



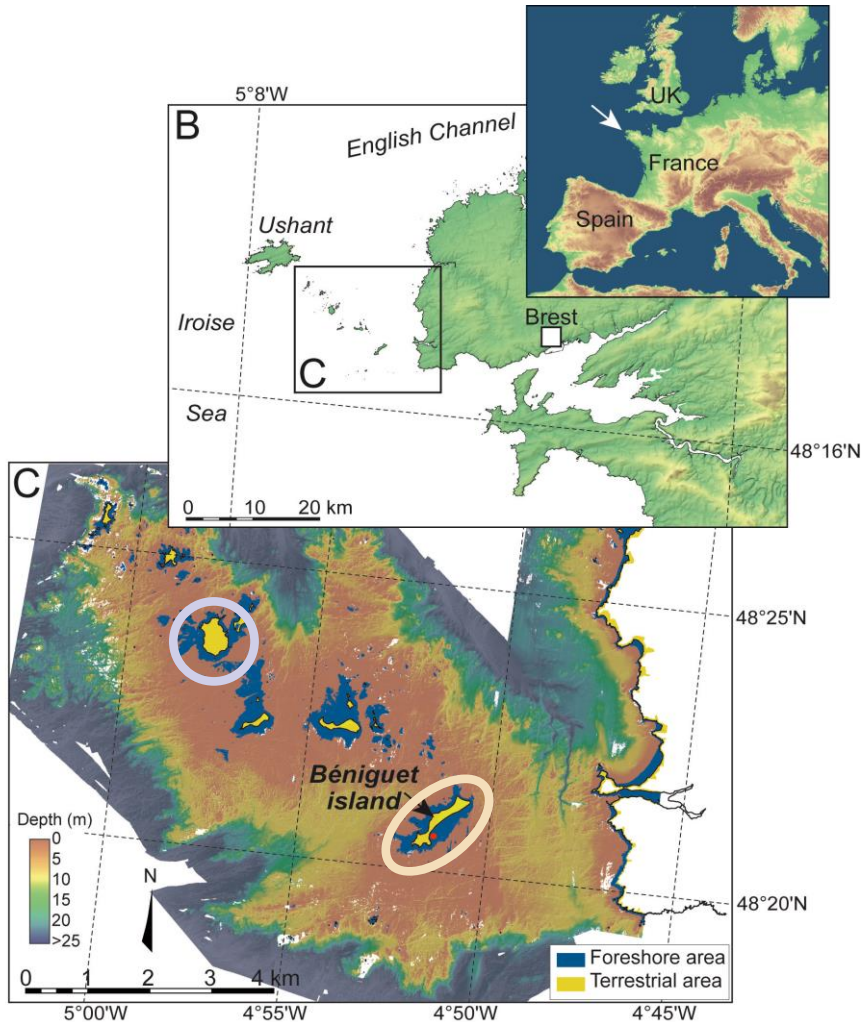
Meeting SEALEX – 17 Novembre 2021  
WP1 : The construction of a cultural geodatabase

Les coquilles de *Patella* sp. issues d'amas coquilliers anthropiques, archives culturelles et environnementales des environnements côtiers :

Le cas des amas coquilliers de Béniguet et de Molène en mer d'Iroise

Jean-François Cudennec, Yvan Pailler, Pierre Stéphan, Yves-Marie Paulet

European Institute for Marine Studies, University of Western Brittany



### Beg ar Loued site (Molène island)

A well known site with strong archaeological context.

Limpet shell from two pit structures are investigated :

- SC 7 : 2576 – 2467 Cal B.C. (Late Neolithic)
- SC 21: 1920-1761 Cal B.C. (Early Bronze Age)

### Béniguet shell middens

Three shell layer interbedded in aeolian sand dune. No excavation yet and reduced archaeological context.

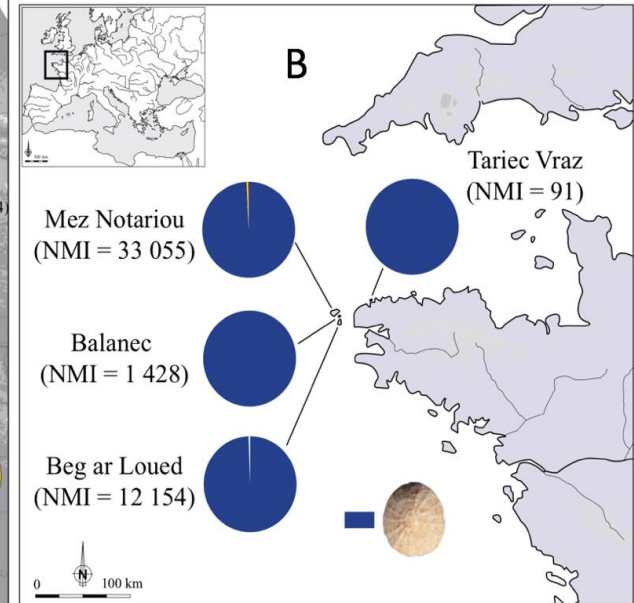
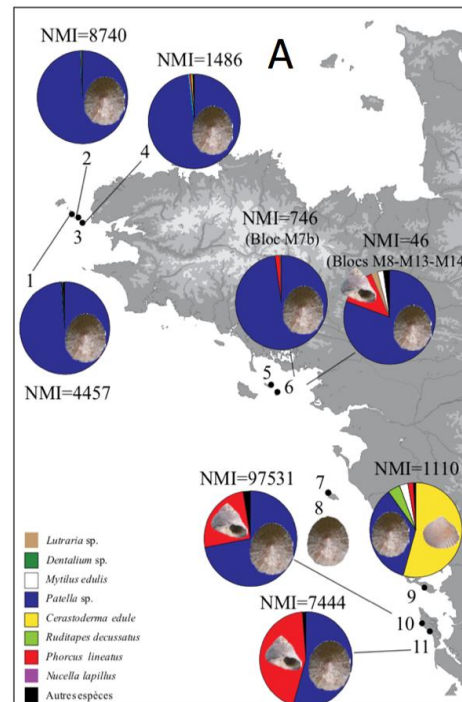
- Beni-200 : 2455 – 2200 Cal. BC (Chalcolithic, Bell Beaker culture)
- Beni-201: 2187 – 1960 Cal. BC (Early Bronze Age)
- Beni-202 : 640 – 675 AD (Early Middle Age)

French Atlantic Shell middens

- Remnants of human activities
- Mostly composed of mollusc shells
- Also contain bones, sherds, lithics, botanical remains...



Archaeological limpet shells from Kerlinou excavations (late Iron Age)

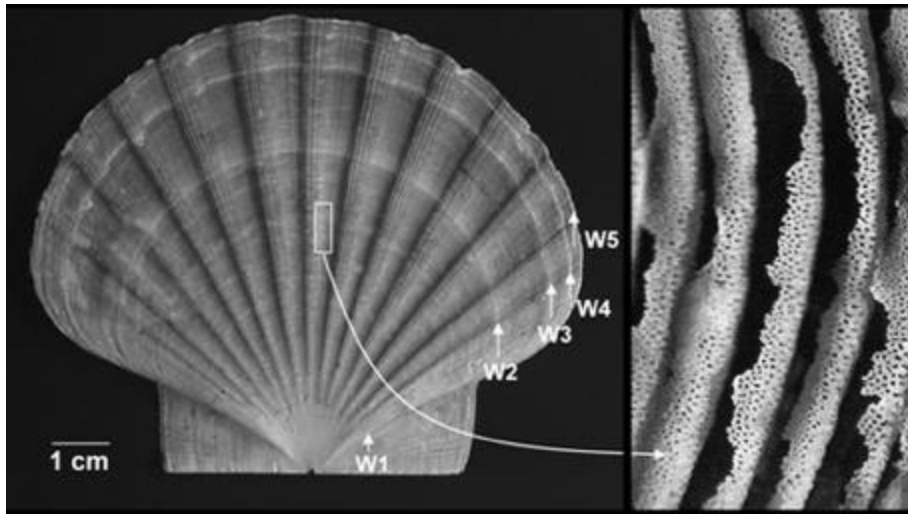


Composition of pre- and protohistoric Atlantic shell middens

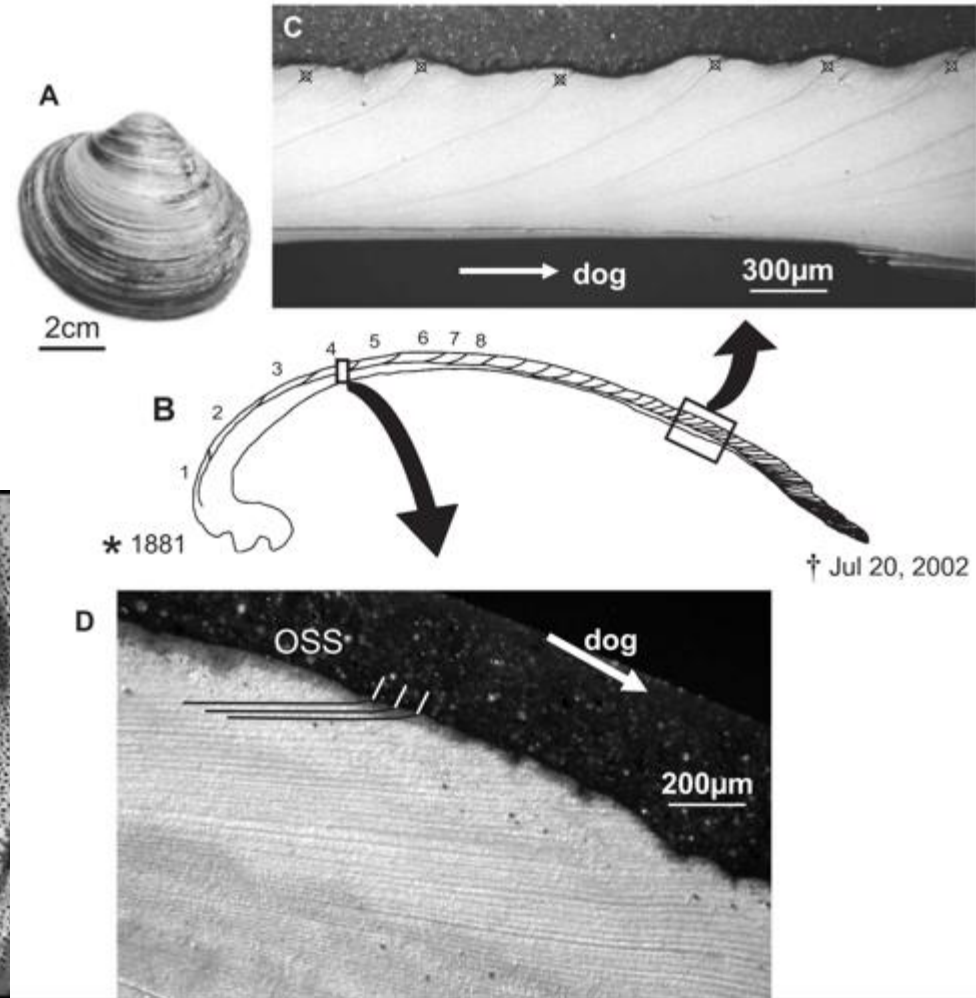


## Principe de base

- Déterminer le rythme de formation des stries pour lire dans les coquilles comme dans un calendrier



