

# Development of geochemical proxies to evaluate larval pH-exposure history: Progress, Pitfalls, and Future Directions

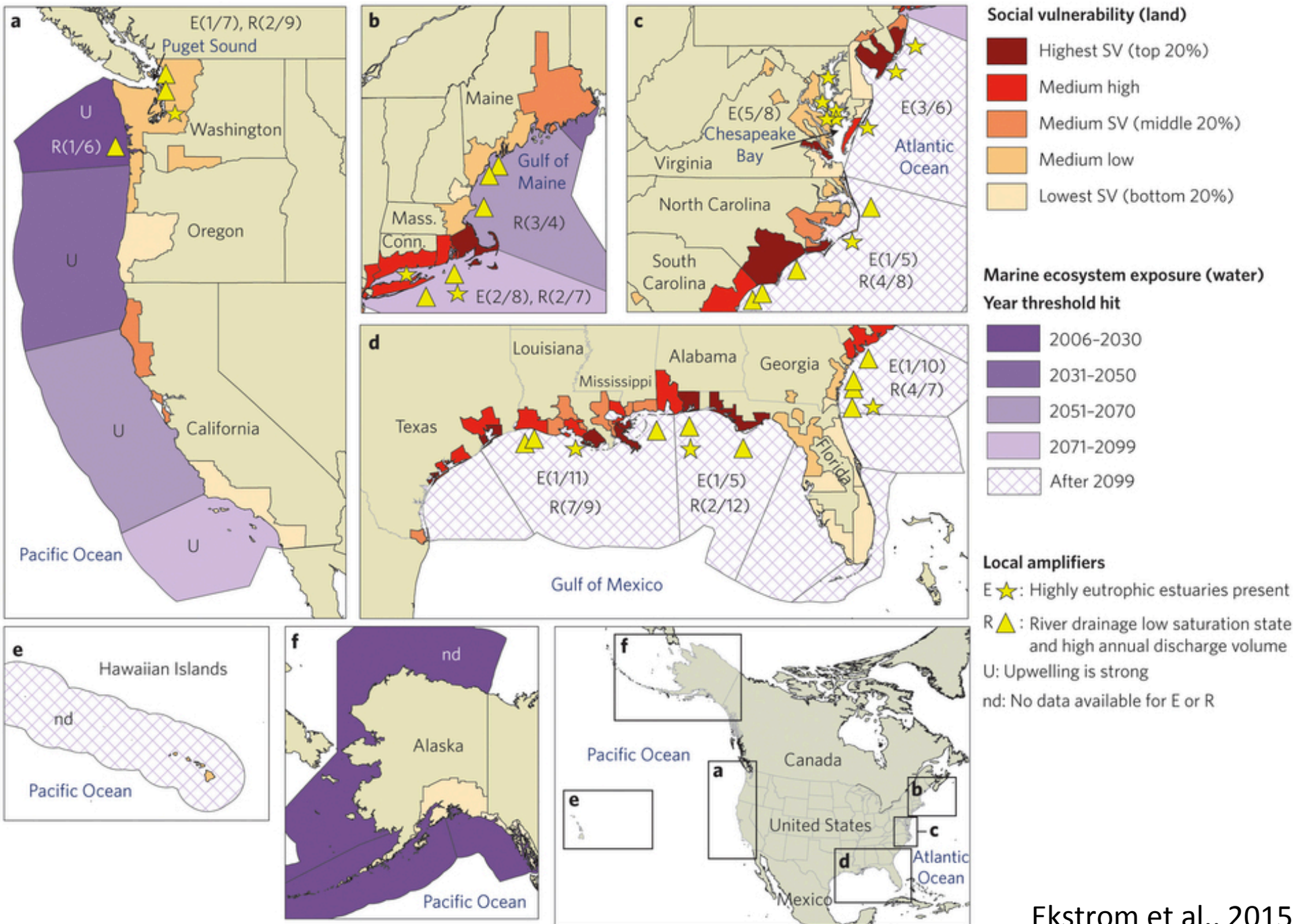
**Achim Herrmann (LSU)**

**Lisa Levin (Scripps)**

**Ariel Anbar, Gwyneth Gordon (ASU)**



SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF  
OCEANOGRAPHY *UC San Diego*



# Ocean acidification and the Permo-Triassic mass extinction

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Ocean acidification triggered by Siberian Trap volcanism was a possible kill mechanism for the Permo-Triassic Boundary mass extinction, but direct evidence for an acidification event is lacking. We present a high-resolution seawater pH record across this interval, using boron isotope data combined with a quantitative modeling approach. In the latest Permian, increased ocean alkalinity primed the Earth system with a low level of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and a high ocean buffering capacity. The first phase of extinction was coincident with a slow injection of carbon into the atmosphere, and ocean pH remained stable. During the second extinction pulse, however, a rapid and large injection of carbon caused an abrupt acidification event that drove the preferential loss of heavily calcified marine biota.

The Permo-Triassic Boundary (PTB) mass extinction, at ~252 million years ago (Ma), represents the most catastrophic loss of biodiversity in geological history and played a major role in dictating the subsequent evolution of modern ecosystems (1). The PTB extinction event spanned ~60,000 years (2) and can be resolved into two distinct marine extinction pulses (3). The first occurred in the latest Permian [Extinction Pulse 1 (EP1)] and was followed by an interval of temporary recovery before the second pulse (EP2), which occurred in the earliest Triassic. The direct cause of the mass extinction is widely debated, with a diverse range of overlapping mechanisms proposed, including widespread water column anoxia (4), euxinia (5), global warming (6), and ocean acidification (7).

Models of PTB ocean acidification suggest that a massive and rapid release of CO<sub>2</sub> from Siberian Trap volcanism acidified the ocean (7). Indirect evidence for acidification comes from the interpretation of faunal turnover records (3, 8), potential dissolution surfaces (9), and Ca isotope data

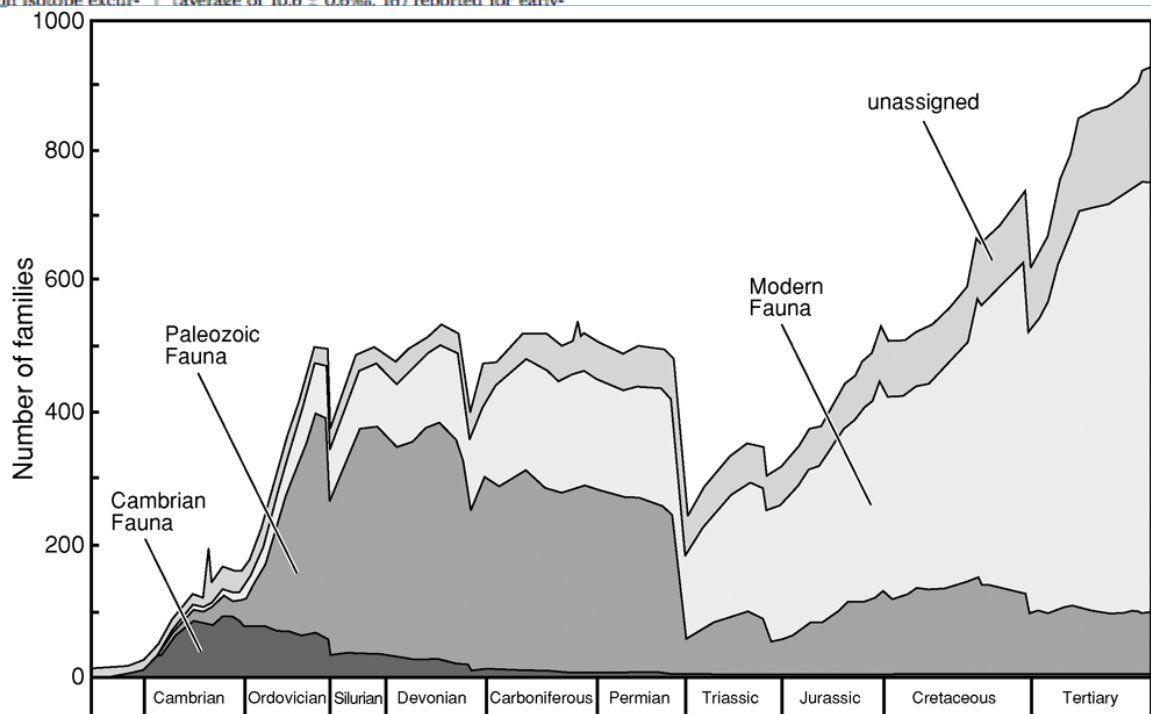
(7). A rapid input of carbon is also potentially recorded in the negative carbon isotope excursion (CIE) that characterizes (10, 11). The interpretation however, debated (12–16) advances to understanding the anthropogenically driven ocean

To test the ocean acidification hypothesis, we have constructed a proxy for seawater pH across the PTB using the boron isotope ratio of marine carbonates. We used a carbon cycle model to explore ocean carbonate scenarios that are consistent with published records of boron isotope ratios and environmental conditions. This combined geochemical, modeling approach, we are able to constrain the most likely scenario, which then allows us to reconstruct the chronological phases of carbonation, each with very different sequences for the Late Permian Earth system.

