5.1. Interpretation of the sedimentary cycles for CPG-1

The signal processing along the CPG-1 indicates two intervals with an average sedimentation rate of 3 cm/kyr from 0 to 30 m and of 2 cm/kyr from 30 m to the top of the series (Fig. 7E). In previous spectral analyses, an average sedimentation rate of 3 cm/kyr was estimated for the upper Aptian in hemipelagic deposits of the Vocontian Basin, SE France (Heimhofer et al., 2004; Köbller et al., 2001). The present analysis confirms and refines these previous estimates. From COCO, eCOCO and spectral analyses, the thickness of the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle evolves from an average of 14 m in Interval 1 of CPG-1 to 8.7 m in Interval 2 of CPG-1. The

thickness of the 100-kyr eccentricity cycle evolves from 3.4 m in Interval 1 to ~2 m in Interval 2 (with a range from 2.7 to 1.6 m). The thickness of the precession cycles evolves from 0.65 m in Interval 1 to 0.46 m in Interval 2 (Fig. 7). The 405-kyr eccentricity cycle was extracted using a Taner lowpass filter performed on the whole of CPG-1 with a higher frequency cut of 0.1648 cycles/m (Fig. 7B). In addition, the 100-kyr eccentricity band was extracted using Taner bandpass filters with lower and higher frequency cuts of 0.1833 and 0.6000 cycles/m in Interval 1, and lower and higher frequency cuts of 0.2365 and 0.7095 cycles/m in Interval 2. The filter of the 405-kyr eccentricity cycles shows 4 repetitions at CPG-1, implying a total duration of the sampled interval of 2.38 myr and duration of the interval from the base of the Jacob to the base of the Kilian event of 1.55 myr.

A recent dataset published by Charbonnier et al. (2023) estimates from an eCOCO analysis a sedimentation rate of 4.5 cm/kyr in CPG-1, which leads to a duration of 0.8 myr between the Jacob and Kilian events. Charbonnier et al. (2023) used a window size of 60 m to perform the eCOCO analysis. The most likely sedimentation rate calculated from this approach is 5.8 cm/kyr, decreasing to 4.3 cm/kyr in the topmost 60 m of the series (Fig. 10D). However, a TF-WFFT applied on the series with 15-m width windows shows that the periods of the highest frequencies evolve from 1.3 to 1.6 m from the bottom of L5 to 300 m, and then decrease down to 0.3-0.4 m in the topmost 20 m of the series (Fig. 10C, see also Fig. S1D in the electronic supplement). Another eCOCO analysis applied on 25-m width windows (Fig. 10E) shows most likely sedimentation of 4.0 to 6.0 cm/kyr from 300 to 320 m, 3.4 cm/kyr 330 to 375 m and 2.2 cm/kyr in the topmost part of the series. We performed three 2π -MTM analyses from the base of the series to 320 m (Interval 1), from 315 m to 365 m (Interval 2) and from 360 m to the top of the series (Interval 3; Figs. 10F-H).

The 2π -MTM spectrum of Interval 1 shows periods at 22 m, attributed to the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle, from 6.7 m to 4.0 m, attributed to the 100-kyr eccentricity cycle, from 2.5 to

1.9 m, attributed to the obliquity, and from 1.6 m to 0.85 m, attributed to the precession (Fig. 10F). The 2π -MTM spectrum of Interval 2 shows periods at 17 m, attributed to the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle, from 3.8 m to 2.2 m, attributed to the 100-kyr eccentricity cycle, from 1.7 to 1.0 m, attributed to the obliquity, and from 0.7 m to 0.50 m, attributed to the precession (Fig. 10G). The 2π -MTM spectrum of Interval 3 shows periods at 8.6 m, attributed to the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle, from 2.2 m to 1.5 m, attributed to the 100-kyr eccentricity cycle, and from 0.55 m to 0.29 m, attributed to the precession (Fig. 10H). These spectra performed on these intervals agree with the broad variations in the sedimentation rates calculated from eCOCO with window sizes of 25 m.

This comparison highlights that eCOCO analyses, as well as evolutive FFTs, are sensitive to the sizes of the windows chosen. Long window sizes are efficient to calculate large sedimentation rates. However, they cannot capture their rapid variations within the sedimentary series. Conversely, short window sizes can be efficient to capture these rapid variations in the sedimentation rates. Thus, by focusing on Col de Pré-Guittard series, our study is able to observe this decrease in the sedimentation in the last 20 m of CPG-1.

5.2. Interpretation of the sedimentary cycles for CPG-2

The signal processing along the CPG-2 indicates an average sedimentation rate of 3 cm/kyr from 0 to 30 m and a sedimentation rate varying from 4 cm/kyr to 7 cm/kyr in the remaining part of the series (Fig. 9E). From COCO, eCOCO and spectral analyses, the thickness of the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle evolves from an average of 13 m from level 0 to level 43 m, an average of 11 m from level 43 m to level 54 m, and an average thickness of 23 m in the remaining part of the studied series (Fig. 9B). The 100-kyr eccentricity cycle has a thickness ranging from 3 to 4 m from the base of the series to level 32 m, and thicknesses ranging from 7 m to 3 m from level 32 m to level. The obliquity is well expressed from the base of the series to level 32 m. Then the precession has higher amplitude with thicknesses ranging from 1.5 m

to 0.7 m to the top of the series. Our calibration shows that 405-kyr eccentricity cycles Ab405-3 and Ab405-4 contain six repetitions of the 100-kyr eccentricity altogether. This interval contains the glauconitic sandstone layer associated to a short-term hiatus which duration could be assessed at 200 kyr provided that no complete 405-kyr eccentricity has been erased.

The 405-kyr eccentricity cycle was extracted using a Taner lowpass filter with a higher frequency cut of 0.1648 cycles/m. The 100-kyr eccentricity cycle was extracted using a Taner bandpass filter with a lower and higher frequency cut of 0.2167 cycles/m and 0.5667 cycles/m in Interval 1 and lower and higher frequency cuts of 0.1251 cycles/m and 0.3527 cycles/m in Interval 2. The filter of the 405-kyr eccentricity cycles shows 6 repetitions at CPG-2 and implies a minimum duration of deposit of 2.63 myr. This duration is qualified as “minimum” to account for the potential hiatus linked to the glauconitic sandstone layer. The minimum duration between the base of the Kilian and the base of the Paquier levels is assessed at 1.62 myr and the duration between the Paquier and the Leenhardt levels is assessed at 0.93 myr.

Recent CaCO_3 data have been published from the Les Briers section, in the eastern part of the Vocontian Basin from the Kilian to Paquier levels (Bodin et al., 2023). The data have been measured with a median sample distance of 1 m. Assuming an average sedimentation rate of 3.8 cm/kyr between the Kilian and Paquier events at Les Briers (60 m between these events, duration: 1.6 myr), this represents a time of 26 kyr, enough to detect the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle at least. The CaCO_3 signal is selected for performing spectral analyses in Les Briers as it is inversely correlated to the MS signal in the Marnes Bleues Formation (see Fig. 4 and Ghirardi et al., 2014).

The CaCO_3 signal was linearly interpolated every 50 cm and detrended applying a LOWESS with a coefficient of 0.3 (Fig. 11C). The 2π -MTM spectrum of the detrended CaCO_3 signal shows spectral peaks at 17 m, exceeding the 99 % CL (Fig. 12), which represents a duration of 0.4 myr, assuming a sedimentation rate of 3.8 cm/kyr. The 17-m peak could thus represent the

405-kyr eccentricity cycle. The Taner lowpass filter of the peak at 17 m shows 4 repetitions between the Kilian and the Paquier, in agreement with the finding at CPG-2(Fig. 11D). This suggests that the hiatus associated with the calciturbidite event did not erase a complete 405-kyr eccentricity cycle and thus did not affect the duration estimates between the Kilian and Paquier events.

5.3 Forcing factors of Aptian–Albian black shales

Our astrochronology based on 405-kyr filter recorded at CPG-1 and CPG-2 shows that eleven repetitions of the 405-kyr eccentricity cycles are recorded in the studied interval. The Jacob Level is located at the boundary between E405-1 and E405-2 (Fig. 7), while the Leenhardt Level is located less than 0.1 myr below the top of cycle Ab405-6 (Fig. 9), leading to a duration from the base of the Jacob Event to the top of the Leenhardt Event, so-called OAE1b interval, of 4.03 myr. Interestingly, the duration of the OAE1b interval calculated here is in close agreement to the duration of 4.27 myr proposed for the OAE 1b interval in the Geologic Time Scale 2020 (Gale et al., 2020), suggesting again that the hiatus related to the glauconitic sandstone did not erase a complete 405-kyr eccentricity cycle. The duration between the four events (Jacob, Kilian, Paquier and Leenhardt) are respectively 1.55 myr, 1.62 myr and 0.93 myr. These durations do not follow the long eccentricity and obliquity cycles (2.4 myr, and 1.2 myr, respectively). This suggests that the long orbital cycles are not responsible for the inception of the main anoxic events of the OAE 1b interval. However, these four events all locate just below a maximum in the filter of the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle, suggesting that this eccentricity could have impacted, in addition to another forcing factor, the onset of the events.