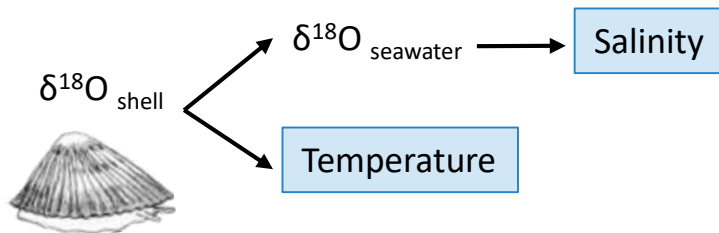
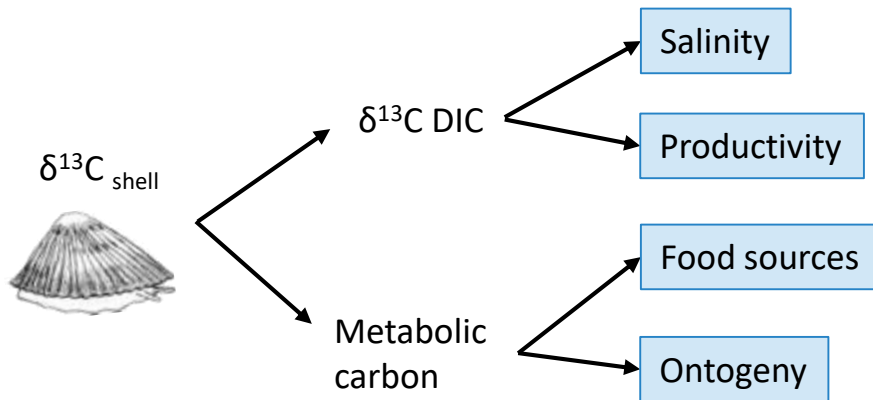
*Pecten maximus* : strie journalière



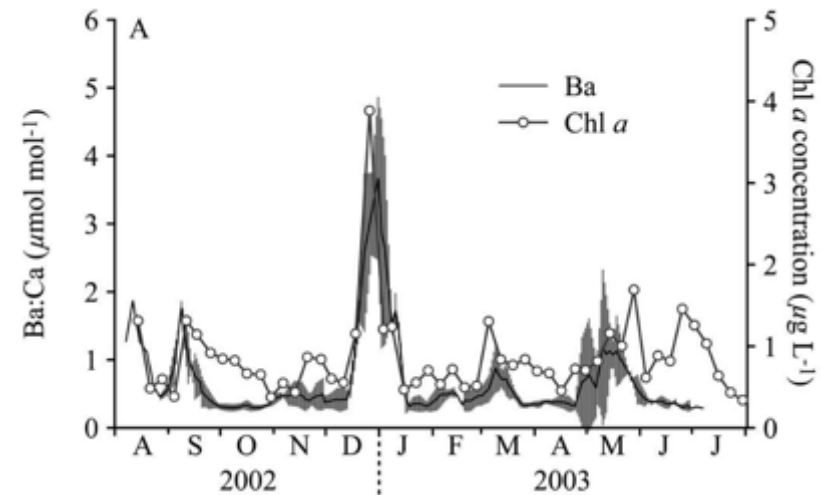
*Arctica islandica* : Stries journalière et annuelles ; espèce longévive  
Butler et al., 2013

## Un panel d'outils

- Les isotopes stables :  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  et  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
- Les éléments traces : Mg, Li, Ba...



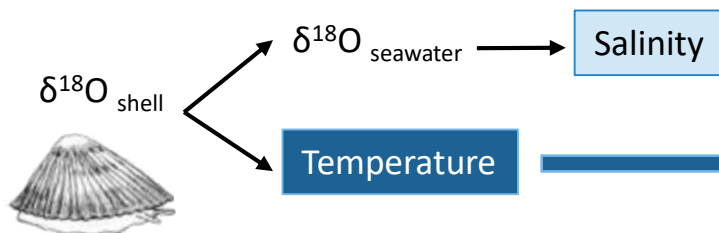
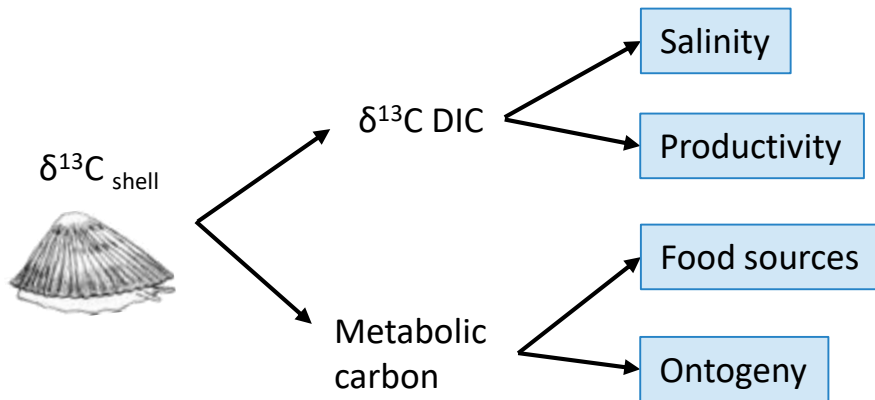
## Exemple d'élément trace :



Variation temporelle de la concentration en Barium dans les coquilles de *Comptopallium radula* et en cholophylle dans l'environnement (Thébault *et al.*, 2009)

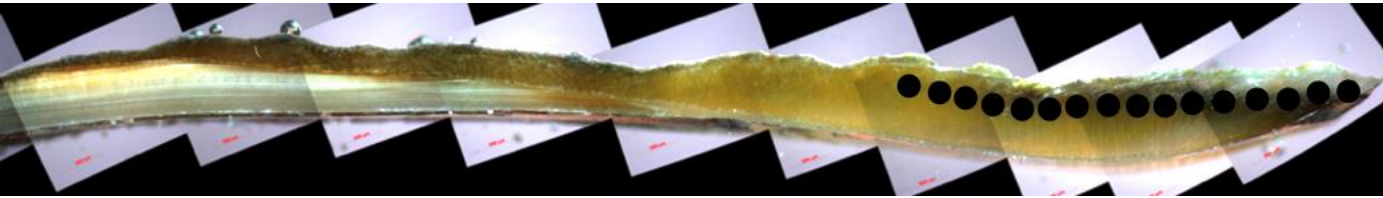
## Un panel d'outils

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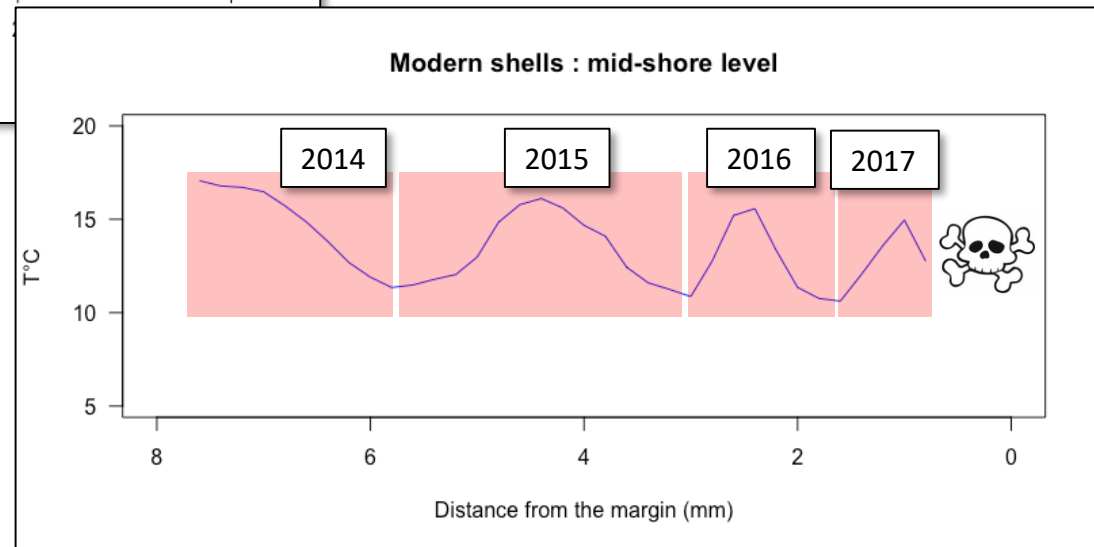
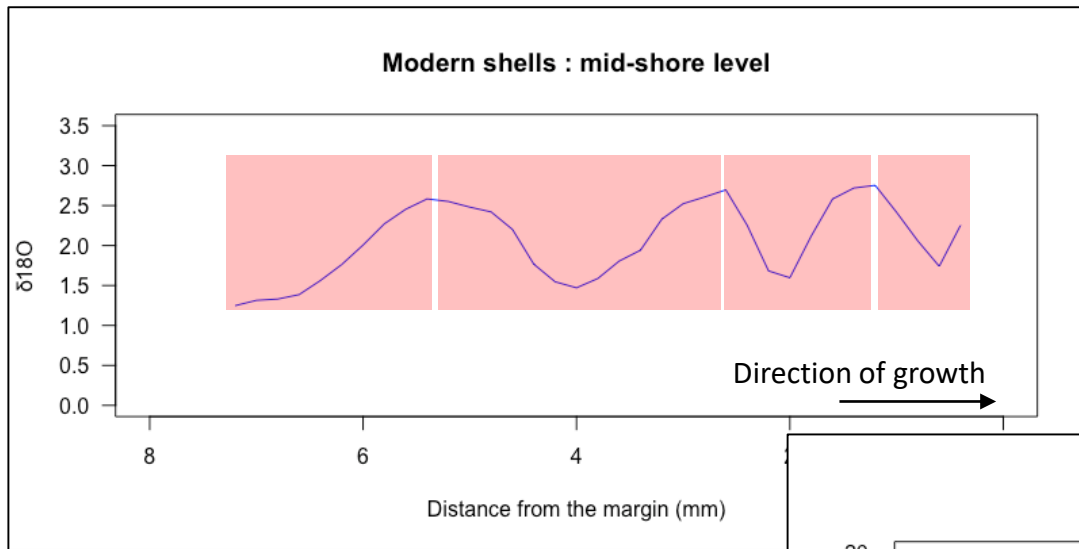
Calcite – water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  relationship

$$\text{SST } (^{\circ}\text{C}) = 16.9 - 4.38 (\delta_{\text{calcite}} - \delta_{\text{water}}) + 0.1 (\delta_{\text{calcite}} - \delta_{\text{water}})$$

