

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

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## **Abstract**

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22 The northern Bay of Biscay has previously proven its great potential for recording the 'Fleuve 23 Manche' paleoriver (i.e., the largest Pleistocene river in Europe) fluvio-glacial activity. In this 24 study, new dinoflagellate cyst (dinocyst) analyses have been carried out at sub-centennial 25 resolution in core MD13-3438 to reconstruct the deglacial history of the 'Fleuve Manche' 26 paleoriver runoff coupled with European Ice Sheets (EIS) fluctuations across Heinrich Stadial 27 1 (HS1: 18.2–14.6 ka BP), a key extreme climatic event of the last glacial period. Prior to 28 Heinrich Event (HE) 1 (16.7–14.6 ka BP), the onset of HS1 (18.2–16.7 ka BP) appears here 29 marked by enhanced 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver runoff, materialized by laminated deposits. 30 Our work suggests a novel sub-centennial scale subdivision of the early HS1 (laminated) 31 interval into 5 sub-phases when episodes of substantial fluvio-glacial delivery concomitant 32 with warm summers alternate with episodes of moderate runoff associated with extended cold 33 winters. We argue that multidecadal seasonal changes played a key role in the hydrological 34 regime of western Europe during this HS1 interval, with the retreat of the southern limb of the 35 EIS, and associated influx of meltwater and fluvio-glacial delivery, which were strongly 36 influenced by those multidecadal changes in seasonality. Interestingly, our paleoclimatic 37 record not only evidences the crucial role of seasonality in controlling climate and 38 hydrological variations during HS1 but also shows a remarkable echo with reconstructions 39 from the western Mediterranean Basin, highlighting common climate forcings at regional 40 scale during the last deglaciation. 41 Keywords: Heinrich Stadial 1; Dinoflagellate cysts; northern Bay of Biscay; 'Fleuve 42 Manche' paleoriver; European Ice Sheets 43

## 1. Introduction

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45 The last glacial period was accompanied by millennial-scale abrupt climate shifts, portrayed 46 in Greenland ice-cores as rapid transitions from cold atmospheric phases termed Greenland 47 Stadials (GS) to warm atmospheric phases referred to as Greenland Interstadials (GI; e.g., 48 Dansgaard et al., 1993; Rasmussen et al., 2014). Despite their original designation, these 49 climate excursions had an impact across the globe (e.g., Voelker, 2002). In the North Atlantic 50 Ocean, some GS were associated with massive iceberg surges mainly from the Laurentide Ice 51 Sheet (LIS) via the Hudson Strait Ice Stream (e.g., Bond et al., 1992, 1993; Broecker et al., 52 1992, 1994; Hemming, 2004), identified in marine sediments as Ice Rafted Debris (IRD)-53 enriched layers (e.g., Bond et al., 1993; Broecker, 1994; Heinrich, 1988). These massive 54 iceberg(and thus freshwater) surge events are known as Heinrich Events (HEs including 55 HE1), with their corresponding stadial phases called Heinrich Stadials (HSs including HS1; 56 Barker et al., 2009; Sanchez Goñi and Harrison, 2010). The associated huge freshwater 57 releases resulted in large reductions of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation 58 (AMOC; e.g., McManus et al., 2004; Stanford et al., 2006, 2011; Ng et al., 2018; Toucanne et 59 al., 2021). Numerous studies demonstrated that Greenland Iceland and European Ice Sheets 60 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; 61 62 Grousset et al., 2000, 2001; Hemming et al., 2000, 2004; Knutz et al., 2001, 2007; Hall et al., 63 2006; Peck et al., 2006; Nygård et al., 2007; Toucanne et al., 2008, 2010, 2015). 64 HS1, including the HE1 layer, occurred at the onset of the last deglaciation (~19-11 ka BP; 65 Clark et al., 2012a), just before the abrupt Bølling-Allerød (B/A) warming event starting at ca. 66 14.7 ka BP (Rasmussen et al., 2014) and after the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM; Mix et al., 67 2001). Over the LGM, which was characterized by a large European Ice Sheet (EIS) including 68 the British-Irish (BIIS) and Scandinavian (SIS) Ice Sheets, the 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver 69 (Channel River) was one of the largest river systems that drained western Europe (e.g., 70 Gibbard, 1988; Toucanne et al., 2009, 2010, 2015). This huge fluvial system included the 71 French, Belgian and British rivers, and the merged German, Polish and Dutch rivers, on the 72 exposed English Channel and North Sea Basin, respectively. Multiproxy studies conducted 73 along the northwestern European margin and especially from the northern Bay of Biscay (e.g., 74 Zaragosi et al., 2001; Auffret et al., 2002; Mojtahid et al., 2005, 2017; Eynaud et al., 2007, 75 2012; Penaud et al., 2009; Toucanne et al., 2009, 2010), identified recurrent phases of 76 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
- 78 the EIS and seasonal subsequent freshwater discharge from the 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver.
- 79 Further works provided new evidence of a differential contribution from ice sheets to the
- 80 laminated deposit, with a particularly large SIS/Baltic sourced part during the last
- 81 deglaciation and the HS1 interval (Toucanne et al., 2015). Until now, palynological
- 82 investigation of this laminated facies (Eynaud, 1999, 2007, 2012; Auffret et al., 2000;
- 83 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
- 85 facies, corresponding to exceptionally high sedimentation rates, appear as ideal candidates to
- 86 increase the temporal resolution of marine records and thus improve our understanding of
- 87 short-lived fluctuations in the regime of the 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver and associated EIS
- 88 dynamics.
- 89 Our study thus constitutes the first detailed dinocyst study encompassing the HS1 interval in
- 90 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
- 92 period over the northern Bay of Biscay. Our high-resolution palynological study was
- 93 conducted on core MD13-3438 and combined with micropaleontological, geochemical and
- 94 sedimentological analyses available for the twin reference core MD95-2002. Our multiproxy
- 95 approach led to:
- 96 (1) the reconstruction of the coupled EIS and 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver dynamics across
- 97 HS1;
- 98 (2) the study of high frequency seasonal variability within the laminated deposit, providing
- 99 the first reconstruction of the sub-centennial climate variability across HS1 in the NE
- 100 Atlantic;
- 101 (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
- 107 collected during the VT 133 / MERIADZEK (Woerther, 2013) and MD101-IMAGES
- 108 (Bassinot and Labeyrie, 1996) oceanographic cruises on board the R/V Marion Dufresne
- 109 (Table 1).