We analyzed boron and carbon isotope data from two complementary marine, open-water carbonate facies and stable carbon isotope (δ<sup>13</sup>C) are well constrained during the PTB interval, the U.A.E. carbonate platform that records the central Neo-Tethyan Conodont stratigraphy and the δ<sup>13</sup>C are used to constrain the age model (17).

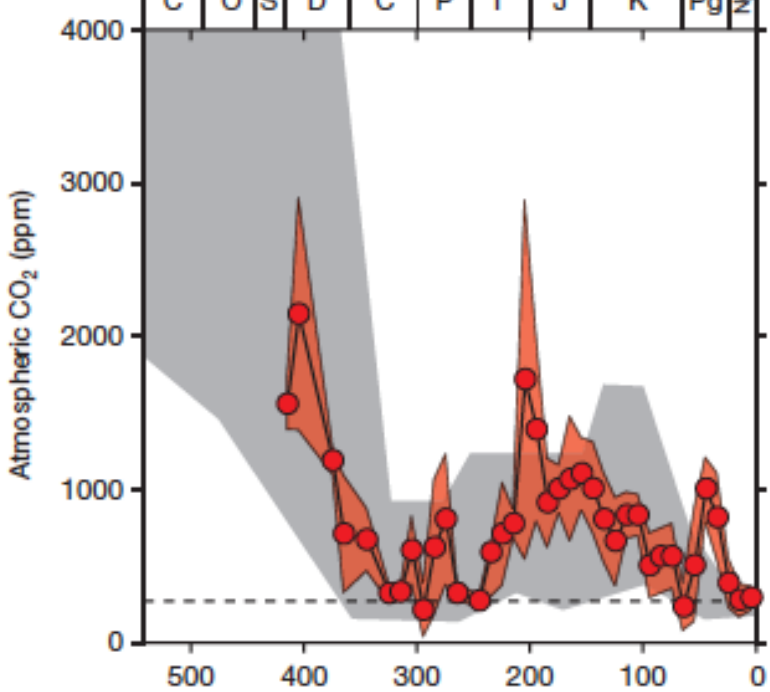
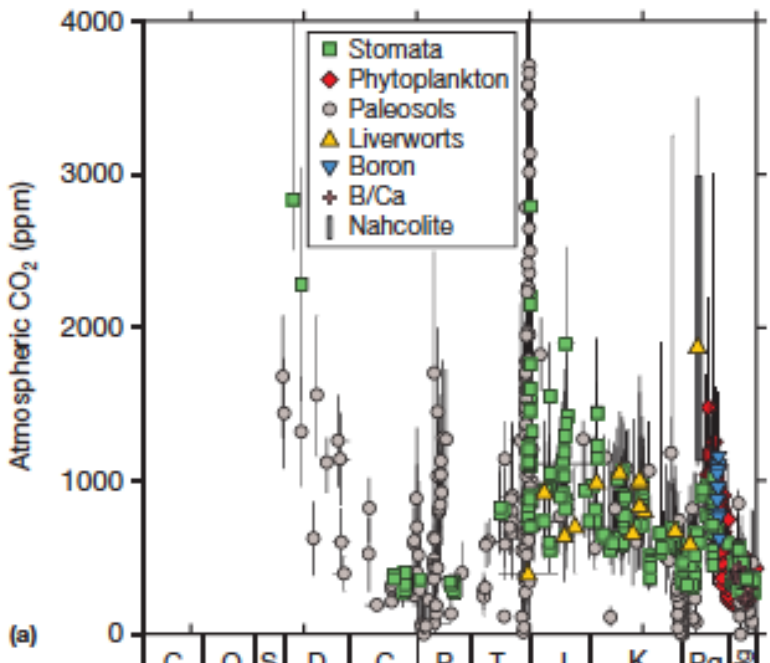
The PTB in the Tethys is characterized by two negative δ<sup>13</sup>C excursions interrupted by a short-term positive event (10). There is no consensus as to the cause of this “rebound” event and so we instead focus on the broader δ<sup>13</sup>C trend. Our δ<sup>13</sup>C transect (Fig. 1B) starts in the Changhsingian (Late Permian) with a gradual decreasing trend, interrupted by the first negative shift in δ<sup>13</sup>C at EP1 (at 53 m, ~251.96 Ma) (Figs. 1B and 2). This is followed by the minor positive rebound event (at 54 m, ~251.95 Ma) (Figs. 1B and 2) before the minima of the second phase of the negative CIE (58 to 60 m, ~251.92 Ma) (Figs. 1B and 2) that marks the PTB itself. After the CIE minimum, δ<sup>13</sup>C gradually increases to ~-1.8 per mil (‰) and remains relatively stable during the earliest Triassic and across EP2.

Our boron isotope record shows a different pattern to the carbon isotope excursion. The boron isotope ratio (δ<sup>11</sup>B) is persistently low (Fig. 1C) at the start of our record during the late-Changhsingian, with an average of 10.9 ± 0.9‰ (1σ). This is in agreement with δ<sup>11</sup>B values (average of 10.6 ± 0.6‰, 1σ) reported for early-

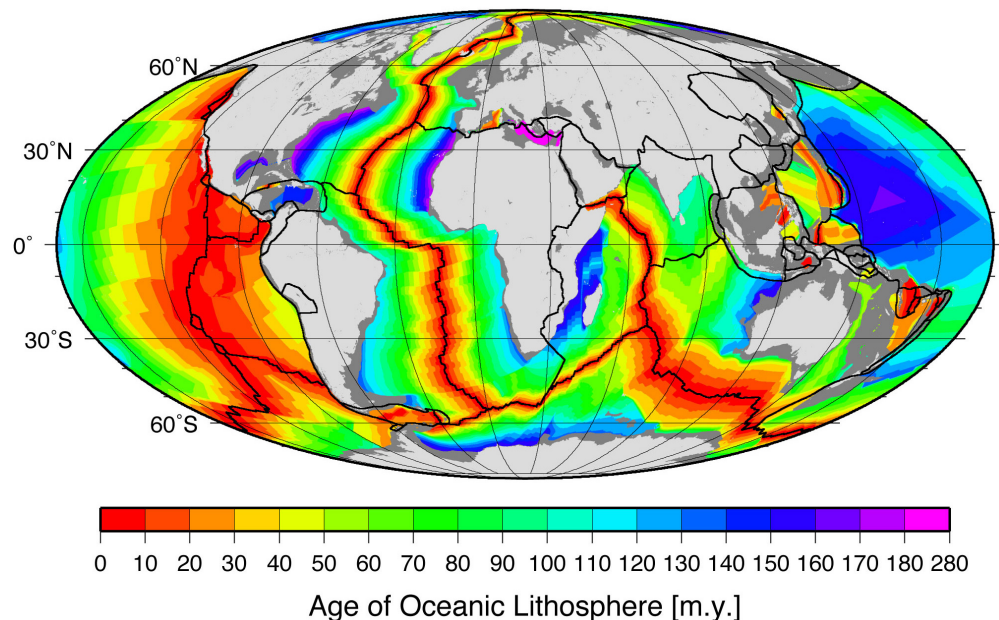


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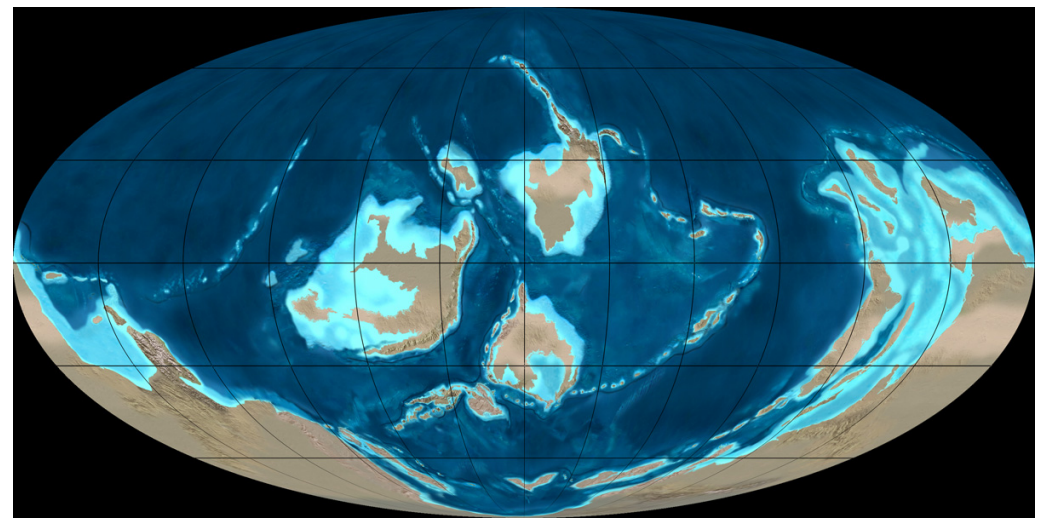
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(b) Royer, 2014 Time (Ma)