Caillaud et al. (2022) attribute the concomitant accumulation of organic matter during the oceanic anoxic events (OAE 1b) to various parameters such as productivity, sea level, sedimentation, and accumulation rates with the influence of regional factors. In Poggio le

Guaine (Umbria-Marche Basin, central Italy), two negative spikes in Os isotopes below the Kilian level, together with mercury enrichments in the OAE 1b interval, suggest a link between this event and the multi-phase emplacement of the southern Kerguelen plateau in the late Aptian-early Albian (Matsumoto et al., 2020; Sabatino et al., 2018). The emplacement of the southern Kerguelen plateau (Indian Ocean) coincides with the Aptian-Albian transition (113 Ma) and correspond to the production of $2.5 \times 10^7 \text{ km}^3$ of mafic crust (Coffin et al., 2002). Conversely, Benamara et al. (2020) show a lack of significant Hg enrichment in the Paquier Level suggesting that this event is not linked to Kerguelen plateau LIP activity. Finally, Bracquart et al. (2022) noted that in DSDP Site 545 off Morocco, mercury enrichment occurred *ca.* 5-6 m below the Kilian Event, corresponding to *ca.* 200-250 kyr, assuming a thickness of 40 m between the Kilian and Jacob events and our time scale (Herrle et al., 2004). These two last studies show that the volcanism is not the sole forcing factor to the onset of these anoxic episodes. Hence, Wang et al. (2022) showed that pronounced global deoxygenation period occurred only during the Paquier event, which was related to warmer climate and increased nutrient levels linked to the long-term influence of the Kilian event triggering volcanism modulated by orbital parameters. In a context of a series of volcanic pulses linked for instance to the emplacement of the Kerguelen Plateau, the modification of the seasonality may act as an additional forcing factor which contributed the climate system to pass a threshold leading to widespread anoxia. Jovane et al. (2006) and Leandro et al. (2022) presumed that the continental runoff occurred during wetter climate phases which occurred during the seasonal variability during eccentricity maxima.

5.4. Implications for the timescale of the Aptian Stage

The age of the top of the Aptian Stage is constrained by the U-Pb age of $113.1 \pm 0.3 \text{ Ma}$ obtained on zircon crystals from the Vöhrum bentonite, approximately 100 kyr above the Aptian-Albian boundary (Selby et al., 2009; Gale et al., 2020). The astrochronology from the Valanginian to

the earliest Aptian in the Tethys area anchored to CA-ID-TIMS U-Pb ages in the Neuquén Basin led to an age of the base of the Aptian Stage of 121.15 ± 0.31 Ma (Martinez et al., 2023). Radiometric ages suggest an age of magnetochron M0r of 121.2 ± 0.5 Ma (He et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2021). Bio- and chemostratigraphic correlations suggest that magnetochron M0r is equivalent in time to the *Imerites giraudi* and *Martellites sarasini* Tethyan ammonite zones (Aguado et al., 2022), which age range from 122.01 to 121.15 Ma (Martinez et al., 2023). The radiometric ages measured at the end of the Barremian Stage thus agree (He et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2021) with the astrochronology independently performed in the Tethys area (Martinez et al., 2023). These ages constrain a duration of the Aptian Stage of 8.0 myr.

The astrochronology of the Piobbico core in central Italy (Huang et al., 2010) suggests the existence of four or five 405-kyr eccentricity cycles from the base of the Jacob level to the top of the Kilian levels implying a duration of 1.6 to 2.0 myr between these two events (Fig. 13A). A shorter duration of 0.8 myr is proposed by Leandro et al. (2022) and Charbonnier et al. (2023) based on the astronomical calibration of Poggio le Guaine (PLG) in Italy (Fig. 13C) and Col de Pré-Guittard. Our astronomical calibration agrees best with the option of Huang et al. (2010) at 1.6 myr (Fig. 13B), suggesting a possible condensation/hiatus, or decreased sedimentation rate not detected by Leandro et al. (2022) in this specific interval at PLG, and a decreased sedimentation rate in the upper part of CPG-1 not detected in Charbonnier et al. (2023), as discussed in section 5.1 (see also Figs. S1-S3 in the electronic supplement). However, the duration of the whole Aptian of 13.4 myr proposed by Huang et al. (2010) does not agree with the duration of 8 myr discussed above. The astrochronology of Charbonnier et al. (2023) suggests a duration of 9.6 myr of the Aptian Stage assuming a duration of 0.8 myr between the Jacob and Kilian events. Adding two 405-kyr eccentricity cycles would lead to a duration of 10.4 myr, which appears as well too long compared to the duration obtained from radiometric ages.

Conversely, Leandro et al. (2022) identified 18 repetitions of the 405-kyr eccentricity cycles and estimated the duration from the Kilian Event to magnetochron M0r as 7.2 myr. Adding two repetitions of the 405-kyr cycle between the Kilian and the Jacob event to the age model of Leandro et al. (2022) leads to a duration of 8 myr from the Kilian Event to chron M0r. Anchoring this duration to the age of 113.2 Ma proposed in the Geologic Time Scale 2020 leads to an age of magnetochron M0r of 121.2 Ma, which is in falls within the radiochronology proposed by He et al. (2008). Our data thus contribute to the establishment of an increasingly precise timescale in the Aptian Stage.

Conclusions

An astronomical calibration is performed from a high-resolution magnetic susceptibility signal in the Col de Pré-Guittard section, GSSP of the Albian Stage in the Vocontian Basin, France. The section records the influence of the eccentricity and precession cycles mainly. The 405-kyr cycle is well-identified and leads to estimate a duration of the interval covering the Jacob to Leenhardt events to 4.03 myr. The duration of the Jacob-Kilian interval, Kilian-Paquier interval and Paquier-Leenhardt interval are respectively 1.55, 1.62 and 0.93 myr. The occurrence of these organic matter rich events (Jacob, Kilian, Paquier and Leenhardt) is partly controlled by the eccentricity cycle, all four events being located around the maximum of filter 405-kyr eccentricity. However, the orbital forcing on the occurrence of these events is not the sole factor explaining the onset of these events and it is likely that both volcanism and orbitally-controlled change in seasonality made the climate system to pass a threshold leading to widespread anoxia. Anchoring our timescale to the astrochronology of the Aptian of Leandro et al. (2022) and the U-Pb age of Selby et al. (2009) near the Aptian-Albian boundary, we estimate the duration from the Kilian Event to magnetochron M0r to 8 myr, and suggest an age of 121.2 Ma for

506 magnetochron M0r, which is in line with the radiometric data produced in the late Barremian
507 and magnetochron M0r.

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Figures captions:

Fig. 1. Location, paleogeography, and pictures of the Col de Pré-Guittard section. A. Location of the Col de Pré-Guittard section within the Vocontian Basin (from Friès and Parize 2003). B. Palaeogeography of the Central-North Atlantic during the Aptian with the location of the Vocontian Basin (Barrier et al. 2018). C. Overview of Col de Pré-Guittard 2 (CPG2). D. Close-up view of the Paquier Level.

Fig. 2. Detailed location of the two sections of Col Pré-Guittard (CPG). A. Simplified Geographic map of Col de Pré-Guittard region showing the two studied sections, the map provided from the Institut Géographique National (France) available at infoterre.brgm.fr. The brown circles indicate the locations of the sections and the black rectangle corresponds to the area shown in (B). B. Aerial photograph of the Col de Pré-Guittard, area available at <https://www.geoportail.gouv.fr/>.

Fig. 3. Long-term evolution of geochemical proxies along the CPG-1 and CPG-2. A. Stratigraphic evolution of the Magnetic susceptibility (MS, $\times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$) records from the CPG-1. B. Magnetic susceptibility (MS, $\times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$) records from the CPG-2. From C to F. Trend evolution of total organic carbon (TOC, wt.%), hydrogen index (HI, mgHC/g TOC), oxygen index (OI, mgCO₂/g TOC) and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ (‰ VPDB) records respectively from CPG-2. The light brown color defines the position of the four events (Jacob, Kilian, Paquier and Leenhardt) and the red line corresponds to the long-term trend of the series in different proxies.

Fig. 4. Cross plots of the magnetic susceptibility vs carbonate contents for CPG-2. The red line represents the linear regression with the correlation coefficients.

Fig. 5: Stratigraphic evolution of TOC, HI and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ along Col de Pré Guittard (this study) compared to Les Briers section, data are from Bodin et al. (2023).

Fig. 6. 2π Multi-Taper Method (MTM) spectra with Coefficient Correlation COCO analysis for CPG-1. Periods are labelled in meters in the spectral peaks and labeled with different colors, red for 405-kyr eccentricity, orange for 100-kyr eccentricity, and green for obliquity and blue for 20-kyr precession.

Fig. 7. Spectral analyses and astrochronology of the CPG-1. A. Raw MS signal. B. Filters of the 405-kyr band (red color) and the 100-kyr band (orange color). C. Amplitude spectrograms performed on 25-m width windows. D. Amplitude spectrograms performed on 10-m width windows after filtering the lowest frequencies. E. H0 significance levels at sedimentation rates ranging from 0.7 to 6 cm/kyr calculated with the eCOCO procedure performed on 25-m width windows.

Fig. 8. 2π Multi-Taper Method (MTM) with Coefficient Correlation COCO analysis for the CPG2. Periods are labelled in meters with different colors, red for 405-kyr eccentricity, orange for 100-kyr eccentricity, and green for obliquity and blue for 20-kyr precession.

