



## **Imprint of seasonality changes on fluvio-glacial dynamics across Heinrich Stadial 1 (NE Atlantic Ocean)**

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# Imprint of seasonality changes on fluvio-glacial dynamics across Heinrich Stadial 1 (NE Atlantic Ocean)

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## Abstract

The northern Bay of Biscay has previously proven its great potential for recording the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver (i.e., the largest Pleistocene river in Europe) fluvio-glacial activity. In this study, new dinoflagellate cyst (dinocyst) analyses have been carried out at sub-centennial resolution in core MD13-3438 to reconstruct the deglacial history of the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver runoff coupled with European Ice Sheets (EIS) fluctuations across Heinrich Stadial 1 (HS1: 18.2–14.6 ka BP), a key extreme climatic event of the last glacial period. Prior to Heinrich Event (HE) 1 (16.7–14.6 ka BP), the onset of HS1 (18.2–16.7 ka BP) appears here marked by enhanced ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver runoff, materialized by laminated deposits. Our work suggests a novel sub-centennial scale subdivision of the early HS1 (laminated) interval into 5 sub-phases when episodes of substantial fluvio-glacial delivery concomitant with warm summers alternate with episodes of moderate runoff associated with extended cold winters. We argue that multidecadal seasonal changes played a key role in the hydrological regime of western Europe during this HS1 interval, with the retreat of the southern limb of the EIS, and associated influx of meltwater and fluvio-glacial delivery, which were strongly influenced by those multidecadal changes in seasonality. Interestingly, our paleoclimatic record not only evidences the crucial role of seasonality in controlling climate and hydrological variations during HS1 but also shows a remarkable echo with reconstructions from the western Mediterranean Basin, highlighting common climate forcings at regional scale during the last deglaciation.

**Keywords:** *Heinrich Stadial 1; Dinoflagellate cysts; northern Bay of Biscay; ‘Fleuve Manche’ paleoriver; European Ice Sheets*

## 1. Introduction

The last glacial period was accompanied by millennial-scale abrupt climate shifts, portrayed in Greenland ice-cores as rapid transitions from cold atmospheric phases termed Greenland Stadials (GS) to warm atmospheric phases referred to as Greenland Interstadials (GI; e.g., Dansgaard et al., 1993; Rasmussen et al., 2014). Despite their original designation, these climate excursions had an impact across the globe (e.g., Voelker, 2002). In the North Atlantic Ocean, some GS were associated with massive iceberg surges mainly from the Laurentide Ice Sheet (LIS) *via* the Hudson Strait Ice Stream (e.g., Bond et al., 1992, 1993; Broecker et al., 1992, 1994; Hemming, 2004), identified in marine sediments as Ice Rafted Debris (IRD)-enriched layers (e.g., Bond et al., 1993; Broecker, 1994; Heinrich, 1988). These massive iceberg (and thus freshwater) surge events are known as Heinrich Events (HEs including HE1), with their corresponding stadial phases called Heinrich Stadials (HSs including HS1; Barker et al., 2009; Sanchez Goñi and Harrison, 2010). The associated huge freshwater releases resulted in large reductions of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC; e.g., McManus et al., 2004; Stanford et al., 2006, 2011; Ng et al., 2018; Toucanne et al., 2021). Numerous studies demonstrated that Greenland Iceland and European Ice Sheets were also major contributors to the oceanic disturbances in the North Atlantic Ocean, especially when considering the surge sequencing along time (e.g., Bond et al., 1997, 1999; Grousset et al., 2000, 2001; Hemming et al., 2000, 2004; Knutz et al., 2001, 2007; Hall et al., 2006; Peck et al., 2006; Nygård et al., 2007; Toucanne et al., 2008, 2010, 2015). HS1, including the HE1 layer, occurred at the onset of the last deglaciation (~19-11 ka BP; Clark et al., 2012a), just before the abrupt Bølling-Allerød (B/A) warming event starting at ca. 14.7 ka BP (Rasmussen et al., 2014) and after the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM; Mix et al., 2001). Over the LGM, which was characterized by a large European Ice Sheet (EIS) including the British-Irish (BIIS) and Scandinavian (SIS) Ice Sheets, the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver (Channel River) was one of the largest river systems that drained western Europe (e.g., Gibbard, 1988; Toucanne et al., 2009, 2010, 2015). This huge fluvial system included the French, Belgian and British rivers, and the merged German, Polish and Dutch rivers, on the exposed English Channel and North Sea Basin, respectively. Multiproxy studies conducted along the northwestern European margin and especially from the northern Bay of Biscay (e.g., Zaragosi et al., 2001; Auffret et al., 2002; Mojtahid et al., 2005, 2017; Eynaud et al., 2007, 2012; Penaud et al., 2009; Toucanne et al., 2009, 2010), identified recurrent phases of meltwater inputs at the onset of HS1 (between 18.3 and 17 ka BP). Materialized in sediments

as millimeter- to centimeter-scale laminations, they were attributed to the seasonal melting of the EIS and seasonal subsequent freshwater discharge from the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver. Further works provided new evidence of a differential contribution from ice sheets to the laminated deposit, with a particularly large SIS/Baltic sourced part during the last deglaciation and the HS1 interval (Toucanne et al., 2015). Until now, palynological investigation of this laminated facies (Eynaud, 1999, 2007, 2012; Auffret et al., 2000; Zaragosi et al., 2001; Penaud et al., 2009) was performed at resolution varying between 70 and 250 years only, due to the strong dilution of palynomorphs in sediments. Such laminated facies, corresponding to exceptionally high sedimentation rates, appear as ideal candidates to increase the temporal resolution of marine records and thus improve our understanding of short-lived fluctuations in the regime of the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver and associated EIS dynamics.

Our study thus constitutes the first detailed dinocyst study encompassing the HS1 interval in the Bay of Biscay with a special focus on the laminated facies deposited at the onset of HS1. Our main objective was to decipher the set and sequence of events that occurred during this period over the northern Bay of Biscay. Our high-resolution palynological study was conducted on core MD13-3438 and combined with micropaleontological, geochemical and sedimentological analyses available for the twin reference core MD95-2002. Our multiproxy approach led to:

- (1) the reconstruction of the coupled EIS and '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver dynamics across HS1;
- (2) the study of high frequency seasonal variability within the laminated deposit, providing the first reconstruction of the sub-centennial climate variability across HS1 in the NE Atlantic;
- (3) and the characterization of sea surface conditions over the northern Bay of Biscay using dinocyst quantifications (keeping in mind their potentialities and limits in the study area).

## 2. Environmental context

### 2.1. Location of the studied core

The Calypso long piston core MD13-3438 (47°27' N; 8°27' W; 2180 m water depth; 36 m long) and twin core MD95-2002 (47°27' N; 8°32' W; 2174 m water depth) were respectively collected during the VT 133 / MERIADZEK (Woerther, 2013) and MD101-IMAGES (Bassinot and Labeyrie, 1996) oceanographic cruises on board the R/V Marion Dufresne (Table 1).

These marine sedimentary archives were retrieved from the Meriadzek Terrace, northern Bay of Biscay, directly off the mouth of the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver (Fig. 1a). Their recovery, on a structure lying 600 m above the abyssal plain, guarantees few disturbances from gravity processes despite the proximity of deep-sea turbidite systems (Auffret et al., 2000; Zaragosi et al., 2000, 2001). The late Quaternary sedimentation of this area was imprinted by supplies from the northwestern European drainage catchments *via* the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver during glacial lowstands (Auffret et al., 2000; Bourillet et al., 2003; Mojtahid et al., 2005; Zaragosi et al., 2006; Eynaud et al., 2007; Toucanne et al., 2008, 2009).

At present, the water column is structured by the deep Labrador Sea Water (~1500-2000 m depth) characterized by salinity ranging from 35 to 35.5 psu (Cossa et al., 2004) and the intermediate warm and salty (35.7 psu) Mediterranean Outflow Water (800-1500 m depth). Down to 800 m depth, the modern European Slope Current carries warm and salty waters to the Nordic Seas (Berx et al., 2013). Surface waters over the study area correspond to the southward recirculation of the North Atlantic Current (NAC; Fig. 1a), i.e., the south-eastern branch of the subpolar North Atlantic gyre (e.g., Sutton and Allen, 1997; Daniault et al., 2016). At the study site, modern (i.e., pre-21<sup>st</sup> century) mean Sea Surface Temperature (SST) and Salinity (SSS) are 11.7±0.6 °C and 35.54±0.05 psu in winter, and 17.5±1.0 °C and 35.58±0.10 psu in summer (World Ocean Atlas, 2001; Conkright et al., 2002).

### 2.2. Climatic changes in the northern Bay of Biscay during the last 40 kyr with focus on HS1

A large number of studies have shown that core MD95-2002 (Fig. 1a) has archived the history of deglacial pulses and meltwater discharge from the EIS (Zaragosi et al., 2001; Ménot et al., 2006; Eynaud et al., 2007, 2012; Penaud et al., 2009; Toucanne et al., 2009, 2015; Fig. 1b).

Data acquired on MD95-2002 (Fig. 1b) indeed provided nearshore marine to terrestrial information (Table 1 for related references).

In the North Atlantic Ocean, HS can be recognized on the basis of *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* abundances close to 100% (e.g., Broecker et al., 1992; Eynaud et al., 2009). At site MD95-2002, HS1 (blue band on Fig. 1b) is thus identified as the interval between 18.2–14.6 ka BP (Fig. 1b). Early HS1 is evidenced by repeated alternation of millimeter- to centimeter-scale deposits (i.e., laminae) of mud and Coarse Lithic Grains (CLG) (Zaragosi et al., 2001). This facies results from an intense activity of the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver in response to the substantial EIS retreat (e.g., Mojtabid et al., 2005; Zaragosi et al., 2006; Eynaud et al., 2007; Toucanne et al., 2008). This laminated interval is associated with high concentrations of the freshwater micro-algae *Pediastrum* (Penaud et al., 2009), high values of the Ti/Ca-XRF ratio (i.e., detrital *versus* biogenic proxy for enhanced terrigenous supply; Toucanne et al., 2009, 2012, 2015) and of the Branched and Isoprenoid Tetraether (BIT) index (i.e., a proxy for the relative fluvial input of terrestrial organic matter in the marine environment; Ménot et al., 2006). All those tracers highlight strong fluvial inputs and terrestrial-sourced organic sediment advections over the northern Bay of Biscay. This period is concomitant with major EIS melting events, especially from the Baltic Ice Stream of the SIS, accompanied by seasonal spring-summer meltwater discharge into the Bay of Biscay (Zaragosi et al., 2001; Mojtabid et al., 2005; Ménot et al., 2006; Eynaud et al., 2007, 2012; Penaud et al., 2009; Toucanne et al., 2008, 2009, 2015). Within the laminated interval, the concentrations of CLG (Fig.1b) include both, Laurentide and European-sourced IRDs and also fluvial lithic grains transported *via* the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver. Increased CLG concentrations then recorded between 16.7 and 15 ka BP (Fig.1b; Zaragosi et al., 2001) characterize the HE1 phase. This interval contains the ‘conventional’ HE1 layer marked by notable peaks of magnetic susceptibility and carbonates (low Ti/Ca values) at ~16 ka BP characterizing the typical LIS surge (Grousset et al., 2000; Toucanne et al., 2015; Fig.1b).

### 3. Material and methods

#### 3.1. Stratigraphy of core MD13-3438

The age model of core MD13-3438 is wedged on the last updated chronostratigraphy of core MD95-2002 (Toucanne et al., 2015). This latter was built with the Clam software (Blaauw, 2010) by integrating 22 AMS- $^{14}\text{C}$  dates over the last 40 kyr with additional tie-points: (i) 4 AMS- $^{14}\text{C}$  dates tied from the neighbouring cores MD03-2690 and MD03-2692, and (ii) *N. pachyderma* abundances correlated with the NGRIP  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  signal. Modern reservoir age correction is estimated to about  $352 \pm 92$  years. Prior to HS1 and during the Holocene, the reservoir age constantly averaged around  $400 \pm 200$   $^{14}\text{C}$  years. During HS1, the B/A and the Younger Dryas, average reservoir ages were respectively estimated to about 970, 680 and 875 years with uncertainties of 200 years (1s) (Toucanne et al., 2015).

The age model of core MD13-3438 was established by the correlation of its Ti/Ca-XRF signal with that of its twin core MD95-2002 (Fig. 1b). The XRF analysis of core MD13-3438 was performed at Ifremer (Plouzané) using an Avaatech X-Ray Fluorescence core scanner at 1 cm-resolution. Tie points used to synchronize both Ti/Ca-XRF signals can be found in Table 2. The correlation is supported by planktonic foraminiferal data (counts of the total assemblage performed on the  $>150\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  sediment fraction and on  $>300$  individuals for each sample at EPOC laboratory), especially the high *N. pachyderma* relative abundances delimiting the HS1 interval (Fig. 1b). Our 5 cm-sampling frequency for dinocyst analyses enables us to achieve a temporal resolution of about 18 to 186 years, with a mean resolution of 58 years in all the studied sections, and of about 29 years in the laminated sequence, characterized by sedimentation rate values around  $185\text{ cm/kyr}$  (Fig. 1b). This resolution thus provides valuable new details on the deglacial climatic history of the northern European margin across the HS1 interval.