[http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/ocean\\_age/ocean\\_age\\_2008.html](http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/ocean_age/ocean_age_2008.html)

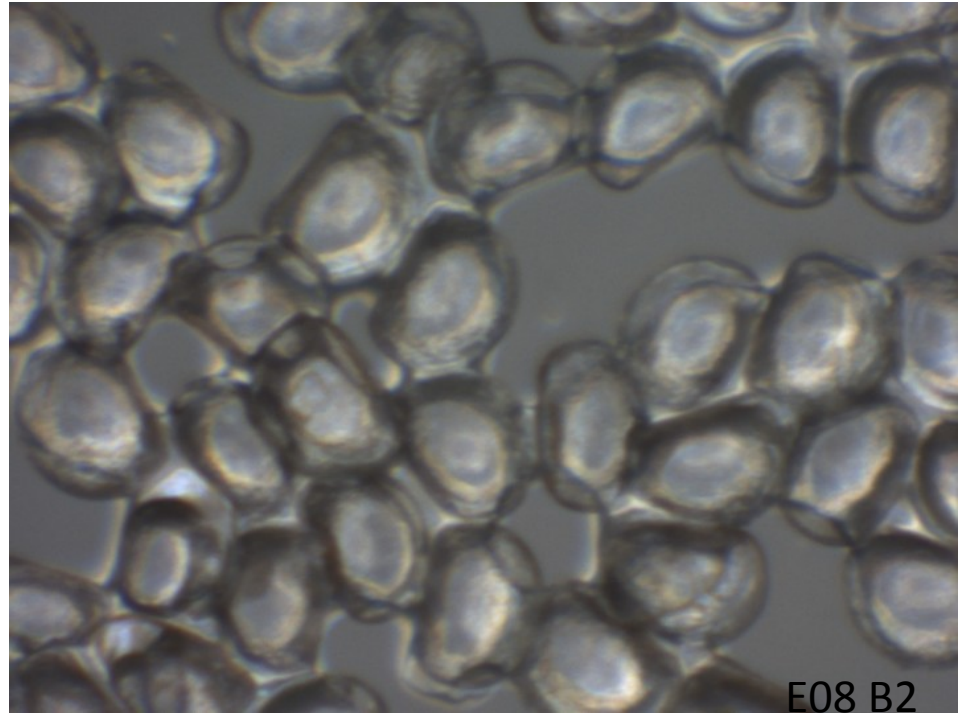


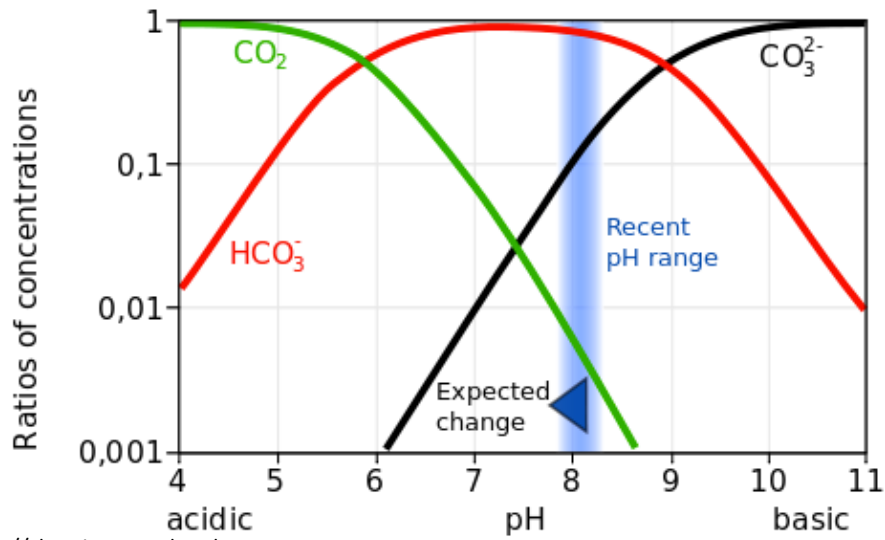
<https://www2.nau.edu/rcb7/450moll.jpg>

# The Collaborative Project

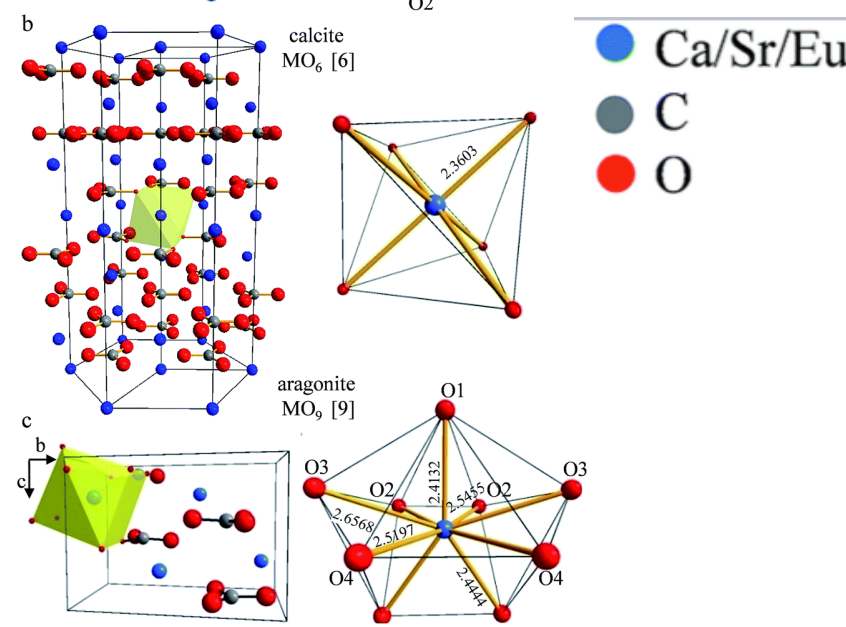
## Scripps-ASU-LSU

- Mussel larvae growth experiments
- Elemental changes (LA-ICPMS)
- Uranium isotopes (MC-ICPMS)
- Calcium isotopes (MC-ICPMS)
- B isotopes (SIMS)

