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## Characterizing climate and Mississippi river input into the Gulf of Mexico during two Pliocene glacials

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#### Abstract

Last time in Earth's history when atmospheric $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ was comparable or slightly higher than at present was during the early Late Pliocene ( 3.6 to 3.0 Ma ). During this generally warm period, one intense glaciation occurred (known as M2, lasting between 3.312 and 3.264 Ma ), followed by the mid-Piacenzian Warm Period. The transition from M2 to the mid-Piacenzian Warm Period is often seen as an analogue for the climate of our (near) future. The end of the midPiacenzian Warm Period started with the less intense G20 glacial (3.025 Ma), followed by other less intense glacials. This study focuses on a marine sediment record from ODP Site 625 taken offshore the Mississippi delta, which is, therefore, expected to contain both marine and terrestrial material. The aim of this study is to reconstruct the terrestrial (hydro)climate and associated Mississippi input into the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) as well as the oceanographic changes in the Gulf of Mexico during two glacial periods: M2 and the less intense G20 using a multi-proxy approach of both lipid biomarkers and palynology. The absence of plant- and soilderived lipid biomarkers and pollen in the sediments indicate that terrestrial material discharged to the ocean by the Mississippi did not reach the site location during the studied intervals. On the other hand, marine lipid biomarkers and dinoflagellate cysts reveal a strong influence of the Loop Current during the interval preceding M2, transporting warm and salty Caribbean waters into the Gulf of Mexico. During the cold M2 interval, TEX ${ }_{86}$ sea surface temperatures dropped from $22.7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $20.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}} 37$ sea surface temperatures from $27.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $26.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. During the temperature drop, salinity and stratification of the water column increased, eventually resulting in hyperstratification, as indicated by the presence of $P$. zoharyi. Hyperstratification still lasted into the following mid-Pliocene Warm Period, at least until 3.247 Ma. Eventually, the change in dinocyst composition shows that Caribbean waters entered the northern Gulf of Mexico again after 3.247 Ma . At the onset of the G20, sea surface temperatures based on $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ dropped from $23.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $18.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and periods of hyperstratification occurred, although less intense than during M2.


## 1. Introduction

Global climate is rapidly warming. At the end of the $21^{\text {st }}$ century, global mean surface temperatures between $0.3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $1.7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $2.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $4.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ higher than present day are predicted, depending on the $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ emissions scenario (IPCC, 2014). This temperature increase will have an effect on vegetation and biome distributions, which in turn will influence climate feedback systems (Salzmann et al., 2008). The most recent period where $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ levels were higher than present-day was during the early Late Pliocene (early Piacenzian), lasting from 3.6 to 3.0 Ma . Especially the period from 3.3 to 3.0 Ma , the mid-Piacenzian Warm Period (mPWP), is intensively studied. During this period, atmospheric $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ levels were between 330 and 400 ppm, which is comparable to modern day values (Seki et al., 2010) while global temperatures were around $2.7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $4.0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ higher than today (Haywood et al., 2016). Because of those similar $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ levels and higher temperatures, the Late Pliocene has been widely studied to establish the long-term effect of increased $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ levels in the atmosphere (Dolan et al., 2015) on climate and predict its near future trend.


Figure 1: The $\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}$ benthic stack with the glacials (even numbers) and interglacials (odd numbers) indicated (Lisiecki \& Raymo, 2005). The period of interest is indicated with a red box.

Approximately 3.3 million years ago, this warm global climate was interrupted by a short, intense global glaciation (Lisiecki \& Raymo, 2005). This glaciation, indicated as M2 (3.312 to 3.264 Ma , figure 1), started as a low amplitude glaciation that has been considered as a 'failed attempt' of the earth to switch to the glacial-interglacial mode that characterized the Pleistocene. However, between 3.305 and 3.285 Ma , this glaciation intensified and reached values similar of early Quaternary glaciations (De Schepper et al., 2013). During M2, global temperatures were comparable to today's temperatures, although both Northern as Southern Hemisphere ice sheets were likely slightly larger. Because of those characteristics, the transition from M2 to the mPWP can provide valuable insights into future climate, as it may be comparable to the shift the climate system has undergone since the last glacial (De Schepper et al., 2013).

Compared to present day, the global terrestrial climate during the Piacenzian was warmer and wetter, which caused a northward shift of the temperate and boreal vegetation zones. Furthermore, deserts were more reduced while tropical savannas and forests expanded. The wetter climate also supported the formation of megalakes like Lake Zaire and Lake Chad (Dowsett et al., 2016). However, the terrestrial surface air temperature reconstructions have a number of uncertainties. The main cause of this is a lack of suitable climate archives and methods to generate high resolution paleoclimate records. Especially central North America, South America and northwestern Africa have a low data coverage. Furthermore, uncertainty is caused by the resolution of the individual records and the insufficient age control (Dowsett et al., 2016).