Fig. 9. Spectral analyses of CPG-2. A. Raw MS signal. B. Filters of the 405-kyr band (red color) and the 100-kyr band (orange color). C. Amplitude spectrograms performed on 40-m width windows. D. Amplitude spectrograms performed on 15-m width windows. E. H0 significance level at sedimentation rates ranging from 0.7 to 10 cm/kyr calculated with the eCOCO procedure performed on 40-m width windows

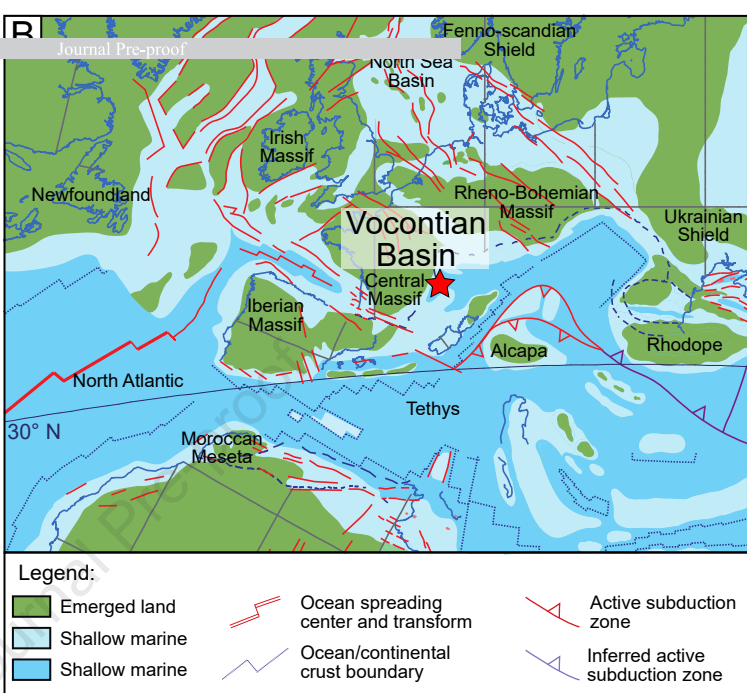
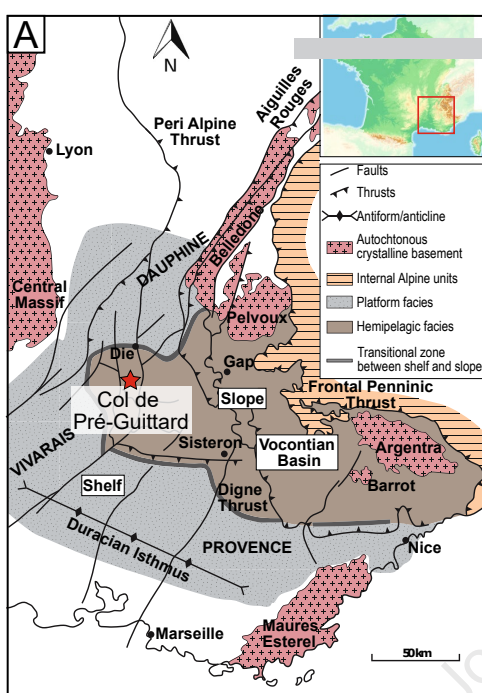
Fig.10: Revised spectral analysis was conducted on the Col de Pré Guittard section using data provided by Charbonnier et al. (2023). A. Raw magnetic susceptibility data is represented in black, while the long-term evolution is shown in red. B and C displays spectrograms with windows sizes of 60 m and 15 m, respectively. The significant periods are labeled in meters. D and E demonstrate the H0 significance level calculated from eCOCO analysis, performed on width windows at 60 m and 25 m, respectively, indicating the mean average sedimentation rate.

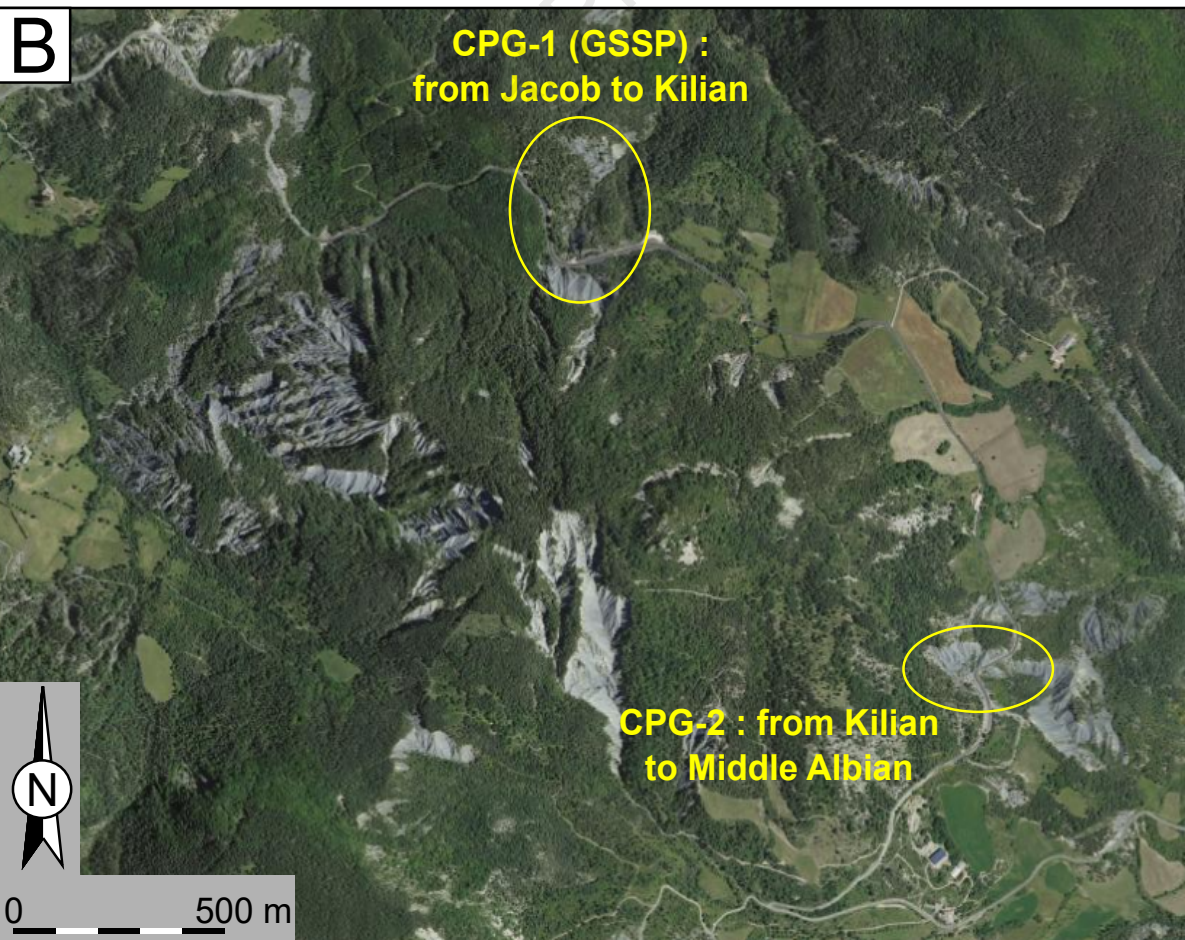
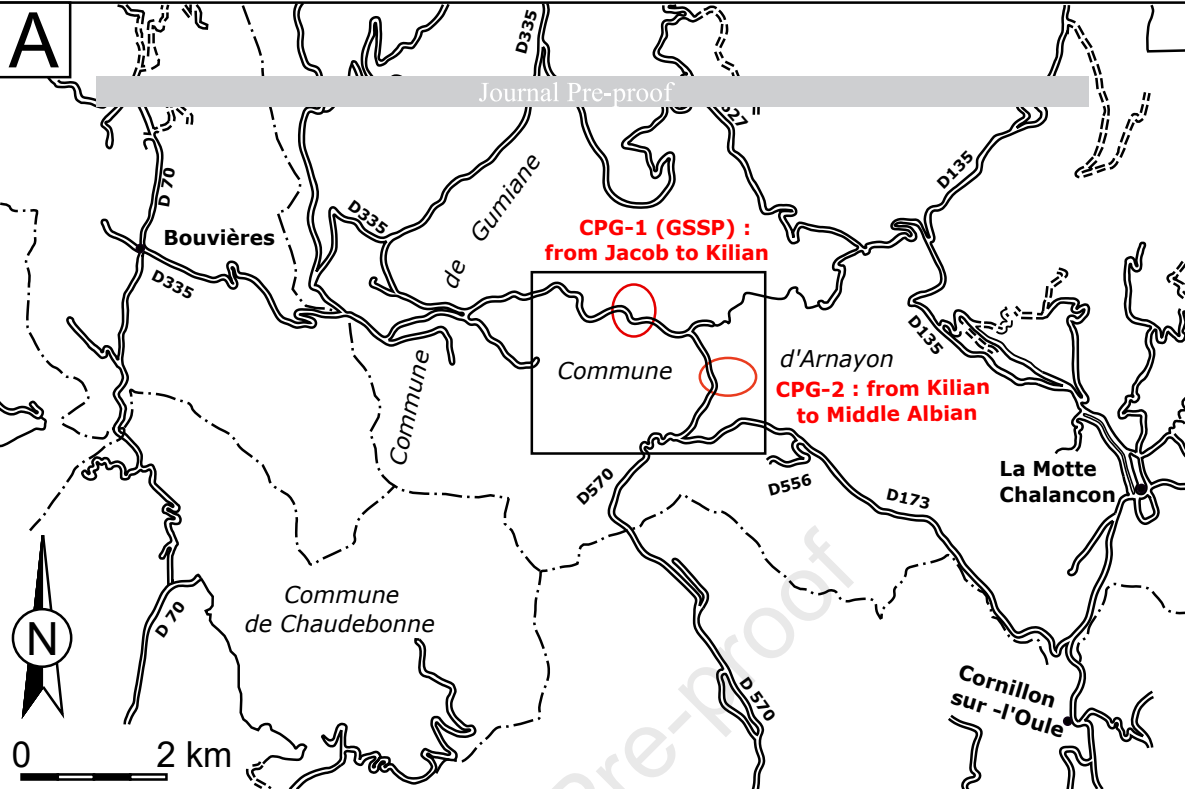
F, G, and H present the 2π -Multi-Taper Method (MTM) spectra conducted on three subdivided intervals: interval 1 (from the base of the series to 320 m), interval 2 (from 315 m to 365 m), and finally, interval 3 (from 360 m to the top of the series).