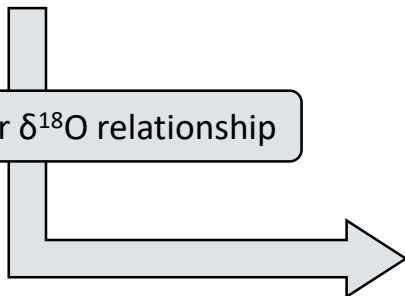
O'Neil *et al*, 1969



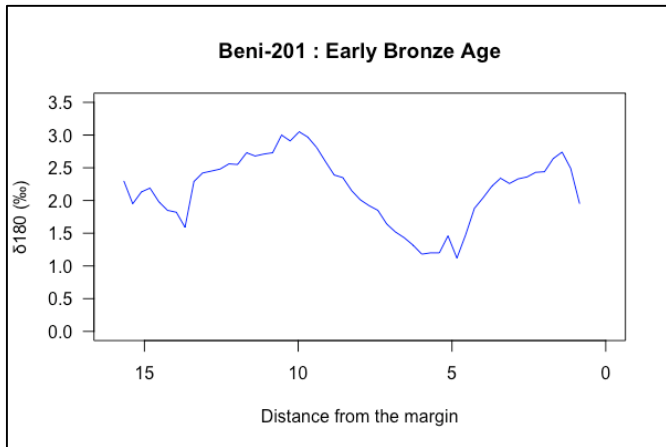
*Patella vulgata*



Calcite – water  $\delta^{18}O$  relationship



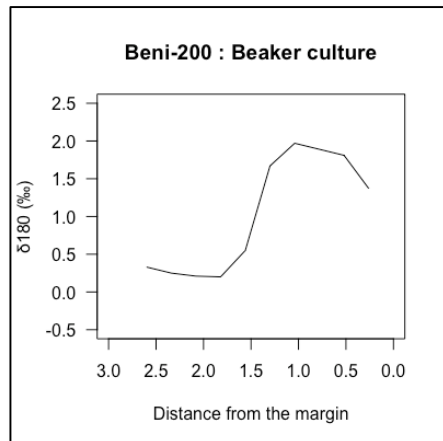
### Long series of measurements : testing the seasonality of isotopic signals



- Check the quality of the signal
- Higher number of samples : more time and more money per shell
- 4 long series for each period (Béniguet), 1 for each period (Molène)

Long series are needed to test the accuracy of the signal, but they are more interesting for palaeo-environmental reconstructions

### Short series of measurements : increasing the number of analysed shells



- Low number of samples : less time and money per shell
- No possibility to assess the quality of the signal
- 6 short series for each period (Béniguet), 21 for each period (Molène)

Short allow to analyse a higher number of shells and increase the reliability of the study

Total data set :  
74 shells  
1164 carbonate samples

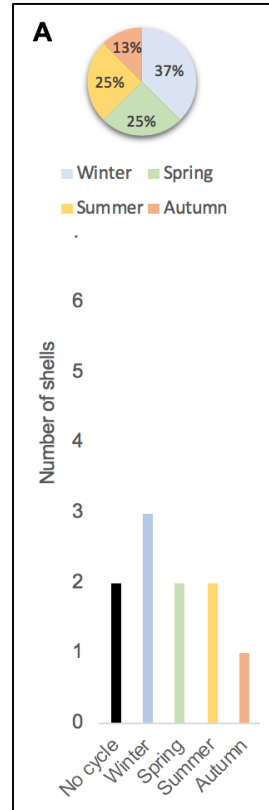


## How to interpret these differences ?

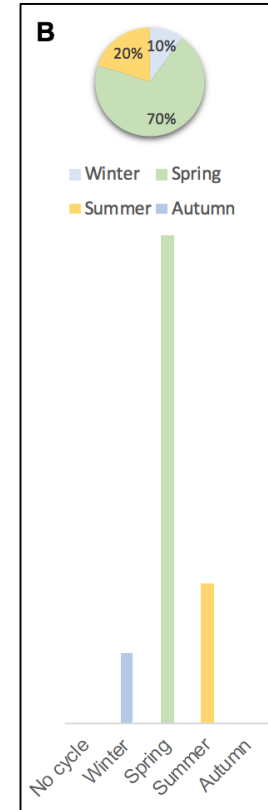
Limpets are sedentary and *Patella vulgata* is a common species on the shore : probably not a question of resource availability.

“Absence of proof is not proof of absence” : mobility or seasonal consumption ? hungry gap ?

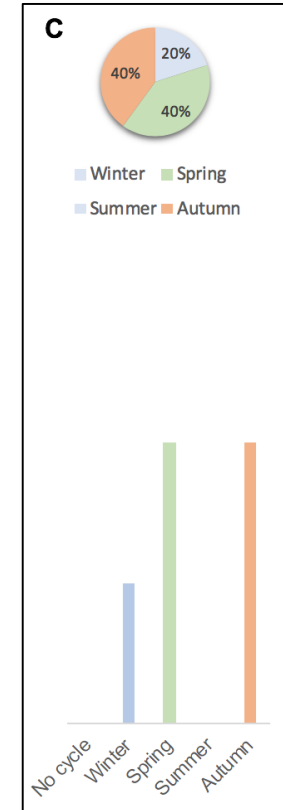
Beni-200  
Bell Beaker Culture



Beni-201  
Early Bronze Age



Beni-202  
Early Middle Age

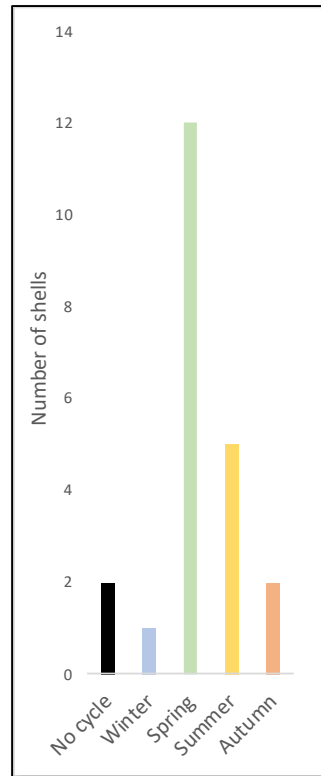
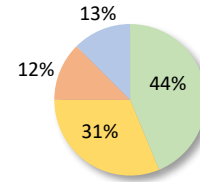
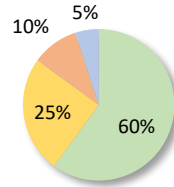


Annual distribution of *Patella vulgata* shells harvesting for each of the three stratigraphic units investigated in this study. Each period is represented by 10 analyzed shells.

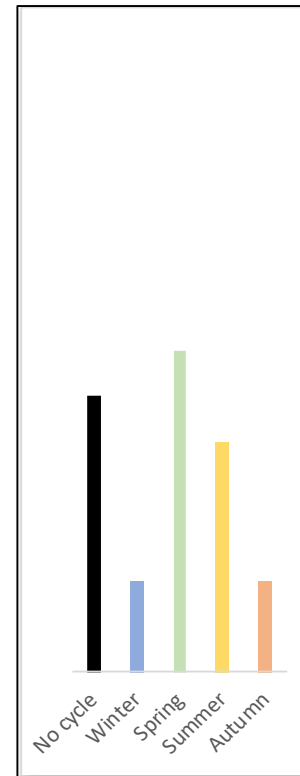
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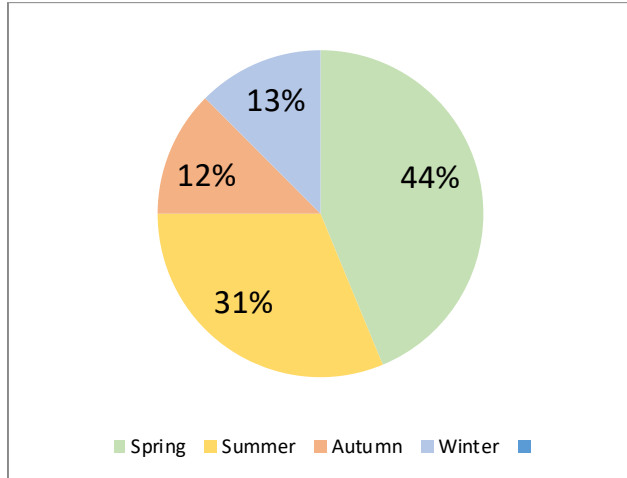


SC 07  
Final Neolithic



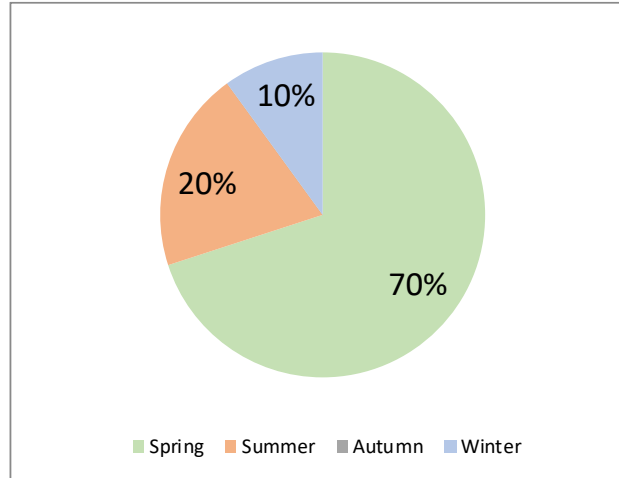
SC 21  
Early Bronze Age

Annual distribution of *Patella vulgata* shells harvesting for the two pits SC07 and SC21



Molène (SC21) :

SC 21, Early Bronze Age 1920 - 1761 Cal B.C.



