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## **The Holocene history of Arsine Glacier (Western European Alps): a detailed 10Be record of oscillations driven by climate and modulated by rock avalanches**

Melaine Le Roy, Irene Schimmelpfennig, Philip Deline, Julien Carcaillet, Tancrède P.M. Leger, Pierre Jégot, Philippe Schoeneich, Diego Cusicanqui, Felix Martin Hofmann, Xavier Bodin, et al.

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# 1 The Holocene history of Arsine Glacier (Western 2 European Alps): a detailed $^{10}\text{Be}$ record of 3 oscillations driven by climate and modulated by 4 rock avalanches

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21

## 22 **Abstract**

23 Lateglacial to Early Holocene (EH) glacier variations in the Alps have recently been thoroughly  
24 refined using  $^{10}\text{Be}$  terrestrial cosmogenic nuclide (TCN) exposure dating of moraines. In  
25 contrast, knowledge of the spatial extent reached by glaciers during the Neoglacial period (~4.2  
26 to 0.14 ka) is still fragmentary because of the scarcity of preserved moraines predating the Little  
27 Ice Age (LIA). In addition, although the climatic meaning of the geomorphological imprints  
28 left by debris-covered glaciers or rock glaciers is increasingly investigated, direct comparison  
29 with those of debris-free glaciers is often not possible. Here, we provide an unprecedentedly  
30 large TCN dataset for the region ( $n = 53$ ) constraining the behaviour of Arsine Glacier, French  
31 Alps, from the end of the Lateglacial to the end of the LIA. Stadial moraines are present in both  
32 the western and eastern valleys formerly occupied by two separate branches of the ice body, up  
33 to ~3 km from the extant glacier front. Further upslope, the forefield of Arsine Glacier is

34 characterized by two prominent geomorphic complexes. The first is a peculiar landform with  
35 concentric ridges, previously interpreted as a moraine-derived rock glacier. It is framed by an  
36 extensive and chaotic boulder field and is overtopped – in the most glacier-proximal part – by  
37 the second outstanding feature, a large complex of unvegetated lateral and frontal composite  
38 moraines. The chronological results indicate that the most distal moraine sets testify to five  
39 oscillations of the western glacier branch between **11.88 ± 0.43 ka** and **11.10 ± 0.37 ka**. Robust  
40 constraints on the spatial extent of these positions show depression of the glacier equilibrium  
41 line altitude ranging from 224 m to 169 m relative to the LIA. The innermost EH complex dated  
42 here is interpreted as being related to the regional expression of the Preboreal Oscillation  
43 (PBO). The previously interpreted moraine-derived rock glacier was found to rather represent  
44 a moraine complex deposited following a rock avalanche covering the eastern branch of the ice  
45 body and the surrounding floor. This catastrophic event occurred at **10.71 ± 0.42 ka**, during the  
46 first significant warming of the Preboreal period, as shown by dating of the framing boulder  
47 field deposit. Dating of the ridges of the resulting moraine complex shows a subsequent advance  
48 of c. 1250 m peaking at **10.25 ± 0.42 ka**, followed by persistence of the debris-covered eastern  
49 tongue outboard the LIA extent until **9.52 ± 0.43 ka**. By contrast, during this interval no  
50 prominent moraine was deposited by the western glacier branch, not affected by the rock  
51 avalanche. Like elsewhere in the Alps, no <sup>10</sup>Be boulder ages corresponding to the mid-Holocene  
52 (8.2 to 4.2 ka) were found. Dating of the glacier-proximal moraine complex allows assigning  
53 its deposition to the Neoglacial period. The emplacement of this feature had started no later  
54 than **3.74 ± 0.02 ka**. A subsequent period of glacier maxima deposited a till unit dated on both  
55 sides of the glacier at **2.69 ± 0.14 ka**. During the Common Era, the first LIA-like advance  
56 occurred at **1.67 ± 0.05 ka**. During the LIA, an early advance (eLIA) deposited the outermost  
57 Neoglacial frontal moraine **650 ± 30 a** ago. Finally, the innermost preserved lateral moraine  
58 was deposited at the end of the LIA, **170 ± 10 a** ago. The Arsine Glacier record is, to our  
59 knowledge, the most detailed <sup>10</sup>Be-based Holocene-long glacier chronology in the Alps, and  
60 agrees well with other existing glacier records in the region. We propose that, apart from the  
61 directly climate-driven glacier advances and corresponding ice-marginal moraine deposits of  
62 the EH and the Neoglacial, a large EH rock avalanche occurred following warm-period-related  
63 destabilization of the cirque headwalls, bringing large amount of debris onto one part of the  
64 glacier. This excessive supply – estimated to a volume of c. **8.4 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>** – led the eastern  
65 glacier branch to evolve into a heavily debris-covered tongue that recorded climate-related  
66 oscillations between ~10.3 and 9.5 ka outboard the LIA extent.

67  
68  
69  
70

**Keywords:** Early Holocene, Neoglacial events, Glacier chronology, Rock avalanche, TCN,  $^{10}\text{Be}$ , Debris-cover, Ecrins-Pelvoux Massif, Western European Alps

## 71 **1. Introduction**

72 Mean air temperatures currently exceed the upper limit of reconstructed natural Holocene  
73 warming [Porter et al., 2019; Affolter et al., 2019; Kaufman et al., 2020; Zander et al., 2024]  
74 set during the Holocene Thermal Maximum (HTM), between ~11.0 and 4.2 ka in the Alps [Le  
75 Roy et al., 2024; Nicolussi et al., unpublished]. The most visible expression of this ongoing  
76 climate warming is glacier mass loss and its acceleration over the last two decades, especially  
77 well documented in the Alps [Sommer et al., 2020; The GlaMBIE Team, 2025]. Small alpine  
78 glaciers show sensitive response to climate change, mostly variations of summer temperature  
79 and winter precipitation, at seasonal to decadal timescales [Bahr et al., 1988; Zekollari et al.,  
80 2020; Christian et al., 2022]. As a result, reconstructed glacier length variations represent a  
81 suitable proxy to investigate decadal- to millennial-scale climate variability over the Holocene  
82 [Leclercq and Oerlemans, 2012; Jomelli et al., 2022]. This approach helps to understand the  
83 natural climate drivers and to disentangle them from the anthropogenic contribution of today's  
84 climate evolution [Vargo et al., 2020; Roe et al., 2021; Vlug et al., 2023; Clauzel et al., 2023].

85 Although discontinuous, glacio-geomorphological records are invaluable to investigate  
86 Holocene climate evolution, as they provide accurate spatial and temporal bounds from which  
87 quantitative climate parameters can be extracted [Doughty et al., 2013; Mackintosh et al., 2017;  
88 Brooks et al., 2022]. In the Alps, Holocene glacier advances and prevailing climate conditions  
89 have been reconstructed based on moraine dating [e.g., Nicolussi and Patzelt, 2001;  
90 Schimmelpfennig et al., 2012; 2014; Le Roy et al., 2015; 2017; 2023; Protin et al., 2019; 2021;  
91 Braumann et al., 2020; 2021]. On the other hand, the duration and magnitude of Holocene  
92 glacier recession periods have been precisely constrained thanks to (i) tree-ring dated glacier-  
93 borne subfossil trees [Nicolussi and Patzelt, 2000; Joerin et al., 2008] and (ii) inventories of  
94 cosmogenic nuclides in recently deglaciated bedrock [Goehring et al., 2011; Wirsig et al., 2016;  
95 Schimmelpfennig et al., 2022]. The synthesis of these different datasets shows a clear  
96 tripartition of the Holocene [Le Roy et al., 2024]. The coldest conditions and largest glacier  
97 extent occurred during the early Preboreal, up to ~11 ka. During the subsequent long-lasting  
98 HTM, glaciers were most of the time smaller than their 2000-2020 CE extent, particularly  
99 during the three marked HTM Phases [HTMPs, Le Roy et al., 2024]. Finally, during the

100 Neoglacial period (~ last 4 ka), glaciers readvanced more frequently towards maximum  
101 positions of the Late Holocene, which were reached several times, especially during the Little  
102 Ice Age (LIA). The LIA spans the period 1260 to 1860 CE [Nicolussi et al., 2022] and its last  
103 maximum around 1850 CE is commonly used as a reference for glacio-climatological studies  
104 [Maisch et al., 2000; Reinthaler and Paul, 2025].

105 Distant correlations of the Lateglacial and EH glacier advances in the Alps have relied so far  
106 on the computation of morphometric parameters, like the equilibrium line altitude (ELA).  
107 Depression values of the ELA ( $\delta$ ELA) with respect to the ‘1850 CE stadial’ have been widely  
108 used in this way [Maisch, 1981; 1987]. However, it has been recently demonstrated that  
109 stratigraphic correlations based on this sole parameter are not reliable, as  $\delta$ ELA can vary  
110 spatially for contemporary stadials [Reitner et al., 2016; Boxleitner et al., 2019b]. Refinement  
111 of the Lateglacial and EH morphostratigraphical framework (i.e., the succession of stadials  
112 defined and named at ‘type localities’) can only be achieved by systematic numerical dating.  
113 This is even more the case during the Neoglacial period, which is characterised by multiple  
114 glacier advances too similar to be discriminated on an ELA basis. Neoglacial advances of small  
115 and climate-sensitive glaciers repeatedly reached extents of the order of 1850 CE [Le Roy et  
116 al., 2024], leading to partial self-obliteration of the moraine record [Kirkbride and Winkler,  
117 2012]. A bias towards younger periods therefore often exists, especially at large glaciers where  
118 LIA advances were the largest of the Late Holocene and overrun older deposits [Holzhauser et  
119 al., 2005; Holzhauser, 2010]. Evolving ice dynamics – e.g., under the influence of  
120 channelization by lateral moraines throughout the Neoglacial – resulted in partial preservation  
121 of some ridge sections. Only by dating the segments of these moraines preserved outboard the  
122 LIA extent, a complete picture of Neoglacial variations can emerge [e.g., Röthlisberger and  
123 Schneebeli, 1979]. Yet, quantitatively establishing a sound hierarchy of these Neoglacial  
124 advances from the sole geomorphic record remains a challenge.

125 While ice-marginal moraine ridges are in most cases direct proxies for paleoclimate change,  
126 non-climatic factors, such as erosional feedback, topographic controls, bedrock lithology and  
127 the presence of surface debris have also been shown to influence moraine deposition,  
128 preservation and completeness [Kirkbride and Winkler, 2012; Barr and Lovell, 2014; Rowan  
129 et al., 2022; Boston et al., 2023]. Among the most common triggers for not directly climatically  
130 driven glacier advances, rock avalanches (RAs, typically  $> 1 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ ) onto glaciers have been  
131 extensively reported [Deline et al., 2017; 2021]. Supraglacial RA debris deposited in the  
132 ablation zone tend to reduce surface ablation [Reznichenko et al., 2011; Jamieson et al., 2015;

133 [Fleischer et al., 2023](#)] and might cause an anomalous advance and possibly subsequent ‘non-  
134 climatic’ moraine deposition. A few case studies provide evidence of such RA-triggered  
135 advances in the modern era [[Deline, 2009](#); [Hewitt, 2009](#)] as well as in the paleo-record [[Deline  
136 and Kirkbride, 2009](#); [Menounos et al., 2013](#); [Deline et al., 2015](#)]. However, proper identification  
137 of glacially-transported RA debris is not straightforward in the sedimentary record and often  
138 precludes distinction between climatic and RA-derived moraines [[Reznichenko et al., 2016](#)].

139 To complement the knowledge on climate- and RA-driven Holocene glacier advances in the  
140 Alps, the forefield of Arsine Glacier is an ideal study site. It features a rich glacio-geomorphic  
141 record, including a notable suite of moraines supposedly covering the entire Holocene, and  
142 several RA deposits. By building a comprehensive Holocene-long moraine chronology of  
143 Arsine Glacier, we aim to (i) refine the existing framework of Alpine glacier behaviour during  
144 the EH and the Neoglacial, to (ii) assess whether the chronology of glacier fluctuations is  
145 consistent with (larger) glacier records elsewhere in the region, and to (iii) evaluate if an imprint  
146 of RAs on the timing of Holocene glacier dynamics can be identified.

147

148 **FIGURE 1. Location of the Arsine Glacier in the context of the Ecrins-Pelvoux Massif**  
149 **(EPM).** The location of [Fig. 3](#) is indicated in the main map. The sites with TCN-based  
150 constraints on glacier extent since the Lateglacial are indicated as coloured dots and the  
151 moraines mentioned in the text are indicated with grey lines. The rock glaciers, proglacial lakes,  
152 rock slope failures (RSFs) and paleoecological records mentioned in the text are shown as  
153 coloured symbols. Late-Little Ice Age (~1850 CE) and modern (2009 CE) glacier extents are  
154 displayed in light blue and white, according to [Mourey et al. \[unpublished\]](#) and [Gardent et al.  
155 \[2014\]](#), respectively. The inset map shows the location of the EPM in the European Alps, along  
156 with the sites where Holocene moraines have been dated (blue: Early Holocene, pink:  
157 Neoglacial). See [Fig. 10](#) for the compiled age datasets. The main map digital elevation model  
158 (DEM) background is the BD ALTI® 25 m from the Institut Géographique National. Lambert  
159 93 Grid in meters (tick marks spacing is 10 km).

160

## 161 2. Study area and previous work

### 162 2.1. Overview of the Arsine catchment physical setting

163 The Ecrins-Pelvoux Massif (EPM) belongs to the external crystalline massifs, which represent  
164 the exposed Paleozoic basement in the external Western Alps. The blocks of metamorphic and

165 igneous rocks of Precambrian to Carboniferous age were metamorphosed and intruded by  
166 granitoids during the Hercynian orogeny [Guillot et al., 2009], then exhumed along crustal-  
167 scale faults since Oligocene-Early Miocene times. Remnants of inverted Jurassic sedimentary  
168 basins are interspersed between these blocks [Dumont et al., 2008]. The EPM has a sub-circular  
169 shape of c. 35 km in diameter and consists of two different litho-structural units: the eastern  
170 and central parts are mainly composed of migmatites and granites, while the western part  
171 presents low- to medium-grade metasediments.

172 The EPM is the most southerly and westerly of the major glacierized massifs in the European  
173 Alps, due to its high average altitude, with 171 km<sup>2</sup> ice extent during the LIA and 68 km<sup>2</sup> in  
174 2009 CE [Fig. 1]. During the LIA, the mean ELA for the main EPM glaciers was c. 2763 ± 174  
175 m (n = 63) above sea-level (a.s.l.) based on the classical Accumulation-Area-Ratio method  
176 (AAR 0.65), showing a marked eastward rising trend (c. 300 m/30 km) [Cossart, 2011]. A more  
177 realistic and climatically reliable estimate of 2895 ± 173 m a.s.l. (n = 111) was found based on  
178 recent glaciological modelling [Henz et al., 2024]. In comparison, mean ELA was 3100 ± 80 m  
179 a.s.l. for the main EPM glaciers (n = 11) over the 1984-2010 CE period [Rabatel et al., 2013],  
180 and peaked above 3300 m a.s.l. in recent years.

181 Arsine Glacier is located on the eastern fringe of the EPM [Fig. 1], partly sheltered from the  
182 westerlies. At 2400 m a.s.l., the mean annual air temperature is 0.92°C and the mean winter  
183 snow depth (November-April) is 1.07 ± 0.35 m (1958-2021 CE period) [Vernay et al., 2022].  
184 Arsine is a small-sized (1.9 km<sup>2</sup> in 2015 CE, 2480-3040 m a.s.l.), north-facing and arcuate-  
185 shaped debris-covered cirque glacier [Fig. 2]. The cirque's headwall is carved into the  
186 crystalline basement, with alternating bands of Lavey gneiss/migmatite to the east towards  
187 anatectic granite to the west [Barbier et al., 1976]. The bands are separated by a network of sub-  
188 vertical faults (N20°W) that is densest at the 'Neige Cordier fault corridor', creating numerous  
189 couloirs. The glacier owes its existence to snow avalanches delivered from this 3 km-wide and  
190 500 m-high headwall [Fig. 2]. Additional minor ice supply comes from the steep hanging Upper  
191 Arsine Glacier (0.2 km<sup>2</sup>, 2860-3450 m a.s.l.), which flows down from the northwest face of the  
192 'Calotte des Agneaux' (3634 m a.s.l.) [Fig. 2b,c]. This tributary is no longer confluent with the  
193 main cirque body since 2016 CE.

194 Inboard the most recent moraine complex ['Proximal Moraine Complex', see Fig. 2 and Section  
195 4.2.5], a set of sharply defined frontal ridges indicate that the tongue recorded all known post-  
196 LIA cooling events with little lag [Fig. 2a,d]. Here, the outer moraine set – which subdivides  
197 into three nested ridges in some places – was deposited between 1892 and 1930 CE [Fig. 3; Fig.

198 [8e](#)], as shown in the first topographic map ('Service Géographique des Armées' map), surveyed  
199 in 1928 CE. The first aerial photograph in 1952 CE shows that the tongue was still close to this  
200 limit. Finally, the innermost moraine was deposited ~1986 CE [[Fig. 2d,e](#)]. Since the mid-19th  
201 century, sustained sediment supply and decreasing flow velocity led to an expanding debris-  
202 cover [[Fig. 2b](#)]. As a result, the glacio-geomorphological features observed today are  
203 hummocky terrain and proglacial lakes developed since the 1940s. Several large RA deposits  
204 are visible on the glacier [[Fig. 3](#)], protruding from 20-30 m relative to the surface and suggesting  
205 high current levels of denudation in Arsine's cirque headwalls.

206

## 207 2.2. Deglaciation of the Ecrins-Pelvoux massif

208 During the last glacial maximum (27.5-23.3 ka) [[Hughes and Gibbard, 2015](#)], an ice saddle was  
209 located at c. 2750 m a.s.l. above Arsine Pass (2340 m a.s.l.). Hence, the ice thickness at this  
210 locality amounted to about 400 m [[Beaudevin, 2001](#)]. At that time the Romanche Glacier fed  
211 the Isère Glacier (Moirans Lobe) and the Guisane Glacier fed the Durance Glacier (Sisteron  
212 Lobe) [[Fig. 1](#)]. The prevailing ELA was located at c.  $1600 \pm 200$  m a.s.l. in the region [[van der](#)  
213 [Beek and Bourbon, 2008](#); [Coutterand, 2010](#); [Leger et al., 2025](#)]. During the EH, the Arsine Pass  
214 still acted as a diffluence dividing the glacier into two glacial tongues, flowing westward in the  
215 Rif de la Planche Valley (RP), where it fed the Romanche River (Isère catchment) and eastward  
216 in the Tabuc Valley (TA), where it fed the Guisane River (Durance catchment) [[Fig. 1](#)]. At  
217 present, Arsine Glacier's meltwater mainly feeds the Guisane River in the TA. Previous  
218 research has addressed the postglacial history of the Upper Romanche and Vénéon catchments,  
219 and the Guisane and Durance drainage basins [[Edouard, 1978; 1994; Delunel, 2010; Cossart et](#)  
220 [al., 2008; 2011; 2012](#)]. In the following, we refer to recalculated exposure ages according to the  
221 methodology described in [Section 3.6](#) (no snow nor erosion correction and the number of TCN  
222 ages retained and discarded is indicated).

223 Few Lateglacial moraines have been preserved in the EPM Massif. In the Vénéon trunk valley,  
224 the hypothetical 'Ougiers moraine' (870 m a.s.l.) [[Monjuvent, 1973; Bourgeat, 1990](#)] [[Fig. 1](#)]  
225 has not been dated but could correspond to the Gschnitz stadial at ~17 ka, which has been  
226 correlated with the Heinrich Event 1 [[Ivy-Ochs et al., 2006a](#)]. Likely contemporary ice-  
227 marginal positions, associated with a  $\delta$ ELA of c. 700 m, have been mapped at 1050 m a.s.l. in  
228 the Vallouise Valley ('GY.M<sub>S3</sub>') and 1440 m a.s.l. in the Clarée Valley ('CL.M<sub>S2</sub>') [[Cossart et](#)  
229 [al., 2011; 2012](#)] [[Fig. 1](#)]. In the Upper Romanche Valley, ages obtained from roches  
230 moutonnées on the Emparis Plateau (2300-2400 m a.s.l.), c. 15 km downstream Arsine Glacier

231 [Fig. 1], indicate that deglaciation of this area had occurred prior to **15.69 ± 0.47 ka** (n = 3; one  
232 outlier) [Delunel, 2010], i.e., during the recession from the Gschnitz stadial maximum position.  
233 During the Egesen stadial, which has been correlated with the Younger Dryas (YD, ~12.9-11.7  
234 ka) [Ivy-Ochs et al., 2009], the glaciers in the EPM fluctuated several times, with most of the  
235 ice-marginal positions situated at 1800-2200 m a.s.l. [Edouard, 1978; 1994; Francou, 1981;  
236 Couteaux, 1983a; 1983b; Colas, 2000; Cossart et al., 2008; 2012; Delunel, 2010; Hofmann et  
237 al., 2019]. At the two major Egesen glacier systems (Meije-Rateau and Vallouise Glaciers),  
238 fronts were locally lower, down to c. 1400-1500 m a.s.l. [Edouard, 1994; Cossart, 2005]. In the  
239 Vallouise Valley, the first position downstream of the LIA maximum is the ‘Ailefroide  
240 moraine’ at 1450 m a.s.l. (‘GY.M<sub>S4</sub>’) [Fig. 1]. This hummocky moraine complex, deposited by  
241 a paleo-glacier with a proposed ELA of c. 2300 m, probably dates from that period [Lagier and  
242 Masson, 1997; Cossart, 2005; Cossart et al., 2008]. So far, only one Egesen stadial maximum  
243 moraine was numerically dated near the EPM, the ‘Stage 3’ lateral moraine (‘CL.M<sub>S3</sub>’) in the  
244 Upper Clarée Valley [Cossart et al., 2012] [Fig. 1]. It is associated with a δELA of c. 440 m  
245 and has been exposure dated to **12.47 ± 0.33 ka** (n = 2; one outlier) [Cossart et al., 2012]. In the  
246 same valley, glacier recession to the upper cirques (> 2300 m a.s.l.) occurred no later than **12.00**  
247 **± 0.39 ka** (n = 2), i.e., at the end of the Egesen stadial, as shown by the age of a polished knob  
248 immediately outboard a ‘Stage 4’ moraine. The subsequent glacier re-advance occurred during  
249 the Preboreal and led to the formation of the ‘Stage 4’ moraines (‘CL.M<sub>S4</sub>’) dated to **10.82 ±**  
250 **0.70 ka** (n = 4; 2 outliers) [Cossart et al., 2008; 2012] [Fig. 1].

251 Immediately downstream from our study area, several of the moraine ridges deposited by the  
252 former Romanche Glacier at ‘Plan de l’Alpe’ were TCN-dated [Chenet et al., 2016; Schoeneich  
253 et al., 2019] [Fig. 1; Fig. 3]. According to our interpretation (based on comprehensive mapping,  
254 new unpublished ages, recalculation of existing data without snow correction and different  
255 outlier treatment) they indicate deposition around the Lateglacial-EH boundary [Schoeneich et  
256 al., 2019], i.e., ~1 ka younger than initially published [Chenet et al., 2016].

257 Finally, few studies have dated Holocene glacier variations in the EPM [see Fig. 1]. Among  
258 them, only one has explicitly addressed the Neoglacial period, proposing ages for five pre-LIA  
259 advances between **4.63 ± 0.33 ka** (n = 4) and **1.08 ± 0.03 ka** (n = 2) at four glacier systems  
260 similar in size to Arsine [Le Roy et al., 2017].

261

262 2.3. Previous work at Arsine Glacier

263 Lory [1908] first described the Arsine Glacier moraine record. He distinguished three moraine  
264 generations and linked the outermost to the Daun stadial [*sensu* Penck and Brückner, 1909],  
265 which would correspond to the Egesen stadial as defined today. Roland Bonaparte undertook  
266 the first glaciological surveys at the Arsine Glacier in 1890-1891 CE, revealing a stationary  
267 tongue [Bonaparte, 1891; 1892]. According to Martin [1933]'s first visit, the glacier was  
268 already retreating in 1893 CE (likely since the previous year), abandoning a small frontal  
269 moraine [state shown in Fig. 2b]. The same author describes clean ice conditions and only one  
270 central medial moraine (length: 150 m, width: 40 m, height: 25 m) during the second half of the  
271 19th century. The first glacier-wide quality photograph taken by Paul Helbronner on 30th July  
272 1905 CE shows several well-developed medial moraines and an almost continuous debris cover  
273 in the frontal area [Helbronner, 1935] [Fig. 2b]. This is the state described by Martin [1933]  
274 during his second visit in September 1907 CE, when he mentioned a 40 m-high double-crested  
275 medial moraine.

276 Following high melt rates [Huss et al., 2009], the proglacial Lake Arsine began to form in the  
277 second half of the 1940s. During the 1970s, its expansion raised concerns about the stability of  
278 the moraine dam [Fig. 2d]. Geophysical and geotechnical surveys were carried out to determine  
279 the till and ice thickness, and describe till properties. In frontal position, a till thickness of 70  
280 m was measured west of the lakes, just downstream of the 1892 CE moraine ridge [Vallon,  
281 1989; Antoine and Fabre, 2000] [Fig. 3; Fig. 8e]. The large right lateral moraine was considered  
282 stable [Antoine and Monnet, 1986], and the glacier bed was found to be soft, made of c. 10-20  
283 m-thick basal till [Vallon, 1992]. In 1969 CE, an ice thickness of at least 70 m was determined  
284 at the glacier front and of c. 115 m to 900 m upstream, at the upper profile [Echevin, 1970]  
285 [Fig. 3]. For comparison, mean and maximum ice thickness dropped to c.  $25 \pm 20$  m and 95 m  
286 in 2015 CE. In the spring of 1986 CE, the high risk of lake outburst flooding (lake volume c.  
287  $0.8 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup> in 1985) led to the digging of a drainage channel through the frontal moraine  
288 [CEMAGREF, 1986; Vallon, 1989; Lahousse and Guen, 1998]. The ablation stake network (n  
289 = 17) set up in 1985 CE [Vallon, 1992] was discontinued between 1995 and 1999.

290 From 1969 to 1989 CE, both ice fluxes of the glacier showed opposite behaviours. The western  
291 part thickened c. 15 m while the eastern part thinned c. 10 m. Between 1989 and 1990 CE, a  
292 sharp fall in the velocity (30-50%) initiated thinning on the western part and slight thickening  
293 on the eastern part from 1992, due to slowing of the calving rate [Vallon, 1992]. During the  
294 early 1980s advance, ice flow velocity peaked at c. 50 m a<sup>-1</sup> in areas where it was only 8-9 m a<sup>-1</sup>  
295 in 1970, 13 m a<sup>-1</sup> in 1985 and 3 m a<sup>-1</sup> in 2000 CE [Vallon and Vincent, 2000]. The mass

296 balance series reconstructed by deep learning methods since 1967 CE shows few balanced or  
297 positive years [Bolibar et al., 2020], except in 1977-1988 [Fig. 2e], when a positive anomaly  
298 was responsible for the deposition of the innermost moraine set [Fig. 2d; Fig. 3]. Arsine  
299 Glacier's response time has been approximated to 17 years by Zekollari et al. [2020], which is  
300 quite reactive given the debris cover, and agrees with its rich post-LIA moraine record [Fig. 3;  
301 Section 2.1].

302 **FIGURE 2. Overview of the Arsine Glacier cirque.** (a) Stitched panorama based on the two  
303 earliest known photographs of Arsine Glacier (western lobe), taken in 1892 CE by Joseph  
304 Lemerrier (© BNF Gallica, F. 36/38 bis, <http://ark.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb405892283>). The light  
305 blue arrows point to the three LIA frontal moraines, the outermost of which was sampled here  
306 (see the encircled location of the ARS-19-15 mega-boulder). The dark blue arrow points to the  
307 1892 CE glacier front and the small moraine formed that very year, (b) Historical photograph  
308 of Arsine Glacier taken by Paul Helbronner from the western Combeynot summit (3155 m  
309 a.s.l.) on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1905 CE (© Musée dauphinois - Département de l'Isère). Former tributaries  
310 of Arsine Glacier during the Holocene are indicated (Casset and Chamoissière Glaciers were  
311 not tributaries during the Holocene, but had been earlier) as well as main peaks of the Ecrins-  
312 Pelvoux Massif. The white arrows highlight three of the TCN-dated crests at both composite  
313 lateral moraines. At the RLM, these are the 'PMC RLM outer crest' and 'PMC RLM inner  
314 crests'. The innermost dated ridge at the RLM is a secondary ridge located between the two  
315 main ridges pointed here [see also Fig. 4b]. Note that, due to erosion, the innermost ridge here  
316 (not arrowed) and a part of the 'PMC RLM inner crests' have disappeared since 1905 CE. At  
317 the LLM, the arrow highlights the short 'PMC LLM outer crest' (here underlined by shadow),  
318 (c) Overview of the Arsine cirque seen from the north based on a 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 CE orthophoto  
319 draped on a DEM showing the main localities mentioned in the text, (d) Bathymetric map of  
320 the western lake surveyed in 1997 CE with the location of recent immersed moraine ridges. The  
321 most prominent emerged ridge is the 1986 CE moraine, while still-stands have led to small  
322 moraine deposition between 1970 and 1975 and around 1992 [Lahousse and Guen, 1998], (e)  
323 Deep-learning-reconstruction-based surface mass balance series of Arsine Glacier between  
324 1967 and 2015 CE [Bolibar et al., 2020]. RLM: right lateral moraine, LLM: left lateral moraine,  
325 PMC: proximal moraine complex, aRG: 'apparent rock glacier'.

326

### 327 3. Methods

328 The survey involved (i) a detailed geomorphological mapping, (ii) the establishment of a local  
329 morphostratigraphy, (iii) the selection of the best-preserved glacial positions for reconstruction  
330 of the glacier paleo-surfaces, (iv) the calculation of ELA and  $\delta$ ELA relative to the LIA reference  
331 ELA, and (v) TCN-dating of suitable boulders.

