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**Holocene salt-marsh sedimentary infilling and relative sea-level changes in West Brittany (France) using foraminifera-based transfer functions**

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3 1 Holocene salt-marsh sedimentary infilling and relative sea-level changes in West Brittany (France)  
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5 2 using foraminifera-based transfer functions  
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11 5 PIERRE STÉPHAN, JÉRÔME GOSLIN, YVAN PAILLER, ROSE MANCEAU, SERGE SUANEZ,  
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13 6 BRIGITTE VAN VLIET-LANOË, ALAIN HÉNAFF AND CHRISTOPHE DELACOURT  
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23 11 Brittany (France) using foraminifera-based transfer functions. *Boreas*...

25 12  
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27 13  
28  
29 14 In order to reconstruct the former sea-levels and to better characterize the history of Holocene salt-  
30  
31 15 marsh sedimentary infillings in West Brittany (western France), local foraminifera-based transfer  
32  
33 16 functions were developed using Weighted-Average-Partial-Least-Squares (WA-PLS) regression,  
34  
35 17 based on a modern dataset of 26 and 51 surface samples obtained from salt-marshes in both the bay of  
36  
37 18 Tresseny and the bay of Brest. Fifty cores were retrieved from Tresseny, Porzguen, Troaon and Arun  
38  
39 19 salt-marshes, which were litho- and biostratigraphically analyzed in order to reconstruct  
40  
41 20 palaeoenvironmental changes. A total of 26 AMS <sup>14</sup>C age determinations were performed within the  
42  
43 21 sediment successions. The Holocene evolution of salt-marsh environments can be subdivided into four  
44  
45 22 stages: (1) a development of brackish to freshwater marshes (from *c.* 6400 to 4500 cal. a BP); (2) salt-  
46  
47 23 marsh formation behind gravel barriers in the bay of Brest (from 4500 to 2900 cal. a BP); (3) salt-  
48  
49 24 marsh erosion and rapid changes of infilling dynamics due to the destruction of coastal barriers by  
50  
51 25 storm events (*c.* 2900-2700 cal. a BP); (4) renewed salt-marsh deposition and small environmental  
52  
53 26 changes (from 2700 cal. a BP to present). From the application of transfer functions to fossil  
54  
55 27 assemblages, 14 new sea-level index points were obtained indicating a mean relative sea-level rise  
56  
57 28 around 0.90±0.12 mm a<sup>-1</sup> since 6300 cal. a BP.  
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3 1  
4  
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20  
21 10 During the last two decades, several reconstructions of late Holocene relative sea-level (RSL) change  
22  
23 11 in the temperate zone have been developed using quantitative methodological approaches based on  
24  
25 12 micro-fossil taxa such as foraminifera-based transfer functions (FBTFs). This statistical tool was  
26  
27 13 widely used in the eastern north-Atlantic salt-marsh environments to produce high-resolution RSL  
28  
29 14 reconstructions, notably along the coasts of UK (e.g. Edwards & Horton 2000, 2006; Horton *et al.*  
30  
31 15 2000; Edwards 2001; Gehrels *et al.* 2001; Horton & Edwards 2003, 2005; Boomer & Horton 2006;  
32  
33 16 Massey *et al.* 2006; Barlow *et al.* 2013) and in the Bay of Biscay (Leorri *et al.* 2008a, b, 2010, 2011;  
34  
35 17 Rossi *et al.* 2011). The strong correlation of agglutinated salt-marsh foraminiferal assemblages with  
36  
37 18 elevation was used in the transfer function approach to quantify the relationship between faunal data  
38  
39 19 (relative abundance of species) and environmental data (tide levels) by regression analyses. The  
40  
41 20 modern relationship was then applied to cores to reconstructed former tide levels from fossil  
42  
43 21 assemblages.  
44

45 22 Despite the high performance of this quantitative approach, only a limited number of FBTFs  
46  
47 23 was attempted from salt-marsh sedimentary infillings along the French coasts of the Atlantic and the  
48  
49 24 English Channel (Horton & Edwards 2006; Leorri *et al.* 2008b, 2010; Rossi *et al.* 2011). In Brittany  
50  
51 25 (western France), previous Holocene sea-level records are restricted to the Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel  
52  
53 26 (marais de Dol) which are based on intercalated peat layers in the sediment succession (Van de  
54  
55 27 Plassche 1991). On the north coast of Brittany, several peat deposits outcropping on the beaches of  
56  
57 28 Saint-Marc and Brehec were studied by Ters (1986) and Delibrias *et al.* (1982). Similar deposits were  
58  
59  
60

1 used by Giot (1969) and Morzadec-Kerfourn (1969) for Holocene RSL reconstructions on the north-  
2 west coast of Brittany. Recently, Goslin *et al.* (2013) provided some new data for the west Brittany  
3 from basal peat contacts recognized on several beaches at low tide. Nevertheless, such basal peat  
4 deposits only allow reconstruction of long-term RSL movements (Gehrels 1999) and are often absent  
5 for the late Holocene period. This can lead to discontinuous and poorly defined RSL reconstructions  
6 for the late Holocene period. In the south coast of Brittany, few sediment successions have been  
7 studied by palynological analyses (Visset *et al.* 1995; Gaudin 2004; Visset & Bernard 2006), yet no  
8 attention was given to the RSL changes. Only Rossi *et al.* (2011) developed a FBTF to reconstruct  
9 former RSLs for the last two centuries in the Morbihan Gulf.

10 Knowledge of coastal sedimentary infillings of Brittany is quite limited and has recently  
11 undergone geological investigations. Yet, these were mainly concentrated on the foreshore of major  
12 sedimentary coastal wedges, and on incised valley systems, delivering great information on the  
13 postglacial transgression of Brittany for the early to mid-Holocene periods (Billeaud *et al.* 2007, 2009;  
14 Sorrel *et al.* 2009, 2010; Tessier *et al.* 2010a, b). However, it must be noted that the stratigraphy of  
15 small salt-marsh environments has been quite poorly documented until now (Morzadec-Kerfourn  
16 1969; Stephan 2011a). In a recent synthesis of data collected since the beginning of the 2000s on the  
17 French Atlantic coastal sediment wedges, Tessier *et al.* (2012) highlighted the strong control exerted  
18 by rapid climatic changes on the infilling dynamics. Periods of enhanced storminess that occurred  
19 during the Holocene were recognized within stratigraphies, and are responsible for significant  
20 morphological changes of coastlines.

21 The aim of this paper is to examine the late Holocene sedimentary successions of four salt-  
22 marshes of West Brittany, France, and to develop new and more accurate RSL reconstructions for the  
23 area. To achieve these aims, we developed local FBTFs in both the bay of Tresseny and Brest on the  
24 basis of the present-day distribution of foraminiferal-assemblages along cross-marsh transects.  
25 Moreover, salt-marsh sedimentary infillings are described using litho- and biostratigraphical analyses.  
26 Local FBTFs are applied to fossil foraminiferal-assemblages from vibracores to perform the  
27 palaeoenvironmental reconstructions. The results are used to develop 17 new Sea-Level Index Points  
28 (SLIPs) for West Brittany.

## Regional setting and study areas

Study areas are located on the northwest coast of Brittany (Fig. 1). This area is part of the Armorican domain, located south-west of the English Channel, and was considered as a tectonically stable region during the Holocene (Ters 1986; Morzadec-Kerfourn 1995). The major deformation seems to be the result of the hydrostatic loading of the Channel platform during the Holocene transgression. A subsidence of 1.5 m of the coast of Finistère is expected over the last 6000 years (Lambeck 1997). Studied sites were selected because these areas present the thickest sediment successions with low energy sediments (fine sand, silt and clay), dateable organic deposits and an open connection to the sea.

Tresseny salt-marsh covers an area of 13 ha and is restricted to the inner part of a small macrotidal narrow bay (Fig. 2) forming the mouth of the Quillimadec coastal river. This bay is located on the northwest coast of Brittany, characterized by sand-dominated sedimentary environments, composed of sandflats in the lower foreshore, sandy beaches in the middle-upper foreshore and coastal dune barriers and spits isolating brackish marshes. The coast is mainly exposed to North to North-West Atlantic swells. The tidal range reaches up to 7.2 m on spring tides and 3.45 m on neap tides (Table 1). The bay has a total surface of 130 ha, a length of 3.2 km and a width ranging from 200 m in the inner part and 500 m in the outer part. However, the bay is significantly narrower in its central part where the width does not exceed 75 m, therefore sheltering the marsh from wave impact, especially its northern part. Tresseny marsh is mainly covered with halophytic plants: *Plantago maritima*, *Halimione portulacoides*, *Puccinellia Maritima*, *Juncus maritimus*. In the 17th century, the inner part of the Tresseny bay was transformed into meadows by a drainage system after the construction of a tide-mill.

The bay of Brest is approximately 11 km wide and 27 km long. The southern and northern parts of the bay are mainly composed of gravel beaches and unconsolidated cliffs formed by periglacial deposits; while the eastern part is composed of large mudflats and estuaries separated by rocky headlands. The bay is a fetch-limited environment, where bigger storm-waves never exceed 1 m

1  
2  
3 1 in height (Stéphan 2011b). The area is considered a macrotidal environment, with a tidal ranging from  
4  
5 2 5.9 m on spring tides and 2.8 m on neap tides (Table 1). On the east coast of the bay of Brest, the  
6  
7 3 Lanveur marsh is located in the inner part of a large open bay sheltered by rocky headland. Vegetation  
8  
9 4 cover forms a 100 m wide zone in the inner part of the bay (Fig. 2) composed of halophytic plants as  
10  
11 5 *Puccinellia maritima*, *Halimione portulacoides* in the high marsh, and *Spartina alterniflora* in the low  
12  
13 6 marsh. A large mudflat characterized by hierarchical tide channels represents the outer part of the bay.  
14  
15 7 Others studied marshes in the bay of Brest (Porzguen, Troaon and Arun marshes) are back-barrier  
16  
17 8 environments. Coastal barriers are composed of mixed sand and gravel material and present a single  
18  
19 9 ridge affected by episodic overwash events (Stéphan 2011b, c). The marshes cover areas ranging from  
20  
21 10 3 ha for in both Porzguen and Arun salt-marshes and 6 ha for Troaon salt-marshes. The elevation of  
22  
23 11 the surface corresponds to the mean high-water spring-tide level. The superficial sediment cover is a  
24  
25 12 grey silty-clay mud (mean grain size between 20 and 40  $\mu\text{m}$ ). The bottom of tidal channel indicates  
26  
27 13 higher mean grain size values (around 300  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Marsh vegetation exhibits a vertical zonation and can  
28  
29 14 be subdivided into high marsh covered by *Halimione portulacoides*, *Puccinellia Maritima*, *Plantago*  
30  
31 15 *maritima* and middle marsh covered by *Spartina alterniflora* and *Salicornia fragilis*. The inner part of  
32  
33 16 the marsh is covered by brackish water vegetation consisting of *Phragmites australis*, *Scirpus*  
34  
35 17 *maritimus* and *Juncus maritimus*.

## 19 **Material and methods**

### 21 *Transfer functions construction*

22  
23 23 Surface sediment sampling strategy was based on cross-marsh transects, covering tidal flat (or  
24  
25 24 channel) to brackish marsh, in order to cover different marsh subenvironments in terms of elevation  
26  
27 25 relative to tidal levels. The top 10 cm of sediment was sampled, considering that infaunal populations  
28  
29 26 of agglutinated foraminifera living at depths of up to 10 cm have been reported from salt-marshes in  
30  
31 27 the French Atlantic coast (Duchemin *et al.* 2005) and also in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern USA  
32  
33 28 (Goldstein *et al.* 1995; Saffert & Thomas 1998; Hippensteel *et al.* 2000). Consequently, a vertical

1 error of  $\pm 0.10$  m was added to the palaeomarrow reconstructions performed by using transfert function  
2 models.

3 Topographic elevation was measured for all modern samples relative to the French ordonnance  
4 datum (NGF) using a Trimble 5700/5800 Differential GPS. The total elevation error related to DGPS  
5 measurement ( $\pm 0.02$  m) and geodesic marker precision ( $\pm 0.1$ m) is estimated to  $\pm 0.12$  m (Suanez *et al.*  
6 2008). Topographic elevations were converted to tide levels using measurements performed by the  
7 SHOM (Service hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine). The margin of error related to the  
8 datum conversion was less than  $\pm 0.001$ m.

9 Modern samples were sieved through a 500  $\mu$ m and 63  $\mu$ m mesh and washed to remove clay  
10 and silt material. The residual fraction was split into 3 subsamples ( $<100$   $\mu$ m, 100-200  $\mu$ m,  $>200$   $\mu$ m).  
11 Where possible, a minimum amount of 100 specimens of foraminifera (dead and alive) were counted  
12 for each subsample using a stereoscopic binocular microscope. Species identification was mainly  
13 based on specific papers showing modern assemblages and their distribution patterns in the French  
14 Atlantic salt-marshes (Moulinier 1996; Redois & Debenay 1996; Goubert 1997; Armynot du Châtelet  
15 *et al.* 2005; Duchemin *et al.* 2005; Debenay *et al.* 2006; Leorri *et al.* 2010; Rossi *et al.* 2011).  
16 *Ammonia* and *Elphidium* were recorded as generic groups (Hayward *et al.* 2004; Horton & Edwards  
17 2006; Kemp *et al.* 2012).

18 A detrended canonical correspondance analysis (DCCA) was employed to determine if taxon-  
19 environment response was unimodal (Gaussian) or linear (Sejrup *et al.* 2004) using CANOCO 4.0 (Ter  
20 Braak & Smilauer 1998) software. Furthermore, the programme C2 (version 1.4, Juggins 2004) was  
21 used to construct the transfer functions. The performance of the transfer functions was assessed by  
22 calculating root mean squared error of prediction (RMSEP), maximum bias, and the correlation of  
23 observed versus predicted values ( $r^2$ ). Data was jackknifed to assess the overall predictive abilities of  
24 the training set.

25

26 *Stratigraphical analysis*

27



1 The lithostratigraphy of sediment infilling was investigated via a series of 50 auger cores (Fig. 2). A  
2 set of vibracores were also collected (called “reference cores” in the paper) and separated into sections  
3 in the laboratory for AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating, sedimentological and foraminiferal analysis. The ground surface  
4 elevation was obtained for all cores by DGPS measurements. Possible sources of altitudinal error have  
5 been considered in detail by Shennan (1986). Overall altitudinal error was evaluated to  $\pm 0.14$  m,  
6 accounting for (i) a potential  $\pm 0.02$  m incertitude in the measurement of the stratigraphic position of  
7 the sample and (ii) a  $\pm 0.12$  m uncertainty due to levelling to the benchmark. Grain size analysis was  
8 conducted after a destruction of organic material using a laser analyzer (type Malvern Mastersizer  
9 2000) for fine fraction ( $< 1$  mm) and by sieving procedure for coarse material ( $> 1$  mm). 26 carbon-rich  
10 sediment samples were collected from reference cores and dated by radiocarbon, providing a reliable  
11 chronological framework of the salt-marshes sedimentary infillings (Table 2). The conventional  
12 radiocarbon dates were calibrated using software Calib 7.0 (Stuiver & Reimer 1993) and the IntCal13  
13 calibration curve (Reimer *et al.* 2013). Errors in the inferred radiocarbon dates cannot be excluded  
14 because of the possible contamination of the sediment by older or younger carbon, such as by rootlet  
15 penetration or inwashed material. Nevertheless, most of radiocarbon measurements were carried out  
16 on detrital fragments of *in situ* halophitic plants selected under binocular microscope. Indeed, as  
17 pinpointed by several authors (Gehrels *et al.* 1996; Törnqvist *et al.* 1998; Gehrels 1999) the fragility of  
18 plants remains largely reduces their potential of re-deposition and the latter can thus be considered as  
19 reflecting the depositional environment of the dated sediment.