As there is a lack of terrestrial climate archives, marine sediments close to large river mouths can be used to make terrestrial climate reconstructions. Large rivers transport terrestrial
material to the location where the sediments are deposited. Furthermore, marine sediments also contain (molecular) fossils of marine organisms .Hence, continental margin sediments contain an archive of both terrestrial and marine components that allow to study environmental changes through time. Furthermore, when benthic foraminifera are present in the marine sediments, and the sediments have a high sedimentation rate, the oxygen isotopes $\left(\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}\right)$ on the foraminiferal shells can be used to construct an age model by matching the obtained $\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}$ record with that of the global compilation (L\&R, 2005).

Lipid biomarkers are molecular fossils that can be used as organic geochemical climate proxies. Based on their occurrence, or variations in their molecular structure, and/or their isotopic composition, various climate parameters, such as temperature, salinity and sea-ice can be reconstructed (Eglinton \& Calvin, 1967). The lipid biomarker proxies that will be studied here are plant leaf waxes for terrestrial input and vegetation changes, alkenones for sea surface temperature (SST) reconstruction ( $\mathrm{U}_{37}$ ), isoprenoidal glycerol dialkyl glycerol tetraether (GDGT) membrane lipids for the reconstruction of SST (TEX ${ }_{86}$ ) and fluvially discharged soil input (BIT index) and long chain diols (\% $\mathrm{C}_{32}$ diols) for fresh water input.

Higher plant leaves have a cuticular wax layer, which is composed of odd numbered longchain n-alkanes (Eglinton and Hamilton, 1967) to protect the leaves against uncontrolled water loss (Sachse et al., 2012). Changes in vegetation type associated to changing hydrological conditions will be assessed using the average chain length of the long-chain n-alkanes. Shorter chain lengths ( $\mathrm{C}_{27}$ and $\mathrm{C}_{29}$ ) indicate more trees and shrubs, whereas longer chain lengths ( $\mathrm{C}_{31}$ and $\mathrm{C}_{33}$ ) indicate more grasses (Castañeda et al., 2016).

Alkenones are produced by haptophyte algae and have various amounts of double bonds. The haptophyte algae adapt their degree of unsaturation according to changes in sea surface temperatures. The degree of unsaturation is captured in the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$, which can consequently be translated into sea surface temperatures. $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ is based on the ratio between the concentrations of the di- and tri-unsaturated $\mathrm{C}_{37}$ alkenones (Prahl and Wakeham, 1987; Müller et al 1998).

Isoprenoid GDGTs are formed as the membrane lipids of marine Thaumarchaeota. Those GDGTs contain cyclopentane rings, which increase in number when water temperatures increase (Schouten et al., 2002). TEX $_{86}$ (TetraEther index of tetraethers consisting of 86 carbon atoms) is a SST proxy based on the relative abundances of isoprenoid GDGDs containing 13 cyclopentane moieties (Kim et al., 2010). Soil bacteria produce branched GDGTs, so with the ratio between the isoprenoid and branched GDGTs, the relative input of terrestrial material into a marine system can be determined, quantified in the Branched and Isoprenoid Tetraether (BIT) index (Hopmans et al., 2004).

Long chain diols can be used as a proxy for riverine input in shelf seas. Long chain diols are generally abundant in the marine environment, however, $\mathrm{C}_{32} 1,15$-diols are only produced in fresh water environments, and discharged to the ocean by rivers. Hence, the relative abundance of the $\mathrm{C}_{32} 1,15$-diols can be used as a measure for fresh (melt)water input (Lattaud et al., 2017).

Marine and terrestrial palynology studies dinoflagellate cysts (dinocysts) and pollen and spores, respectively. These methods are widely used to achieve climate and environmental reconstructions of land and sea conditions at the same time (Reid \& Harland, 1977). Dinocysts are resting cysts of dinoflagellates, which are mostly single-celled eukaryotic plankton (Wall \& Dale, 1968). Dinoflagellate assemblages are controlled by different environmental parameters such as temperature, productivity, salinity, sea-ice cover, seasonality and sea-level. As the dinocyst assemblages are influenced by the water's biological, physical, chemical and
oceanographic conditions, they can be used as a proxy for paleoenvironmental changes in the upper water column (Zonneveld et al., 2013).

Hence, in order to extend the spatial resolution of late Pliocene terrestrial climate reconstructions, this research focuses on a sediment record from the Northern Gulf of Mexico, close to the present Mississippi delta. Due to its location close to the coast, the record is expected to contain both a marine and terrestrial signal. We here aim to reconstruct the (hydro)climate and associated Mississippi input into the Gulf of Mexico (hereafter GoM) as well as the oceanographic changes in the GoM during two glacial periods: M2 (age) and the less intense G20 ( 3.025 Ma , Figure 1) using a multi-proxy approach of both lipid biomarkers and palynology.

## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1 Study site and oceanographic features

Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) Site 625 was cored in the north-eastern GoM in 1985 as part of Leg 100. The cores from Hole 625B were retrieved from the western Florida continental slope, at a water depth of 889 meter and approximately 200 km from the present Mississippi delta, as is shown in figure 2 (Limoges et al., 2014). For this study, samples from a depth of 134.1 to 148.28 meter below sea floor (mbsf) were used. The age model for Hole ODP 625B is taken from Van der Weijst \& Dearing Crampton-Flood (in prep). They measured the oxygen isotopic composition of benthic foraminifera, which they wiggle-matched to the benthic stack of Lisiecki \& Raymo (2005). The ages corresponding to the depths used in this study are 2.929 Ma to 3.400 Ma . In the resulting $\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}$ record, the M 2 and G 20 are identified, and there appear to be no hiatuses.


Figure 2: A) Location of ODP 625B. B) Location of the Loop Current (LC) which enters the GoM through the Yucatán Channel (YC) and exits through the Florida Strait (FS) (Limoges et al., 2014).

An important oceanographic feature in the GoM is the Loop Current (LC), which is the dominant surface current in the GoM. The LC enters the GoM through the Yucatán channel, bringing warm and salty water from the Caribbean Sea. The LC then moves northeast, and exists the GoM via the Florida Strait (Figure 2). The northward extension of the LC depends on the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). When the ITCZ migrates north during boreal summer, the LC penetrates further north into the GoM influencing the temperature and salinity of the entire basin (Nürnberg et al., 2008). The LC runs from west to east in the Gulf of Mexico, so
although the present-day Mississippi discharge is more to the west than the site 625 location, it is expected that currents transported material to the site location so the records likely contain material transported by the Mississippi. Another reason to expect terrestrial material in the records is the presence of terrestrial material in the Pleistocene section of these cores (Romanin, 2013, unpublished).

### 2.2 Biomarker analysis

A total of 136 samples were selected for biomarker analysis. The samples were freeze-dried, ground with mortar and pestle, and 5 gram of the samples was extracted using an accelerated solvent extractor (ASE) generating a total lipid extract (TLE). By using a small column with activated aluminium oxide, the TLE was separated into three different fractions: an apolar, a ketone and a polar fraction using hexane:dicholoromethane (DCM) 9:1, hexane:DCM 1:1 and DCM:methanol 1:1 respectively.

The apolar fraction, containing the long chain n-alkanes, was dissolved in hexane and analysed on a Gas Chromatograph (GC) coupled to a flame ionisation detector (GC-FID, Hewlett Packard 6890 series). Samples were injected on-column, with helium as a carrier gas at a flow rate of $2 \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{min}$. The oven temperature program was as follows: $130^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ at 20 min , then to $320^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ at a rate of $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{min}$, and held isothermal for 10 min . Peak areas of the $\mathrm{C}_{27}, \mathrm{C}_{29}$, $\mathrm{C}_{31}$ and $\mathrm{C}_{33}$ alkanes were determined to calculate the average chain length (ACL) following Poynter et al. (1989):

$$
A C L=\frac{27 \mathrm{C}_{27}+29 C_{29}+31 \mathrm{C}_{31}+33 \mathrm{C}_{33}}{\left(\mathrm{C}_{27}+C_{29}+\mathrm{C}_{31}+\mathrm{C}_{33}\right)}
$$

The ketone fraction, containing the alkenones, was dissolved in hexane and analysed on the GC-FID with the same settings as used for the apolar fraction. The peak areas of the $\mathrm{C}_{37 \text { 7 }}$ and $\mathrm{C}_{37 \text { :3 }}$ alkenones were determined to calculate the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ and SST using the following equations (Prahl \& Wakeman, 1987):

$$
\begin{aligned}
U_{37}^{k} & =\frac{\mathrm{C}_{37: 2}}{\left(C_{37: 3}+\mathrm{C}_{37: 2}\right)} \\
S S T & =\frac{U_{37}^{k}-0.043}{0.033}
\end{aligned}
$$

For the analysis of the GDGTs, an known amount of internal $\mathrm{C}_{46}$ standard was added to the polar fraction (Huguet et al., 2006). The fractions were then dissolved in hexane:isopropanol 99:1 and filtered using a $0.45 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ PTFE filter. The samples were analysed according to Hopmans et al. (2016) using an Agilent 1260 high performance liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (HPLC-MS). Separation of the GDGDs occurred by using two silica Waters UHPLC HEB Hilic columns ( $1.7 \mu \mathrm{~m} 2.1 \mathrm{~mm} \times 150 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) at $30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The used flow rate is 0.2 $\mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{min}$, starting with $82 \%$ hexane and $18 \%$ hexane:isopropanol $9: 1$ for 25 min with a linear gradient to $70 \%$ hexane and $30 \%$ hexane:isopropanol 9:1 for 25 min (Hopmans et al., 2016). To calculate SSTs using TEX ${ }_{86}$, the formulas of Kim et al. (2010) are used:

$$
\begin{gathered}
T E X_{86}^{H}=\frac{\left(\text { GDGT2 }+ \text { GDGT3 }+ \text { Cren' }^{\prime}\right)}{\left(\text { GDGT1 }+ \text { GDGT2 }+ \text { GDGT3 }+ \text { Cren' }^{\prime}\right)} \\
S S T=68.4 *\left(\operatorname{LOG}\left(T E X_{86}^{H}\right)\right)+38.6
\end{gathered}
$$