332

### 333 3.1. Geomorphological mapping

334 A complete geomorphological survey was conducted focusing on glacial, periglacial and  
335 gravitational features. This is a necessary prerequisite for any dating programme [Chandler et  
336 al., 2017; Winkler, 2018]. We used a combination of high-resolution aerial images, with up to  
337 20 cm/pixel (Institut Géographique National ortho-image, Google Earth, Bing, ESRI basemap),  
338 with different lighting orientations, to delineate the landforms [Fig. 3]. To gain insights into the  
339 extent and significance of block fields and RA deposits, we also manually digitized all boulders  
340 larger than 2 m<sup>2</sup> (n = 11,000) on the valley floors based on high resolution orthophotos [Fig. 3].  
341 Additionally, a 26 cm DEM was created from a set of 30 digital aerial images acquired on the  
342 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2013 CE (25-cm ground sample distance) through the use of the Structure-from-  
343 Motion technique [Smith et al., 2015] in Agisoft Metashape [version 1.6.2; Agisoft, 2019]. We  
344 used twenty-one ground control points collected from the RGE ALTI 5 m dataset of Institut  
345 Géographique National. We further added nine GPS points derived from differential GPS  
346 measurements on stable areas [C. Vincent, pers. comm.], mainly located on the Neoglacial  
347 moraines of Arsine Glacier, to improve the Structure-from-Motion DEM accuracy. Then, we  
348 used a high-density point cloud methodology into Agisoft Metashape to generate the DEM,  
349 following the protocol of Cusicanqui et al. [2021]. Finally, the DEM was checked against  
350 sixteen other ground control points (also derived from differential GPS measurements). A mean  
351 RMSE of  $\pm 0.9$  m was obtained from this comparison, highlighting its high vertical accuracy.

352

### 353 3.2. Morphostratigraphy

354 A local morphostratigraphy was built [e.g., Schoeneich, 1998] allowing (i) to define and label  
355 the successive glacier frontal positions and (ii) to assess the temporal relationship of RA  
356 deposits relative to the glacier positions. Given the bilobate paleo-geometry of Arsine Glacier  
357 during the Early Holocene, moraines representing contemporary ice-marginal positions can be  
358 found in both the western Rif de la Planche (RP) and eastern Tabuc (TA) Valleys [Fig. 3]. The  
359 set of glacial landforms is better preserved and resolved in the RP Valley than in the TA Valley  
360 [Section 4.2]. All individual frontal positions were labelled from the youngest to the oldest  
361 (RP1 to RP7 and TA1 to TA7) [Fig. 3], not including the Proximal Moraine Complex (PMC)

362 [Fig. 2]. The inverse chronological order opens the series downwards for older stadials lying  
363 outside of the study area. To determine Lateglacial-EH ice-marginal positions of the paleo-  
364 glacier, we associated frontal positions in both valleys based on (i) relative stratigraphy, (ii)  
365 glacier front elevation, and we confirmed it by (iii) numerical dating, if applicable.

366 As a sound terminology is necessary to ensure consistency, the classical approach [e.g., Gross  
367 et al., 1977; Maisch, 1981] classifies moraines into:

- 368 - ‘Positions’ (‘Stand’ in German, ‘positions’ in French): position of the glacial front  
369 defined by an individual frontal or near-frontal moraine.
- 370 - ‘Stadials’ (‘Stadium’ in German, ‘stades’ in French): higher hierarchical unit, often  
371 formed by several close lying positions, and interpreted as a readvance.

372 The so defined morphostratigraphical stadal does not necessarily have a climatic significance,  
373 as not every moraine is linked to climatic oscillations [e.g., Barr and Lovell, 2014; Rowan et  
374 al., 2022]. The grouping of close lying positions into a same stadal is an assumption that such  
375 positions belong to a same phase of glacier advance/retreat. This introduces a bias that can be  
376 overcome by grouping in a stadal only the frontal positions that can be linked to a same pair of  
377 lateral moraines. This works in one sense (distinct lateral moraines indicate different stadials),  
378 but not in the other (the same lateral moraines can be reused by a subsequent glacier advance,  
379 as it is the rule during the Neoglacial). In other words, it can be used in case of a continuous  
380 retreating trend, like during the Lateglacial and Early Holocene. The classical Eastern Alpine  
381 Lateglacial stratigraphy and its succession of stadials (Egesen and substadials, Kartell, Kromer)  
382 [Maisch, 1987], as well as the Neoglacial stadials [Le Roy et al., 2024] are used for comparison  
383 purpose in the Discussion section.

384

### 385 3.3. Glacier reconstruction

386 The paleo-glacier outlines for the three main stadials were drawn based on our  
387 geomorphological mapping. Then, paleo-glacier surfaces were obtained by manually tracing 20  
388 m-spaced contour lines following a well-established procedure [Sissons, 1974; Lukas and  
389 Bradwell, 2010]. Contours were drawn perpendicular to previously established flowlines, with  
390 convex and concave shape in the suspected ablation and accumulation zones, respectively.  
391 Contour establishment is based on robust lateral constraints in the ablation zone (moraines,  
392 trimlines) but is more challenging in the accumulation zone. In addition, significant changes  
393 that occurred in the lower part of the accumulation zone since the LIA must be taken into  
394 account, otherwise leading to substantial errors [Reinthalder and Paul, 2024]. We used the

395 ‘Service Géographique des Armées’ map surveyed in 1928 CE to estimate thickness changes  
396 above c. 2800 m a.s.l. For the reconstruction of the two oldest paleo-glaciers, the accumulation  
397 zone elevation was kept similar as during the LIA above this altitude. The DEMs (10 m cell  
398 size) of the paleo-glaciers surface were obtained with the ‘Topo to Raster’ tool in the ArcGIS  
399 software [Hutchinson, 1989]. The paleo-glacier bed was reconstructed using the same method.  
400 The main slope deposits were manually removing from the RP and TA Valley floors, and the  
401 available geophysical data were used for the PMC area [Echevin, 1970; Antoine and Fabre,  
402 2000] [Fig. 3; Fig. 9].

403

#### 404 3.4. Investigation of mass movements

405 Volume estimate is a prerequisite for characterizing the magnitude of catastrophic events. We  
406 have combined different methods to assess uncertainties relating to the thickness of the RA  
407 deposits. Firstly, we used cross profiles drawn at evenly-spaced locations to compare surface  
408 elevation (based on the high-resolution DEM, Section 3.1) with nearby debris-free terrain.  
409 Regarding the landform hereafter called ‘apparent rock glacier’ (aRG) [Fig. 2; Fig. 3], the  
410 height of the clearly-defined lateral and frontal talus was first measured to obtain a rough  
411 volume estimate [e.g., Barsch and Jakob, 1998] [Fig. 7d]. Secondly, we differentiated the paleo-  
412 topography (obtained by removing slope deposits) from the modern surface for the mapped RA  
413 deposits. Thirdly, we used the ‘Topo to Raster’ tool to automatically reconstruct the paleo-  
414 topography only below the aRG. To derive bedrock volume estimations, a conservative value  
415 of 30% was applied for porosity, both for the RA deposits and for the aRG. This value appears  
416 generally suitable for RA [Nicoletti and Sorriso-Valvo, 1991; Stock and Uhrhammer, 2010],  
417 relict rock glaciers [Wahrhaftig and Cox, 1959; Munroe et al., 2024] and coarse-grained till  
418 deposits [Parriaux and Nicoud, 1990; Ronnert and Mickelson, 1992; Burki et al., 2010].

419 The computation of the apparent friction coefficient (so-called *fahrböschung*) by dividing the  
420 fall height (H) by the runout length (L) informs on the RA mobility and can give insights into  
421 possible substrate along the travel path. Indeed, RAs that partly travel onto the ice tend to have  
422 lower H/L ratio for a given volume [Schneider et al., 2011; Deline et al., 2021].

423

#### 424 3.5. ELA modelling

425 Paleo-ELAs represent a valuable climate proxy relying on former glacier extents, as well-  
426 formed frontal moraines indicate a near equilibrium state. We computed paleo-ELAs for the  
427 three most relevant positions of Arsine Glacier and used the 1850 CE stadial as datum for  $\delta$ ELA

428 calculation. The ELAs were calculated with an ArcGIS toolbox [Pellitero et al., 2015] based on  
429 the DEMs of the reconstructed paleo-glaciers. The contour line interval was set to 10 m,  
430 resulting in an error of 5 m in the ELA and an uncertainty twice as large in the  $\delta$ ELA [Pellitero  
431 et al., 2015]. Results based on two approaches are reported hereafter, the Accumulation-Area-  
432 Ratio (AAR) and the Area-Altitude-Balance-Ratio (AABR) methods [Rea, 2009].  
433 Traditionally, an AAR of 0.67 has been widely used in the Alps for clean ice valley glaciers  
434 [Gross et al., 1977], while a global median value of 0.58 has been recently proposed [Oien et  
435 al., 2022]. As Arsine Glacier did not have a proper accumulation area during the Late Holocene,  
436 it can be defined as a cirque glacier. ELAs of small cirque glaciers are known to be difficult to  
437 estimate owing to the headwall topographic control on snow accumulation. For instance, Kern  
438 and László [2010] found size-dependent values of steady-state AAR of 0.54 and 0.64, for  
439 glacier area below and above 4 km<sup>2</sup>, respectively. Using their data from the Alps, this would  
440 yield AAR values of 0.69 and 0.66 for the two oldest dated Arsine paleo-extents, with areas of  
441 8.7 and 6.7 km<sup>2</sup>. For the end of the LIA (1850 CE), when Arsine Glacier was 3.4 km<sup>2</sup> (4.3 km<sup>2</sup>  
442 with former tributaries), the AAR would have been 0.58. Based on this rationale, we considered  
443 the 0.67 and 0.54 ratios as suitable for the EH and Late Holocene at our study site. Regarding  
444 AABR, given the sensitivity of the balance ratio to regional climate, the regional value of 1.29  
445 for the Alps is to be preferred to the global median value of 1.56 [Oien et al., 2022]. However,  
446 this regional value was calculated on a set of glaciers all located in the dry eastern Alps [Oien  
447 et al., 2022]. It is therefore likely that these two values represent the bounds of the true range.  
448 As a result, we computed ELAs with AARs of 0.54/0.67 and AABRs of 1.3/1.6.

449 In addition, independent evidence for the minimum elevation reached by the ELA for a given  
450 position can be approximated using the Maximum Elevation of Lateral Moraine (MELM)  
451 method [Lichtenecker, 1938; Kerschner, 1990]. It assumes that lateral moraines cannot be  
452 deposited above the ELA. Hence, a minimum constraint is given by their maximum elevation.  
453 This proves useful to tune the results of previous methods with ground-truth evidence in the  
454 case of topographically-constrained and avalanche-fed glaciers, as in this case. We then  
455 assessed the reliability of the AAR and AABR results by comparing them with MELM  
456 estimates, which were ultimately preferred in case of conflict with former values (i.e., higher  
457 ELA value based on MELM). The MELM method yields generally good agreement with other  
458 methods in the Alps, provided that certain conditions are met [e.g., Bichler and Reindl, 2013;  
459 Gschwentner et al., 2020].

460

## 461 3.6. TCN exposure dating

### 462 3.6.1. Sampling

463 Sampling was carried out during five field campaigns between 2012 and 2019 CE. We selected  
464 the most prominent boulders on each targeted moraine/landform identified during  
465 geomorphological mapping. Hammer and chisel, sometimes in combination with an angle  
466 grinder and a diamond blade, were used to collect c. 1-4 cm thick samples from boulder surfaces  
467 [Supp. Tab. 1]. The sampled lithologies were gneiss and granite. Whenever possible, quartz  
468 veins were sampled. Although the selected boulders were mostly sited in wind-swept locations,  
469 a few were located in wind-sheltered places, when there was no alternative. Sample locations  
470 were accurately pointed on a HR ortho-image (20-cm ground sample distance), assuming a  
471 horizontal uncertainty of 0.5 m. Their elevation was recorded either with a TRIMBLE Geo7x  
472 GPS device or extracted from the structure-from-motion-based DEM, assuming a vertical  
473 uncertainty of c. 1 m. Topographic shielding was recorded in the field with a compass and  
474 clinometer. Pairs of azimuth and elevation angles were then converted into the dimensionless  
475 shielding factor with the aid of the calculator available at <http://stoneage.ice->  
476 [d.org/math/skyline/skyline\\_in.html](http://stoneage.ice-d.org/math/skyline/skyline_in.html) taking self-shielding (dip of the surface) into account  
477 [Supp. Tab. 1].

478

### 479 3.6.2. Sample processing

480 Sample processing for  $^{10}\text{Be}$  dating was conducted at the Cosmogenic Nuclide laboratory of  
481 ISTERre (Grenoble, France; the six samples labelled ARS-12-06 and -08 and RP-16-05 to -08)  
482 and at the National Laboratory for Cosmogenic Nuclides (LN2C) of CEREGE (Aix-en-  
483 Provence, France; all other samples). After isolation and purification of the quartz, a  $^9\text{Be}$  carrier  
484 ( $3025 \pm 9 \mu\text{g } ^9\text{Be g}^{-1}$ ) produced in-house from a phenakite mineral was added, the quartz was  
485 dissolved in HF, and Be was isolated following standard ion exchange procedures based on  
486 [Merchel and Hergers \[1999\]](#) [Tab. 1]. Beryllium-10/beryllium-9 ratios of the BeO targets  
487 produced from each sample and 10 chemistry blanks were measured at the ASTER AMS  
488 facility of CEREGE [[Arnold et al., 2010](#)], using the in-house standard STD-11 with a  $^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$   
489 ratio of  $(1.191 \pm 0.013) \times 10^{-11}$  [[Braucher et al., 2015](#)] and the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  half-life of  $(1.387 \pm 0.012)$   
490  $\times 10^6$  years [[Chmeleff et al., 2010](#); [Korschinek et al., 2010](#)] [Tab. 1]. Chemistry blank  
491 corrections were performed by subtracting the number of atoms in the blanks ( $n = 10$ ) from  
492 those in the samples [Tab. 1]. The analytical uncertainties in the resulting  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentrations  
493 include (i) measurement uncertainties (AMS counting statistics), (ii) the error of average

494 standard measures, (iii) the systematic error of ASTER [0.5%; [Arnold et al., 2010](#)], (iv) the  $^9\text{Be}$   
495 carrier weight uncertainties, and (v) the error of the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration in the blank.

496

### 497 3.6.3. Age calculation and interpretation

498 The choice of the scaling model, the production rate and the geomagnetic database is decisive  
499 for the discussed results. Surface exposure ages were computed with the CREp online calculator  
500 [[Martin et al., 2017](#); <https://crep.otelo.univ-lorraine.fr/#/>, last accessed February 2025] using  
501 the Lal-Stone ‘Lm’ time corrected scaling model [[Balco et al., 2008](#)], the ERA40 atmospheric  
502 reanalyses [[Uppala et al., 2005](#)] and the Lifton VDM 2016 geomagnetic database [[Pavon-  
503 Carrasco et al., 2014](#); [Lifton, 2016](#)], i.e., the ‘Lm-ERA-Lift’ combination [[Tab. 2](#)]. We chose  
504 to apply the local ‘Alps’  $^{10}\text{Be}$  production rate of [Claude et al. \[2014\]](#) with a value of  $4.07 \pm 0.10$   
505 at  $\text{g}^{-1} \text{a}^{-1}$ , as resulting from the ICE-D database linked to CREp, which is close to the global  
506 average  $^{10}\text{Be}$  production rate ( $4.09 \pm 0.19$  at  $\text{g}^{-1} \text{a}^{-1}$ ). No erosion nor snow corrections have been  
507 applied. Although the majority of sampled boulders (70%) were taller than the mean snow depth  
508 in the area (1 m thick at the average altitude of the samples), our exposure ages must be seen as  
509 minimum ages. This is especially true for wide/flat boulders and those sampled below 80 cm  
510 (10 out of the 53 boulders) in wind-shielded areas (e.g., ‘PMC RLM distal face-Mid.’) [[Supp.  
511 Tab. 1](#)].

512 To allow comparison with previous work in the Alps [e.g., [Braumann et al., 2022](#)], we also  
513 computed a second set of ages with the version 3 of the former CRONUS-Earth online  
514 calculator [[Balco et al., 2008](#); [https://hess.ess.washington.edu/math/v3/v3\\_age\\_in.html](https://hess.ess.washington.edu/math/v3/v3_age_in.html), last  
515 accessed February 2025] using the same parameters as above regarding the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  production rate  
516 (calculated as  $3.99 \pm 0.37$  at  $\text{g}^{-1} \text{a}^{-1}$  using the calibration data from the ICE-D database), the  
517 scaling scheme, the atmosphere model, and the geomagnetic field model also based on [Lifton  
518 \[2016\]](#). Finally, a third set of ages was computed with CREp with the current generally accepted  
519 scaling method, the physically-based ‘LSDn’ model [[Lifton et al., 2014](#)], using the same  
520 parameters as above and the ‘Alps’ production rate (calculated as  $4.16 \pm 0.10$  at  $\text{g}^{-1} \text{a}^{-1}$ ), i.e., the  
521 ‘LSD-ERA-Lift’ combination [[Tab. 2](#)].

522 To address the geological scatter caused by post-depositional moraine degradation or  
523 inheritance [[Balco, 2020](#)], outliers have been detected according to the reduced chi-squared  
524 statistics. To ensure the data represent a single population, a reduced chi-squared value should  
525 fall within a  $2\sigma$  envelope (95% confidence) determined by the chi-squared criterion [[Spencer  
526 et al., 2017](#)]. When reduced chi-squared was above this criterion, the sample furthest from the

527 mean was pruned. After outliers' removal, the landform mean ages were computed using the  
528 error-weighted mean of the included ages and their weighted average internal and external  
529 uncertainties, after Rodés [2020a] [Tab. 2]. The individual and mean  $^{10}\text{Be}$  ages reported in the  
530 Results section do not include the production rate uncertainty. The ages reported in the  
531 Discussion section include the external uncertainties (production rate uncertainty added in  
532 quadrature) to allow comparison with other dating methods. All exposure ages from the  
533 literature reported here were recalculated with the same parameters as those used in the present  
534 study, so the conclusions we draw may differ from those expressed by the authors in the original  
535 articles. We hereafter report chronological information as 'ka', i.e., kiloyears before the year of  
536 sampling, or as calendar years (including a year 0) for tree-ring and ice core data. Radiocarbon  
537 ages are recalibrated according to Reimer et al. [2020] and reported as 'cal ka' (only the median  
538 probability is reported for sake of clarity).

539

#### 540 3.6.4. Bayesian filtering

541 We employed a Bayesian age model to refine our chronology of the oldest dated deposition  
542 events as individual ages from these landforms overlap, and the mean age of the RA deposit  
543 slightly conflicts with the morphostratigraphic sequence. Based on the relative order of events,  
544 the Bayesian age model filters ages that are inconsistent with the landform stratigraphy and thus  
545 estimates the most likely, stratigraphically-consistent probability age distributions. Bayesian  
546 models have been widely applied to establish chronologies of lake and marine sediment cores  
547 [e.g., Bronk Ramsey, 2008] and are increasingly used to refine TCN chronologies exhibiting  
548 closely-spaced landform ages [Chiverrell et al., 2013; Hofmann et al., 2019; Martin et al.,  
549 2020b; Charton et al., 2022]. The code used for our Bayesian age model is the Cosmo-Ages  
550 Sequence Calculator [Rodés, 2020b; Leger et al., 2021]. It produces a probability distribution  
551 (also termed a posterior density estimate) for each landform, by employing a Markov Chain  
552 Monte Carlo sampling approach. Prior to our Bayesian analysis, only the most obvious outliers  
553 irreconcilable with stratigraphy (ARS-13-02, ARS-16-03 and ARS-16-14) were removed from  
554 the dataset, while tight outliers identified from the reduced chi-squared test were kept, which  
555 doesn't affect the modelled ages [Fig. 3; Fig. 5].

556

557 **FIGURE 3. Glacio-geomorphological map of the Arsine Glacier catchment with TCN**  
558 **dating results.** The mapping of the glacier extent and features reflects the state of 2015 CE.  
559 TCN samples are shown as yellow dots. For each exposure-dated surface, the error-weighted

560 mean age is reported after exclusion of outliers (based on the reduced chi-squared test) and is  
561 accompanied by its weighted average internal uncertainties. For the oldest landforms, the  
562 Bayesian-filtered mean age (followed by an asterisk, see [Section 3.6.4](#)), which is used in the  
563 Discussion section, is shown above the error-weighted mean age (italic grey font), which may  
564 include stratigraphic outliers (i.e., single ages that conflict with the mean ages of the framing  
565 surfaces). The Arsine Glacier Early Holocene ice-marginal positions are indicated in black font.  
566 The locations of geophysical surveys carried out by Echevin [1970] and [Antoine and Fabre](#)  
567 [2000] are shown as white and light brown dots, respectively. LG: Lateglacial, EH: Early  
568 Holocene. Lambert 93 Grid in meters (tick marks spacing is 1 km).

569

## 570 4. Results and interpretation

### 571 **TABLE 1. Results of the $^{10}\text{Be}$ measurements at Arsine Glacier.**

572

#### 573 4.1. Impact of scaling schemes on exposure ages

574 As an introductory remark, we consider that both first sets of ages presented in [Tab. 2](#) are  
575 equally robust and that it is not possible to objectively choose one over the other. The second  
576 set of ages (CRONUS ‘Lm’) is on average close to the ages retained here (CREp ‘Lm’), but  
577 with opposite sign between the Early Holocene (2.2% older) and the Late Holocene (3.6%  
578 younger) [[Tab. 2](#)]. Based on comparison with near calendar-dated independent evidence  
579 available in the Alps (high resolution speleothem records and tree-ring dated moraines) [[Le Roy](#)  
580 [et al., 2024](#)], it appears that the first set would provide slightly ‘too old’ ages for the Late  
581 Holocene and that the second set would provide slightly ‘too old’ ages for the Early Holocene  
582 [[Fig. 10](#); [Fig. 12](#)]. We therefore interpret the ages retained here for the Discussion section as  
583 minimum-limiting for the Early Holocene and maximum-limiting for the Late Holocene.

584 The third set of ages (CREp ‘LSDn’) is on average 8% younger than the ages retained here  
585 [[Tab. 2](#)]. Although this combination was used in a previous study dealing with Late Holocene  
586 landforms in the EPM [[Le Roy et al., 2017](#)], it has not been retained here as it gives ‘too young’  
587 ages for the Early Holocene [[Tab. 2](#)]. Choosing this model would violate state-of-the-art  
588 knowledge on glacier chronology in the Alps [[Le Roy et al., 2024](#)], as none of the outer  
589 moraines here would be assigned a deposition age older than 11 ka [[Tab. 2](#)]. This discrepancy  
590 is in line with studies showing that ‘LSDn’ ages are inconsistent with independent radiocarbon  
591 age control over the Lateglacial period [e.g., [Strand et al., 2024](#)]. The widely-used and simpler

592 'Lm' framework performs similarly for Holocene timescales, and can be used for locations and  
593 ages close to the calibration dataset [Putnam et al., 2010; Borchers et al., 2016].

594

595 **TABLE 2. <sup>10</sup>Be TCN boulder exposure age results and mean surface ages computed at**  
596 **Arsine Glacier, according to three different scaling schemes.** Individual and mean ages are  
597 reported with the internal (analytical) uncertainties and the external uncertainties (including  
598 production rate uncertainties) between brackets. No snow- nor erosion- correction have been  
599 applied (see main text). Pruned outliers are in italic (see Section 3.6.3). The weighted mean  
600 ages shown here (together with weighted mean internal and external uncertainties) are not  
601 necessarily the landform ages used in the Discussion section (see Section 3.6.4). For calculation  
602 we assumed a rock density of 2.65 g cm<sup>-3</sup>. Exposure ages are expressed in ka before the  
603 sampling year (indicated in sample label).

604

## 605 4.2. Geomorphological description and <sup>10</sup>Be chronology

### 606 4.2.1. Rif de la Planche (RP) Valley

607 The wide and even RP Valley allowed the preservation of a succession of lateral and frontal  
608 moraine remnants [Fig. 3]. We identified one ice-marginal position marking a former  
609 confluence of Arsine and Romanche Glaciers (RP7) and six main positions between the  
610 confluence with Romanche Glacier and the PMC (RP6 to RP1) [Fig. 3]. During part of the YD  
611 chronozone (12.9 - 11.7 ka), the Arsine Glacier was likely confluent with the Romanche Glacier  
612 to the west (RP branch) and confluent with the Casset Glacier to the east (TA branch). The  
613 geometry of the right lateral ridge deposited by the Romanche Glacier at the confluence with  
614 the RP Valley (noted 'RO Outer' on Fig. 3] shows that both glaciers were no longer confluent  
615 when it was deposited, i.e., shortly before **11.76 ± 0.20 ka** (n = 4) [Schoeneich et al., 2019]. In  
616 the RP Valley, the outermost positions (RP6a-c) are documented by three subdued moraines  
617 lacking sharp crests. The next ones (RP5a-b) are represented by the most extensive moraine set  
618 in the RP [Fig. 4a]. They featured two closely-spaced (60 m) well-defined frontal moraine  
619 ridges, mostly matrix-supported, with RP5a being located at 2160 m a.s.l. [Fig. 3; Fig. 4a].  
620 Several other nested minor moraines (not labelled) are associated with these two main ridges,  
621 both outboard and inboard, indicating that the RP5 positions were occupied over a long period  
622 of time [Fig. 4a]. Four consistent ages ranging from 11.02 ± 0.33 ka to 11.85 ± 0.43 ka were  
623 obtained from the RP5a position (RP-16-05 to -08), yielding a mean age of **11.50 ± 0.37 ka**.  
624 Although the youngest age (RP-16-06) is not considered an outlier according to the reduced

625 chi-squared test, it is in conflict with the mean age of the next dated surface inboard (RP2). The  
626 Bayesian analysis gives an age of  $11.88 \pm 0.43$  ka ( $n = 4$ ) for the RP5a moraine, serving as  
627 upper bound for younger stratigraphic units (unit 1; ‘Outer complex’) [Fig. 3; Fig. 5]. The  
628 continuity of the left lateral moraine corresponding to this frontal position reveals that the north-  
629 facing Chamoissière cirque – deglaciated today but confluent with Arsine Glacier sometime  
630 before  $\sim 11.9$  ka – was disconnected from the trunk valley during RP5a moraine deposition [Fig.  
631 3; Fig. 4a]. Another well-marked frontal ridge segment (RP4) is present 350 m upstream of  
632 RP5a [Fig. 3; Fig. 4a]. The next younger position, RP3 (at 2195 m a.s.l.), is materialized by a  
633 ridge partially buried by slope deposits left of the stream, associated with a short but well-  
634 defined ridge on the right-hand side. The left ridge bounds the downstream tip of an extensive  
635 blockfield, interpreted as a RA deposit paving the RP Valley floor [Fig. 6a]. The last prominent  
636 position in RP, and the second to be dated, is the sharp-crested latero-frontal ridge named RP2,  
637 that dams the ‘Lac de l’Etoile’. It is located 880 m upstream from RP5 with a frontal position  
638 at 2220 m a.s.l. The four boulders sampled on the RP2 moraine gave ages between  $9.97 \pm 0.30$   
639 ka and  $11.08 \pm 0.38$  ka (RP-16-01 to -04), yielding a mean age of  $10.88 \pm 0.25$  ka, after  
640 discarding the youngest age according to the reduced chi-squared test. Eroded latero-frontal  
641 moraine remnants located 750 m upstream of RP2 and 500 m downstream of the PMC were  
642 labelled RP1 [Fig. 6b]. This moraine set is associated with a kame terrace located at the  
643 confluence of the RP Valley and the hanging Dragon Valley. A little further upstream, a lateral  
644 moraine remnant of Arsine Glacier, located at c. 2420 m a.s.l. on top of a cliff at the mouth of  
645 Dragon Valley and partly covered by the Proximal Moraine Complex [Fig. 3], may also be  
646 plausibly linked to the RP1 ice-marginal position.

647

648 **FIGURE 4. Examples of sampled boulders at two locations of the Arsine Glacier forefield.**

649 **(a)** The outermost Lateglacial to Early Holocene moraines in the RP Valley. Left panel: View  
650 southward over the outer frontal ridge of the RP5 moraine doublet (RP5a), which was dated  
651 here. The RP5 left lateral moraine is highlighted, showing its continuity below the Chamoissière  
652 cirque. This indicates that the cirque ice body was no longer confluent with the valley tongue  
653 when RP5 moraines were deposited. Right panel: Two examples of the four boulders sampled  
654 on the RP5a frontal moraine ridge with TCN dating results, **(b)** Early Holocene to Little Ice  
655 Age moraines dated at the RLM. Upper panel: Overview of the RLM looking north-west with  
656 all sample locations. The vantage point of each close-up photograph is indicated. Lower panel:  
657 Close up photographs of the Late Holocene dated boulders. Note the cross painted for earlier

658 photogrammetric investigations on the flat boulder of sample ARS-16-20, which is sitting right  
659 on the outer RLM crest.

660

#### 661 4.2.2. Tabuc (TA) Valley

662 The narrow Tabuc Valley is less suitable for conservation of glacial landforms than the RP  
663 Valley, given intense morphogenic slope activity. The highest visible lateral moraines are  
664 located at 2380 m a.s.l. on both sides of the TA Valley (position TA7) [Fig. 3]. They can be  
665 geometrically linked to a right lateral moraine underlined by scree and trees perched in the north  
666 facing slope at the outlet of the valley (between c. 2050 and 2030 m a.s.l.). It reflects a position  
667 when Arsine Glacier was confluent with the Casset Glacier to the east, likely at the end of the  
668 Lateglacial period [Fig. 3]. No position corresponding to RP6 has been identified in TA Valley.  
669 About 400 m upstream, a remnant of a frontal moraine (TA5) is visible, mostly on the right  
670 bank of the stream, where it is underlined by trees, but also on the left bank where it is covered  
671 by scree [Fig. 3]. This landform documents an ice-marginal position at 2098 m a.s.l. The third  
672 moraine set mapped in the Tabuc valley (TA4) is the least evident. Faint traces in a colluvial  
673 fan on the left bank can be linked to a flat spot on the right bank at 2160 m a.s.l., probably  
674 covered by a RA deposit. The next ice-marginal position, TA3, consists of a doublet of little  
675 marked latero-frontal moraine remnants covered by slope deposits which are present on both  
676 sides of the valley, making the reconstruction reliable. Corresponding lateral moraines are  
677 present on the left bank at around 2342 and 2335 m a.s.l. The best-preserved complex, and the  
678 only dated moraine in the valley, TA2, comprises a right lateral moraine and a small remnant  
679 on the left side, both suggesting a frontal position around 2215 m a.s.l. [Fig. 3]. After removing  
680 an obvious outlier (ARS-13-02, apparent age of  $5.27 \pm 0.42$  ka), the remaining three consistent  
681 ages range from  $10.71 \pm 0.39$  ka to  $11.34 \pm 0.36$  ka (ARS-13-01, -03 and -04), yielding a mean  
682 age of  **$11.08 \pm 0.25$  ka** for the TA2 moraine complex. Finally, the TA1 positions (TA1a-c) are  
683 represented by the aRG moraine ridges (see Section 4.2.4).