It is worth noting that recent studies showed that the rapid cooling marking the onset of HS1 in the North Atlantic took place at  $17.48\text{ ka} \pm 0.21\text{ ka}$  ( $1\sigma$ ) (Missiaen et al., 2019; Waelbroeck et al., 2019) while maximal *N. pachyderma* abundances (i.e., allowing identifying HS 1) in core MD95-2002 between 880-390 cm, and between 575-245 cm in core MD13-3438, start at around 18.2 ka BP (Fig. 1b). Our chronologies are likely too old by about 700 years at the onset of HS1 as a result of underestimated reservoir ages over the last deglaciation.

### 193 **3.2. Dinocyst analyses**

#### 194 a. Laboratory procedure, dinoflagellate cyst identification and diversity indices

195 A total of 76 samples were analysed from the 18.4-14 ka BP interval encompassing HS1.  
 196 Palynological treatments were performed at EPOC laboratory (University of Bordeaux,  
 197 France) following a standard protocol described by de Vernal et al. (1999). Calibrated tablets  
 198 of known concentrations of *Lycopodium clavatum* spores were added to each sample before  
 199 chemical treatments in order to estimate palynomorph concentrations. Chemical treatments  
 200 include cold HCl (10 %), cold HF (40 and 70%) and sieving through single-use 10 µm nylon  
 201 mesh screens. For each sample, an average of about 400 specimens (minimal counts of 175  
 202 cysts) was achieved using a Leica DM 2500 microscope at ×630 magnification except for the  
 203 laminated sequence between 575 and 330 cm for which an average of 120 specimens  
 204 (minimal counts of 100 cysts) was obtained due to strong dilution.

205 Dinocyst ecology has been thoroughly described through the progressive development and  
 206 compilation of atlases of modern cyst distribution (Matthiessen, 1995; Rochon et al., 1999;  
 207 Marret and Zonneveld, 2003; Zonneveld et al., 2013; van Nieuwenhove et al., 2020; Marret et  
 208 al., 2020). For this study, taxonomic attribution and the grouping of some species were done  
 209 in accordance with those atlases. *Brigantedinium* spp. taxa include all spherical brown cysts  
 210 excluding *Dubridinium* spp. Other peridinioid cysts were grouped (i.e., *Quinquecuspsis* spp.,  
 211 *Lejeunecysta* spp., *Dubridinium* spp. and *Votadinium* spp.) as miscellaneous peridinioid cysts  
 212 (MPCs). Dinocyst assemblages were described with the relative abundances of each taxon  
 213 calculated on the basis of the total sum of specimens counted including unidentified taxa and  
 214 excluding pre-Quaternary cysts. Finally, the species richness and Margalef index (Harper,  
 215 1999), calculated using PAST v.1.75b (Hammer et al., 2001), have been used to estimate the  
 216 dinocyst assemblage diversity as an additional ecological indicator. The species richness  
 217 represents the number of different taxa identified within each studied sample. The Margalef  
 218 diversity index (Margalef, 1958) is defined by: Margalef's Index =  $(S - 1) / \ln(N)$ , where S  
 219 and N correspond to the total number of species (S) and of individuals (N) in the sample.

220

#### 221 b. Dinoflagellate cyst ratios and fluvial-derived palynological tracers

222 A “Warm/Cold” (W/C) ratio (Table 3) was used to qualitatively address SST variations  
 223 (Turon and Londeix, 1988; Versteegh, 1994; Combourieu- Nebout et al., 1999; Eynaud et al.,  
 224 2016; Penaud et al., 2016). Also, the “Heterotrophic/Autotrophic” (H/A) ratio (Table 3) was

calculated. This ratio is often used to discuss changes in primary productivity (PP) since heterotrophic dinoflagellates have a strict heterotrophic strategy of nutrition, being indirectly related to food resources, especially diatoms (Wall et al., 1977; Lewis et al., 1990; Marret, 1994; Zonneveld et al., 1997, 2001, 2013). It is worth noting that a large part of gonyaulacoids cysts (phototrophic cyst producing taxa) may survive thousands of years in well oxygenated sediments but heterotrophic peridinioids are extremely sensitive and vulnerable to early diagenesis. Since availability of oxygen in the sediments is the most important diagenetic variable, it has been suggested that the amount of species-selective degradation (i.e., here calculated as the H/A ratio for instance) may also be related to bottom water oxygen concentration, itself related to the rate of deep-ocean ventilation (Zonneveld et al., 2008). Both PP and/or taphonomic issues have to be taken into account to fully understand the H/A ratio.

The “*Lingulodinium machaerophorum* / *Operculodinium centrocarpum*” (Lmac/Ocen) ratio was used to discuss continental *versus* oceanic influences at the core location (e.g., Penaud et al., 2020), *L. machaerophorum* being a taxon dominating (nearly monospecifically) in estuarine environments of the French Atlantic coast (Wall et al., 1977; Morzadec-Kerfourn, 1977; Ganne et al., 2016; Lambert et al., 2017). Finally, a new ratio “*L. machaerophorum* / *Islandinium minutum*” (Lmac/Imin) has been used in this study as a proxy for summer *versus* winter prevailing seasonality modes. *I. minutum* is abundant in polar regions where surface waters do not exceed 0 °C in winter (Zonneveld et al., 2013).

In addition, pre-Quaternary dinocysts and Non Pollen Palynomorphs (NPP) including freshwater micro-algae *Pediastrum* spp. coenobia, *Botryococcus* spp. and *Concentricystes* spp.) were counted on the same palynological slides and expressed in absolute concentrations (palynomorphs/cm<sup>3</sup>). It has been demonstrated that *Pediastrum* spp. freshwater micro-algae are related to strong river discharge in marine environments (Zaragosi et al., 2001; Lézine et al., 2005; Eynaud et al., 2007; Penaud et al., 2009). Also, the biostratigraphical study of Kaiser (2001, unpublished data), based on the identification of reworked dinocysts in core MD95-2002 revealed that they were derived from the second half of the Mesozoic (Late Jurassic) to the Early Tertiary (Miocene), then characterizing the *Manche*, Parisian Basin and South England geological formations. Therefore, concentrations of *Pediastrum* spp. micro-algae and pre-Quaternary dinocysts, together with the ratio of “Reworked” (Rd, pre-Quaternary) *versus* “Modern” (Md) dinocysts (i.e., Rd/Md ratio), constitute robust proxies to discuss ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver discharge in the Bay of Biscay (e.g., Zaragosi et al., 2001; Kaiser, 2001; Eynaud et al., 2007; Penaud et al., 2009). The Rd/Md ratio, reworked cyst

and *Pediastrum* spp. concentrations, together with *L. machaerophorum* occurrences and the Lmac/Ocen ratio will be referred to as Fluvial-derived Palynological Tracers (FPT) allowing discussing fluvio-glacial delivery to the NW European margin.

#### c. Dinocyst-based quantitative reconstructions of sea-surface parameters

The Modern Analogue Techniques (MAT), run on the “R version 2.7.0” software (R Development Core Team, 2008; <http://www.r-project.org/>), was applied on dinocyst assemblages to estimate past quantitative sea-surface environmental parameters. The MAT consists in the comparison of fossil records with modern dinocyst assemblages from the most recent update of the standardized Northern Hemisphere “modern” dinocyst database, which includes the abundance of 71 different taxa and 1968 sites in relation to 17 modern environmental parameters (de Vernal et al., 2020). This method relies on the assumption that modern relationships between hydrographical parameters and dinocyst assemblages were still valid in the past (e.g., Guiot and de Vernal, 2007). Sources of uncertainties, quantified with the Root Mean Square Errors (RMSE), could derive from the lack of modern analogues corresponding to fossil assemblages (Guiot and de Vernal, 2007; de Vernal et al., 2020).

The quantification of hydrological parameters is based on a weighted average of the values obtained for the five best modern analogues, with the maximum weight being given to the statistically closest analogue. Regarding the threshold distance ( $d_T=1.2$ ), analogues are i) good when the distance  $d < d_T/2$ , ii) acceptable when  $d_T/2 < d < d_T$ , and iii) poor when  $d > d_T$  (de Vernal et al., 2005). The n=1968 database and its related environmental database, allows the reconstruction of summer and winter SST and SSS, mean annual Primary Productivity (PP), and Sea Ice Cover Duration (SIC<sub>D</sub>), with RMSE of  $\pm 1.8$  °C for SST<sub>summer</sub>,  $\pm 1.2$  °C for SST<sub>winter</sub>,  $\pm 2.1$  psu for SSS<sub>summer</sub>,  $\pm 1.1$  psu for SSS<sub>winter</sub>,  $\pm 138$  gC m<sup>-2</sup> for PP<sub>annual</sub>,  $\pm 1.5$  months year<sup>-1</sup> for SIC<sub>D</sub>.

## 4. Palynological results

Based on a cluster analysis run on dinocyst taxa percentages with the Psimpoll program, 9 palynozones were identified in core MD13-3438. We labelled them according to the stratigraphic interval they match: LGM (595-578 cm), HS1-a as the onset of HS1 prior to HE1 – HS1-a being subdivided into 5 sub-palynozones termed HS1-a1 to HS1-a5 (578-330 cm), and HS1-b (330-270 cm) and HS1-c (270-240 cm) as the first and second phase of HE1, respectively. Palynological data are presented and discussed according to these palynozones. They are plotted *versus* depth (cm) in result figures (Figs. 2 to 4), to exhibit the regularly sampled data without considering the strong impact of sedimentation rates, and then *versus* age (Cal ka BP) in the discussion figures (Figs. 5 to 7).

### 4.1. Quaternary dinocyst and other palynomorph abundances and derived indices

#### a. General observations on MD13-3438 results

A total of 31 different Quaternary dinocyst taxa (autotrophic or heterotrophic) have been identified (Table 3) with a species richness of about 15 different taxa per slide varying between 7 taxa at 580 cm and 25 taxa at 240 cm (Fig. 2). The Margalef index strongly matches the species richness with a general increasing trend from the bottom to the top of the studied section (Fig. 2), diversity being the lowest during the end of the LGM. Quaternary dinocyst concentrations vary from about 1200 to 47600 cysts/cm<sup>3</sup>, with average values of 5200 cysts/cm<sup>3</sup> (Fig. 3). Overall, dinocyst assemblages are dominated by heterotrophic taxa (mean value of 57%) including especially *Brigantedinium* spp. (30%) and miscellaneous peridinioid cysts (MPCs) (21%), as well as *Islandinium minutum* (3%), cysts of *Protoperidinium nudum* grouped with *Selenopemphix quanta* (1%) as well as *Echinidinium* spp. (2%; Fig. 3). The H/A ratio trend (Fig. 2) seems to be mainly explained by fluctuations in *Brigantedinium* spp. (Fig. 2). The lowest values of this ratio are observed across the LGM, followed by high to moderate values across HS1-a and by a decreasing trend from the start of HS1-b to the onset of the B/A. Autotrophic taxa (mean value of 43%) are dominated by the following species: *Operculodinium centrocarpum* (16%), *Bitectatodinium tepikiense* (9%), *Lingulodinium machaerophorum* (4%), cysts of *Pentapharsodinium dalei* (3%), *Nematosphaeropsis labyrinthus* (3 %), *Spiniferites lazus* (2%), *Spiniferites ramosus* (2%) *Spiniferites belerius* (2%) and *Spiniferites septentrionalis* (2%) (Fig. 3).

b. Detailed observations according to the 9 palynozones

Each of the 9 palynozones can be described in terms of Quaternary dinocyst percentages, which they were statistically established from, but also in terms of other micropaleontological indicators. They are labelled from LGM to B/A (Fig. 2, Fig. 3):

- **LGM:** This lowermost zone exhibits the highest dinocyst concentrations (10000 to 47000 cysts/cm<sup>3</sup>) explained by maximal values of *O. centrocarpum* occurrences (higher than 85%). *N. pachyderma* percentages show relatively low values (lower than 22%).