To calculate the BIT index as a proxy for the relative abundance of terrestrial organic matter the formula of Hopmans et al. (2004) is used:

$$
\text { BIT index }=\frac{(\text { GDGT1 }+ \text { GDGT2 }+ \text { GDGT3 })}{(\text { Cren }+ \text { GDGT1 }+ \text { GDGT2 }+ \text { GDGT3 })}
$$

After GDGT analysis, a selection of the polar fractions was derivatized by silylation using BSTFA and pyridine. After adding bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA) and pyridine, the samples were heated at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 20 min . Then ethylacetate was added and the samples were analysed by a GC-MS on SIM mode. The diols used for analysation are $\mathrm{C}_{32} 1,15, \mathrm{C}_{30}$ $1,15, C_{30} 1,13$ and $C_{28} 1,13$. The river input can be calculated with the following equation of Lattaud et al. (2017), where a $\mathrm{C}_{32} 1,15$ diol percentage lower than $10 \%$ represents open oceans:

$$
\% C_{32} 1,15=\frac{\mathrm{AC}_{32} 1,15}{\left(\mathrm{C}_{32} 1,15+\mathrm{C}_{30} 1,15+\mathrm{C}_{28} 1,13+\mathrm{C}_{30} 1,13\right)} * 100
$$

### 2.3 Palynology

A total of 35 samples was selected for palynological analysis. For each sample, 10 grams of freeze-dried sediment was ground and a Lycopodium clavatum tablet containing 9666 spores was added to be able to later determine the absolute amounts of pollen, spores and dinocysts. The samples were subsequently treated with hydrochloric acid ( $10 \%$ and $30 \%$ ) to dissolve the calcium carbonates, and then with hydrofluoric acid ( $40 \%$ ) to dissolve the silicates. The residue was sieved at $10 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, during which an ultrasonic bath was used to remove the fine fraction. Finally, the samples were mixed with glycerine jelly, mounted on a microscope plate and counted using a microscope with 400 x magnification. For each slide, at least 200 dinocysts were counted.

To make an environmental reconstruction based on the dinocysts, the environmental preferences of each dinocysts as summarized by Zonneveld et al. (2013) are used. The most common species with clear environmental preferences in the present day GoM are Polysphaeridium zoharyi, Operculodinium centrocarpum, Operculodinium israelianum and Impagidinium spp. (Limoges et al., 2013). The environmental preferences for those species are, respectively, coastal with high upper water salinities, opportunistic, subtropical to equatorial with high upper water salinities and open ocean. Dinoflagellates can have three different feeding strategies: autotrophic, mixotrophic and heterotrophic. Autotrophic species are capable of photosynthesis, heterotrophic species feed on prey and mixotrophic species are capable of both. Heterotrophic species dominate assemblages in productive areas (Pospelova et al., 2006). During this study, all heterotrophic species are grouped together as proxy/indication for productivity. The other mentioned species are autotrophic species.

Furthermore, different calculations are used:

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Rel. abundance species } X=\frac{\text { Species } X}{\text { Total dinocysts }} * 100 \\
\text { Abs. abundance species } X=\frac{\text { Species } X * \text { Total Lycopodium }}{\text { Lycopodium counted }}
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
\text { Dinocysts per gram sediment }=\frac{\text { Total dinocysts }}{\text { Gram used sediment } * \text { Lycopodium/Total Lycopodium }}
$$

The ratio between the open water and oligotrophic species Impagidinium spp. (I) and the coastal, high salinity and stratification species $P$. zoharyi $(P)$ can be used as a proxy for proximity of the site to the coast during the Pleistocene at site ODP 625B (Romanin, 2013, unpublised). This ratio is based on the present day distribution of the dinocysts and calculated by using the formula:

$$
\text { P. zoharyi over Impagidinium spp. ratio }=(\mathrm{P} / \mathrm{P}+\mathrm{I})^{\star} 100
$$

The pollen and spores are not identified but used to calculate the pollen over dinocyst ratio as used by Donders et al. (2009) using the total abundances of the pollen (P), excluding the bisaccata taxa, and dinocysts (D):

$$
\text { Pollen over dinocyst ratio }=(P / D+P)^{*} 100
$$

As pollen and spores originate from land, and dinocysts from oceans, the pollen over dinocyst ratio can used as an indicator of the origin of the organic flux (De Vernal \& Giroux, 1991).