Béniguet (Beni-201) :

Beni-201, Early Bronze Age 2187 - 1960 Cal. BC



## How to interpret these differences ?

- Year-round harvest on Molène is coherent with the archaeological context (larger island, stone house) : permanent settlement
- Under the hypothesis of constant practices, the results of Beniguet island may reflect a seasonal occupation of the island, or just a punctual limpet meal. .

- Limpet shells isotopes provide information about the seasonality of harvest
- This information alone is not enough to determine the seasonality of sites occupation
- It a new and complementary tool, which needs to be coupled with other seasonality proxies : fish and bird bones, fruits, other molluscs isotopes...

Les coquilles de *Patella sp.* issues d'amas coquilliers anthropiques, archives culturelles et environnementales des environnements côtiers : approches sclérochronologique et moléculaire

Cynthia Oliveira, Jean-François Cudennec, Yvan Pailler, Pierre Stéphan, Morgane Ollivier, Christine Paillard, Yves-Marie Paulet

Post-doctorat, IS-BLUE, projet flagship SEALEX, WP1 (coord. Y. Pailler)  
Encadrement : Y.-M. Paulet (sclérochronologie), C. Paillard (outils moléculaires)  
Début : janvier 2022 – 10 mois



Mieux comprendre les amas coquilliers et de l'occupation de l'île de Béniguet *via* deux méthodes de complémentaires :

❖ Sclérochronologie

- Saisonnalité des amas coquilliers → mieux comprendre l'occupation de l'île au cours du temps

❖ Biologie moléculaire (ADN anciens)

- Caractériser les espèces présentes dans les amas coquilliers (vertébrés, mollusques, arthropodes)
- Caractériser le régime alimentaire des habitants de l'île au Néolithique et à l'âge du Bronze ancien
- Caractériser le microbiote de la patelle et les communautés microbiennes de la colonne d'eau environnante (et évaluer l'effet des saisons)

### ❖ Quelles info ?

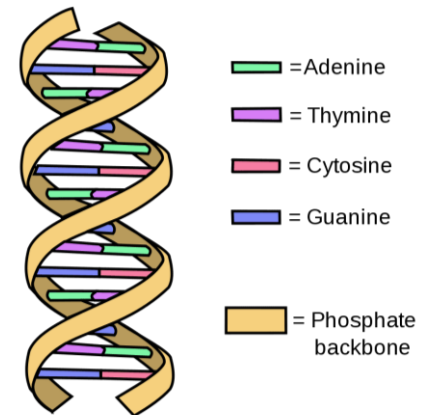
- Qui est/était là ? **Identification taxonomique** (bactéries, animaux, plantes...)
- Fonctions métaboliques
- ...

### ❖ Où ?

- **Sédiments**
- Restes calcifiés (os, otolithes, **coquilles de mollusques...**)
- ...

### ❖ Comment ?

- Extraction
- Préparation librairie
- Séquençage
- Traitement bioinformatique



DNA

### ❖ Quelles info ?

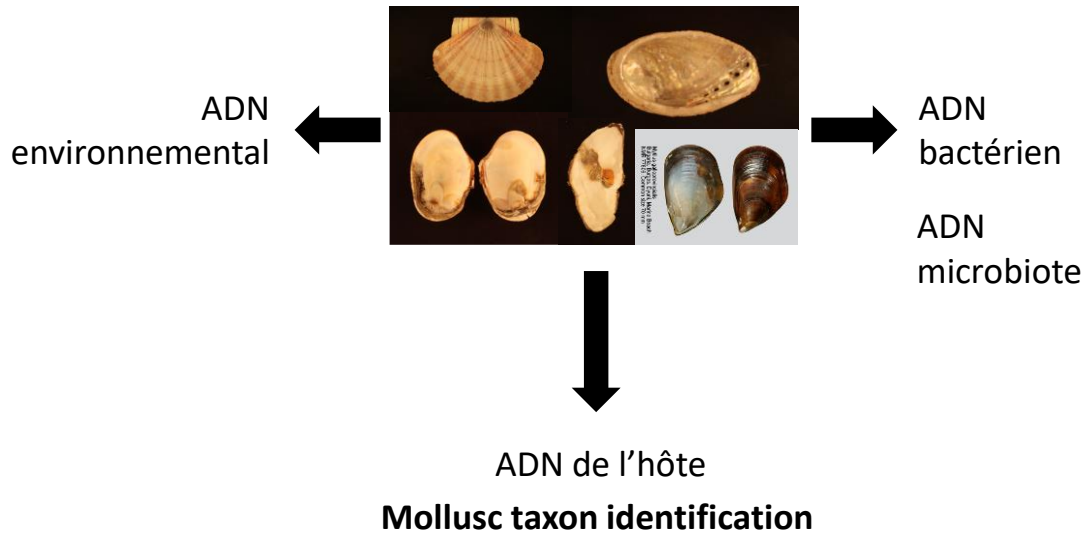
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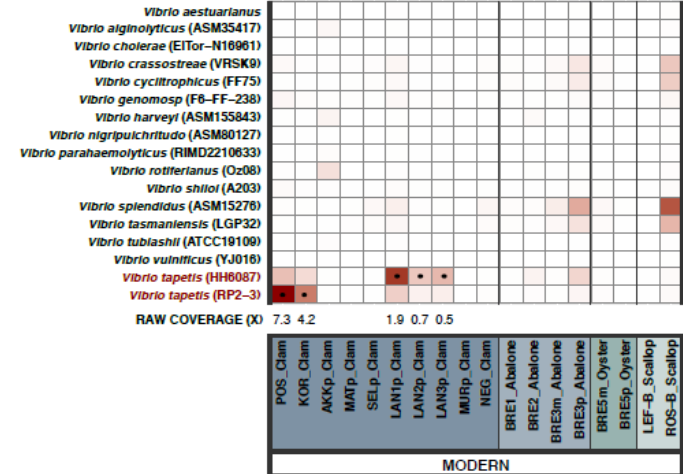
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### ❖ Comment ?

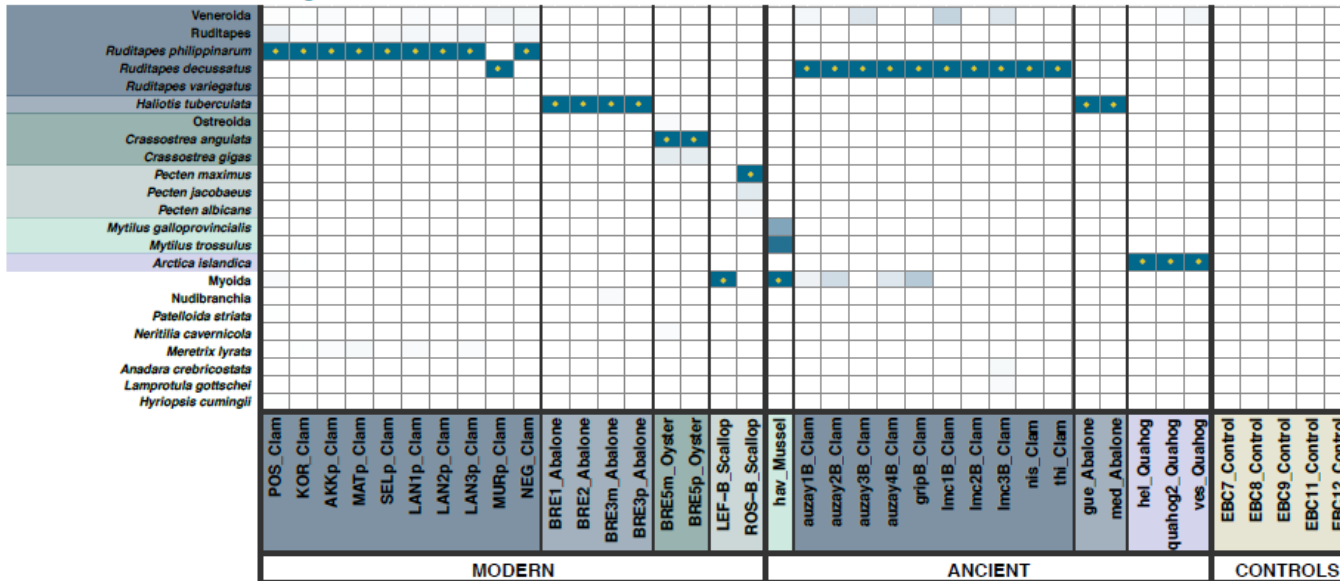
- Extraction
- Préparation librairie
- Séquençage
- Traitement bioinformatique



Identification of vibriome within the shells



(C) mtDNA BARCODES: traction of assigned reads



## ❖ Quelles info ?

- Qui est/était là ? **Identification taxonomique** (bactéries, animaux, plantes...)
- Fonctions métaboliques
- ...

## ❖ Où ?

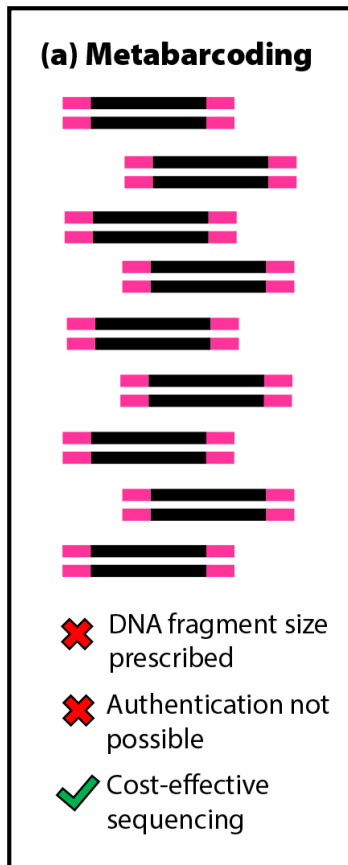
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## ❖ Comment ?