## 21 Results

### 23 *Contemporary foraminiferal distribution*

25 Along Tresseny salt-marsh transect, 26 samples containing 14 species of foraminifera with an  
26 abundance of at least 2% in a single sample were collected between MHWNT and MHWST (Table  
27 S1). Fig. 3 exhibits the main foraminiferal species of the total (live and dead) training set plotted  
28 against the elevation. Only one sample contained less than 200 individuals. Hyaline and porcelanous

1 species were present only in samples collected in the tidal creek below 2.75 m NGF. Calcareous  
2 foraminiferal assemblages are dominated by *Haynesina germanica* (mean value and range: 44%, 0-  
3 73%) followed by *Elphidium* sp. (9%, 0-29%) and *Ammonia* sp. (8%, 0-18%). Species diversity  
4 decreases with increasing elevation along the transect. Agglutinated species dominate the assemblages  
5 in the upper part of the marsh. *Jadammina macrescens* (38%, 16-64%) and *Miliammina fusca* (34%,  
6 16-52%), together with *Haplophragmoides wilberti* (25%, 15-42%) were the most abundant species  
7 between 2.75 m NGF and 3.62 m NGF.

8 At Lanveur, 23 samples were collected between the MTL and the MHWST (Fig. 3). Ten  
9 species of foraminifera (abundance  $\geq 2\%$  in a single sample) were identified (Table S1). Three main  
10 zones can be distinguished along the transect from foraminiferal assemblages corresponding to the  
11 mud-flat, the low salt-marsh and the high salt-marsh, respectively (Fig. 3). Calcareous species  
12 dominate the transect's lowest zone from 0.5 m NGF to 1 m NGF. Foraminifera in the mud-flat zone  
13 are dominated by *H. germanica* (44%, 22-65%), *Ammonia* sp. (41%, 31-57%) and *Elphidium* sp. (7%,  
14 2-13%). The most abundant species found on the low salt-marsh zone was *M. fusca* (60%, 30-81%) at  
15 an elevation ranging from 1 m to 2 m NGF. *J. macrescens* (41%, 29-63%) dominates the high salt-  
16 marsh zone between 2 m NGF and 3.2 m NGF.

17 Along the Arun cross-marsh transect, a total of 30 samples were collected between the  
18 MHWNT and the HAT (Fig. 3). Foraminiferal assemblages present a low species diversity with only 5  
19 agglutinated species of foraminifera with an abundance of at least 2% in a single sample identified.  
20 The most abundant species were *Trochammina inflata* (31%, 11-57%) and *J. macrescens* (27%, 5-  
21 69%), together with *M. fusca* (21%, 3-61%) and *H. wilberti* (20, 2-52%). Two upland samples fringing  
22 the salt-marsh contained no foraminifera (E29 and E30, Fig. 3).

#### 24 *Foraminifera-based transfer functions development*

25  
26 In the bay of Brest, we developed transfer functions to reconstruct palaeommarsh elevation for fossil  
27 samples using three models (Table 3). The first 'all data' model used the full modern dataset obtained  
28 from the two cross-marshes transects located in the Bay of Brest. The training set consisted of 51

1 modern surface samples and 14 species of foraminifera, covering an elevation range of 3.27 m. DCCA  
2 indicated that the modern species-environmental response was unimodal with a gradient length of  
3 2.515 allowing us to apply WAPLS regression method. The model does not successfully predict the  
4 elevation of samples. The transfer function performance estimated a high RMSEP of  $\pm 0.48$  m and a  
5 low  $r^2$  at the 2nd component (Table 3). This suggests that the predictive abilities and the relationship  
6 between observed and predicted values are poor and therefore induce high associated errors (Fig. 4).  
7 When a large training set spans a long elevation range, some samples may present a weak relationship  
8 with elevation because of the possible influence of other environmental factors, taphonomic processes  
9 or natural variability in species response to their controlling variable (Edwards & Horton  
10 2000; Edwards 2001; Woodroffe & Long 2009; Barlow *et al.* 2013). Consequently, some authors  
11 remove surface samples collected in tidal flats and low salt-marshes which often show non-linearity  
12 with elevation. This procedure aims to increase the transfer function's predictive ability (Edwards &  
13 Horton 2000; Hamilton & Shennan 2005). In the 'all data' model, mudflat samples are derived from  
14 Lanveur cross-marsh transect (Fig. 4) where a sharp transition is observed between the unvegetated  
15 mudflat zone dominated by calcareous taxa and the vegetated saltmarsh zone dominated by  
16 agglutinated species (Fig. 3). The samples from these two different foraminiferal zones are clearly  
17 separated in the plot of observed versus predicted elevation, which illustrates the difficulty to combine  
18 both in the same regression model. However, samples collected in the salt-marsh zone seem to be in  
19 alignment according to the elevation range. Therefore, a second 'salt-marsh' model was developed  
20 after excluding samples from mudflat environment. This reduced the training set to 43 samples and 9  
21 taxa. The elevation range was shortened to 2.58 m.

22 The 'salt marsh' model in comparison with the 'all data' model failed to produce a better  
23 performance (Table 3) on account of the large number of samples with high residual values. Two  
24 outliers were represented by samples L10 and L19 collected along the Lanveur cross-marsh transect  
25 which exhibited an unusually high abundance of *Ammonia* sp. and *Elphidium* sp. compared to other  
26 neighbouring samples (Fig. 4). Furthermore, 10 samples collected both in the salt-pans and tidal  
27 creeks of the Arun salt-marsh seemed to have a poorly defined relationship to elevation. This likely  
28 suggested the influence of other environmental factors within these microforms. The salt-pans and

1 tidal-creeks are characterized by the absence of a vegetation cover and probably by large variations of  
2 temperature and salinity that may disturb locally the general pattern of the foraminiferal zonation.  
3 These samples were removed from the training set to develop a third ‘pruned’ salt-marsh model using  
4 WAPLS regression method. This model consists of 29 modern surface samples, 8 foraminifera taxa  
5 and cover an elevation range of 2.35 m. The transfer function performance estimates a RMSEP of  
6  $\pm 0.20$  m and a  $r^2$  of 0.94 at the component 3 (Table 3). This suggests that the predictive abilities and  
7 the relationship between observed and predicted values were significantly improved. However, a part  
8 of this performance improvement can be considered as artificial. By excluding samples from the  
9 training set, we reduced the size of the modern dataset and we made the choice not to capture the  
10 entire diversity of the sampled modern environments. This approach has automatically lead to a better  
11 performance of models, but it limits their ability to reconstruct all the past environments.

12 For the Tresseny salt-marsh, we developed a model (‘Tresseny model’) using the entire  
13 training set collected along the cross-marsh transects. This model included all modern samples  
14 collected and all species and consist of 26 modern surface samples, 14 foraminifera taxa, covering an  
15 elevation range of 1.61 m. DCCA suggests that unimodal methods of regression and calibration were  
16 appropriate because the gradient lengths were greater than 2. The Weighted Averaging-Partial Least  
17 Squares method was used to produce a model with a RMSEP of  $\pm 0.14$  m and a  $r^2$  of 0.90 at the 2nd  
18 WAPLS component. The fit between observed and predicted elevation is good, albeit there are some  
19 non-linearities by places along the elevation range (Fig. 5). Samples collected on the unvegetated  
20 surface of the tidal creek show a poor statistical relationship with elevation. This is probably due to the  
21 influence of other environmental factors or taphonomic processes (Edwards & Horton 2000)  
22 previously described.

#### 23 24 *Salt-marshes sedimentary infilling: lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy*

25  
26 Based on sedimentological analyses (grain size analysis, sedimentary structures, organic and  
27 foraminiferal contents), the investigated Holocene sediment successions were subdivided into 9  
28 lithofacies (LF1 to LF10, Table 4). Their interpretation in terms of depositional environments were

1 based on classic models (Reineck & Singh 1980; Allen 2000, 2003), regional studies of estuarine and  
2 coastal areas (Billeaud *et al.* 2007, 2009; Lespez *et al.* 2010; Stéphan 2011a, b; Tessier *et al.* 2012;  
3 Goslin 2014), and comparison with modern sediments that characterize coastal environments in NW  
4 Brittany (Hallégouët 1971; Guilcher *et al.* 1990) and the bay of Brest (Stéphan 2011a).

5 At Porzguen, a basal peat unit (LF1) overlays a weathered shale pre-Holocene surface (Fig. 6).  
6 The age of this unit is dated to 5605-5324 cal. a BP at the base and 5036-4625 cal. a BP at the top.  
7 Benthic foraminifera assemblages are dominated by *T. inflata* (average 35%), *J. macrescens* (average  
8 30%) and *H. wilberti* (average 30%, Table S2). This assemblage is indicative of high marsh  
9 environment. The basal peat unit is overlaid by an organic silty clay unit (LF2) found from -0.65 to  
10 +1.1 m NGF in core P-C2. The contact between the basal peat and this overlaying unit is gradational  
11 and reflects an increase of the marine influence in a salt-marsh environment probably sheltered by a  
12 coastal barrier. From +1.1 to +3 m NGF, this unit is replaced by a grey silty-clay (LF4) characterized  
13 by two 20 cm thick layers with milimetric laminations of black organic-rich silt found at a depth  
14 between +1.4 m NGF and +2.2 m NGF. This unit presents foraminiferal populations highly dominated  
15 by *T. inflata* (Fig. 7A). However, the laminated layers show no foraminifera and may have  
16 accumulated under low salinity conditions, in a back-barrier freshwater pond during phases of salt-  
17 marsh closure by the gravel barrier. At Porzguen, the top unit of the sedimentary succession at  
18 Porzguen corresponds to LF2. Fossil foraminiferal assemblages are dominated by *T. inflata* (average  
19 60%) and *J. macrescens* (average 30%).

20 At Troaon, the holocene sediment infilling is 5.5 m thick (Fig. 6). The base of the succession  
21 consists of reed peat layer containing phragmites macro-remains (LF1) and agglutinated foraminiferal  
22 populations dominated by *T. inflata*, *J. macrescens* and *H. wilberti* indicative of high marsh  
23 environment (Table S3). The timing of the peat deposition is between 6399-6015 and 4956-4569 cal. a  
24 BP. This deposit was found at a depth between -2.8 m NGF and -0.65 m NGF, which probably extends  
25 seaward and is overlaid by the gravel barrier and beach. Overlaying the peat is a silty clay sediment  
26 with salt-marsh plant fragments and rootlets (LF2) found from -2 m NGF to the present-day surface. It  
27 forms a gradual transition into the underlying basal peat unit. Benthic foraminifera assemblages are  
28 dominated by *J. macrescens* and *T. inflata* in relatively equal proportion (about 45%) indicative of

1 high marsh environment (Fig. 7B). Two 10 cm thick layers of silty-sand horizons (LF3) were found  
2 between +0.1 and +0.7 m NGF in cores T-C1 and T-C2. The contact between these horizons and the  
3 clay unit is very sharp, which indicates erosion. These horizons are characterized by numerous shell  
4 fragments and the significant presence of hyaline species as *H. germanica* and *Elphidium* sp.  
5 indicative of a low marsh environment.

6 At Arun, the Holocene succession is composed of two main lithofacies (LF2 and LF3),  
7 characterized by interbedded coarse deposits (LF5) in the seaward cores which are associated with  
8 several phases of gravel barrier construction and breakdown (Fig. 6). A silty sand unit forms the base  
9 of the sequence. This unit is found between -0.2 and +0.7 m NGF in the seaward cores A-C10 (Fig.  
10 7C). Associated with abundant organic detrital remains, foraminifera assemblages are dominated by *J.*  
11 *macrescens* (average 55%) and *T. inflata* (average 40%, Tables S4, S5) indicating a high-marsh  
12 environment (Fig. 7D). We interpret the presence of *M. fusca* and some calcareous species, in  
13 association with shell fragments, as the expression of an open-bay environment where waves convey  
14 material from the low-marsh to foreshore domains. Two dates indicated that this unit was formed  
15 between 2941-2748 and 2691-2159 cal. a BP. From +0.7 m NGF to the present-day surface, a silty  
16 clay unit is 2.9 m thick formed from 2690-2160 cal. a BP. Foraminifera assemblages are dominated by  
17 *J. macrescens* (average 48%) and *T. inflata* (average 45%) indicative of a high-marsh environment. In  
18 core A-C10, an interbedded coarse sand and gravel deposit corresponding to LF5 is found at an  
19 elevation between 1.7 and 2.5 m NGF (Fig. 7C). This deposit may correspond to a second overwash  
20 fan due to the opening of a breach within the coastal barrier.

21 In the bay of Tresseny, the base of the succession consists of well-humified basal peat (LF6)  
22 covering a weathered granite substrate on a mean thickness of 1 to 1.5 m (Figs 8, 9). The significant  
23 proportion of sand and the absence of foraminifera seems to indicate a back dune brackish marsh. A  
24 series of dates from core G-C2 indicate this basal peat was formed from 6403-6299 cal. a BP in this  
25 core. The age of the upper part of the basal peat range from 4826-4572 cal. a BP. A coarse sand unit  
26 (LF7) overlies the basal peat at a depth of -2.2 m NGF up to the most landward cores at a depth of +1  
27 m NGF, with a thickness gradually decreasing to 0.10 m at core G-C5. The sharp transition between  
28 LF6 and LF7 suggests a rapid change toward high hydrodynamic conditions. The age of this

1 environmental change is known by a series of 5 radiocarbon dates obtained on the minerogenic sandy-  
2 silt unit (LF8) overlying the coarse sand layer. The ages cover a short period around 2850-2700 cal. a  
3 BP and suggest high rates of sedimentation (around 12 mm a<sup>-1</sup>). Foraminiferal analysis from core G-  
4 C2 indicates low density of specimens, probably reworked and composed by agglutinated species such  
5 as *J. macrescens*, *H. wiberti*, *T. inflata* and *M. fusca*. The scarcity of foraminifera is probably due to a  
6 dilution of specimens related to the high rates of sedimentation. Associated with the low density of  
7 detrital plant fragments, this suggests a sand-flat environment subjected to relatively high  
8 hydrodynamic conditions and high sediment supply (Goslin *et al.* 2013). The upper part of the  
9 succession is formed by an organic-rich fine sand unit (LF9) within the seaward cores and reed peat  
10 (LF6) in the landward cores. This unit is found from +2.8 m NGF to the present-day surface.  
11 Foraminifera assemblages are dominated by *J. macrescens* (average 55%), *H. wiberti* (average 22%)  
12 and *M. fusca* (average 16%) (Fig. 9, Table S6). It reflects a gradual change from a sand flat to a salt-  
13 marsh between 1825-1631 and 527-338 cal. a BP.

## 15 Discussion

### 17 *Application of transfer function models to fossil sediment successions*

19 At Tresseny, the palaeomorph elevation reconstructions are based on the application of the 'Tresseny  
20 Model' with a low RMSEP value ( $\pm 0.14$  m). In the bay of Brest, the 'pruned' salt-marsh model was  
21 preferred because it presents the lowest RMSEP values ( $\pm 0.20$  m) compared to other developed models  
22 for this area (Table 3). The levels of precision are comparable to those found within the same tidal  
23 range around the northeast Atlantic coasts (Horton & Edwards 2006; Gehrels *et al.* 2001; Massey *et al.*  
24 2006; Leorri *et al.* 2008a, b, 2011). In Brittany, Rossi *et al.* (2011) developed a model with a lower  
25 RMSEP value of  $\pm 0.10$  m within the mesotidal setting of the Morbihan Gulf (tidal range *c.* 3 m at  
26 spring tide).