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Input of terrestrial material to ODP Site 625

Several proxies have been used to evaluate the terrestrial input to the site, and all proxies show that the sediments are depleted in terrestrial material throughout the whole studied interval. The amounts of diols and long chain n-alkanes are around or below detection limit, and can thus not be quantified. The BIT index throughout the whole record varies between 0.02 and 0.06 (figure 3). The pollen over dinocyst ratio is between 0 and $15.6 \%$ throughout the record except for two slight increases in the amount of pollen and spores at 3.392 Ma and 2.997 Ma , which results in a decrease in the pollen over dinocyst ratio to $15.6 \%$ and $11.4 \%$ respectively (figure 3).

It is remarkable that even during the cold M2 event, no terrestrial markers or an increased BIT index are found while during the M2 a sea level drop is expected, bringing the Mississippi river mouth closer to the site OPD 625B.


Figure 3: $\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}$ record, pollen over dinocyst ratio and BIT index of ODP 625B.

### 3.2 Marine biomarkers

As opposed to the terrestrial biomarkers, alkenones and GDGTs are present throughout the whole record. The $U^{k}{ }_{37}$ values are between 0.92 and 0.97 , which is close to saturation, and correspond to a temperature range of $26-28^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ values are between $0.54-0.63$, corresponding to a temperature range of $19-25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. A remarkable observation is the large variation in the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ record with regard to the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}$ 37 record: the amplitude of variation in the TEX $_{86}$-derived SST record is higher than that in the SST record based on the $U^{k}{ }_{37}$, as can be seen in figure 4.

The $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ temperatures are higher than the TEX $_{86}$ temperatures, although both SST records follow the same trend, and also correspond to the $\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}$ record as is visible in figure 4. During the oldest studied interval, from 3.398 Ma to 3.376 Ma , the SSTs are between $23.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $25.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ based on $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ and $26.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $27.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ based on $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}} 37$. Both records show a drop in temperature with lowest temperatures at 3.365 Ma where the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37} \mathrm{SSTs}$ are $26.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and the TEX ${ }_{86}$ SSTs $21.4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

This colder interval is followed by a short warm period from 3.362 Ma to 3.301 Ma before the SSTs drop again, marking the start of M2. The cold M2 event ( 3.301 to 3.278 Ma ) lasts longer than the previous cold event, and has the coldest SSTs at 3.291 Ma . Here again, the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ drop is more gradual and less intense than the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ drop. $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ drops from $27.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $26.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ whereas $\mathrm{TEX}{ }_{86}$ drops from $22.7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $20.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

The M2 is succeeded by an extended warm interval from 3.278 Ma to 3.023 Ma with high SSTs, the mPWP. The $U^{k}{ }_{37}$ SSTs have an average temperature of $27.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, while the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ SSTs have an average temperature of $23.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. This period ends at 3.023 Ma with a SST drop, the start of G20. This SST drop is especially visible in the TEX ${ }_{86}$ record which drops from $23.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $18.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ whereas the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}} 37$ record drops from $27.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $27.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure 4: The $\delta 180$, Uk37, TEX86 and BIT index during the Late Pliocene of ODP site 625B.

### 3.3 Dinoflagellates

The dinoflagellate cysts are very well preserved and their concentrations vary between 239754174 dinocysts/gram dry sediment (Appendix 3). Phototrophic species dominate over heterotrophic species, which reaches a maximum total relative abundance of $14 \%$ throughout the whole interval. The phototrophic species assemblages are diverse. The species that reaches the highest relative occurrence is Polysphaeridium zoharyi (1-95\%). Other common species are Spiniferites spp (3-39\%), Operculodinium centrocarpum (0-31\%), Pentapharsodinium dalei (0-21\%), Spiniferites ramosus (0-20\%) and Operculodinium israelianum ( $0-19 \%$ ). Species with minor abundances are Spiniferites mirabilis and hyperacanthus (0-11\%), Impagidinium spp. (0-11\%), Lingulodinium machaerophorum (015\%), Nematosphaeropsis labyrinthus (0-5\%) and Bitectatodinium tepikiense (0-1\%). Spiniferites spp. mostly consists of S. ramosus and S. mirabilis/hyperacanthus, but as those species do not have clear environmental preferences, all Spiniferites are taken together.

The oldest part of the studied record, from 3.398 Ma to 3.376 Ma , mostly contains Spiniferites spp., Impagidinium spp, O. centrocarpum, O. israelianum and $P$. dalei. At 3.365 Ma the assemblage changes, an increase of $O$. centrocarpum, L. machaerophorum and $P$. zoharyi occurs while Impagidinium spp, O. israelianum and P. dalei decrease. Also B. tepikiense
appears, as is visible in figure 5, although in very low relative abundances (1\%). After this short increase of $O$. centrocarpum and $L$. machaerophorum at 3.365 Ma , they decrease again while P. zoharyi increases further, reaching relative abundances of up to $64 \%$ at 3.352 Ma . At 3.303 Ma $P$. zoharyi decreases to $22 \%$ before increasing to very high relative abundances of up to $95 \%$ at 3.284 Ma . During the short decrease of $P$. zoharyi at $3.303 \mathrm{Ma}, \mathrm{O}$. israelianum and $O$. centrocarpum increase.
P. zoharyi relative abundance remains high, between $67 \%$ and $95 \%$ until $\sim 3.246 \mathrm{Ma}$. Between 3.246 Ma and 3.031 Ma , only four datapoints exist so it is impossible to draw a clear trend. However, the assemblages have changed as $P$. zoharyi has low abundances of $5 \%$ to $16 \%$, with one exception of $61 \%$ at 3.122 Ma . During this interval, O. centrocarpum and $L$. machaerophorum are the common species.