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- 110 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;
- 2006; Eynaud et al., 2007; Toucanne et al., 2008, 2009).
- 118 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).

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# 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).

135 information (Table 1 for related references). In the North Atlantic Ocean, HS can be recognized on the basis of Neogloboquadrina 136 pachyderma abundances close to 100% (e.g., Broecker et al., 1992; Eynaud et al., 2009). At 137 138 site MD95-2002, HS1 (blue band on Fig. 1b) is thus identified as the interval between 18.2-139 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 140 141 al., 2001). This facies results from an intense activity of the 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver in 142 response to the substantial EIS retreat (e.g., Mojtahid et al., 2005; Zaragosi et al., 2006; 143 Eynaud et al., 2007; Toucanne et al., 2008). This laminated interval is associated with high 144 concentrations of the freshwater micro-algae *Pediastrum* (Penaud et al., 2009), high values of 145 the Ti/Ca-XRF ratio (i.e., detrital versus biogenic proxy for enhanced terrigenous supply; 146 Toucanne et al., 2009, 2012, 2015) and of the Branched and Isoprenoid Tetraether (BIT) 147 index (i.e., a proxy for the relative fluvial input of terrestrial organic matter in the marine 148 environment; Ménot et al., 2006). All those tracers highlight strong fluvial inputs and 149 terrestrial-sourced organic sediment advections over the northern Bay of Biscay. This period 150 is concomitant with major EIS melting events, especially from the Baltic Ice Stream of the 151 SIS, accompanied by seasonal spring-summer meltwater discharge into the Bay of Biscay 152 (Zaragosi et al., 2001; Mojtahid et al., 2005; Ménot et al., 2006; Eynaud et al., 2007, 2012; 153 Penaud et al., 2009; Toucanne et al., 2008, 2009, 2015). Within the laminated interval, the 154 concentrations of CLG (Fig.1b) include both, Laurentide and European-sourced IRDs and 155 also fluvial lithic grains transported via the 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver. Increased CLG 156 concentrations then recorded between 16.7 and 15 ka BP (Fig.1b; Zaragosi et al., 2001) 157 characterize the HE1 phase. This interval contains the 'conventional' HE1 layer marked by 158 notable peaks of magnetic susceptibility and carbonates (low Ti/Ca values) at ~16 ka BP 159 characterizing the typical LIS surge (Grousset et al., 2000; Toucanne et al., 2015; Fig.1b).

Data acquired on MD95-2002 (Fig. 1b) indeed provided nearshore marine to terrestrial

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# 3. Material and methods

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# 3.1. Stratigraphy of core MD13-3438

163 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, 164 2010) by integrating 22 AMS-<sup>14</sup>C dates over the last 40 kyr with additional tie-points: (i) 4 165 AMS-<sup>14</sup>C dates tied from the neighbouring cores MD03-2690 and MD03-2692, and (ii) N. 166 167 pachyderma abundances correlated with the NGRIP  $\delta^{18}$ O signal. Modern reservoir age correction is estimated to about  $352 \pm 92$  years. Prior to HS1 and during the Holocene, the 168 169 reservoir age constantly averaged around  $400 \pm 200^{-14}$ C years. During HS1, the B/A and the Younger Dryas, average reservoir ages were respectively estimated to about 970, 680 and 875 170 171 years with uncertainties of 200 years (1s) (Toucanne et al., 2015). 172 The age model of core MD13-3438 was established by the correlation of its Ti/Ca-XRF signal 173 with that of its twin core MD95-2002 (Fig. 1b). The XRF analysis of core MD13-3438 was 174 performed at Ifremer (Plouzané) using an Avaatech X-Ray Fluorescence core scanner at 1 175 cm-resolution. Tie points used to synchronize both Ti/Ca-XRF signals can be found in Table 176 2. The correlation is supported by planktonic foraminiferal data (counts of the total 177 assemblage performed on the >150 µm sediment fraction and on >300 individuals for each 178 sample at EPOC laboratory), especially the high N. pachyderma relative abundances 179 delimiting the HS1 interval (Fig. 1b). Our 5 cm-sampling frequency for dinocyst analyses 180 enables us to achieve a temporal resolution of about 18 to 186 years, with a mean resolution 181 of 58 years in all the studied sections, and of about 29 years in the laminated sequence, 182 characterized by sedimentation rate values around 185 cm/kyr (Fig. 1b). This resolution thus 183 provides valuable new details on the deglacial climatic history of the northern European 184 margin across the HS1 interval. 185 It is worth noting that recent studies showed that the rapid cooling marking the onset of HS1 186 in the North Atlantic took place at 17.48 ka  $\pm$  0.21 ka (1 $\sigma$ ) (Missiaen et al., 2019; Waelbroeck 187 et al., 2019) while maximal N. pachyderma abundances (i.e., allowing identifying HS 1) in 188 core MD95-2002 between 880-390 cm, and between 575-245 cm in core MD13-3438, start at 189 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.

## 3.2. Dinocyst analyses

- a. Laboratory procedure, dinoflagellate cyst identification and diversity indices A total of 76 samples were analysed from the 18.4-14 ka BP interval encompassing HS1. Palynological treatments were performed at EPOC laboratory (University of Bordeaux, France) following a standard protocol described by de Vernal et al. (1999). Calibrated tablets of known concentrations of Lycopodium clavatum spores were added to each sample before chemical treatments in order to estimate palynomorph concentrations. Chemical treatments include cold HCl (10 %), cold HF (40 and 70%) and sieving through single-use 10 µm nylon mesh screens. For each sample, an average of about 400 specimens (minimal counts of 175 cysts) was achieved using a Leica DM 2500 microscope at ×630 magnification except for the laminated sequence between 575 and 330 cm for which an average of 120 specimens (minimal counts of 100 cysts) was obtained due to strong dilution.
  - Dinocyst ecology has been thoroughly described through the progressive development and compilation of atlases of modern cyst distribution (Matthiessen, 1995; Rochon et al., 1999; Marret and Zonneveld, 2003; Zonneveld et al., 2013; van Nieuwenhove et al., 2020; Marret et al., 2020). For this study, taxonomic attribution and the grouping of some species were done in accordance with those atlases. *Brigantedinium* spp. taxa include all spherical brown cysts excluding *Dubridinium* spp. Other peridinioid cysts were grouped (i.e., *Quinquecuspis* spp., *Lejeunecysta* spp., *Dubridinium* spp. and *Votadinium* spp.) as miscellaneous peridinioid cysts (MPCs). Dinocyst assemblages were described with the relative abundances of each taxon calculated on the basis of the total sum of specimens counted including unidentified taxa and excluding pre-Quaternary cysts. Finally, the species richness and Margalef index (Harper, 1999), calculated using PAST v.1.75b (Hammer et al., 2001), have been used to estimate the dinocyst assemblage diversity as an additional ecological indicator. The species richness represents the number of different taxa identified within each studied sample. The Margalef diversity index (Margalef, 1958) is defined by: Margalef's Index = (S 1) / ln (N), where S and N correspond to the total number of species (S) and of individuals (N) in the sample.