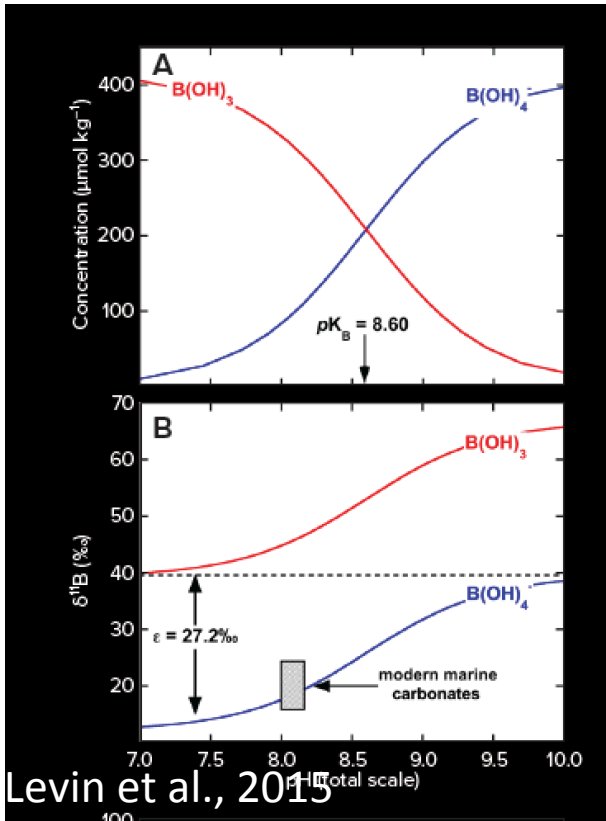




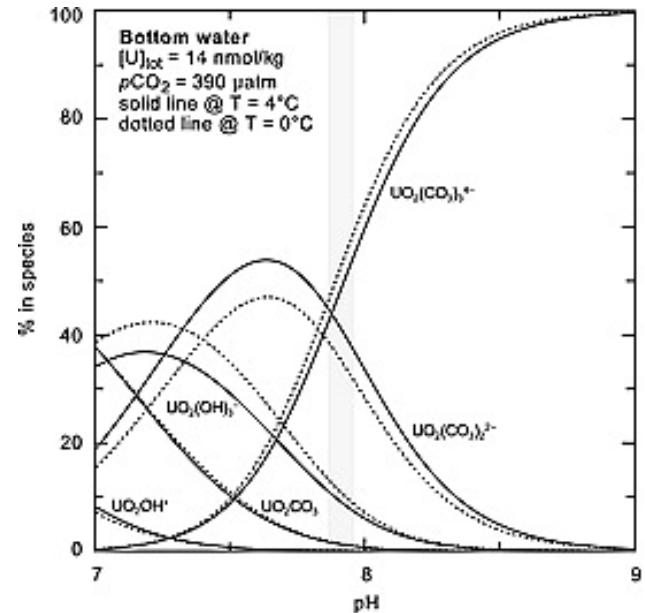
<http://chemistry.stackexchange.com>



Blanco-Gutierrez et al., 2014



Levin et al., 2015



Reitzsch et al., 2011

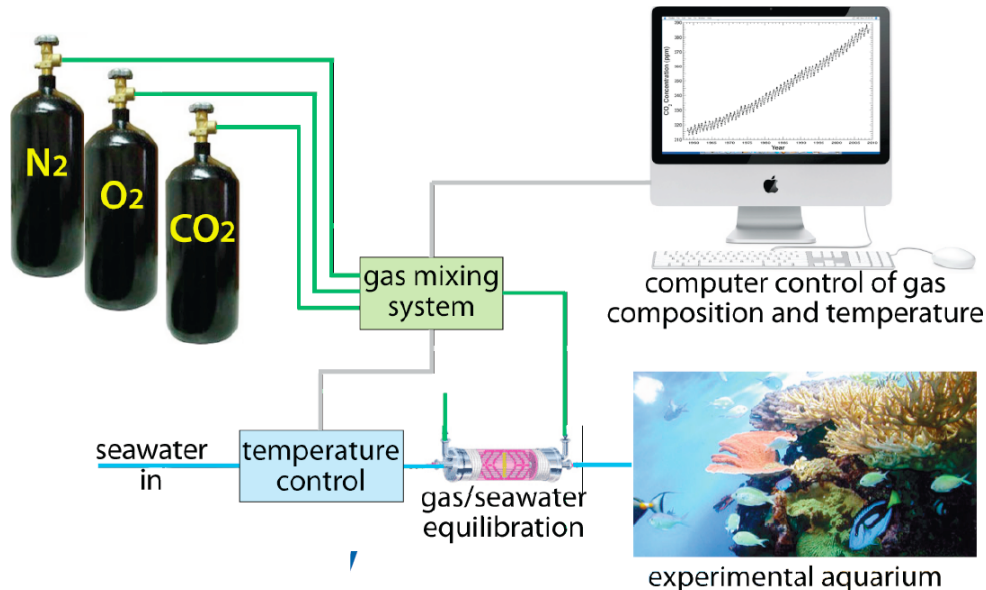
# The Collaborative Project

- Rearing Mussel Larvae (Scripps)

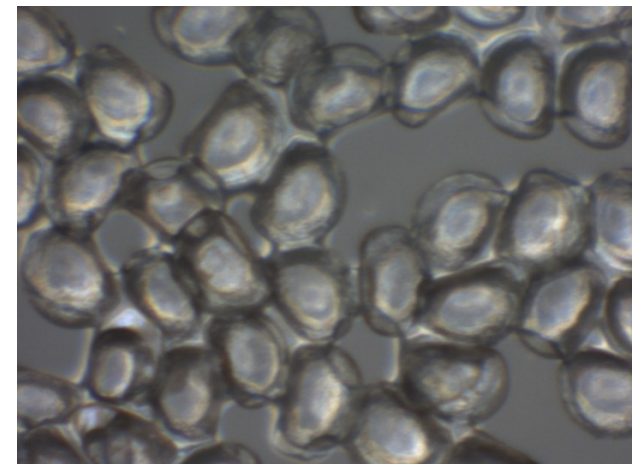
Table 1. Experimental Conditions for Experiments A, B, and C Used to Rear Mussel Larvae of *Mytilus californianus* and *M. galloprovincialis*

species	experiment (reps)	pH <sub>T</sub>	[O <sub>2</sub> ] (μmol kg <sup>-1</sup> )	temperature (°C)	salinity	A <sub>T</sub> (μmol kg <sup>-1</sup> )	[CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ] (μmol kg <sup>-1</sup> )	U/Ca <sub>acc</sub> (μmol mol <sup>-1</sup> )	
<i>M. californianus</i>	A (3) <sup>a</sup>	8.04		16.5	33.53	2235	155		
	A (3)	7.51		16.5	33.53	2241	52		
	A (3) <sup>b</sup>	7.51 ± 0.15		16.5	33.53	2240	52 ± 17		
	B (3)	7.90	223	15.9	33.49	2228	115	1.09	
	B (3)	7.68	104	15.8	33.49	2227	73	1.07	
	C (3)	7.64	230	16.3	33.55	2233	68	1.17	
	C (3)	8.00	101	16.1	33.54	2232	142	1.36	
	field <sup>c</sup>	8.05	232	16.5	33.23	2225	156		
	<i>M. galloprovincialis</i>	B (2)	7.91	231	17.2	33.64	2250	124	1.20
		B (2)	7.61	86	17.2	33.65	2252	67	0.98
C (2)		7.59	234	16.9	33.60	2240	63	1.17	
C (2)		7.95	87	17.1	33.62	2241	134	1.36	

<sup>a</sup>[O<sub>2</sub>] was not controlled or measured during Expt. A. <sup>b</sup>Third treatment during Expt. A cycled pH by 0.3 units on a semidiurnal basis with a mean of 7.51. <sup>c</sup>Environmental data for field-cultured larvae were collected with seapHOx instrumentation that recorded pH<sub>T</sub>, [O<sub>2</sub>], temperature and salinity every 15 min. [CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>] was calculated from pH along with A<sub>T</sub> determined from a discrete sample taken at the beginning of the outplant.