27 To explore the applicability of these transfer models to our fossil sedimentary successions, we  
28 use the minimum dissimilarity coefficient (MinDC) measure within the modern analogue technique

1 (MAT) (Birks 1995). The 20th percentile of the dissimilarity coefficients calculated between all  
2 modern samples was used as the cut-off between 'close' and 'poor' modern analogues for fossil  
3 samples. The 5th percentile was the threshold for defining 'good' modern analogues (Barlow *et al.*  
4 2013; Watcham *et al.* 2013).

5 At Tresseny, foraminiferal occurrence is only significant at 95 cm depth. The assemblages are  
6 dominated by *J. macrescens* (average 55%), *H. wiberti* (average 22%) and *M. fusca* (average 16%).  
7 The palaeoelevations of the marsh provided by the transfer function reconstructions are around the  
8 MHWST level, ranging from +3.5 m to +3.95 m NGF (Fig. 9, Table S6). With the exception of one  
9 fossil sample, the MAT identifies a majority of 'good' and 'close' analogues therefore indicating these  
10 results to be reliable. The much higher abundance of the foraminiferal populations associated with the  
11 increase of the organic content in the upper part of the sediment core seems to reflect a gradual change  
12 from a sand flat to a salt-marsh between 1820-1690 cal. a BP and the present-day (accretion rate  
13 around 0.6 mm a<sup>-1</sup>).

14 At Porzguen, the transfer function reconstructions indicate a palaeomars surface elevation  
15 between +3 and +4 m NGF (Fig. 7A, Table S2) corresponding to a high salt-marsh environment. A  
16 significant number of fossil samples have 'poor' modern analogues, especially in the upper part of the  
17 sediment succession corresponding to LSU4. Based on lithostratigraphical analysis, this deposit is  
18 interpreted as a brackish marsh episodically transformed into a freshwater swamp occupying a back-  
19 barrier pond. A possible explanation of the 'unreliable' results obtained by FBTF is the absence of  
20 samples corresponding to this particular depositional environment in our modern training set. In this  
21 case, the model does not provide a good approximation of past environments. Furthermore, fossil  
22 samples with 'poor' analogues are characterized by a very high proportion of *T. inflata* within  
23 assemblages (Fig. 7A). The high representation of this robust species may result from a preferential  
24 enrichment of the fossil assemblages due to taphonomic processes affecting the other species and  
25 biasing the interpretations (Alve & Murray 1994; Goldstein & Watkins 1999; Patterson *et al.* 1999;  
26 Horton & Edwards 2006).

27 A similar interpretation could explain the few 'close' analogues within the basal peat unit  
28 (LF1) at Troaon (Fig. 7B, Table S3). The FBTF reconstruction based on 'close' analogues suggests a



1  
2  
3 1 palaeomorph elevation between +3.26 and +3.67 m NGF for this deposit. Within the two silty-sand  
4  
5 2 layers corresponding to LF3, quantitative reconstructions indicate major changes of palaeomorph  
6  
7 3 elevations. Despite 'poor' modern analogues of fossil samples, the estimations provided by the pruned  
8  
9 4 'salt-marsh' model are of -0.82 and -0.49 m NGF for both the lower and upper horizon, respectively.  
10  
11 5 These elevations correspond to tide levels ranging from the MLWNT to the MT. These layers are  
12  
13 6 associated with erosional contacts and probably reflect sediment inputs from the foreshore during an  
14  
15 7 opening period of salt-marsh environment caused by coastal barrier breakdown. The upper part of the  
16  
17 8 sediment succession (LF6) shows reconstructed palaeosurface elevations between +2.81 and +3.74 m  
18  
19 9 NGF indicative of an accretionary environment under a RSL rise trend.

20  
21 10 At Arun, the reconstructed palaeomorph elevation is between +2.39 and +3.54 m NGF (Tables  
22  
23 11 S4, S5) corresponding to tide levels between the MHWNT and the MHWST (Figs 9, 10). The number  
24  
25 12 of 'poor' fossil analogues is significant within core A-C14, resulting from high proportion of *T. inflata*  
26  
27 13 in foraminiferal assemblages, probably reflecting brackish marsh conditions during closure of salt-  
28  
29 14 marsh. Throughout the cores A-C10 and A-C14, the low amplitude fluctuations in the reconstructions  
30  
31 15 may be related to the gravel barrier evolution (episodic breaching or overwash), leading to temporary  
32  
33 16 changes in the hydrodynamic conditions (wave and tide), vegetation cover and foraminiferal zonation  
34  
35 17 in the protected back-barrier setting.

36  
37 18

#### 19 *New SLIPs from West Brittany and comparison with existing Holocene RSL records*

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41 20

42  
43 21 In this section we initially convert the results of FBTFs models into new RSL records for West  
44  
45 22 Brittany (Table 2) and subsequently compare them with previously obtained similar data (Table 5),  
46  
47 23 produced along the Brittany coastline (Morzadec-Kerfourn 1969; Van de Plassche 1991; Visset *et al.*  
48  
49 24 1995; Regnaud *et al.* 1996; Gaudin 2004; Visset & Bernard 2006; Stéphan & Laforge 2013; Goslin *et*  
50  
51 25 *al.* 2013). The vertical position of the sea-level index point (SLIP) relative to present tide levels is  
52  
53 26 calculated as (Shennan 1986; Van de Plassche 1986):

54  
55 27

$$56 \quad 28 \quad \text{SLIP} = H - D - I + C + A \quad (1)$$

1  
2  
3 1  
4  
5 2 where H is the height of the top core, D is the depth of the sample, I is the height of the deposition of  
6  
7 3 the sample (indicative meaning), C is the core compaction, and A is the autocompaction (loss of  
8  
9 4 porosity due to the load of overlying sediments). This latter parameter strongly affects the calculation  
10  
11 5 of the SLIP position, especially for samples from unconsolidated peat successions (Gehrels 1999), yet  
12  
13 6 is particularly hard to estimate (Allen 1999, 2000; Long *et al.* 2006; Edwards 2006; Massey *et al.*  
14  
15 7 2006, 2008). Consequently, most of Holocene sea-level studies focus mainly on basal samples to infer  
16  
17 8 compaction effects (e.g. Denys & Baeteman 1995; Van de Plassche 1995; Gehrels 1999; Shennan &  
18  
19 9 Horton 2002; Berendsen 2007) and consider the intercalated SLIP simply as an approximation.

20  
21 10 From the 26 AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates obtained in this study, 12 were used to produce SLIPs with a  
22  
23 11 indicative meaning defined by the palaeomorph surface elevation reconstructed by the FBTFs models  
24  
25 12 (Fig. 10). Two dates obtained at the base of the basal brackish peat of Tresseny were also used as basal  
26  
27 13 SLIPs, assuming an indicative meaning ranging from the HAT to the MHWNT (Goslin *et al.* 2013).  
28  
29 14 Results indicate a rise of the RSL around 5.5 m during the last 6300 cal. a within the northwest coasts  
30  
31 15 of Brittany. The mean rate of RSL rise calculated by a linear regression with all SLIPs ( $r^2 = 0.97$ ) is of  
32  
33 16  $0.90 \pm 0.12 \text{ mm a}^{-1}$  for the entire period.

34  
35 17 A comparison between SLIPs produced in this study and previous RSL data obtained from  
36  
37 18 Brittany is presented in Fig. 10. Most of previous data were converted into SLIPs using the same  
38  
39 19 methodological approach as Leorri *et al.* (2012). We use the indicative meaning reported in original  
40  
41 20 publications. Local tide ranges used for coastal sites are presented in Table 1 and details about SLIPs  
42  
43 21 produced are given in Table 4. Radiocarbon dates were also calibrated using the IntCal13 calibration  
44  
45 22 curve (Reimer *et al.* 2013) to allow comparisons with our results. Fig. 10 illustrates that the SLIPs  
46  
47 23 produced in this paper are consistent with previous RSL records and improve precision from c.6500  
48  
49 24 cal. a BP. Despite the wide uncertainty boxes drawn for the previous data, a vertical variability  
50  
51 25 between the SLIP is visually observed between the sites located at the SE part of Brittany and the  
52  
53 26 points obtained in the NE and NW parts of Brittany. Lambeck (1997), followed by Leorri *et al.* (2012)  
54  
55 27 highlighted the evident north-south trend in the Holocene sea-level rise in the Gulf of Biscay, mainly  
56  
57 28 due to the ice-induced signal (glacio-isostasy) producing a relatively long-wavelength pattern with a  
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59  
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1  
2  
3 1 dominant north/south gradient. However, according to Leorri *et al.* (2012), the ocean-induced signal  
4  
5 2 (hydro-isostasy) produces spatial gradients that are perpendicular to the shoreline, due to the geometry  
6  
7 3 of the ocean loading. As a peninsula, Brittany appears to be an appropriate area to study the ocean-  
8  
9 4 induced signal in detail. However, exploring this question along the coast of Brittany remains difficult  
10  
11 5 in the state of our knowledge because of the lack of available basal SLIPs (only 10) providing reliable  
12  
13 6 altitudinal sea-level data, notably in the eastern part of Brittany.  
14  
15 7

### 17 8 *Salt-marshes evolution*

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19 9

20  
21 10 Based on the lithostratigraphical and biostratigraphical analyses, a general pattern of Holocene salt-  
22  
23 11 marsh evolution subdivided into four stages is proposed for West Brittany.  
24  
25 12

27 13 *Stage 1: Basal peat formation (6400 to 4500 cal. a BP).* - From 6400 to 4500 cal. a BP, extensive  
28  
29 14 *Phragmites* marshes were formed around the present-day shoreline position. They expanded laterally  
30  
31 15 and vertically under the influence of a rising water table until they reached an elevation of about 0 m  
32  
33 16 NGF or more. In Tresseny salt-marsh, only scarce foraminifera were present in the basal peat,  
34  
35 17 reflecting freshwater or brackish conditions. During this first stage of sedimentary infilling, the bay of  
36  
37 18 Tresseny was probably separated from the sea by the presence of a wide coastal dune barrier located  
38  
39 19 further seaward. In the bay of Brest, *Phragmites* macro-remains were not encountered and high-marsh  
40  
41 20 foraminifera species such as *J. macrescens* and *T. inflata* were broadly present in the basal peat units.  
42  
43 21 This reflects the influence of the tide in a high salt-marsh environment. Our results are consistent with  
44  
45 22 those obtained by Morzadec-Kerfourn (1975) and more recently by Goslin *et al.* (2013) on the  
46  
47 23 northern and southern coasts of the Finistère region: the base of a brackish basal peat found on the  
48  
49 24 Vougot beach (Fig. 1) at an elevation of -3.52 m NGF gave an age of 6880 cal. a BP, while a similar  
50  
51 25 deposit found at Tariec beach was dated around 6850 cal. a BP at an elevation of -3.80 m NGF (Goslin  
52  
53 26 *et al.* 2013). In a general manner, it indicates that the formation of extensive reed and/or brackish  
54  
55 27 marshes began around 6900 cal. a BP in places within the northwestern part of Brittany, under the  
56  
57 28 joint influence of rising water table and stabilization of barrier systems on the foreshore. These  
58  
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1 deposits are also associated with the presence of numerous coastal archaeological remains (megalithic  
2 gallery graves and menhirs) attributed to the neolithic period such as the gallery grave of Lerret,  
3 located 500 m seaward from Tresseny salt-marsh and dated about 4800-5000 cal. a BP.

4  
5 *Stage 2: Formation of backbarrier salt-marshes (4500 to 2900-2700 cal. a BP).* - Over the basal peats,  
6 an accumulation of clayey peat deposits indicates salt-marsh expansion from 4500 cal. a BP, probably  
7 behind gravelly or sandy barriers offering sheltered conditions for high-marsh development. In the  
8 sediment successions of the bay of Brest, the transition from basal peat is gradual and the  
9 reconstructed palaeosurfaces are around the MHWST. At Tresseny, deposits corresponding to this  
10 stage were not preserved; however it is possible that brackish conditions were maintained behind a  
11 large coastal dune barrier.

12  
13 *Stage 3: Deep reorganization of back-barrier sedimentary wedges (2900-2700 cal. a BP).* - Around  
14 2900-2700 cal. a BP, the sediment successions reveal that coastal sedimentary systems underwent  
15 deep modifications. At Tresseny, this stage corresponded to the erosion of the top of the basal peat  
16 layer and the deposition of a coarse sand layer, overlaid by a silty-sand deposit. In the bay of Brest,  
17 Troaon and Arun marshes revealed layers of silty-sand deposits corresponding to this period at an  
18 average elevation of around 0 to +1 m NGF. At Troaon, these layers contain shell fragments and rest  
19 unconformably over the high-marsh clayey peat. The dominance of hyaline species such as *H.*  
20 *germanica* and *Elphidium* sp. indicates a low salt-marsh depositional environment estimated around  
21 the MTL by the transfer function. Conversely, the Porzguen marsh revealed no discontinuities within  
22 the sedimentary succession, most likely due to its sheltered location.

23 At the scale of northwest Europe, the period around 3000 cal. a BP has been widely  
24 recognized as a period of climate deterioration (Van Geel *et al.* 1996; Barber *et al.* 2003, 2004; Magny  
25 2004; Dark 2006; Gandouin *et al.* 2009; Charman 2010; Swindles *et al.* 2013; Tisdall *et al.* 2013),  
26 characterized by colder and wetter climatic conditions, with increased rainfall and largely enhanced  
27 storminess (Van Geel *et al.* 1996; Clark & Rendell 2009). Major disruptions of coastal sedimentary  
28 environments were also identified all along the European coasts, either in the English Channel region

1  
2  
3 1 (Long & Hughes 1995; Billeaud *et al.* 2009; Sorrel *et al.* 2009; Lespez *et al.* 2010; Tessier *et al.* 2012)  
4  
5 2 or along the Atlantic coasts (Pontee *et al.* 1998; Tastet & Pontee 1998; Clavé *et al.* 2001; Moura *et al.*  
6  
7 3 2007; Sorrel *et al.* 2009). Archaeological remains suggest less dense settlement patterns at the end of  
8  
9 4 the Late Bronze Age (Coquillas 2001; Pailler *et al.* 2011; Stéphan *et al.* 2013) and for several  
10  
11 5 settlements abandonment, notably due to an important eolian activity within the northwest Europe  
12  
13 6 coastal areas (Guilcher & Hallégouët 1991; Tisdall *et al.* 2013).

14  
15 7 Hence, we explain the genesis of these erosive contacts and sedimentary hiatus by high-energy  
16  
17 8 conditions having taking place around 3000 cal. a BP, either caused by storm events, reorganization of  
18  
19 9 the back-barrier marsh drainage systems, or under the joint influence of both dynamics. We believe  
20  
21 10 that several morphogenetic scenarios can be invoked:

22  
23 11 (i) Severe storms could have caused major breaches in the barrier systems, erosion of  
24  
25 12 back-barrier sedimentary succession and deposition of mixed material displaced from the foreshore  
26  
27 13 domain (deposits of “Chenier” type). This scenario well suits the sedimentary succession of the Arun  
28  
29 14 marsh, but appears largely unconvincing for the inner-estuary Tresseny marsh and so cannot be  
30  
31 15 considered as regionally valid.