- **HS1-a:** The transition between LGM and HS1-a is marked by an abrupt decrease of *O. centrocarpum* percentages and the increase of heterotrophic taxa (*Brigantedinium* spp. and MPCs) representing more than 60% of the total cyst assemblages until 330 cm. Also, this interval is characterized by increasing *N. pachyderma* percentages. Five sub-zones have been distinguished: Sub-zone **HS1-a1** corresponds to the first evidence of increasing FPT values and shows higher percentages of *B. tepikiense*, *Brigantedinium* spp. as well as MPCs. In sub-zone **HS1-a2**, *B. tepikiense* percentages decrease while a diversification of the assemblage is observed, with especially higher relative abundances of *Spiniferites* spp., *L. machaerophorum* and cysts of *P. dalei*, while Quaternary dinocyst concentrations are the highest of the whole HS1-a interval. Importantly, concentrations of reworked cysts and of total freshwater micro-algae show maximal values during this HS1-a2 sub-zone (Fig. 2). Dinocyst concentrations reach minimal values (2500 cyst/cm<sup>3</sup>) within HS1-a3, HS1-a4 and HS1-a5, when important increases of MPCs are also recorded. While **HS1-a3** is characterized by the dominance of *Brigantedinium* spp., HS1-a4 and HS1-a5 are marked by maximal values of *L. machaerophorum* (16%) and the highest Lmac/Ocen values. A second peak of freshwater micro-algae concentrations associated with maximal values of Rd/Md ratio additionally characterises HS1-a4 (Fig. 2). *I. minutum* abundances increase from the beginning of HS1-a5 at 360 cm concomitantly with decreasing FPT values (Fig. 2, Fig. 3).

- **HS1-b:** This interval is generally characterized by a strong drop of MPCs with low to near-zero values persisting all the way up to the top of the studied interval, and the gradual decline of *L. machaerophorum* percentages. Maximal values of *I. minutum* (maximum about 20%) and *S. septentrionalis* (maximum about 6%) occur in this zone.

- **HS1-c:** This interval is characterized by higher percentages of *O. centrocarpum* (20%), *B. tepikiense* (18%), and *Echinidinium* spp. (10%), while *I. minutum* and *L. machaerophorum* strongly decrease and are nearly absent until the end of the studied sequence.

• **B/A:** This interval is marked by the significant drop of *N. pachyderma* percentages from ~95% to ~35%. Dinocyst assemblages are characterized by the quasi-total disappearance of MPCs as well as significant percentages of *N. labyrinthus* (~15%). The first part of the B/A interval is characterized by increasing percentages of *Brigantedinium* spp. and occurrences of *Impagidinium* spp., while the second part of B/A (lowest *N. pachyderma* abundances) is characterized by increasing *B. tepikiense* and cysts of *P. dalei* percentages.

## **4.2. Dinocyst-based sea-surface quantifications**

### a. General observations on MD13-3438 results

Our MAT-based reconstructions rely on one to five modern analogues (Fig. 4a). Overall (76 samples in total), 5 samples are scored as “good” (especially within the basal LGM interval and at the top of the B/A interval) and 45 samples are scored as “acceptable” and range between the threshold distance ( $d_T=1.2$ ) and  $d_T/2$  (Fig. 4a). Samples scoring as “poor” are more particularly found within HS1-b and HS1-c, intervals also characterized by fewer analogues. Fig. 4a shows that the  $d_T$  pattern is very close to that of the H/A ratio. Consequently, uncertainties in dinocyst quantifications are likely related with heterotrophic taxa occurrences and especially with the high abundances of the *Brigantedinium* spp. cysts. From the  $n=1968$  modern dinocyst database (de Vernal et al., 2020), 30 modern analogues are selected as the best analogues during the MAT calculations. They are mainly distributed along the eastern and western northern coasts of Canada, eastern coasts of USA, along the eastern and western coasts of Greenland and in the northern Atlantic Ocean, as well as in the Norwegian and Arctic Seas (Fig. 4b). Boxes have been delimited in Fig. 4b to show the main locations of those best analogues across each time interval in Fig. 4a (color code at the right of the figure). Within the end of the LGM, best analogues are located in the western coasts of Canada and in the Norwegian Sea. Most of the modern analogues selected within HS1-a are located in the eastern coasts of USA and Canada. For HS1-b, analogues are located in the eastern and western coasts of Greenland and Svalbard. Analogues found within HS1-c are more diversified and located in the eastern coasts of USA, Canada and Greenland and in the North Sea, this latter representing the principal source of modern analogues for the upper B/A interval (Figs. 4a and b).

### b. Dinocyst-based sea surface parameters estimates

382 Dinocyst-derived mean summer SSTs (Fig. 4a) vary between -0.9 and 29.6 °C (average of  
 383 17.3 °C) and mean winter SSTs (Fig. 4a) range between -1.8 and 18.5 °C (average of 7.3 °C).  
 384 SST<sub>summer</sub> and SST<sub>winter</sub> values show similar trends, with their highest values recorded within  
 385 HS1-a (SST<sub>summer</sub> of 20 °C and SST<sub>winter</sub> of 9 °C). These atypically elevated values, especially  
 386 for SST<sub>summer</sub>, exceed modern mean SSTs for the northern Bay of Biscay (modern average  
 387 SST<sub>summer</sub> of 17.5 and SST<sub>winter</sub> of 11.7°C). This zone is characterized by strong occurrences  
 388 of heterotrophic taxa (*Brigantedinium* spp. and MPCs), as also highlighted by the high H/A  
 389 ratio (Fig. 2), and modern analogues have been found along the eastern coasts of USA in  
 390 subtropical areas also characterized by highly productive (strong fluvial discharge) conditions  
 391 (modern analogue value of PP<sub>annual</sub> around 1800 gC m<sup>-2</sup>).  
 392 Dinocyst-derived SSS<sub>summer</sub> and SSS<sub>winter</sub> (Fig. 4a) show low salinities along the studied  
 393 section ranging between 25 and 34 psu (average of 30 psu), below mean average modern  
 394 values of about 35.6 psu over the northern Bay of Biscay. The lowest salinities are recorded  
 395 during the laminated interval HS1-a with SSS<sub>summer</sub> values of 29 psu, consistent with strong  
 396 fluvial discharge such as observed today on the eastern coasts of USA where analogues were  
 397 selected (Figs. 4a, b). The highest SSS values (around 34 psu) are recorded in the B/A  
 398 interval.  
 399 Although quantifications are especially critical within HS1-b because of the lack of modern  
 400 analogues across this interval (i.e., only 3 over 11 levels provided parameter estimates based  
 401 on MAT), this latter appears characterized by maximal Sea Ice Cover duration (“SIC<sub>D</sub>” of ca.  
 402 10 months per year; Fig. 4a) and the lowest SST<sub>summer</sub> and SST<sub>winter</sub> (ca. 5 °C and -2 °C,  
 403 respectively; Fig. 4a). Finally, reconstructed PP<sub>annual</sub> appears the highest within HS1-a (950  
 404 gC m<sup>-2</sup>; Fig. 4a).

## 5. The Last Deglaciation on the northern Bay of Biscay

Our compilation of MD13-3438 multiproxy signals indicative of fluvial discharge, allows us to describe for the first time the consequence of those hydrographic events at sub-centennial scale over the period covering the LGM to the B/A in the northern Bay of Biscay. We superimpose to our new and high-resolution results some of those previously published and established at lower temporal resolution (but longer time-scale) from twin core MD95-2002, (Fig. 5; Fig. 6; Zaragosi et al., 2001), and highlight the additional information provided by our new palynological study.

### 5.1. The warm climatic conditions bracketing HS1

Although the LGM and B/A are not the main targeted periods of our study, with consequently few samples documenting those intervals in core MD13-3438, it is important to describe the climatic context bracketing the main period of focus HS1. We thus, in the following, have synthesized information consistent with earlier works (especially including those relying on longer time-scale and multiproxy MD95-2002 records) and their derived climatic interpretations.

#### a. The end of the LGM

This interval is characterized by extremely low abundances of *N. pachyderma* (Figs. 5 and 6) and the highest percentages of *O. centrocarpum* (Fig. 6), considered to be a tracer of the NAC (Turon, 1984; Eynaud et al., 2004, 2012; Penaud et al., 2008, 2009). It is also associated with relatively high SST<sub>winter</sub> (~9°C; Fig. 6) and high SSS (~34 psu; Fig. 6; see also Eynaud et al., 2012, focused on LGM salinities derived from multiproxy records). Those relatively warm conditions were suggested to be induced by a significant penetration of the warm and salty NAC in the Bay of Biscay (Eynaud, 1999; Zaragosi et al., 2001; Eynaud et al., 2007, 2012; Penaud et al., 2009) and more generally a more vigorous NAC in the NE Atlantic Ocean (Weinelt et al., 1996; Rosell-Melé and Comes, 1999; Kucera et al., 2005; de Vernal et al., 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006; Caille et al., 2013; Wary et al., 2015).

In parallel, a slight increase of the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver activity is recorded (through higher concentrations of reworked palynomorphs – Zaragosi et al., 2001 – and slight increase of the BIT-index and C/N ratio – Ménot et al., 2006; Fig. 5), synchronously with the 19-ka meltwater pulse identified in Europe by significant melting of the BIIS in Ireland (K-MWP:

Kilkeel event; Clark et al., 2004; Fig. 7) and of the southern SIS (i.e., R4 event; Toucanne et al., 2015; Fig. 7), while summer insolation at 65°N increases (Berger and Loutre, 1991; Fig. 7). In core MD13-3438, the end of the LGM displays small amounts of terrestrial organic matter exported to the northern Bay of Biscay and moderate marine productivity as suggested by low to moderate values of inferred PP, moderate MPCs (Fig. 5) and the lowest values of *Brigantedinium* spp. cyst percentages (Fig. 3).

#### b. The onset of the B/A

The onset of this relatively warm interval is characterized by a remarkable decrease in polar foraminiferal *N. pachyderma* percentages (Figs. 5 and 6) accompanied by a significant increase of *N. labyrinthus* percentages (Fig. 6) and a brief incursion of *Impagidinium* spp. (Fig. 3). Also, increases of dinocyst concentrations are coeval with a moderate TOC/N ratio in core MD95-2002 (Ménot et al., 2006; Fig. 5) suggesting a moderate PP increase. Since 14.6 ka BP, warmer sea-surface conditions (high SST<sub>winter</sub> close to modern ones and high W/C ratio; Fig. 6) are associated with a rapid SSS increase (about 34 psu; Fig. 6) highlighting a vigorous NAC with warm and salty Atlantic surface waters carried to the study area, consistent with a concomitant strong AMOC as depicted in various records from the whole North Atlantic Ocean (e.g. McManus et al., 2004; Ng et al., 2018; Fig. 7). Data acquired in the northern North Atlantic (Caulle et al., 2013; Wary et al., 2015), the western Iberian margin (Bard et al., 2000; Martrat et al., 2007; Eynaud et al., 2009; Hodell et al., 2013; Salgueiro et al., 2014; Naughton et al., 2016) and the Alboran Sea (Cacho et al., 1999; Martrat et al., 2014; Català et al., 2019) support this observation of warmer conditions at a regional scale. It appears accompanied by rapid forest development as documented in the western Mediterranean borderlands and NW Iberia at the onset of the B/A (Naughton et al., 2007, 2016; Fletcher and Sanchez-Goni, 2008; Combourieu-Nebout et al., 2009; Camuera et al., 2019, 2021; Fig. 7) concomitant with increasing humidity, as also identified in speleothem records from southwestern Europe (Genty et al., 2006; Moreno et al., 2010; Jalut et al., 2010). An increase in seaward transfer of fluvially-derived sediments is reported directly north of the Meriadzek Terrace ca. 16-14 ka, indicating possible influence of the retreating Irish Ice Sheet (which is not connected to the 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver) at that time (Toucanne et al., 2008). However, our data show no such evidence of deglacial meltwater fluxes at site MD13-3438, neither with FPT values (only a slight increase of *Pediastrum* spp. concentrations; Fig. 5) nor with the BIT-index (Ménot et al., 2006; Fig. 5). This lack of deglacial evidence on the Meriadzek Terrace may be explained by the major episode of sea-level rise referred to as

“Meltwater Pulse 1A” (MWP-1A, Fig. 7) which occurred at around ~14.6-14.3 ka BP. This led to a ~20 m sea-level rise in less than 500 years (Weaver et al., 2003; Deschamps et al., 2012; Lambeck et al., 2014; Fig. 7) probably responsible for the displacement of the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ mouth about 300 km eastward (Toucanne et al., 2012, 2010), thus rapidly halting any ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ imprint on the sedimentary record of our study site.

## **5.2. A sub-centennial subdivision of HS1 in the northern Bay of Biscay**

### **a. Early-HS1, laminated interval (HS1-a): 18.2-16.7 ka BP**

#### **General observations**

Overall, the HS1-a interval is characterized by a huge increase in terrigenous sediment supplies in the study area, evidenced through higher values of the Ti/Ca-XRF ratio (Fig. 5) and higher sedimentation rates (mean values of about 200 cm/kyr at the study site) at site MD13-348, as well as through maximal values of the BIT-index (core MD95-2002; Ménot et al., 2006; Fig. 5) and low CLG concentrations mainly due to dilution by terrigenous sediment at site MD95-2002. This interval is also marked by a reduction of *O. centrocarpum* percentages from about 90% to 10 % and increasing percentages of *Spiniferites* spp. (i.e., *S. bentorii* and *S. lazus*), which point to a transition from a full-oceanic (end of the LGM) to a neritic to coastal influence (cf. Penaud et al., 2020 for modern ecological requirements of dinocyst taxa in the study area) with enhanced PP (Fig. 5). This is also confirmed by high values of the Lmac/Ocen ratio (Fig. 7) and, in general, by the substantial rise of FPT values. These indications support the progradation of a large outer-shelf delta on the margin at that time and huge delivery of the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ sediment load close to the Meriadzek Terrace (Toucanne et al., 2012). Geochemical investigations suggested that the meltwater release pattern is mainly related to the Baltic Ice Stream of the SIS (R5 event; Toucanne et al., 2015; Fig. 7).

