

MORE EFFECTIVE TIME GRID RECONSTRUCTION IN THE CALIBRATION OF GEOCHEMICAL PROXIES FROM CORAL SKELETONS

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Corals as marine archives for paleoclimate reconstructions

In the last years, in the Mediterranean Sea we have been looking for new high-resolution climate archives, such as the non-tropical coral *Cladocora caespitosa*.

The aim of this study was to develop a new method of calibration between the Sea Temperature data and geochemical data.







Temperature Dependence



Where a_T and a_k = pre-exponential costants for thermodynamic and kinetic reactions E $a_{Sr,Ca}$ = activation energies for Sr and Ca forward reactions $\Delta G_{Sr,Ca}$ = free energy change for Sr and Ca precipitation reactions

Both thermodynamic and kinetic distribution coefficients are clearly temperature dependent

The Mediterranean coral Cladocora caespitosa

It is a colonial coral living in the Mediterranean Sea.



It can provide high-resolution SST data for the last 100-150 years, using stable isotopes and trace elements in its carbonate skeleton.

Numerous large fossil banks have been also described throughout the Mediterranean Sea since the early Pleistocene.

Climate reconstructions for specific time-windows in the past

Sampling sites

The coral samples were collected in 3 Italian sites with different SST ranges:

- Miramare in the North Adriatic Sea (temperature between 7 and 25°C)
- Portofino in the North Tyrrhenian Sea (temperature between 13 and 27 °C)
- Taranto in the Ionian Sea (temperature between 11 and 28 °C)









SST and SSS 'In situ' Measurements (Miramare)

(a)In situ weekly/fortnightly SST record from MRM and monthly IGOSS SSTs.(b) In situ weekly/fortnightly SSS record from MRM.



Montagna, P., Malcolm, Mc., Mazzoli, C., Silenzi, S., Odorico, R., The non-tropical Cladocora caespitosa as the new climate archive for the Mediterranean: high-resolution (weekly) trace elements systematics. Quaternary science Reviews 26 (2007) 441-462.

Laser Ablation-ICP-MS





Gijòn 21.05.2008

SST (°C)

Data Filtering and Calibration





Johnson standardized signal B/Ca



Maximum, Minimun and Time Instances

To estimate the time instances, we start considering an average constant growth rate, where the time instances between the observations are constant.



Standard normal values for -[B] the 'o' indicate the maximum and minimum of the data series.

Conceptual Approach of the Time Base Distortion (TBD) Method

The time instance at which the nth observation was formed is given by:

 $t_n = nT_s$ [T_s=0.003 is the sample period (dimension is time)]

 $t_n = nT_s + g(n)T_s$

where the first term is the constant time step and g(n) represents the time base distortion (TBD) at the observation position n (scalar quantity).



Spectrum in the frequency Domain



- (a) Fourier spectrum of the B signal on the improved time grid;
- (b) Fourier spectrum of the instrumental SST data

Time Base Distortion Function

Correlation coefficients (SST vs. B/Ca)



Calibration equations (B/Ca vs SST)



Calibration equations (Sr/Ca vs SST)







Comparison: Cladocora and Cultured Tropical Coral (Acropora)



Thank you

Phophate and Growth Rate Inhibition

A number of phosfate compounds have been found to inhibit crystal growth (Morse, 1983; SimKiss, 1964)



Phosphorus data was taken from the Italian Si.De.Mar Database (D.Lgs. 979/82 Italian Coastal monitoring program)



MorseJ. W. (1983) The Kinetics of Calcium Carbonate Dissolution and Precipitation. In Carbonates : Mineralogy and Chemistry, Vol. 11, pp 227-264. Mineralogical Society of America. Simkiss K. 1964 Phosphates as crystal poison of calcification. Biological Rewiew 39, 487-505

In situ measurements: CTD Probe



Summary

- Why study corals in the Mediterranean Sea?
- The non-Tropical coral Cladocora caespitosa
- Sampling and Methods
- Data filtering and Calibration
- Comparison and Results
- Conclusions and Future Work



Corals as Paleoclimate archives

Equilibrium

Coral Calcification

$$Ca^{2+} + CO_3^{2-} \xrightarrow{k1} CaCO_3 - daCa^{2+}/dt = daCaCO_3/dt$$

Sr²⁺ + CO₃²⁻ $\xrightarrow{k3} SrCO_3 - daSr^{2+}/dt = daSrCO_3/dt$

If the crystal growth is very slow, then the trace element partitioning in the crystal approximates that of equilibrium

Equilibrium Distribution Coefficient:

$$D = \left(\frac{K3 \cdot K2}{K4 \cdot K1}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{\gamma_{sr^{2+}} \cdot f_{Ca^{2+}_{(aragonite)}}}{\gamma_{Ca^{2+}} \cdot f_{sr^{2+}_{(aragonite)}}}\right)$$