At 3.015 Ma the dinocyst assemblage changes, an increase of $O$. centrocarpum to $38 \%$ is followed by an increase in L. machaerophorum from $9 \%$ to $15 \%$ at 3.009 Ma . From 3.005 Ma P. zoharyi starts to increase again, reaching values of up to $80 \%$ at 2.996 Ma . After this period of high $P$. zoharyi abundances, it decreases but is still higher than during the period before, around $20-40 \%$ and remains a very abundant species.


Figure 5: The $\delta 180$ record, P. zoharyi over Impagidinium spp. ratio, amount of dinocysts/gram sediment and the relative abundances of the most abundant dinoflagellate cysts.

Table 1: Autotrophic dinocyst species distribution based on Zonneveld et al. (2013).

| Species | Environment |
| :--- | :--- |
| Polysphaeridium zoharyi | Coastal species, characteristic for subtropical to <br> equatorial regions. Can reach high abundances in <br> areas where high upper water salinities exist. <br> Euryhaline species, tolerates very high and very low <br> salinity |
| Operculodinium centrocarpum | Cosmopolitan species, occurs from polar to equatorial <br> regions and coastal to open ocean. It is an <br> opportunist. |
| Pentapharsodinium dalei | Cosmopolitan species, occurs from polar to equatorial <br> regions and coastal to open ocean. |
| Spiniferites ramosus | Cosmopolitan species, occurs in subpolar to <br> equatorial regions. |
| Operculodinium israelianum | Subtropical to equatorial species. Reaches high <br> abundances in nearshore sites and in areas with high <br> upper water salinities. |
| Spiniferites mirabilis/hyperacanthus | Temperate to equatorial distribution, coastal as well <br> as open ocean. |
| Impagidinium spp. | Open ocean <br> Lingulodinium machaerophorum <br> Temperate to equatorial environments. Reaches high <br> abundances near upwelling areas and river mouths <br> and during times with upper water stratification. <br> Nematosphaeropsis labyrinthus <br> Cosmopolitan species, occurs from arctic to <br> equatorial, fully marine environments. <br> Bitectatodinium tepikiense <br> Subpolar to temperate regions. |

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1 Terrestrial biomarkers

The presence and concentration of terrestrial biomarkers is limited throughout the entire studied interval. Low pollen and alkane abundances indicate little terrestrial input. This is supported by the low BIT index (<0.06). Furthermore, the absence of $\mathrm{C}_{32}$ diols in the record indicates that fresh water discharge by rivers was either limited, or did not reach site ODP 625B. The latter scenario could be explained by changes in sea level, and/or the position of the river mouth during the Piacenzian. Sea level estimates range from no change at all up to a sea level rise of 50 meters (Dolan et al., 2016). However, during the cold M2 interval, the sea level drop is estimated at $10 \mathrm{~m} \pm 10-15 \mathrm{~m}$ (Naish \& Wilson, 2008), $40 \mathrm{~m} \pm 10 \mathrm{~m}$ (Miller et al., 2012) or up to $65 \mathrm{~m} \pm 15-25 \mathrm{~m}$ (Dwyer \& Chandler, 2008) below present sea level as summarized by De Schepper et al. (2013) in figure 6. This is a large uncertainty and would have different implications for the paleoshoreline, as can be seen in figure 6 which shows different paleoshorelines for different sea level drops. In case of a 80-100 meter sea level drop, the shoreline would be much closer to the site, probably resulting in more terrestrial input. As there is no terrestrial input, it seems unlikely that the sea level drop was that large.


Figure 6: A) The $\delta 180$ record based on the global benthic stack of Lisiecki \& Raymo (2005). B) Sea level estimates of the Pliocene. Blue = Naish \& Wilson (2008), Black = Miller et al. (2012) and Red = Dwyer \& Chandler (2008). Figure after De Schepper et al. (2013).


Figure 7: Different paleoshorelines for different sea level drops based on model simulations. White=100 mbsl, light grey=80 mbsl, dark grey=40 mbsl and black=20 mbsl (Limoges et al., 2014).