Enhanced proximal fluvio-glacial delivery from the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver was suggested to result from the seasonal influx of meltwater from the retreating EIS and responsible for the formation of the laminated facies (Zaragosi et al., 2001, 2006; Mojtahid et al., 2005; Ménot et al., 2006; Eynaud et al., 2007, 2012; Toucanne et al., 2008, 2009; Penaud et al., 2009; Fig. 7). Here, dinocyst-derived quantitative reconstructions further show a significant drop of SSS, especially of SSS<sub>summer</sub> (mean values about 29 psu; Fig. 6), with a large seasonal SSS amplitude (>2 psu; Fig. 6), suggesting that the EIS melting occurred

mainly during the spring-summer season (Mojtahid et al., 2005; Toucanne et al., 2009, 2015; Eynaud et al., 2012; see Fig. 8 for a conceptual scheme of past hydrographic changes in the study area).

The HS1-a interval is characterized by a sustainable increase in the H/A ratio (fig. 7). Interestingly, this pattern matches the AMOC trend (cf.  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{230}\text{Th}$  values; McManus et al., 2004; Ng et al., 2018; Fig.7) with high values of heterotrophic cysts during the AMOC slowdown in the North Atlantic Ocean and conversely. This observation highlights the probable taphonomic issue linked to varying bottom water ventilation (Zonneveld et al., 2008). In our study, heterotrophics (Fig. 5) may be related to either increasing PP and/or better preservation of peridinioid cysts under low bottom-water oxygenation. Remarkably, benthic foraminiferal taxa, from the northern Bay of Biscay, indicated both a general eutrophication and a severe bottom water dysoxia in the sea floor (Mojtahid et al., 2017). Overall cold and dry conditions are observed in the southern and western Iberian Peninsula, with a strong reduction of the Mediterranean and temperate forests (Fletcher and Sanchez Goñi, 2008; Naughton et al., 2016; Camuera et al., 2021; Fig.7) and a notable increase of xerophytic taxa (i.e., steppic taxa) (Camuera et al., 2021; Fig.7).

#### ***Sub-centennial variability of fluvio-glacial discharge on northern Bay of Biscay***

Our unprecedented high-resolution multiproxy study of the laminated facies shows a new sub-centennial-scale structure, following a multi-step scenario encompassing 5 intervals (Figs. 5 to 7; cf. subsection 4.1). Enhanced fluvial inputs were recorded within HS1-a2 corresponding to maximal terrestrial advection and HS1-a4 consisting to the strongest stratification level of the surface water column and the strongest westward shift of the freshwater front toward the ocean (Fig. 5). Interestingly, these intervals are characterized by lower and fluctuating *N. pachyderma* percentages and increased values of SST and seasonality reconstructed from dinocysts at site MD13-3438, testifying warm sea-surface conditions (Fig. 6). Decreased fluvial discharge marked the HS1-a1, HS1-a3 and HS1-a5 intervals, this latter appears characterized by the establishment of cold sea surface conditions in the northern Bay of Biscay within the latter.

The oscillating pattern of ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver runoff illustrated here by the different phases identified in HS1-a finds a striking echo in the environmental fluctuations from arid to more humid conditions in the Iberian Peninsula between 18.4 and 16.4 ka BP (Camuera et al., 2021: Fig. 7), with phases of higher runoff matching those of increased humidity in southern

Europe. Furthermore, these observations are regionally supported by SST records from the Alboran Sea (Cacho et al., 1999, 2006; Martrat et al., 2014; Fig.7).

### ***The role of multidecadal changes in seasonality on fluvio-glacial fluxes to the northern Bay of Biscay***

The first conceptual model proposed by Mojtabid et al. (2005) suggested: (i) enhanced melting of EIS and surrounding glaciers, responsible for enhanced clay and CLG fluxes to the Bay of Biscay via the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver during spring and especially summer seasons, and (ii) freezing SST and sea-ice cover establishment inhibiting EIS melting during winter seasons. While first studies attributed CLG-rich units to the seasonal calving of EIS icebergs onto the northern Bay of Biscay (Mojtabid et al., 2005; Zaragosi et al., 2006; Eynaud et al., 2007), Toucanne et al (2009) later proposed that the episodic rainout of these particular CLG originates instead from the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver discharge of anchor-ice (i.e., ice attached to the riverbed) and of sediment-rich frazil-ice (Reimnitz and Kempama, 1987; Kempama et al., 2001).

Echoing the seasonal dynamic of the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver, our data interestingly suggest warmer sea-surface conditions within HS1-a (mean SST values about ~9°C and high values of the W/C ratio; Figs. 6) associated with a significant temperature seasonality increase (> 12°C; Fig. 6), especially within periods of maximal fluvial discharge, namely HS1-a2 and HS1-a4. To further investigate this, we specifically created a 'summer *versus* winter index' as the ratio between two major dinocyst taxa occurring regionally and illustrating two opposite environmental dynamics: the estuarine taxon *L. machaerophorum* and the polar taxon *I. minutum* (Lmac/Imin ratio; Fig.7). We consider *L. machaerophorum*, whose highest abundances at present are encountered in areas under strong fluvial influence, as characteristics of the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver discharge induced by European ice sheet retreat and melting during the deglaciation, i.e., which occurred preferentially during summer seasons according to earlier sedimentological studies cited above. In contrast, occurrences of the polar species *I. minutum* are associated with cold sea-surface conditions and expansion of temporary sea-ice cover (1-3 months/year, Fig. 6) over the studied interval in the northern Bay of Biscay (as it is at present at high latitudes), then mostly expressing a winter signal (Fig. 8).

The Lmac/Imin ratio (Fig. 7) matches the seasonality signal (Fig. 6). It shows high values within most of the HS1-a interval and particularly during maximal runoff periods HS1-a2 and HS1-a4. On the contrary, intervals characterized by lower fluvio-glacial inputs (HS1-a1, HS1-

a3 and HS1-a5) depict low  $L_{mac}/I_{min}$  values, highlighting the limited influence of summer seasons and the prevalence of cold winters (Fig. 8). We thus argue that multidecadal changes of the seasonality pattern played a substantial role on the EIS and ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver sub-centennial dynamics during the last deglaciation, with release of river ice and meltwater via the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver favoured during episodes with prevailing summer mode, and reversely formation of anchor- and frazil-ice in the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver favoured during episodes of winter prevailing mode (see Fig. 8 for a conceptual scheme of past hydrographic changes in the study area).

Such an enhanced warm summer-prevailing mechanism could then explain the EIS melting, as far as in the northern European lowlands, in an ‘apparent’ long cold climate stadial (Fig. 8). HS1 is generally seen as a very cold and dry interval in the North Atlantic Ocean and across Europe (Bard et al., 2000), marked by overall light NGRIP  $\delta^{18}O$  values, especially during HE1 (Fig. 7). The strong changes in SST seasonality observed in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean, and weakly expressed in high latitudes, may then support the hypothesis that Greenland temperatures mainly represent winter temperatures (Denton et al., 2005, 2010; Buizert et al., 2014, 2018). However, it is worth noting the occurrence of a plateau of slightly lighter NGRIP  $\delta^{18}O$  values over the HS1-a interval (Fig. 7) arguing for slightly warmer atmospheric conditions.

#### b. Late-HS1, namely HE1 layer (HS1-b and HS1-c): 16.7–14.6 ka BP

In our study, at 16.7 ka BP, the onset of HE1 phase is characterized by the disappearance of laminae deposits as well as a drastic drop of sedimentation rates (from 156 to 41 cm/kyr; Fig. 5) and in the BIT-index (Ménot et al., 2006; Fig. 5). Those changes are associated with a substantial decline of FPT values including the  $L_{mac}/O_{cen}$  ratio. All these observations point to a considerable decrease of the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver runoff. Also, high values of  $C_{37:4}$  alkenones (i.e., a biomarker derived from haptophyte algae, and used as a proxy for low salinity water associated with icebergs; Ménot et al., 2006) are synchronous with high CLG concentrations (Fig. 6). The local hydrology is thus strongly impacted by both Laurentide- and European-derived icebergs at that time (Grousset et al., 2000). Increasing percentages of the polar species *I. minutum* (Fig. 6), recognized as a good tracer of cold surface waters seasonally to quasi-permanently covered with sea-ice (Zonneveld et al., 2013; Radi et al., 2013), are synchronous with low reconstructed  $SST_{winter}$  (Fig. 6) indicating cold sea-surface conditions (Fig. 6).

Dinocyst assemblages enabled us to determine two sub-zones, HS1-b and HS1-c, with a 120 years study resolution on the entire HE1 interval:

**HS1-b (16.7–15.6 ka BP; 85 years study resolution)** is characterized by the drastic decrease of fluvial inputs (low FPT values, Fig. 5; decreasing  $L_{mac}/O_{cen}$  ratio, Fig. 7). Maximal *I. minutum* (Fig. 6) and *S. septentrionalis* (Fig. 3) occurrences are recorded at 16.4 ka BP, depicting the coldest conditions (Figs. 6 and 7). Low *O. centrocarpum* percentages additionally suggest a still weakened NAC, consistently with  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{230}\text{Th}$  record which suggests that a weakened AMOC state persisted for over a millennium (~16.5–15 ka BP) in the North Atlantic Ocean (Ng et al., 2018; Fig. 7). These cold surface conditions recorded on the northern Bay of Biscay may have been responsible for a weaker EIS melting and are consistent with records from the IRD belt indicating a widespread cooling associated with a major calving episode of the LIS (Stanford et al., 2011; Hodell et al., 2017). This interval is indeed marked by a notable peak of magnetic susceptibility (Figs. 5 and 6) and significant CLG concentrations (core MD95-2002; Figs. 5 and 6) accompanied by minimal values of the Ti/Ca-XRF ratio at 16 ka BP (Fig. 5) indicative of carbonate-rich CLG (Auffret et al., 1996; Toucanne, 2009;). This may correspond to the ‘cemented marls’ of Hemming (2004) interpreted as the LIS (i.e., Hudson Strait) iceberg delivery to the North Atlantic Ocean (Toucanne et al., 2015).

Extremely cold conditions at our study site (Figs. 6, 7 and 8) are synchronous with extremely cold boreal temperatures (lightest NGRIP  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of the entire HE1 phase; Fig. 7) and with the coldest and most arid environments documented in marine palynological sequences from the Alboran Sea (Combourieu-Nebout et al., 2002, Fletcher and Sanchez Goñi, 2008; Fig7) and off the Iberian Peninsula (Turon et al., 2003; Naughton et al., 2007, 2009, 2016). The dryness over the Mediterranean borderlands increased (Morellón et al., 2009; Camuera et al., 2019; Fig. 7) in relation with the southward migration of the polar front (Eynaud et al., 2009).

**HS1-c (15.6–14.6 ka BP; 170 years study resolution)** is characterized by higher percentages of *B. tepikiense* and *P. dalei* cysts, currently observed in surface sediments from the subpolar North Atlantic basin (Harland, 1983; de Vernal et al., 1992; Dale, 1996; Rochon et al., 1999), and also clearly accompanied by both decreasing *I. minutum* percentages and CLG concentrations (Figs. 5 and 6) as well as increasing *O. centrocarpum* percentages (Fig. 3). This suggests warm sea-surface conditions (Fig. 6) with increased thermal seasonal amplitudes (Figs. 6, 7 and 8). The retreat of winter sea-ice marks the end of the HS1 interval in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean. Increasingly warm conditions on the northern Bay of

637 Biscay are consistent with an intensified NAC and increasing SSTs as detected at regional  
638 scale (e.g., Caille et al., 2013; Wary et al., 2015; Naughton et al., 2016; Hodell et al., 2013;  
639 Cacho et al., 1999; Martrat et al., 2014; Català et al., 2019). Also, warmer and more humid  
640 conditions are observed in the southern and western Iberian Peninsula (Fletcher and Sanchez  
641 Goñi, 2008; Naughton et al., 2009, 2016; Camuera et al., 2021; Fig.7) that may be attributed  
642 to the northward displacement of the polar front (Cayre et al., 1999; Naughton et al., 2009,  
643 2016).