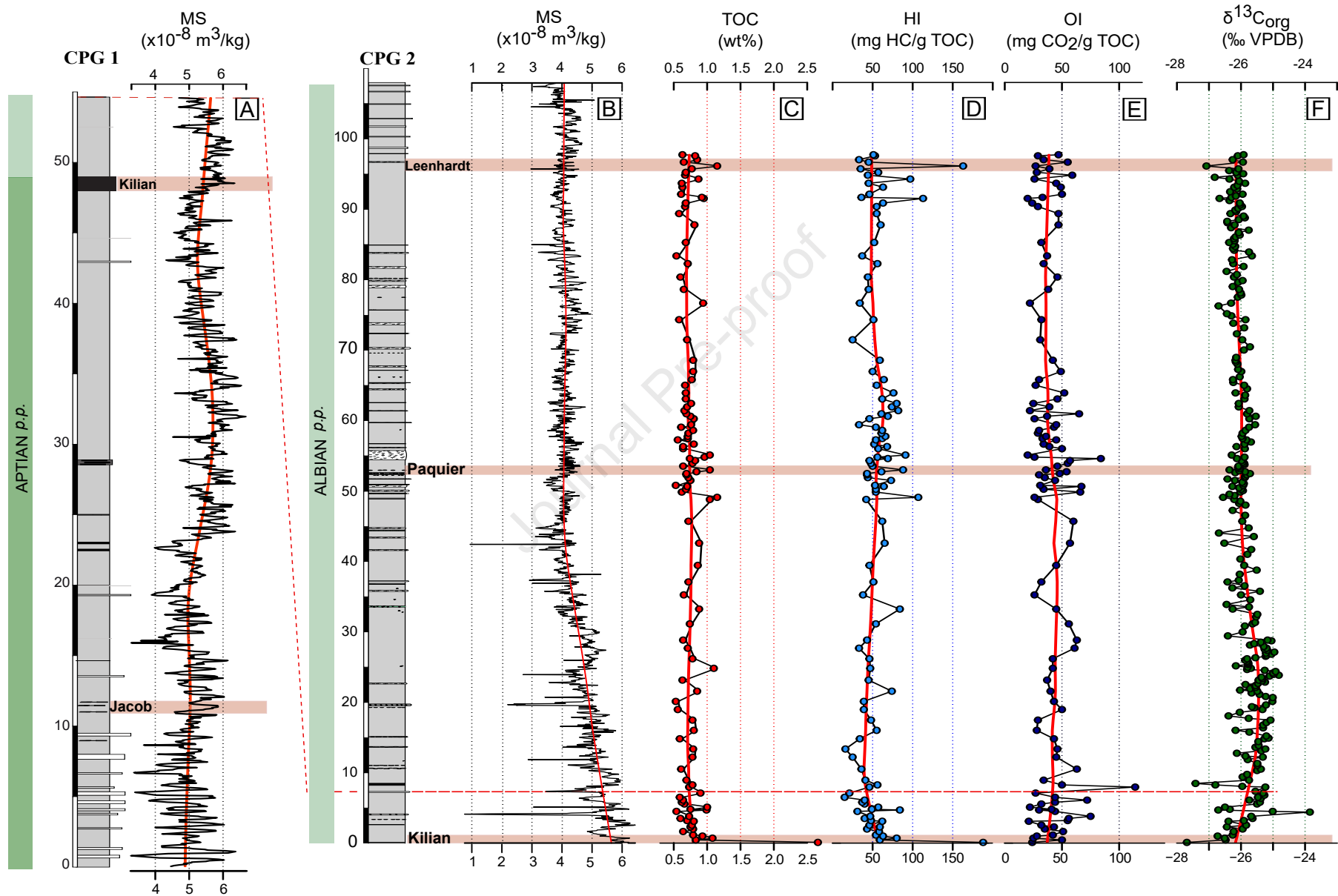
Fig. 11. An overview of the astronomical calibration of Col de Pré Guittard section (CPG 2) correlated to the recent data provided from les Briers section, CaCO_3 data are from Bodin et al. (2023). A. Raw MS signal. B. Filters of the 405-kyr band (red color) and the 100-kyr band (orange color) C. Raw CaCO_3 while the long-term evolution is shown in red. D. Filter of the 405-kyr band (red color).

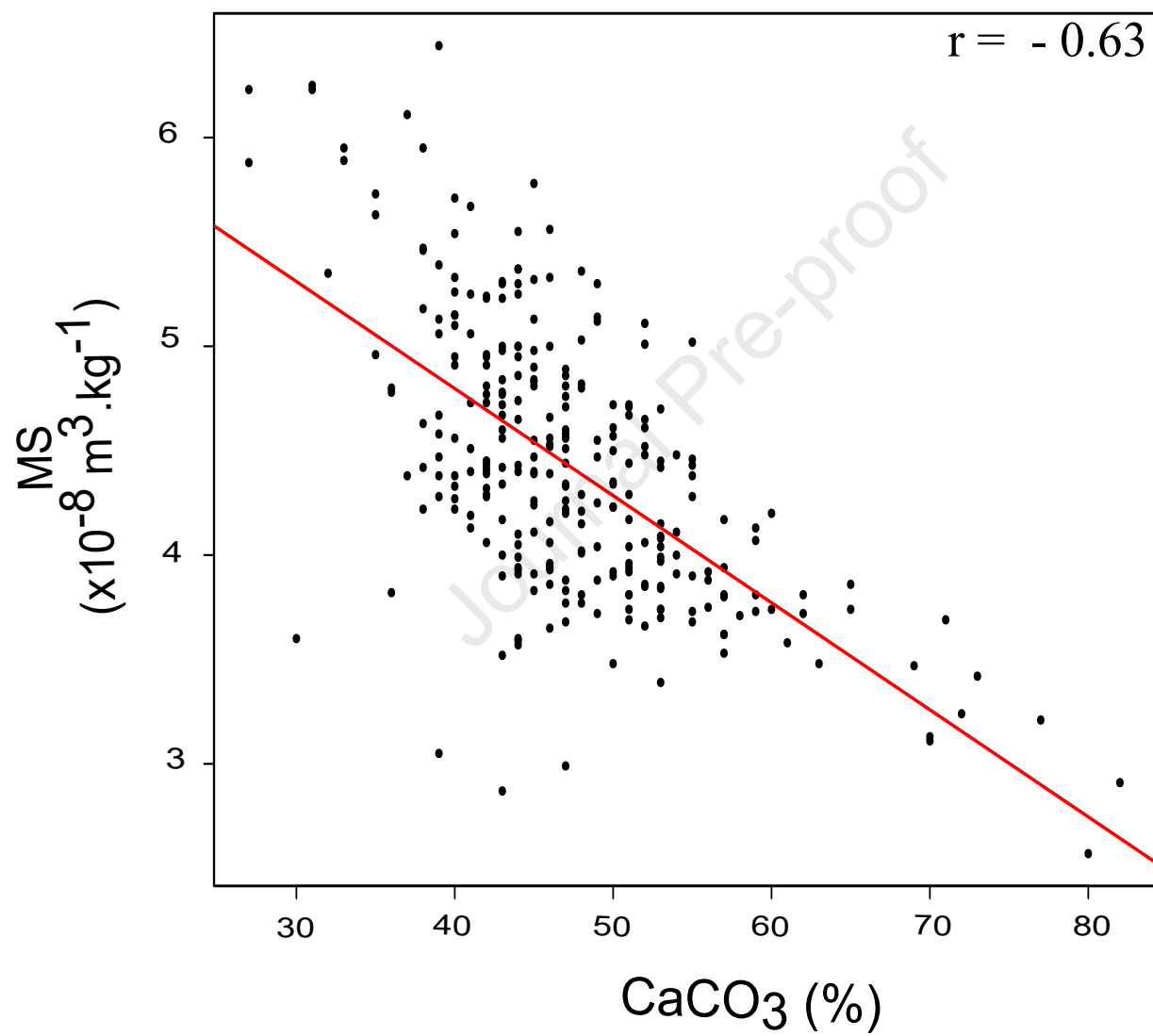
Fig. 12. 2π Multi-Taper Method (MTM) analysis performed on CaCO_3 carbonate content from Les Briers section, data provided from Bodin et al. (2023).