684 Owing to the similar (i) stratigraphic position, (ii) altitudes of their fronts (c. 2220 m) and (iii)  
685 ranges of boulder ages, we combined the seven ages from the TA2 and RP2 moraines as the  
686 stratigraphic unit 2 ('Inner complex'). We also included to this unit the ages obtained in lateral  
687 position at the 'PMC RLM distal face-Mid.' that average  **$10.72 \pm 0.20$  ka** (see Section 4.2.5 for  
688 rationale). After applying the Bayesian age model, the age of this second unit is  **$11.10 \pm 0.37$**   
689 **ka** (n = 10) [Fig. 3; Fig. 5].

690

691 **FIGURE 5. Bayesian age modelling of Arsine Glacier Early Holocene landforms.**  
692 Probability distributions of the TCN-dated Early Holocene landform deposition ages before  
693 (blue) and after (red) Bayesian filtering. The tight outliers identified from reduced chi-squared  
694 statistics were kept for modelling. This explains why the potential boulder exhumation or  
695 instability component is visible in the probability distributions of the Outer and Inner  
696 complexes. Note the probably inherited component visible both in the probability distributions  
697 of the RA2 deposit and the outer ridge of the ‘apparent rock glacier’ (TA1a moraine). One  
698 sigma standard deviation of the distribution is indicated by the length of corresponding bars.  
699

#### 700 4.2.3. Rock avalanche (RA) deposits

701 Clusters of large boulders are a diagnostic criterion for identifying RA deposits. Based on  
702 detailed boulder mapping, we delineated several RA deposits in the RP Valley, at Arsine Pass  
703 and, in the TA Valley, all framed or in contact with glacial deposits [Fig. 3]. At the western  
704 glacier branch (RP Valley), the most distal deposit lies in the footprint of the RP3 moraine  
705 complex. The lobate front is constrained by both moraines RP3 and RP2 indicating these  
706 landforms acted as barriers to the RA flow [Fig. 6a]. In the frontal area of this here called RA1  
707 deposit, longitudinal flowbands, which are indicators of flow direction [Dufresne and Davies,  
708 2009; Shugar and Clague, 2011], are not running parallel to the valley axis but are oriented  
709 WNW [Fig. 6a]. They are up to 2-m high with respect to the deposit’s surface [Fig. 6a]. Well-  
710 defined trains of debris are also present in the distal sector. These features are usually emplaced  
711 in the lee of huge boulders [Delaney and Evans, 2014]. The most distal of these debris trains  
712 was diverted by the RP2 ridge (as shown by a short debris-free gap corresponding to the RP2  
713 moraine distal face) and becomes subparallel to flowbands in the terminal area [Fig. 6a]. The  
714 delineation of the RA1 deposits mantling the RP valley floor between the RP1 and RP3  
715 moraines, including the areas covered by slope deposits, gives a surface area of c. 0.20 km<sup>2</sup>  
716 [Fig. 3]. Combining the two methods described in Section 3.4 [see Fig. 6a, inset, for the cross  
717 profile method], we obtain a volume of c.  $1.2 \pm 0.6 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  [Tab. 3]. Taking porosity into  
718 account, this translates into a minimum bedrock volume of c.  $0.8 \pm 0.4 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  for the RA1.  
719 For this event, we tentatively propose a source area at c. 2820 m a.s.l. on the north buttress of  
720 ‘point 2996’ m a.s.l. located on the crest delimiting the Dragon Valley to the south [Fig. 3].  
721 This implies a marked excessive runout for this event (H/L: 0.27) [Tab. 3] in relation to its  
722 estimated volume [Deline et al., 2021].  
723

724 **TABLE 3. Characteristics of the Early Holocene rock avalanches (RAs) at Arsine Glacier.**

725

726 At the eastern glacier branch, two main RA deposits, grouped here as RA2, frame the aRG  
727 landform [Fig. 3]. They were emplaced outside of the existing glacier at that time and show  
728 chaotic topography without fluctuation lobes. One is located in lateral position and  
729 encompasses the Arsine Pass area (2340 m a.s.l.) with an area of 0.1 km<sup>2</sup> [Fig. 6b]. The other  
730 one is located at the head of the Tabuc Valley (2250 m a.s.l.) and occupies a similar area [Fig.  
731 3]. It is highly dissected by streams and partly buried by alluvial deposits. Our estimate based  
732 on reconstructed valley floor is c.  $0.6 \pm 0.1 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  [Tab. 3]. Contrary to the Tabuc Valley  
733 deposit, the Arsine Pass deposit features a more pristine aspect and sharp delimitation,  
734 especially at its northern limit on the counter slope [Fig. 6b]. The Arsine Pass deposit can be  
735 divided into two distinct units, a western and an eastern one. Both units feature clearly  
736 identifiable longitudinal ridges with average strikes of N8°W, diverging towards the edge of  
737 their respective extent [Fig. 6b]. The western unit is shallower and its estimated volume is c.  
738  $0.2 \pm 0.1 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  [Tab. 3]. Longitudinal ridges are more clearly defined on this unit. It also  
739 features a distinct spatula-shaped lobe with prominent outer levees and an inner depression in  
740 the front area [Fig. 6b]. The eastern unit is much thicker and has a more rounded and even  
741 topography. It displays mega-boulders up to 15 m in length and its estimated volume is c.  $0.4$   
742  $\pm 0.2 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  [Tab. 3]. These morphological differences between both units likely arise from  
743 melting of different ice content. Clearer signs of a pristine deposit are present at the western  
744 unit, suggesting a limited initial ice content, whereas it may have been greater in the eastern  
745 unit. Possible slight overriding of the western unit by eastern one indicates a slightly younger  
746 age for the latter [Fig. 6b]. Four mega-boulders were sampled in the eastern unit (ARS-16-11  
747 to -14). After removal of an old outlier (ARS-16-14 at  $14.56 \pm 0.95 \text{ ka}$ ) based on the reduced  
748 chi-squared test, the three remaining statistically consistent ages ( $10.69 \pm 0.60 \text{ ka}$ ,  $11.81 \pm 0.49$   
749  $\text{ka}$  and  $11.89 \pm 0.69 \text{ ka}$ ) yield a mean age of  $11.48 \pm 0.53 \text{ ka}$ . As the RA2 deposition necessarily  
750 occurred after the retreat of the glacier from the 'Inner complex' (RP2/TA2 moraines), both  
751 located further down-valley and dated here to  $11.10 \pm 0.37 \text{ ka}$ , the real age of the RA2 deposit  
752 is most likely a few hundred years younger. The slight age overestimation is probably due to  
753 an inherited <sup>10</sup>Be component accumulated during the Last Glaciation. High-elevation rockwalls  
754 are less prone to frequent refreshing during a glacial period, thereby favouring nuclide buildup.  
755 Our preferred approximation of the event age results from the Bayesian age model, which  
756 produces an age of  $10.71 \pm 0.42 \text{ ka}$  (unit 3) [Fig. 5]. This is consistent with studies showing  
757 that the youngest ages in RA deposits are more likely to be close to the true age of the event

758 [Akçar et al., 2012; Hilger et al., 2019; Delgado et al., 2025]. For the RA2 event, the tentative  
759 location of the source area is high up the headwall, on the western ridge of Calotte des Agneaux  
760 at c. 3405 m a.s.l. The mobility index computed for the RA2 event (H/L: 0.30) in relation to its  
761 volume [Tab. 3] is consistent with an RA that has partially travelled onto a glacier [Deline et  
762 al., 2021].

763

764 **FIGURE 6. Geomorphological maps of the two main rock avalanche (RA) deposits in the**  
765 **study area** (same key as Fig. 3). (a) The Rif de la Planche RA deposit (RA1 event) with main  
766 morphological features highlighted. In the upper panel, the white arrows point to the front of  
767 the RA1 deposit, and the cross profile runs through the distal area (inset) enclosed by the RP3  
768 frontal moraine, (b) The Arsine Pass western and eastern RA deposits (RA2 event) with main  
769 morphological features highlighted. In the upper panel, the white arrows point to a spatula  
770 shaped frontal lobe. The blue arrows point to the small Neoglacial composite frontal moraine  
771 ('PMC W. outer frontal lobe') that has preserved the inherited aRG topography underneath. In  
772 the lower panels, violet lines represent longitudinal ridges. Lambert 93 Grid in meters (tick  
773 marks spacing is 100 m).

774

#### 775 4.2.4. 'Apparent rock glacier' (aRG)

776 The landform east of Arsine Pass – herein called aRG – is a large (max. length: 780 m, max.  
777 width: 760 m, uncovered area: 0.40 km<sup>2</sup>), tongue-shaped and gently dipping (average slope:  
778 19°) body, spanning 2270 to 2400 m a.s.l. [Fig. 7c]. Its complex topography partly resembles  
779 the classical transverse ridges-and-furrows rock glacier morphology (visible at nearby Réou  
780 d'Arsine relict rock glacier). It was previously mapped either as a fossil/relict rock glacier,  
781 consistent with its elevation range [Lahousse and Guen, 1998; Marcer et al., 2017], or as a  
782 moraine complex [Antoine and Fabre, 2000]. The evenly-spaced (100 m) front height  
783 measurements (n = 14) carried out along the western and frontal ridges (the eastern one is partly  
784 buried by slope deposits) give an average of  $21.4 \pm 4.1$  m and a volume of  $c. 8.6 \pm 1.6 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>  
785 [Fig. 7d]. The two DEM differencing methods yield a mean thickness of  $30.0 \pm 4.4$  m and a  
786 volume of  $c. 12.0 \pm 1.7 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup> [Fig. 7d]. Conservatively combining the three methods, we  
787 obtain a volume of  $10.9 \pm 2.3 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>, which translates into a bedrock volume of  $c. 7.6 \pm 1.6$   
788  $\times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup> for the aRG, taking porosity into account [Tab. 3].

789 According to our interpretation, the RA2 fell partly onto the glacier and was later deposited as  
790 moraine lobes by a heavily debris-covered glacier – forming the aRG. These ridges have been

791 likely affected by creeping after their deposition, possibly due to (i) periglacial processes, (ii)  
792 ice-core melting, and/or (iii) compression due to a remaining component of glacier flow. The  
793 main characteristics of this landform that support this view are as follows:

- 794 - The presence of extensive rock avalanche deposits, with mega-boulders, framing the  
795 landform, (i) at Arsine Pass, (ii) at the head of Tabuc Valley, and (iii) immediately  
796 outboard the right lateral moraine (RLM) around 2560 m a.s.l. [Fig. 3; Fig. 7b].
- 797 - The notable steepness of the ridge's distal faces [Fig. 7a,c], which is a diagnostic  
798 criterion for moraines formed by dumping of abundant supraglacial RA material  
799 [Shulmeister et al., 2009], but also for ice-cored moraines [Crump et al., 2017].
- 800 - The high frequency of large capping boulders on the outer ridges (TA1a-b moraines).  
801 Conversely the inner ridge (TA1c moraine) bears almost no large boulders [Fig 7b].
- 802 - The outcropping boulders are embedded in a glacial till-type diamicton.
- 803 - Three main generations of ridges are expressed in the morphology (some overriding  
804 older ones), reflecting an increasingly narrow and retreating glacier front [Fig. 7a].
- 805 - The well-defined nested lateral ridges on the eastern side run parallel and can be traced  
806 up to their distinct roots buried by the PMC [Fig 7a].
- 807 - Two small lateral ridges are present on the western side [arrow on Fig. 7a], the  
808 innermost displaying a 'balanced' mega-boulder, which is not conform to a rock glacier  
809 margin. These small outer moraines are cross-cutted by the main aRG outer ridge dated  
810 here (TA1a moraine), implying an immediately earlier deposition.
- 811 - Marked depressions, barely filled by outwash, exist inboard the inner ridges (TA1c  
812 moraine), likely the imprint of a former bilobate glacier front or massive ice-cores [Fig.  
813 7c].
- 814 - No equivalent landform has formed on the RP (western) lobe of the glacier, despite a  
815 similar setting, highlighting a contrasting debris supply. This could be due to the fact  
816 that the deeper eastern part of the valley floor helped channel the RA2 flow.

817 On the outermost left-lateral ridge of the aRG (TA1a moraine), five boulders were sampled  
818 (ARS-16-06 to -10). The exposure ages increase downstream, from  $9.42 \pm 0.69$  ka to  $11.61 \pm$   
819  $0.49$  ka, yielding a mean age of  **$10.63 \pm 0.70$  ka**. As the two oldest ages overlap with the mean  
820 ages of moraines RP5, RP2 and TA2, in older stratigraphic positions, we assume that they both  
821 reflect a small inherited  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration. A similar amount of inherited  $^{10}\text{Be}$  is probably  
822 present in two of the boulders in the RA2 deposit (ARS-16-12 and -13, section 4.2.3) [see Fig.  
823 5]. This may support the proposed hypothesis that the boulders of these two landforms have the

824 same origin, the RA2 event. The youngest age on the TA1a moraine overlaps with the mean  
825 age of the TA1c moraine (see below) and is therefore considered ‘too young’. The most  
826 probable age of stabilization of the aRG outer ridge (TA1a moraine), resulting from the  
827 Bayesian age model is  $10.25 \pm 0.42$  ka (unit 4) [Fig. 5], which is in agreement with the two  
828 remaining consistent ages ( $10.35 \pm 0.40$  and  $10.32 \pm 0.41$  ka).

829 On the innermost ridge of the aRG (TA1c moraine), three boulders were sampled (ARS-16-01  
830 to -03). A young outlier, whose age is likely underestimated due to exhumation of this short  
831 boulder, has been discarded based on the reduced chi-squared test (ARS-16-03 at  $7.76 \pm 0.28$   
832 ka). The two remaining consistent ages ( $9.69 \pm 0.60$  ka and  $9.51 \pm 0.41$  ka) yielded a mean age  
833 of  $9.57 \pm 0.08$  ka, and a Bayesian-age-model-corrected age of  $9.52 \pm 0.43$  ka (unit 5) [Fig. 5].

834

835 **FIGURE 7. ‘Apparent rock glacier’ (aRG) morphological features. (a)** Structure-from-  
836 Motion DEM (0.26 m) of the aRG and longitudinal/transversal profiles highlighting the three  
837 generations of moraine ridges. Nested lateral ridges and overriding ridges are highlighted with  
838 arrows, **(b)** Boulder map ( $> 2$  m<sup>2</sup>) of the aRG, Arsine Pass and Tabuc RA deposits. The  
839 continuous aRG rocky carapace is shown as light grey, **(c)** Slope map of the aRG based on the  
840 Structure-from-Motion DEM (resampled to 1 m resolution), **(d)** aRG thickness map based on  
841 DEM differencing (DoD). Manually reconstructed valley floor paleo-topography is shown as  
842 20 m contour lines. Lambert 93 Grid in meters (tick marks spacing is 300 m).

843

#### 844 4.2.5. Proximal Moraine Complex (PMC)

845 The most proximal part of the glacier forefield is characterized by a prominent complex of  
846 composite moraines made of fresh-looking (mostly unvegetated) till [Fig. 2]. The lateral  
847 moraines display an arcuate shape and have lengths of c. 1.5 km protruding 15-70 m from  
848 outboard terrain, while the frontal moraine reaches heights of 80-100 m, overtopping parts of  
849 the aRG landform [Fig. 2]. The lateral moraines are partly multi-crested over lengths of 150 m  
850 for the left-lateral moraine (LLM) and 280 m for the right-lateral moraine (RLM) [Fig. 2b], and  
851 display several generations of accretion on some parts of their outer slopes [Fig. 8].

852 At the LLM, most of the external parts were overtopped during younger advances, as evidenced  
853 by the light grey till on the distal face. Three limited sectors are exceptions [Fig. 3]. Starting  
854 upstream, the first sector is a subdued ridge located mid-slope, 12 m below main crest [Fig. 8a],  
855 which bears the boulders of samples ARS-12-04b and ARS-19-04 yielding ages of  $2.46 \pm 0.12$   
856 ka and  $2.00 \pm 0.08$  ka, respectively. The second sector is a small isolated patch of slightly

857 vegetated till, lying 18 m below the main crest, which bears the boulder of sample ARS-19-05  
858 dated to  $2.59 \pm 0.11$  ka [Fig. 3]. The third sector features two well-defined small ridges sitting  
859 on top of the LLM and located 7 and 13 m outboard the main (eroded) LIA crest [see Fig. 2b;  
860 Fig. 8b]. On the distal side of the most prominent outermost ridge ('PMC LLM outer crest'),  
861 two further boulders (ARS-19-06 and -07) were sampled 9 and 13 m below the main crest,  
862 yielding ages of  $2.83 \pm 0.12$  ka and  $2.28 \pm 0.07$  ka, respectively. Together, the five boulders  
863 from the distal face of the LLM were considered a common unit as sharing a location defined  
864 by a depression  $13 \pm 4$  m below the main (eroded) LIA crest. They give a mean age of  $2.62 \pm$   
865 **0.15 ka** after the exclusion of the two youngest ages (ARS-19-04 and -07) according to the  
866 reduced chi-squared test. Of interest, the furthest downstream of the young outliers (ARS-19-  
867 07 at  $2.28 \pm 0.07$  ka), despite its stratigraphically discordant position (4 m lower in the distal  
868 face than ARS-19-06 dated to  $2.83 \pm 0.12$  ka), could also mark a younger advance, as it is  
869 unlikely to have been exhumed. This advance could coincide with the one that deposited two  
870 boulders (ARS-18-01 and -02) of the frontal composite moraine (see Section 5.7).

871 Finally, on the most prominent (130 m long) and outermost of the two small ridges of the third  
872 sector ('PMC LLM outer crest') [see Fig 2b; Fig. 8b], four boulders were dated (ARS-19-01, -  
873 02, -03, -08). Three of them were sitting on the crest and one was embedded 6 meters below  
874 the crest in the distal face. The exposure ages range between  $1.62 \pm 0.06$  ka and  $1.86 \pm 0.08$  ka  
875 and result in a mean age of  **$1.67 \pm 0.05$  ka** after the exclusion of the oldest age (ARS-19-01)  
876 according to the reduced chi-squared test. The oldest boulder stood on the crest 70 m north of  
877 the others, which were tightly grouped.

878

879 **FIGURE 8. Proximal Moraine Complex (PMC) dated moraine units.** Cross profiles [see  
880 Fig. 3 for location] through the (a,b) PMC left-lateral moraine (LLM), (c,d) right-lateral  
881 moraine (RLM) and (e) frontal moraine, with main TCN dating results. The profile (e) does not  
882 conform to the former glacier flowline between the 1892-1930 CE moraines and the 2015 CE  
883 front, and therefore does not reflect the actual ice margin retreat over this interval [Fig. 3]. The  
884 arrangement of the different till units (especially the undated ones) reflects in part an  
885 interpretation and cannot be considered entirely accurate. Units marked with question marks do  
886 not have dating control. Note that on the profile (d), no inner ridges posterior to 2.7 ka have  
887 been preserved. LAAP: Late Antique Advance Period, IAAP: Iron Age Advance Period,  
888 BAAP: Bronze Age Advance Period [see Le Roy et al., 2024 for the nomenclature of glacier  
889 advances]. The scale is the same on all panels (vertical exaggeration x3).

890

891 At the RLM, by contrast, only the upper ( $> 2580$  m a.s.l.) and lower ( $< 2520$  m a.s.l.) sectors of  
892 the main crest were overtopped during a younger period [Fig. 4b], as shown by the preservation  
893 of accreted inner ridges. Some of these inner ridges still existed during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century  
894 [see Fig. 2b], but have since then disappeared. In the middle part of the RLM, several  
895 generations of moraine accretion are visible, either from distinguishable layers on the distal  
896 slope or from multiple preserved crests [Fig. 4b; Fig. 8c,d].

897 The outermost moraine position recorded at the PMC is represented by a ‘bouldery ridge’  
898 located in the lower half of the RLM distal face (‘PMC RLM distal face-Mid.’) [Fig. 3; Fig.  
899 4b]. The three boulders sampled on this ridge are located  $46 \pm 5$  m below the main crest and c.  
900 25 m above the moraine base [Fig. 4b; Fig. 8d]. They gave ages of  $9.78 \pm 0.37$  ka,  $10.52 \pm 0.33$   
901 ka and  $10.92 \pm 0.33$  ka (ARS-16-24, ARS-12-08 and ARS-16-24), yielding a mean age of **10.72**  
902  **$\pm 0.20$  ka**, after exclusion of the youngest sample according to the reduced chi-squared test.  
903 The mean age of this boulder-rich ridge overlaps with the non-modelled mean ages of RP2  
904 (**10.88  $\pm 0.25$  ka**) and TA2 (**11.08  $\pm 0.25$  ka**). It could thus correspond to the former right lateral  
905 moraine crest of the ‘Inner complex’ stadial. This appears likely given that (i) the slightly  
906 younger age can be explained by the much more sheltered location of this ridge, (ii) the  
907 geometry corresponds to the upstream route of TA2, and (iii) no other ridges are preserved  
908 outboard at this location [Fig. 9a]. This way, the last important EH advance would have  
909 overtopped them in lateral position [Fig. 8d]. Alternatively, as the age of this ridge overlaps  
910 with the modelled age of RA2 (**10.71  $\pm 0.42$  ka**) and that its location is on the presumed path  
911 of RA2, it could represent RA material deposited on top of pre-existing moraine or dumped  
912 during an early stage of a RA2-triggered advance. We have not retained this hypothesis, as none  
913 of the three samples show any inheritance and they are well anchored in till. We therefore  
914 included this surface in the ‘Inner complex’ stadial, whose Bayesian modelled age is **11.10  $\pm$**   
915 **0.37 ka** [Fig. 5]. In this scenario, the lateral moraine deposited by the RA2-triggered advance  
916 that created the TA1a frontal moraine would lie in more internal position here [see Fig. 8d].

917 In another accreted layer further up on the same distal face, three boulders were sampled in the  
918 upper unit of the RLM, as their location averages  $9 \pm 6$  m below the main crest. They gave ages  
919 of  $3.76 \pm 0.12$  ka,  $3.71 \pm 0.12$  ka and  $3.11 \pm 0.10$  ka (ARS-19-10 to -12), yielding a mean age  
920 of **3.74  $\pm 0.02$  ka** after exclusion of the youngest sample according to the reduced chi-squared  
921 test [Fig. 4b; Fig. 8c,d]. On the main crest of the RLM [Fig. 2b], three more boulders provide  
922 consistent ages of  $2.67 \pm 0.22$  ka,  $2.70 \pm 0.11$  ka and  $2.86 \pm 0.11$  ka (ARS-12-06, ARS-16-19

923 and -20), yielding a mean age of  $2.76 \pm 0.08$  ka [Fig. 4b; Fig. 8c,d]. Finally, three boulders  
924 from the next immediately inboard and only slightly protruding crest [‘Outer LIA ridge’ on Fig.  
925 4b] yielded exposure ages of  $0.58 \pm 0.04$  ka,  $0.17 \pm 0.03$  ka and  $0.16 \pm 0.04$  ka (ARS-16-21, -  
926 22 and -23) [Fig. 4b]. Given that (i) a more prominent LIA crest (not sampled) is present further  
927 inboard [inner arrow on Fig. 2b; ‘Inner LIA ridge’ on Fig. 4b], and (ii) the large size of the two  
928 youngest boulders, excluding exhumation as a rejuvenation factor, two scenarios are possible.  
929 First, this ridge may have been deposited at  $0.17 \pm 0.01$  ka and reworked an early-LIA-aged  
930 boulder. In this scenario, two close LIA ridges would have been deposited at 0.17 ka and shortly  
931 afterwards [Fig. 4b; Fig. 8c]. Another interpretation would be that the ‘Outer LIA ridge’ is an  
932 actual early-LIA ridge to which two younger boulders have been added during the initial phase  
933 of a subsequent advance (represented by the innermost ridge, not sampled). In this case, the  
934 ‘Inner LIA ridge’ would be dated to 0.17 ka [inner arrow on Fig. 2b; Fig. 4b].

935 In the frontal area of the PMC, three clearly distinct generations of ridges are visible on the  
936 distal slope [Fig. 2a; Fig. 8e]. The outermost one has been deposited perpendicularly on top of  
937 lateral ridges of the aRG, as demonstrated by the thin mantle of till that has preserved the  
938 inherited topography underneath [see Fig. 6b; Fig 8e]. In total, 8 boulders were dated from two  
939 sectors of the outer lobes in the frontal area. In the western sector (‘PMC W. outer frontal lobe’),  
940 six boulders yielded dispersed ages of  $8.17 \pm 0.23$  ka (ARS-16-16),  $2.13 \pm 0.21$  ka and  $1.79 \pm$   
941  $0.21$  ka (ARS-18-01 and -02), and  $0.66 \pm 0.04$  ka,  $0.59 \pm 0.08$  ka and  $0.85 \pm 0.04$  ka (ARS-16-  
942 17, ARS-18-03 and ARS-19-15, respectively). The first three ages were not considered in the  
943 calculation of the mean age of this moraine. The last three ages provided a mean age of  $0.65 \pm$   
944  $0.03$  ka for the last occupation of this position, after exclusion of a slight old outlier [the ARS-  
945 19-15 mega-boulder, see Fig. 2a] according to the reduced chi-squared test. In the eastern sector  
946 (‘PMC E. outer frontal lobe’), two boulders gave clearly distinct ages of  $1.17 \pm 0.05$  ka and  
947  $0.50 \pm 0.04$  ka (ARS-19-13 and -14). The youngest one is considered as dating the last  
948 occupation of the eastern outer lobe, in accordance with the mean age obtained on the western  
949 lobe.

950 Although undated at this frontal location (but dated in lateral position), the innermost set of the  
951 three ridges on the frontal distal slope [Fig. 8e] was selected as representing the last LIA  
952 position during the 19th century (1850 CE) used for ELA calculation. It is based on the classical  
953 threefold LIA Alpine chronology, with maximum glacier advances occurring during the 14th,  
954 17th and 19th centuries [Holzhauser et al., 2005; Schimmelpfennig et al., 2014; Fouinat et al.,

955 2017; Nicolussi et al., 2022]. We assume they are represented by the three LIA frontal moraines  
956 present here [Fig. 2a; Fig. 8e; Fig. 9a].

957

958 **FIGURE 9. Paleo-glacier extents, ice thickness and ELAs for the three main reconstructed**  
959 **stadials of Arsine Glacier.** Greyscale depicts the paleo-ice thickness. Paleo-glacier surface  
960 elevation is shown as 50 m-spaced contour lines. Fronts elevations of the reconstructed stadials  
961 are given (black) along with the corresponding ELAs computed with the Area-Altitude-  
962 Balance-Ratio (AABR = 1.3) method (red). The Maximum Elevation of the Lateral Moraine  
963 (MELM) is also indicated (orange). Bed elevation is based on Echevin [1970] and Antoine and  
964 Fabre [2000] for the PMC area, (a) The three reconstructed stadials are shown with the mapped  
965 moraine ridges used to delineate them. Note the three distinct LIA frontal moraine sets, (b) The  
966 ‘Outer complex’, (c) The ‘Inner complex’, (d) The late-LIA position (1850 CE). The AABR  
967 ELA indicated in (d) for the LIA is the weighted average for the three former tributaries [see  
968 Tab. 4]. Lambert 93 Grid in meters (tick marks spacing is 1 km).

969

#### 970 4.3. ELA modelling

971 The ELA results for the two methods are given in Table 4. Based on our mapping and  
972 geometrical reconstructions we can also propose maximum elevation of lateral moraines  
973 (MELM) values for four stadials, assuming our moraine attribution and glacier outline  
974 delineation are correct in areas close to the ELA [see Fig. 3 and Fig. 9]:

- 975 - 2465 m a.s.l. for the undated RP7 stadal, based on moraine remnants located on a  
976 structural flat north of Arsine Pass. This gives a minimum value for the RP5 stadal ELA  
977 and a robust lower bound for ELAs of all the stadials mapped here. We tentatively link  
978 RP7 to the YD maximum and propose a *maximum*  $\delta$ ELA of 335 m for this stadal (not  
979 reconstructed here) [Fig. 9b].
- 980 - 2525 m a.s.l. for the RP5/TA5 (i.e., ‘Outer complex’) moraine set at Réou d’Arsine.  
981 This is the innermost of a close moraine doublet mapped in this area [Fig. 9b].
- 982 - 2580 m a.s.l. for the RP2/TA2 (i.e., ‘Inner complex’) moraine set immediately outboard  
983 the RLM [Fig. 9c].
- 984 - 2790 m a.s.l. for the late-LIA (1850 CE) at the LLM [Fig. 9d].

985 It is worth stressing that for the Outer and Inner complexes, the AAR of 0.54 we used agrees  
986 with MELM values, while an AAR of 0.67 conflicts with them [Tab. 4]. This confirms the  
987 relevance of the AAR of 0.54 for Arsine Glacier during the EH. It must be stressed that steady-

988 state AARs can also be expected to vary through time at a single glacier system, depending on  
989 change of the debris-cover area and of firn basins geometry [Clark et al., 1994]. This was  
990 undoubtedly the case at Arsine between the Early- (presence of a proper accumulation area)  
991 and the Mid- (likely heavily debris-covered ice patch) to Late Holocene (mostly debris-free  
992 cirque glacier).

993 On the other hand, when it comes to the LIA 1850 CE position, all methods significantly  
994 underestimate the minimum ELA indicated by the MELM method for the Arsine Glacier *stricto*  
995 *sensu*, but not for the former tributaries. For the LIA 1850 CE position, the AAR that would  
996 conform with the MELM estimate is around 0.32 for the Arsine Glacier *stricto sensu*,  
997 highlighting the peculiar accumulation processes influenced by the snow contribution from the  
998 headwall. For 1850 CE, our preferred weighted average of 2802 m a.s.l. for Arsine and former  
999 tributaries [Tab. 4] is consistent with recent glaciological modelling yielding c. 2787 m a.s.l.  
1000 for this stadial [Henz et al., 2024]. The AABR of 1.3 and AAR of 0.54 yielded quite similar  
1001 results with  $\delta$ ELA of  $224 \pm 10$  m and  $234 \pm 10$  m for the ‘Outer complex’ and  $169 \pm 10$  m and  
1002  $159 \pm 10$  m for the ‘Inner complex’, thus increasing our confidence in the results [Tab. 4].