## 6. Conclusion

The high-resolution palynological investigation of the last deglaciation in core MD13-3438 (northern Bay of Biscay) highlights significant climatic and paleoenvironmental changes related to both the proximal European Ice Sheets (EIS) and the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver dynamics. Dinocyst-based quantitative reconstructions provide an evaluation of past hydrographical changes. Seven short-scale sub-phases within the HS1 interval were identified for the first time on the northern Bay of Biscay:

**HS1-a** (i.e., laminated interval; 18.2–16.7 ka BP) is generally characterized by marked multidecadal changes in the seasonality range, i.e., warm summers resulting in enhanced EIS melting and '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver runoff, causing the largest drop of SSS and cold winters resulting in freezing conditions and lower '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver activity. Fluvial-derived palynological tracers indicate that this interval is subdivided into five sub-phases. Two maximal meltwater episodes (HS1-a2, 17.8–17.6 ka BP and HS1-a4, 17.4–17 ka BP) are detected, with substantial erosional processes in the '*Fleuve Manche*' basin and strong stratification of the water column. Both events correspond to strong seasonality phases dominated by summer-prevailing modes. Fluvio-glacial discharge of the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver, although significant, is comparatively moderate during HS1-a1 (18.2–17.8 ka BP), HS1-a3 (17.6–17.4 ka BP) and HS1-a5 (17–16.7 ka BP), and possibly result from a decrease of the seasonality that could have limited the EIS melting at that time. Indeed, our new data suggest winter-prevailing modes at that time.

**HS1-b** (i.e., first phase of HE1; 16.7–15.6 ka BP) includes the Laurentide-sourced IRDs recorded at ~16 ka BP. This interval is characterized by a substantial decrease of proximal fluvial inputs and cold winters. Cooling sea-surface conditions are recorded with seasonal winter sea-ice cover occurrences and the lowest reconstructed SSTs.

**HS1-c** (i.e., second phase of HE1; 15.6–14.6 ka BP) is characterized by warmer sea-surface conditions, suggesting the advection of Atlantic surface waters conveyed by the NAC and leading to the transition to the warm B/A.

Our reconstructed sub-centennial variability suggests the crucial role of multidecadal seasonal changes, especially within the early HS 1 interval, for fluvio-glacial dynamics and the melting of the EIS. Furthermore, our records are in agreement with marine and terrestrial sequences from the western Mediterranean basin suggesting common regional forcings acting on the multi-scale climate variability across the last deglaciation.

## 7. Acknowledgments

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## 8. Table caption

**Table 1:** Datasets acquired on both cores MD95-2002 and MD13-3438 with their corresponding references.

**Table 2:** List of tie points defined by aligning the Ti/Ca-XRF signal of the well-dated core MD95-2002 with that of the studied core MD13-3438.

**Table 3:** List of identified autotrophic and heterotrophic dinocyst taxa according to their ecological preferences: cold surface-waters (in blue; C) and warm surface-waters (in orange; W). The Warm/Cold qualitative temperature index is based on these W and C species.

## 9. Figure captions

**Figure 1:** Paleogeographic reconstruction of western Europe during the LGM (~ 20 ka BP) modified from Toucanne et al. (2015) and records of the past fluvial activity of the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver. **a)** The yellow star corresponds to the location of the study core MD13-3438 and of the core MD95-2002. Black lines represent the extension of the Northern Hemisphere ice caps: (1) the European Ice Sheet (EIS) including the Scandinavian (SIS) and British-Irish Ice Sheets (BIIS) (Boulton et al., 2001; Clark et al., 2012b; Ehlers et al., 2011), with their main fluvio-glacial paths (black arrows), as well as the Alpine Ice Sheet; and (2) the Laurentide Ice Sheet (LIS) with main fluvio-glacial path (white arrow). The bold white arrow identifies the drainage of the '*Fleuve Manche*' paleoriver. The North Atlantic surface circulation (red arrows for the warmer North Atlantic Current (NAC) and its branches) is also shown with the return flow pathway of the deep waters (blue arrows). White shading indicates the extent of the EIS and LIS. The trajectory of the icebergs from the LIS are represented with light blue arrows and white arrows indicate the main supply sources of freshwater to the North Atlantic. **b)** Interval from 40 to 5 ka BP: July insolation at 65°N (Berger and Loutre, 1991), Greenland  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record (GICC05; Svensson et al., 2008, in black), Ti/Ca- XRF data and *N. pachyderma* abundances of core MD13-3438 (in blue) compared with the MD95-2002 dataset (identified with red dotted lines and full shaded red) including: *N. pachyderma* abundances (Zaragosi et al., 2001), coarse lithic grain concentrations (CLG;  $10^3$  grains/g dry sed.; Zaragosi et al., 2001), magnetic susceptibility of bulk sediment ( $U_{em}$ ; Grousset et al., 2000), fluvial input proxies (number of laminae per cm and concentrations of freshwater micro-algae *Pediastrum* spp.; Zaragosi et al., 2001) and the branched and isoprenoid tetraether (BIT) index (Ménot et al., 2006). Light grey band represents the LGM (23–19 ka BP) while blue band allows visualizing HS1 in both cores MD95-2002 and MD13-3438 (18.4–14 ka BP). Dark grey band represents the conventional HE1 layer occurring at ~16 ka BP.

**Figure 2:** Palynological data against depth (cm) with taxonomical indices (species richness, black; Margalef index, grey), percentages of the most abundant taxa *Brigantedinium* spp., ratio between Heterotrophic and Autotrophic (H/A) dinocysts (grey), percentages of *L. machaerophorum*, ratio between *L. machaerophorum* and *O. centrocarpum* (grey), concentrations of reworked dinocysts (blue) and of total freshwater microalgae (dark grey line: including *Botryococcus* spp. (purple), *Concentricystes* spp. (pink) and *Pediastrum* spp.

(green)). The reworked (pre-Quaternary) vs. modern (in situ) cyst ratio (Rd/Md) is highlighted in grey. Horizontal lines delineate the nine palynozones / climatic subdivisions discussed in the manuscript. LGM: Last Glacial Maximum; HS1-a1 to HS1-a5: Laminated interval; HS1-b and HS1-c: Heinrich Event 1; B/A: Bølling/Allerød.

**Figure 3:** Diagram of dinocyst assemblages (i.e., major taxa with values higher than 2% at least once in palynological assemblages) *versus* depth (cm) for core MD13-3438, compared with the relative abundances of the planktonic foraminiferal species *N. pachyderma* and with total dinocyst concentrations (black line) including autotrophic (black dotted line) and heterotrophic (grey dotted line) taxa (cysts/cm<sup>3</sup>). Red and black stars indicate AMS-<sup>14</sup>C dates obtained from cores MD95-2002 and MD03-2690 (Eynaud et al., 2012; Mojtahid et al., 2005; Toucanne et al., 2008; 2015; Zaragosi et al., 2006; Zaragosi et al., 2001) respectively, and grey star refers to the NGRIP tie point used for the MD95-2002 age model. These ages are here projected as equivalent depths for core MD13-3438 using the twins Ti/Ca-XRF signals of both MD95-2002 and MD13-3438 cores (Fig. 1b). Palynozones/climatic subdivisions were based on dinocyst clustering established by Psimpoll program. Horizontal lines delineate the nine palynozones discussed in the manuscript (same as in Fig. 2). High percentages of dinocyst taxa are shown by orange vertical arrows for long-lasting periods and by dotted orange vertical arrows for short periods.

**Figure 4: a)** Dinocyst-based environmental parameters reconstructed for core MD13-3438 with the Modern Analog Technique (MAT) using the n=1968 modern dinocyst database (de Vernal et al., 2020) *versus* depth: SST and SSS for the summer (thin red dotted line) and winter (thick blue dotted line), PP<sub>annual</sub> (black dotted line), and Sea Ice cover Duration (months/year; grey dotted line). Number of analogues found for each assemblage (minimum of 0 and maximum of 5 allowed with the MAT; dark red). Distances between fossil MD13-3438 assemblages and their “closest” modern analogue (i.e., D<sub>min</sub>). Threshold distance value (d<sub>T</sub>=1.2; red line) for quantification robustness: good analogues if D<sub>min</sub> is between 0 (perfect analogue) and d<sub>T</sub>/2 (orange line); acceptable analogues if D<sub>min</sub> is between 0.6 and d<sub>T</sub>=1.2, and poor analogues (i.e. caution with quantifications) if D<sub>min</sub> > d<sub>T</sub> (de Vernal et al., 2005). Horizontal lines delineate the nine palynozones / climatic subdivisions discussed in the manuscript (same as in Fig. 2 and 3). **b)** Map showing the geographical distribution of the closest analogues (i.e., corresponding to D<sub>min</sub>) selected by the MAT for the studied section of core MD13-3438 (environmental dataset also from de Vernal et al., 2020). Analogues have

been grouped according to geographical areas (color code for boxes; also repeated in Fig. 4a for source area of closest analogues in each palynozone).

**Figure 5:** Deglacial records of the ‘*Fleuve Manche*’ paleoriver activity on the northern Bay of Biscay between 18.4 and 14 ka BP. For core MD13-3438 (in blue): *N. pachyderma* percentages, sedimentation rates (cm/kyr), Ti/Ca-XRF ratio, freshwater microalgae *Pediastrum* spp. concentrations ( $10^3$  algae/cm<sup>3</sup>), reworked dinocyst concentrations ( $10^3$  cysts/cm<sup>3</sup>), *L. machaerophorum* percentages and concentrations ( $10^3$  cysts/cm<sup>3</sup>), reconstructed PP<sub>annual</sub> ( $10^3$  g C m<sup>-2</sup>) and peridinioid cyst concentrations ( $10^3$  cysts/cm<sup>3</sup>). For core MD95-2002 (identified with red dotted lines and full shaded red): *N. pachyderma* percentages, coarse lithic grain concentrations CLG ( $10^3$  grain/g dry sed.), number of laminae (laminae/cm), Reworked *versus* Modern dinocyst ratio (Rd/Md, shaded red), *L. machaerophorum* percentages (shaded red) (Zaragosi et al., 2001), magnetic susceptibility of bulk sediment (U em; Grousset et al., 2000), Ti/Ca-XRF ratio (Toucanne et al., 2015), branched and isoprenoid tetraether (BIT index; Ménot et al., 2006) and Carbon/Nitrogen ratio (C/N; Ménot et al., 2006). Grey bands correspond to the periods of maximal fluvio-glacial discharges within the HS1-a interval. Horizontal lines delineate the palynozones / climatic subdivisions discussed in the manuscript (same as in Fig. 2, 3 and 4).

**Figure 6:** Reconstructed hydrological parameters derived from dinocyst assemblages of the core MD13-3438 (in blue, this study) compared with data from MD95-2002 (identified with red dotted lines and full shaded red; Zaragosi et al., 2001). *N. pachyderma* percentages, coarse lithic grain concentrations CLG, magnetic susceptibility of bulk sediment (U em ; Grousset et al., 2000), and number of laminae are compiled with relative abundances of the main dinocyst species, percentages of C37:4 among C37 alkenones (red, Ménot et al., 2006), Warm/Cold dinocyst ratio (W/C, This study), dinocyst-derived sea-surface parameters of MD13-3438 (Sea Surface Temperatures: SST<sub>winter</sub> in blue, SST<sub>summer</sub> in orange; Sea Surface Salinity: SSS<sub>summer-winter</sub>; Seasonality (SST<sub>summer</sub>–SST<sub>winter</sub>). Grey bands correspond to the periods of maximal fluvio-glacial discharges within the HS1-a interval. Horizontal lines delineate the palynozones / climatic subdivisions discussed in the manuscript (same as in Fig. 2, 3, 4 and 5).

**Figure 7:** Synthesis of main information regarding regional paleoclimatic reconstructions for the last deglaciation and our climate subdivisions especially within HS1.

Composite Relative Sea Level (RSL) curve (Lambeck et al., 2014) with identified K-MWP at 19 ka BP and MWP-1A at ~14.6 ka BP, July Insolation curve at 65°N (Berger and Loutre, 1991),  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  NGRIP record (GICC05; Svensson et al., 2008),  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{230}\text{Th}$  signal (Ng et al., 2018), *N. pachyderma* percentages (blue, this study; red dotted line for the core MD95-2002 (Zaragosi et al., 2001)), H/A ratio (blue, this study; and reversed for comparison along the  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{230}\text{Th}$  signal), Runoff events (R) 4 and 5 (core MD95-2002, Toucanne et al., 2015), *L. machaerophorum* versus *O. centrocarpum* (Lmac/Ocen ratio, This study), *L. machaerophorum* versus *I. minutum* (Lmac/Imin ratio, This study), dinocyst-derived sea-surface seasonality (SSTsummer–SSTwinter) and three-point moving average of Xerophyte and Mediterranean forest percentages from southern Spain (Camuera et al., 2021) as well as temperate forest percentages from the Alboran Sea (Fletcher and Sanchez Goñi, 2008). The proposed comparison respects dating uncertainties and strong reservoir age impacts at that time may be responsible for generating temporal offsets between records. Dashed grey lines correspond to original values, whereas continuous lines correspond to smoothed data. Grey bands correspond to the periods of maximal fluvio-glacial discharges within the HS1-a interval.