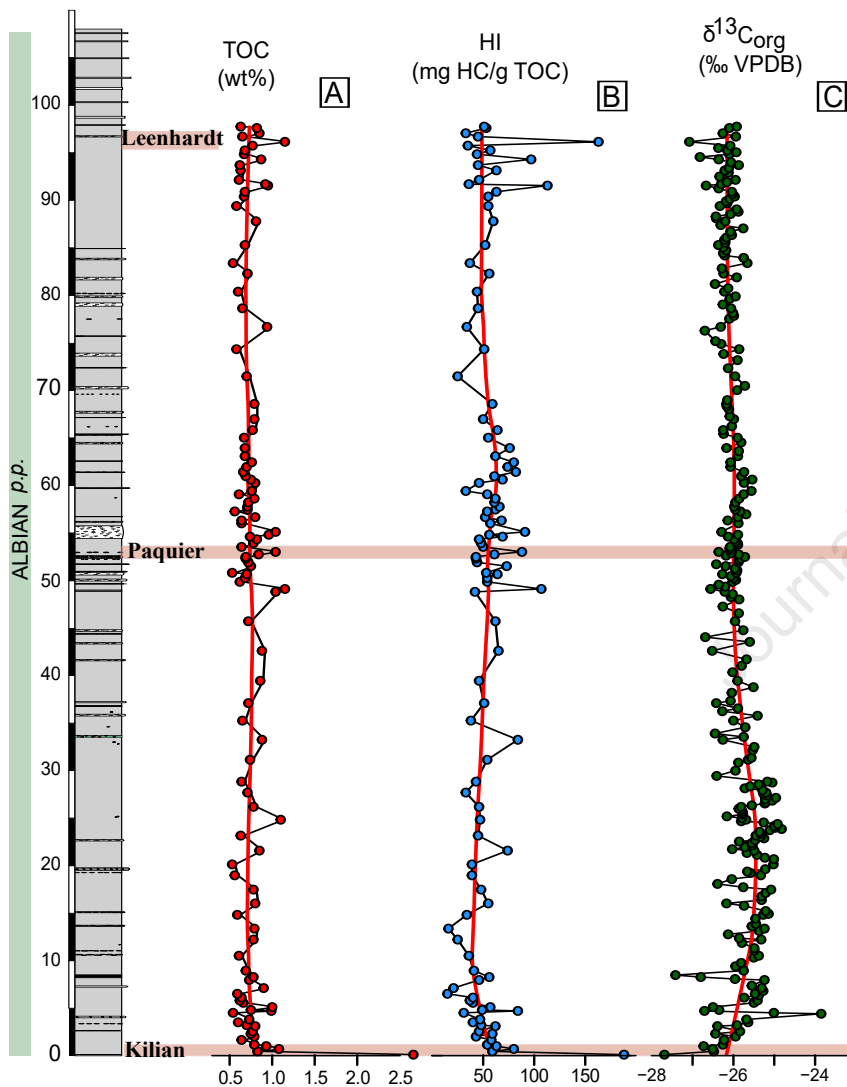
Fig. 13. Correlations of astronomical time scale for the Jacob-Kilian interval in Piobbico core, Central Italy (Huang et al. 2010) and Col de Pré-Guittard section, Vocontian basin (present study), and Poggio le Guanine core (Leandro et al. 2022).



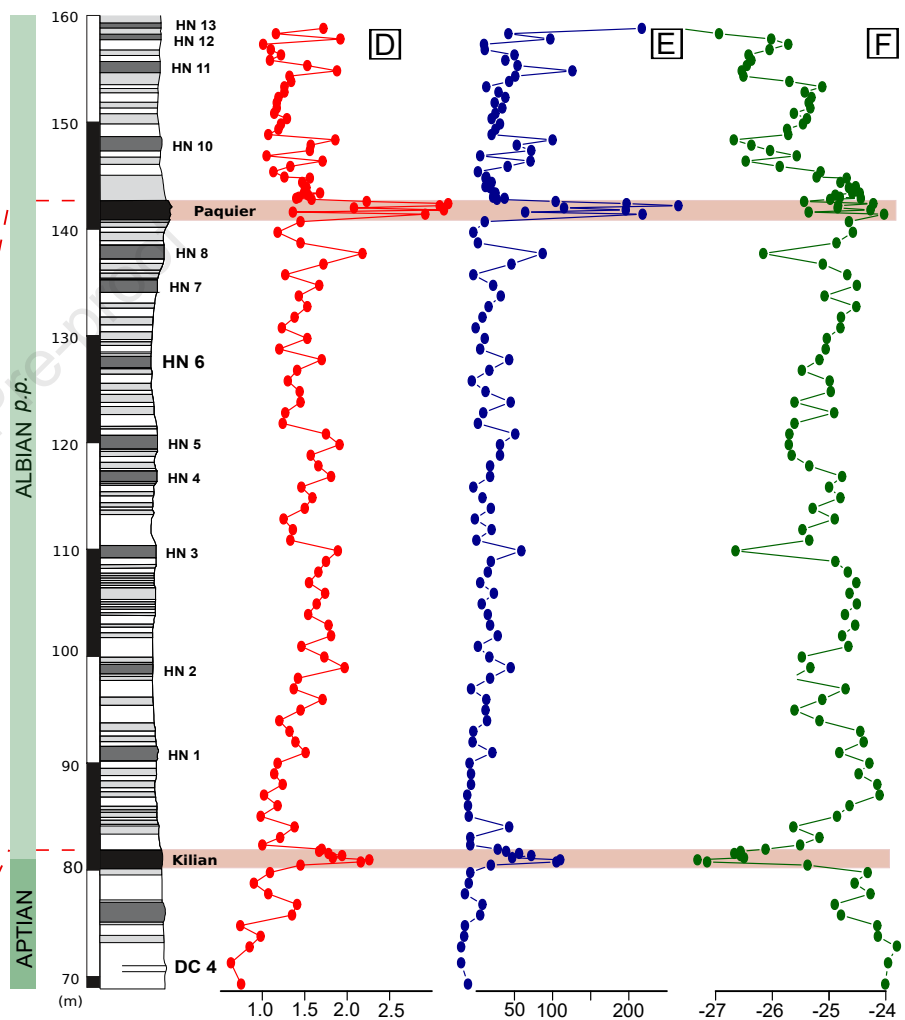


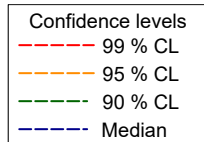
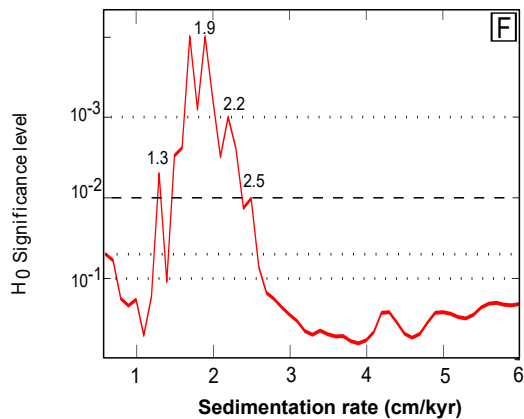
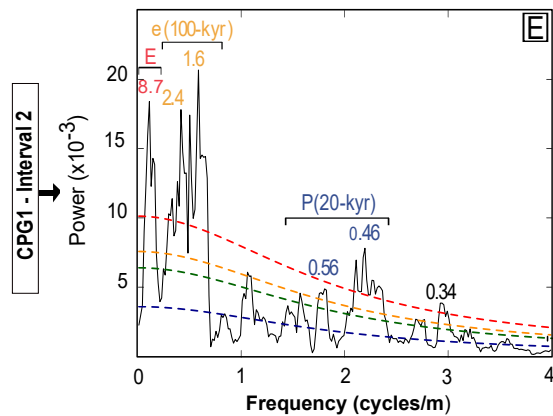
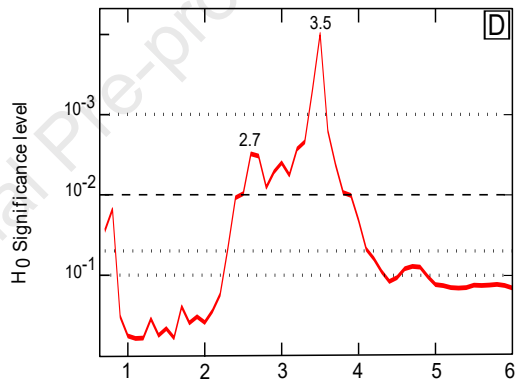
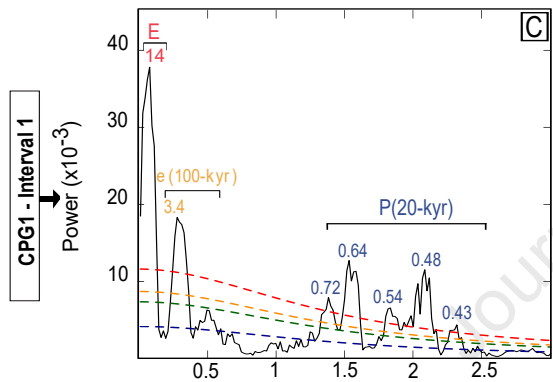
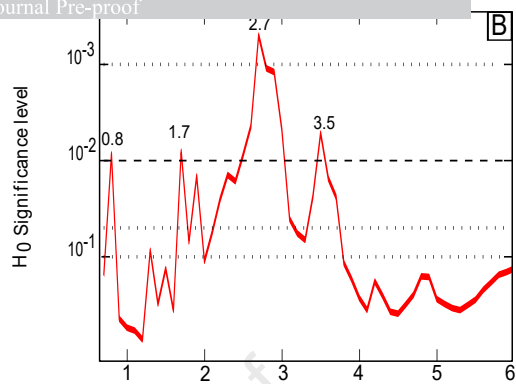
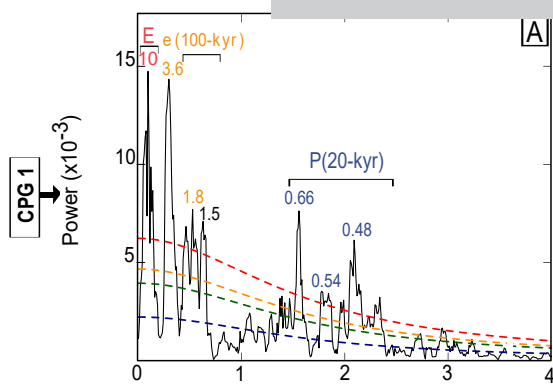