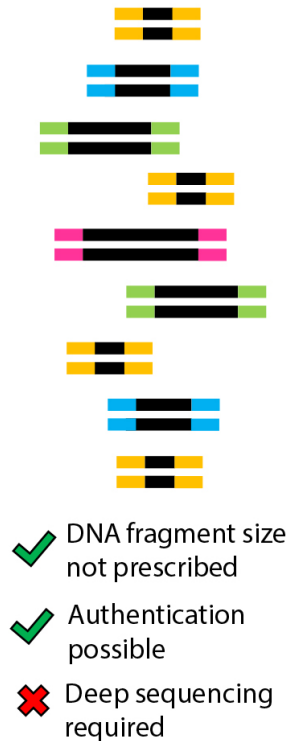
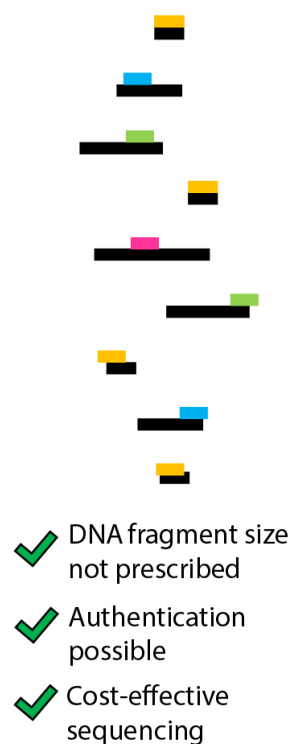
- Extraction
- Préparation librairie
- Séquençage
- Traitement bioinformatique



- Extraction : fort risque de contamination → laboratoire dédié
- Préparation librairie / Séquençage : 3 méthodes
- Traitement bioinformatique



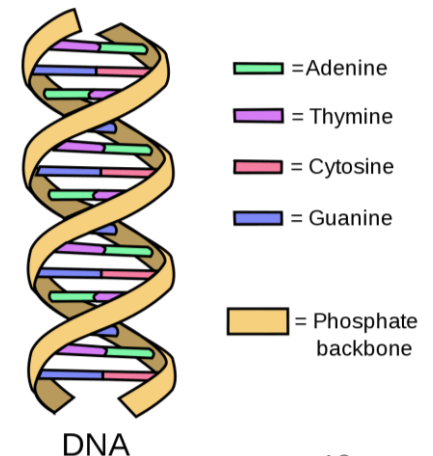
Armbrecht, 2020

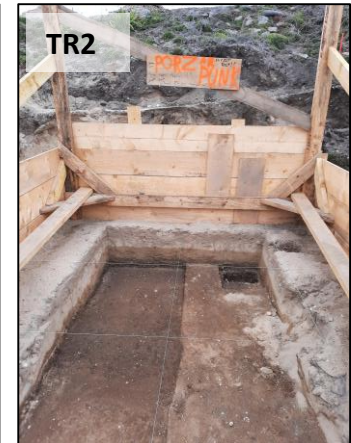
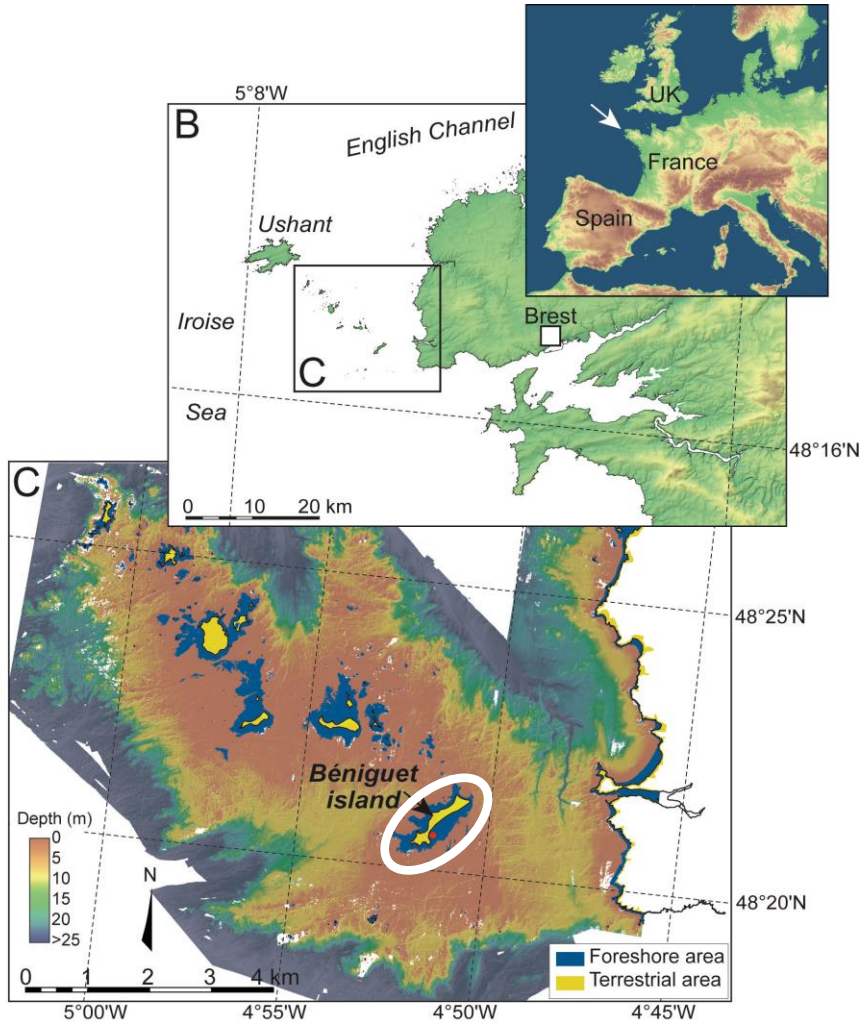
**(b) Metagenomics****(c) Target-capture**