32  
33 16 (ii) The terrigenous sand layer on top of the unconformity in the Tresseny succession  
34  
35 17 likely reveals the onset of inner-estuary conditions around 3000 cal. a BP. At this period, coastal  
36  
37 18 streams valleys may have been widened to answer the waterflow increasements that followed the onset  
38  
39 19 of wetter conditions in the context of (i) considerably reduced slopes of the streams-flows due to  
40  
41 20 deeper intrusions of the salt-wedges and (ii) important terrigenous infillings in the lower valley  
42  
43 21 systems induced by the massive clearings that took place during the Iron age (Dark 2006).

44  
45 22 (iii) Third, barrier breaching may have fostered the catchment of the tidal channels within  
46  
47 23 the marshes and in turn induced an erosion of the sedimentary successions. Tidal flows within the  
48  
49 24 marshes may have gained volume in response to barrier-breachings (Wang *et al.* 2000; Picado *et al.*  
50  
51 25 2013) and in turn, resulted in the incision of tidal channels as it was shown by Cleveringa (2000).

52  
53  
54 26 These morphodynamic processes are of primary importance as soon as RSL reconstruction is  
55  
56 27 concerned. In fact, as proposed by Goslin *et al.* (2013), high morphogenic events could have  
57  
58 28 artificially created accommodation space, subsequently infilled by sedimentary deposits of doubtful  
59  
60

1 origin. Thus, we consider that large uncertainties remaining on the representativeness of the *c.* 2800  
2 cal. a BP points we obtained within the Arun and Tresseny successions.

3  
4 *Stage 4: Formation of new salt-marshes (2700 cal. a BP to present).* - A return of the high salt-marsh  
5 environment, after the deposition of the silty-sand units is reflected by foraminiferal assemblages  
6 dominated by *J. macrescens* and *T. inflata*. Gravel barriers of Troaon and Arun were rebuilt in front of  
7 the salt-marshes, gradually accreting until today. At Arun, two washover deposits were recognized  
8 throughout the sediment succession, probably related to episodic landward retreat of the gravel spit  
9 during storms. However, contrary to the 2900-2700 cal. a BP period, no major and synchronous  
10 phases of erosion were observed in the succession we studied. In the inner part of the bay of Tresseny,  
11 the formation of the salt-marsh began around 1820-1690 cal. a BP with the gradual colonization of the  
12 sand-flat environment by halophitic plants and the abundance of agglutinated foraminifera.

## 14 **Conclusions**

15  
16 In order to improve the reconstructions of relative sea-level changes for the late Holocene period in  
17 Brittany (western France), foraminifera-based transfer functions were developed using total  
18 assemblages from 77 samples collected along three cross-marsh transects located in two coastal bays  
19 (bay of Brest and the bay of Tresseny) in the most western part of Brittany. In the bay of Tresseny, we  
20 used the whole training set (all samples and all species) to produce a WAPLS model with a RMSEP of  
21  $\pm 0.14$  m and  $r^2$  of 0.90. In the bay of Brest, three models were successively developed by removing  
22 modern samples from mudflat, followed by tidal creeks and salt-pans in order to increase the transfer  
23 function's predictive ability. The resulting final WAPLS model has a RMSEP of  $\pm 0.20$  m and  $r^2$  of  
24 0.94.

25 The mid- to late Holocene stratigraphy of four salt-marshes developed over the past 6500 cal.  
26 a BP in the bay of Brest and in the bay of Tresseny was studied by litho- and biostratigraphical  
27 analyses. These investigations give, for the first time, a chronological pattern of Holocene infill of  
28 small salt-marshes in western France. Sediment successions show (i) basal peat units indicating

1 extensive reed marshes between 6400 and 4500 cal. a BP, (ii) clayey peat deposits dominated by high-  
2 marsh foraminiferal assemblages corresponding to the expansion of salt-marshes into backbarrier  
3 environments between 4500 and 3600 cal. a BP, (iii) storm-induced deposits around 2900-2700 cal. a  
4 BP represented by a coarse sand layer in the Tresseny sediment succession, and by silty-sand layers  
5 containing shell fragments and hyaline species such as *H. germanica* and *Elphidium* sp. in the bay of  
6 Brest sediment successions and (iv) a return of high salt-marsh environment since 2700 cal. a BP,  
7 reflected by foraminiferal assemblages dominated by *J. macrescens* and *T. inflata*.

8           The application of transfer function models to fossil assemblages produced 14 new sea-level  
9 index points showing a relative sea-level rise of  $5.5 \pm 0.5$  m during the last 6300 years, at a mean rate of  
10  $0.90 \pm 0.12$  mm a<sup>-1</sup>. New data obtained in this study improve the vertical definition of the Holocene  
11 relative sea-level history along the coasts of West Brittany and convey new information on the late  
12 Holocene period. Nonetheless, further research is still required (i) to achieve a better understanding of  
13 the behavior of the sedimentary systems in the context of decelerating RSL rise, (ii) to better  
14 constrain the history of the last c. 3000 years and (iii) to estimate the influence of the hydro-isostatic  
15 signal on the Holocene trends of the RSL rise along the western coasts of France.

16  
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3 **1 Figure captions**

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7 3 Fig. 1. Location maps of studied areas. A. Location of coastal sites used to produce SLIPs from  
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9 4 previous sea-level data (see Table 5 for more details) along the coasts of Brittany (France). B.  
10 5 Location of coastal sites studied in this paper (see Fig. 2 for more details).

11 6  
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13 7 Fig. 2. Position of drillings and cross-marsh transects. A. Bay of Tresseny. B. Tresseny salt-marshes.  
14 8 C. Porzguen back-barrier salt-marsh (Bay of Brest). D. Lanveur salt-marsh (Bay of Brest). E. Troaon  
15 9 back-barrier salt-marsh (Bay of Brest). F. Arun back-barrier salt-marsh (Bay of Brest). Dots indicate  
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17 10 position of gouge augered drillings. Squares indicate position of vibracores used for AMS <sup>14</sup>C dating,  
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19 11 sedimentological and fossil foraminiferal analyses. White lines correspond to cross-marsh  
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21 12 foraminiferal transects along which training sets were collected.

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29 14 Fig.3. Composition of foraminiferal assemblages from surface sediment samples along cross-marsh  
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31 15 transects in the Lanveur and Arun marshes (Bay of Brest) and in the Tresseny salt-marsh.

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35 17 Fig.4. Observed versus predicted elevation and associated residuals determined by the 'all data' model  
36  
37 18 WAPLS component two (A and B), the 'salt-marsh' model WAPLS component two (C and D), the  
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39 19 'pruned' salt-marsh model WAPLS component three (E and F). The modern samples collected along  
40  
41 20 both Lanveur and Arun cross-marsh transects are distinguished and outliers are highlighted (see text  
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43 21 for details).

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47 23 Fig.5. Observed versus predicted elevation (A) and associated residuals (B) determined by the  
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49 24 'Tresseny model' WAPLS component two.

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53 26 Fig.6. Detailed stratigraphic cross-section through back-barrier salt-mashes in the Bay of Brest  
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55 27 (location of drillings is shown in Fig. 2).

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1 Fig.7. Sedimentology, fossil foraminiferal assemblages and palaeomorph surface reconstructed  
2 elevations. A. Reference Core P-C2 (Porzguen salt-marsh). B. Reference Core T-C2 (Troaon salt-  
3 marsh). C. Reference Core A-C10 (Arun salt-marsh). D. Reference Core A-C14 (Arun salt-marsh).

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5 Fig.8. Detailed stratigraphic sections of the inner part of the bay of Tresseny (location is shown in  
6 Fig.1).

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8 Fig.9. Sedimentology, fossil foraminiferal assemblages and transfer function reconstructions for  
9 Reference Core G-C2 (Bay of Tresseny).

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11 Fig. 10. Mid- to late Holocene RSL plots from the coasts of Brittany. A. SLIPs produced in this study  
12 using FBTF reconstructions. SLIPs obtained from samples with 'poor' modern analogues are excluded.  
13 Two SLIPs from the basal brackish peat of the Tresseny sediment sequence are also plotted. Numbers  
14 correspond to radiocarbon dates presented in Table 2. Black line is the mean trend of RSL rise  
15 calculated by a linear regression using the whole SLIPs. B. Plot of SLIPs available in Brittany (see  
16 Table 5 for details). The RSL records from North-East, North-West and South-East parts of Brittany  
17 are distinguished. Basal SLIPs providing reliable RSL data are highlighted.

#### 18 19 **Table captions**

20  
21 Table 1. Tide levels relative to French ordnance datum (m NGF) from SHOM 2013.

22  
23 Table 2. Details of AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates obtained from drillings of the West Brittany salt-marshes.  
24 Calibrated age based on Intcal13 calibration curve (Reimer *et al.* 2013). Sea-Level index points  
25 (SLIPs) obtained from transfer function reconstructions.

26  
27 Table 3. Transfer function model details. Numbers in bold are cited in the text.

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2  
3 1 Table 4. Sedimentary facies and associated environments of the Western Brittany salt-marsh sediment  
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5 2 infillings.  
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7 3  
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9 4 Table 5. Re-assessment of previous sea-level records from Brittany.  
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15 7 **Supporting Information**  
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19 9 Table S1. Relative total (dead and alive) abundances of foraminifera taxa found within the modern  
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21 10 samples collected from cross-marsh transects at Arun, Lanveur and Tresseny.  
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25 12 Table S2. Relative total (dead and alive) abundances of foraminifera taxa found within the samples  
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27 13 collected from the core P-C2 (Porzguen saltmarsh, bay of Brest).  
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29 14

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31 15 Table S3. Relative total (dead and alive) abundances of foraminifera taxa found within the samples  
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33 16 collected from the core T-C2 (Troaon saltmarsh, bay of Brest).  
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37 18 Table S4. Relative total (dead and alive) abundances of foraminifera taxa found within the samples  
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39 19 collected from the core A-C14 (Arun saltmarsh, bay of Brest).  
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43 21 Table S5. Relative total (dead and alive) abundances of foraminifera taxa found within the samples  
44  
45 22 collected from the core A-C10 (Arun saltmarsh, bay of Brest).  
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49 24 Table S6. Relative total (dead and alive) abundances of foraminifera taxa found within the samples  
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51 25 collected from the core G-C2 (Tresseny saltmarsh).  
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Study sites	Lowest astronomical tide (LAT)	Mean low water spring tide (MLWST)	Mean low water neap tide (MLWNT)	Mean tide (MT)	Mean high water neap tide (MHWNT)	Mean high water spring tide (MHWST)	Highest astronomical tide (HAT)	Tide gauge location
Bay of Brest, Loc'h beach	-3.38	-2.48	-0.93	0.39	1.86	3.42	4.30	Brest
Bay of Tresseny, Vougot beach, Tariec beach	-3.95	-3.02	-1.27	0.39	2.03	3.68	4.45	Aber Wrac'h
Marais de Dol, Verger Bay	-6.684	-5.124	-2.224	0.426	3.126	6.276	7.746	Cancale
Ploudalmezeau beach	-3.725	-2.855	-1.155	0.465	2.045	3.645	4.505	Portsall
Kerminihy marsh	-1.545	-1.135	-0.485	0.515	1.465	2.265	2.855	Etel
Rohu-Pargo marsh	-2.719	-1.949	-0.699	0.431	1.551	2.651	3.171	Port-Haliguen
Kerdual marsh	-2.754	-2.004	-0.754	0.446	1.496	2.596	3.246	Trinité-sur-Mer
Suscinio marsh	-2.752	-2.012	-0.712	0.518	1.538	2.688	3.338	Pénerf

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No	Lab. code	Location	Core	Depth interval in the core (cm)	Elevation (m NGF)	Material	$^{14}\text{C}$ a $\pm 1\sigma$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	Cal. a BP (2 $\sigma$ ) max. (med. prob.) min.	Type of SLIP	MAT diagnostic	RSL (m)		Core sampling Measure of elevation	
1	Erl-10678	Porzguen marsh	P-C2	340-350	-0.05 ; -0.15	Halophytic plant remains	3500 $\pm$ 60	-27.2	3615 (3773) 3957	intercalated SLIP	'close' analogues	-3.49	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
2	Erl-10679	Porzguen marsh	P-C2	410-420	-0.75 ; -0.85	Halophytic plant remains	4280 $\pm$ 60	-27.4	4625 (4852) 5036	intercalated SLIP	'close' analogues	-4.17	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
3	Erl-10680	Porzguen marsh	P-C2	470-480	-1.35 ; -1.45	Halophytic plant remains	4640 $\pm$ 60	-28.4	5071 (5394) 5581	intercalated SLIP	'close' analogues	-5.32	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
4	Erl-10681	Porzguen marsh	P-C2	500-510	-1.65 ; -1.75	Halophytic plant remains	4775 $\pm$ 60	-28.6	5324 (5509) 5605	basal SLIP	'poor' analogues	n/a	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
5	Erl-10682	Troaon marsh	T-C2	60-70	+2.80 ; +2.70	Halophytic plant remains	940 $\pm$ 56	-26.5	734 (850) 952	intercalated SLIP	'close' analogues	-0.48	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
6	Erl-10683	Troaon marsh	T-C2	340-350	0.00 ; -0.10	Halophytic plant remains	3690 $\pm$ 70	-28.3	3843 (4031) 4235	intercalated SLIP	'close' analogues	-3.35	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
7	Erl-10684	Troaon marsh	T-C2	370-380	-0.30 ; -0.40	Halophytic plant remains	4230 $\pm$ 60	-28.8	4569 (4744) 4956	intercalated SLIP	'poor' analogues	n/a	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
8	Erl-10685	Troaon marsh	T-C2	470-480	-1.30 ; -1.40	Halophytic plant remains	4440 $\pm$ 60	-28.7	4872 (5066) 5287	intercalated SLIP	'poor' analogues	n/a	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
9	Erl-10686	Troaon marsh	T-C2	500-510	-1.60 ; -1.70	Halophytic plant remains	5450 $\pm$ 70	-28.1	6015 (6242) 6399	intercalated SLIP	'close' analogues	-5.32	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
10	Erl-11753	Arun marsh	A-C10	90-100	+2.62 ; +2.52	wood fragment	1081 $\pm$ 56	-24.1	916 (999) 1174	intercalated SLIP	'close' analogues	-0.61	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
11	Erl-11749	Arun marsh	A-C14	40-50	+3.10 ; +3.00	Halophytic plant remains	436 $\pm$ 55	-24.3	316 (483) 546	intercalated SLIP	'close' analogues	-0.30	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
12	Erl-11750	Arun marsh	A-C14	140-150	+2.10 ; +2.00	Halophytic plant remains	1686 $\pm$ 56	-25.8	1415 (1597) 1720	intercalated SLIP	'close' analogues	-0.97	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
13	Erl-11751	Arun marsh	A-C14	270-280	+0.80 ; +0.70	wood fragment	2340 $\pm$ 54	-26.6	2159 (2372) 2691	intercalated SLIP	'good' analogues	-2.26	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
14	Erl-11752	Arun marsh	A-C14	360-370	-0.10 ; -0.20	wood fragment	2716 $\pm$ 55	-27.2	2748 (2822) 2941	basal SLIP	'close' analogues	-2.96	$\pm$ 0.05		$\pm$ 0.13
15	UBA 15681	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	54-56	+3.21 ; +3.19	Halophytic plant remains	431 $\pm$ 28	-28.5	338 (500) 527	intercalated SLIP	'good' analogues	-0.28	$\pm$ 0.025		$\pm$ 0.13
16	UBA 15682	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	114-116	+2.61 ; +2.59	Halophytic plant remains	1819 $\pm$ 28	-28.4	1825 (1761) 1631	n/a	n/a	n/a	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
17	UBA 15683	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	154-156	+2.21 ; +2.19	Halophytic plant remains	2522 $\pm$ 32	-27.6	2744 (2597) 2490	n/a	n/a	n/a	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
18	UBA 15684	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	200-202	+1.75 ; +1.73	Halophytic plant remains	2732 $\pm$ 36	-25.7	2921 (2824) 2758	n/a	n/a	n/a	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
19	UBA 17893	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	284-286	+0.91 ; +0.89	Halophytic plant remains	2657 $\pm$ 22	-25.8	2836 (2764) 2745	n/a	n/a	n/a	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
20	UBA 17894	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	339-341	+0.36 ; +0.34	Halophytic plant remains	2690 $\pm$ 27	-26.0	2846 (2788) 2755	n/a	n/a	n/a	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
21	UBA 17895	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	369-371	+0.06 ; +0.04	Halophytic plant remains	2689 $\pm$ 22	-28.3	2844 (2783) 2755	n/a	n/a	n/a	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
22	UBA 15685	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	369-371	+0.06 ; +0.04	Halophytic plant remains	2666 $\pm$ 25	-27.1	2844 (2770) 2746	n/a	n/a	n/a	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
23	UBA 17896	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	449-451	-0.74 ; -0.72	Halophytic plant remains	4148 $\pm$ 34	-28.1	4826 (4692) 4572	n/a	n/a	n/a	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
24	UBA 17897	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	494-496	-1.19 ; -1.17	Halophytic plant remains	4795 $\pm$ 24	-24.7	5592 (5513) 5474	n/a	n/a	n/a	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
25	UBA 15686	Tresseny marsh	G-C2	586-588	-2.11 ; -2.13	Detrital <i>Phragmites</i>	5563 $\pm$ 31	-28.8	6299 (6351) 6403	Basal	n/a	-4.97	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13
26	UBA 15459	Tresseny marsh	G-C3	513-515	-0.89 ; -0.91	Detrital <i>Phragmites</i>	4054 $\pm$ 32	-29.4	4426 (4530) 4785	Basal	n/a	-3.75	$\pm$ 0.01		$\pm$ 0.13