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

225 calculated. This ratio is often used to discuss changes in primary productivity (PP) since 226 heterotrophic dinoflagellates have a strict heterotrophic strategy of nutrition, being indirectly 227 related to food resources, especially diatoms (Wall et al., 1977; Lewis et al., 1990; Marret, 228 1994; Zonneveld et al., 1997, 2001, 2013). It is worth noting that a large part of 229 gonyaulacoids cysts (phototrophic cyst producing taxa) may survive thousands of years in 230 well oxygenated sediments but heterotrophic peridinioids are extremely sensitive and 231 vulnerable to early diagenesis. Since availability of oxygen in the sediments is the most 232 important diagenetic variable, it has been suggested that the amount of species-selective 233 degradation (i.e., here calculated as the H/A ratio for instance) may also be related to bottom 234 water oxygen concentration, itself related to the rate of deep-ocean ventilation (Zonneveld et 235 al., 2008). Both PP and/or taphonomic issues have to be taken into account to fully understand 236 the H/A ratio. 237 The "Lingulodinium machaerophorum / Operculodinium centrocarpum" (Lmac/Ocen) ratio 238 was used to discuss continental versus oceanic influences at the core location (e.g., Penaud et 239 al., 2020), L. machaerophorum being a taxon dominating (nearly monospecifically) in 240 estuarine environments of the French Atlantic coast (Wall et al., 1977; Morzadec-Kerfourn, 241 1977; Ganne et al., 2016; Lambert et al., 2017). Finally, a new ratio "L. machaerophorum / 242 Islandinium minutum" (Lmac/Imin) has been used in this study as a proxy for summer versus 243 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). 244 245 In addition, pre-Quaternary dinocysts and Non Pollen Palynomorphs (NPP) including 246 freshwater micro-algae *Pediastrum* spp. coenobia, *Botryococcus* spp. and *Concentricystes* 247 spp.) were counted on the same palynological slides and expressed in absolute concentrations 248 (palynomorphs/cm<sup>3</sup>). It has been demonstrated that *Pediastrum* spp. freshwater micro-algae 249 are related to strong river discharge in marine environments (Zaragosi et al., 2001; Lézine et 250 al., 2005; Eynaud et al., 2007; Penaud et al., 2009). Also, the biostratigraphical study of 251 Kaiser (2001, unpublished data), based on the identification of reworked dinocysts in core 252 MD95-2002 revealed that they were derived from the second half of the Mesozoic (Late 253 Jurassic) to the Early Tertiary (Miocene), then characterizing the Manche, Parisian Basin and 254 South England geological formations. Therefore, concentrations of *Pediastrum* spp. micro-255 algae and pre-Quaternary dinocysts, together with the ratio of "Reworked" (Rd, pre-256 Quaternary) versus "Modern" (Md) dinocysts (i.e., Rd/Md ratio), constitute robust proxies to 257 discuss 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver discharge in the Bay of Biscay (e.g., Zaragosi et al., 258 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.

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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<sub>T</sub>=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 ± 1.8 °C for SST<sub>summer</sub>, ±1.2 °C for  $SST_{winter}$ ,  $\pm$  2.1 psu for  $SSS_{summer}$ ,  $\pm$ 1.1 psu for  $SSS_{winter}$ ,  $\pm$ 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

286 Based on a cluster analysis run on dinocyst taxa percentages with the Psimpoll program, 9 287 palynozones were identified in core MD13-3438. We labelled them according to the 288 stratigraphic interval they match: LGM (595-578 cm), HS1-a as the onset of HS1 prior to 289 HE1 – HS1-a being subdivided into 5 sub-palynozones termed HS1-a1 to HS1-a5 (578-330 290 cm), and HS1-b (330-270 cm) and HS1-c (270-240 cm) as the first and second phase of HE1, 291 respectively. Palynological data are presented and discussed according to these palynozones. 292 They are plotted *versus* depth (cm) in result figures (Figs. 2 to 4), to exhibit the regularly 293 sampled data without considering the strong impact of sedimentation rates, and then versus 294 age (Cal ka BP) in the discussion figures (Figs. 5 to 7).

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# 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 cvsts/cm<sup>3</sup> (Fig. 3). Overall, dinocvst 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).

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318 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%).
- 324 *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.
- 326 centrocarpum percentages and the increase of heterotrophic taxa (Brigantedinium ssp. and
- 327 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-
- 331 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
- 334 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
- 338 Brigantedinium spp., HS1-a4 and HS1-a5 are marked by maximal values of L.
- 339 machaerophorum (16%) and the highest Lmac/Ocen values. A second peak of freshwater
- 340 micro-algae concentrations associated with maximal values of Rd/Md ratio additionally
- 341 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.*
- 348 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.

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## 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<sub>T</sub> 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).

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b. Dinocyst-based sea surface parameters estimates

Dinocyst-derived mean summer SSTs (Fig. 4a) vary between -0.9 and 29.6 °C (average of 382 383 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 HS1-a (SST<sub>summer</sub> of 20 °C and SST<sub>winter</sub> of 9 °C). These atypically elevated values, especially 385 for SST<sub>summer</sub>, exceed modern mean SSTs for the northern Bay of Biscay (modern average 386 387 SST<sub>summer</sub> of 17.5 and SST<sub>winter</sub> of 11.7°C). This zone is characterized by strong occurrences of heterotrophic taxa (Brigantedinium spp. and MPCs), as also highlighted by the high H/A 388 389 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 during the laminated interval HS1-a with SSS<sub>summer</sub> values of 29 psu, consistent with strong 395 fluvial discharge such as observed today on the eastern coasts of USA where analogues were 396 397 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.