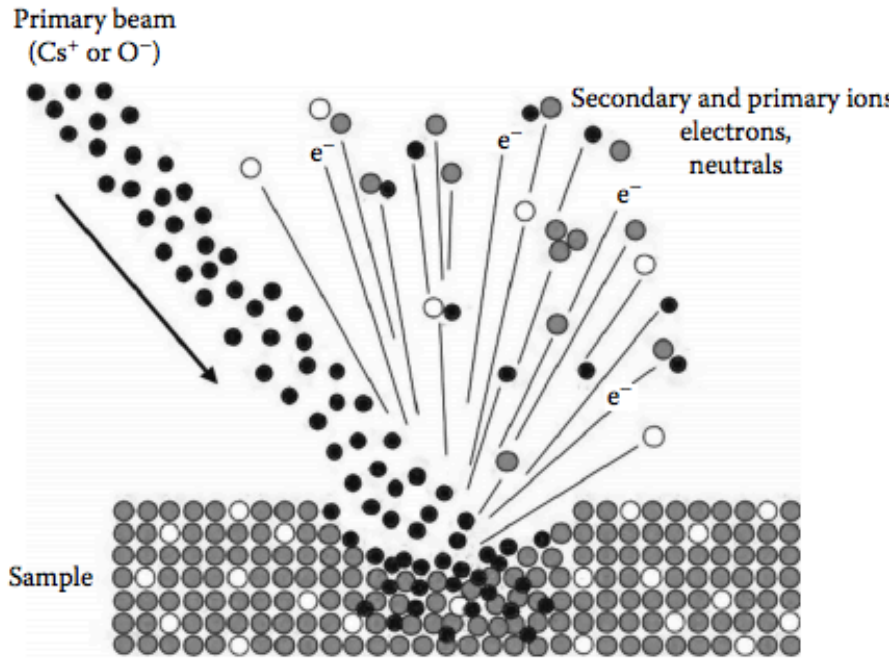


Frieder et al., 2014

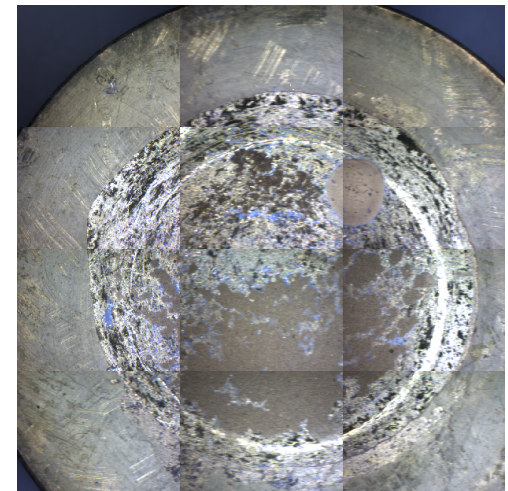
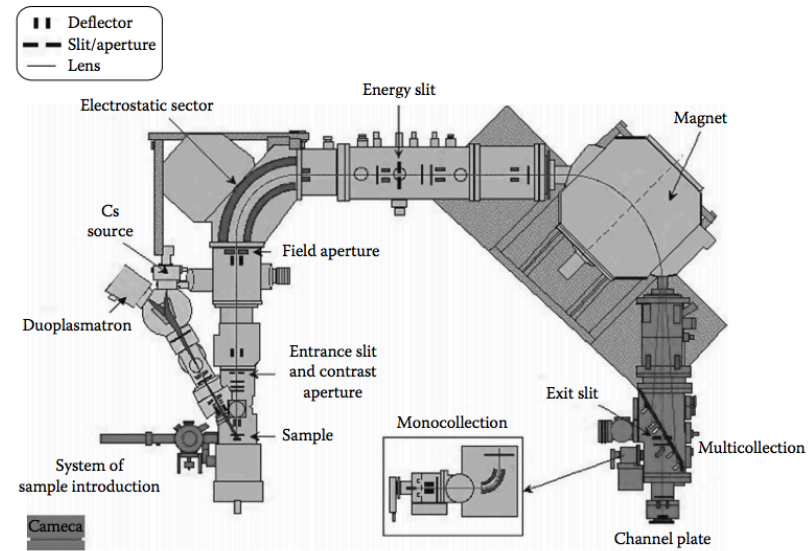


# Boron Work - SIMS

- Instrumentation Cameca IMS 6f at ASU



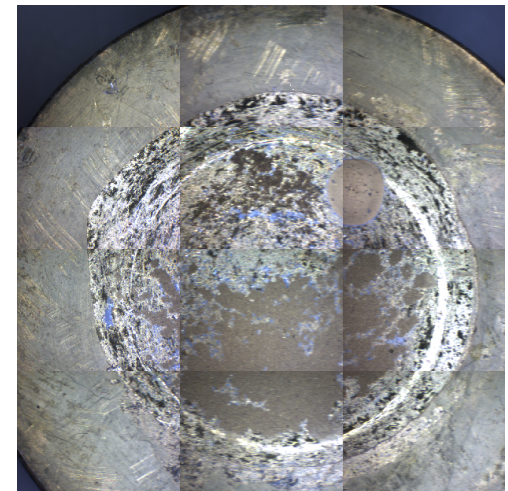
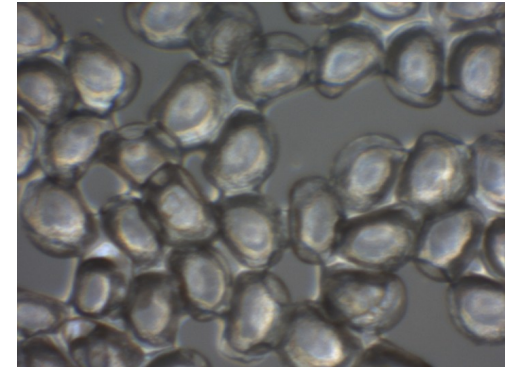
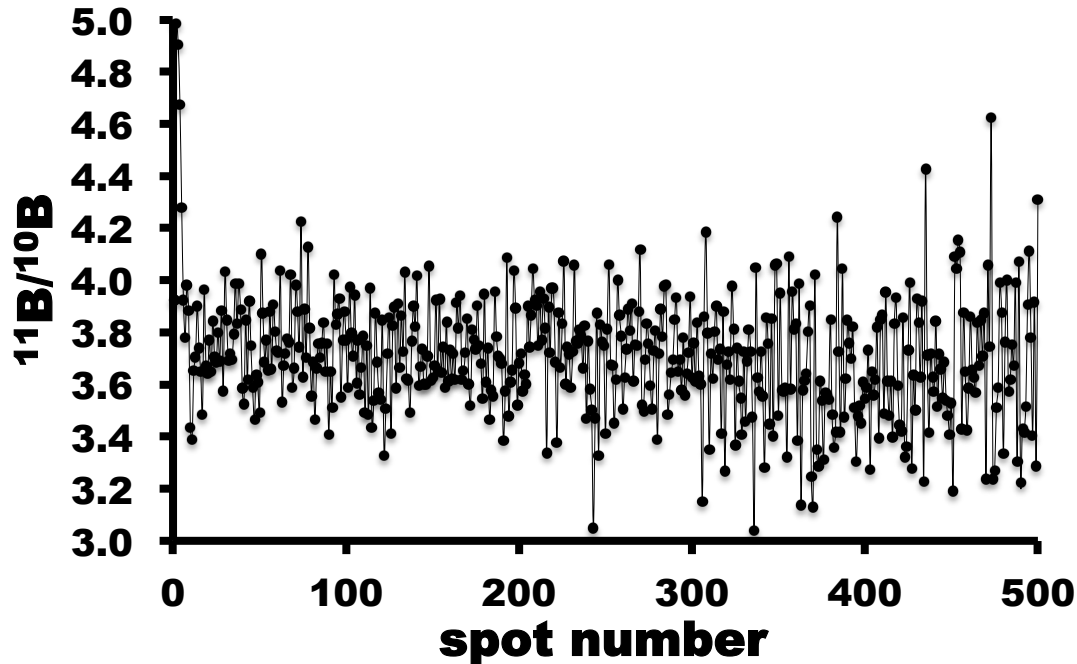
**Figure 16.3** Sputtering of the surface of a sample by a primary beam of oxygen ( $\text{O}^-$ ) or cesium ( $\text{Cs}^+$ ) ions. By the impact of this high-energy beam (typically 10–13 keV), elements constitutive of the sample are ejected as mono- or pluriatomic secondary ions, electrons, and neutrals. The secondary ions are then accelerated toward the mass spectrometer of the ion probe. (Modified after Ireland, T.R., *Adv. Anal. Geochem.*, 2, 1–118, 1995.)