During interglacials and interstadials of the last 400 kyr, most of the Mississippi discharge flowed westward. As the ITCZ had a more northward position and the LC was strong and flowing in northward direction, the conditions in the northeastern GoM became similar to the conditions in the western Caribbean (Nürnberg et al., 2008). A strong northward flowing LC during the Pliocene pushing the Mississippi discharge to the west can also explain the lack of terrestrial material in the records. However, at 2.515 Ma , pollen were abundant at ODP site

625B (Romanin, 2013), indicating terrestrial influence during the Pleistocene. From this can be concluded that the Mississippi changed its course between 2.950 Ma and 2.515 Ma , possibly in combination with sea level lowering.

As there appears to be almost no terrestrial input to ODP site 625B during the Pliocene, the main focus of this thesis is, therefore, on the reconstruction of past climatic changes in the marine environment.

### 4.2 Interpretation of the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ and $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}} 37$ records

Although the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ and $U^{k}{ }_{37}$ records show largely the same trends, the $U^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ record is much more stable than the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ record, which shows higher variability. During the Late Pliocene, average SSTs based on $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ is $22.7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with a maximum amplitude of $6.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, while the average SST based on $\mathrm{U}_{37}$ is $27.3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, with a maximum amplitude of $1.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The current mean annual sea-surface temperature is $25.9^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, with a large seasonal amplitude of $8.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Limoges et al., 2014). $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ and $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ are both SST proxies. However, seasonality, depth distribution and diagenesis likely influence their downcore SST variability (Richey \& Tierney, 2016).

Seasonality can explain (part of) the difference between the $T E X_{86}$ and $U^{k}{ }_{37}$ records. In the global ocean, alkenone production is spring-summer weighted but, at least in the modern day GoM, the highest primary production of both alkenones and isoGDGTs occurs in winter. This is a result of the higher wind driven mixing of the upper water column during this season (Richey \& Tierney, 2016). However, alkenone production during the Late Pliocene likely occurred during summer as the reconstructed $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ temperatures are on average $27.3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and correspond with the modelled August SSTs of $28^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Dowsett et al., 2009), as is visible in figure 8. It should be noted that the relation between $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ and SST becomes nonlinear when SSTs are between $24^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Richey \& Tierney, 2016) and the $\mathrm{Uk}_{37}$ ratio becomes saturated when temperatures are $29^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ or higher. So in very warm


Figure 8: Modelled February and August SSTs by Dowsett et al. (2009). tropical waters, the usefulness of $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ is limited (Lawrence \& Woodard, 2017). As the reconstructed $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ values in this study are almost saturated, part of the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ SST variability can have been flattened out.

The reconstructed $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ temperatures are on average $22.7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and do not correspond with the modelled February temperatures of $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Dowsett et al., 2009). This indicates that isoGDGT production occurred during a different season than summer or winter, or that the isoGDGT production is controlled by another factor.

Richey \& Tierney (2016) compared the modern day alkenone and isoGDGT flux with core-top sediments in the northern Gulf of Mexico during a four year sampling interval. They found that the $U^{k}{ }_{37}$ record represents the near-surface mean annual temperatures, while the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ records represents the mean annual subsurface temperatures from 0-200 m. As a result, the SSTs




Figure 9: Vertical temperature profiles (Richey \& Tierney, 2016). reconstructed with TEX $_{86}$ lack seasonality (Richey \& Tierney, 2016), which is also visible in figure 9.

Differences between TEX ${ }_{86}$ and $U^{k}{ }_{37}$ can also occur as a result of degradation. There are many marine bacteria that are able to degrade alkenones. Most of those bacteria do this nonselective (Zabeti et al., 2010). However, Zabeti et al. (2010) found one specific bacteria, the Dietzia maris sp ., that does selectively degrade alkenones with a preference for the double bond at the $29^{\text {th }}$ position. This selective degradation increased the $U^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ values with 0.05 to 0.10 , leading to a SST increase of $1.5-3.0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Zabeti et al., 2010). Rickey and Tierney (2016) found a $1-2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ warm bias in the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ SSTs in the modern day GoM as a result of selective degradation.

As the TEX ${ }_{86}$ SSTs do not match with reconstructed summer of winter temperatures, and Rickey an Tierney (2016) found that in the modern day GoM TEX ${ }_{86}$ reflects the mean annual subsurface (0-200 m) temperatures, the TEX ${ }_{86}$ SST record will be interpreted as subsurface sea temperatures. The reconstructed $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ SSTs correlate with the modelled summer SSTs of Dowsett et al. (2009). This in contrast with the modern day alkenone production in the GoM, which is winter weighted (Richey \& Tierney, 2016). Rickey and Tierney (2016) also found that in the modern day $G o M, \mathrm{U}^{k} 37$ represents the near-surface temperatures. Therefore, the reconstructed $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ SSTs will be interpreted as near-surface sea temperatures.