**Figure 8:** Conceptual model illustrating hydrological conditions and processes involved for fluvio-glacial dynamics across the HS1 interval in the northern Bay of Biscay.

## 10. Appendix caption

**Appendix:** Exhaustive table of palynological results (percentages, concentrations and reconstructed parameters)

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Table 1

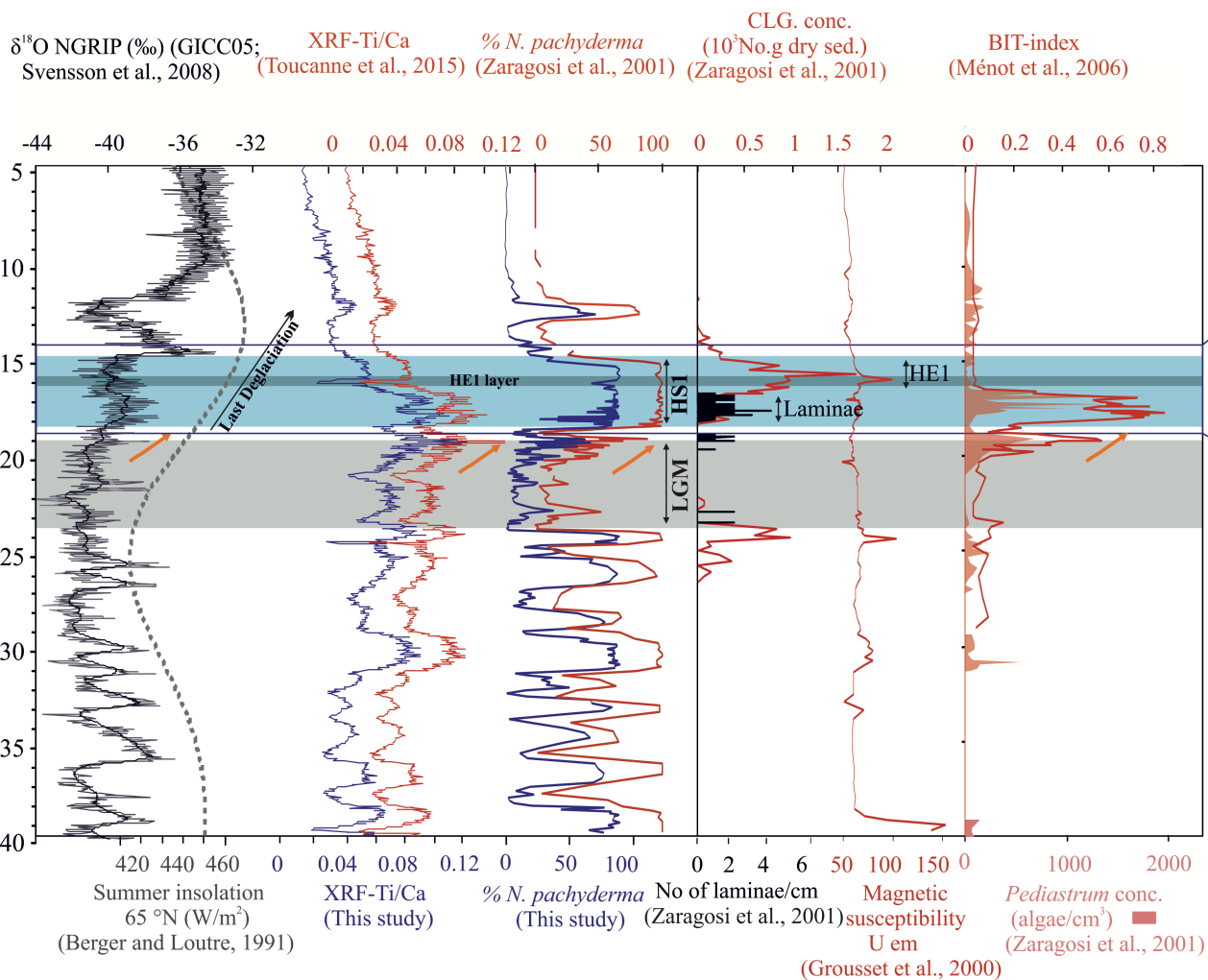
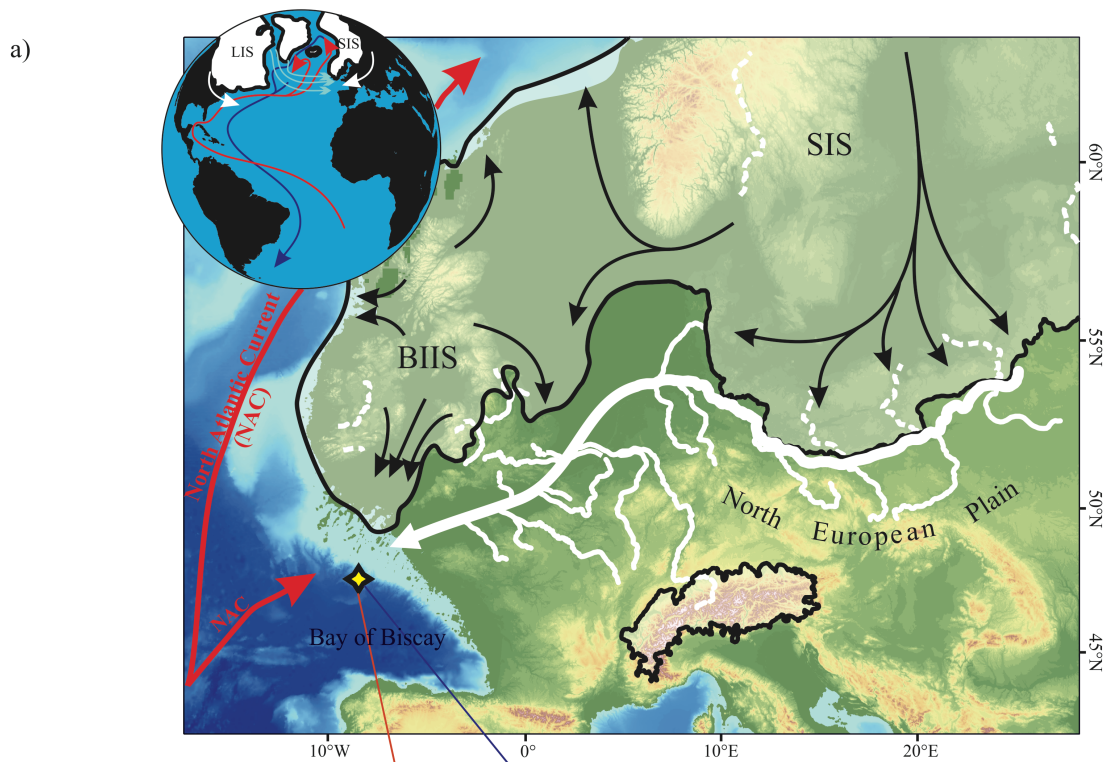
Core name	Geographic coordinates  Depth (m)	Dinocyst assemblages	Ti/Ca-XRF ratio	% <i>N.pachyderma</i> s.	IRD conc (No g dry sed)	No Laminae/cm	BIT index + % COT
<b>MD13-3438</b>  Studied core	47° 27' N 8° 27' W  2180 m	This study	S. Toucanne in this study	L. Rossignol in this study	No data	No data	No data
<b>MD95-2002</b>  Reference core	47°27' N 8°32' W  2174 m	Eynaud, 1999 ; Zaragosi et al., 2001 ; Eynaud et al., 2012	Toucanne et al., 2015	Zaragosi et al., 2001 ;  Eynaud et al., 2009	Zaragosi et al., 2001	Zaragosi et al., 2001	Ménot et al., 2006

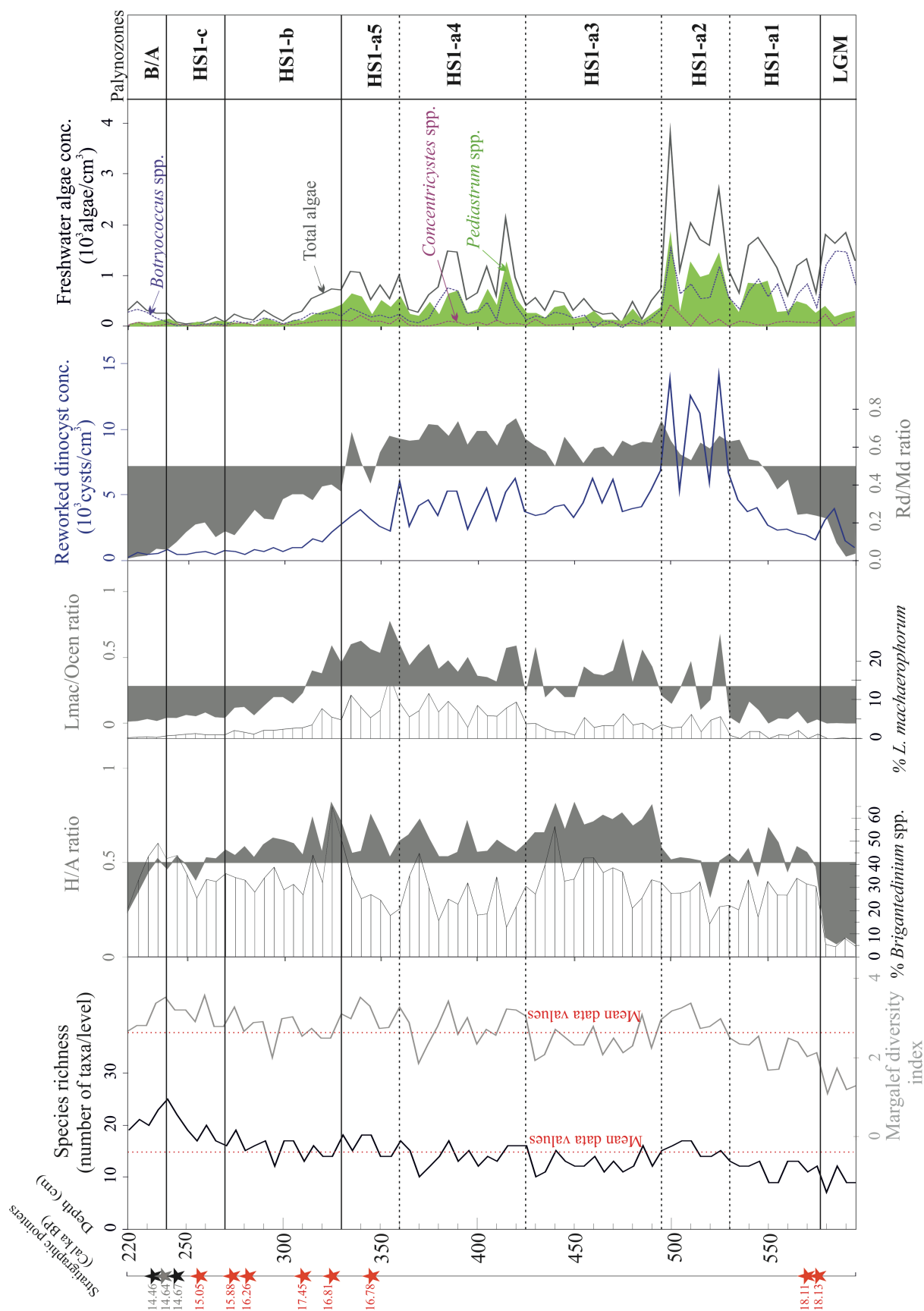
Table 2

<b>Tie points MD95-2002</b>	<b>Depth MD95-2002 (cm)</b>	<b>Equivalent depth MD13-3438 (cm)</b>	<b>Age cal BP (Toucanne et al.,2015)</b>
Top core	0	0	1629
End YD	190	126	11488
Onset YD	262	170	12442
End HS1	390	242	14699
HS1-5	455	277	15908
HS1-4	515	314	16482
HS1-3(2)	548	324	16724
HS1-3	690	428	17388
HS1-2	745	475	17559
Onset HS1	865	567	18100
End LGM	940	619	18570
LGM-6	970	640	18739
LGM-5	1000	663	18904
LGM-4	1040	697	19127
LGM-3	1145	788	19807
LGM-2	1260	881	21077
LGM-1	1340	952	22788
Onset LGM	1355	960	23001
End HS2	1375	981	23185
HS2-4	1415	1011	23560
HS2-3	1460	1050	24249
HS2-2	1495	1084	25031
Onset HS2	1550	1123	26551
End GI-3	1573	1155	27186
Onset GI-3	1593	1179	27720
End HS3 / Onset GI-4	1640	1218	28953
mid HS3	1695	1287	30116
Onset HS3	1745	1339	31050
Onset GI-5	1793	1389	32419
Onset-GI-7	1858	1458	35694
End GI-8	1880	1482	36900
End HS4 / Onset GI-8	1906	1511	37908
mid-HS4	1968	1575	39300