Vertical error (m)		
RMSEP (RMSEP 2 $\sigma$ )	Modern analogue sampling	Total (with 2 $\sigma$ )
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.20 (0.39)	±0.10	±0.48 (0.67)
±0.14 (0.27)	±0.10	±0.39 (0.55)
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	±1.35
n/a	n/a	±1.35

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Model description	Performance index	Components				
		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Bay of Tresseny	RMSE (m)	0.19	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.10
Tresseny model- WAPLS (DDCA length: 3.540; DDCA stand.dev: 0.4546)	r <sup>2</sup>	0.82	0.93	0.95	0.95	0.95
The whole training set used (14 species. 26 samples)	Max Bias (m)	0.24	0.20	0.12	0.10	0.07
Elevation range: 1.61 m	r <sup>2</sup> jack	0.78	<b>0.90</b>	0.90	0.86	0.83
	Max Biasjack (m)	0.26	0.25	0.19	0.24	0.30
	RMSEPjack (m)	0.21	<b>0.14</b>	0.14	0.17	0.19
		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Bay of Brest	RMSE (m)	0.51	0.44	0.41	0.40	0.40
1-'all data' model- WAPLS (DDCA length: 2.515; DDCA stand.dev: 0.9889)	r <sup>2</sup>	0.73	0.80	0.83	0.84	0.84
The whole training set used (14 species. 51 samples)	Max Bias (m)	1.12	0.70	0.64	0.59	0.61
Elevation range: 3.27 m	r <sup>2</sup> jack	0.71	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.76
	Max Biasjack (m)	1.21	0.76	0.70	0.71	0.70
	RMSEPjack (m)	0.53	<b>0.48</b>	0.49	0.49	0.49
		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Bay of Brest	RMSE (m)	0.43	0.37	0.36	0.35	0.34
2-'salt-marsh' model- WAPLS	r <sup>2</sup>	0.54	0.65	0.68	0.70	0.71
Samples from tidal-flat removed. training set of 9 species. 43 samples	Max Bias (m)	0.72	0.62	0.50	0.51	0.48
Elevation range: 2.58 m	r <sup>2</sup> jack	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.44	0.45
	Max Biasjack (m)	0.75	0.69	0.58	0.98	1.12
	RMSEPjack (m)	0.47	0.50	0.54	0.60	0.61
		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Bay of Brest	RMSE (m)	0.37	0.21	0.17	0.16	0.16
3 - 'pruned' salt-marsh model- WAPLS (DDCA length: 2.551; DDCA stand.dev: 0.9154)	r <sup>2</sup>	0.68	0.90	<b>0.94</b>	0.94	0.94
Samples from tidal-flat. tidal-creeks and salt-pans removed.	Max Bias (m)	0.63	0.40	0.27	0.29	0.31
Training set of 8 species. 29 samples	r <sup>2</sup> jack	0.56	0.86	0.91	0.90	0.87
Elevation range: 2.35 m	Max Biasjack (m)	0.94	0.48	0.30	0.33	0.39
	RMSEPjack (m)	0.44	0.25	<b>0.20</b>	0.22	0.26

Lithofacies	Description	Mean grain size
LF1	Reed peat with phragmites remains	30-60 $\mu\text{m}$
LF2	Silty clay with salt-marsh plant fragments and rootlets	20-60 $\mu\text{m}$
LF3	Silty-sand with shell fragments	100 $\mu\text{m}$
LF4	Grey silty-clay mm-laminated with black organic-rich silt	50-60 $\mu\text{m}$
LF5	Coarse sand and gravels	800-1200 $\mu\text{m}$
LF6	Reed peat with phragmites remains and a significant proportion of sand	150-250 $\mu\text{m}$
LF7	Coarse sand	800-1000 $\mu\text{m}$
LF8	Minerogenic sandy-silt	100 $\mu\text{m}$
LF9	Sandy-silt with rootlets and plants debris	50-250 $\mu\text{m}$

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Foraminiferal content	Depositional environment
Occasional presence of high salt-marsh agglutinated foraminifera dominant	Brackish marsh to swamp
High salt-marsh agglutinated foraminifera	High salt-marsh
Salt-marsh agglutinated and calcareous foraminifera	High salt-marsh with mudflat sediment input by storm waves
High salt-marsh agglutinated foraminifera, occasional absence of foraminifera	Back-barrier brackish marsh to freshwater swamp
No foraminifera	Gravel barrier washover fan
Very low foraminiferal density	Dune back-barrier brackish marsh to swamp with eolian sandy input
No foraminifera	Sand-flat or breach in the barrier dune
Very low foraminiferal density	Sand-flat
High salt-marsh agglutinated foraminifera	High salt-marsh

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No	Lab. code	Coastal site	Elevation (m NGF)	Material
1	GrN-14138	Marais de Dol	-2.41 ; -2.45	reed peat
2	GrN-14139	Marais de Dol	+0.90 ; +0.94	reed peat
3	GrN-14140	Marais de Dol	+1.48 ; +1.51	reed peat + peaty jyttja
4	GrN-14141	Marais de Dol	+2.03 ; +2.05	amorphous peat
5	GrN-14142	Marais de Dol	+0.65 ; +0.69	reed peat
6	GrN-14143	Marais de Dol	+0.87 ; +0.91	reed peat
7	GrN-14144	Marais de Dol	+1.14 ; +1.17	reed peat
8	GrN-14145	Marais de Dol	-2.71 ; -2.77	peaty jyttja + reed remains
9	GrN-14146	Marais de Dol	+1.53 ; +1.56	oxidized reed peat
10	GrN-14147	Marais de Dol	+1.83 ; +1.87	reed peat + leaf remains
11	GrN-14148	Marais de Dol	+6.23 ; +6.28	reed peat
12	GrN-14149	Marais de Dol	+0.52 ; +0.56	peaty clay + reed remains
13	GrN-14150	Marais de Dol	+1.80 ; +1.83	reed peat
14	GrN-14151	Marais de Dol	+3.05 ; +3.08	reed peat
15	GrN-14152	Marais de Dol	+3.14 ; +3.17	humic clay + vegetation remains
16	GrN-14153	Marais de Dol	+3.32 ; +3.35	oxidized reedpeat + wood remains
17	GrN-14154	Marais de Dol	+1.90 ; +1.94	oxidized reedpeat
18	GrN-14155	Marais de Dol	+2.15 ; +2.17	oxidized peat
19	GrN-14156	Marais de Dol	+1.75 ; +1.79	oxidized peat
20	GrN-14157	Marais de Dol	+2.12 ; +2.15	oxidized peat
21	GrN-14158	Marais de Dol	-0.26 ; -0.30	reed peat
22	GrN-14159	Marais de Dol	+1.48 ; +1.51	peaty clay
23	GrN-14160	Marais de Dol	+2.05 ; +2.09	reed peat
24	GrN-14161	Marais de Dol	+2.30 ; +2.34	reed peat
25	*	Verger bay	-8.10 ; -9.10	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
26	*	Verger bay	+2.50 ; +1.50	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
27	*	Verger bay	+2.50 ; +1.50	Organic-rich mud
28	UBA-15461	Vougot beach	-1.14 ; -1.16	Detrital <i>Phragmites</i>
29	UBA-15460	Vougot beach	-3.51 ; -3.53	Detrital <i>Phragmites</i>
30	UBA-15458	Tariec beach	-3.79 ; -3.81	Detrital <i>Phragmites</i>
31	Gif-766	Ploudalmezeau beach	-4.40	reed peat
32	Ly-8871	Loc'h beach	+1.64	Wood fragment within organic mud
33	Ly-8870	Loc'h beach	+2.15	Wood fragment within organic mud
34	A10101	Kerminihy marsh	+0.79	reed peat
35	Ly-11481	Rohu-Pargo marsh	+2.43	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
36	Beta-185617	Rohu-Pargo marsh	+1.15	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
37	Ly-11482	Rohu-Pargo marsh	+0.53	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
38	Ly6001	Kerdual marsh	+0.82	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
39	Ly6002	Kerdual marsh	+0.27	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
40	A9830	Suscinio marsh	-1.57	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
41	A9832	Suscinio marsh	-2.77	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
42	A9829	Suscinio marsh	-3.37	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
43	A9831	Suscinio marsh	-4.15	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains
44	A9833	Suscinio marsh	-4.87	Silty-clay + halophitic plant remains



Indicative meaning	Indicative range (m)	$^{14}\text{C}$ a $\pm 1\sigma$	Cal. a BP (2 $\sigma$ ) max. (med. prob.) min.	RSL (m)	Error range (m)	type of SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	6625 $\pm 35$	7572 (7515) 7439	-10.18	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5980 $\pm 60$	6955 (6820) 6669	-6.83	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5800 $\pm 45$	6726 (6600) 6491	-6.25	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5450 $\pm 35$	6302 (6247) 6193	-5.71	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	6075 $\pm 45$	7155 (6937) 6792	-7.08	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5820 $\pm 40$	6730 (6628) 6503	-6.86	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5425 $\pm 40$	6302 (6237) 6034	-6.6	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	6540 $\pm 70$	7569 (7454) 7320	-10.49	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5295 $\pm 35$	6185 (6081) 5948	-6.2	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	4835 $\pm 35$	5645 (5585) 5476	-5.9	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	2820 $\pm 30$	3016 (2922) 2847	-1.5	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	6070 $\pm 45$	7155 (6929) 6789	-7.21	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5365 $\pm 35$	6277 (6167) 6004	-5.93	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	4730 $\pm 60$	5587 (5469) 5321	-4.68	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	4385 $\pm 40$	5213 (4948) 4851	-4.6	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	4340 $\pm 35$	5030 (4910) 4842	-4.41	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5535 $\pm 30$	6398 (6334) 6288	-5.83	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5030 $\pm 35$	5895 (5807) 5662	-5.59	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	4870 $\pm 35$	5661 (5610) 5486	-5.98	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	4430 $\pm 35$	5277 (5021) 4873	-5.62	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5725 $\pm 40$	6635 (6521) 6414	-8.03	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5760 $\pm 60$	6712 (6560) 6409	-6.26	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	5305 $\pm 35$	6190 (6085) 5951	-5.68	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	4960 $\pm 35$	5842 (5686) 5603	-5.43	$\pm 2.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	7310 $\pm 80$	7977 (8120) 8314	-13.74	$\pm 2.8$	Basal SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	2630 $\pm 130$	2353 (2727) 3005	-1.36	$\pm 2.8$	Basal SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 2.31$	4020 $\pm 130$	4152 (4508) 4839	-3.136	$\pm 2.8$	Basal SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 1.21$	4309 $\pm 38$	4970 (4900) 4830	-4.39	$\pm 1.3$	Basal SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 1.21$	6033 $\pm 29$	6950 (6870) 6790	-6.74	$\pm 1.3$	Basal SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 1.21$	6001 $\pm 28$	6910 (6850) 6780	-6.78	$\pm 1.3$	Basal SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 1.23$	5770 $\pm 150$	6933 (6610) 6288	-7.26	$\pm 1.7$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 1.22$	1075 $\pm 40$	927 (985) 1061	-1.437	$\pm 1.3$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 1.22$	950 $\pm 25$	796 (853) 925	-0.926	$\pm 1.3$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.695$	2535 $\pm 65$	2379 (2596) 2757	-1.37	$\pm 0.8$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.81$	1190 $\pm 50$	981 (1118) 1258	0.069	$\pm 2$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.81$	2810 $\pm 40$	2792 (2913) 3031	-1.211	$\pm 1$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.81$	3570 $\pm 35$	3726 (3871) 3975	-1.831	$\pm 0$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.875$	2905 $\pm 55$	2880 (3045) 3207	-1.551	$\pm 1$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.875$	3155 $\pm 85$	3161 (3370) 3573	-2.101	$\pm 1$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.9$	4895 $\pm 70$	5471 (5638) 5881	-4.008	$\pm 1$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.9$	5590 $\pm 90$	6211 (6384) 6626	-5.208	$\pm 1$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.9$	5700 $\pm 115$	6287 (6502) 6742	-5.808	$\pm 1$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.9$	5700 $\pm 80$	6316 (6496) 6660	-6.588	$\pm 1$	intercalated SLIP
from MHWNT to HAT	$\pm 0.9$	6600 $\pm 85$	7325 (7497) 7617	-7.308	$\pm 1$	Basal SLIP