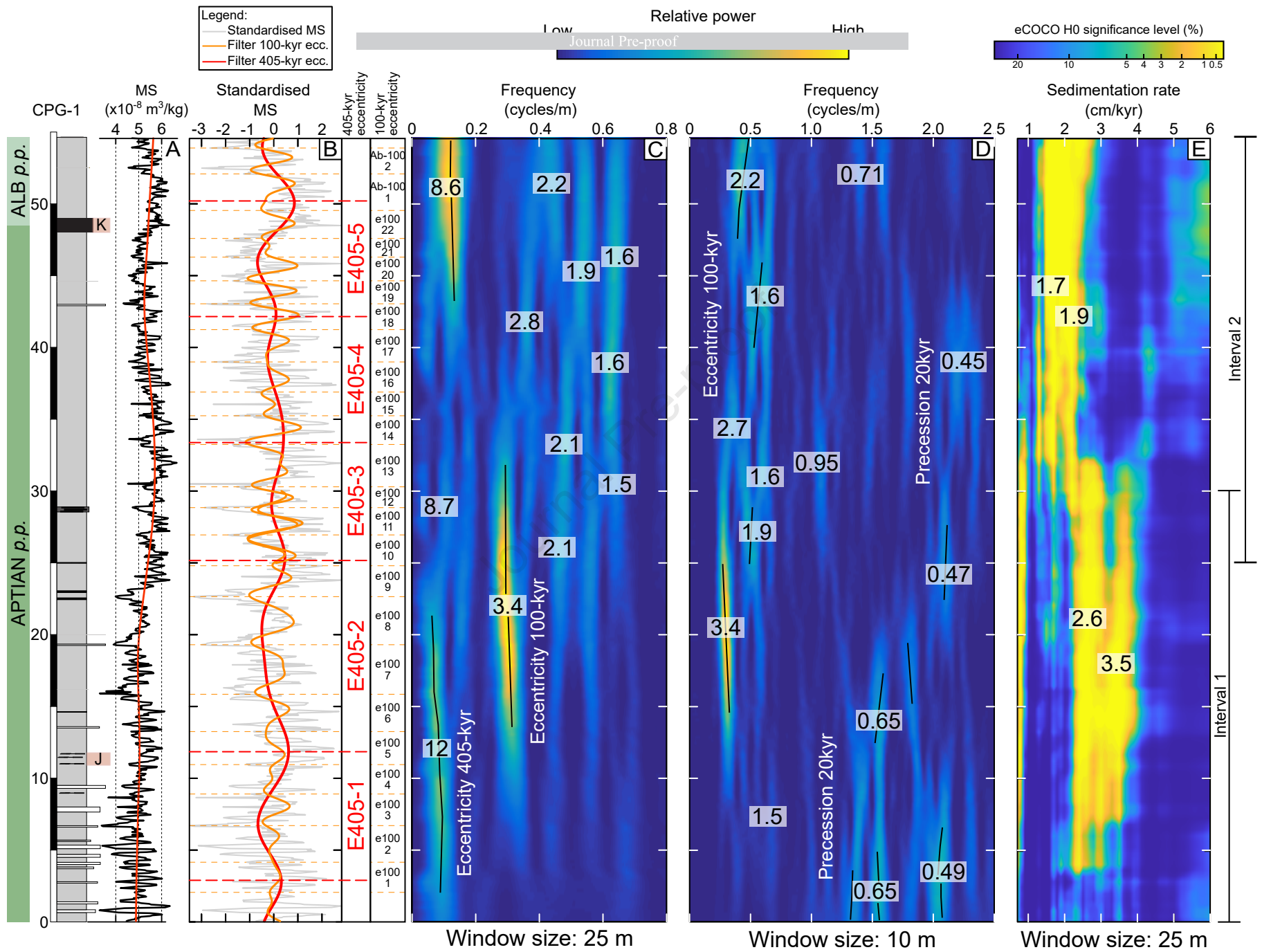




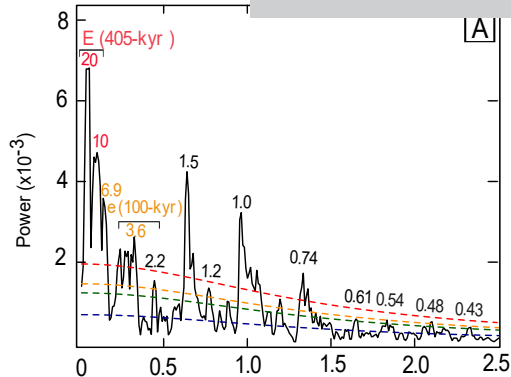
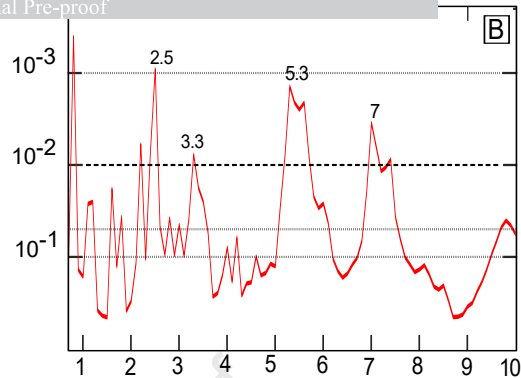
Les Briers



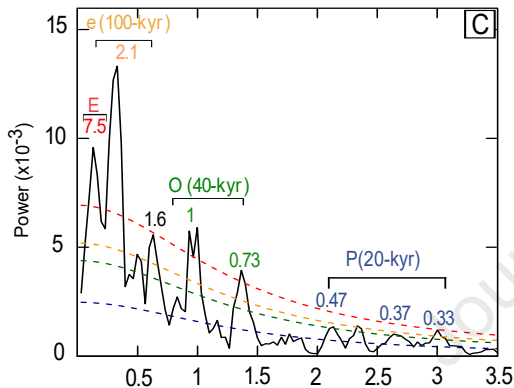
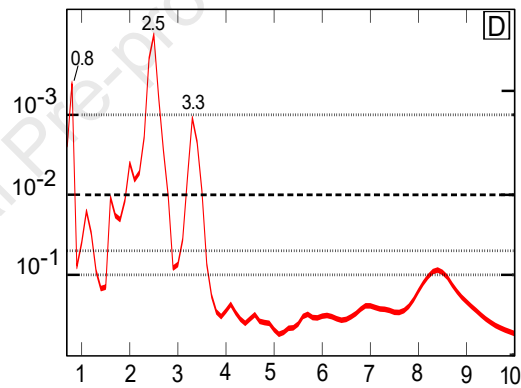




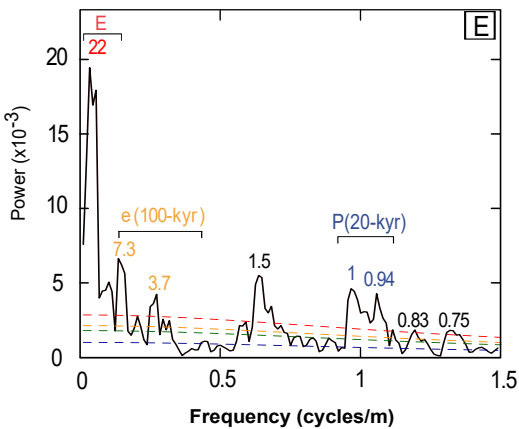
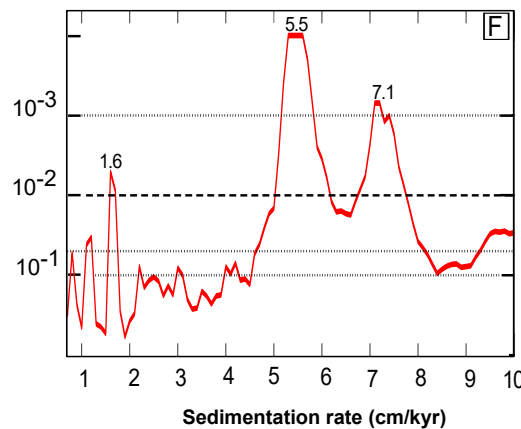
CPG 2