## Propriétés de l'ADN ancien :

- Faibles quantités
- Fragmenté
- Modifié chimiquement

Collaboration avec ECOBIO  
(Rennes) :  
Morgane Ollivier  
Nathan Martin





Béniguet, chantier école, Août 2021





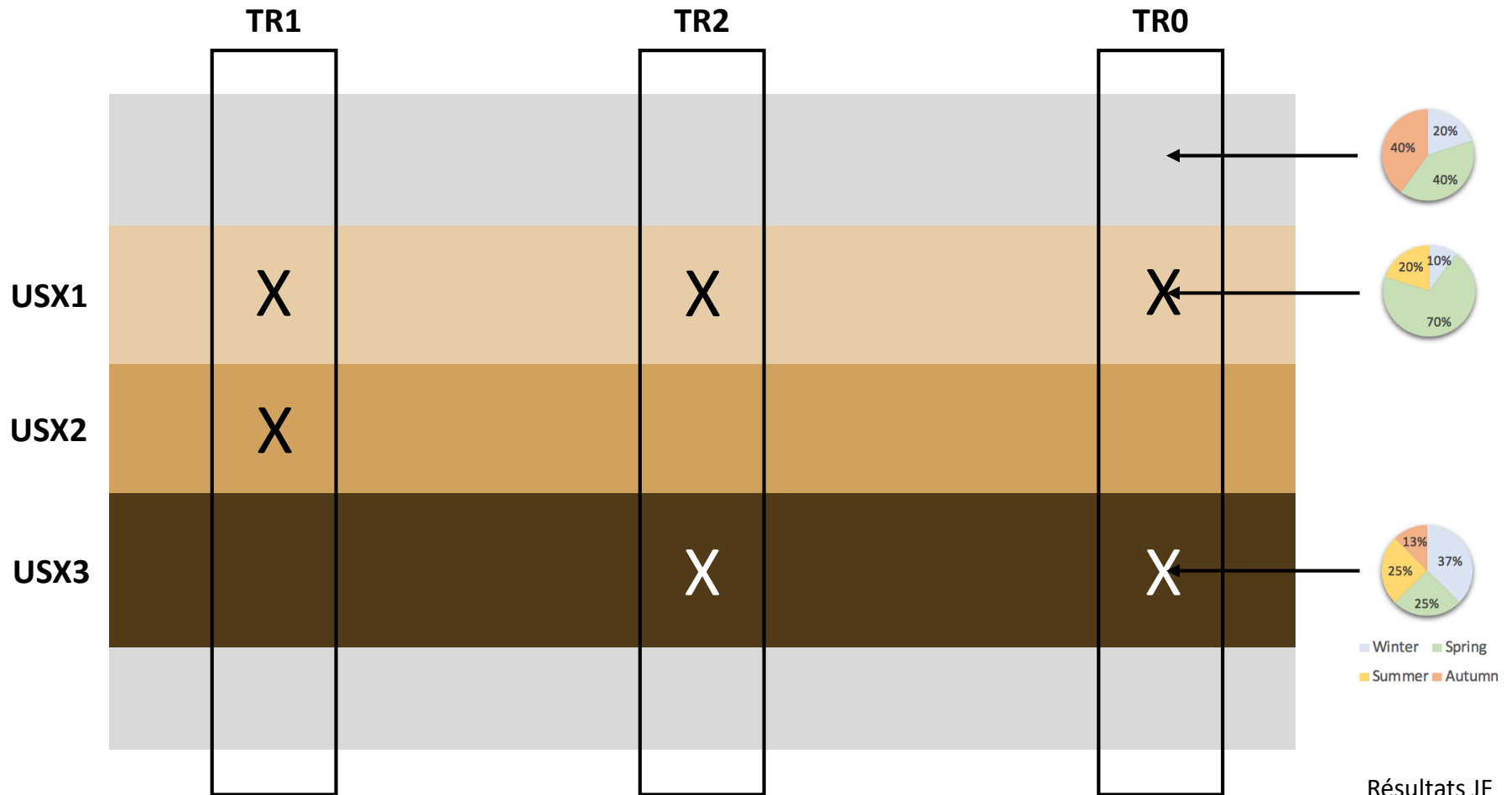
Coquilles de Patelles



Sédiments piégés sous les  
Patelles

Sédiments





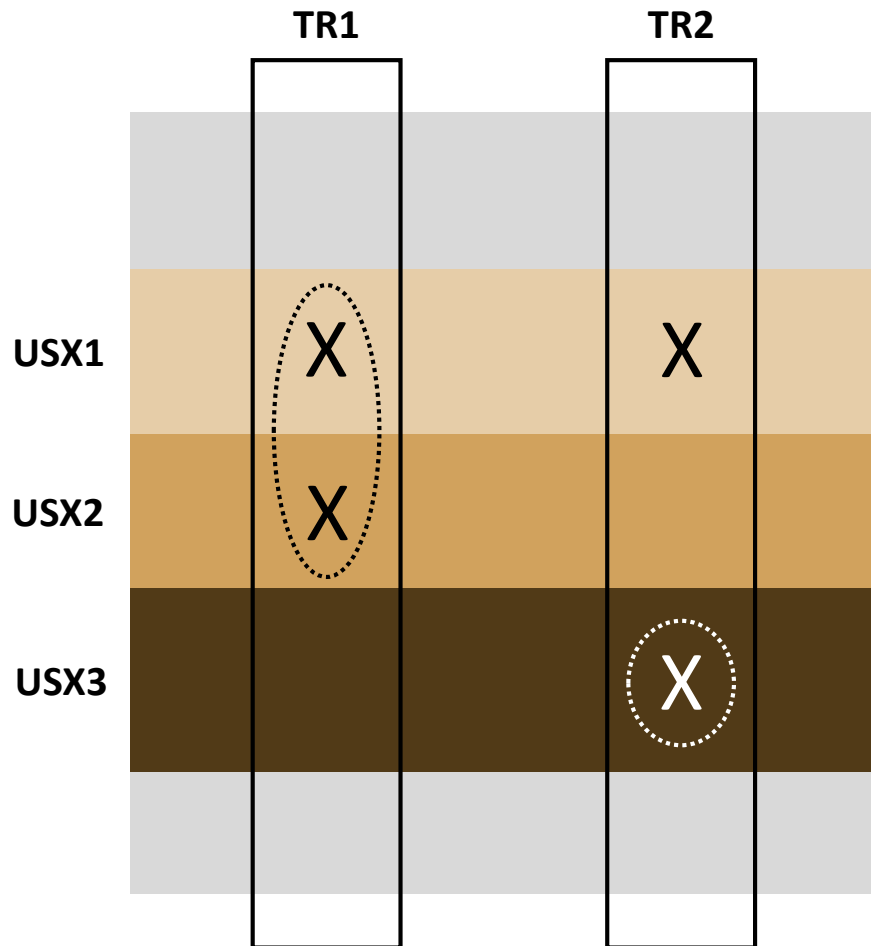
Résultats JF Cudennec

**USX1:** 2000-1800 BC (bronze ancien)

**USX2:** 2200-2000 BC

**USX3:** 2500-2200 BC (néolithique final/ campaniforme)

X: unité stratigraphique échantillonnée



**USX1:** 2000-1800 BC (bronze ancien)

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### Sclérochronologie :

#### Patelles :

8 coquilles par US et par TR (24) :

6 coquilles en séries courtes (dates de pêche)

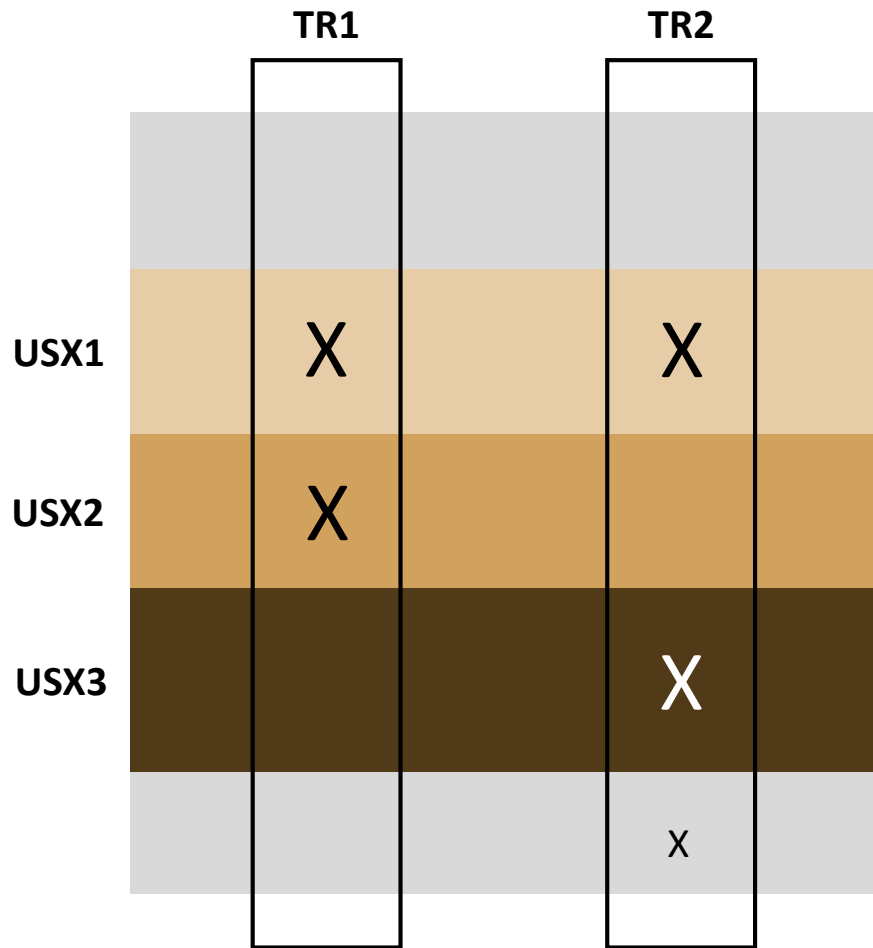
2 coquilles en séries longues (informations paléo-environnementales)

#### Autres mollusques : (collaborations)

Vernis (Split, SEA-EU)

Coquilles Saint-Jacques (J. Thebault, V. Siebert, LEMAR)





**USX1:** 2000-1800 BC (bronze ancien)

**USX2:** 2200-2000 BC

**USX3:** 2500-2200 BC (néolithique final/ campaniforme)

**X:** unité stratigraphique échantillonnée

**ADN ancien :**

Échantillons :

Coquilles : 8 ou 12

Sédiments de patelles : 8 ou 12

Sédiments : TR2 (USX1, 3, 4 ; x 2 répliqués + control) ; TR1 (USX1 et 2 + control) : 12

Taxa ciblés :

Mollusques (LEMAR)

Arthropodes ?

Mammifères, Oiseaux, Poissons (ECOBIO Rennes : M. Ollivier, N. Martin)

Algue/Plantes (ECOBIO Rennes : M. Ollivier, N. Martin)

Procaryotes (LEMAR?)

Identification taxonomique mollusques :

Moules (L. Orlando, C. Der Sarkissian)

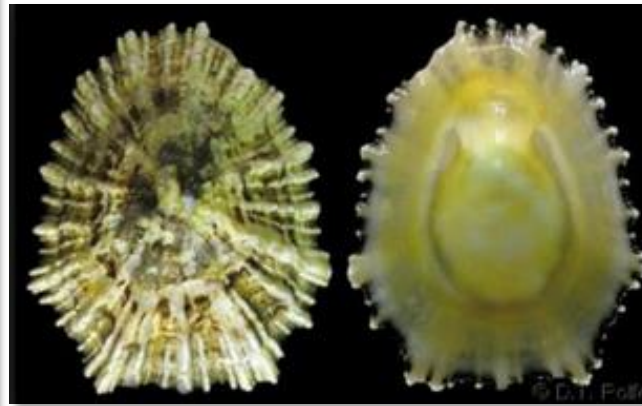
...

*Merci de votre attention*

Three species of *Patella* live on Molène archipelago rocky shores



*Patella vulgata*



*Patella ulyssiponensis*



*Patella depressa*

Growth, shape and chemical composition of the shell depend on local environmental conditions



Archaeological limpet shells from Kerlinou excavations (late Iron Age)

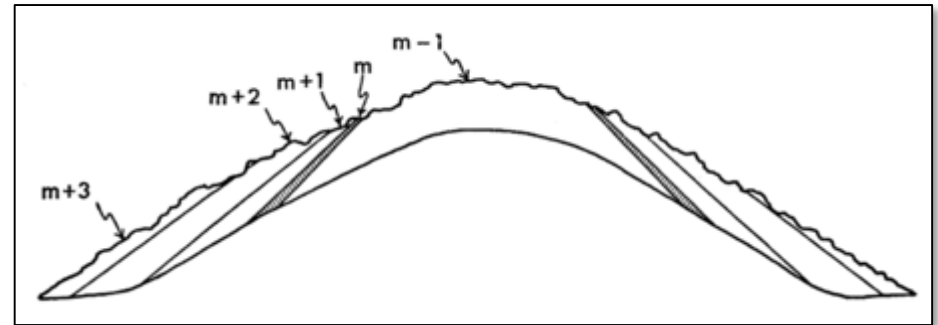
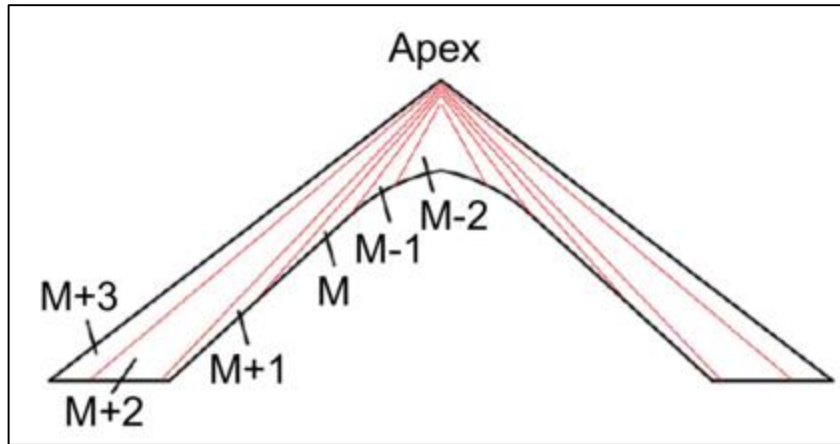


Wild *Patella vulgata* in its natural habitat  
Béniguet island's shore, 09/12/2016



Limpets from low shore are flatter than high-shore limpets

Abundant in shell middens and still widely distributed in European coastlines, this species remain underexploited from a “palaeo-” perspective



Shell structures are named according to their relative position to the myostracum (m)