1003 To remain consistent with other studies, we only refer in the following Discussion section to  
1004 ELAs calculated with the AAR method. However, the large underestimation of the true ELA  
1005 (whose lower limit is given by the MELM) induced by using the 0.67 ratio at Arsine Glacier  
1006 (see Section 4.3) would argue in favour of abandoning this method and computing ELAs based  
1007 on the AABR method for cross-comparison purposes. Such discrepancies are evident from the  
1008 EPM-wide LIA ELAs reported in Section 2.1, and at other Alpine location, e.g., at Goldberg  
1009 Glacier (Hohe Tauern, Austrian Alps), both for the LIA and Egesen stadials [Bichler and  
1010 Reindl, 2013].

1011

1012 **Table 4. Characteristics and paleo-ELAs of the three main reconstructed stadials of**  
1013 **Arsine Glacier.** The paleo-ELAs are calculated using two different methods (AABR and  
1014 AAR). The ELAs marked in italics are computed values that conflict with independent evidence  
1015 (MELM method). Note that the AAR of 0.67 yields no suitable estimate for any of the stadials.  
1016 The ELAs marked with asterisks are the values used to compute the ‘LIA 1850 CE’ weighted  
1017 average. The ELAs marked in bold are the values retained for the Discussion section. The  
1018 MELM values are rounded up to the nearest 5 m. The uncertainty amounts to  $\pm 5$  m for the  
1019 computed ELA values and  $\pm 10$  m for the  $\delta$ ELA values.

1020

## 1021 **5. Discussion**

### 1022 5.1. Climatic correlation of the Arsine Glacier chronology

1023 The EH cold pulses that could have been recorded by Alpine glaciers are concomitant with the  
1024 Greenland Preboreal Oscillation at 11.4–11.25 ka [Rasmussen et al., 2007] and the Boreal  
1025 Oscillation at 10.3 ka [Björck et al., 2001; Young et al., 2020]. The central European PBO  
1026 (**11.25 to 11.10 ka**) has been found to slightly lag the Greenland PBO (**11.37 to 11.27 ka**) when  
1027 aligned on the same timescale [Mekhaldi et al., 2020]. This small shift additionally revealed  
1028 solar activity as a possible trigger for this event when superimposed on freshwater forcing.  
1029 Probable solar forcing on central European paleohydrology is also reflected by the occurrence  
1030 of two prominent EH humid periods centred on 11.5 and 11.2 ka [Magny et al., 2007; Prochnow  
1031 et al., 2024]. Annual precipitation during the EH is assumed to be comparable to the mid-20<sup>th</sup>  
1032 century, and much higher than during the late YD [Kerschner et al., 2000; Magny et al., 2007;  
1033 Ortu et al., 2008; Hepp et al., 2019; Rea et al., 2020; Prochnow et al., 2024], including near our  
1034 study site [Francou et al., 2020]. At the nearby Lautaret Pass, the YD/EH boundary is marked  
1035 by inactivation of two rock glaciers (c. 2050 m a.s.l.) at **11.95 ± 0.92 ka** (RG1; n = 5) and **11.70**  
1036 **± 0.29 ka** (RG2; n = 5) [Charton et al., 2021] [Fig. 1]. This inactivation falls within – or just  
1037 after – the deposition of moraine RP5a at Arsine. The RG2 is a small protalus rock glacier,  
1038 which means that frost-shattered debris supply ended at this elevation (headwall: 2250-2300 m  
1039 a.s.l.) at the beginning of the Holocene. At the same period, the first occurrence of trees is  
1040 attested at the pass, associated with geothermal springs [Carcaillet et al., 2018]. Increase in  
1041 humidity at the YD/EH boundary may have partly counteracted the rise in mean annual air  
1042 temperature (c. 5 ± 1°C) over these few decades [Affolter et al., 2019; Li et al., 2021]. This may  
1043 explain why early Preboreal glacier extents (Arsine ‘Inner complex’) were still large and close  
1044 to those of the late YD (Arsine ‘Outer complex’). At the same time, the rise in summer  
1045 temperature was more moderate (c. 3.5 ± 1°C) [Ilyashuk et al., 2009; Samartin et al., 2012;  
1046 Lapellegerie et al., 2024], implying milder and snowier EH winters. Recent improvements in  
1047 ice core chronology also show that the third largest Holocene volcanic eruption occurred around  
1048 **11.23 ka** (9226 BCE) [Sigl et al., 2022] [Fig. 10h] and could have been an additional trigger  
1049 for the PBO glacier advance. Our dating result for the Arsine ‘Inner complex’ (RP2/TA2/PMC  
1050 RLM-Mid. moraines) at **11.10 ± 0.37 ka** is therefore consistent with a deposition during the  
1051 central European PBO.

1052 Following the early Preboreal, HTM-like summer conditions were reached shortly after 11 ka,  
1053 as shown by smaller-than-present (2020 CE) glacier extent, evidenced before **10.80 cal ka**

1054 [Nicolussi et al., unpublished] [Fig. 10b]. This is further demonstrated by (i) the disappearance  
1055 of glacial varves in Lake Silvaplana at **10.70 cal ka** [Leeman and Niessen, 1994], (ii) a major  
1056 tipping point in fire frequency at **10.70 cal ka** in the Western Alps [Carcaillet and Blarquez,  
1057 2017], and (iii) among the highest Holocene  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values recorded from **10.48 ka** in high-  
1058 elevation speleothems [Fohlmeister et al., 2013], all hinting towards an already warmed  
1059 climate. At the Alpine scale, this is consistent with the absence of prominent EH glacier  
1060 advances firmly dated to later than  $\sim 11$  ka and with glacier fronts retreating inboard their LIA  
1061 limit afterwards [Böhlert et al., 2011; Schindelwig et al., 2012; Schimmelpfennig et al., 2012;  
1062 2014; Hofmann et al., 2019; Protin et al., 2019; 2021; Steinemann et al., 2021; Braumann et al.,  
1063 2020; 2021].

1064 The only exception is a cluster of ages on moraines located only slightly outboard the LIA  
1065 extent at small to medium glaciers, tracing the response to the cold/wet Boreal Oscillation (BO),  
1066 also known as the ‘10.3 ka event’ or the ‘CE-1’ phase [Haas et al., 2008; Boch et al., 2009;  
1067 Schmidt et al., 2009; Belli et al., 2013; Joannin et al., 2013; Magny, 2013]. The most precise  
1068 dating of this event is an excursion centred on **10.25 ka** in an Austrian speleothem [Fohlmeister  
1069 et al., 2013]. A causal link might therefore be drawn between this cold/wet event and the  
1070 deposition of the Arsine Glacier TA1a moraine ridge (and possibly the undated RP1) at **10.25**  
1071  $\pm 0.42$  ka, and more generally with the deposition of ‘Kromer-equivalent’ moraines in the Alps.  
1072 Finally, shortly before 10 ka, air temperature was at the level of HTM peak warmth in the Alps  
1073 and contiguous regions [Ilyashuk et al., 2011; Fohlmeister et al., 2013; Heiri et al., 2015;  
1074 Affolter et al., 2019; Martin et al., 2020a; Zander et al., 2024] as evidenced by trees growing in  
1075 glacier forefields from  $\sim 10.2$  ka [Nicolussi, 2011; Nicolussi et al., 2020; Le Roy et al., 2024].

1076

1077 **FIGURE 10. Synthesis of TCN-dated moraine boulders at Arsine Glacier in the context**  
1078 **of the Alpine Holocene glacial and paleoclimatic history. (a)** Mean annual air temperature  
1079 (MAAT) reconstructed from fluid inclusions in speleothems of the Milandre Cave (Jura  
1080 Mountains, Switzerland) [Affolter et al., 2019] with mention of the three Holocene Thermal  
1081 Maximum (HTM) Phases proposed by Le Roy et al. [2024], as well as the Holocene cold  
1082 periods. BO: Boreal Oscillation, **(b)** Tree-ring dated glacier-borne subfossil wood dates  
1083 constraining glacier evolution in the Alps. The dark orange curve represents all tree-ring-dated  
1084 wood samples ( $n = 211$ ) coming from ice-proximal parts of glacier forefields (mostly  
1085 floodplains) in the Alps and indicating a glacier extent smaller than 2000-2020 CE at the time  
1086 of tree growth. The light orange curve represents all tree-ring dated wood samples ( $n = 439$ )

1087 coming from distal parts of the glacier forefields (lateral moraines) in the Alps and pointing to  
1088 a glacier extent smaller than 1850-1960 CE at the time of tree growth [see [Le Roy et al., 2024](#)  
1089 for details and [Nicolussi et al., unpublished](#)]. Note that no lateral moraine wood samples are  
1090 older than 4 ka. The blue curve represents Kernel Density Estimates of all the TCN ages  
1091 measured on Holocene moraine boulders in the Alps (n = 282; including data of this study).  
1092 Note that all TCN-dated periods of moraine stabilisation are synchronous with – or slightly  
1093 postdate – tree-ring dated subfossil trees dying-off phases (direct dating of glacier advances)  
1094 during the Neoglacial, **(c)** Kernel Density Estimate of TCN-dated boulders of Holocene  
1095 moraines in the Alps (n = 242; sites shown in [Fig. 1](#) inset; data of this study not included). All  
1096 moraines considered to belong to the time span covered by the Arsine chronology were  
1097 included. We applied the same detection of outliers as used in this study, and therefore  
1098 potentially excluded certain samples retained in the original publications, **(d)** Variations of the  
1099 Upper Grindelwald Glacier ice surface reconstructed from speleothems of the Milchbach Cave  
1100 (Bernese Alps, Switzerland) [[Luetscher et al., 2011](#)], **(e)** Kernel Density Estimates of TCN-  
1101 dated boulders of Holocene moraines at Arsine Glacier (n = 40), **(f)** TCN-dated high elevation  
1102 rock avalanches in the Ecrins massif (release area > 2100 m a.s.l.) plotted against their estimated  
1103 volumes. As the Arsine RA1 is not numerically dated, we have assigned it here an age in line  
1104 with the stratigraphy ( $11.0 \pm 0.4$  ka), i.e., immediately after the deposition of the RP2 moraine  
1105 (see [Section 5.3.1](#)), **(g)** Activity phases of the Vallon de la Route rock glacier (Combeynot  
1106 massif) defined as the evolution of the rock glacier surface velocity in time based on modelling  
1107 of TCN data [[Lehmann et al., 2022](#)], **(h)** Holocene volcanic stratospheric sulfur injection (VSSI)  
1108 from explosive eruptions. Main eruptions linked to dated glacier advances are indicated with  
1109 their ranking [[Sigl et al., 2022](#)]. The background bands represent the TCN-dated glacier  
1110 advances at Arsine Glacier (grey), tentative dated advances (light grey) and aRG dated ridges  
1111 (brown). For the sake of clarity, only  $\pm 100$  yr uncertainty is shown.

1112

## 1113 5.2. Lateglacial to Early Holocene glacier activity in the Alps

### 1114 5.2.1. Key comparable glacier chronologies in the Western Alps

1115 The Arsine Glacier RP branch experienced five oscillations between  $\sim 11.9$  and 11.1 ka. The  
1116 first two (RP5a-b positions) probably occurred at the end of the YD, while the latter three (RP4-  
1117 2 stadials) likely occurred during the Early Holocene (Preboreal chronozone). During this  
1118 period, the net frontal retreat amounted to 880 m, but the ELA rose only by c. 55 m (or 75 m  
1119 based on the AAR method) [[Tab. 4](#)]. The three main dated stadials of the Arsine chronology

1120 are paralleled at several sites in the western Alps, demonstrating these were the main periods  
1121 of moraine deposition regionally.

1122 In the southwestern Alps, our chronological and ELA data are similar to those derived at three  
1123 sites. In the Rougnoux Valley (25 km south of Arsine) [Fig. 1], after deposition of the M7  
1124 moraine ( $\delta$ ELA c. 194 m), which occurred no later than **11.80  $\pm$  0.40 ka**, the glacier front  
1125 retreated stepwise by 470 m to the innermost pre-LIA M4 moraine ( $\delta$ ELA c. 164 m), which  
1126 was abandoned no later than **10.90  $\pm$  0.70 ka**. Consistently, in the neighbouring Prelles Valley,  
1127 the former glacier withdrew no later than **10.90  $\pm$  0.60 ka** from one of its pre-LIA positions,  
1128 the M7 moraine ( $\delta$ ELA c. 158 m) [Hofmann et al., 2019]. In the Clarée Valley (15 km NE of  
1129 Arsine) [Fig. 1], one stadial of regional significance ('Stage 4') with reported  $\delta$ ELAs averaging  
1130 c. 130 m, was TCN-dated to **10.82  $\pm$  0.70 ka** (n = 4; 2 outliers) at the former Muandes Glacier  
1131 [Cossart et al., 2012]. In the Belledonne massif (40 km NW of Arsine), the M3 moraine of the  
1132 Tepey Glacier yielded a  $\delta$ ELA of c. 150 m and was dated to **10.97  $\pm$  0.59 ka** (n = 3), as a likely  
1133 response to the PBO, while the M2 moraine, characterized by a  $\delta$ ELA of c. 70 m, was dated to  
1134 **10.62  $\pm$  0.53 ka** (n = 2) and may have been triggered by the Boreal Oscillation [Le Roy, 2012;  
1135 Le Roy et al., 2024].

1136 In the northwestern Alps, three chronologies mirror the Arsine chronology in the Mont Blanc  
1137 massif. At the Tour Glacier, two radiocarbon dates from lacustrine and glacio-fluvial deposits  
1138 gave minimum-limiting ages for two EH moraine sets [Jaillet and Ballandras, 1999]. The first  
1139 moraine ('Frasserands stadial'), represents the youngest unit of the prominent Lateglacial  
1140 moraine complex, which would predate ~11.5 cal. ka (median probability of the radiocarbon  
1141 age), thus likely deposited around 11.2 ka. The second moraine ('Tour stadial'), is located  
1142 midway between the Lateglacial and the LIA complexes and would predate ~9.5 cal. ka (median  
1143 probability of the radiocarbon age), hence likely deposited around 10.3 ka. At the nearby  
1144 Argentière Glacier, the lateral moraine sequence shows evidence of at least three oscillations  
1145 and an overall thinning of the glacier tongue between **11.44  $\pm$  0.73 ka** (n = 4; one outlier) and  
1146 the two close innermost EH moraines dated to **10.52  $\pm$  0.28 ka** (n = 3) and **10.38  $\pm$  0.41 ka** (n  
1147 = 5; one outlier) [Protin et al., 2019]. This is the only site in the Alps where two distinct  
1148 moraines probably contemporary to the '10.3 ka event' are numerically dated. Finally, at higher  
1149 elevation (c. 2800 m a.s.l., i.e., near the ELA), the close Talèfre Glacier deposited one moraine  
1150 ridge at the end of the YD, at **11.90  $\pm$  0.42 ka** (n = 3), and two moraines during the EH, the first  
1151 one at **11.17  $\pm$  0.28 ka** (n = 3; one outlier) and a second inner one (undated) located midway to  
1152 the LIA, that could correspond to the '10.3 ka event' [Protin et al., 2021].

1153

1154 5.2.2. Comparison with the eastern and central Alps

1155 We tentatively correlate the Arsine ‘Outer complex’ with an undefined oscillation at the end of  
1156 the YD chronozone. With regard to the ‘eastern Alps model’, the corresponding advance was  
1157 regionally defined as the Egesen II stadial (‘Bocktentälli’) [Maisch, 1981; Ivy-Ochs, 2015].  
1158 This sub-stadial is associated with an estimated  $\delta$ ELA of c. 190-230 m in Tyrol [Sailer and  
1159 Kerschner, 1999] and c. 240 m in Valais [Scapozza, 2013]. Although not firmly TCN-dated  
1160 yet, it has been estimated to **11.66 ± 1.01 ka** (n = 1; one outlier) in the Val Mulix (Albula area,  
1161 Switzerland) [Böhlert et al., 2011], but shows a much smaller reported  $\delta$ ELA (c. 125 m) at this  
1162 location [Maisch, 1981]. Based on the relative stratigraphy, it is possible that (i) the lateral  
1163 moraine J5 (next ridge inboard the YD maximum lateral moraine), TCN-dated to **11.50 ± 0.29**  
1164 **ka** (n = 2) in the Jam Valley, and (ii) the frontal moraine doublet F5, TCN-dated to **11.41 ±**  
1165 **0.33 ka** (outer F5b, n = 1; one outlier) and **11.48 ± 0.35 ka** (inner F5a, n = 2; 2 outliers) in the  
1166 Fimba Valley [Braumann et al., 2022] both correspond to this stadial. In the Fimba Valley, ages  
1167 are probably underestimated given the low prominence of the moraines. In the central Alps,  
1168 possible coeval stadials have been identified: the MT2 in the Meien Valley [Boxleitner et al.,  
1169 2019b], and the main crest of the massive Lateglacial/EH left lateral moraine at Tsijiore Nouve  
1170 Glacier, dated to **11.64 ± 0.35 ka** (n = 7; 3 outliers) [Schimmelpfennig et al., 2012].

1171 The deposition of the Arsine ‘Inner complex’ probably took place during the PBO. In the Alps,  
1172 the Kartell stadial, i.e., the Egesen III stadial [Maisch, 1987; Ivy-Ochs, 2015] has earlier been  
1173 proposed to correlate with the PBO [Kerschner and Ivy-Ochs, 2008]. Morphostratigrafically,  
1174 this stadial is easily identifiable as the innermost ridge of the large Egesen moraine complexes.  
1175 It is characterized by an estimated  $\delta$ ELA of c. 90 m in Val Viola [Scotti et al., 2017], 85-135 m  
1176 in the Northern Calcareous Alps [Hirtreiter, 1992; Moran et al., 2017a], 90-120 m in Tyrol  
1177 [Fraedrich et al., 1979; Sailer, 2001; Moran et al., 2016b], 110-160 m in Silvretta [Hertl, 2001;  
1178 Moran et al., 2016a] and up to 130-180 m in the western Alps [Schindelwig, 2010; Le Roy,  
1179 2012; Cossart et al., 2012]. It is often found to be immediately followed by a phase of rock  
1180 glacier development [Cossart et al., 2012; Moran et al., 2017a], which has sometimes  
1181 overprinted the Kartell moraines [e.g., Le Roy, 2012; Le Roy et al., 2024]. The Kartell stadial  
1182 is now dated to **11.88 ± 0.46 ka** (n = 3) at the type locality (Ferwall Group, Austria) [Fraedrich,  
1183 1979; Ivy-Ochs et al., 2006b; Ivy-Ochs et al., 2009; Ivy-Ochs, 2015] with only the youngest  
1184 age (**11.58 ± 0.60 ka**) overlapping with the PBO period. However, age control on ‘Kartell-  
1185 equivalent’ moraines ( $\delta$ ELA c. 120-180 m) at numerous sites spread over the entire Alps agrees

1186 with the PBO timespan. In Tyrol, a ‘Kartell-equivalent’ stadial ( $\delta$ ELA c. 120 m) has been dated  
1187 at both Falgin and Hinteres Bergle cirque glaciers, and yielded mean deposition ages of **11.06**  
1188  $\pm$  **0.61 ka** (n = 4) and **11.00  $\pm$  0.39 ka** (n = 2), respectively [Moran et al., 2016b]. In the central  
1189 Alps, a ‘Kartell-equivalent’ stadial identified in the Meien Valley, MT3 ( $\delta$ ELAs of c. 120 to  
1190 300 m, latter value at a south facing cirque) yielded a mean age of **11.06  $\pm$  0.57 ka** (n = 6)  
1191 [Boxleitner et al., 2019b]. At the Stein Glacier, the EH outer moraine (‘Hublen outer’) is  
1192 constrained by two bracketing mean ages of **11.50  $\pm$  0.27 ka** (n = 2; roche moutonnée a few  
1193 meters outboard) and **11.03  $\pm$  0.28 ka** (n = 2; boulders slightly inboard) [Schimmelpfennig et  
1194 al., 2014; 2022]. Similarly, the recessional ridges inboard the massive Lateglacial/EH left  
1195 lateral moraine at Tsijiore Nouve Glacier are dated to **11.22  $\pm$  0.29 ka** (n = 7) [Schimmelpfennig  
1196 et al., 2012]. Finally, at Belalp, the ‘moraine VI’, which has a slightly younger mean age of  
1197 **10.61  $\pm$  0.30 ka** (n = 4), can still be considered as ‘Kartell-equivalent’ because (i) it is  
1198 characterized by an estimated  $\delta$ ELA of c. 179 m (south facing cirque) [Schindelwig, 2010] and  
1199 (ii) it is the inner moraine of the Egesen/YD complex with a front only 100 m higher in elevation  
1200 than the Egesen maximum [Schindelwig et al., 2012].

1201 Finally, our estimate for the stabilization of the outer aRG ridge at **10.25  $\pm$  0.42 ka** at Arsine  
1202 Glacier eastern branch is synchronous with the deposition of ‘Kromer-equivalent’ moraines in  
1203 the Alps. We also tentatively propose that a ‘Kromer-equivalent’ moraine (RP1, undated here)  
1204 is present at the western branch [Fig. 6b; Fig. 11d]. The ‘Kromer-equivalent’ stadial moraines  
1205 were identified at several sites and TCN-dated between  $\sim$ 10.5 and 10 ka [Le Roy, 2012;  
1206 Schimmelpfennig et al., 2014; Scotti et al., 2017; Boxleitner et al., 2019b; Protin et al., 2019;  
1207 Braumann et al., 2020; Le Roy et al., 2024]. Morphostratigraphically, they are found in  
1208 intermediate position (midway) between the innermost moraine of the Egesen complexes  
1209 (Kartell/PBO) and the LIA/Neoglacial moraines. At the most climate sensitive glaciers, they  
1210 are characterized by two close but distinct ridges [Moran et al., 2016a; Le Roy et al., 2024].  
1211 Both ridges have only been numerically dated separately at Argentière Glacier [Protin et al.,  
1212 2019, see above] and likely also at Stein Glacier (as the ‘Hublen inner’ and ‘In Miseren’  
1213 moraines, but stratigraphy is less clear), at **10.57  $\pm$  0.32 ka** (n = 3) and **9.91  $\pm$  0.38 ka** (n = 2;  
1214 one outlier) [Schimmelpfennig et al., 2014]. The reported  $\delta$ ELAs for this stadial are ranging  
1215 from 47 to 80 m [Gross et al., 1977; Le Roy, 2012; Moran et al., 2016a; Scotti et al., 2017].  
1216 Since the disambiguation of the Kartell/Kromer stadials, it is known that the Kromer is one  
1217 millennium younger [Ivy-Ochs et al., 2006b]. At the type locality, a mean age of **9.82  $\pm$  0.34**  
1218 **ka** was obtained (n = 8; one outlier), but as this moraine is cross-cut by a rock glacier front

1219 dated to  $10.24 \pm 0.54$  ka ( $n = 1$ ), it is still considered a minimum age [Moran et al., 2016a].  
1220 Similar mean deposition ages for the Kromer stadial were obtained in the next two neighbouring  
1221 valleys of the Silvretta massif:  $9.85 \pm 0.62$  ka ( $n = 3$ ) in the Kloster Valley [Moran et al., 2016a]  
1222 and  $9.68 \pm 0.34$  ka ( $n = 4$ ) in the Ochsen Valley [Braumann et al., 2020].

1223

1224 **Figure 11. Snapshots of Arsine Glacier evolution since the end of the Lateglacial.** Each  
1225 panel shows the reconstructed glacier extent for a given time period based on TCN dated  
1226 surfaces and detailed geomorphological mapping. This holds true except for the 10.7 ka and the  
1227 HTMPs, for which evidence of glacier minima is not preserved. For the 10.7 ka period in panel  
1228 (c), the extent of the glacier is based on evidence gathered elsewhere in the Alps [Nicolussi et  
1229 al., unpublished]. In panel (c), the two red dots indicate the proposed RA release areas. The  
1230 debris cover extent for the 9.5 ka period in panel (e) is based on the 2015 CE state, in line with  
1231 Nicolussi and Schlüchter [2012]. For the HTMP 2-3 period in panel (f), the extent of the glacier  
1232 (as of a potential proglacial lake dammed by the aRG) is hypothetical, but conforms with a  
1233 smaller-than-present (2020 CE) extent, as demonstrated at multiple sites in the Alps [Le Roy et  
1234 al., 2024]. The depiction of the evolution of the Réou d’Arsine rock glacier is inspired by  
1235 reconstructed rock glacier evolution in the area [Lehmann et al., 2022]. In panel (h), the shaded  
1236 TCN ages denote possible glacier advances of the same extent (see Section 5.7) based on the  
1237 composite frontal moraine with multimodal TCN age distribution (‘PMC outer frontal lobes’,  
1238 see Fig. 3). Present-day (2015 and 2023 CE) glacier extent is reported on panel (i) as light blue  
1239 and white areas. Lambert 93 Grid in meters (tick marks spacing is 1 km).

1240

1241 5.3. The rock avalanche and subsequent aRG development

1242 5.3.1. Timing and emplacement of the Arsine rock avalanches

1243 Based on our detailed mapping, at least two RAs occurred within Arsine Glacier’s forefield  
1244 during the EH. Both the RP and TA Valley floors are filled with extensive boulder fields [Fig.  
1245 3; Fig. 6; Fig. 7b]. The deposits located in the RP Valley likely belong to a single event,  
1246 originating from a release area c. 2820 m a.s.l. (eastern crest of the Dragon hanging valley), as  
1247 shown by the RA1 path that climbed the counter-slope before abutting on the two RP2 and RP3  
1248 frontal moraines [Fig. 6a; Fig. 11c]. The RA1 event therefore post-dates the RP2 moraine  
1249 deposition. In order to explain (i) the distal landforms typical of ice/debris mixture [Fig. 6a],  
1250 and (ii) the high mobility index in relation to its volume, we infer that the RA1 debris travelled  
1251 partly onto the ice/snow. This means that it likely occurred shortly after the retreat from the

1252 RP2 position. The aRG is located between the two Arsine Pass deposits and a third one located  
1253 at the head of TA Valley, the whole forming a continuous cover [Fig. 7b]. The only RA deposit  
1254 numerically dated is the one responsible for the Arsine Pass eastern boulder field (RA2) [Fig.  
1255 6b; Fig. 7b] emplaced around  $10.71 \pm 0.42$  ka, based on the Bayesian age model. We suggest  
1256 that the debris that became the aRG was emplaced on the ice by a catastrophic event originating  
1257 at high elevation (c. 3405 m) in the eastern sector of Arsine's cirque headwall [Section 4.2.4;  
1258 Fig. 11c] and that it was the same RA that constituted the Arsine Pass boulder deposits. At the  
1259 time of the dated RA2, Arsine Glacier was likely to have a size analogous to its present-day's  
1260 [Nicolussi et al., unpublished], and the final reach of the debris/ice mixture greatly exceeded  
1261 the glacier margin [Fig. 11c]. Supporting geomorphic evidence includes the longitudinal ridges  
1262 observed at the Arsine Pass western deposit [Fig. 6b] which are characteristics of ice rich  
1263 mixture travelling over glacier-free terrain [Dufresne and Davies, 2009].

1264 From the morphostratigraphy, it can be proposed that the two RAs, with estimated minimum  
1265 rock volumes of c.  $0.8 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup> (RA1) and c.  $8.4 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup> (RA2) [Tab. 3], have occurred after  
1266 deposition of the 'Inner complex' (RP2/TA2) and before deposition of RP1/TA1. From the  
1267 TCN-dating, they occurred between ~11.10 and ~10.71 ka, thus within less than four centuries  
1268 [Fig. 11c]. The RA1 likely occurred first, before deglaciation of the RP Valley (i.e., shortly  
1269 after 11.10 ka).

1270 Interestingly, TCN ages obtained from a RA deposit (c.  $0.1 \times 10^5$  m<sup>3</sup>) located only 5 km to the  
1271 west in the Romanche Valley [RA2ro, Chenet et al., 2016] have a similarly large age range (n  
1272 = 5;  $12.86 \pm 1.13$  ka to  $10.18 \pm 0.48$  ka). The three oldest boulder ages are conflicting with the  
1273 mean ages of moraines downstream [Schoeneich et al., 2019]. We therefore suggest that they  
1274 bear slight inheritance and that only the two youngest ages best represent the timing of the  
1275 RA2ro emplacement at  $10.39 \pm 0.50$  ka, thus being contemporary within uncertainties to the  
1276 RA deposit at Arsine Pass ( $10.71 \pm 0.42$  ka). The two Arsine RAs constitute major  
1277 morphogenetic events, which – together with the RA2ro event – seem to define a period of  
1278 increased rock slope failure activity [Fig. 10f], likely linked to a strong summer warming and  
1279 permafrost degradation between ~11 and 10.4 ka [Fig. 10b].