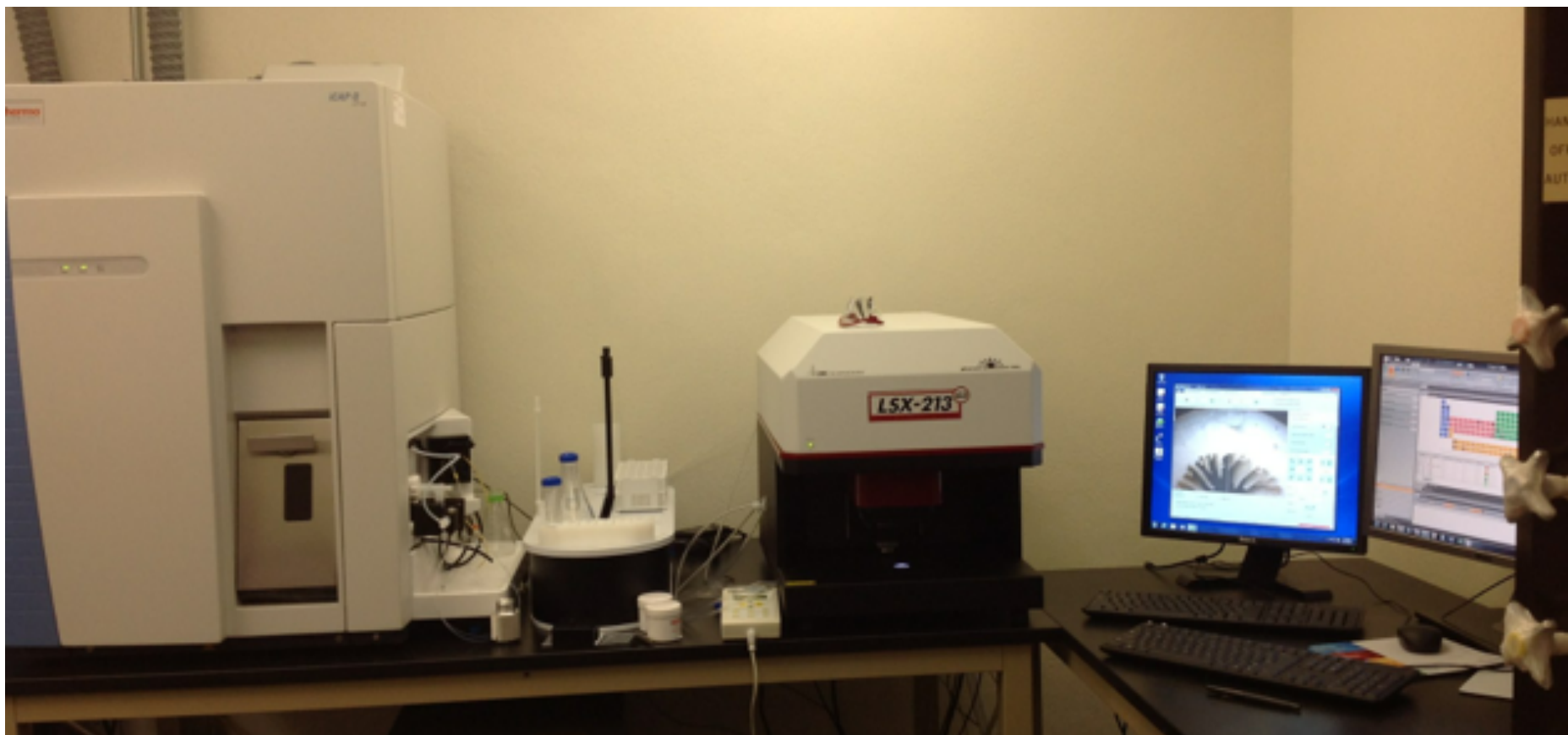


# Boron Work - SIMS

- Instrumentation Cameca 6f at ASU
- Problems: IMF and low precision

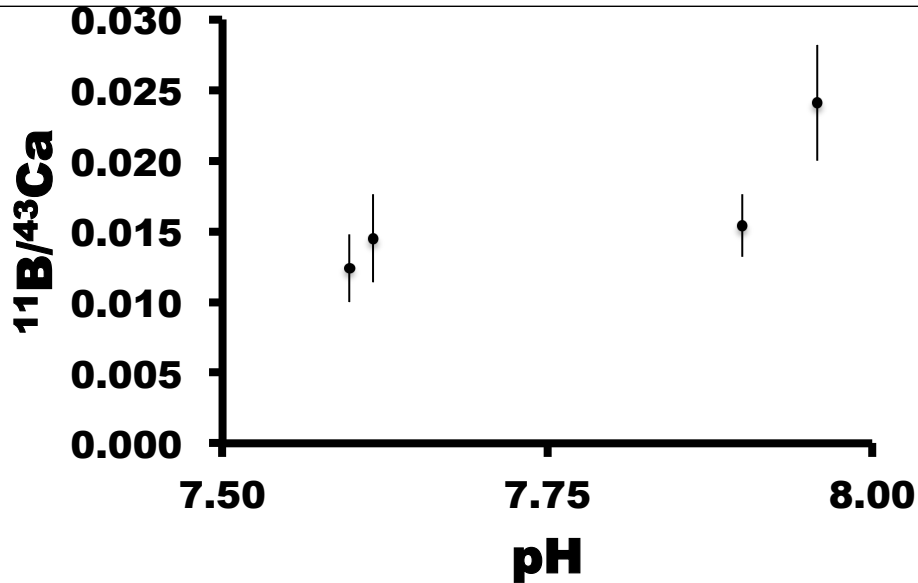
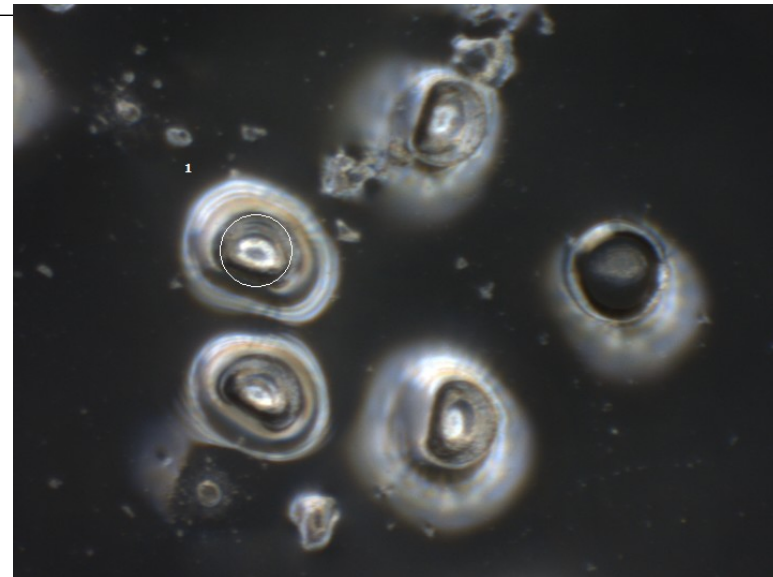
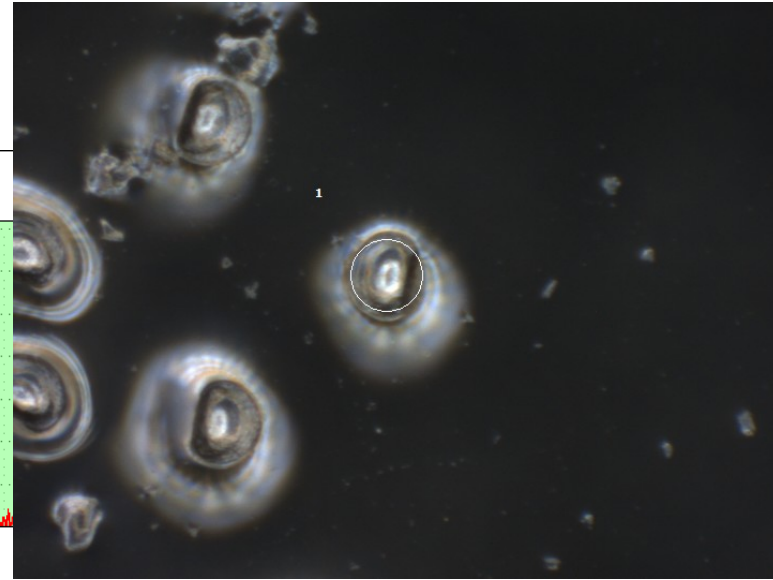
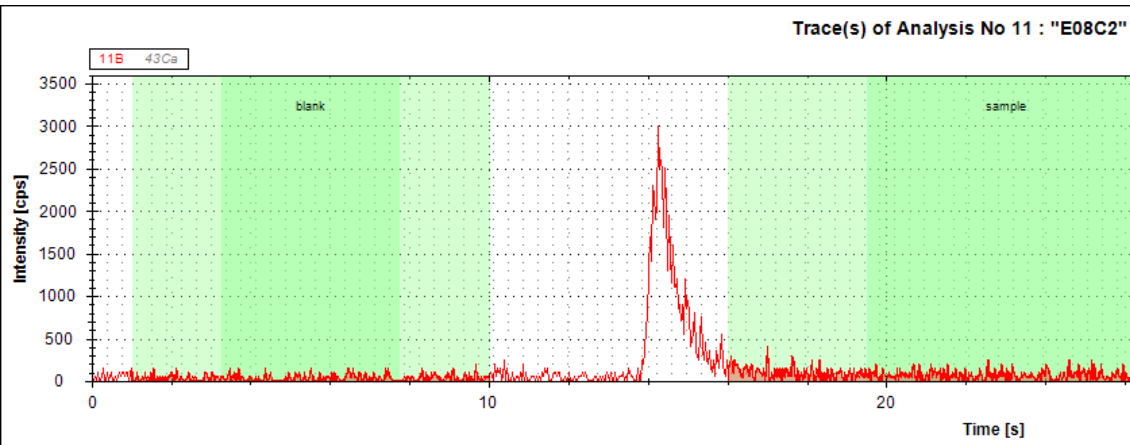