M-2 : radial cross foliated layer

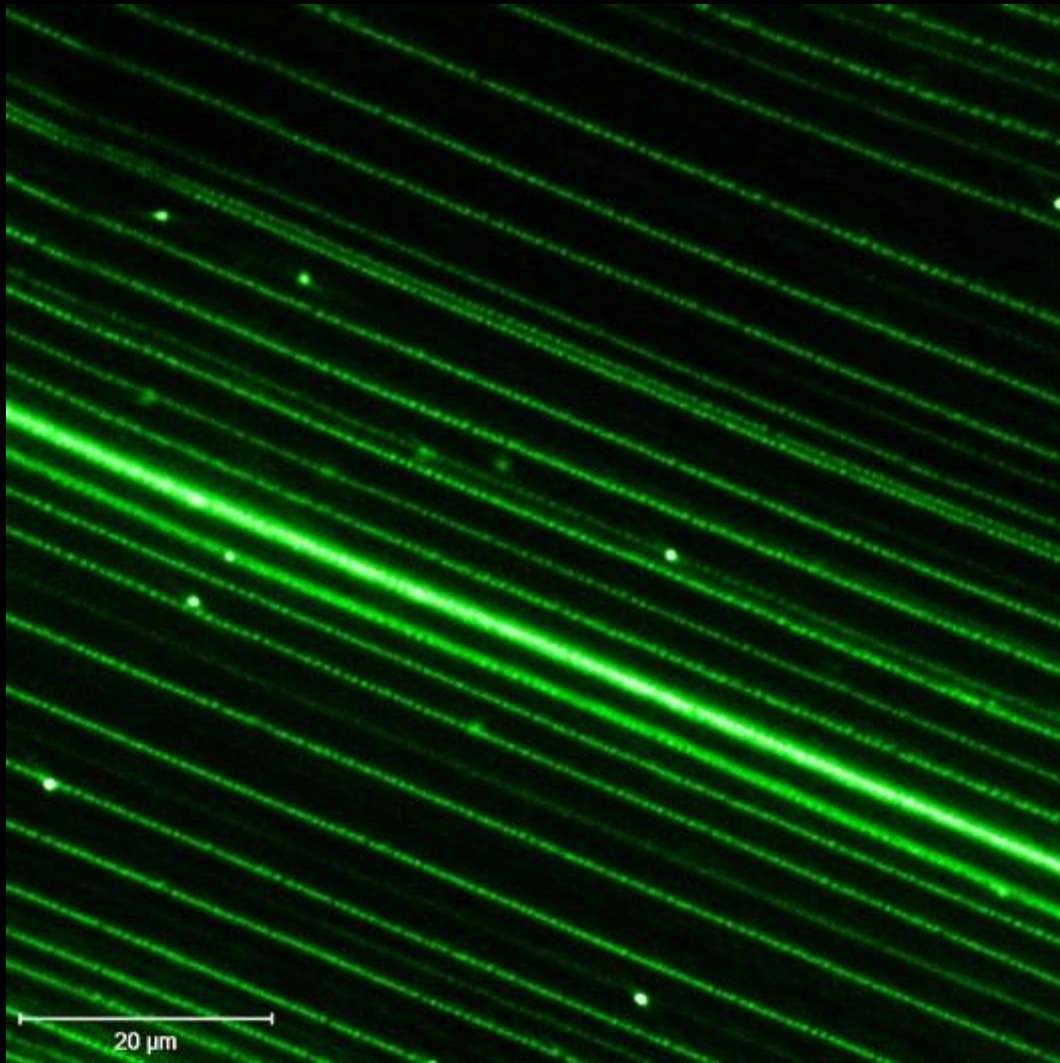
**M-1 : radial crossed lamellar layer**

**M+1 : concentric crossed lamellar layer**

M+2 : concentric crossed foliated layer

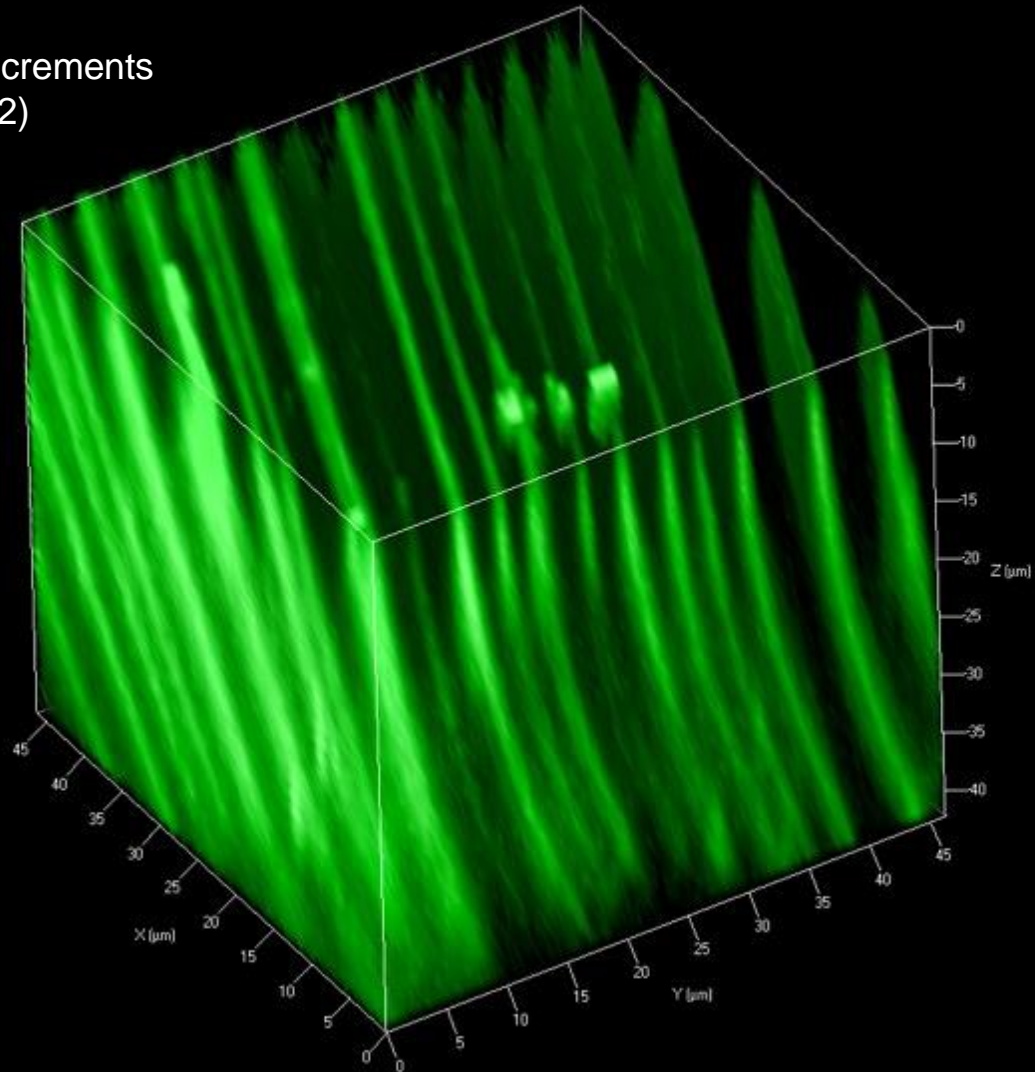
M+3 : radial cross-foliated layer

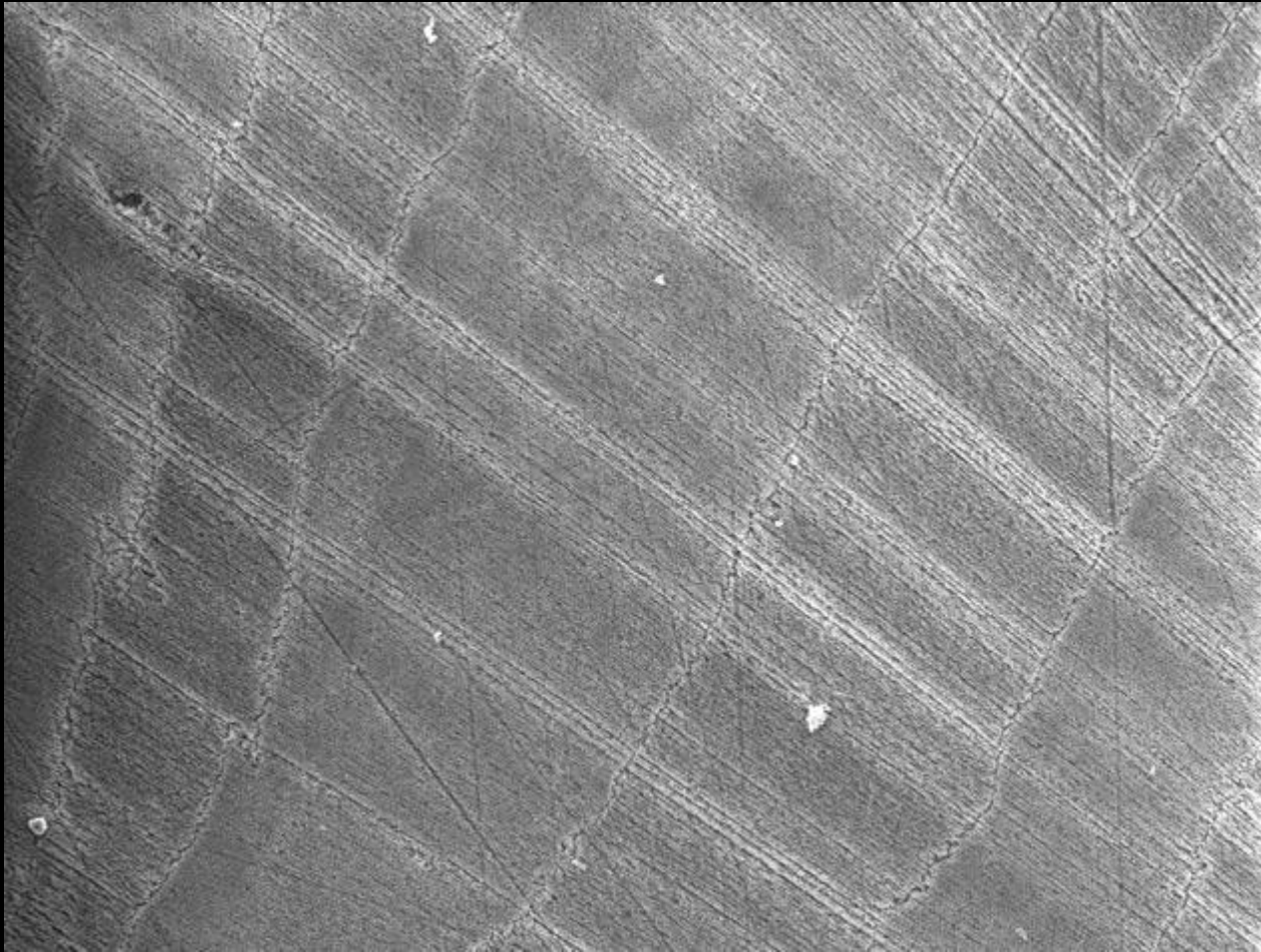




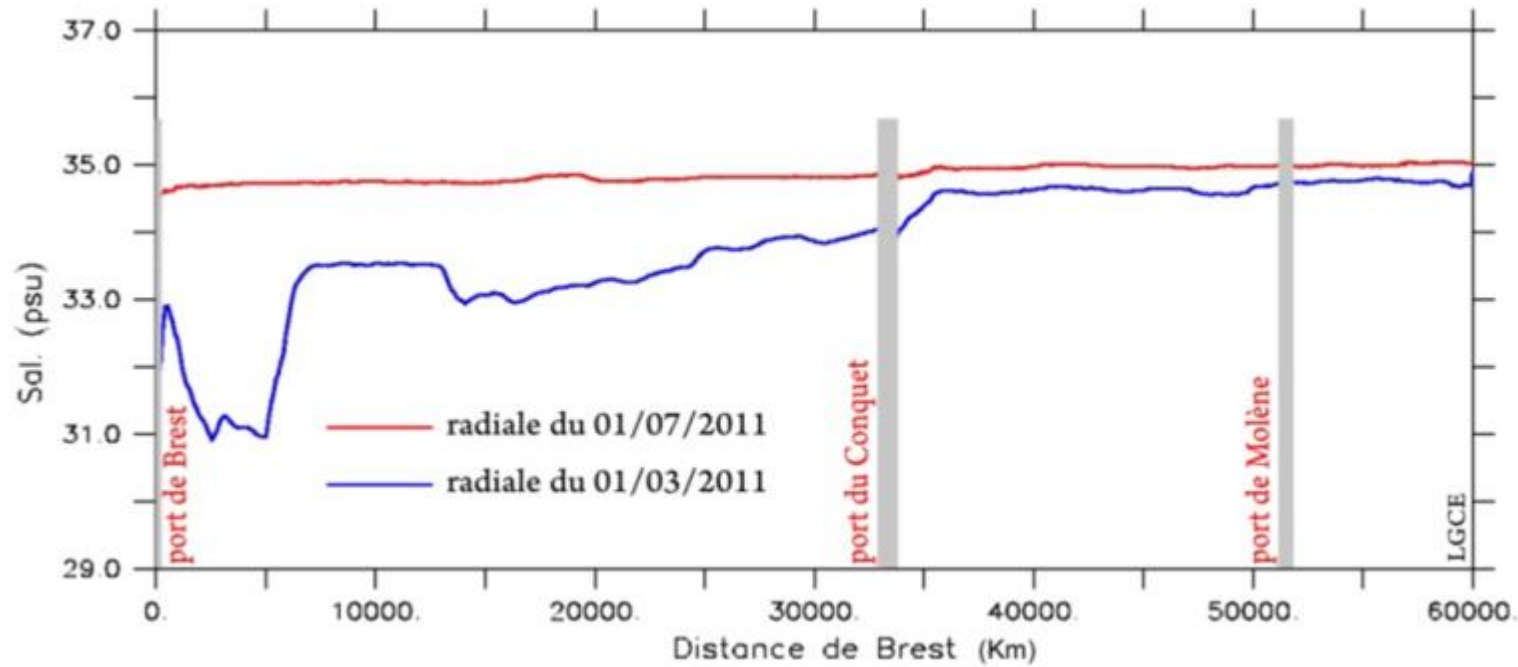
Confocal micro-increments  
observations (m+2)

Confocal micro-increments  
observations (m+2)



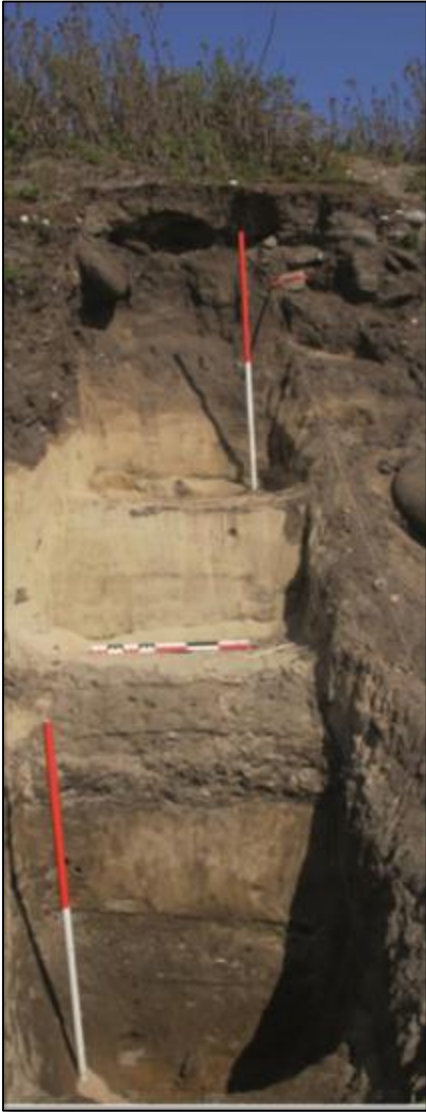


Scanning electron microscope  
micro-increments observations  