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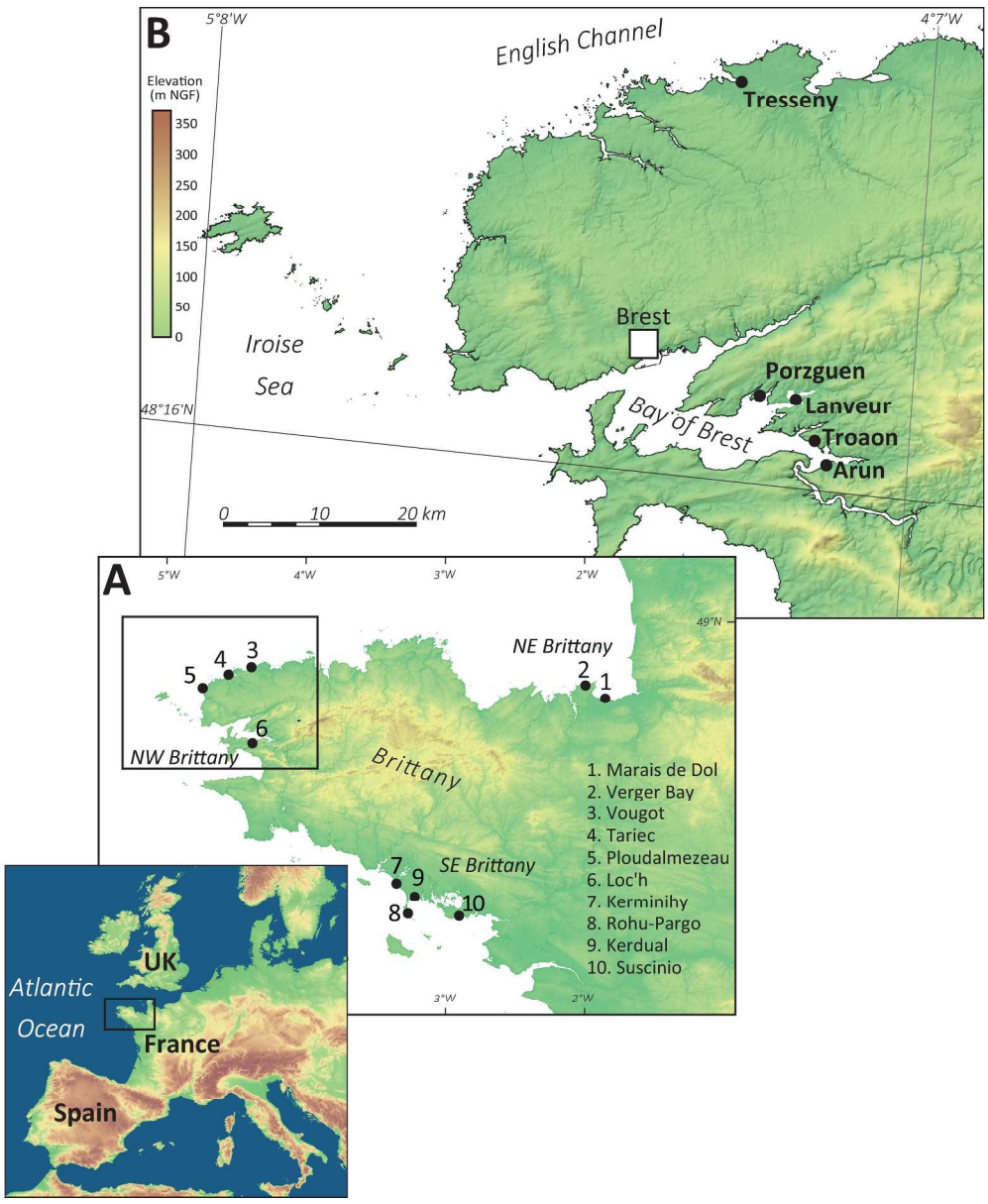
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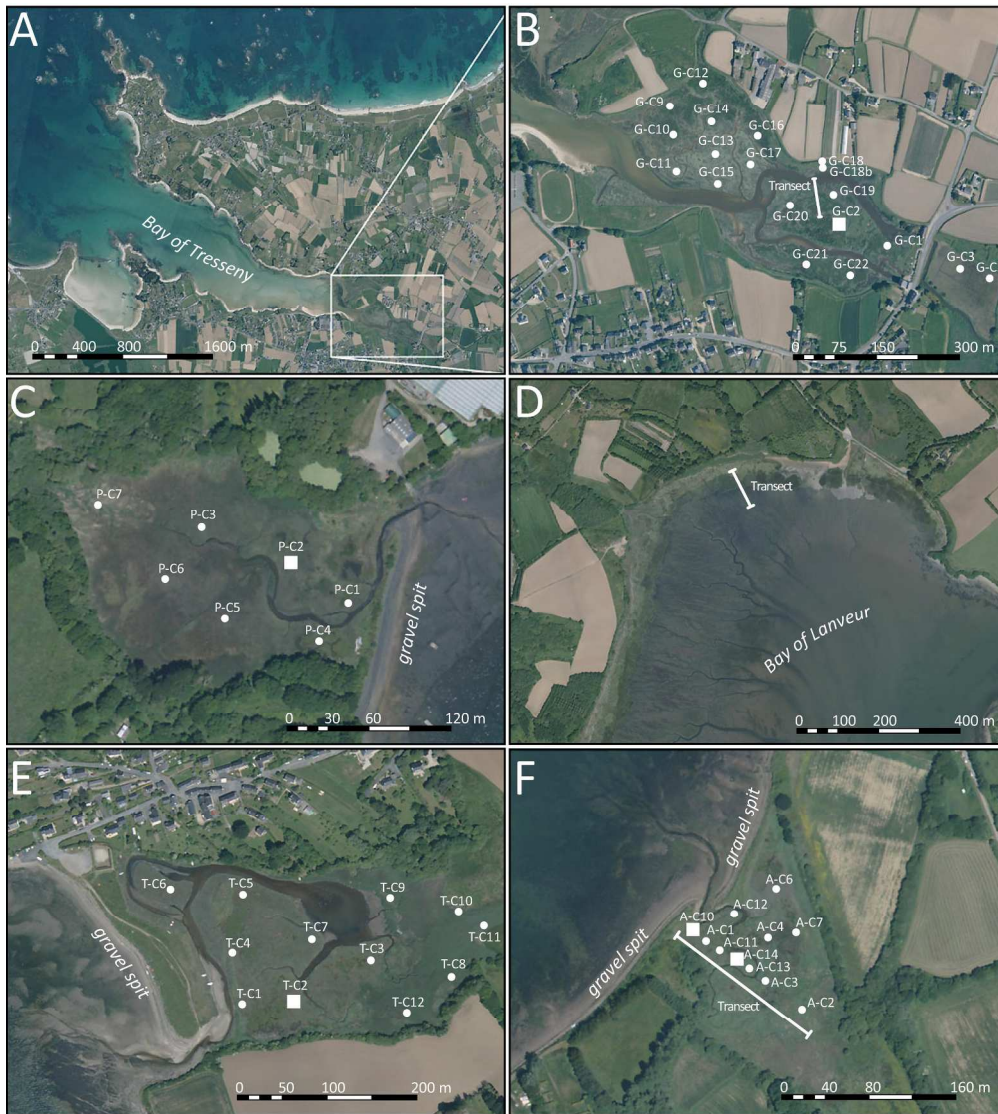
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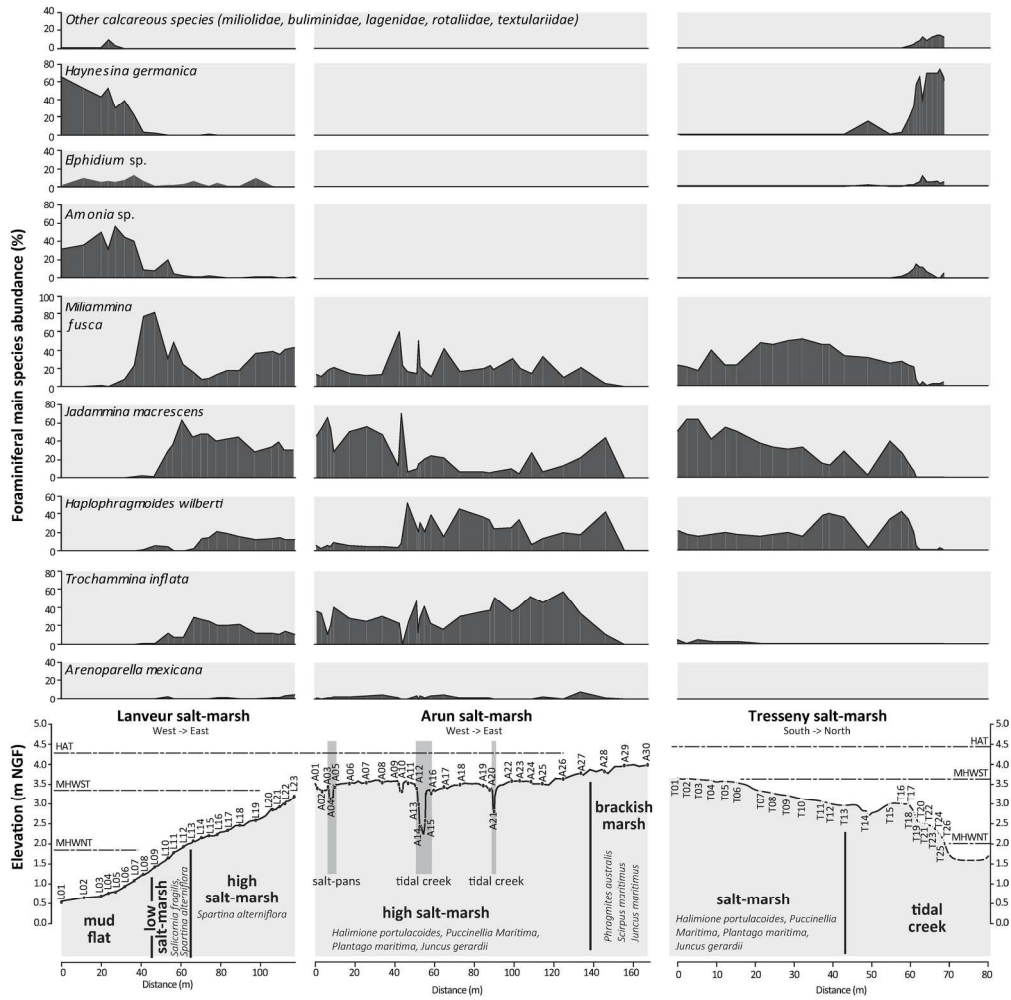


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219x244mm (300 x 300 DPI)

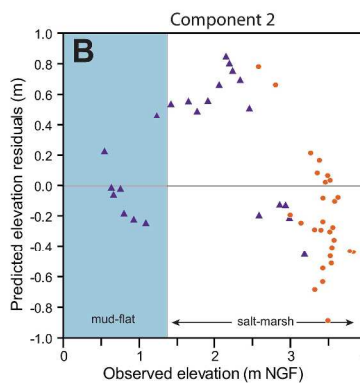
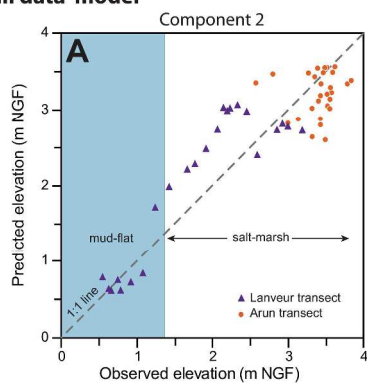


187x185mm (300 x 300 DPI)

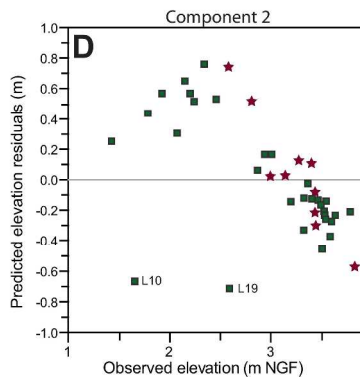
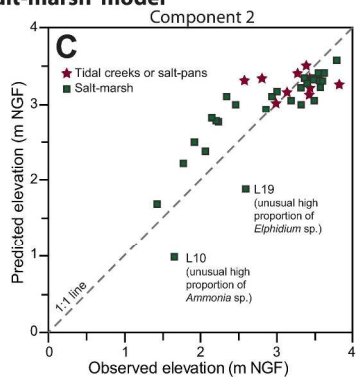


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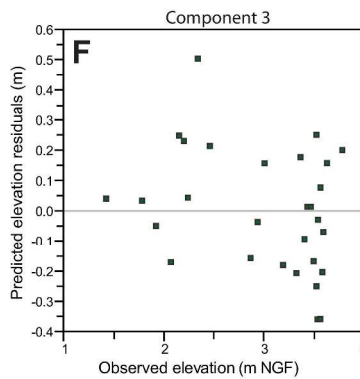
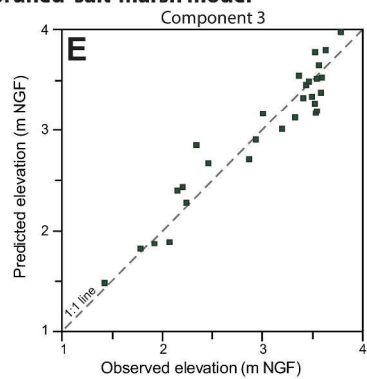
1- 'all data' model



2- 'salt-marsh' model

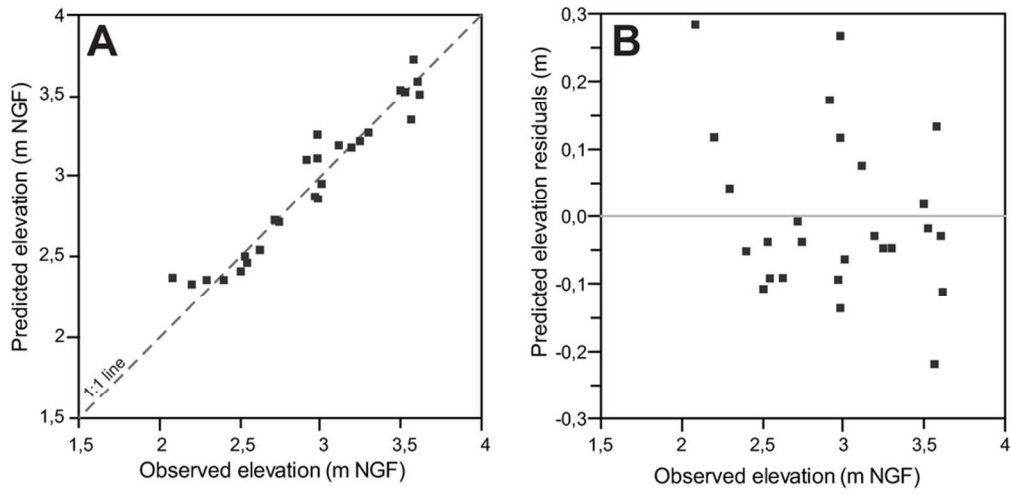


3- 'pruned' salt-marsh model



277x414mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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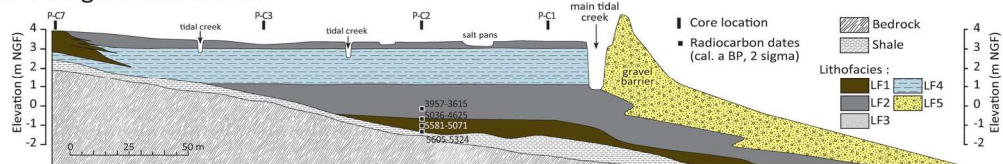


84x40mm (300 x 300 DPI)

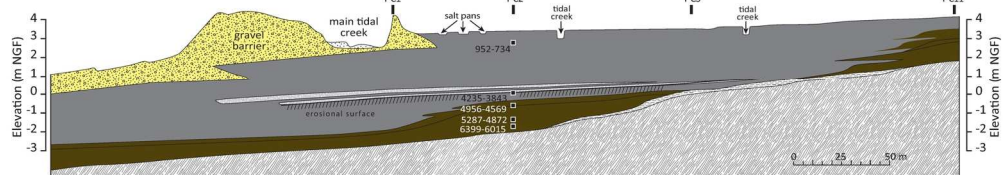
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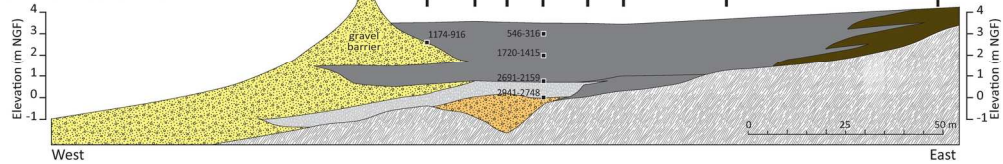
A- Porzguen salt-marsh