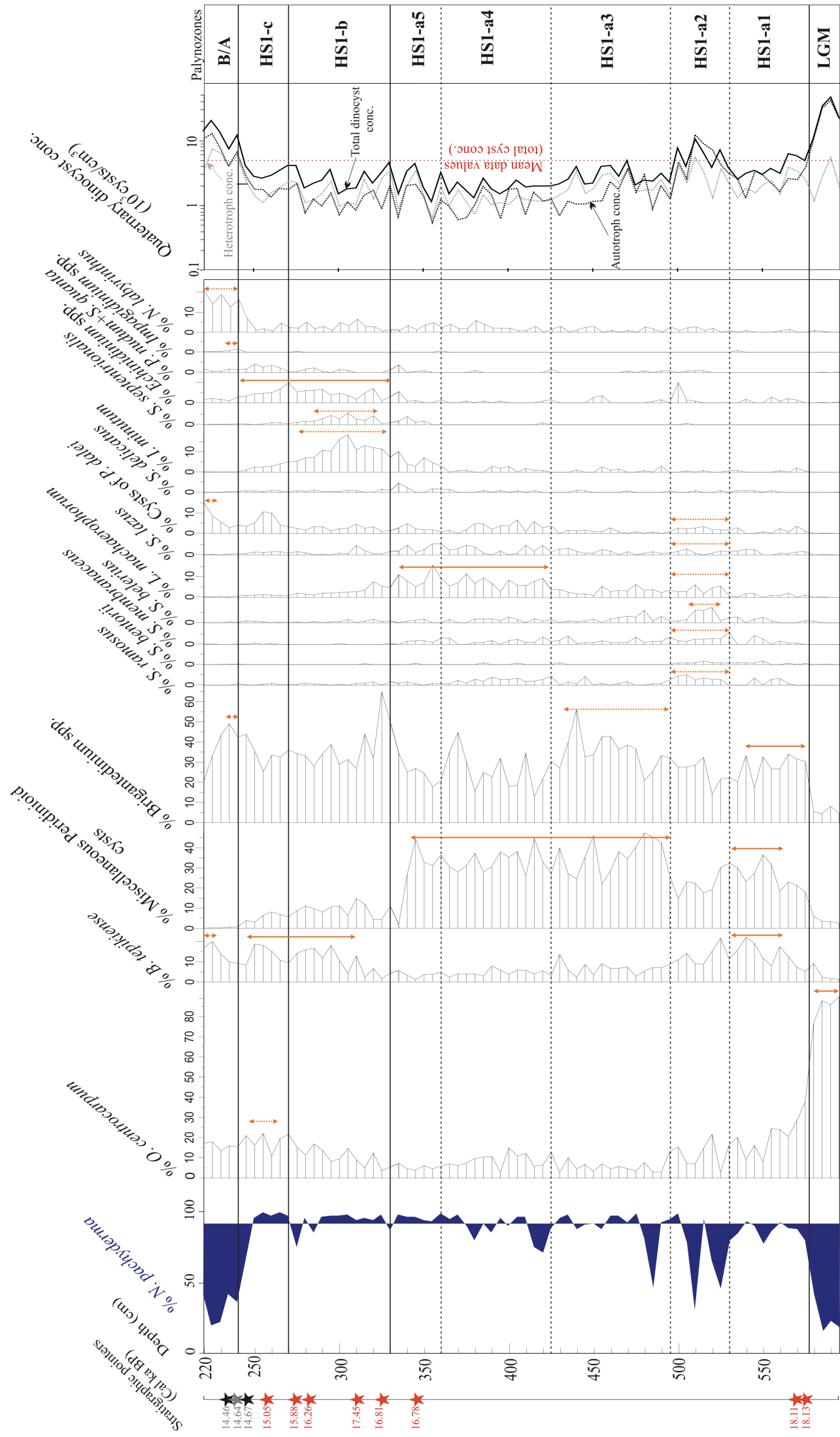
Table 3

	Name of taxa	Abbreviation
Autotrophic taxa	<i>Bitectatodinium tepikiense</i>	<b>Btep</b>
	<i>Impagidinium aculeatum</i>	<b>Iacu</b>
	<i>Impagidinium pallidum</i>	<b>Ipal</b>
	<i>Impagidinium paradoxum</i>	<b>Ipar</b>
	<i>Impagidinium patulum</i>	<b>Ipat</b>
	<i>Impagidinium sphaericum</i>	<b>Isph</b>
	<i>Lingulodinium machaerophorum</i>	<b>Lmac</b>
	<i>Nematosphaeropsis labyrinthus</i>	<b>Nlab</b>
	<i>Operculodinium centrocarpum</i>	<b>Ocen</b>
	<i>Operculodinium janduchenei</i>	<b>Ojan</b>
	<i>Polysphaeridium zoharyi</i>	<b>Pzoh</b>
	<i>Spiniferites membranaceus</i>	<b>Smem</b>
	<i>Spiniferites delicatus</i>	<b>Sdel</b>
	<i>Spiniferites elongatus</i>	<b>Selo</b>
	<i>Spiniferites ramosus</i>	<b>Sram</b>
	<i>Spiniferites belerius</i>	<b>Sbel</b>
	<i>Spiniferites bentorii</i>	<b>Sben</b>
	<i>Spiniferites lazus</i>	<b>Slaz</b>
	<i>Spiniferites mirabilis</i>	<b>Smir</b>
	<i>Spiniferites</i> spp.	<b>Sspp</b>
	<i>Spiniferites septentrionalis</i>	<b>Ssep</b>
	Cyst of <i>Pentapharsodinium dalei</i>	<b>Pdal</b>
Heterotrophic taxa	<i>Islandinium minutum</i>	<b>Imin</b>
	<i>Brigantedinium</i> spp.	<b>Bspp</b>
	<i>Quinquecuspsis</i> spp.	<b>Qspp</b>
	<i>Lejeunecysta</i> spp.	<b>Lspp</b>
	<i>Dubridinium</i> spp.	<b>Dspp</b>
	<i>Votadinium</i> spp.	<b>Vspp</b>
	<i>Selenopemphix quanta</i>	<b>Squa</b>
	Cyst of <i>Protoperidinium nudum</i>	<b>Pnud</b>
	<i>Echinidinium</i> spp.	<b>Espp</b>

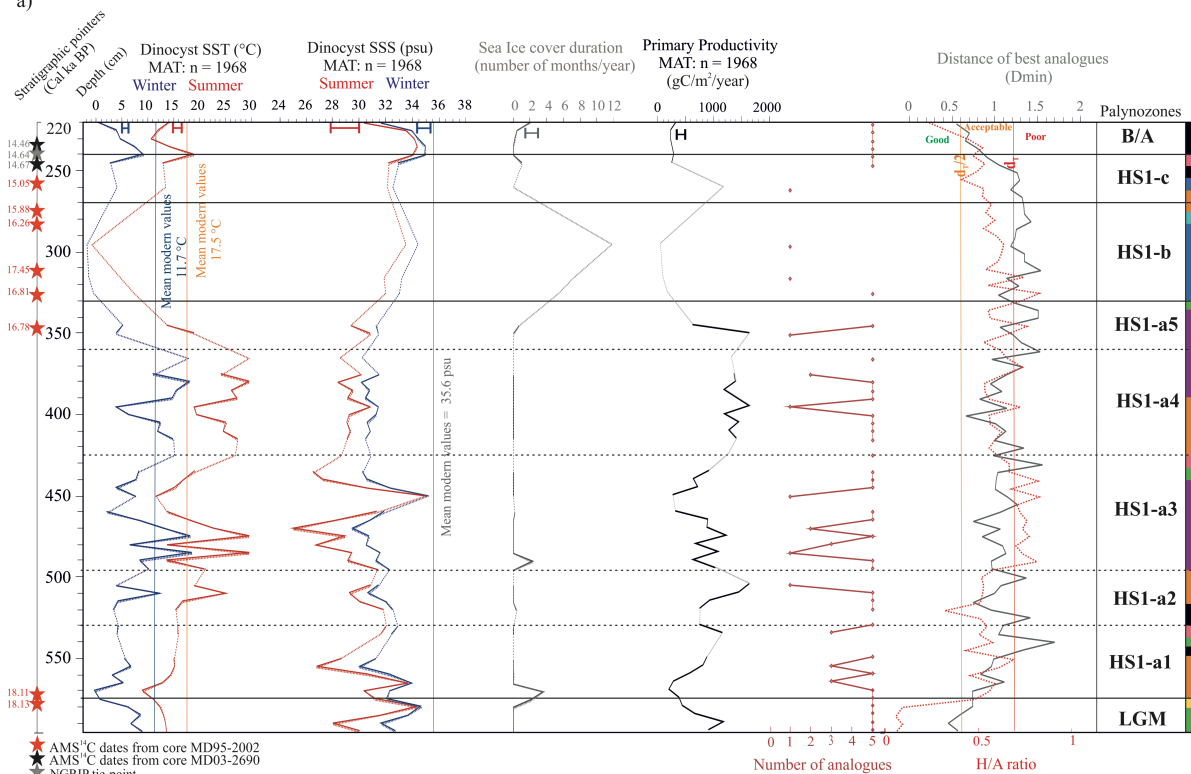




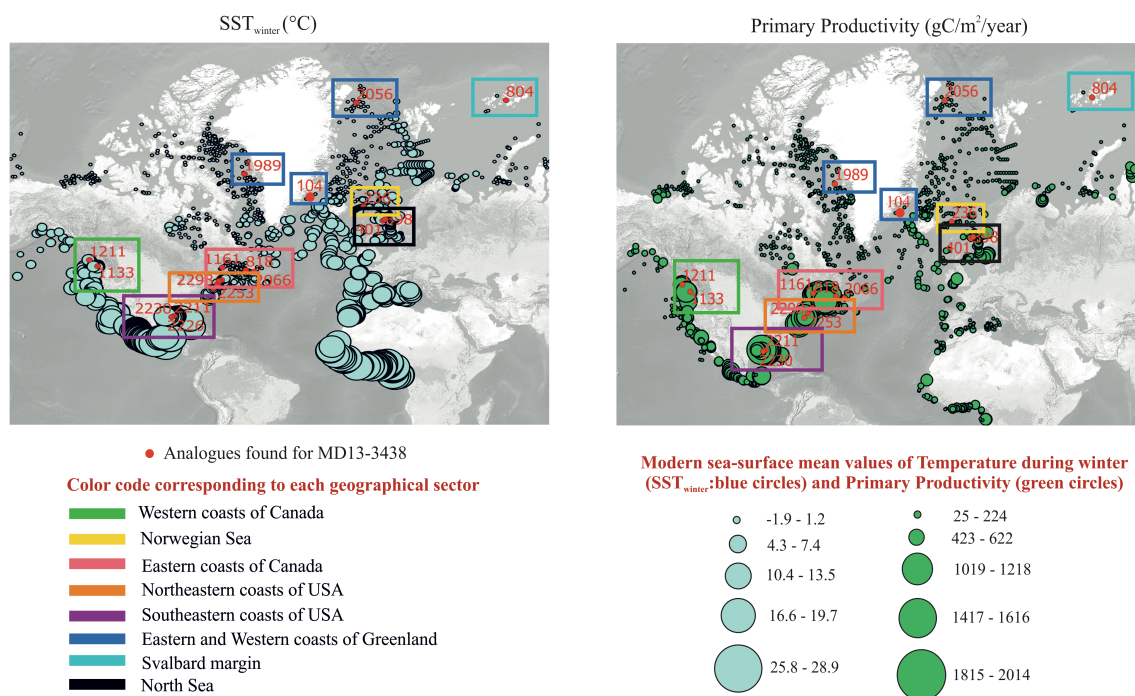
★ AMS <sup>14</sup>C dates from core MD95-2002  
 ★ AMS <sup>14</sup>C dates from core MD03-2690  
 ★ NGRIP tie-point