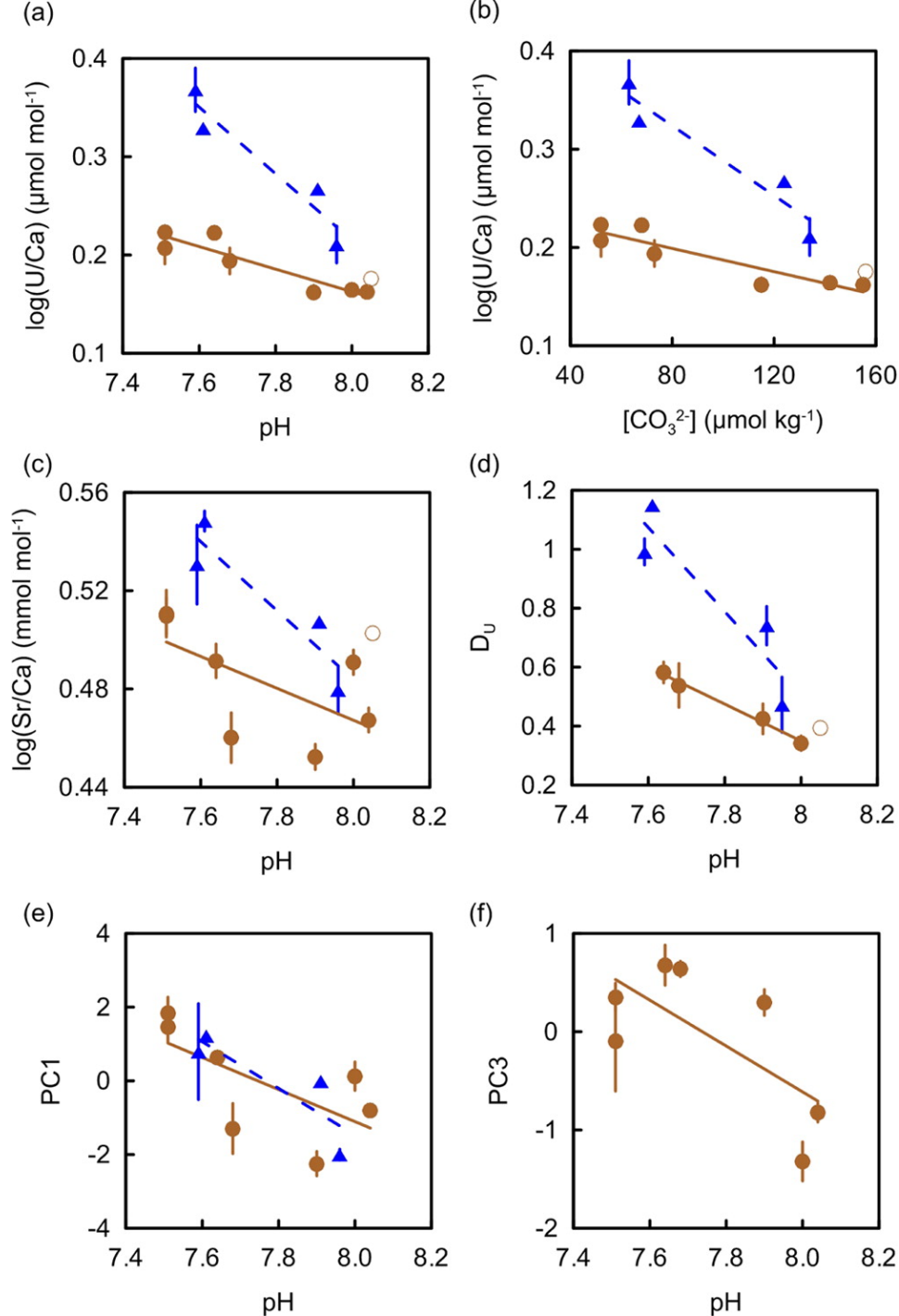
# LA-ICPMS: Elemental proxies



# Mussel Larvae

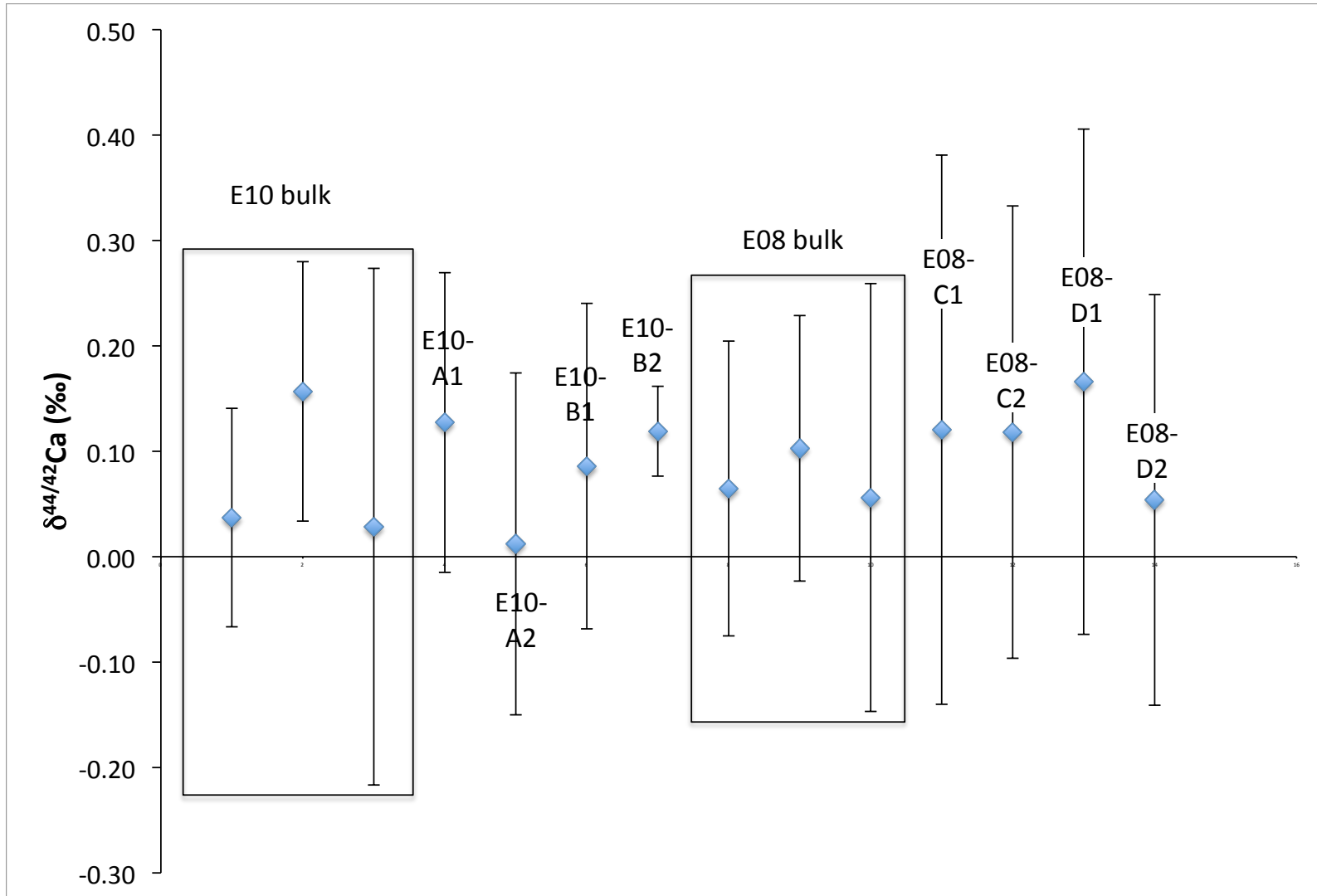
- 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , 2%, 10 HZ, 30 shots
- DW: 0.01  $^{11}\text{B}$ , 0.01  $^{43}\text{Ca}$





- Thermo Element 2 ICP-MS (low-resolution mode) with a New Wave Research UP-213 laser ablation unit (at the University of California Santa Barbara)
- 30- $\mu\text{m}$ -long by 80- $\mu\text{m}$ -wide line at 40% power, 10 Hz, and 8  $\mu\text{m}/\text{s}$  scanning speed
- Solution-based dissolved  $\text{CaCO}_3$  reference material (OTO), and two solid standards, NIST 612 and USGS MACS3  $\text{CaCO}_3$  standard

# MC-ICPMS: Ca Isotopes



# Future directions

louisiana oyster hatchery grand isle

Wildlife & Fisheries Department (985) 787-2163

Street View

Wildlife & Fisheries Department

**Pending Seagrass:**  
**TITLE:** Understanding the combined impacts of warming sea surface temperature, deoxygenation, ocean acidification, and nutrient enrichment on coastal water quality and oyster health  
Lead-PI: Sibel Bargu  
Co-PIs: Reagan Errera. Achim Herrmann

Google

Map data ©2015 Google Terms Privacy Report a problem 10 mi

The image shows a Google Maps interface of Louisiana. A search bar at the top left contains the text "louisiana oyster hatchery grand isle". Below the search bar, a dropdown menu shows "Wildlife & Fisheries Department" with the phone number "(985) 787-2163" and a "Street View" option. A red location pin is placed on the map near the "Wildlife & Fisheries Department" label. A white text box in the bottom left corner contains the following text: "Pending Seagrass:", "TITLE: Understanding the combined impacts of warming sea surface temperature, deoxygenation, ocean acidification, and nutrient enrichment on coastal water quality and oyster health", "Lead-PI: Sibel Bargu", and "Co-PIs: Reagan Errera. Achim Herrmann". The map shows various locations in Louisiana, including Morgan City, Houma, and New Orleans. The bottom of the map features the Google logo, a scale bar for 10 miles, and various map controls like zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) buttons.