B- Troaon salt-marsh



C-Arun salt-marsh

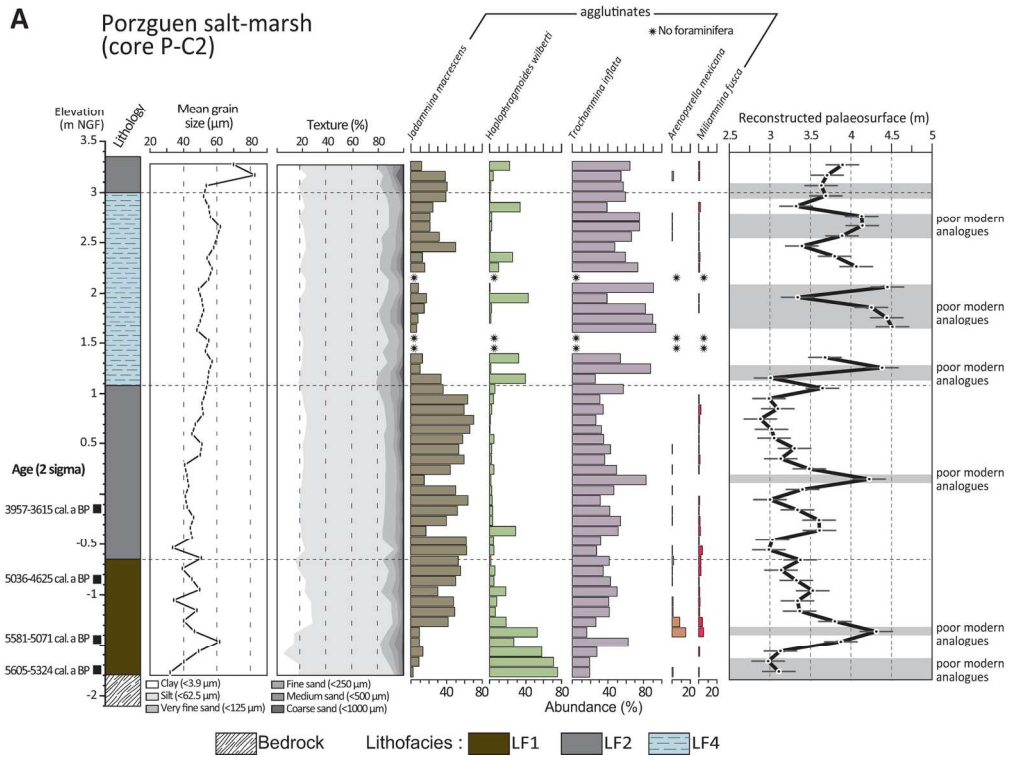


162x98mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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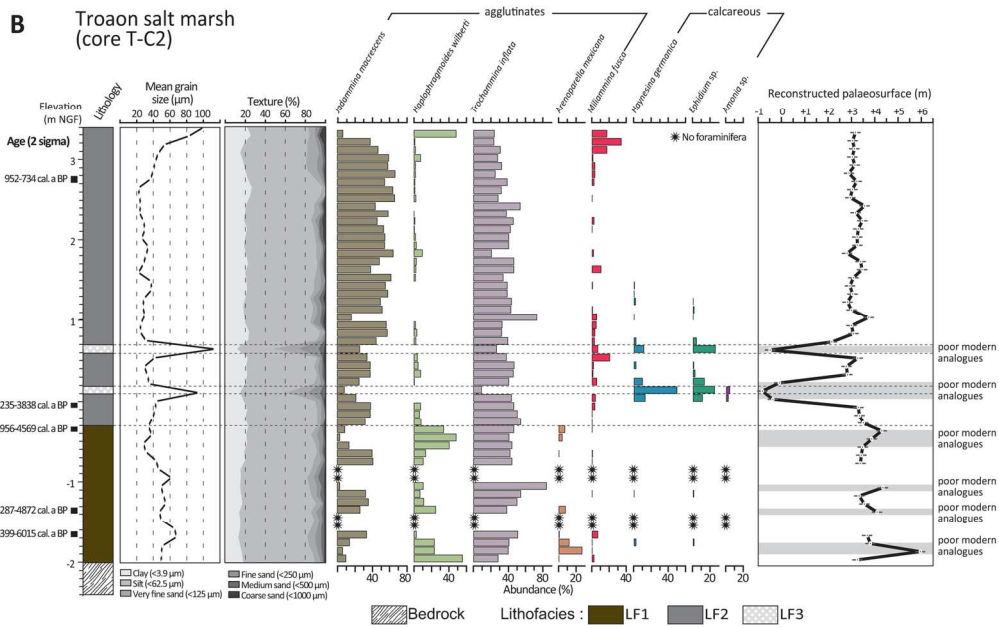




161x121mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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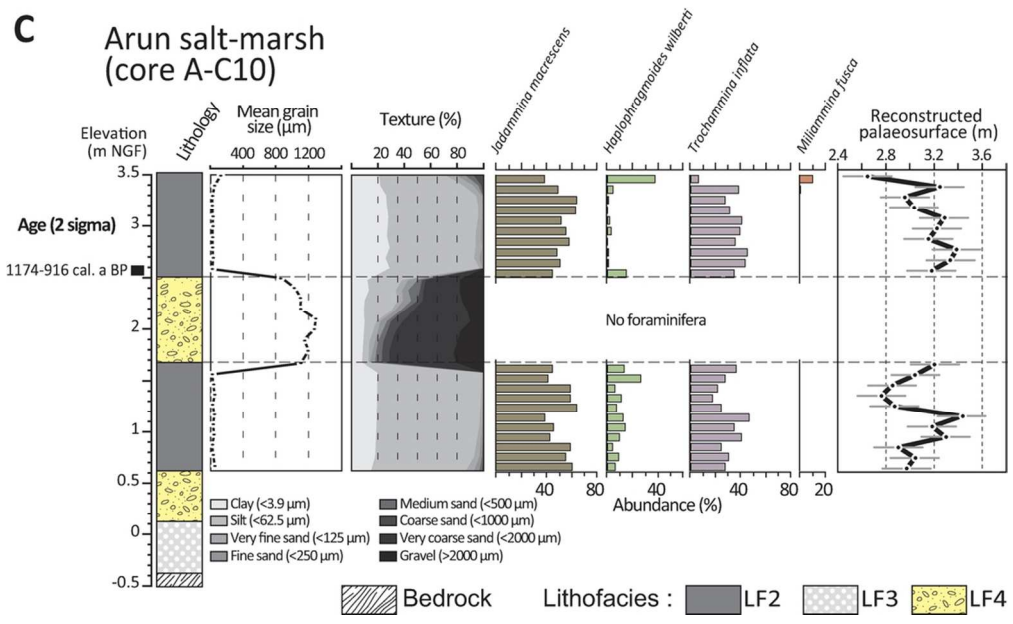


155x96mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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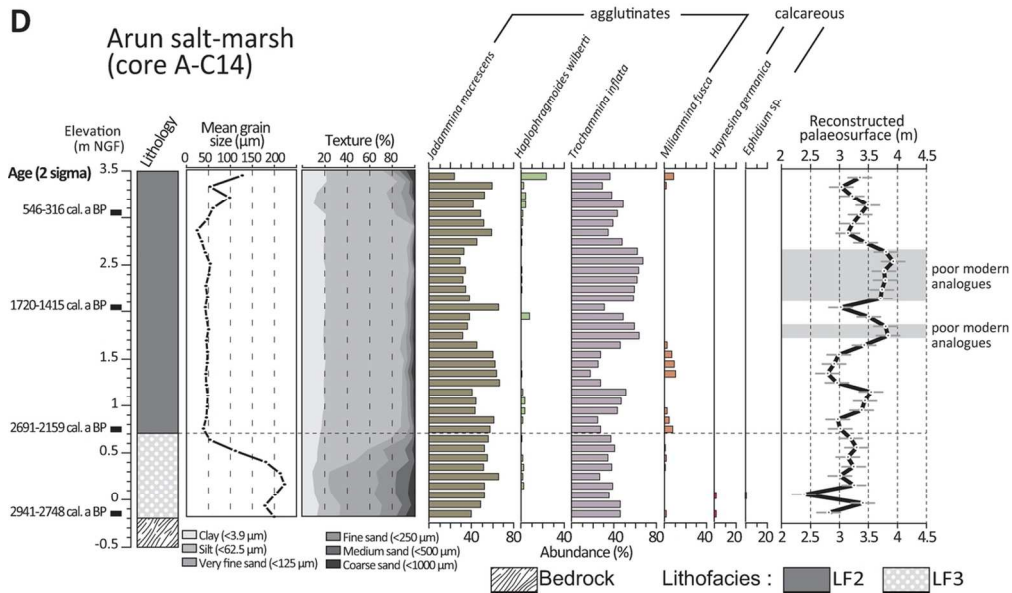
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97x59mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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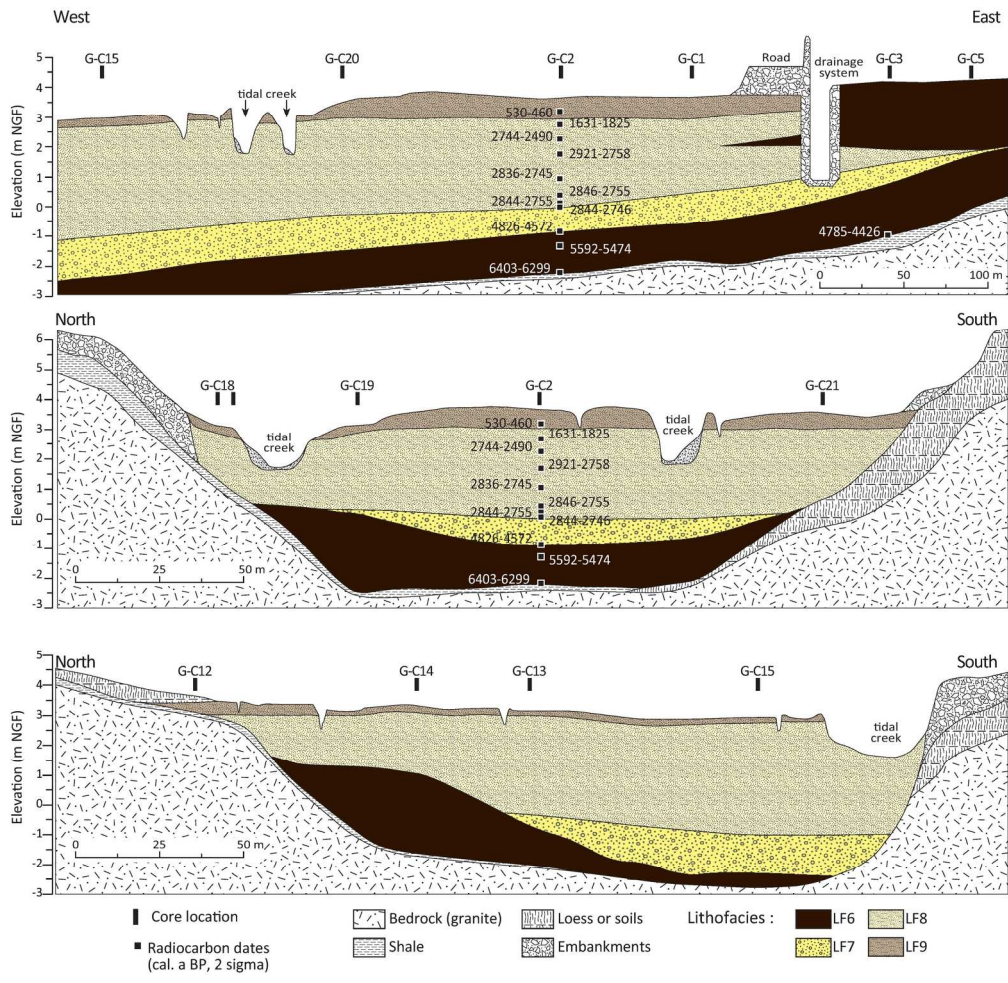


111x65mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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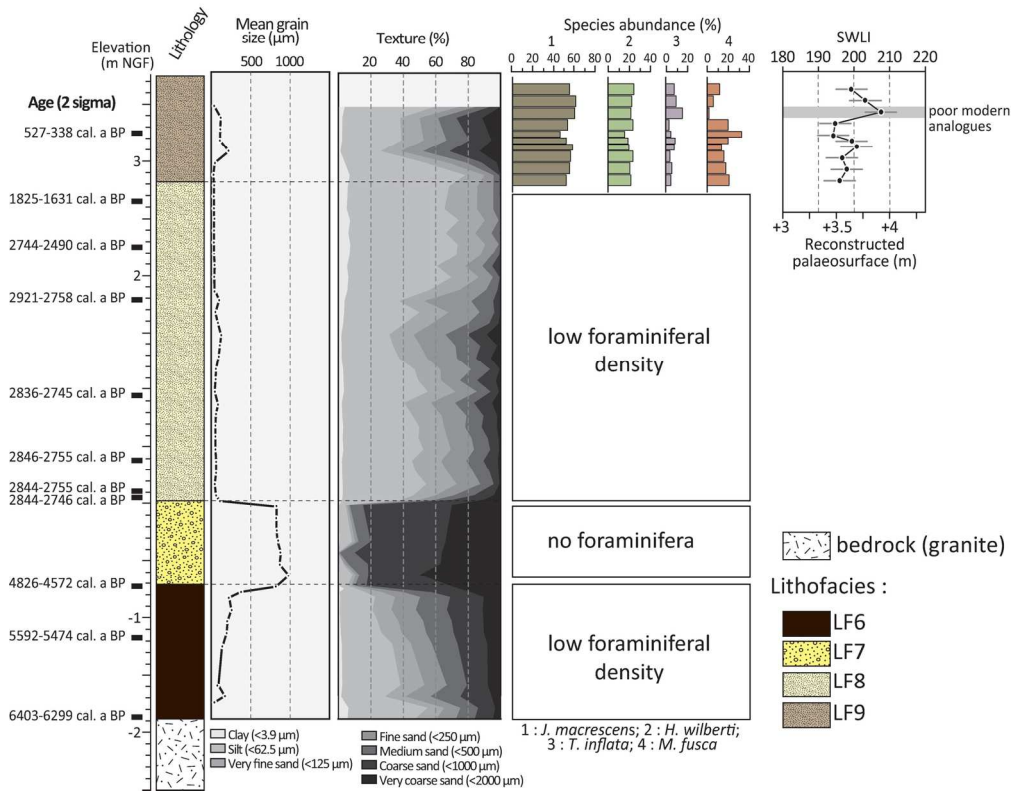
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179x173mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Tresseny salt-marsh  
(core G-C2)