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# 5.1. The warm climatic conditions bracketing HS1

- 415 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
- 417 climatic context bracketing the main period of focus HS1. We thus, in the following, have
- 418 synthetized information consistent with earlier works (especially including those relying on
- 419 longer time-scale and multiproxy MD95-2002 records) and their derived climatic
- 420 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
- 424 (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.,
- 426 2012, focused on LGM salinities derived from multiproxy records). Those relatively warm
- 427 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
- 430 (Weinelt et al., 1996; Rosell-Melé and Comes, 1999; Kucera et al., 2005; de Vernal et al.,
- 431 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006; Caulle 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

441 Brigantedinium spp. cyst percentages (Fig. 3).

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

444 The onset of this relatively warm interval is characterized by a remarkable decrease in polar 445 foraminiferal N. pachyderma percentages (Figs. 5 and 6) accompanied by a significant 446 increase of N. labyrinthus percentages (Fig. 6) and a brief incursion of Impagidinium spp. 447 (Fig. 3). Also, increases of dinocyst concentrations are coeval with a moderate TOC/N ratio in 448 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 449 450 ratio; Fig. 6) are associated with a rapid SSS increase (about 34 psu; Fig. 6) highlighting a 451 vigorous NAC with warm and salty Atlantic surface waters carried to the study area, 452 consistent with a concomitant strong AMOC as depicted in various records from the whole 453 North Atlantic Ocean (e.g. McManus et al., 2004; Ng et al., 2018; Fig. 7). Data acquired in 454 the northern North Atlantic (Caulle et al., 2013; Wary et al., 2015), the western Iberian 455 margin (Bard et al., 2000; Martrat et al., 2007; Eynaud et al., 2009; Hodell et al., 2013; 456 Salgueiro et al., 2014; Naughton et al., 2016) and the Alboran Sea (Cacho et al., 1999; Martrat 457 et al., 2014; Català et al., 2019) support this observation of warmer conditions at a regional 458 scale. It appears accompanied by rapid forest development as documented in the western 459 Mediterranean borderlands and NW Iberia at the onset of the B/A (Naughton et al., 2007, 460 2016; Fletcher and Sanchez-Goñi, 2008; Combourieu-Nebout et al., 2009; Camuera et al., 461 2019, 2021; Fig. 7) concomittant with increasing humidity, as also identified in speleothem 462 records from southwestern Europe (Genty et al., 2006; Moreno et al., 2010; Jalut et al., 2010). 463 An increase in seaward transfer of fluvially-derived sediments is reported directly north of the 464 Meriadzek Terrace ca. 16-14 ka, indicating possible influence of the retreating Irish Ice Sheet 465 (which is not connected to the 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver) at that time (Toucanne et al., 466 2008). However, our data show no such evidence of deglacial meltwater fluxes at site MD13-467 3438, neither with FPT values (only a slight increase of *Pediastrum* spp. concentrations; Fig. 468 5) nor with the BIT-index (Ménot et al., 2006; Fig. 5). This lack of deglacial evidence on the 469 Meridzek Terrace may be explained by the major episode of sea-level rise referred to as

- 470 "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.,
- 472 2012; Lambeck et al., 2014; Fig. 7) probably responsible for the displacement of the 'Fleuve
- 473 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.

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

## 477 **Biscay**

- a. Early-HS1, laminated interval (HS1-a): 18.2-16.7 ka BP
- 479 General observations
- 480 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
- 483 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
- 488 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
- 492 time and huge delivery of the 'Fleuve Manche' sediment load close to the Meriadzek Terrace
- 493 (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;
- 495 Fig. 7).
- 496 Enhanced proximal fluvio-glacial delivery from the 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver was
- 497 suggested to result from the seasonal influx of meltwater from the retreating EIS and
- 498 responsible for the formation of the laminated facies (Zaragosi et al., 2001, 2006; Mojtahid et
- 499 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. <sup>231</sup>Pa/<sup>230</sup>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

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

xerophytic taxa (i.e., steppic taxa) (Camuera et al., 2021; Fig.7).

Our unprecedented high-resolution multiproxy study of the laminated facies shows a new subcentennial-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).

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(Fig. 8).

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

540 Bay of Biscay

The first conceptual model proposed by Mojtahid 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 (Mojtahid 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

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

569 HS1-a4. On the contrary, intervals characterized by lower fluvio-glacial inputs (HS1-a1, HS1-

a3 and HS1-a5) depict low Lmac/Imin 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 δ<sup>18</sup>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 Lmac/Ocen ratio. All these observations point to a considerable decrease of the *'Fleuve Manche'* paleoriver runoff. Also, high values of C<sub>37:4</sub> 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<sub>winter</sub> (Fig. 6) indicating cold sea-surface conditions (Fig. 6).