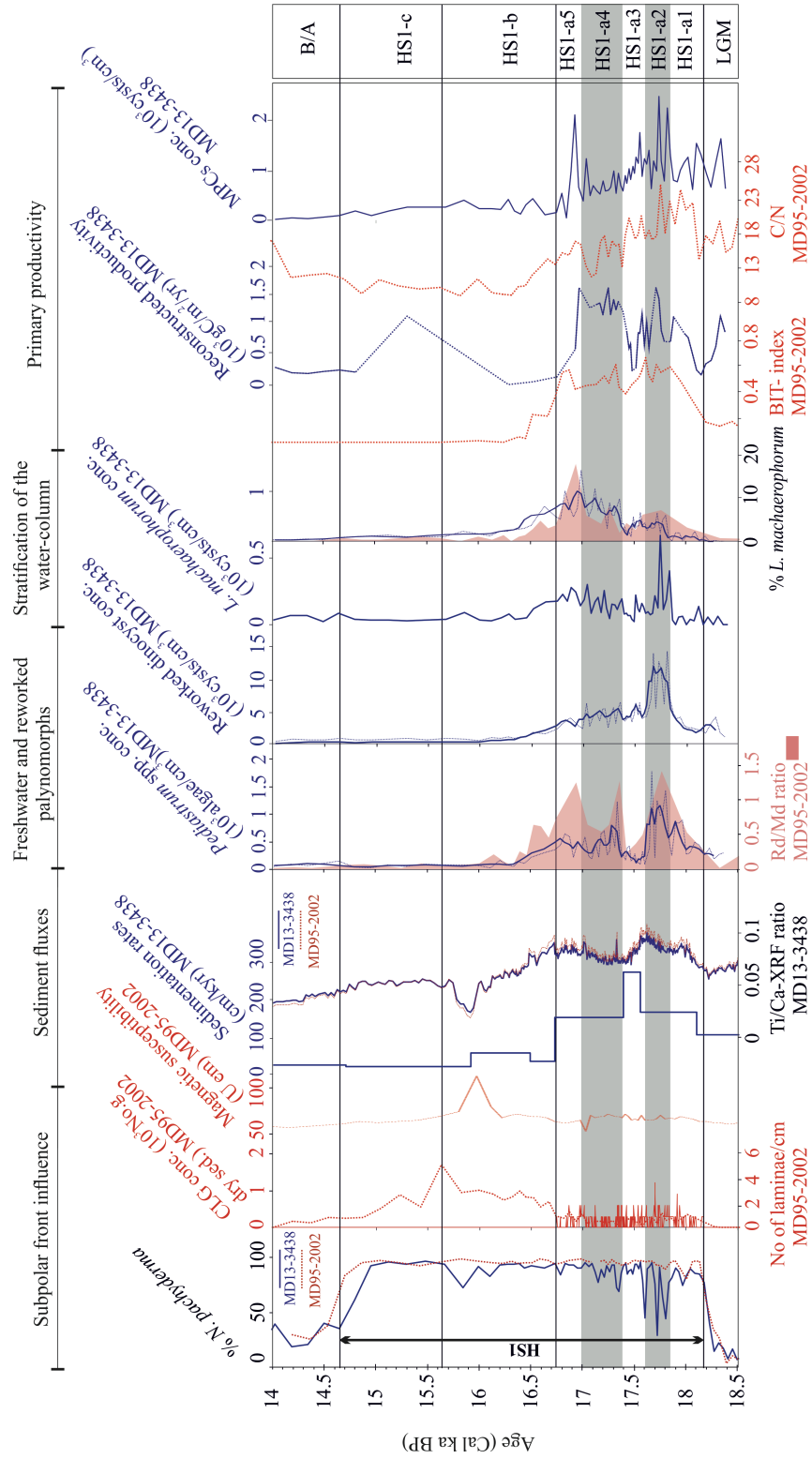


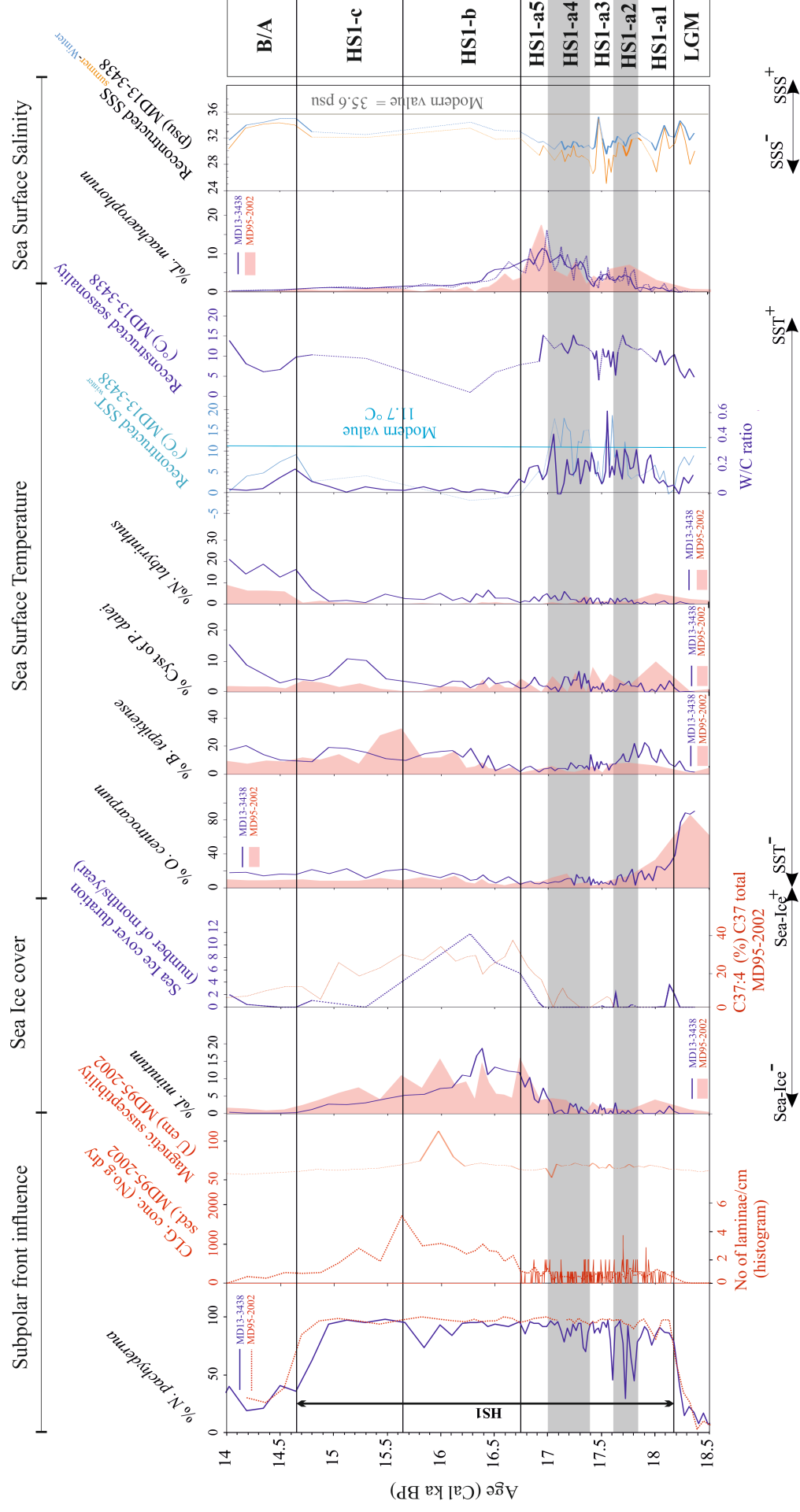
a)

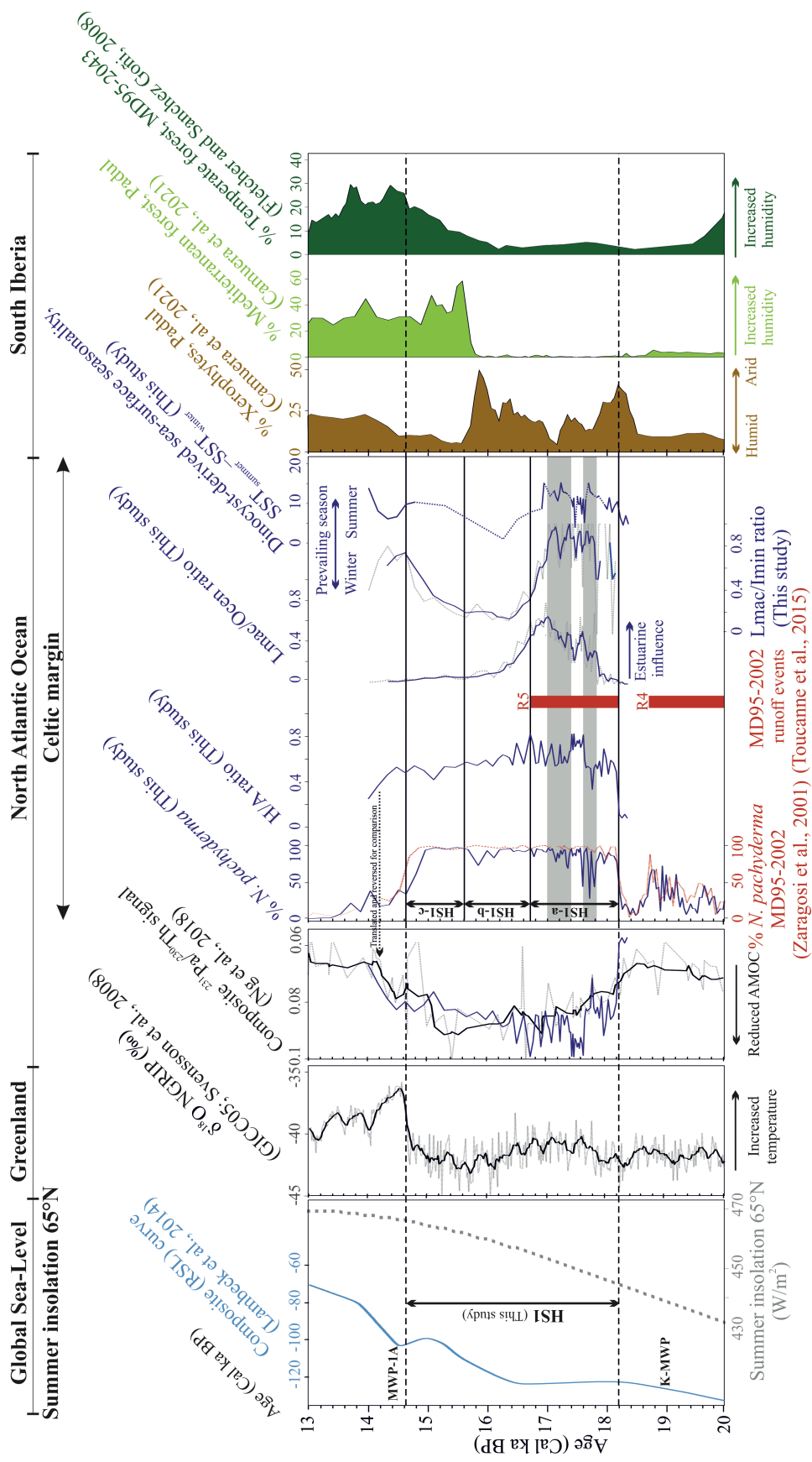


b) Database n=1968 (de Vernal et al., 2020)



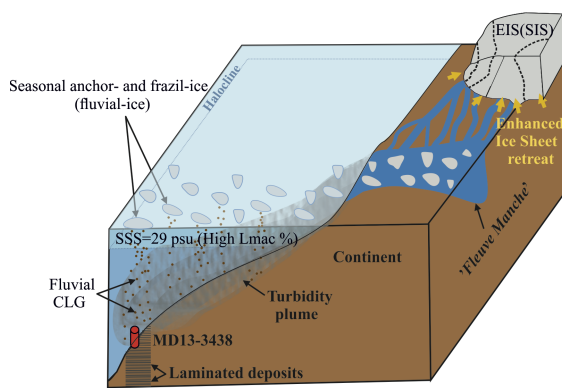




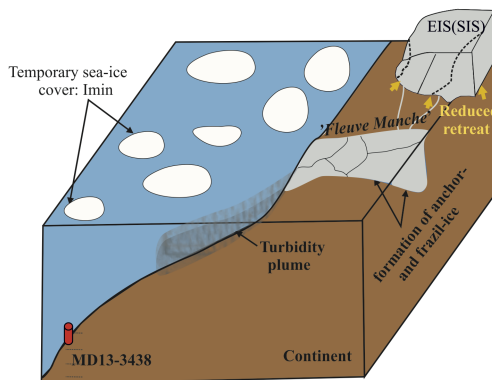


### HS1-a: Laminated interval (18.2 - 16.7 ka BP)

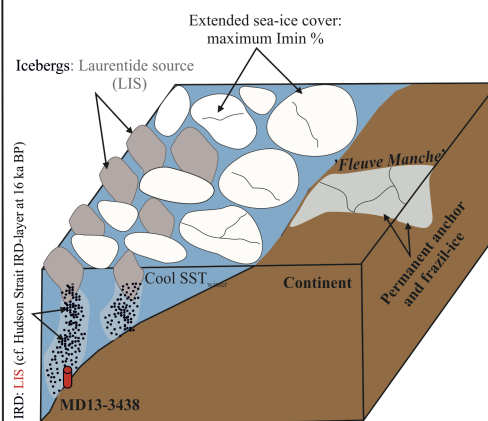
#### Summer-prevailing mode (HS1-a2, HS1-a4)



#### Winter-prevailing mode (HS1-a1, HS1-a3, HS1-a5)



### HS1-b: Early-HE1 (16.7- 15.6 ka BP)



### HS1-c: Late-HE1 (15.6- 14.6 ka BP)