 H_0 Significance level

CPG 2- Interval 1

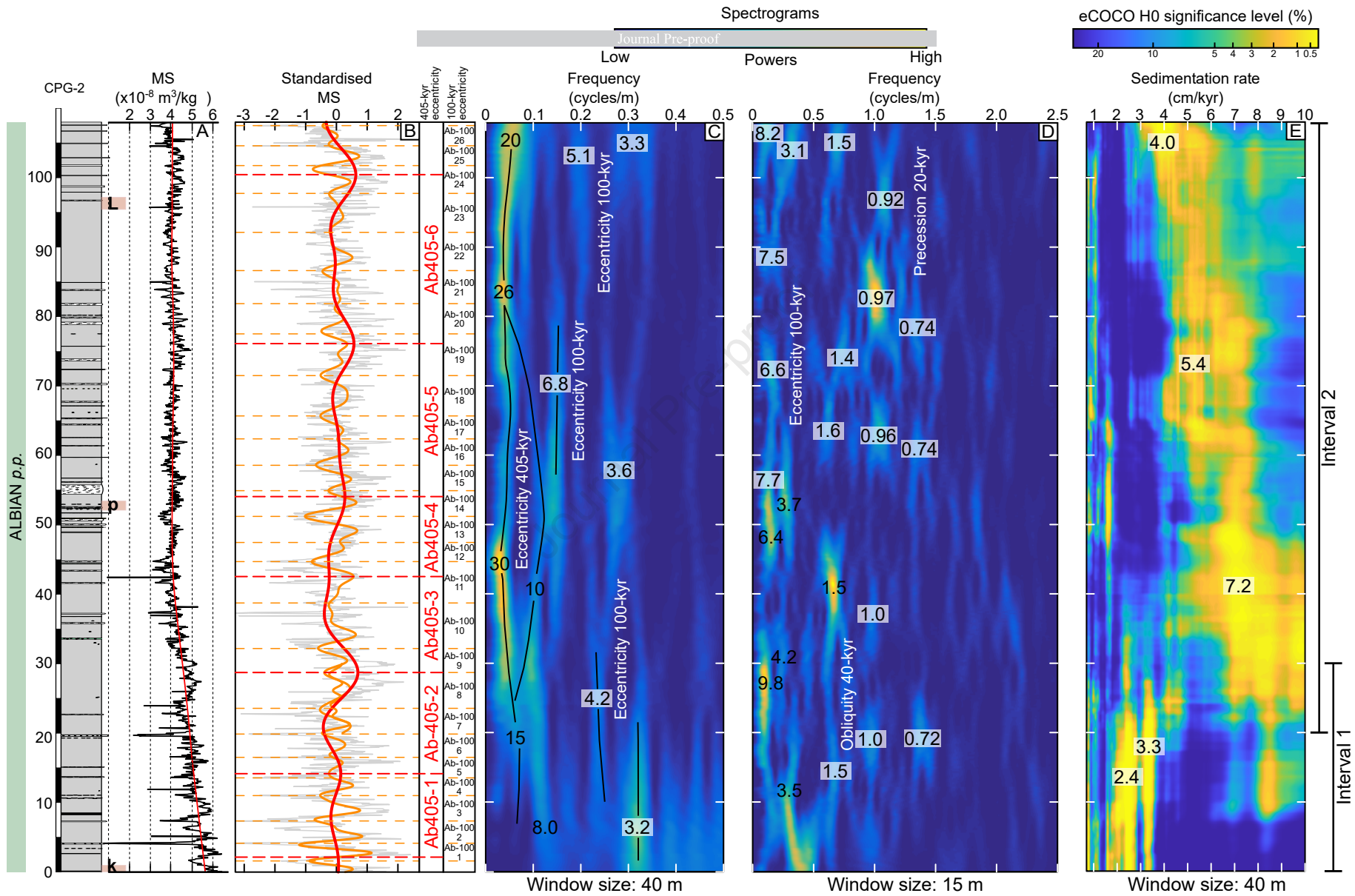
 H_0 Significance level

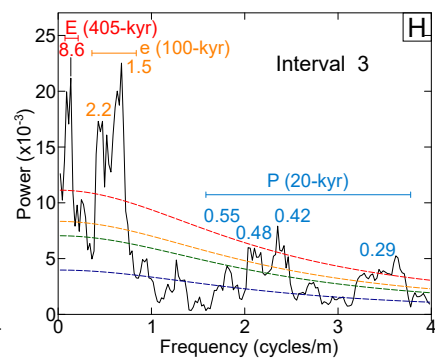
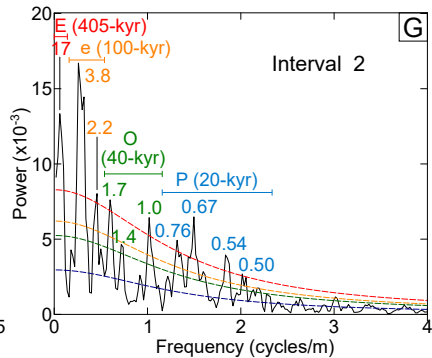
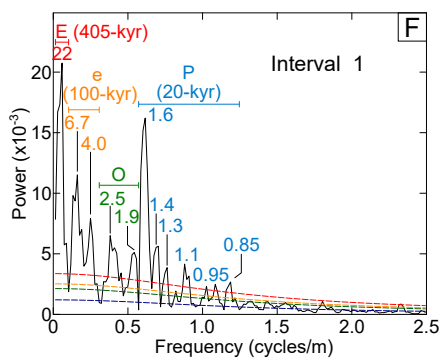
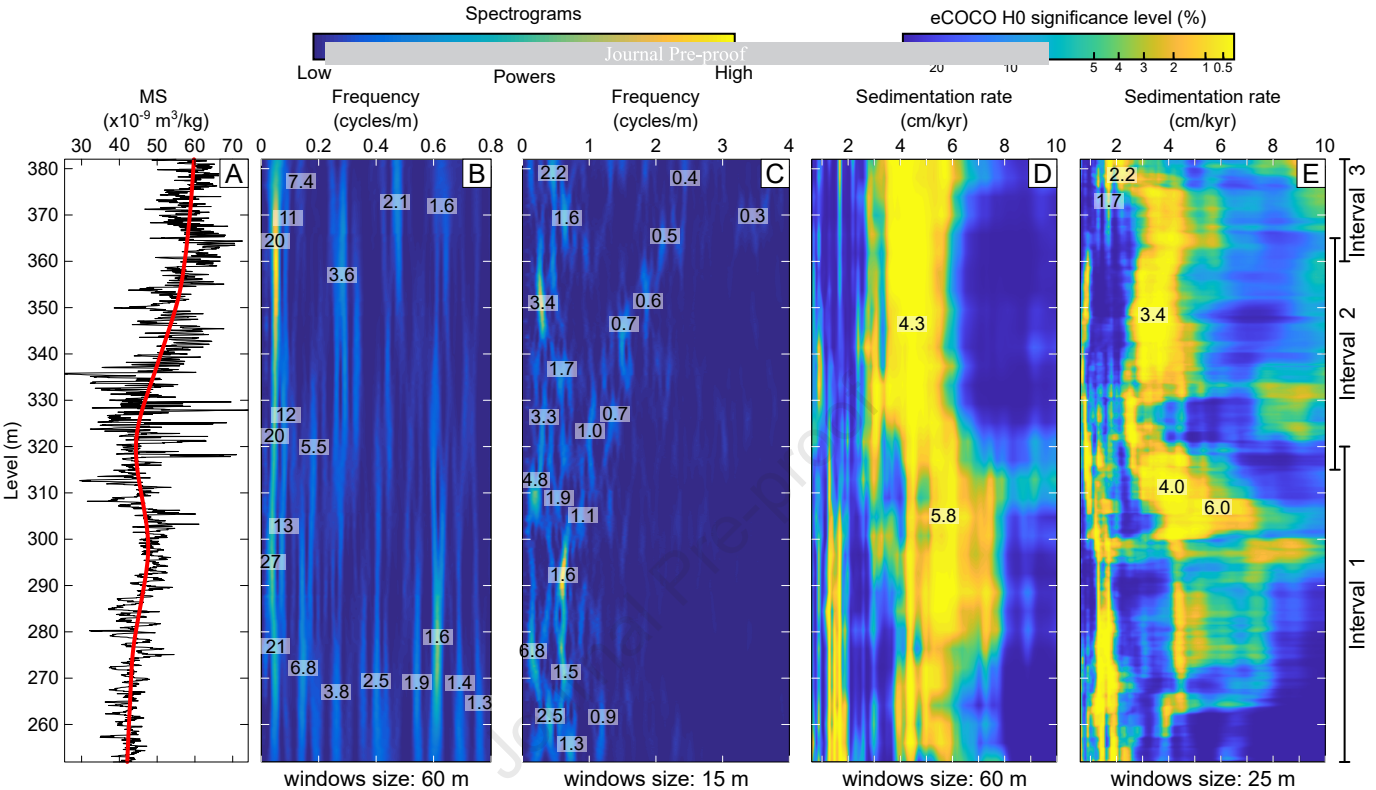
CPG 2- Interval 2