1280

### 1281 5.3.2. Early Holocene rock slope failures in the Alps

1282 The Early Holocene is known as a period of enhanced rock slope failures activity in the Alps  
1283 (~11.5 to 8.4 ka) based on available inventories [Dapples et al., 2003; Soldati et al., 2006; Prager  
1284 et al., 2008; Borgatti and Soldati, 2010]. Depending on the geological setting and elevation of

1285 the release area, different triggers are involved. Study cases comparable to the Arsine RA2  
1286 include two events in Val Dosdè (Upper Valtellina, Italy), one of which probably travelled onto  
1287 the ice (RA2do) [Scotti et al., 2017]. Here, the runout distances are c. 2.8 km (RA2do) and 1.5  
1288 km (RA3do) and release areas are located at  $3000 \pm 100$  m a.s.l., yielding H/L ratio of 0.30 and  
1289 0.39, respectively. The deposits reached a stratigraphic position immediately outboard (RA2do)  
1290 and inboard (RA3do, like at Arsine) the Kartell stadial extent, and have been dated with  
1291 Schmidt-hammer to  $\sim 10.80 \pm 1.20$  ka and  $\sim 9.90 \pm 1.50$  ka [Scotti et al., 2017]. In the eastern  
1292 Alps, two other events TCN-dated to  $10.53 \pm 0.67$  ka ( $n = 2$ ; one outlier) and  $10.80 \pm 0.76$  ka  
1293 ( $n = 4$ ) have been described at lower altitude [Bichler et al., 2016; Reitner et al., 2020]. Here,  
1294 the rock masses have not travelled onto ice remnants (H/L ratio of 0.52 and 0.36), as detachment  
1295 areas culminate at 2300 and 1850 m a.s.l., respectively. However, permafrost degradation may  
1296 have contributed to weakening the slope. All these RAs occurred during a period of significant  
1297 warming starting at  $\sim 11$  ka [Affolter et al., 2019; Zander et al., 2024]. This warming has  
1298 triggered widespread permafrost degradation in Alpine cirque headwalls: 20–80 % of the 2500–  
1299 3100 m a.s.l. elevation bands were affected until 9.6 ka [Draebing et al., 2024], and  
1300 subsequently [e.g., Gallach et al., 2020]. This has enhanced mass wasting events and increased  
1301 headwall erosion rates during the EH [Böhlert et al., 2011; Kenner and Magnusson, 2017;  
1302 Matthews et al., 2018; Amschwand et al., 2021; Hilger et al., 2021; Booth and Pétursson, 2025].  
1303 The same consequences on high-elevated rock slopes have been evidenced as a result of recent  
1304 anthropogenic warming [Ravanel and Deline, 2011; Legay et al., 2021; Courtial-Manent et al.,  
1305 2025; Fey et al., 2025].

1306

### 1307 5.3.3. Genetic origin of the ‘apparent rock glacier’

1308 A periglacial origin of the aRG can be excluded, given (i) the glacial setting (deglaciation of  
1309 the site at  $\sim 11$  ka, and then *quasi*-continuous presence of a glacier in the catchment during the  
1310 Holocene), and (ii) the disconnection from any possible source area. Indeed, the aRG front is  
1311 located c. 3 km from the headwall, which is only compatible with the development of a ‘talus-  
1312 derived’ rock glacier when considering the upper bound of EH creeping rates ( $0.12$ - $0.30$  m a<sup>-1</sup>)  
1313 [Böhlert et al., 2011; Scapoza, 2013; Moran et al., 2016c; Lehmann et al., 2022], but not the  
1314 Holocene-averaged rates, which are lower ( $0.02$ - $0.20$  m a<sup>-1</sup>) [Scapoza, 2013; Lehmann et al.,  
1315 2022; Munroe et al., 2024]. Regarding a ‘moraine-derived’ origin, it is unlikely that a landform  
1316 of this volume has developed only fed by the stock of morainic debris available at the time of  
1317 emplacement. When the RA2 occurred ( $\sim 10.7$  ka), the prominent PMC did not exist yet, and  
1318 there was no large frontal moraine upstream.

1319 The Arsine aRG was ‘glacier-derived’, as it formed at the tip of a heavily debris-covered glacier  
1320 under a rapidly warming climate. The aRG can thus be seen as the last stage of the continuum  
1321 between a debris-free glacier and a rock glacier, via a debris-covered glacier, as proposed by  
1322 several studies [Anderson et al., 2018; Jones et al., 2019; Fernández-Fernández et al., 2020].  
1323 However, as debris supply was not steady but catastrophic, and likely the result of a climate-  
1324 driven large scale rock slope failure which made available a large amount of material, the aRG  
1325 has also a paraglacial origin [Knight et al., 2019]. It has also been found that high-magnitude,  
1326 low-frequency events can explain the development and morphology of certain composite rock  
1327 glaciers [Degenhardt, 2009].

1328

#### 1329 5.3.4. Timing of the ‘apparent rock glacier’ emplacement

1330 After the RA2 event at ~10.7 ka, the glacier probably started to re-advance and deposited the  
1331 aRG outer moraine ridge (TA1a) with a lag of ~0.5 ka (~10.3 ka), and the aRG inner moraine  
1332 ridge (TA1c) 350 m behind, with a lag of ~1.2 ka (~9.5 ka) [Fig. 11d,e]. Based on the estimated  
1333 glacier position at ~10.7 ka (c. 2015 CE extent) and the location of the frontal moraine (TA1a),  
1334 we can infer that this post-RA2 advance extended over c. 1250 m [Fig. 11c,d]. This is a large  
1335 magnitude advance, given the size of the glacier, but of the same order (under similar  
1336 assumptions) than at the other sites where it was dated [e.g., Moran et al., 2016a; Scotti et al.,  
1337 2017]. Overall, the whole aRG emplacement has spanned only 0.7 ka. Although it mostly took  
1338 place during a generally glacier-unfriendly period (HTMP 1, 10.2 to 8.2 ka) [Le Roy et al.,  
1339 2024] [Fig. 10a], the dates we obtained for the moraine ridges show their stabilisation occurred  
1340 during known periods of glacier culminations in the Alps, at 10.3 ka (often two close moraines  
1341 deposited at this time, see above) and 9.6 ka [Le Roy et al., 2024] [Fig. 10b].

1342 The final stabilization of the aRG inner ridge at **9.52 ± 0.43 ka** (according to the Bayesian age  
1343 model) or **9.57 ± 0.24 ka** (based on the mean age of moraine TA1c) occurred concomitantly to  
1344 a small advance of Tschierva Glacier tree-ring dated to **9.62 ka** (7623 BCE) [Fig. 10b]. This  
1345 advance ended a marked retreat beyond its 2017 CE extent and then exceeded at least this  
1346 position [Nicolussi et al., 2019]. This faint cooling evidenced in the Alps is also visible in some  
1347 temperature reconstructions [e.g., Zander et al., 2024]. It predated the Greenland ‘9.3 ka event’  
1348 which led to moraine deposition in the Arctic [Pendleton et al., 2019; Young et al., 2020] but  
1349 likely not in the Alps [but see also Le Roy et al., 2023], where this advance was probably quite  
1350 restricted, as it occurred during the ~2 ka-long HTMP 1, between ~10.2 and 8.2 ka [Luetscher  
1351 et al., 2011; Le Roy et al., 2024] [Fig. 10a,b]. We therefore hypothesise that the related coolings

1352 that briefly interrupted the marked EH warming were recorded by the aRG morphology and  
1353 that these moraine ridges formed in response to climate-induced advancing ice.

1354 Despite significant warming starting at 11 ka, it is not clear if the periglacial belt rose  
1355 accordingly, assuming that the lower permafrost limit was considerably more depressed than  
1356 the ELA at the end of the YD [Frauenfelder et al., 2001; Moran et al., 2016c]. It remains that  
1357 most RGs from the 1900-2300 m a.s.l. belt became inactive at that time [Le Roy et al., 2024].  
1358 However, periglacial activity within the footprint of PBO moraines has been proposed at several  
1359 sites in the Alps, leading to delayed stabilization of thick debris cover [e.g., Moran et al., 2017a;  
1360 Le Roy et al., 2024]. For this reason, after deposition as moraines, the aRG ridges could have  
1361 undergone slight creeping, as suggested by their rounded morphology.

1362 Even though the location of the 10.3 ka aRG ridge is not anomalous with respect to other  
1363 moraine of this age in the Alps – which are often found midway between earlier EH and LIA  
1364 positions [Le Roy et al., 2024] – the location of the 9.5 ka ridge clearly differs from available  
1365 evidence for that period. Indeed, it is established that (i) small glacier systems at high elevation  
1366 (> 2800 m a.s.l.) withdrew inboard their 1880 CE extent before 10 ka, and then inboard their  
1367 1950 CE extent around  $9.5 \pm 0.5$  cal ka [Koinig et al., 2019], and that (ii) large valley glaciers  
1368 tongues at lower elevation (c. 2200-2300 m a.s.l.) were shorter than their 2005 CE extent almost  
1369 continuously between 10.2 and 8.2 ka [Nicolussi and Patzelt, 2001; Nicolussi, 2011; Nicolussi  
1370 and Schlüchter, 2012; Nicolussi et al., 2020]. The persistence of the Arsine Glacier eastern front  
1371 outboard the LIA extent as late as 9.5 ka therefore probably has a geomorphic origin. We  
1372 propose that this unusually large glacier extent is due to local insulation by the RA2 debris,  
1373 which prevented the eastern branch of the glacier from melting during the final EH warming,  
1374 while the western branch probably receded within the maximum Neoglacial extent after the  
1375 deposition of the RP1 moraine [Fig. 11e].

1376

#### 1377 5.4. The mid-Holocene Thermal Maximum

1378 Based on our comprehensive moraine mapping and dating, no evidence was found at Arsine  
1379 for moraine deposition between ~9.5 ka and 3.7 ka – bearing in mind that the location of the  
1380 aRG inner ridge outboard the LIA extent (that enabled its preservation) cannot be considered  
1381 entirely climate-driven here. Part of this interval (between ~6.2 and 3.4 ka) equally stands out  
1382 as a quiescent phase of nearby Vallon de la Route rock glacier [Lehmann et al., 2022] [Fig.  
1383 10g], revealing unfavourable conditions during the mid-Holocene for glacier and rock glacier  
1384 activity in the massif.

1385 Available paleoecological records in the region, pollen- and tree ring- based, indicate that the  
1386 treeline was high during the mid-Holocene [Chardon, 1991; Edouard et al., 2002; Edouard and  
1387 Thomas, 2008; Walsh et al., 2014; Cabanat et al., 2017]. The most ice proximal of these peat  
1388 bog sites, located at 2050 m a.s.l. in the Lavey Valley (only 300 m outboard the LIA extent of  
1389 Sellettes and Muande Glaciers) [Fig. 1], revealed *Pinus cembra* pollens and macro-remains,  
1390 witnessing forest stand development between ~6.0 and 2.7 cal ka at a place which is devoid of  
1391 trees today [Couteaux, 1984]. Besides pollen analysis, mega-fossils (trunks), few of which were  
1392 dated, were found at different locations in the core of the EPM > 2000 m a.s.l., and testify to a  
1393 formerly higher-elevated treeline [Allix, 1930; Samivel, 1978; Vivian, 1979; Edouard, 1994;  
1394 Le Roy et al., 2017].

1395 Several RAs are TCN-dated to the HTMPs in the EPM [Fig. 10f]. One of the most impressive  
1396 examples is the c.  $23 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  multi-stage Fontfroide landslide, which dammed the Pré de  
1397 Madame Carle in the Vallouise Valley [Cossart and Fort, 2008] [Fig. 1]. The release area is  
1398 thought to be between 2500 and 3000 m a.s.l. on the south face of Pic de Dormillouse (3410 m  
1399 a.s.l.). The emplacement of the Fontfroide RA deposit is estimated to have occurred in several  
1400 stages, the first of which is dated to **9.18 ka ± 0.21 ka** (n = 2), which is significantly younger  
1401 than deglaciation age, contrary to what was originally stated [Cossart et al., 2008]. The largest  
1402 event in the EPM, the Lauvitel RA, also occurred during the HTMPs. It is estimated to be c.  
1403  $50\text{--}70 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  (from scar volume) and the deposit that dammed Lauvitel Lake is estimated to  
1404 be at least  $12 \pm 4 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ . TCN-dating of the event yielded a mean age of **5.16 ka ± 0.38 ka**  
1405 (n = 4; 3 outliers) [Delunel et al., 2010]. Near Arsine Glacier, five smaller RA deposits mantling  
1406 the Haute Romanche Valley floor have been described. They have not been reworked by a  
1407 glacier and their volume ranges 0.1 to  $1 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^3$  [Violot, 2014]. In addition to RA2ro (Section  
1408 5.3.1), another of these RAs (RA1ro; c.  $0.3 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^3$ ) was TCN-dated to **6.96 ± 0.16 ka** (n = 2)  
1409 [Chenet et al., 2016] [Fig. 10f].

1410

#### 1411 5.5. Neoglacial advances

1412 The onset of the Neoglacial spans ~5.7 to ~3.6 ka in the Alps, depending on the elevation and  
1413 the sensitivity of the studied cryospheric feature [Bohleber et al., 2020; Le Roy et al., 2024]  
1414 [Fig. 10]. In the Grandes Rousses massif, the proglacial Lake Blanc Huez (2543 m a.s.l.) [Fig.  
1415 1] record shows enhanced glacial activity from ~5.5 ka onwards [Simonneau et al., 2014]. In  
1416 the EPM, Le Roy et al. [2017] proposed that the 4.2 ka advance, TCN-dated at the nearby  
1417 Bonnepierre Glacier (8 km SW of Arsine) [Fig. 1], marks the onset of the Neoglacial. The

1418 Neoglacial moraines dated at Arsine Glacier are compared on Fig. 12 with selected glacier  
1419 proxies from the Alps. There is a good agreement between the TCN-dated moraines and the  
1420 well-established tree-ring dates for the culmination of these advance periods [Fig. 12]. This  
1421 holds true for the seven major Neoglacial advances dated at Arsine (five of which are firmly  
1422 dated), out of the ten known in the Alps [Le Roy et al., 2024].

1423

#### 1424 5.5.1. The Bronze Age Advance Period

1425 The Bronze Age Advance Period (BAAP, ~3.7-3.4 ka) [Le Roy et al., 2024], formerly known  
1426 as the Lössen advance period [Bortenschlager and Patzelt, 1969; Nicolussi et al., 2006] is the  
1427 first widespread and widely-dated Neoglacial advance period in the Alps [Fig. 12]. However,  
1428 previous Neoglacial advances clearly occurred to deposit part of the tens of meters of moraine  
1429 height, often only the upper part of which is dated to the BAAP. For instance, at Tsijiore Nouve  
1430 this moraine is c. 40 m high and at the Arsine RLM a vertical distance of c. 37 m separates the  
1431 EH from the BAAP till units [Fig. 4b; Fig. 8d]. Based on an extensive corpus of tree-ring dates,  
1432 the first BAAP maximum occurred at 3.63 ka (1626 BCE) and the advance period culminated  
1433 immediately after 3.54 ka (1540 BCE) [Nicolussi and Patzelt, 2001; Le Roy et al., 2024] [Fig.  
1434 12g]. At Arsine, the three boulders dated in the upper part of the RLM distal face share the  
1435 same location relative to the crest ( $9 \pm 6$  m) [Fig. 4b; Fig. 8c,d]. They have been deposited  
1436 during this advance, dated here to  $3.74 \pm 0.09$  ka ( $n = 2$ ; one outlier). This is in good agreement  
1437 with the two distinct BAAP ridges dated to  $3.97 \pm 0.05$  ka ( $n = 2$ ) and  $3.98 \pm 0.37$  ka ( $n = 1$ ) at  
1438 the nearby Bonnepierre Glacier [Le Roy et al., 2017]. Notable other locations that feature TCN-  
1439 dated BAAP moraine ridges in the Alps include the Längental Glacier, where two BAAP frontal  
1440 moraines located 450-200 m outboard the LIA are dated to  $3.79 \pm 0.13$  ka ( $n = 3$ ) and  $3.23 \pm$   
1441  $0.25$  ka ( $n = 1$ ) [Moran et al., 2017b] and the Tsijiore Nouve Glacier, where the BAAP lateral  
1442 moraine is dated to  $3.38 \pm 0.10$  ka ( $n = 2$ ; one outlier) [Schimmelpfennig et al., 2012]. The  
1443 BAAP was likely triggered by a cluster of volcanic eruptions recently dated between 1681 and  
1444 1562 BCE [Pearson et al., 2022; Sigl et al., 2022; van Dijk et al., 2024] [Fig. 10g].

1445

1446 **Figure 12. Alpine Neoglacial glacier and paleoclimatic history over the last 4.2 ka. (a)**  
1447 Reconstructed summer (JJA) temperature anomalies with respect to the 1901-2000 CE period  
1448 based on subfossil wood material from Tyrol spanning the last 2.5 ka. Series smoothed with a  
1449 11-yr running mean [Büntgen et al., 2011] and COMNISP II, a stacked  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record including  
1450 four speleothems from the Spannagel Cave (2340 m a.s.l., Zillertal, Tyrol) [Fohlmeister et al.,

1451 2013], **(b)** Kernel Density Estimates of TCN-dated boulders of Holocene moraines in the Alps  
1452 (n = 242). Same as Fig. 10b, **(c)** Mer de Glace tree-ring dated chronology (Mont Blanc massif)  
1453 [Le Roy et al., 2015], **(d)** Avalanche frequency on a 101-yr average in Lake Lauvitel (EPM)  
1454 [Fouinat et al., 2018], **(e)** Proglacial Lake Bramant (Grandes Rousses) clastic sedimentation  
1455 reflecting Saint Sorlin Glacier activity. The record is shown as K/Ti (up to 800 CE) and Ti  
1456 anomalies afterward. Both series were smoothed by a 30-yr running mean [Guyard et al., 2013],  
1457 **(f)** Terrigenous input into sub-alpine Lake Bourget (northern French Prealps) [Arnaud et al.,  
1458 2012], **(g)** All tree-ring-dated wood samples (n = 439) coming from lateral moraines in the Alps  
1459 and indicating a glacier extent smaller than CE 1850-1960 at the time of tree growth. Same as  
1460 Fig. 10b [see Le Roy et al., 2024 for details]. Vertical dark grey lines are TCN-based central  
1461 estimates for moraine deposition at Arsine Glacier along with external uncertainties (grey  
1462 bands). Tree-ring dates for the culmination of Neoglacial glacier advances in the Alps are  
1463 shown as vertical green lines, based on **(g)** [see compilation details in Le Roy et al., 2024] and  
1464 are mostly from the Mer de Glace site [Le Roy et al., 2015]. Out of the ten majors known  
1465 Neoglacial advances in the Alps, only three were not dated at Arsine Glacier (shown as dotted  
1466 lines, light green).

1467

### 1468 5.5.2. The Iron Age Advance Period 1

1469 At Arsine Glacier the most widespread till unit – as it is dated at both lateral moraines – spans  
1470 ~2.8 to 2.6 ka, with overlapping mean ages within uncertainties. At the LLM, it is dated to **2.62**  
1471 **± 0.17 ka** and the till unit spans  $13 \pm 4$  m below the main crest [Fig. 8a,b], while at the RLM  
1472 all boulders were sitting on top of the main crest, dated to **2.76 ± 0.11 ka** [Fig. 2b; Fig. 8c,d].  
1473 Taken together, these deposits yield a mean age of **2.69 ± 0.16 ka** and can be linked to the first  
1474 phase of the Iron Age Advance Period (~3.0-2.4 ka) [Le Roy et al., 2024], formerly known as  
1475 the Göschenen I cold period in the Alps [Zoller et al., 1966]. The Iron Age Advance Period 1  
1476 culmination is tree-ring dated around 2.60 ka (600 BCE) in the Alps, but highstands (> 1920  
1477 CE extent) spanned centuries between 2.90 and 2.40 ka [Le Roy et al., 2024]. At some sites,  
1478 three clearly distinct advances occurred during the Iron Age Advance Period 1 [e.g., Le Roy et  
1479 al., 2015; Patzelt, 2016] [Fig. 12c]. Even if the Göschenen nomenclature is outdated [see  
1480 Boxleitner et al., 2019a], significant glacier advances in the order of Neoglacial maxima did  
1481 actually occur during the time it encompasses. Our results indicate that Arsine Glacier reached  
1482 at that time a size similar as during the LIA. This is comparable to other small glaciers where  
1483 such moraines were found slightly outboard the 1850 CE extent [Wipf, 2001; Pindur and

1484 [Heuberger, 2010](#)]. At Stein Glacier, the Neoglacial frontal moraine located slightly outboard  
1485 the LIA maximum was dated to **2.94 ± 0.10 ka** (n = 5) [[Schimmelpfennig et al., 2014](#); [2022](#)].  
1486 At the largest Alpine glaciers, this advance was comparatively less important, with a relative  
1487 extent in the order of the 1950-1890s CE [[Nicolussi and Patzelt, 2001](#); [Holzhauser et al., 2005](#);  
1488 [Holzhauser, 2010](#); [Le Roy et al., 2015](#)].

1489

### 1490 5.5.3. The Late Antique Advance Period 1

1491 The moraine ridge ('PMC LLM outer crest') [[Fig. 2b](#); [Fig. 8b](#)] dated to **1.67 ka ± 0.06 ka** (~350  
1492 CE) marks the renewal of glacier activity after the Roman Warm Period (1-250 CE)  
1493 [[Luterbacher et al., 2016](#)]. The four consistent ages obtained here (one slightly 'too-old' age  
1494 pruned) casts little doubt on the dating. It therefore appears that Arsine Glacier reached a size  
1495 in the range of the LIA maxima during the first phase of the two-staged Late Antique Advance  
1496 Period (~250-650 CE) [[Le Roy et al., 2024](#)], in line with summer temperature trends [[Büntgen  
1497 et al., 2011](#)] [[Fig. 12a](#)]. This is probably due to its short response time. On the other hand, at the  
1498 largest Alpine glaciers, this first phase has not led to LIA max.-like extent (in contrast to the  
1499 second phase around 600 CE). Mer de Glace remained inboard its 1946 CE extent up to 312  
1500 CE, based on an *in situ* tree-ring dated log [[Le Roy et al., 2015](#)] [[Fig. 12c](#)]. Then, both Mer de  
1501 Glace and Gepatsch Glaciers experienced a first Late Antique Advance Period maximum  
1502 (slightly beyond their 1930 CE extent), tree-ring dated to 337 and 336 CE, respectively  
1503 [[Nicolussi and Patzelt, 2001](#); [Nicolussi et al., 2006](#); [Le Roy et al., 2015](#)]. At Arsine Glacier, the  
1504 slight inheritance detected in the oldest boulder could be due to above average rockfall activity  
1505 in the cirque headwall during the Roman Warm Period, as already demonstrated in the Mont  
1506 Blanc Massif [[Gallach et al., 2020](#)]. This first Late Antique Advance Period advance could have  
1507 been triggered by increasing accumulation as shown by snow avalanche activity peaking ~260  
1508 cal CE in Lake Lauvitel [[Fouinat et al., 2018](#)] [[Fig. 12d](#)].

1509

### 1510 5.6. The Little Ice Age

1511 The LIA encompasses most of the last millennium (1260-1860 CE) [[Nicolussi et al., 2022](#)].  
1512 Immediately prior, a High Medieval Advance Period culminated between 1140 and 1180 CE,  
1513 with glaciers reaching at most their 1870 CE extent [[Holzhauser, 2010](#); [Le Roy et al., 2015](#);  
1514 [Badino et al., 2018](#); [Koinig et al., 2019](#)]. Then, the first LIA maximum ('early-LIA' advance)  
1515 peaked between the late 13th and late 14th century [[Nicolussi et al., 2022](#)]. The timing of the  
1516 early-LIA is especially well reflected in proglacial lake sediment records around the EPM  
1517 [[Guyard et al., 2013](#); [Simonneau et al., 2014](#); [Fouinat et al., 2017](#); [2018](#)] [[Fig. 1](#); [Fig. 12d,e,f](#)].

1518 At Arsine Glacier, the LIA age population shows two main clusters [Fig. 10e]. Taken together,  
1519 a similar bimodal distribution on LIA-aged moraines is a classic feature in the Alps and is  
1520 transcribed in our compilation shown in Fig. 12b. The first cluster (~ 0.75-0.5 ka) is thought to  
1521 reflect the early-LIA maximum peaking during the 14th century [Fig. 12b]. The second cluster  
1522 of the LIA age population (0.4-0.15 ka) encompasses the 17th and 19th century maxima – the  
1523 last (~1850 CE) being dated at Arsine at the ‘PMC RLM inner crests’ [Fig. 8c].

1524 The LIA advances are documented by scarce direct glaciological evidence in the EPM, even  
1525 during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The two earliest direct historical records of the position of glaciers in  
1526 the EPM concern the Mont-de-Lans and Pierroux Glaciers [see Fig. 1 for location]. They  
1527 indicate that their ice margins were close to their 19th century maximum extent in 1318 CE and  
1528 1345 CE, respectively [Allix, 1929]. The associated topographic evidence seems sufficiently  
1529 robust to affirm that the EPM glaciers were in an advanced position in the first half of the 14th  
1530 century. Another text reported by Allix [1929] indicates that the Meije Glacier was rather  
1531 contracted in 1497 CE compared with the LIA maxima, which suggests that the early-LIA  
1532 advance was over. Regarding the late-LIA, historical documentation relating to significant  
1533 climatic events (e.g., floods) highlights climate worsening which peaked in ~1580-1640 CE  
1534 and 1800-1860 CE in the Vallouise Valley [Lagier and Masson, 1997; Dallons Thanneur et al.,  
1535 2025].

1536 At most Alpine sites, evidence related to the early-LIA comes from the steep proximal faces of  
1537 composite lateral moraines [Nicolussi et al., 2022] or from *in situ* stumps scattered in glacier  
1538 forefields [Holzhauser et al., 2005; Holzhauser, 2010]. Sometimes, short fragments of early-  
1539 LIA outer ridges can be found outside of the 19th century deposits, like at the Rhône, Rutor,  
1540 Horn, Stein and Laraintal Glaciers [Zumbühl and Holzhauser, 1988; Orombelli, 2005; Pindur  
1541 and Heuberger, 2010; Schimmelpfennig et al., 2014; Braumann et al., 2021]. However, the  
1542 dating of an extended section of a frontal moraine to the early-LIA is rare in the Alps. At Arsine,  
1543 it corresponds to the Neoglacial maximum frontal moraine (both ‘PMC outer frontal lobes’  
1544 dated to  $0.65 \pm 0.03$  ka and  $0.50 \pm 0.04$  ka) which, based on the resulting age distribution, is  
1545 likely a composite moraine [Fig. 3]. Such composite nature of ‘LIA’ frontal moraines is rarely  
1546 identified, but a few examples do exist [e.g., Braumann et al., 2020; 2022]. Here, the oldest  
1547 samples may represent bulldozed boulders from pre-existing moraine ridges and thus reflect  
1548 the re-occupation of roughly the same location by different advances of similar magnitude. In  
1549 addition to the frontal moraine, a section of the lateral moraine probably also dates from the  
1550 early-LIA period ( $0.58 \pm 0.05$  ka at the ‘PMC RLM inner crests’) [Fig. 2b; Fig. 8c].

1551

1552 5.7. Other possible LIA-like glacier advances

1553 Given the composite nature of the Neoglacial frontal moraine ('PMC outer frontal lobes'),  
1554 possible ages for pre-LIA advances reaching this location are **8.17 ± 0.30 ka** (ARS-16-16), **1.96**  
1555 **± 0.18 ka** (ARS-18-01 and -02) and **1.17 ± 0.05 ka** (ARS-19-13) [Fig. 11h].

1556 The age of the oldest sample here might point to a glacier advance coeval with the '8.2 ka  
1557 event'. This advance has been tree-ring dated to 8.17 ka (6168 BCE) in the Alps [Nicolussi and  
1558 Schlüchter, 2012] [Fig. 10b]. Current state of knowledge shows that the most advanced  
1559 positions reached by large Alpine glaciers (LIA area: 22-27 km<sup>2</sup>) around 8.2 ka did not exceed  
1560 the LIA maximum and correspond to the c. 1950 CE extent [Nicolussi and Patzelt, 2001; Le  
1561 Roy et al., 2024]. However, the medium-sized and steep Simony Glacier (LIA area: 4.3 km<sup>2</sup>)  
1562 reached an extent of c. 1870 CE [Nicolussi and Patzelt, 2001]. Therefore, at small glaciers (LIA  
1563 area: 1.5-3.5 km<sup>2</sup>) an extent slightly exceeding the LIA maximum cannot be ruled out [Joerin,  
1564 2006]. For example, a single boulder located in similar stratigraphic position (on a faint ridge  
1565 75 m outboard the LIA extent) has also been dated to **8.16 ± 0.41 ka** at the Litzner Glacier  
1566 [Moran et al., 2016a]. Alternatively, at Arsine, this boulder could have been remobilized from  
1567 the underlying aRG deposits which stabilized around 9.5 ka in this sector.

1568 The two consistent ages obtained on short boulders ARS-18-01 and -02 in the frontal moraine  
1569 (mean: **1.96 ± 0.18 ka**) can be tentatively grouped with the similarly-aged larger boulder ARS-  
1570 19-07 (**2.28 ± 0.09 ka**) from the LLM distal face to yield a mean age of **2.22 ± 0.16 ka**. This  
1571 reinforces diffuse evidence for a prominent advance prior to the Roman Warm Period, called  
1572 the Iron Age Advance Period 2, which is known to have peaked at ~2.2-2.1 ka [Le Roy et al.,  
1573 2024]. It is dated at a few sites in the Alps, including the nearby Bonnepierre Glacier, at **2.31 ±**  
1574 **0.07 ka** (n = 2; one outlier) [Le Roy et al., 2017]. Other sites include Argentière and Lower and  
1575 Upper Grindelwald Glaciers [Le Roy, 2012; Luetscher et al., 2011; Holzhauser, 2016]. A  
1576 boulder of similar age (**2.04 ± 0.09 ka**) has also been found in a late-LIA moraine at Talèfre  
1577 Glacier [Protin et al., 2021], likely indicating a LIA-like extent during the Iron Age Advance  
1578 Period 2. The '2.1 ka event' and subsequent glacier advance could result from a cluster of  
1579 volcanic eruptions spanning 172 to 43 BCE [Sigl et al., 2022; van Dijk et al., 2024] [Fig. 10g].  
1580 This is the only major Neoglacial advance that has not yet been tree-ring dated in the Alps [Fig.  
1581 12g]. Close to our study site, this period stands out in several proglacial lake sediment records  
1582 [Arnaud et al., 2012; Guyard et al., 2013; Fouinat et al., 2018] [Fig. 12d,e,f].