603 Dinocyst assemblages enabled us to determine two sub-zones, HS1-b and HS1-c, with a 120 604 years study resolution on the entire HE1 interval: 605 HS1-b (16.7–15.6 ka BP; 85 years study resolution) is characterized by the drastic decrease 606 of fluvial inputs (low FPT values, Fig. 5; decreasing Lmac/Ocen ratio, Fig. 7). Maximal I. 607 minutum (Fig. 6) and S. septentrionalis (Fig. 3) occurrences are recorded at 16.4 ka BP, 608 depicting the coldest conditions (Figs. 6 and 7). Low O. centrocarpum percentages additionally suggest a still weakened NAC, consistently with <sup>231</sup>Pa/<sup>230</sup>Th record which 609 suggests that a weakened AMOC state persisted for over a millennium (~16.5–15 ka BP) in 610 611 the North Atlantic Ocean (Ng et al., 2018; Fig. 7). These cold surface conditions recorded on 612 the northern Bay of Biscay may have been responsible for a weaker EIS melting and are 613 consistent with records from the IRD belt indicating a widespread cooling associated with a 614 major calving episode of the LIS (Stanford et al., 2011; Hodell et al., 2017). This interval is 615 indeed marked by a notable peak of magnetic susceptibility (Figs. 5 and 6) and significant 616 CLG concentrations (core MD95-2002; Figs. 5 and 6) accompanied by minimal values of the 617 Ti/Ca-XRF ratio at 16 ka BP (Fig. 5) indicative of carbonate-rich CLG (Auffret et al., 1996; 618 Toucanne, 2009;). This may correspond to the 'cemented marls' of Hemming (2004) 619 interpreted as the LIS (i.e., Hudson Strait) iceberg delivery to the North Atlantic Ocean 620 (Toucanne et al., 2015). 621 Extremely cold conditions at our study site (Figs. 6, 7 and 8) are synchronous with extremely cold boreal temperatures (lightest NGRIP  $\delta^{18}$ O values of the entire HE1 phase; Fig. 7) and 622 with the coldest and most arid environments documented in marine palynological sequences 623 624 from the Alboran Sea (Combourieu-Nebout et al., 2002, Fletcher and Sanchez Goñi, 2008; 625 Fig7) and off the Iberian Peninsula (Turon et al., 2003; Naughton et al., 2007, 2009, 2016). 626 The dryness over the Mediterranean borderlands increased (Morellón et al., 2009; Camuera et 627 al., 2019; Fig. 7) in relation with the southward migration of the polar front (Eynaud et al., 628 2009). 629 HS1-c (15.6–14.6 ka BP; 170 years study resolution) is characterized by higher percentages 630 of B. tepikiense and P. dalei cysts, currently observed in surface sediments from the subpolar 631 North Atlantic basin (Harland, 1983; de Vernal et al., 1992; Dale, 1996; Rochon et al., 1999), 632 and also clearly accompanied by both decreasing I. minutum percentages and CLG 633 concentrations (Figs. 5 and 6) as well as increasing O. centrocarpum percentages (Fig. 3). 634 This suggests warm sea-surface conditions (Fig. 6) with increased thermal seasonal 635 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

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

## 6. Conclusion

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645 The high-resolution palynological investigation of the last deglaciation in core MD13-3438 (northern Bay of Biscay) highlights significant climatic and paleoenvironnmental changes 646 647 related to both the proximal European Ice Sheets (EIS) and the 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver dynamics. Dinocyst-based quantitative reconstructions provide an evaluation of past 648 649 hydrographical changes. Seven short-scale sub-phases within the HS1 interval were identified 650 for the first time on the northern Bay of Biscay: 651 HS1-a (i.e., laminated interval; 18.2–16.7 ka BP) is generally characterized by marked 652 multidecadal changes in the seasonality range, i.e., warm summers resulting in enhanced EIS 653 melting and 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver runoff, causing the largest drop of SSS and cold 654 winters resulting in freezing conditions and lower 'Fleuve Manche' paleoriver activity. 655 Fluvial-derived palynological tracers indicate that this interval is subdivided into five sub-656 phases. Two maximal meltwater episodes (HS1-a2, 17.8-17.6 ka BP and HS1-a4, 17.4-17 ka 657 BP) are detected, with substantial erosional processes in the 'Fleuve Manche' basin and 658 strong stratification of the water column. Both events correspond to strong seasonality phases 659 dominated by summer-prevailing modes. Fluvio-glacial discharge of the 'Fleuve Manche' 660 paleoriver, although significant, is comparatively moderate during HS1-a1 (18.2–17.8 ka BP), 661 HS1-a3 (17.6–17.4 ka BP) and HS1-a5 (17–16.7 ka BP), and possibly result from a decrease 662 of the seasonality that could have limited the EIS melting at that time. Indeed, our new data 663 suggest winter-prevailing modes at that time. 664 HS1-b (i.e., first phase of HE1; 16.7–15.6 ka BP) includes the Laurentide-sourced IRDs 665 recorded at ~16 ka BP. This interval is characterized by a substantial decrease of proximal 666 fluvial inputs and cold winters. Cooling sea-surface conditions are recorded with seasonal 667 winter sea-ice cover occurrences and the lowest reconstructed SSTs. 668 **HS1-c** (i.e., second phase of HE1; 15.6–14.6 ka BP) is characterized by warmer sea-surface 669 conditions, suggesting the advection of Atlantic surface waters conveyed by the NAC and 670 leading to the transition to the warm B/A. 671 Our reconstructed sub-centennial variability suggests the crucial role of multidecadal seasonal 672 changes, especially within the early HS 1 interval, for fluvio-glacial dynamics and the melting 673 of the EIS. Furthermore, our records are in agreement with marine and terrestrial sequences 674 from the western Mediterranean basin suggesting common regional forcings acting on the 675 multi-scale climate variability across the last deglaciation.

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# 8. Table caption

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

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- 698 **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.

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- 701 **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;
- 703 W). The Warm/Cold qualitative temperature index is based on these W and C species.

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# 9. Figure captions

- 707 **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
- 709 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 δ<sup>18</sup>O record (GICC05; Svensson et al., 2008, in black), Ti/Ca- XRF data and N. pachyderma abundances of core MD13-3438 (blue) compared with the MD95-2002 dataset (in red) including: N. pachyderma abundances (Zaragosi et al., 2001), coarse lithic grain concentrations (CLG; 10<sup>3</sup> 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, 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.

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**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.

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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/cm³). 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-lasted 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 (red dotted line) and winter (blue dotted line), PP annual (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., Dmin). Threshold distance value (d<sub>T</sub>=1.2; red line) for quantification robustness: good analogues if Dmin is between 0 (perfect analogue) and  $d_T/2$ (orange line); acceptable analogues if Dmin is between 0.6 and d<sub>T</sub>=1.2, and poor analogues (i.e. caution with quantifications) if Dmin  $> d_T$  (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 Dmin) 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<sup>3</sup> algae/cm<sup>3</sup>), reworked dinocyst concentrations (10<sup>3</sup> cysts/cm<sup>3</sup>), L. machaerophorum percentages and concentrations (10<sup>3</sup> cysts/cm<sup>3</sup>), reconstructed PP <sub>annual</sub> (10<sup>3</sup> g C m<sup>-2</sup>) and peridinioid cyst concentrations (10<sup>3</sup> cysts/cm<sup>3</sup>). For core MD95-2002 (in red): N. pachyderma percentages, coarse lithic grain concentrations CLG (10<sup>3</sup> 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). Yellow bands highlight periods of reduced runoff (HS1-a1, HS1-a3 and HS1-a5) and orange bands correspond to the periods of maximal fluvio-glacial discharge. Blue and pink bands highlight the HE1 phase (HS1-b, including the conventional HE1 layer at ~16 ka BP, and HS1-c, respectively). Horizontal lines delineate the nine 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 (in 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>). Yellow bands highlight periods of reduced runoff (HS1-a1, HS1-a3 and HS1-a5) and orange bands correspond to the periods of maximal fluvio-glacial discharge. Blue and pink bands highlight the HE1 phase (HS1-b and HS1-c, respectively). Horizontal lines delineate the nine 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), δ<sup>18</sup>O NGRIP record (GICCO05; Svensson et al., 2008), <sup>231</sup>Pa/<sup>230</sup>Th signal (Ng et al.,