 H_0 Significance level

Confidence levels

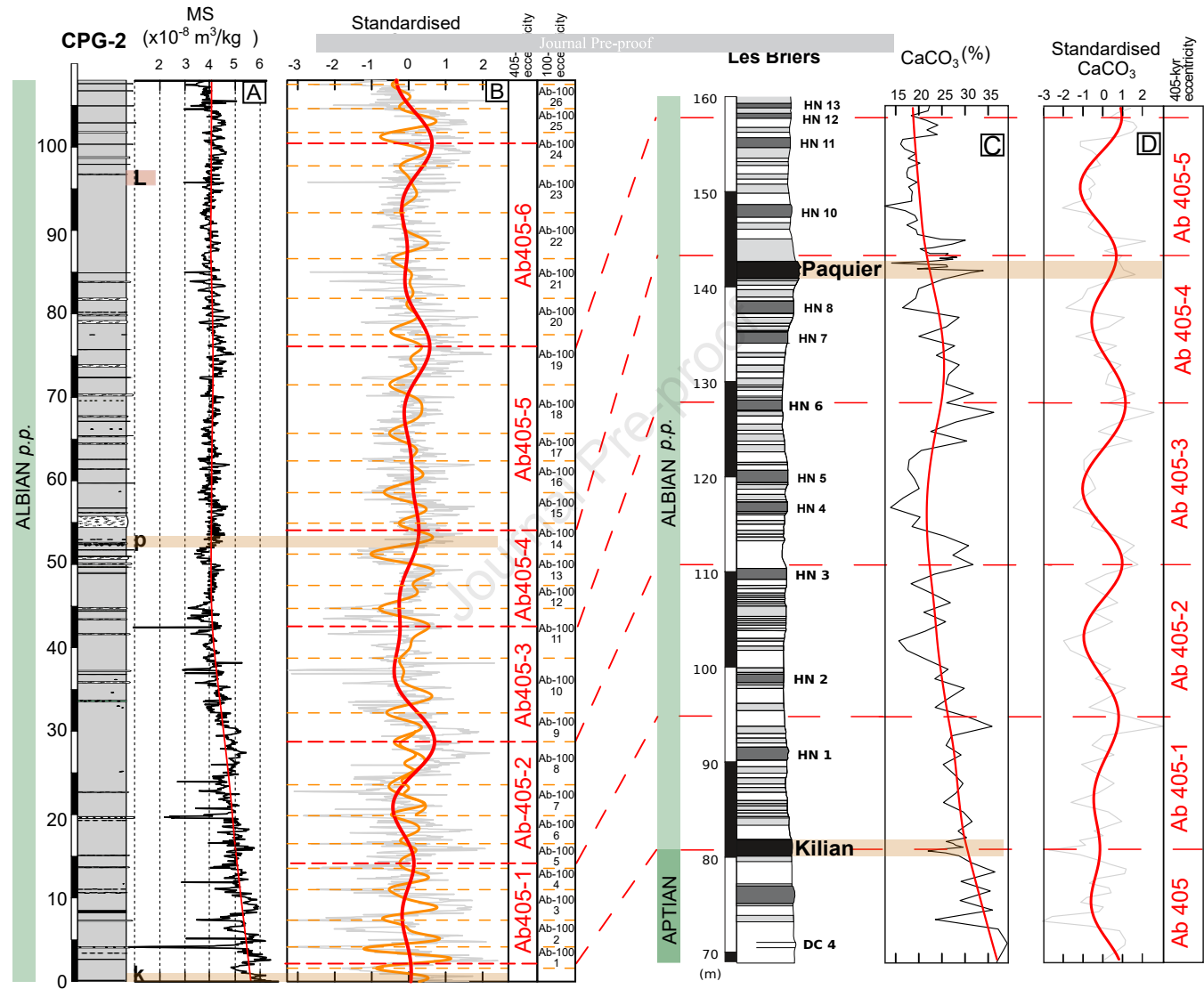
- 99 % CL
- 95 % CL
- 90 % CL
- Median

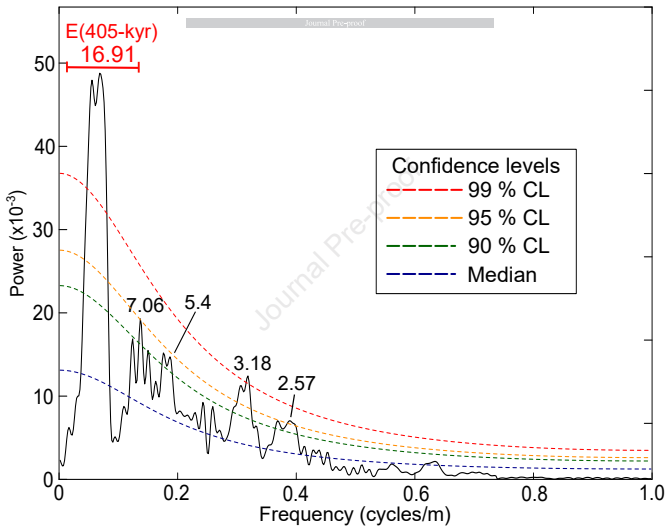


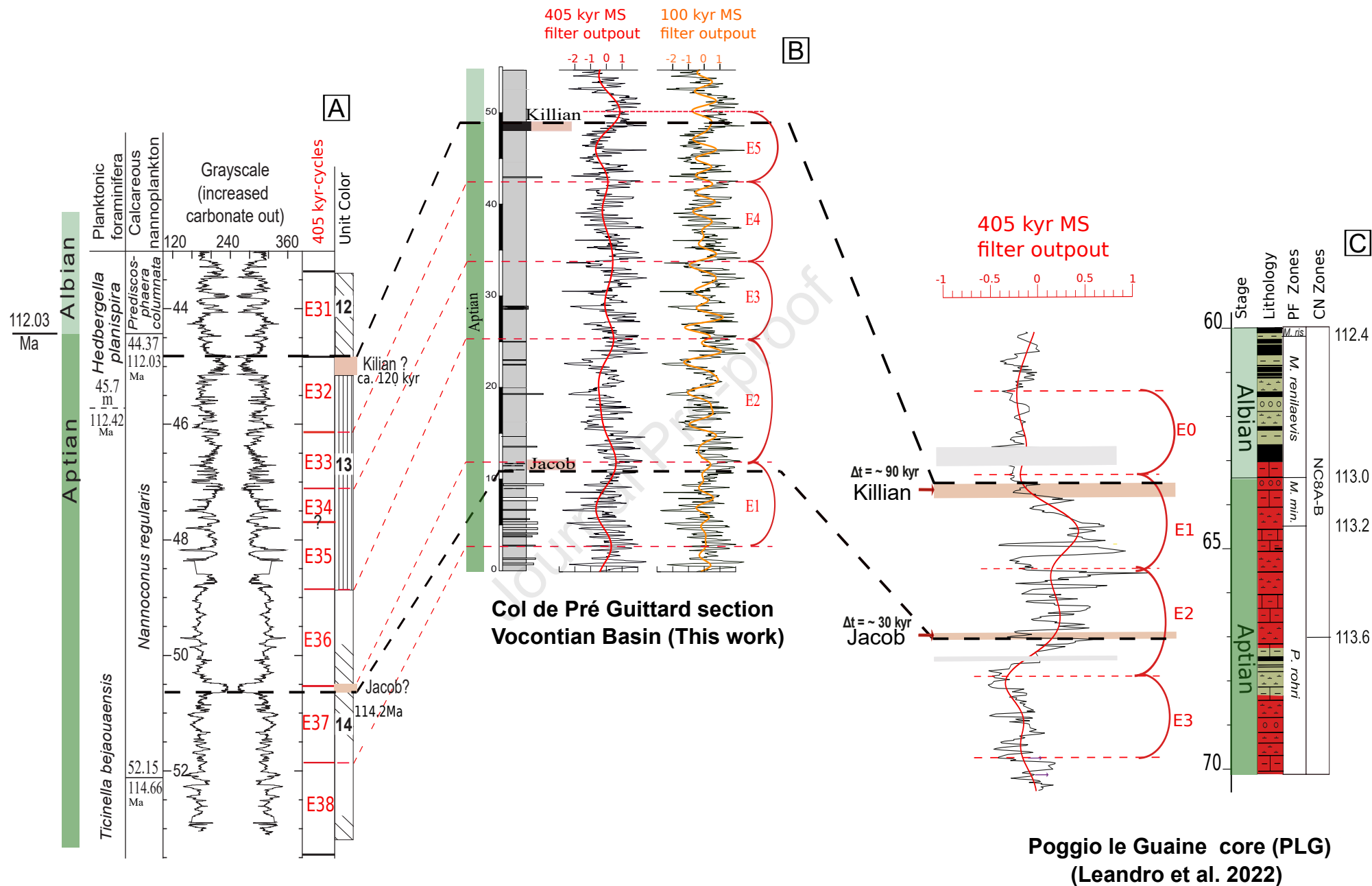


Confidence levels

99 % CL 95 % CL 90 % CL Median







Piobbico core
Central Italy
(Huang et al. 2010)

Highlights

- Astronomical calibration of the OAE 1b interval in Col de Pré-Guittard section, GSSP of the Albian.
- Jacob, Kilian, Paquier and Leenhardt events located near maximums of the 405-kyr eccentricity cycle in magnetic susceptibility
- Concomitant impact of 405-kyr eccentricity and volcanism on the onset of these events

Declaration of interests

☐ The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

☒ The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

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