1583 Finally, the boulder dated to **1.17 ± 0.05 ka** agrees with a 9th century CE deposition, a period  
1584 known to have seen one of the largest Neoglacial advance, the early Medieval Advance [[Le](#)  
1585 [Roy et al., 2024](#)], which culminated around **1.16 ka** (840 CE) based on tree-ring dates  
1586 [[Orombelli and Porter, 1982](#); [Nicolussi and Patzelt, 2001](#); [Holzhauser et al., 2005](#); [Nicolussi et](#)  
1587 [al., 2006](#); [Holzhauser, 2010, 2016](#)]. In the EPM, a Medieval Neoglacial frontal maximum has  
1588 previously been proposed at Étages Glacier ('M1 moraine') [[Le Roy et al., 2017](#)]. Recalculation  
1589 of the age of this moraine (including a snow correction required for the two short and very flat  
1590 boulders, not applied in the original publication) yields a mean of **1.08 ± 0.03 ka** (n = 2) and  
1591 conforms with the early Medieval Advance. In the eastern and central Alps, the early Medieval  
1592 Advance is TCN-dated to **1.07 ± 0.04 ka** (n = 1) at Jamtal Glacier [[Braumann et al., 2021](#)] and  
1593 **1.22 ± 0.09 ka** (n = 2) at Obersee Glacier [[Kronig et al., 2018](#)]. The early Medieval Advance  
1594 could have been triggered by a particularly prolonged eruption period of Katla (Iceland)  
1595 between 815 and 827 CE [[Büntgen et al., 2017](#); [Sigl et al., 2022](#)].

1596

#### 1597 5.8. Rates and modes of moraine deposition

1598 In lateral position, the dominant deposition mode can vary temporally and spatially during the  
1599 Holocene, between superposition and accretion [*sensu* [Röthlisberger and Schneebeli, 1979](#)]. At  
1600 Arsine Glacier, both modes occurred on each side, but superposition was the main mode at the  
1601 LLM while accretion was predominant at the RLM [see [Fig. 2b](#); [Fig 4b](#)]. Due to a c. 50 m  
1602 overdeepening in the eastern part of the bed [[Echevin, 1970](#)] [[Fig. 9d](#)], glacier flow and till  
1603 deposition were not constrained by topography on the right bank, whereas they were mainly  
1604 backed onto the slope on the left bank [[Fig. 8](#)]. This discrepancy has led to an asymmetry in the  
1605 elevation of the lateral moraines. The current LLM crest (eroded LIA crest) is 24 m higher than  
1606 the RLM crest (stable Neoglacial outer crest) on a transverse profile located c. 150 m upstream  
1607 the 2015 CE front position. This value increases to 35 m when comparing only both (eroded)  
1608 LIA crests. Based on the samples from the '2.7 ka advance' (n = 6) – two of which are located  
1609 on this profile (ARS-19-05 and ARS-16-20) – we can infer that the western glacier margin was  
1610 at least 12 m higher than the eastern margin during the culmination of this advance. Due to the  
1611 different deposition modes, the oldest till units that are outcropping in the RLM distal face,  
1612 dated to the EH and to 3.7 ka [[Fig. 4b](#); [Fig. 8c,d](#)], are no longer visible at the LLM. We postulate  
1613 that they were buried by Late Holocene moraines, as the 2.7 ka till unit extends down to the  
1614 bottom of the LLM distal face [[Fig. 8a,b](#)]. The last LIA advance overtopped the composite  
1615 lateral moraines, leaving only isolated patches of pre-existing deposits. Late overtopping of the  
1616 distal face was more widespread at the LLM due to prevalent superposition mode.

1617 The rate of till deposition by superposition during a given advance period can be roughly  
1618 estimated based on the relative vertical distance to the main lateral crest of some of the dated  
1619 units [Small et al., 1984] [Fig. 8]. At the LLM, the dated boulders belonging to the ‘2.7 ka  
1620 advance’ (Iron Age Advance Period 1) spread over a 9 m-thick layer and the boulders belonging  
1621 to the ‘1.7 ka advance’ (Late Antique Advance Period 1) spread at least the top 6 meters of the  
1622 outer moraine crest [Fig. 8b]. At the RLM, the dated boulders belonging to the ‘3.7 ka advance’  
1623 (Bronze Age Advance Period) spread over a 11 m-thick layer. These estimations are minimum-  
1624 limiting, as we are not capturing the entire thickness of each unit with this approach. However,  
1625 it appears that major Neoglacial advance periods added more than 10 m to the lateral moraines  
1626 when overtopping them. At the RLM, the c. 37 m that separate the 11.1 ka and 3.7 ka till units  
1627 imply that several advances occurred during this interval [Fig. 8d]. They were not dated by lack  
1628 of suitable boulders [Fig. 4b].

1629 As lateral till units’ thickness are minimum estimates conditioned by boulders sampling, they  
1630 cannot be directly transcribed into past advances duration. Similarly, past advances magnitude  
1631 cannot be deduced from till units’ elevation, mainly because (i) change of the glacier bed  
1632 elevation due to sediment aggradation, and (ii) paraglacial overprinting of the moraine during  
1633 retreat periods are both difficult to constrain. At Arsine, (i) the bed is made up of 10-20 m thick  
1634 sediments for which the deposition period is not known, and (ii) the lateral moraines are mostly  
1635 free-standing (i.e. less prone to paraglacial reworking), which might suggest that these  
1636 parameters are not very effective. However, post-LIA retreat has already led to the destruction  
1637 of part of the inner accreted moraines at the RLM [Fig. 2b,c; Fig. 8d]. So, this process may  
1638 already have occurred during previous retreats.

1639

## 1640 **6. Conclusions**

1641 We present here the most comprehensive TCN-based Holocene glacier chronology for a single  
1642 glacier site in the Alps. We find the chronology slightly differs from those developed for the  
1643 largest Alpine glaciers (LIA size > 25 km<sup>2</sup>) regarding the relative extents reached during the  
1644 Neoglacial advance periods. This shows the importance of dating well-preserved moraine  
1645 records at small glacier sites (LIA size < 4 km<sup>2</sup>).

1646 The Arsine Glacier’s Younger Dryas to Early Holocene chronology main features.

- 1647 - A major advance during the late YD, marked by a large moraine complex (RP5a-b).
- 1648 - Four recurrences during the Preboreal (RP4 to RP1), the third and fourth being related  
1649 to the Preboreal Oscillation and to the ‘10.3 ka cold event’, respectively.

1650 - An uncertain 8.2 ka-aged deposit (based on a single boulder) in a LIA composite frontal  
1651 moraine. Evidence of the maximum extent reached by glaciers at that time – that  
1652 remains elusive in the Alps – should therefore be sought at small glacier systems.

1653 During the Early Holocene, at least two rock avalanches travelled partly onto the ice, RA1 and  
1654 RA2, with minimum volume estimates of c. 0.8 and  $8.4 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ .

1655 - Two distal deposits that were part of these RAs (RP and AP west) retain pristine  
1656 surfaces with well-defined ridges, implying they were little affected by post-  
1657 depositional melting of underlying snow/ice layer.

1658 - The largest event (RA2) reached the Arsine Pass and the Upper Tabuc Valley at ~10.7  
1659 ka, and subsequently allowed the development of the ‘apparent rock glacier’, by  
1660 slowing down melting of part of the glacier tongue.

1661 - The existence of the ‘apparent rock glacier’ at the eastern branch of the glacier has  
1662 made it possible to detect at least one climate-driven EH advances (TA1c) that is not  
1663 recorded by the debris-free glacier tongue at the western branch. The latter was  
1664 probably in a much more retracted position at the same time.

1665 - The proposed hypothesis regarding the rock avalanche origin of the ‘apparent rock  
1666 glacier’ needs further testing by modelling the runout of the estimated volume and by  
1667 sedimentological investigations.

1668 The Arsine Glacier’s Neoglacial chronology main features.

1669 - Confirmation that the Bronze Age Advance Period (~3.7 ka) is the most widespread  
1670 preserved moraine of the early Neoglacial at the Alpine scale. This is the third TCN-  
1671 dated occurrence in the Ecrins-Pelvoux Massif.

1672 - Evidence that the Iron Age Advance Period 1 (~2.8 to 2.6 ka) has been a size equivalent  
1673 as the LIA maxima at small glaciers.

1674 - Tentative dating of the Iron Age Advance Period 2 in the composite Neoglacial  
1675 maximum frontal moraine (two short boulders averaging ~2.0 ka) pointing to a possible  
1676 significant advance before the Roman Climatic Optimum. This would be the second  
1677 TCN-dated occurrence in the Ecrins-Pelvoux Massif.

1678 - Evidence that the first phase of the Late Antique Advance Period at 1.7 ka (~350 CE)  
1679 has been a size equivalent as the LIA maxima at small glaciers.

1680 - A large early-LIA advance at 0.7 ka (~1370 CE) is materialized by the youngest  
1681 boulders in the composite Neoglacial maximum frontal moraine located 200 m outboard

1682 the late-LIA frontal moraine (~1850 CE). Two single boulders likely deposited during  
1683 the same early-LIA advance were also dated at two other locations of the forefield.

1684

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1702

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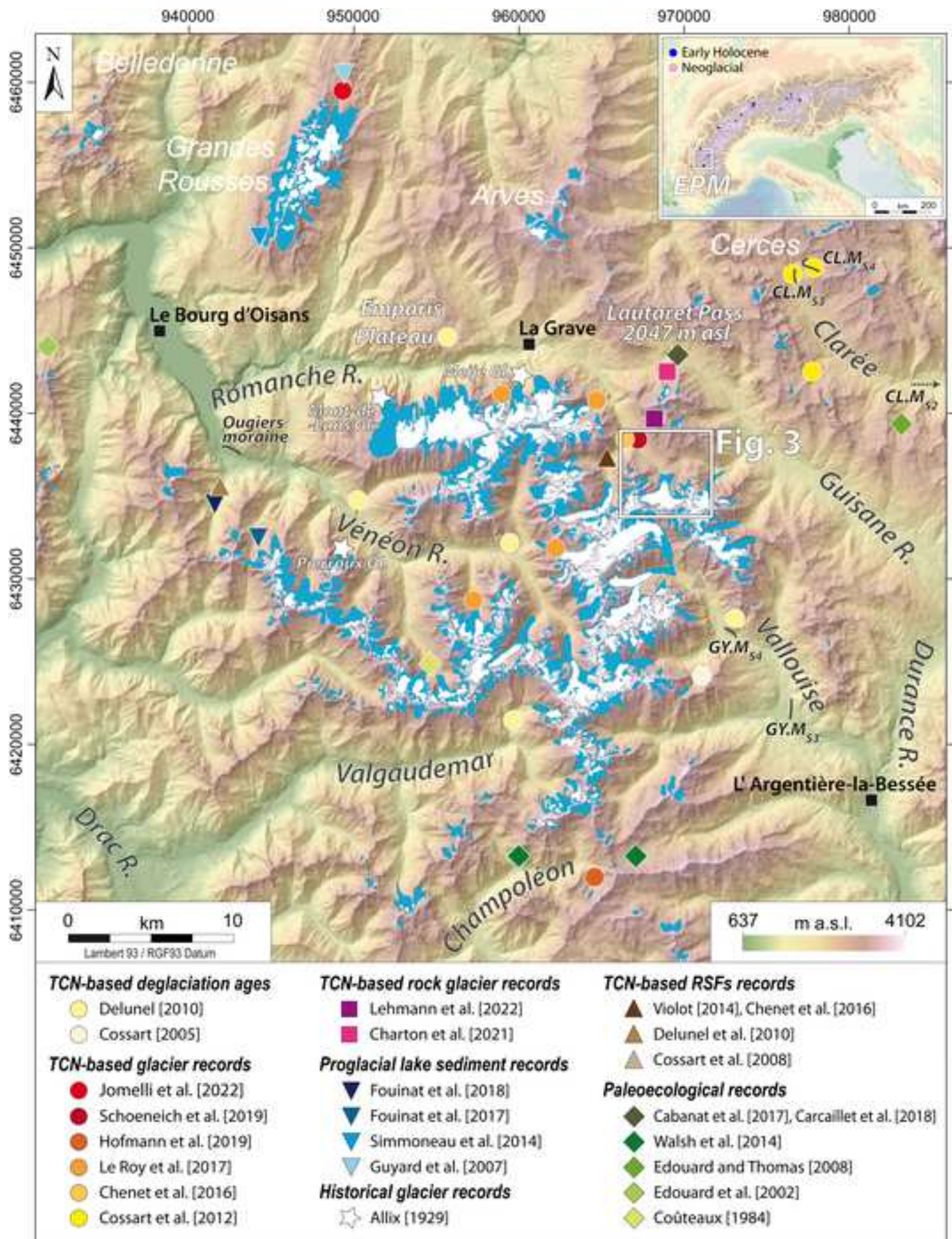
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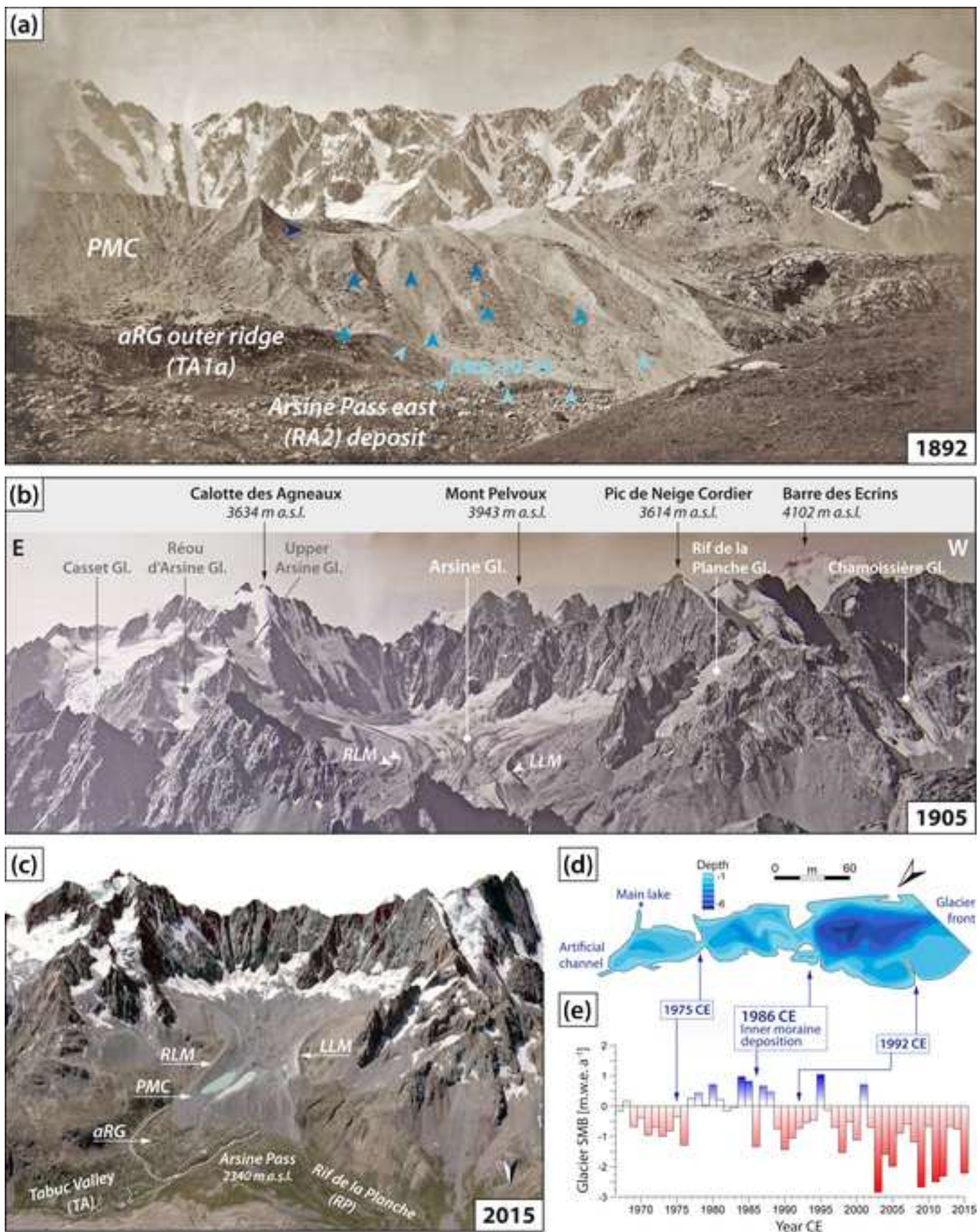
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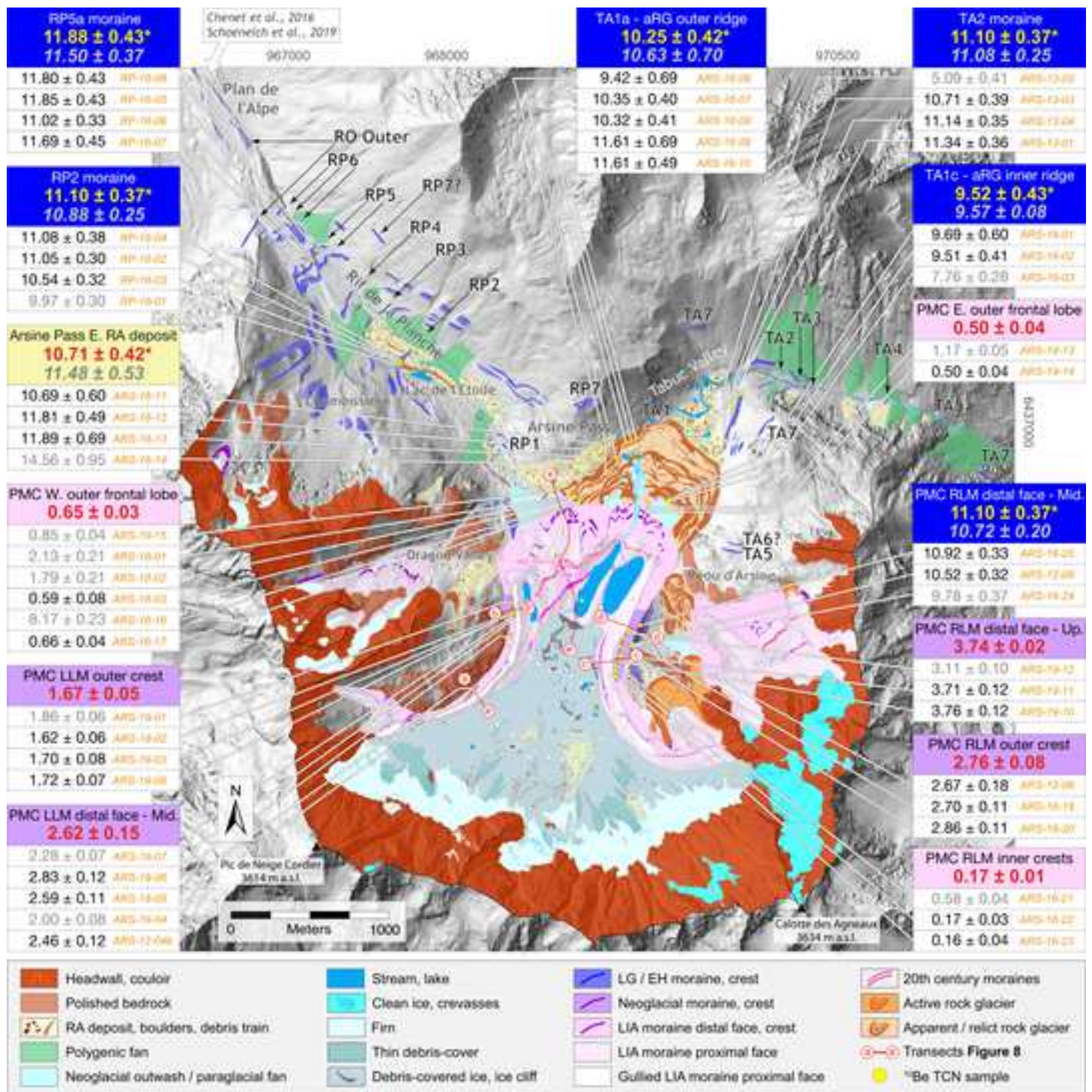
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## Highlights

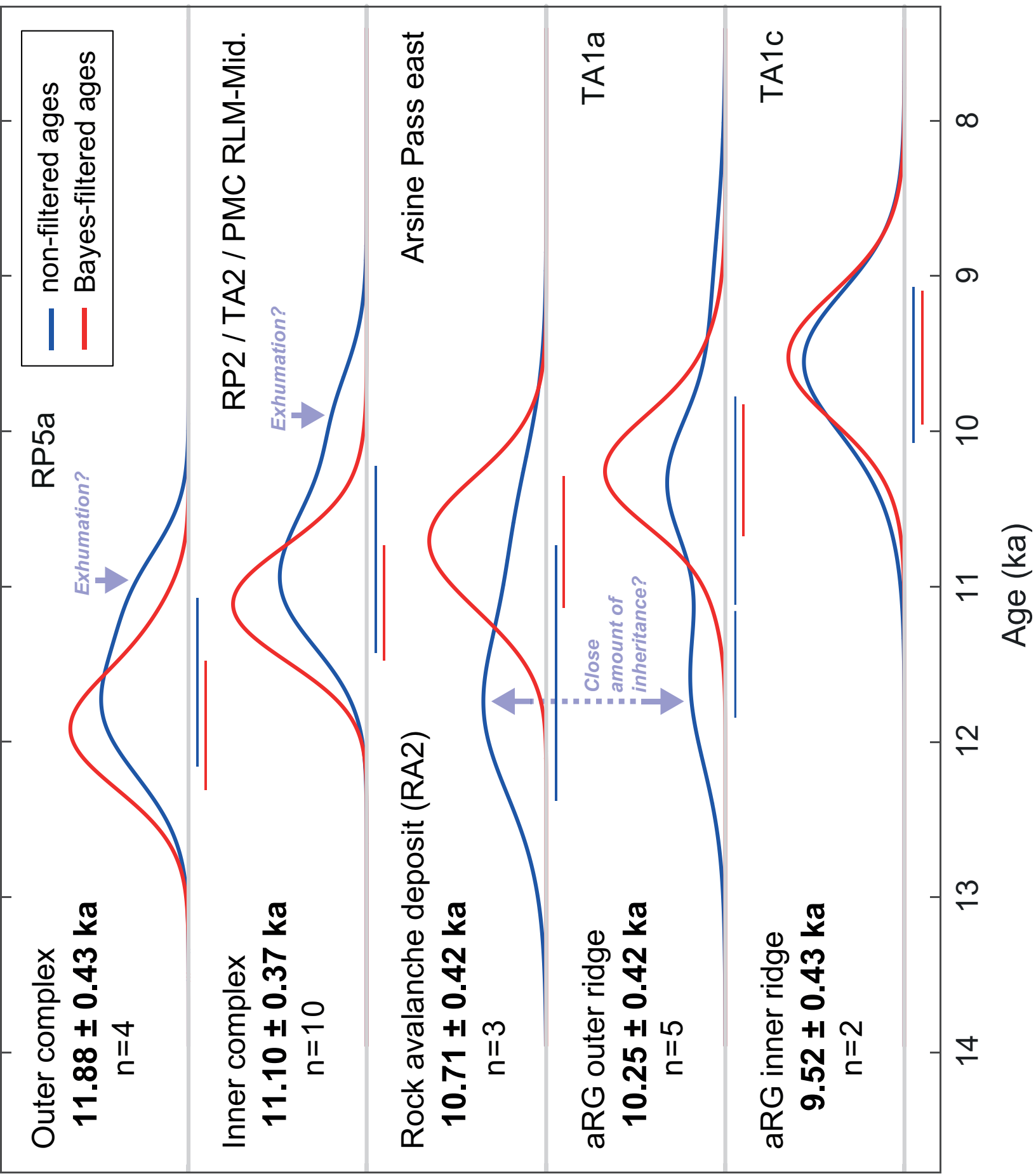
- Most detailed TCN-based Holocene-long glacier chronology for the western European Alps
- Main glacier advances occurred at 11.9, 11.1, 10.3, 3.7, 2.7, 1.7, 0.65 and 0.17 ka
- Dating of a c.  $8.4 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  rock avalanche onto eastern part of the glacier 10.7 ka ago
- RA responsible for prominent moraine deposition outboard the LIA extent up to 9.5 ka
- We review evidence for Holocene glacier activity in the Alps