- 2018), N. pachyderma percentages (blue, this study; red for the core MD95-2002 (Zaragosi et
- al., 2001)), H/A ratio (blue, this study; has been also translated and reversed for comparison),
- Runoff events (R) 4 and 5 (core MD95-2002, Toucanne et al., 2015), L. machaerophorum
- 815 versus O. centrocarpum (Lmac/Ocen ratio, This study), L. machaerophorum versus I.
- 816 minutum (Lmac/Imin ratio, This study), dinocyst-derived sea-surface seasonality
- 817 (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
- 819 percentages from the Alboran Sea (Fletcher and Sanchez Goñi, 2008). The proposed
- 820 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. Yellow bands highlight periods of reduced runoff (HS1-a1, HS1-a3 and HS1-
- 824 a5) and orange bands correspond to periods of maximal fluvio-glacial discharge. Blue and
- pink bands highlight the HE1 phase (HS1-b, including the conventional HE1 layer at ~16 ka,
- and HS1-c, respectively).
- Figure 8: Conceptual model illustrating hydrological conditions and processes involved for
- fluvio-glacial dynamics across the HS1 interval in the northern Bay of Biscay.

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# 10. Appendix caption

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

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Table 1

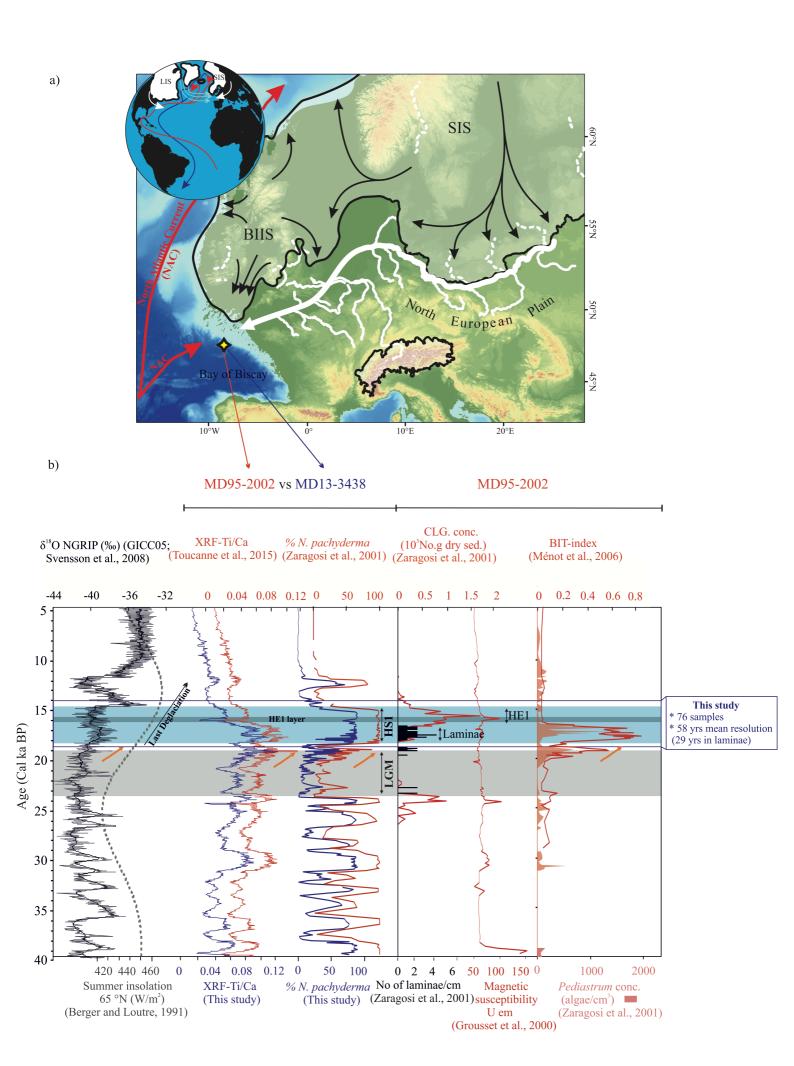
Core name	Geographic coordinates  Depth (m)	Dinocyst assemblages	Ti/Ca- XRF ratio	% N.pachyderma s.	IRD conc (No g dry sed)	No Laminae/cm	BIT index + % COT
MD13- 3438 Studied core	47° 27' N 8° 27' W 2180 m	This study	S. Toucanne in this study	L. Rossignol in this study	No data	No data	No data
MD95- 2002 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