# Standards: NIST612

- Commonly used
- Readily available
- Not matrix matched for CaCO<sub>3</sub>

GeoReM

Download Data

B in NIST NISTSRM612

Value	Unit	Origin	Uncertainty	Uncertainty Type	Method	Institution	Last Name	First Name	Year	
35	µg/g	measured	12	95%CL	LA-ICPMS	200 nm fs	Max-Planck-Institut fuer Chemie	Jochum	K.P.	2014
43	µg/g	measured	15	95%CL	LA-ICPMS	213 nm Nd:YAG	Max-Planck-Institut fuer Chemie	Jochum	K.P.	2014
42	µg/g	measured	14	95%CL	LA-ICPMS	193 nm excimer	Universität Mainz	Jochum	K.P.	2014
34.3	µg/g	compiled	1.7	95%CL		GeoReM prf. val. 2011: test port. mass: mg range	Max-Planck-Institut fuer Chemie	Jochum	K.P.	2011
35	µg/g	compiled				GeoReM preferred values	Max-Planck-Institut fuer Chemie	Jochum	K.P.	2008
34.73	µg/g	compiled	3.21	SD		preferred value	University of Wales	Pearce	N.J.G.	1997
32	µg/g	compiled				Information values	National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	Reed	W.P.	1992
35	µg/g	measured			ICPAES					
27.2	µg/g	measured	3.7	2SIGMA	LA-ICPMS	LJ (mass 6)				
35.6	µg/g	measured	4.3	2SIGMA	LA-ICPMS	LJ (mass 6)				
36	µg/g	measured	4	SIGMA		Present data, Nuclear reaction m				
33	µg/g	measured	4	SIGMA		Microbeam analyses,				
32.08	µg/g	measured	5	RSD(%)	LA-ICPMS					
32	µg/g	compiled				Information values				
54	µg/g	measured			LA-ICPMS	calibr. with NIST610, most accurate				
33.7	µg/g	measured	0.9	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS					
32.6	µg/g	measured	0.8	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS					
37.6	µg/g	measured	1.48	2SIGMA	LA-ICPMS	calibrated with NIST610				
54	µg/g	measured	31	2SIGMA	LA-ICPMS	calibr. with NIST612 and BCR-2G				
33.74	µg/g	measured	2.26	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS					
35	µg/g	measured			LIMS	calibr. with NIST SRM610				
33.82	µg/g	measured	9	RSD(%)	LA-ICPMS					
34.73	µg/g	measured	1.0043	SD	LA-ICPMS					
34.82	µg/g	measured	5.79	SIGMA	LA-ICPMS					
24.4	µg/g	measured	9	SD	LA-ICPMS					

Table 2.  
Summary of element inhomogeneity in NIST SRM 610, 612, 614 and 616

	Homogeneous	Moderately inhomogeneous	Grossly inhomogeneous
Geochemical behaviour	RSD <sub>inhom</sub> (1–0.02 µg) < 1%	RSD <sub>inhom</sub> (1–0.02 µg) = 1–20%	RSD <sub>inhom</sub> (1–0.02 µg) > 5% to > 20%
Major lithophile Lithophile	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , CaO, Na <sub>2</sub> O, SiO <sub>2</sub> Li, Be, B, Sc, Ti, V, Rb, Sr, Y, Zr, Nb, Cs, Ba, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Hf, Ta, W, Th, U	Li (614), B (614), W (616)	
Moderately chalcophile/siderophile	Cr (610), Ga (610), Ge (610), Cu (610), Ag (610), Tl (610, 614), Co (612), Sb (612), Cr, Cu, Co	Ni (610), Cr, Cu, Co, Zn, Ga, Ge, As, Mo, Se, Cd, Ag, Sn, Sb, Tl	Se (616), Cd (616), Ni
Highly siderophile	Rh (616), Pd (616), Pt (616), Au (616)	Pd (614), Rh (610, 612, 614), Re (610, 612), Au (610, 612, 614)	Re (614, 616), Pd (610, 612), Pt (610, 612, 614)
Others (Eggins and Shelley 2002)	P?, Cl, K?	Br, F	Mn, Fe, S?, Te

Elements are grouped according to their geochemical behaviour. The inhomogeneity of some elements may be different in some glasses (sample names in brackets). Elements not investigated in this paper are from Eggins and Shelley (2002). The table also contains approximate values for RSD<sub>inhom</sub> (1–0.02 µg) for test portion masses varying between 1 and 0.02 µg (corresponding to spot sizes between 80 and 25 µm in LA-ICP-MS).

# Standards: MACS-3

- “Matrix matched”
- Low boron concentration
- Heterogeneous

GeoReM

[Download Data](#)

B in USGS MACS-3

Value	Unit	Origin	Uncertainty	Uncertainty Type	Method		
7.95	µg/g	measured	2.3	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
7.93	µg/g	measured	2.29	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
7.56	µg/g	measured	2.19	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
6.44	µg/g	measured	0.1	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
6.41	µg/g	measured	0.1	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
6	µg/g	measured	0.09	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
6.45	µg/g	measured	0.05	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
6.42	µg/g	measured	0.05	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
6.05	µg/g	measured	0.04	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
6.05	µg/g	measured	0.04	1SIGMA	LA-ICPMS		China Uni
6.69	µg/g	measured	0.04	1SIGMA	ICPMS		China Uni
5.9	µg/g	measured			LA-ICPMS	low mas res. 213 nm	Max-Planck
6.8	µg/g	measured			LA-ICPMS	medium mass res. 213 nm	Max-Planck
2.1	µg/g	measured			LA-ICPMS	low mas res. 193 nm	Max-Planck
8.9	µg/g	measured			LA-ICPMS	medium mass res. 193 nm	Max-Planck
5.9	µg/g	measured	2.9	95%CL	LA-ICPMS		Max-Planck
7.9	µg/g	measured	2.7	95%CL	LA-ICPMS	200 nm fs	Max-Planck
9.7	µg/g	measured	3.6	95%CL	LA-ICPMS	213 nm Nd:YAG	Max-Planck

SAMPLE	$\delta^{11}\text{B}$			B (ppm)
	run 1	run 2	run 3	
<b>Seawater</b>				
Tavernier Cay, Florida	+39.9*			4.56
Florida Bay	+40.2	+39.9	+39.8	4.76
Long Island Sound	+40.1			3.60
<b>Aragonite</b>				
Montastrea <sup>1</sup>	+24.7			61.9
Siderastrea A <sup>1</sup>	+23.9*			50.3
B <sup>1</sup>	+23.6	+22.8		62.4
Acropora A <sup>1</sup>	+24.6			62.0
B <sup>1</sup>	+23.0			62.2
Agaricia <sup>1</sup>	+23.5			50.4
Agaricia partial dissolution	+23.9			-
Porites A <sup>1</sup>	+24.0	+25.2		53.5
B <sup>1</sup>	+24.7	+24.2		52.0
Gardineria A <sup>4</sup>	+24.2			59.3
B <sup>4</sup>	+23.8	+23.4		69.5
Joulters Cay Ooids <sup>1</sup>	+21.5			25.6
Joulters Cay Single Ooid <sup>1</sup>	+22.2			28.2
Caicos Platform Ooids <sup>2</sup>	+21.2			24.5
Caicos Single Ooid <sup>2</sup>	+22.1			24.5
Fungia <sup>5</sup>	+24.7	+24.2	+24.5	56.6
Halimeda <sup>3</sup>	+22.0	+22.0		23.6
Codakia A <sup>3</sup> (mollusc)	+19.1			10.9
B <sup>3</sup>	+21.2			13.8
Astrangia <sup>6</sup>	+24.8	+24.6	24.8	68.2
<b>High-Mg Calcite</b>				
Echinoid A <sup>3</sup>	+22.3	+23.1		43.6
B <sup>3</sup>	+22.9			36.7
Goniolithon A <sup>3</sup>	+22.4			54.8
B <sup>3</sup>				75.1
Encrusting Red Algae A <sup>1</sup>	+23.0			50.9
B <sup>1</sup>				71.4
<b>Calcite</b>				
Thecidellina A <sup>5</sup> (whole shell)	+20.8	+22.2		25.7
B <sup>5</sup> (outer shell)	+23.2	+21.8		48.8



# Conclusions

- Progress: LA-ICPMS can be used for the analysis of (some) trace elements in single shell bivalve larvae to trace pH exposure history (esp. U)
- Pitfalls: B and Ca isotopes do not work
- Future directions: Comparative, multi-stressor studies needed across different taxa
- Future directions: Ecosystem response using “deep time” studies
- (Progress needed: Appropriate, readily available standards are needed)

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