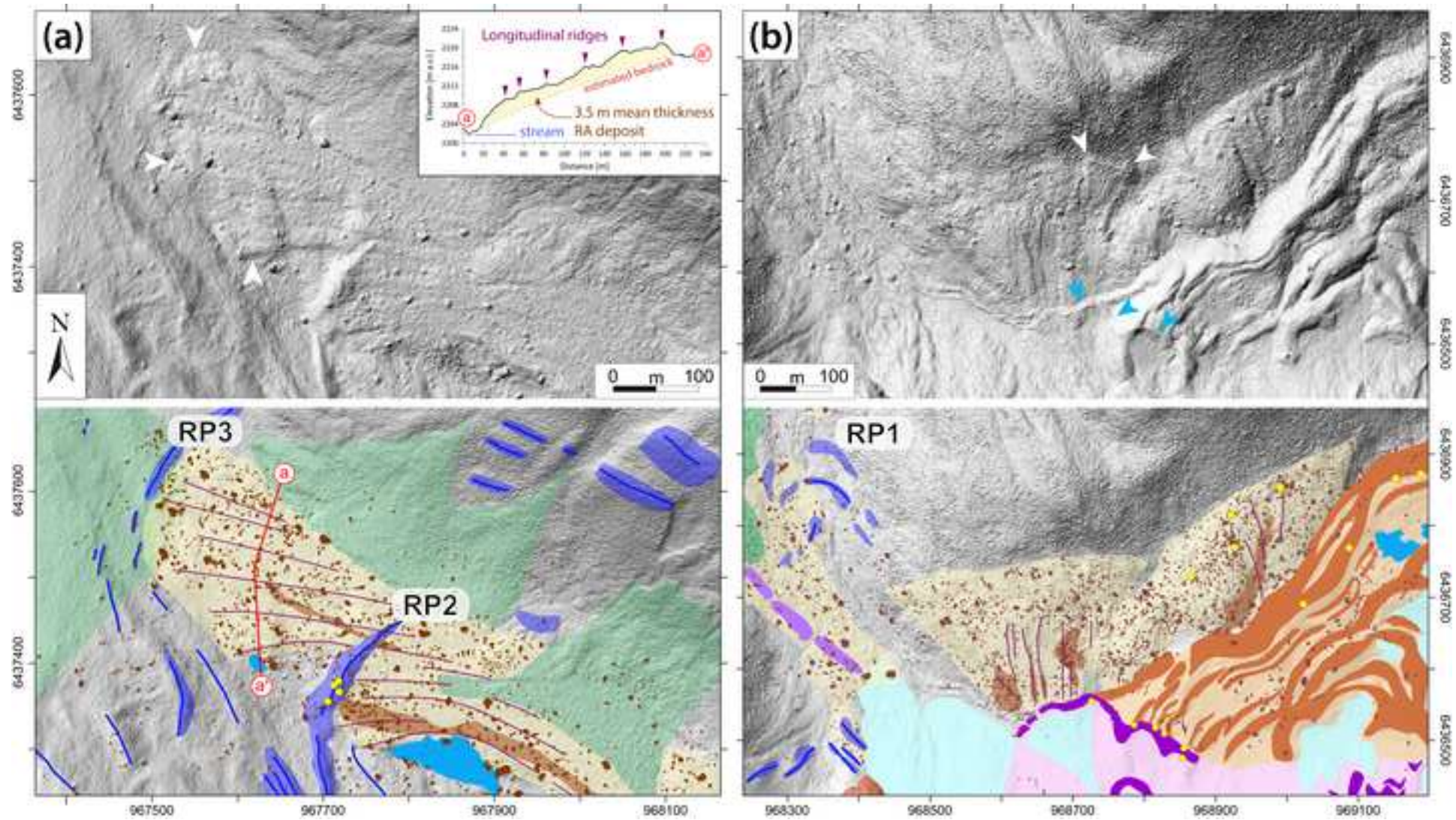


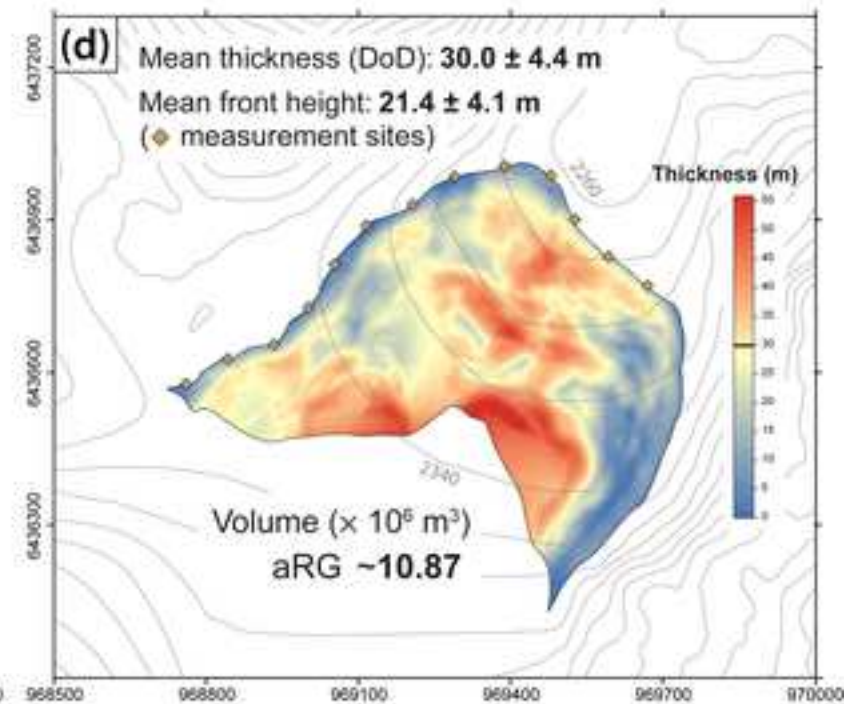
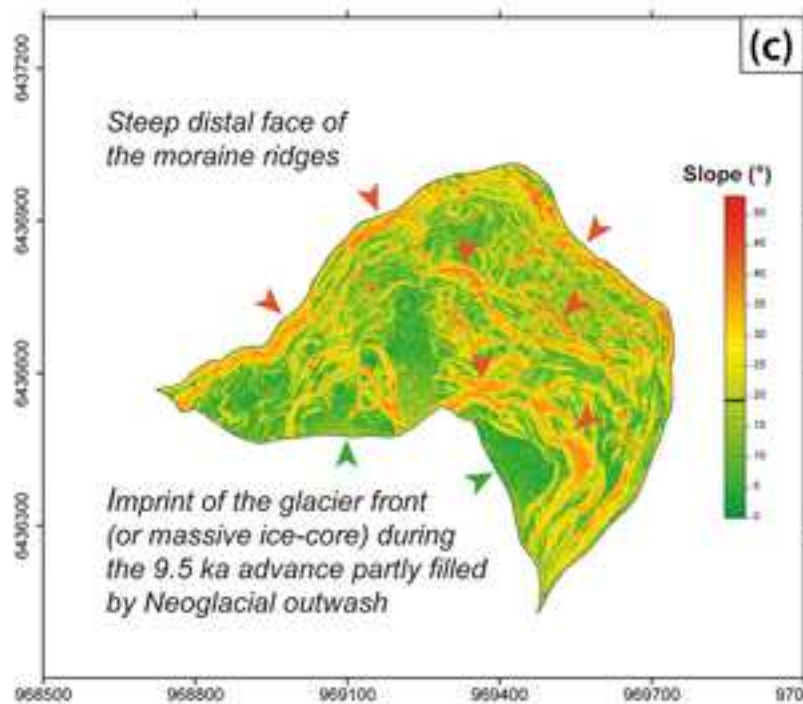
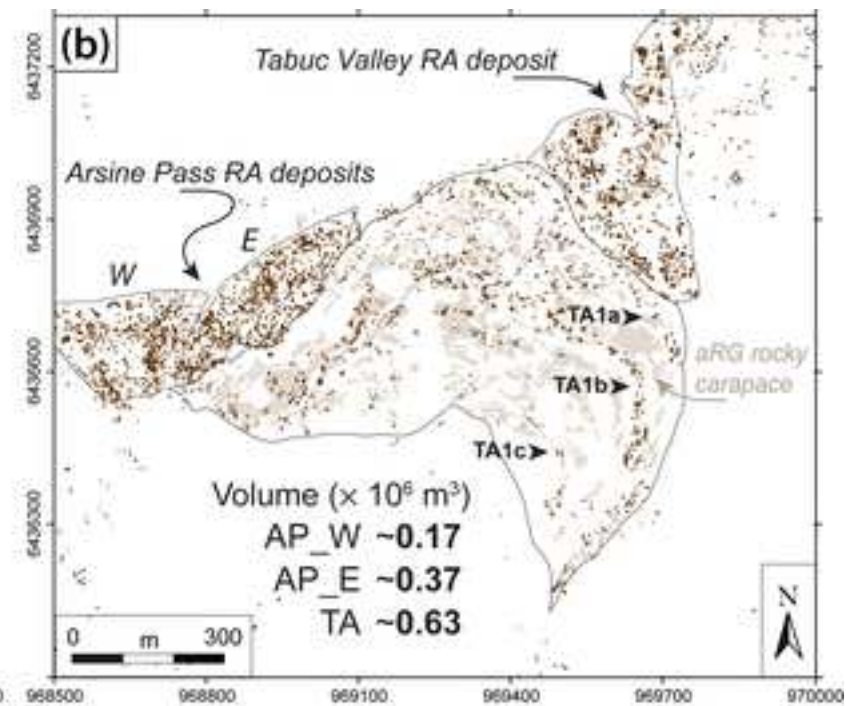
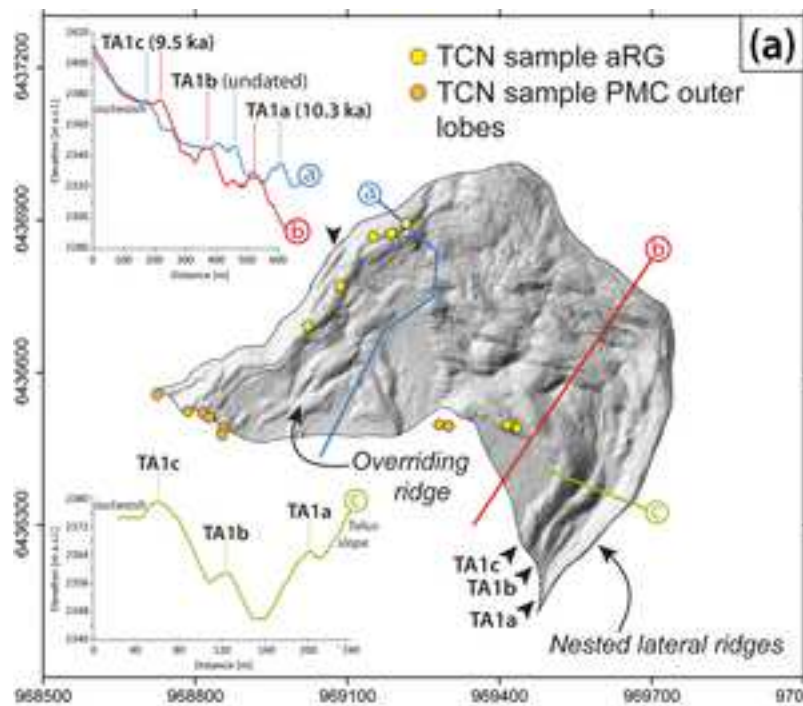


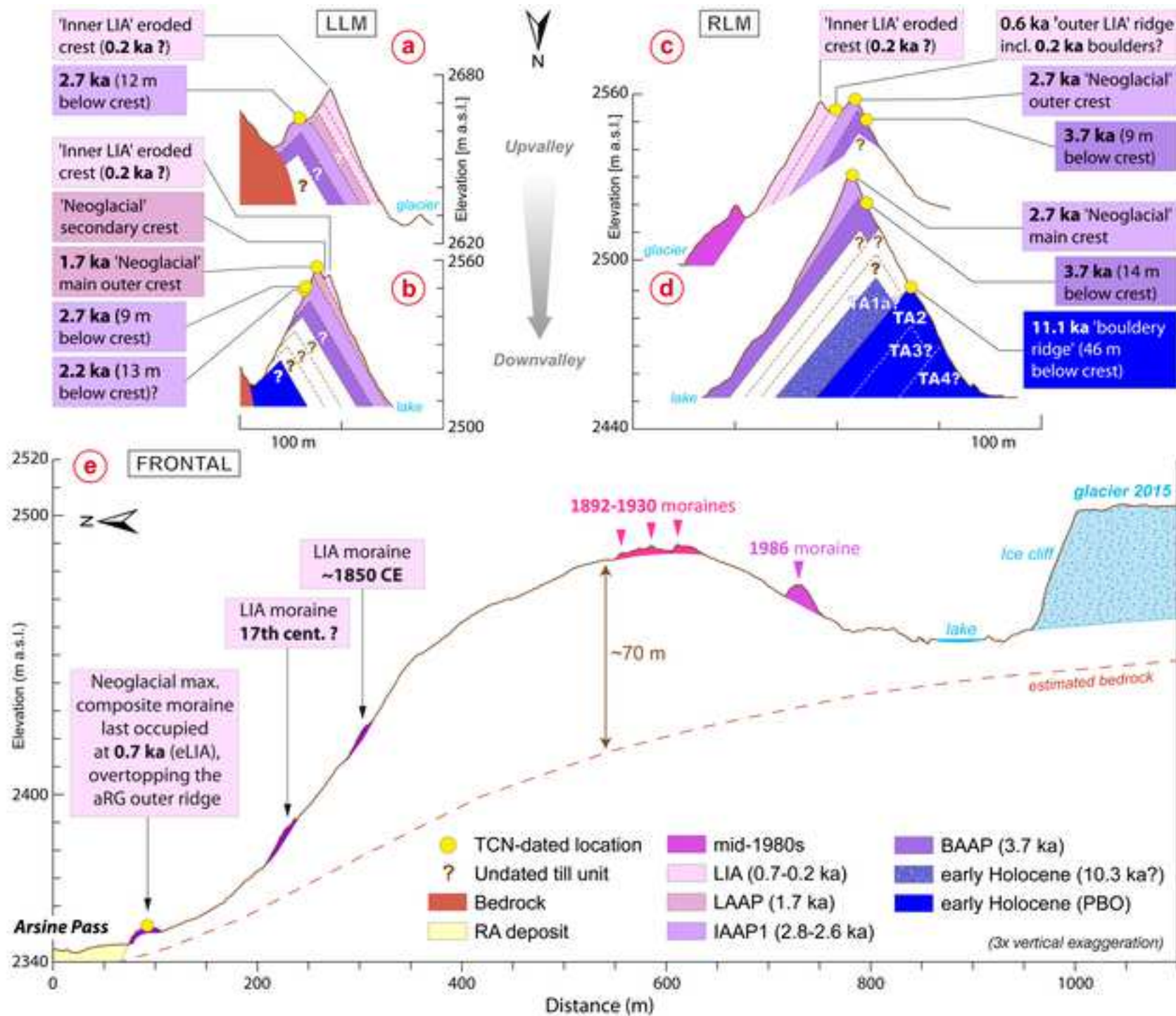


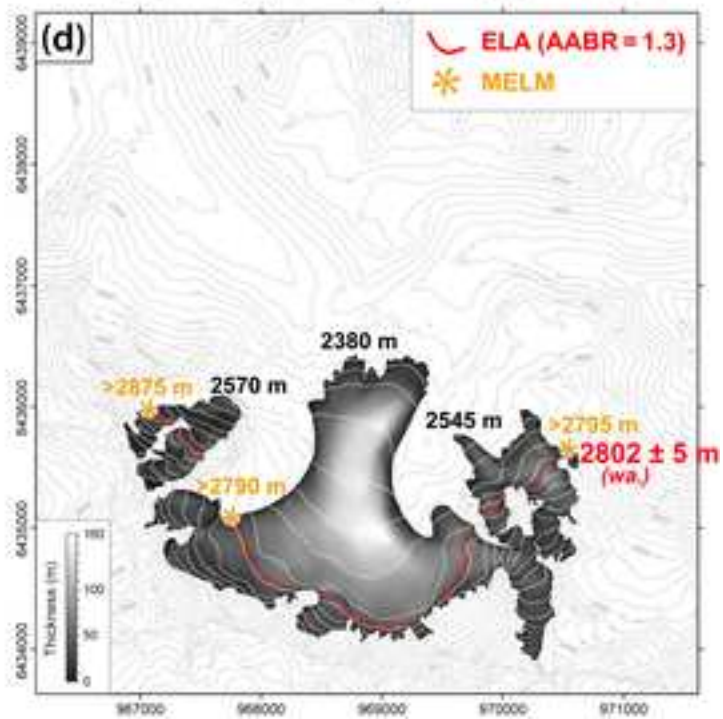
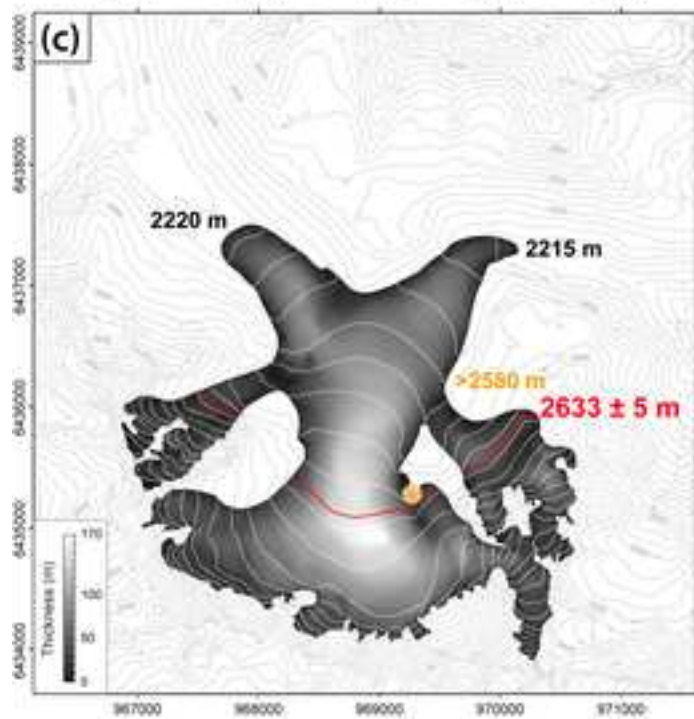
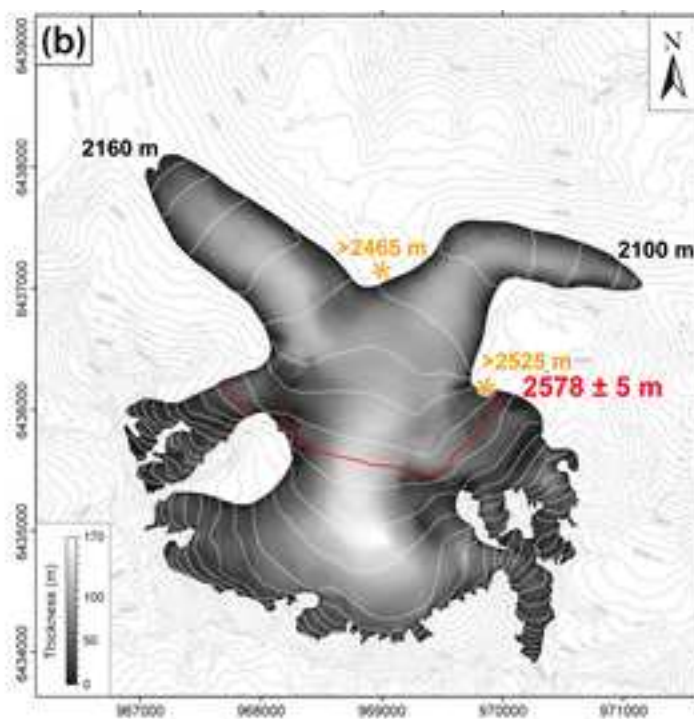
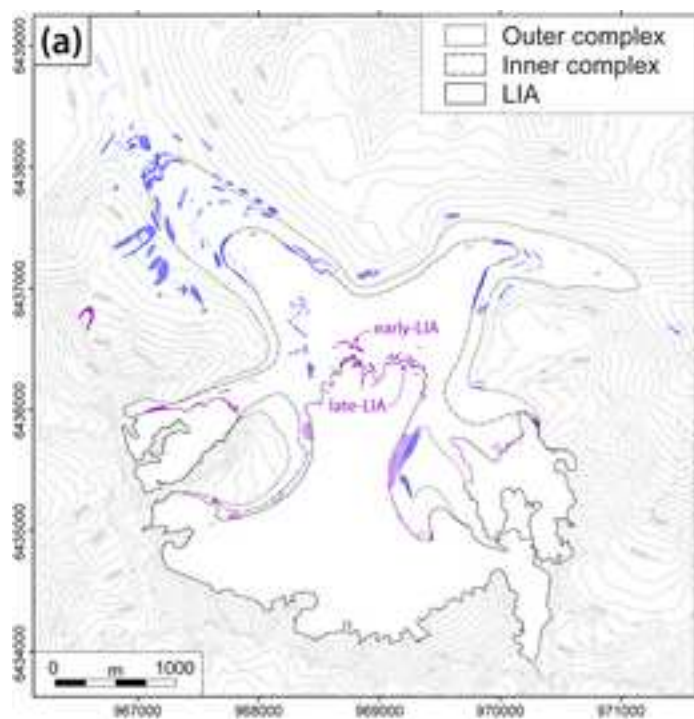


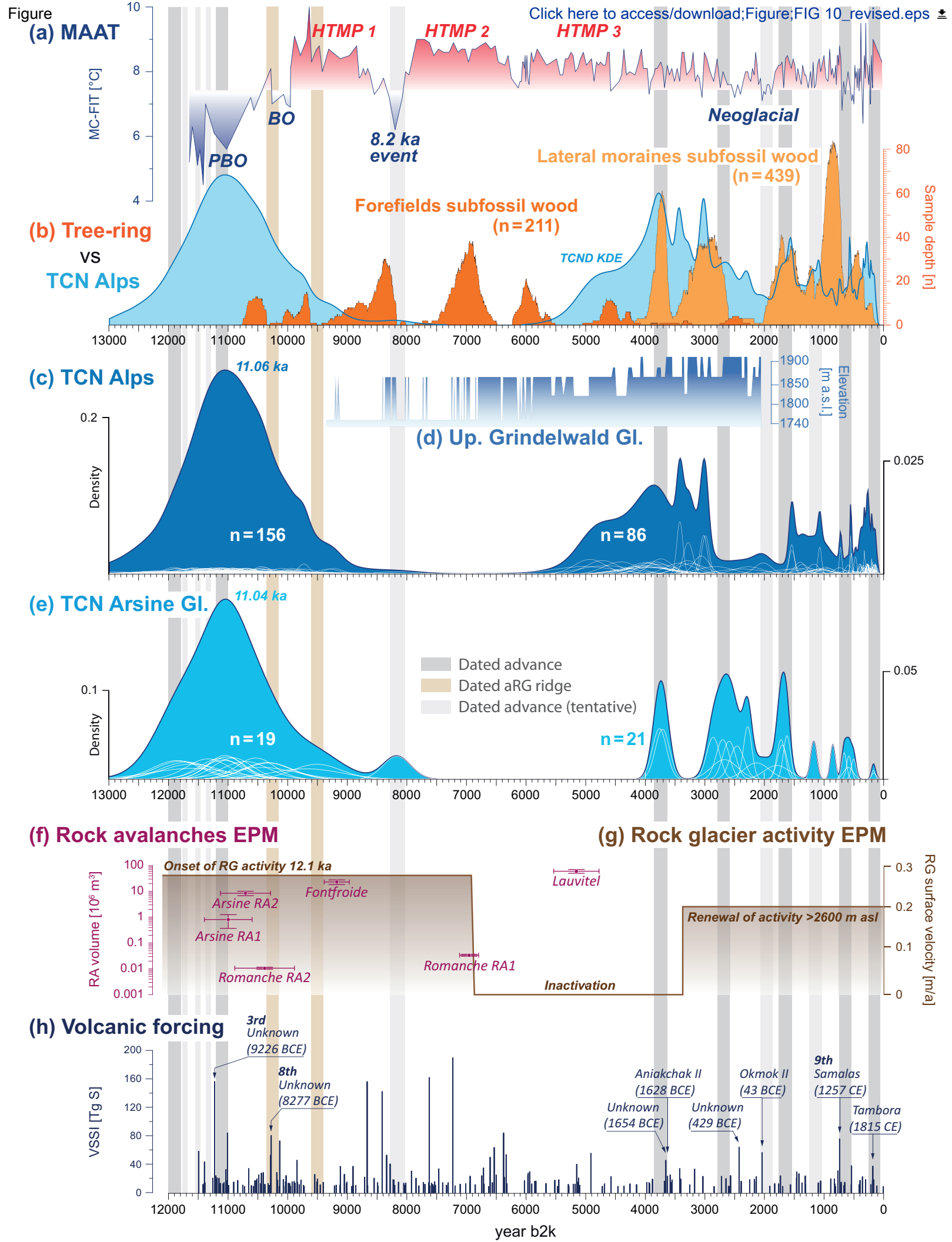


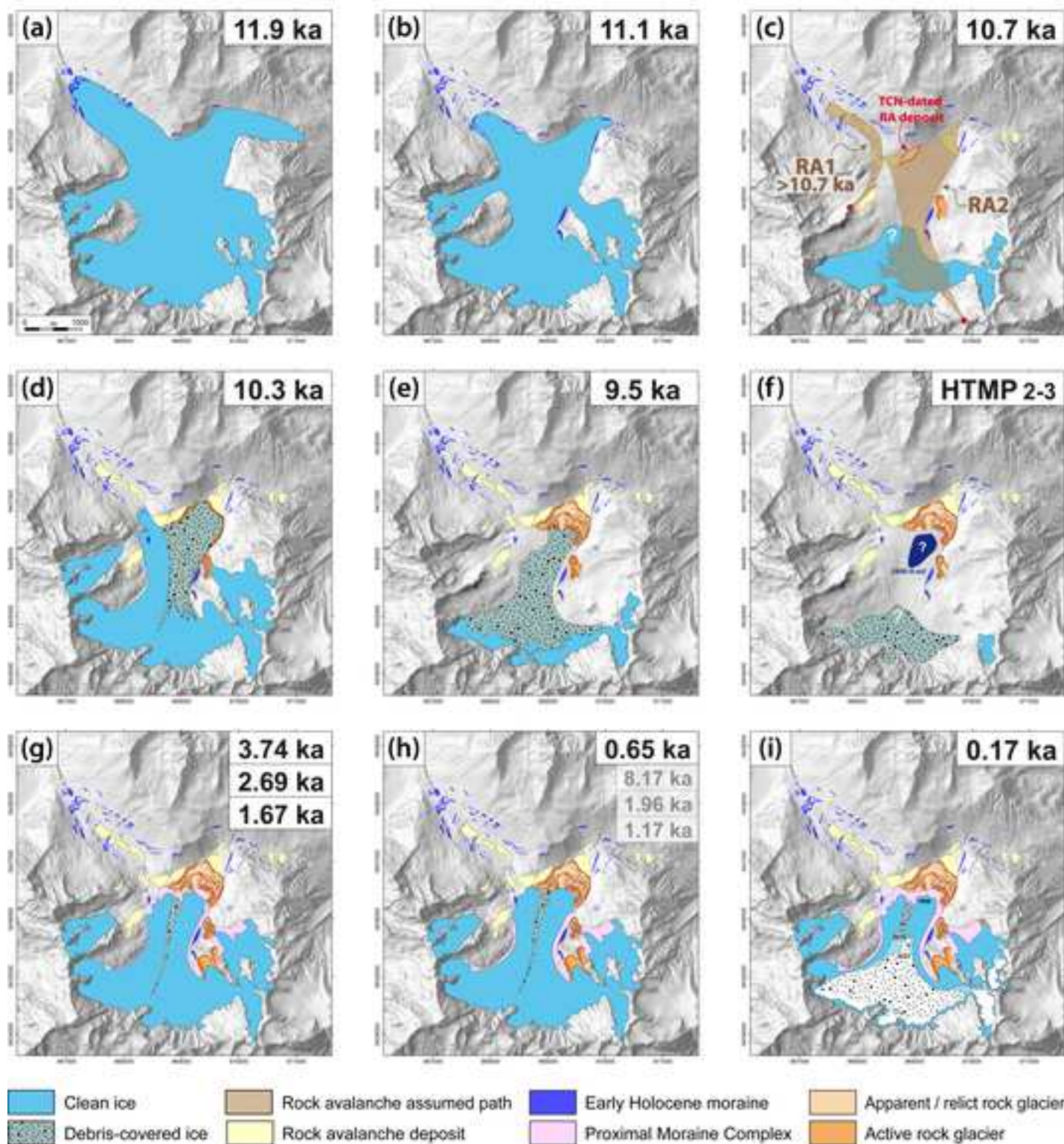












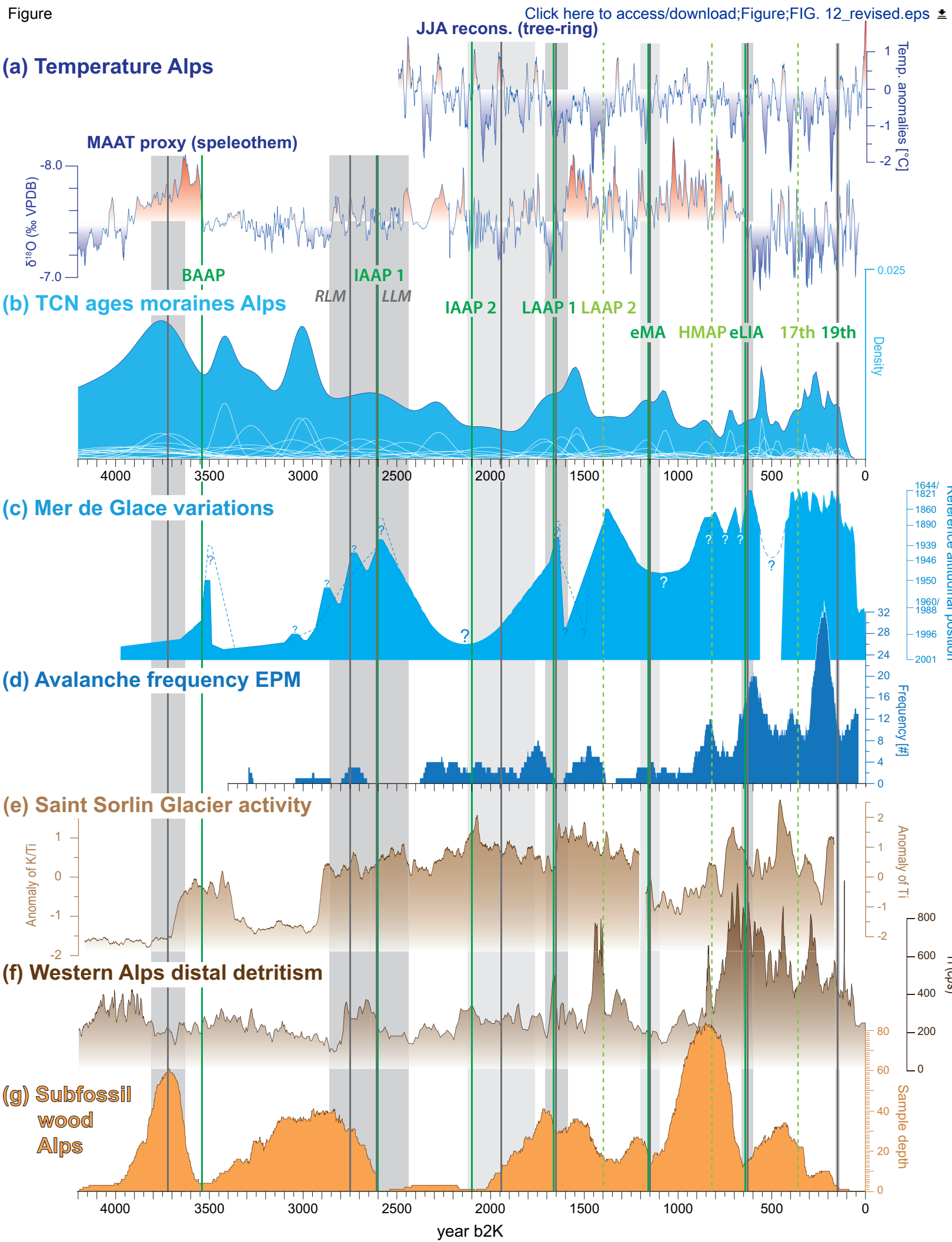


Table 1. Results of the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  measurements at Arsine Glacier.