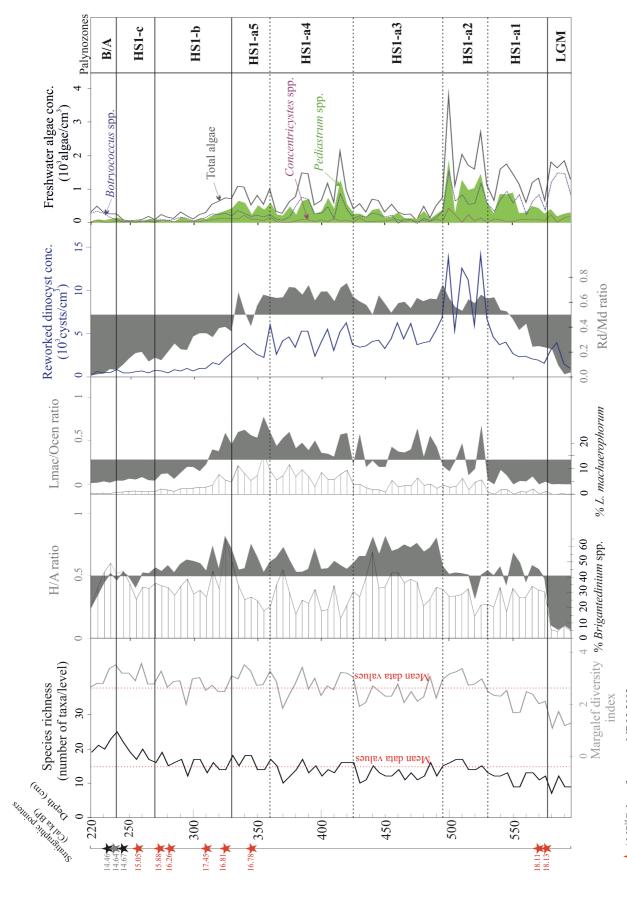
Table 2

Tie points MD95-2002	Depth MD95-2002 (cm)	Equivalent depth MD13-3438 (cm)	Age cal BP (Toucanne et al.,2015)
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

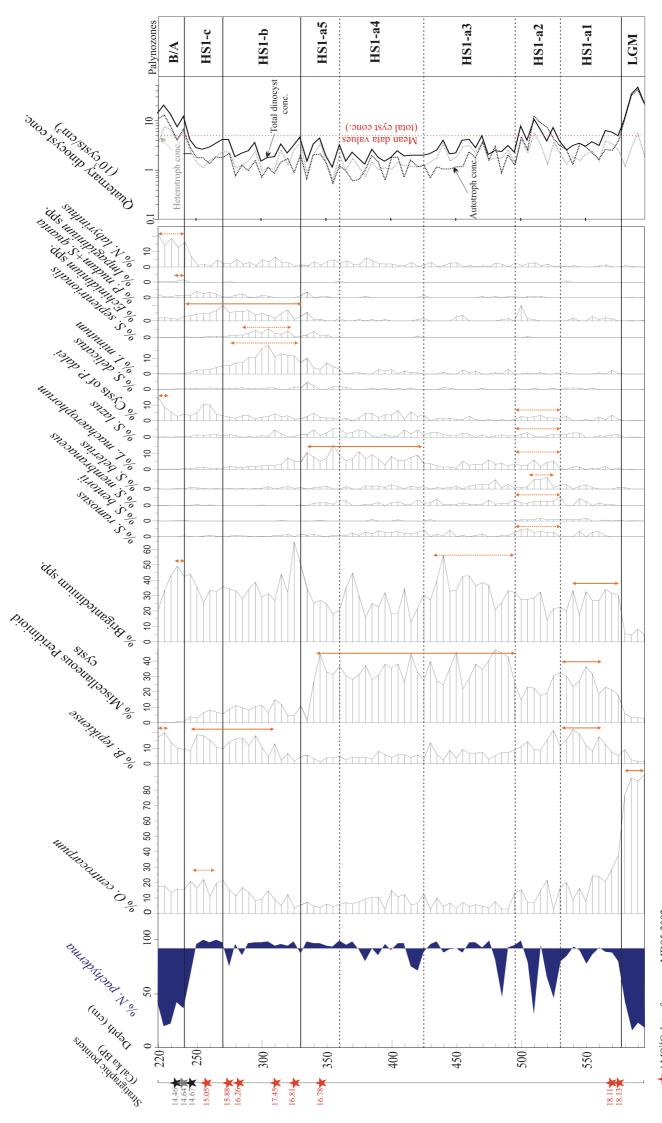
Table 3

	Name of taxa	Abbreviation
	Bitectatodinium tepikiense	Btep
	Impagidinium aculeatum	Iacu
	Impagidinium pallidum	Ipal
	Impagidinium paradoxum	Ipar
	Impagidinium patulum	Ipat
	Impagidinium sphaericum	Isph
	Lingulodinium machaerophorum	Lmac
	Nematosphaeropsis labyrinthus	Nlab
	Operculodinium centrocarpum	Ocen
	Operculodinium janduchenei	Ojan
Autotrophic	Polysphaeridium zoharyi	Pzoh
taxa	Spiniferites membranaceus	Smem
	Spiniferites delicatus	Sdel
	Spiniferites elongatus	Selo
	Spiniferites ramosus	Sram
	Spiniferites belerius	Sbel
	Spiniferites bentorii	Sben
	Spiniferites lazus	Slaz
	Spiniferites mirabilis	Smir
	Spiniferites spp.	Sspp
	Spiniferites septentrionalis	Ssep
	Cyst of Pentapharsodinium dalei	Pdal
	Islandinium minutum	Imin
	Brigantedinium spp.	Bspp
	Quinquecuspis spp.	Qspp
TT 4	Lejeunecysta spp.	Lspp
Heterotrophic taxa	Dubridinium spp.	Dspp
шли	Votadinium spp.	Vspp
	Selenopemphix quanta	Squa
	Cyst of Protoperidinium nudum	Pnud
	Echinidinium spp.	Espp

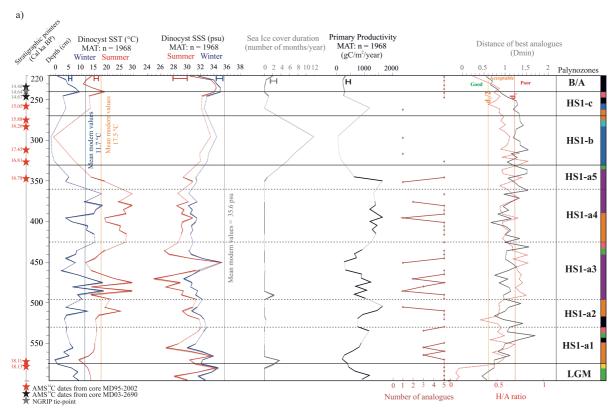




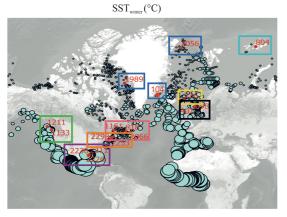
★ AMS¹⁴C dates from core MD95-2002 ★ AMS¹⁴C dates from core MD03-2690 ★ NGRIP tie-point



★ AMS¹⁴C dates from core MD95-2002 ★ AMS¹⁴C dates from core MD03-2690 ★ NGRIP tie-point