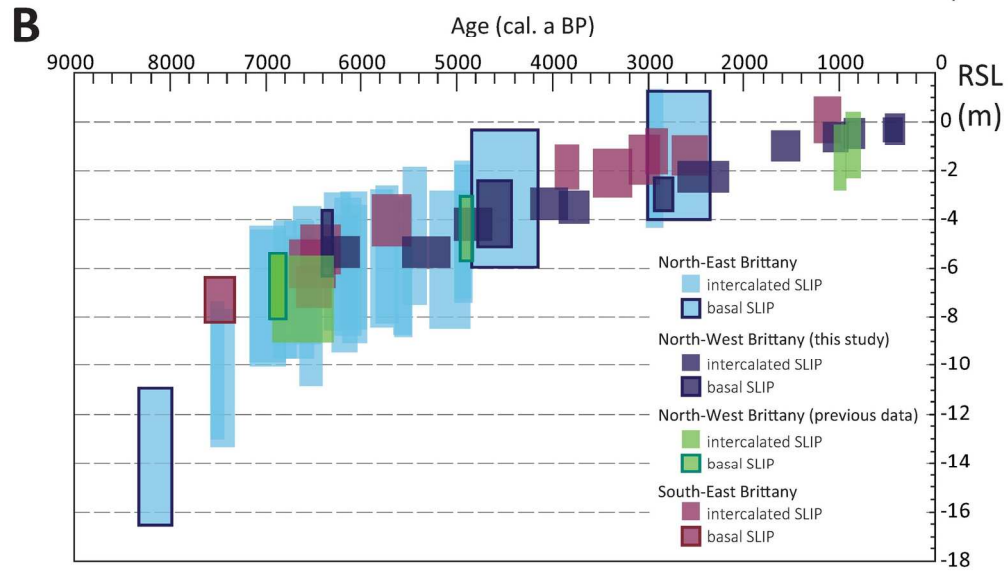
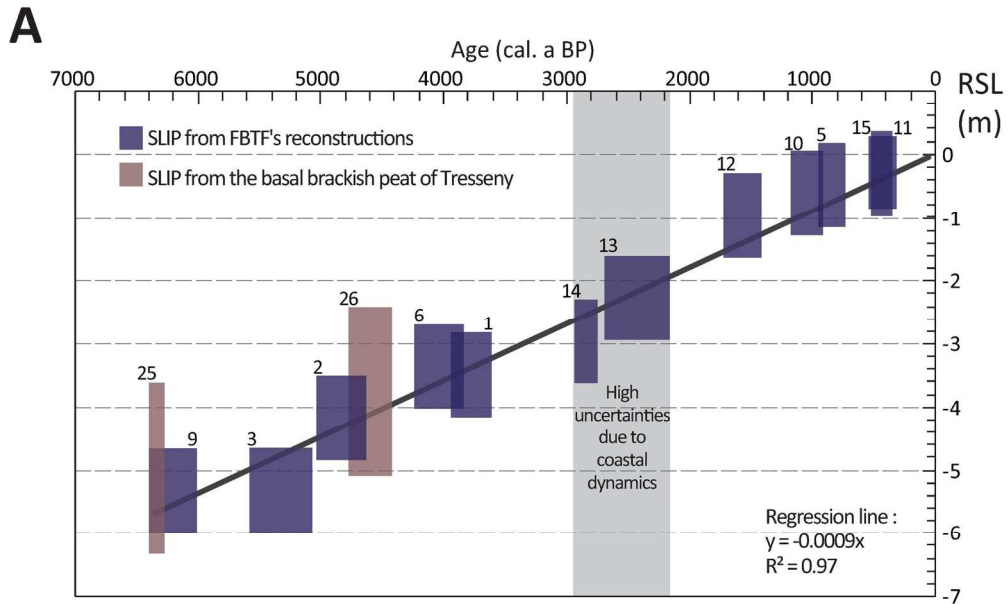


154x132mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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164x194mm (300 x 300 DPI)





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Tresseny	T01	3,62	198,02	51,94	21,20	3,18	0,00	23,67	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T02	3,61	197,72	63,57	16,43	0,00	0,00	20,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T03	3,58	196,93	64,04	14,51	5,05	0,00	16,40	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T04	3,57	196,38	42,33	16,67	1,33	0,00	39,67	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T05	3,53	195,35	55,37	19,54	1,63	0,00	23,45	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T06	3,51	194,59	55,24	19,23	2,10	0,00	23,43	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T07	3,31	188,63	37,91	14,71	0,00	0,00	47,39	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T08	3,26	187,05	34,13	17,75	0,00	0,00	48,12	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T09	3,20	185,35	31,33	19,33	0,00	0,00	49,33	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T10	3,12	182,77	32,45	15,89	0,00	0,00	51,66	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T11	3,01	179,64	15,85	37,80	0,00	0,00	46,34	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T12	2,97	178,21	13,10	40,34	0,00	1,72	44,83	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T13	2,92	176,81	28,95	37,17	0,00	0,99	32,89	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T14	2,72	170,79	4,88	3,66	0,00	0,00	58,54	25,00	6,71	0,61	0,61	0,00	0,00	0,61	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T15	2,99	178,84	39,74	34,29	0,00	0,00	25,96	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T16	2,99	178,88	26,85	42,28	1,01	0,00	26,17	1,68	0,00	2,01	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T17	2,99	178,88	15,41	33,44	0,00	0,00	22,95	17,70	3,93	5,25	1,31	0,33	0,33	0,33	0,00	0,33	0,00	0,33	0,00
Tresseny	T18	2,75	171,49	5,77	19,87	0,32	0,00	20,19	32,05	4,81	13,46	3,53	0,64	0,64	0,96	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,28	0,00
Tresseny	T19	2,63	167,81	0,99	3,96	0,00	0,00	5,61	56,44	9,57	17,82	5,61	0,00	1,65	2,64	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,32	0,00
Tresseny	T20	2,55	165,41	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	64,09	13,76	15,44	6,71	1,01	1,68	2,68	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,34	0,00
Tresseny	T21	2,53	164,98	0,00	0,33	0,00	0,00	4,01	39,80	32,11	14,38	9,36	1,67	2,01	4,68	0,00	0,00	0,00	1,00	0,00
Tresseny	T22	2,51	164,32	0,00	0,64	0,00	0,00	0,00	69,77	15,76	8,68	5,14	0,64	1,29	2,57	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,64	0,00
Tresseny	T23	2,41	161,16	0,00	0,31	0,00	0,00	2,47	69,14	15,12	3,70	9,26	1,54	0,93	6,17	0,31	0,00	0,00	0,31	0,00
Tresseny	T24	2,30	158,05	0,62	0,93	0,62	0,00	1,24	68,32	15,53	0,00	12,73	1,86	1,86	8,07	0,31	0,00	0,00	0,62	0,00
Tresseny	T25	2,21	155,23	0,00	1,34	0,00	0,00	1,67	72,58	15,05	0,67	8,70	2,01	1,00	5,69	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Tresseny	T26	2,08	151,34	0,31	0,31	0,00	0,00	3,74	65,11	13,40	5,92	11,21	3,12	1,87	4,05	0,31	0,62	1,25	0,00	0,00

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Table S4. Relative total (dead and alive) abundances of foraminifera taxa found within the samples collected from the core A-C14 (Arun saltmarsh, bay of Brest).

Sample code	Elevation (m NGF)	Depth (m)	<i>Jadammina macrescens</i>	<i>Haplophragmoides wilberti</i>	<i>Trochammina inflata</i>	<i>Arenoporella mexicana</i>	<i>Miliammina fusca</i>	<i>Haynesina germanica</i>	<i>Elphidium sp.</i>	<i>Ammonia sp.</i>	Palaeomorph elevation (m) from WA-PLS Model comp 3	RMSEP (m)	MinDC	MAT diagnostic	<sup>14</sup> C a BP (see Table 2 for details)	mid sample elevation	RSL (m)	surface sampling error	core sampling error	Elevation error (benchmark & DGPS)	RMSEP (m)	Total error (m)
A-C14-E01	3,50;3,40	0,00;0,10	25,67	25,33	37,67	0,33	11,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,35	0,20	8,60	close		3,45	0,10	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E02	3,40;3,30	0,10;0,20	60,70	4,15	31,31	0,00	3,83	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,03	0,20	4,86	close		3,35	0,32	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E03	3,30;3,20	0,20;0,30	54,37	6,15	39,48	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,22	0,20	13,94	close		3,25	0,03	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E04	3,20;3,10	0,30;0,40	43,44	5,83	50,44	0,00	0,29	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,49	0,20	16,08	close		3,15	-0,34	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E05	3,10;3,00	0,40;0,50	50,84	3,68	45,48	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,35	0,20	13,80	close	436±55	3,05	-0,30	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E06	3,00;2,90	0,50;0,60	56,00	3,00	40,00	0,00	1,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,22	0,20	9,47	close		2,95	-0,27	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E07	2,90;2,80	0,60;0,70	60,00	2,00	37,00	0,00	1,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,15	0,20	9,11	close		2,85	-0,30	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E08	2,80;2,70	0,70;0,80	47,04	2,63	49,34	0,00	0,99	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,45	0,20	12,37	close		2,75	-0,70	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E09	2,70;2,60	0,80;0,90	34,62	1,60	63,78	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,80	0,20	20,11	poor		2,65	-1,15	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E10	2,60;2,50	0,90;1,00	30,68	0,00	69,32	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,93	0,20	24,20	poor		2,55	-1,38	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E11	2,50;2,40	1,00;1,10	37,00	1,00	64,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,77	0,20	21,82	poor		2,45	-1,32	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E12	2,40;2,30	1,10;1,20	34,00	2,00	62,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,79	0,20	19,07	poor		2,35	-1,44	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E13	2,30;2,20	1,20;1,30	36,43	2,75	60,82	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,73	0,20	18,65	poor		2,25	-1,48	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E14	2,20;2,10	1,30;1,40	39,68	0,00	60,32	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,71	0,20	23,33	poor		2,15	-1,56	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E15	2,10;2,00	1,40;1,50	67,33	0,33	32,34	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,02	0,20	13,92	close	1686±56	2,05	-0,97	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E16	2,00;1,90	1,50;1,60	39,93	9,24	50,83	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,51	0,20	18,23	close		1,95	-1,56	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E17	1,90;1,80	1,60;1,70	37,71	0,34	61,28	0,67	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,80	0,20	22,83	poor		1,85	-1,95	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E18	1,80;1,70	1,70;1,80	33,55	0,66	65,45	0,00	0,33	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,84	0,20	21,02	poor		1,75	-2,09	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E19	1,70;1,60	1,80;1,90	46,96	0,96	47,60	0,00	4,47	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,42	0,20	6,36	close		1,65	-1,77	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E20	1,60;1,50	1,90;2,00	62,25	0,00	28,81	0,00	8,94	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,99	0,20	3,14	good		1,55	-1,44	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E21	1,50;1,40	2,00;2,10	63,00	2,00	25,00	0,00	10,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,91	0,20	1,90	good		1,45	-1,46	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E22	1,40;1,30	2,10;2,20	65,57	2,40	19,76	0,00	12,28	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,79	0,20	4,57	close		1,35	-1,44	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E23	1,30;1,20	2,20;2,30	67,85	1,61	29,26	0,00	1,29	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,96	0,20	9,78	close		1,25	-1,71	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E24	1,20;1,10	2,30;2,40	42,57	3,30	52,81	0,00	1,32	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,54	0,20	14,02	close		1,15	-2,39	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E25	1,10;1,00	2,40;2,50	46,00	5,00	48,67	0,00	0,33	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,44	0,20	15,18	close		1,05	-2,39	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E26	1,00;0,90	2,50;2,60	44,73	5,43	45,05	0,00	4,79	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,38	0,20	6,18	close		0,95	-2,43	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E27	0,90;0,80	2,60;2,70	63,14	3,85	26,92	0,32	5,77	0,00	0,00	0,00	2,97	0,20	4,03	close		0,85	-2,12	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E28	0,80;0,70	2,70;2,80	58,86	2,01	29,43	0,00	9,70	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,02	0,20	0,54	good	2340±54	0,75	-2,27	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E29	0,70;0,60	2,80;2,90	57,24	2,41	38,62	0,00	1,72	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,19	0,20	7,56	close		0,65	-2,54	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E30	0,60;0,50	2,90;3,00	53,80	0,66	42,90	0,00	2,64	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,30	0,20	7,26	close		0,55	-2,75	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E31	0,50;0,40	3,00;3,10	56,72	3,61	36,07	0,00	3,61	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,15	0,20	4,60	close		0,45	-2,70	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E32	0,40;0,30	3,10;3,20	52,84	4,68	40,13	0,00	2,34	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,24	0,20	7,61	close		0,35	-2,89	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E33	0,30;0,20	3,20;3,30	67,23	3,38	28,72	0,68	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,01	0,20	14,05	close		0,25	-2,76	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E34	0,20;0,10	3,30;3,40	53,54	4,72	40,94	0,00	0,79	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,25	0,20	11,04	close		0,15	-3,10	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E35	0,10;0,00	3,40;3,50	53,77	2,05	36,99	0,00	1,37	3,42	2,40	0,00	2,39	0,20	13,76	close		0,05	-2,34	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E36	0,00;-0,10	3,50;3,60	50,17	1,67	47,49	0,00	0,67	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,40	0,20	12,13	close		-0,05	-3,45	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48
A-C14-E37	-0,10;-0,20	3,60;3,70	41,58	1,98	47,52	0,00	3,96	3,96	0,99	0,00	2,81	0,20	12,61	close	2716±55	-0,15	-2,96	0,10	0,05	0,13	0,20	0,48



Table S6. Relative total (dead and alive) abundances of foraminifera taxa found within the samples collected from the core G-C2 (Tresseny saltmarsh).

Sample code	Elevation (m NGF)	Depth (m)	<i>Jadammina macrescens</i>	<i>Haplophragmoides wilberti</i>	<i>Trochammina inflata</i>	<i>Arenoporella mexicana</i>	<i>Miliammina fusca</i>	<i>Haynesina germanica</i>	<i>Elphidium</i> sp.	<i>Ammonia</i> sp.	<i>Lagena sulcata</i>	<i>Fissurina lucida</i>	<i>Quinqueloculina</i> sp.	<i>Favulina squamosa</i>	<i>Hopkinsina atlanticus</i>	<i>Bolivina variabilis</i>	Palaeomorph elevation (m) from WA-PLS Model	RMSEP (m)	MinDC	MAT diagnostic	<sup>14</sup> C a BP (see Table 2 for details)	mid sample elevation	RSL (m)	surface sampling error	core sampling error	Elevation error (benchmark & DGPS)	RMSEP (m)	Total error (m)
G-C2-E01	3.625:3.575	0.10:0.15	54,61	24,63	8,10	0,00	12,66	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,66	0,14	4,56	close		3,600	-0,059	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39
G-C2-E02	3.525:3.475	0.20:0.25	60,52	22,37	10,14	0,00	6,97	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,79	0,14	7,29	close		3,500	-0,288	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39
G-C2-E03	3.425:3.375	0.30:0.35	60,94	21,29	15,63	0,00	2,14	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,93	0,14	17,75	poor		3,400	-0,533	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39
G-C2-E04	3.325:3.275	0.40:0.45	53,19	23,57	3,13	0,00	20,11	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,52	0,14	0,43	good		3,300	-0,218	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39
G-C2-E05	3.225:3.175	0.50:0.55	46,23	16,11	4,62	0,00	33,04	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,48	0,14	2,60	good	431±28	3,200	-0,280	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39
G-C2-E06	3.175:3.125	0.55:0.60	51,24	19,77	9,49	0,00	19,50	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,66	0,14	3,60	good		3,150	-0,509	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39
G-C2-E07	3.125:3.075	0.60:0.65	57,90	20,08	8,84	0,00	13,18	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,73	0,14	2,59	good		3,100	-0,626	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39
G-C2-E08	3.025:2.975	0.70:0.75	56,05	23,87	4,27	0,00	15,81	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,58	0,14	2,04	good		3,000	-0,582	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39
G-C2-E09	2.925:2.875	0.80:0.85	54,12	21,33	6,20	0,00	18,35	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,61	0,14	1,69	good		2,900	-0,710	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39
G-C2-E10	2.825:2.775	0.90:0.95	52,86	22,08	5,05	0,00	20,01	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,56	0,14	0,76	good		2,800	-0,764	0,10	0,025	0,12	0,14	0,39

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