Sample	Mass of dissolved quartz [g]	Mass of $^9\text{Be}$ in carrier [mg]	$^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$ [ $\times 10^{-14}$ ]	$^{10}\text{Be}$ concentration [atoms $\text{g}^{-1}$ quartz]
<b>RP5a moraine</b>				
RP-16-05	10.7470	0.30440	$13.914 \pm 0.489$	$252563 \pm 9387^b$
RP-16-06	15.0120	0.30520	$17.891 \pm 0.565$	$235336 \pm 7763^b$
RP-16-07	16.5750	0.30560	$20.745 \pm 0.807$	$248592 \pm 9996^b$
RP-16-08	15.7720	0.30480	$19.872 \pm 0.708$	$249264 \pm 9201^b$
<b>RP2 moraine</b>				
RP-16-01	28.6500	0.43863	$21.433 \pm 0.675$	$216212 \pm 6918^d$
RP-16-02	28.2200	0.44386	$23.175 \pm 0.698$	$240472 \pm 7352^d$
RP-16-03	28.4600	0.44964	$21.923 \pm 0.697$	$228723 \pm 7367^e$
RP-16-04	20.0800	0.45278	$16.489 \pm 0.603$	$244583 \pm 9100^e$
<b>TA2 moraine</b>				
ARS-13-01	11.0300	0.45650	$9.539 \pm 0.322$	$257802 \pm 8985^c$
ARS-13-02	7.7200	0.44619	$3.298 \pm 0.257$	$116045 \pm 10050^d$
ARS-13-03	22.2300	0.44498	$18.699 \pm 0.724$	$246178 \pm 9704^d$
ARS-13-04	17.6300	0.46407	$14.860 \pm 0.500$	$257616 \pm 8837^c$
<b>Arsine Pass eastern rock avalanche deposit</b>				
ARS-16-11	22.8443	0.44262	$20.129 \pm 1.193$	$257683 \pm 15453^g$
ARS-16-12	22.4856	0.45490	$21.540 \pm 0.904$	$288223 \pm 12232^g$
ARS-16-13	22.0673	0.45324	$21.177 \pm 1.248$	$288077 \pm 17127^f$
ARS-16-14	20.5858	0.45535	$24.394 \pm 1.675$	$357320 \pm 24759^g$
<b>PMC right lateral moraine distal face – Middle slope</b>				
ARS-12-08	34.9571	0.29740	$48.019 \pm 1.565$	$271538 \pm 8919^a$
ARS-16-24	16.1700	0.46576	$13.252 \pm 0.503$	$250971 \pm 9723^c$
ARS-16-25	13.2400	0.46400	$12.167 \pm 0.394$	$279932 \pm 9294^c$
<b>TA1a – aRG outer ridge</b>				
ARS-16-06	2.8265	0.46252	$2.304 \pm 0.151$	$231888 \pm 16830^f$
ARS-16-07	14.3735	0.45115	$12.285 \pm 0.492$	$253008 \pm 10345^g$
ARS-16-08	21.5815	0.46059	$17.353 \pm 0.721$	$244849 \pm 10295^f$
ARS-16-09	23.3734	0.45408	$21.597 \pm 1.331$	$277510 \pm 17279^g$
ARS-16-10	20.6656	0.45874	$18.778 \pm 0.826$	$275804 \pm 12262^f$
<b>TA1c – aRG inner ridge</b>				
ARS-16-01	21.9057	0.45212	$17.324 \pm 1.075$	$235876 \pm 14832^g$
ARS-16-02	23.3568	0.44180	$18.740 \pm 0.791$	$234007 \pm 10010^g$
ARS-16-03	23.4555	0.45045	$15.100 \pm 0.544$	$191357 \pm 6989^f$
<b>PMC right lateral moraine distal face – Upper slope</b>				
ARS-19-10	39.4074	0.44930	$12.903 \pm 0.428$	$96197 \pm 3271^i$
ARS-19-11	22.6519	0.44032	$7.629 \pm 0.255$	$96684 \pm 3327^h$
ARS-19-12	39.5947	0.45142	$9.355 \pm 0.296$	$69171 \pm 2271^i$
<b>PMC right lateral moraine outer crest</b>				
ARS-12-06	40.2210	0.29840	$14.171 \pm 0.895$	$68993 \pm 4468^a$
ARS-16-19	26.5400	0.46419	$6.231 \pm 0.226$	$70325 \pm 2695^c$
ARS-16-20	27.7200	0.46416	$6.878 \pm 0.245$	$74567 \pm 2788^c$
<b>PMC left lateral moraine distal face – Middle slope</b>				
ARS-12-04b	20.2220	0.45411	$4.717 \pm 0.215$	$66674 \pm 3261^i$
ARS-19-04	19.8839	0.45136	$3.658 \pm 0.131$	$52746 \pm 2033^h$

ARS-19-05	14.0737	0.43112	3.359 ± 0.125	64878 ± 2617 <sup>h</sup>
ARS-19-06	21.2019	0.45617	5.234 ± 0.208	73096 ± 3013 <sup>i</sup>
ARS-19-07	39.8588	0.45339	7.810 ± 0.242	57996 ± 1854 <sup>h</sup>
<b>PMC left lateral moraine outer crest</b>				
ARS-19-01	34.8320	0.45103	6.033 ± 0.207	49813 ± 1813 <sup>i</sup>
ARS-19-02	45.2433	0.44846	6.720 ± 0.223	42675 ± 1494 <sup>i</sup>
ARS-19-03	21.9402	0.43273	3.735 ± 0.161	45434 ± 2172 <sup>i</sup>
ARS-19-08	40.7496	0.43669	6.532 ± 0.242	44739 ± 1746 <sup>i</sup>
<b>PMC western outer frontal lobe</b>				
ARS-16-16	47.9400	0.44991	32.091 ± 0.918	199629 ± 5762 <sup>e</sup>
ARS-16-17	50.6600	0.45200	2.918 ± 0.154	15867 ± 950 <sup>e</sup>
ARS-18-01	24.6488	0.45024	4.317 ± 0.403	49982 ± 4925 <sup>e</sup>
ARS-18-02	18.4146	0.45442	2.795 ± 0.297	42463 ± 4915 <sup>e</sup>
ARS-18-03	12.7830	0.45200	0.795 ± 0.074	14356 ± 1862 <sup>f</sup>
ARS-19-15	48.0370	0.45106	3.412 ± 0.140	19677 ± 904 <sup>i</sup>
<b>PMC eastern outer frontal lobe</b>				
ARS-19-13	49.7830	0.44840	4.931 ± 0.179	28008 ± 1096 <sup>i</sup>
ARS-19-14	20.9248	0.45378	1.014 ± 0.061	12083 ± 967 <sup>h</sup>
<b>PMC right lateral moraine inner crest</b>				
ARS-16-21	40.9300	0.44855	2.443 ± 0.140	15996 ± 1066 <sup>e</sup>
ARS-16-22	47.3900	0.45018	1.026 ± 0.089	4875 ± 616 <sup>e</sup>
ARS-16-23	19.7400	0.46077	0.501 ± 0.046	4463 ± 1017 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Procedural blanks</b>				
Name	Processed with	Mass of <sup>9</sup> Be in carrier [mg]	<sup>10</sup> Be/ <sup>9</sup> Be [× 10 <sup>-15</sup> ]	Total number of atoms <sup>10</sup> Be
BKGRE74_2013Apr11	(a)	0.30250	2.51 ± 1.06	50667 ± 21508
BKGRE102_2018Jan23	(b)	0.30250	5.73 ± 0.83	115861 ± 16784
B1_2018May28	(c)	0.46276	2.14 ± 0.46	66154 ± 14114
B2_2018May28	(d)	0.45088	2.91 ± 0.40	87519 ± 12111
B3_2018May28	(e)	0.45151	2.57 ± 0.40	77553 ± 12003
BKM1_2019Mar15	(f)	0.46343	1.83 ± 0.27	56634 ± 8470
BKM2_2019Mar15	(g)	0.45454	2.20 ± 0.28	66764 ± 8542
BL1_2020Nov24	(h)	0.45063	1.81 ± 0.27	54585 ± 7977
BL2_2020Nov24	(i)	0.45239	2.75 ± 0.32	83068 ± 9699
BL_2021Jun01	(j)	0.45889	1.49 ± 0.29	45707 ± 8744

**Table 2.**  $^{10}\text{Be}$  TCN boulder exposure age results and mean surface ages computed at Arsine Glacier, according to three different scaling schemes. Individual and mean ages are reported with the internal (analytical) uncertainties and the external uncertainties (including production rate uncertainties) between brackets. No snow- nor erosion- correction have been applied (see main text). Pruned outliers are in italic (see Section 3.6.3). The weighted mean ages shown here (together with weighted mean internal and external uncertainties) are not necessarily the landform ages used in the discussion (see Section 3.6.4). For calculation we assumed a rock density of  $2.65 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ . Exposure ages are expressed in ka before the sampling year (indicated in sample label).

Sample	(1) $^{10}\text{Be}$ exposure age (ka) CREp + 'Lm-ERA-LiftVDM' + Alps calibration	(2) $^{10}\text{Be}$ exposure age (ka) CRONUS v3 + 'Lm-ERA-LiftVDM' + Alps calibration	% diff.	(3) $^{10}\text{Be}$ exposure age (ka) CREp + 'LSDn-ERA-LiftVDM' + Alps calibration	% diff.
<b>RP5a moraine</b>					
RP-16-05	11.85 ± 0.43 (0.52)	12.10 ± 0.45 (1.22)	2.0	11.19 ± 0.39 (0.46)	-5.6
RP-16-06	11.02 ± 0.33 (0.42)	11.28 ± 0.37 (1.12)	2.2	10.38 ± 0.33 (0.40)	-5.9
RP-16-07	11.69 ± 0.45 (0.53)	11.95 ± 0.48 (1.22)	2.2	11.05 ± 0.41 (0.48)	-5.5
RP-16-08	11.80 ± 0.43 (0.51)	12.04 ± 0.45 (1.22)	2.0	11.13 ± 0.38 (0.46)	-5.7
Reduced chi-sq.	<b>1.15</b>	<b>0.93</b>		<b>1.18</b>	
Wtd. mean	<b>11.50 ± 0.37 (0.46)</b>	<b>11.78 ± 0.36 (1.16)</b>	2.4	<b>10.89 ± 0.35 (0.43)</b>	-5.3
Bayesian age	<b>11.88 ± 0.43</b>	<b>12.14 ± 0.44</b>	2.2	<b>11.19 ± 0.39</b>	-5.8
<b>RP2 moraine</b>					
RP-16-01	<i>9.97 ± 0.30 (0.38)</i>	<i>10.22 ± 0.33 (1.01)</i>	2.5	<i>9.33 ± 0.30 (0.39)</i>	-6.4
RP-16-02	11.05 ± 0.30 (0.39)	11.30 ± 0.35 (1.12)	2.2	10.37 ± 0.30 (0.39)	-6.2
RP-16-03	10.54 ± 0.32 (0.40)	10.78 ± 0.35 (1.12)	2.3	9.90 ± 0.31 (0.38)	-6.1
RP-16-04	11.08 ± 0.38 (0.44)	11.35 ± 0.42 (1.15)	2.5	10.43 ± 0.37 (0.44)	-5.9
Reduced chi-sq.	<b>0.86</b>	<b>0.76</b>		<b>0.82</b>	
Wtd. mean	<b>10.88 ± 0.25 (0.35)</b>	<b>11.12 ± 0.26 (1.08)</b>	2.2	<b>10.21 ± 0.24 (0.33)</b>	-6.2
Bayesian age	<b>11.10 ± 0.37</b>	<b>11.37 ± 0.40</b>	2.4	<b>10.41 ± 0.38</b>	-6.2
<b>TA2 moraine</b>					
ARS-13-01	11.34 ± 0.36 (0.44)	11.60 ± 0.41 (1.16)	2.3	10.65 ± 0.36 (0.44)	-6.1
ARS-13-02	<i>5.09 ± 0.41 (0.43)</i>	<i>4.99 ± 0.43 (0.64)</i>	-2.0	<i>4.79 ± 0.40 (0.41)</i>	-6.3
ARS-13-03	10.71 ± 0.39 (0.46)	10.95 ± 0.43 (1.12)	2.4	10.04 ± 0.37 (0.44)	-6.1
ARS-13-04	11.14 ± 0.35 (0.43)	11.40 ± 0.39 (1.14)	2.4	10.44 ± 0.34 (0.42)	-6.3
Reduced chi-sq.	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.63</b>		<b>0.72</b>	
Wtd. mean	<b>11.08 ± 0.25 (0.36)</b>	<b>11.33 ± 0.27 (1.10)</b>	2.3	<b>10.38 ± 0.25 (0.35)</b>	-6.3
Bayesian age	<b>11.10 ± 0.37</b>	<b>11.37 ± 0.40</b>	2.4	<b>10.41 ± 0.38</b>	-6.2
<b>Arsine Pass eastern rock avalanche deposit</b>					
ARS-16-11	10.69 ± 0.60 (0.64)	10.92 ± 0.66 (1.22)	2.2	9.98 ± 0.58 (0.63)	-6.6
ARS-16-12	11.81 ± 0.49 (0.56)	12.06 ± 0.51 (1.24)	2.1	11.06 ± 0.44 (0.50)	-6.4
ARS-16-13	11.89 ± 0.69 (0.75)	12.12 ± 0.72 (1.35)	1.9	11.11 ± 0.62 (0.67)	-6.6
ARS-16-14	<i>14.56 ± 0.95 (1.01)</i>	<i>14.73 ± 1.02 (1.72)</i>	1.2	<i>13.62 ± 0.90 (0.95)</i>	-6.5
Reduced chi-sq.	<b>1.27</b>	<b>1.11</b>		<b>1.29</b>	
Wtd. mean	<b>11.48 ± 0.53 (0.59)</b>	<b>11.75 ± 0.52 (1.22)</b>	2.4	<b>10.77 ± 0.49 (0.55)</b>	-6.2
Bayesian age	<b>10.71 ± 0.42</b>	<b>10.98 ± 0.45</b>	2.3	<b>10.03 ± 0.44</b>	-6.5
<b>PMC right lateral moraine distal face – Middle slope</b>					
ARS-12-08	10.52 ± 0.32 (0.40)	10.77 ± 0.36 (1.07)	2.4	9.73 ± 0.32 (0.39)	-7.5
ARS-16-24	<i>9.78 ± 0.37 (0.43)</i>	<i>10.03 ± 0.39 (1.02)</i>	2.6	<i>8.97 ± 0.37 (0.44)</i>	-8.3
ARS-16-25	10.92 ± 0.33 (0.41)	11.17 ± 0.37 (1.11)	2.3	10.13 ± 0.31 (0.40)	-7.2
Reduced chi-sq.	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.61</b>		<b>0.81</b>	
Wtd. mean	<b>10.72 ± 0.20 (0.31)</b>	<b>10.96 ± 0.20 (1.05)</b>	1.3	<b>9.94 ± 0.20 (0.31)</b>	-8.1

Bayesian age	11.10 ± 0.37	11.37 ± 0.40	2.4	10.41 ± 0.38	-6.2
<b>TA1a – aRG outer ridge</b>					
ARS-16-06	9.42 ± 0.69 (0.73)	9.71 ± 0.71 (1.15)	3.1	8.69 ± 0.65 (0.69)	-7.7
ARS-16-07	10.35 ± 0.40 (0.46)	10.61 ± 0.44 (1.09)	2.5	9.65 ± 0.40 (0.45)	-6.8
ARS-16-08	10.32 ± 0.41 (0.47)	10.58 ± 0.45 (1.09)	2.5	9.63 ± 0.41 (0.47)	-6.7
ARS-16-09	11.61 ± 0.69 (0.74)	11.87 ± 0.74 (1.34)	2.2	10.87 ± 0.64 (0.68)	-6.4
ARS-16-10	11.61 ± 0.49 (0.56)	11.87 ± 0.53 (1.24)	2.3	10.89 ± 0.45 (0.52)	-6.2
Reduced chi-sq.	2.54	2.22		2.84	
Wtd. mean	10.63 ± 0.70 (0.74)	10.88 ± 0.71 (1.04)	2.4	9.96 ± 0.72 (0.76)	-6.3
Bayesian age	10.25 ± 0.42	10.50 ± 0.44	2.4	9.54 ± 0.43	-6.9
<b>TA1c – aRG inner ridge</b>					
ARS-16-01	9.69 ± 0.60 (0.64)	9.95 ± 0.63 (1.13)	2.7	8.96 ± 0.59 (0.63)	-7.5
ARS-16-02	9.51 ± 0.41 (0.47)	9.79 ± 0.42 (1.01)	3.0	8.79 ± 0.40 (0.46)	-7.6
ARS-16-03	7.76 ± 0.28 (0.33)	7.93 ± 0.29 (0.80)	2.2	7.25 ± 0.23 (0.28)	-6.6
Reduced chi-sq.	0.06	0.05		0.06	
Wtd. mean	9.57 ± 0.08 (0.24)	9.84 ± 0.07 (0.93)	2.8	8.85 ± 0.08 (0.24)	-7.5
Bayesian age	9.52 ± 0.43	9.79 ± 0.44	2.8	8.81 ± 0.42	-7.5
<b>PMC right lateral moraine distal face – Upper slope</b>					
ARS-19-10	3.76 ± 0.12 (0.15)	3.58 ± 0.12 (0.36)	-4.7	3.46 ± 0.12 (0.14)	-8.0
ARS-19-11	3.71 ± 0.12 (0.15)	3.51 ± 0.12 (0.35)	-5.4	3.40 ± 0.11 (0.14)	-8.4
ARS-19-12	3.11 ± 0.10 (0.12)	2.95 ± 0.10 (0.29)	-5.2	2.86 ± 0.10 (0.12)	-8.0
Reduced chi-sq.	0.09	0.19		0.14	
Wtd. mean	3.74 ± 0.02 (0.09)	3.54 ± 0.04 (0.33)	-5.3	3.43 ± 0.03 (0.08)	-8.3
<b>PMC right lateral moraine outer crest</b>					
ARS-12-06	2.67 ± 0.18 (0.19)	2.56 ± 0.17 (0.29)	-4.2	2.42 ± 0.17 (0.18)	-9.4
ARS-16-19	2.70 ± 0.11 (0.13)	2.59 ± 0.10 (0.26)	-4.0	2.46 ± 0.10 (0.12)	-8.9
ARS-16-20	2.86 ± 0.11 (0.13)	2.73 ± 0.10 (0.28)	-4.7	2.61 ± 0.10 (0.12)	-8.7
Reduced chi-sq.	0.69	0.60		0.76	
Wtd. mean	2.76 ± 0.08 (0.11)	2.64 ± 0.07 (0.26)	-4.6	2.52 ± 0.08 (0.10)	-9.0
<b>PMC left lateral moraine distal face – Middle slope</b>					
ARS-12-04b	2.46 ± 0.12 (0.14)	2.37 ± 0.12 (0.25)	-3.7	2.20 ± 0.12 (0.13)	-10.6
ARS-19-04	2.00 ± 0.08 (0.09)	1.94 ± 0.08 (0.20)	-3.1	1.79 ± 0.07 (0.08)	-10.5
ARS-19-05	2.59 ± 0.11 (0.13)	2.48 ± 0.10 (0.25)	-4.1	2.34 ± 0.11 (0.12)	-9.7
ARS-19-06	2.83 ± 0.12 (0.14)	2.70 ± 0.11 (0.28)	-4.5	2.58 ± 0.12 (0.13)	-8.8
ARS-19-07	2.28 ± 0.07 (0.09)	2.21 ± 0.07 (0.22)	-3.1	2.05 ± 0.07 (0.09)	-10.1
Reduced chi-sq.	2.46	2.26		2.57	
Wtd. mean	2.62 ± 0.15 (0.17)	2.52 ± 0.13 (0.27)	-3.8	2.37 ± 0.15 (0.16)	-9.5
<b>PMC left lateral moraine outer crest</b>					
ARS-19-01	1.86 ± 0.06 (0.09)	1.79 ± 0.07 (0.18)	-3.5	1.67 ± 0.07 (0.08)	-10.2
ARS-19-02	1.62 ± 0.06 (0.07)	1.55 ± 0.05 (0.16)	-4.1	1.44 ± 0.06 (0.07)	-11.1
ARS-19-03	1.70 ± 0.08 (0.09)	1.62 ± 0.08 (0.17)	-4.5	1.51 ± 0.08 (0.09)	-11.2
ARS-19-08	1.72 ± 0.07 (0.08)	1.65 ± 0.06 (0.17)	-4.1	1.54 ± 0.06 (0.08)	-10.5
Reduced chi-sq.	0.67	0.72		0.72	
Wtd. mean	1.67 ± 0.05 (0.06)	1.60 ± 0.04 (0.18)	-4.2	1.49 ± 0.04 (0.06)	-10.8
<b>PMC western outer frontal lobe</b>					
ARS-16-16	8.17 ± 0.23 (0.30)	8.36 ± 0.24 (0.82)	2.3	7.60 ± 0.20 (0.26)	-7.0
ARS-16-17	0.66 ± 0.04 (0.05)	0.63 ± 0.04 (0.07)	-3.9	0.60 ± 0.04 (0.04)	-9.1
ARS-18-01	2.13 ± 0.21 (0.22)	2.08 ± 0.21 (0.28)	-2.5	1.95 ± 0.20 (0.21)	-8.5
ARS-18-02	1.79 ± 0.21 (0.22)	1.74 ± 0.20 (0.26)	-2.8	1.63 ± 0.20 (0.20)	-8.9

ARS-18-03	0.59 ± 0.08 (0.08)	0.57 ± 0.07 (0.09)	-4.2	0.54 ± 0.07 (0.07)	-8.5
ARS-19-15	0.85 ± 0.04 (0.05)	0.84 ± 0.04 (0.09)	-1.8	0.76 ± 0.04 (0.04)	-10.6
<b>Reduced chi-sq.</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.70</b>		<b>0.53</b>	
<b>Wtd. mean</b>	<b>0.65 ± 0.03 (0.03)</b>	<b>0.62 ± 0.03 (0.06)</b>	-4.6	<b>0.59 ± 0.03 (0.03)</b>	-9.2
<b>PMC eastern outer frontal lobe</b>					
ARS-19-13	1.17 ± 0.05 (0.05)	1.16 ± 0.05 (0.12)	-0.8	1.05 ± 0.04 (0.05)	-10.3
ARS-19-14	0.50 ± 0.04 (0.04)	0.47 ± 0.04 (0.06)	-6.0	0.46 ± 0.03 (0.04)	-8.0
<b>Reduced chi-sq.</b>	-	-		-	
<b>Wtd. mean</b>	<b>0.50 ± 0.04 (0.04)</b>	<b>0.47 ± 0.04 (0.06)</b>	-6.0	<b>0.46 ± 0.03 (0.04)</b>	-8.0
<b>PMC right lateral moraine inner crest</b>					
ARS-16-21	0.58 ± 0.04 (0.05)	0.56 ± 0.04 (0.06)	-3.8	0.53 ± 0.03 (0.04)	-8.6
ARS-16-22	0.17 ± 0.03 (0.03)	0.17 ± 0.02 (0.03)	1.8	0.17 ± 0.02 (0.02)	0
ARS-16-23	0.16 ± 0.04 (0.04)	0.16 ± 0.04 (0.04)	-3.1	0.15 ± 0.03 (0.03)	-6.3
<b>Reduced chi-sq.</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.19</b>		<b>0.31</b>	
<b>Wtd. mean</b>	<b>0.17 ± 0.01 (0.01)</b>	<b>0.17 ± 0.01 (0.02)</b>	0	<b>0.16 ± 0.01 (0.01)</b>	-5.9

**Table 3. Characteristics of the Early Holocene rock avalanches (RAs) at Arsine Glacier.**

RA event	Estimated max. elevation of source area [m a.s.l.]	Toe elevation [m a.s.l.]	H [m]	L [m]	H/L	RA deposit name	Min. area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	Mean thickness [m]	Mean sediment volume [10 <sup>6</sup> m <sup>3</sup> ]	Bedrock volume (porosity corrected) [10 <sup>6</sup> m <sup>3</sup> ]
<b>RA1</b>	2820	2195	625	2345	0.27	RP	0.20	5.6	1.15 ± 0.63	0.81 ± 0.44
<b>RA2</b>	3405	2245	1160	3850	0.30	AP_W	0.05	3.3	0.17 ± 0.06	0.12 ± 0.04
						AP_E	0.05	8.0	0.37 ± 0.19	0.26 ± 0.14
						TA	0.10	6.8	0.63 ± 0.08	0.44 ± 0.06
						aRG	0.40	27.1	10.87 ± 2.31	7.61 ± 1.62
						Total RA2	0.60	23.4	12.04 ± 2.32	8.43 ± 1.63

**Table 4. Characteristics and paleo-ELAs of the three main reconstructed stadials of Arsine Glacier.**

The paleo-ELAs are calculated using two different methods (AABR and AAR). The ELAs marked in italics are computed values that conflict with independent evidence (MELM method). Note that the AAR of 0.67 yields no suitable estimate for any of the stadials. The ELAs marked with asterisks are the values used to compute the 'LIA 1850 CE' weighted average. The ELAs marked in bold are the values retained for the Discussion section. The MELM values are rounded up to the nearest 5 m. The uncertainty amounts to  $\pm 5$  m for the computed ELA values and  $\pm 10$  m for the  $\delta$ ELA values.

Glacier position	Area [km <sup>2</sup> ]	Volume [km <sup>3</sup> ]	Mean/Max. thickness [m]	ELA1 AABR = 1.3	ELA2 AABR = 1.6	ELA3 AAR = 0.54	ELA4 AAR = 0.67	MELM	
YD maximum?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2465</b>	
$\delta$ ELA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>-335</b>	
Outer complex	8.7	0.56	65/171	<b>2578</b>	2568	2568	2468	2525	
$\delta$ ELA	-	-	-	<b>-224</b>	-234	-234	-	-	
Inner complex	6.7	0.38	56/171	<b>2633</b>	2613	2643	2533	2580	
$\delta$ ELA	-	-	-	<b>-169</b>	-189	-159	-	-	
LIA 1850 CE	Arsine	3.4	0.21	62/162	2737	2727	2727	2687	2790*
	Réou	0.6	0.02	32/79	2818*	2808	2798	2748	2795
	Dragon	0.4	0.01	15/47	2882*	2862	2882	2812	2875
	Total	4.3	0.24	54/162	<b>2802*</b>				

## Supplementary Material

### **The Holocene history of Arsine Glacier (Western European Alps): a detailed $^{10}\text{Be}$ record of oscillations driven by climate and modulated by rock avalanches**

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**Supplementary Table 1. Characteristics of the TCN samples at Arsine Glacier.** Sampling year is indicated in the sample name. Sample height represents the minimum height above ground of the sampled surface (when different from boulder height). Dip and dip direction are given for samples taken from non-flat boulder surfaces. Shielding factor includes topographic and self-shielding.

Sample	Latitude [DD]	Longitude [DD]	Elevation [m a.s.l.]	Boulder size L x W x H [cm]	Sample height [cm]	Dip/dip dir.	Thickness [cm]	Shielding factor
<b>RP5a moraine</b>								
RP-16-05	44.989882	6.390797	2179	210 x 095 x 070	70	-	3.00	0.977291
RP-16-06	44.989789	6.390749	2178	230 x 115 x 105	105	-	2.00	0.977291
RP-16-07	44.989779	6.390758	2177	300 x 110 x 140	140	-	3.00	0.977291
RP-16-08	44.990356	6.391149	2172	220 x 170 x 130	130	-	3.00	0.974601
<b>RP2 moraine</b>								
RP-16-01	44.983593	6.397364	2229	850 x 400 x 300	300	-	3.09	0.972582
RP-16-02	44.983693	6.397530	2229	300 x 230 x 150	150	-	3.26	0.972582
RP-16-03	44.983760	6.397467	2228	400 x 210 x 200	200	-	3.20	0.972582
RP-16-04	44.983807	6.397556	2229	190 x 150 x 060	60	-	1.83	0.972582
<b>TA2 moraine</b>								
ARS-13-01	44.981070	6.424630	2268	580 x 300 x 220	220	-	1.64	0.973700
ARS-13-02	44.978497	6.423341	2318	430 x 300 x 400	250	-	1.32	0.974200
ARS-13-03	44.980132	6.424177	2296	280 x 190 x 240	240	-	3.01	0.981100
ARS-13-04	44.980580	6.424369	2285	520 x 380 x 230	230	-	2.14	0.984100
<b>Arsine Pass eastern rock avalanche deposit</b>								
ARS-16-11	44.978586	6.413372	2352	1500 x 800 x 400	400	-	2.00	0.983300
ARS-16-12	44.978270	6.412463	2357	800 x 800 x 500	500	-	1.83	0.983030
ARS-16-13	44.977860	6.412506	2356	600 x 400 x 400	400	-	2.53	0.983030
ARS-16-14	44.977528	6.411715	2356	800 x 400 x 400	400	-	1.75	0.983030
<b>PMC right lateral moraine distal face – Middle slope</b>								
ARS-12-08	44.966991	6.415182	2495	1200 x 500 x 200	200	-	2.25	0.959767
ARS-16-24	44.966903	6.415055	2510	800 x 500 x 240	0*	22/120 SE	2.50	0.951050
ARS-16-25	44.968106	6.415942	2483	560 x 380 x 290	20	-	2.50	0.960697
<b>TA1a – aRG outer ridge</b>								
ARS-16-06	44.977105	6.413681	2370	180 x 160 x 170	170	-	1.23	0.988830
ARS-16-07	44.977791	6.414536	2352	220 x 160 x 090	90	-	1.10	0.990280
ARS-16-08	44.978638	6.415416	2344	300 x 220 x 200	200	-	2.77	0.978990
ARS-16-09	44.978680	6.415863	2346	190 x 150 x 100	100	-	2.85	0.978990
ARS-16-10	44.978843	6.416246	2338	170 x 130 x 100	100	-	3.05	0.978990
<b>TA1c – aRG inner ridge</b>								
ARS-16-01	44.975218	6.418637	2381	530 x 250 x 160	160	-	3.15	0.987050
ARS-16-02	44.975200	6.418562	2382	160 x 100 x 050	50	-	1.98	0.987050
ARS-16-03	44.975130	6.418802	2378	230 x 130 x 090	90	-	1.95	0.987050
<b>PMC right lateral moraine distal face – Upper slope</b>								
ARS-19-10	44.966097	6.414167	2554	470 x 310 x 270	130	-	4.39	0.968903
ARS-19-11	44.966457	6.414137	2555	800 x 450 x 500	280	21/83 E	2.46	0.975370
ARS-19-12	44.967730	6.414987	2526	510 x 230 x 240	0	52/119 SE	2.39	0.845903
<b>PMC right lateral moraine outer crest</b>								
ARS-12-06	44.967939	6.414953	2533	440 x 340 x 190	190	10/172 S	2.00	0.977335
ARS-16-19	44.967450	6.414567	2545	280 x 280 x 250	90	-	2.50	0.979573
ARS-16-20	44.966943	6.414270	2551	320 x 220 x 120	100	-	2.50	0.979573

PMC left lateral moraine distal face – Middle slope								
ARS-12-04b	44.964876	6.402192	2667	860 x 540 x 300	190	28/6 N	1.69	0.936231
ARS-19-04	44.964913	6.402196	2663	680 x 530 x 260	150	33/333 NW	3.19	0.916193
ARS-19-05	44.967778	6.405334	2566	340 x 240 x 270	215	29/286 W	3.72	0.940801
ARS-19-06	44.968980	6.405586	2552	720 x 230 x 340	170	11/155 SE	2.27	0.967485
ARS-19-07	44.969089	6.405481	2547	440 x 280 x 270	110	20/215 W	3.23	0.958970
PMC left lateral moraine outer crest								
ARS-19-01	44.969727	6.405672	2559	190 x 120 x 100	80	-	1.67	0.980291
ARS-19-02	44.969143	6.405709	2560	080 x 070 x 050	110	21/265 W	3.05	0.973477
ARS-19-03	44.969111	6.405726	2560	140 x 120 x 110	100	-	1.62	0.978392
ARS-19-08	44.969141	6.405613	2554	360 x 190 x 210	125	-	3.12	0.964998
PMC western outer frontal lobe								
ARS-16-16	44.975363	6.411454	2379	390 x 330 x 320	90	-	2.50	0.980749
ARS-16-17	44.975240	6.411419	2380	220 x 150 x 130	130	-	2.50	0.976002
ARS-18-01	44.975681	6.410592	2374	100 x 060 x 040	40	-	3.10	0.981403
ARS-18-02	44.975639	6.410965	2377	100 x 075 x 060	60	-	3.23	0.982038
ARS-18-03	44.975558	6.411117	2376	160 x 080 x 120	50	-	2.55	0.982673
ARS-19-15	44.976004	6.409837	2349	610 x 320 x 240	240	-	3.67	0.983401
PMC eastern outer frontal lobe								
ARS-19-13	44.975219	6.417099	2386	260 x 210 x 110	90	10/156 SE	3.51	0.987862
ARS-19-14	44.975251	6.416864	2389	170 x 120 x 110	85	-	3.35	0.987623
PMC right lateral moraine inner crest								
ARS-16-21	44.965920	6.413774	2564	510 x 450 x 250	70	-	2.50	0.978128
ARS-16-22	44.965602	6.413791	2571	400 x 300 x 270	160	30/320 NW	2.50	0.958303
ARS-16-23	44.965279	6.413770	2579	530 x 250 x 250	250	-	2.50	0.976063

Author contributions

**Melaine Le Roy:** Writing original draft, writing review & editing, Conceptualisation, Fieldwork, TCN Lab work, Interpretation, Figure preparation; **Irene Schimmelpfennig:** Writing review & editing, Conceptualisation, Fieldwork, TCN Lab work, Interpretation, Funding acquisition; Project leader; **Philip Deline:** Writing review & editing, Conceptualisation, Fieldwork, Interpretation, Funding acquisition, Project leader; **Julien Carcaillet:** Writing review & editing, Fieldwork, TCN Lab work; **Tancrede P.M. Leger:** Writing review & editing, TCN Lab work, Data processing; **Pierre Jégot:** Fieldwork, TCN Lab work; **Philippe Schoeneich:** Writing review & editing, Conceptualisation, Fieldwork, Interpretation, Funding acquisition; **Diego Cusicanqui:** Writing review & editing, DEM processing; **Felix Martin Hofmann:** Writing review & editing, TCN Lab work; **Xavier Bodin:** Writing review & editing, Fieldwork; **ASTER Team:** AMS measurement.