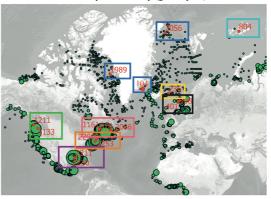
### b) Database n=1968 (de Vernal et al., 2020)





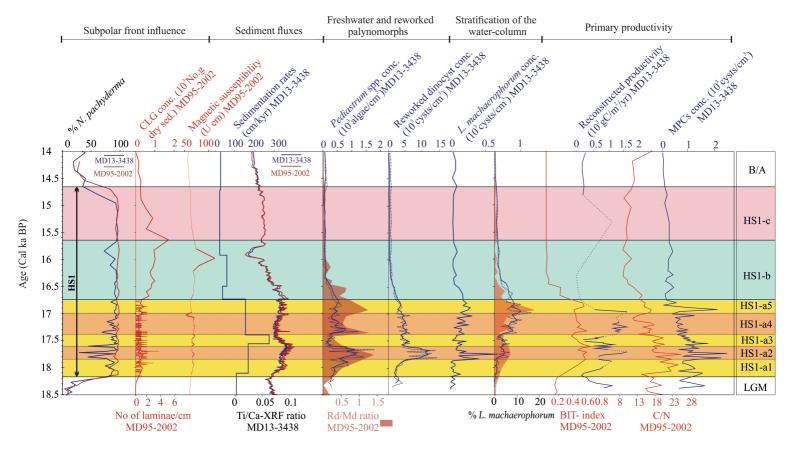
# Color code corresponding to each geographical sector Western coasts of Canada Norwegian Sea Eastern coasts of Canada Northeastern coasts of USA Southeastern coasts of USA Eastern and Western coasts of Greenland Svalbard margin North Sea

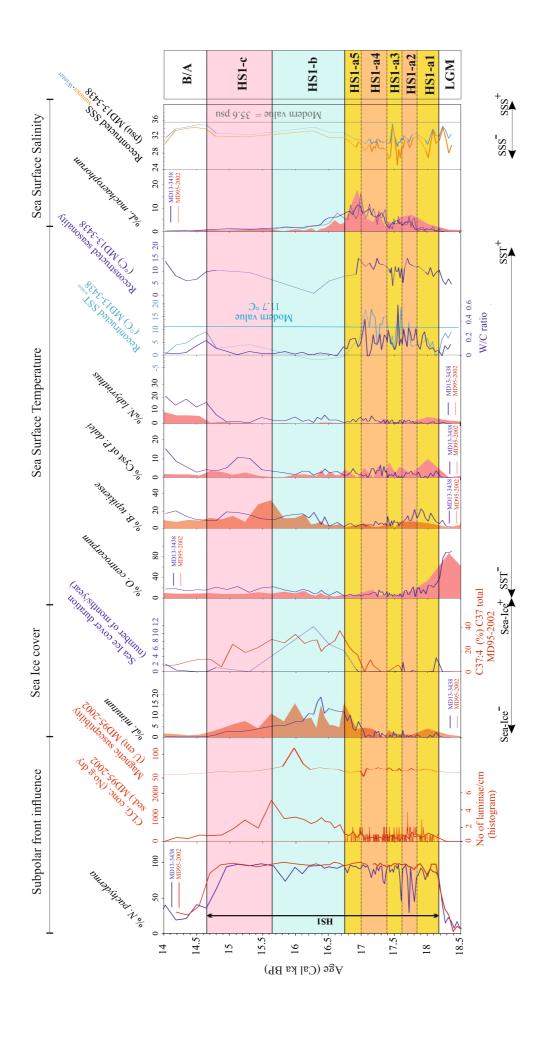
Primary Productivity (gC/m²/year)

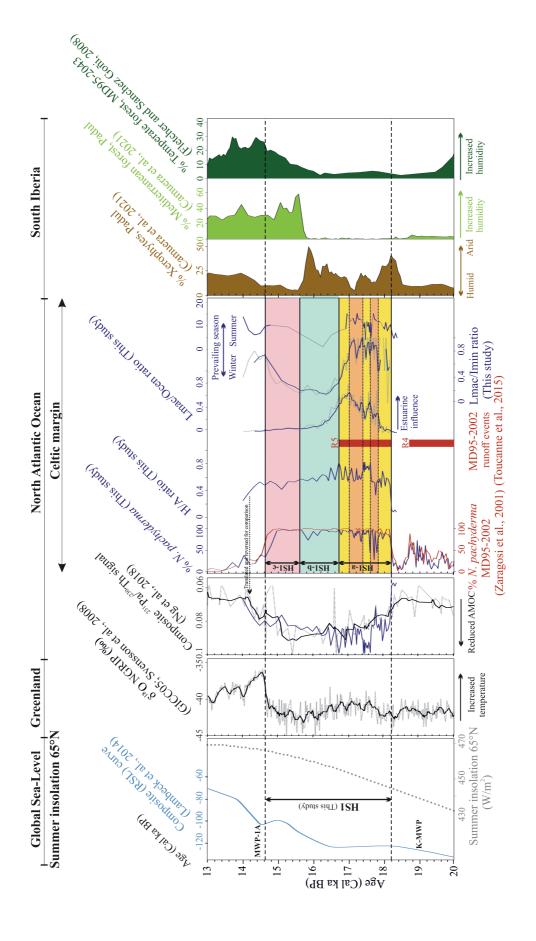


Modern sea-surface mean values of Temperature during winter (SST  $_{\rm winter}$  blue circles) and Primary Productivity (green circles)



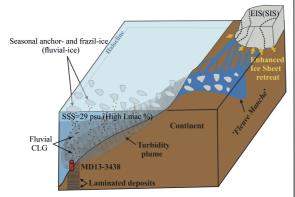




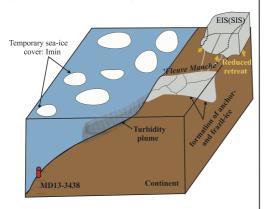


# **HS1-a:** Laminated interval (18.2 - 16.7 ka BP)

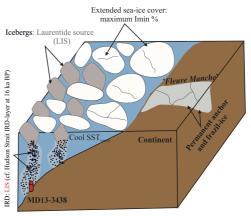
# **Summer-prevailing mode** (HS1-a2, HS1-a4)



# 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)