(m+2)



Surface salinity measured on the ship Enez Eussa III





Modern shells amplitude

11.01°C / 16.55°C

- Beniguet-202 : 8.52 ± 1.2 °C / 17.57 ± 1.2 °C

Are these differences significant ?

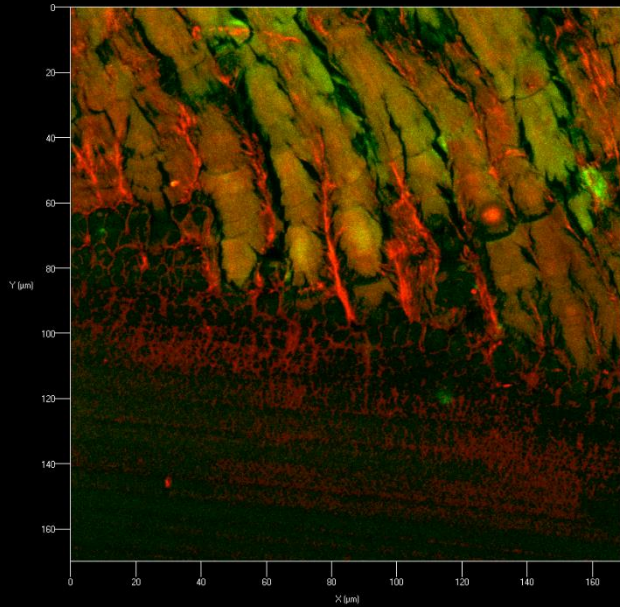
Do they mean something in terms  
of palaeo-environment ?

- Beniguet-201 : 9.75 ± 0.6 °C / 18.32 ± 0.6 °C

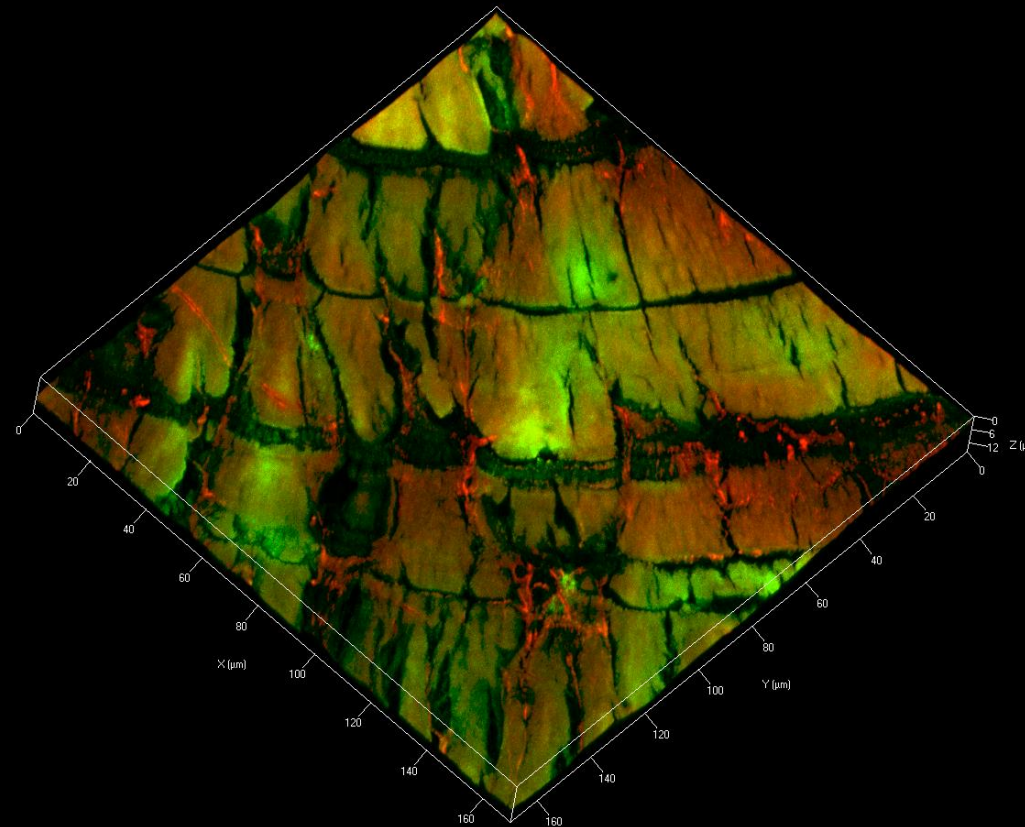
- Beniguet-200 : 10.4°C ± 0.4 °C / 18.35 ± 0.5 °C

FISH, sonde EUK (18S) + FITC

+ contre-coloration IP



Couche prismatique  
et couche interne



Couche prismatique

Coquille 25-1