### 4.3 Environmental reconstruction

Based on the $\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}$ record of Van der Weijst (in prep), the record can be divided into four intervals, for which the SST records and palynology will be discussed:

1. The period towards $\mathrm{M} 2(3.400-3.312 \mathrm{Ma})$,
2. The M2 interval (3.312-3.264 Ma),
3. The mPWP (3.245-3.023 Ma)
4. The demise of the mPWP, starting with G20 ( $3.025-2.950 \mathrm{Ma}$ )


Figure 10: Overview of $\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}$, SST, BIT and dinocyst data.
P. zoharyi, O. centrocarpum, O. israelianum, I. spp, L. machaerophorum and B. tepikiense have clear environmental preferences and will be taken into account in the discussion. P. dalei, Spiniferites spp. and $N$. labyrinthus occur through a wide range of environments and are therefore left out.

### 4.3.1 Before M2: 3.400-3.312 Ma

First, the assemblage is dominated by Impagidinium, $O$. centrocarpum and $O$. israelianum. $O$. centrocarpum is a cosmopolitan species, occurring in a large range of environments (Zonneveld et al., 2013) but also reaches high abundances when environmental conditions are changing. O. israelianum thrives in subtropical to equatorial environments, corresponding with the reconstructed high near-surface temperatures $\left(27.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ on average) and subsurface temperatures ( $23.9^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ on average). O. israelianum also thrives in environments with high upper water salinities and in coastal sites (Zonneveld et al., 2013). Limoges et al. (2014) found an increase of $O$. israelianum at site ODP 625B prior to the onset of the last interglacial maximum ( 135 kyr ). They explained this increase by changes in sea-surface salinity as a result of a northward shift of the ITCZ. Because of this shift, the warmer and salty waters from the Caribbean could move further into the GoM, which also became warmer and saltier (Limoges et al., 2014). Ziegler el al. (2008) also found a relation between the ITCZ and SSTs in the GoM. During a more southern position of the ITCZ, Caribbean waters could not move far north into the GoM, resulting in relatively cold SSTs (Ziegler et al., 2008).

At 3.365 Ma there is a short period with lower temperatures, where near-surface temperatures drop to $26.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and subsurface temperatures to $21.4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. At the same time the dinocyst assemblages change (Fig. X). This change starts with a relative increase of $O$. centrocarpum, which is an indicator of changing environmental conditions. During these colder conditions, the relative abundance of the warm species $O$. israelianum decreased and the cold species $B$. tepikiense (Zonneveld et al., 2013) occurred, although in low abundances. However, as it is a temperate to cold species, living in an environments of $-2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $26.9^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and not present in the modern day GoM (Zonneveld et al., 2013), its presence points towards a cooling environment. Based on the colder SSTs, the decrease of $O$. israelianum and the occurrence of $B$. tepikiense, warm and salty Caribbean waters likely did not reach far into the GoM from 3.365 Ma to 3.354 Ma.

In the present day GoM, the dinoflagellate assemblage is mostly determined by distance to the coast and water depth. The proximity to the coast can be seen with the ratio between $P$. zoharyi and Impagidinium spp, where $P$. zoharyi increases shorewards and is a lagoonal species while Impagidinium increases towards deeper waters (Limoges et al., 2013). This trend is also visible towards M2 (Fig. X).

First, Impagidinium spp. is dominant over $P$. zoharyi, indicating an open oceanic environment, whereas at 3.365 Ma the conditions start to change and the ratio switches and $P$. zoharyi becomes dominant over Impagidinium spp (Fig. 10). During the ratio switch at $3.365 \mathrm{Ma}, \mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ and $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37} \mathrm{SSTs}$ drop to $21.4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $26.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ respectively, and $\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}$ values increase, visible in figure 10. However, sea level dropped maximum 20 meters as is visible in figure 7, which is not enough to create a lagoonal environment at site ODP 625B, as is visible in figure 6. So during the Late Pliocene, the ratio between Impagidinium spp and $P$. zoharyi is likely not an indicator for open ocean vs. nearshore environment as it is during the present day (Limoges, et al., 2013). A possible explanation for the occurrence of $P$. zoharyi in an open oceanic environment is hyperstratification (Reichart et al., 2004), as will be explained in 4.2.2.

After this short period of lower SSTs, both the near-surface as the subsurface SSTs increase again $\left(27.3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ and $23.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ respectively) but the relative abundances of Impagidinium, O . centrocarpum and $O$. israelianum remain low, while $P$. zoharyi increases further. So although SSTs increased again, Caribbean waters likely did not propagate as far north into the GoM as before as the dinoflagellate assemblages did not change back to their initial composition.
L. machaerophorum also increases at 3.310 Ma . L. machaerophorum is a species that occurs in relatively high abundances near river mouths and when seasonal stratification occurs (Zonneveld et al., 2013). Notably, the high dinocyst over pollen ratio, together with an absence of alkanes and diols at this same time points towards a limited Mississippi influence. However, L. machaerophorum can also occur with decreasing upwelling and seasonal stratification. When this happens, there are still nutrients in the upper water column, but the water column becomes stratified (Zonneveld et al., 2013). Hence, stratified conditions as a result of diminished upwelling is a more likely explanation of the occurrence of $L$. machaerophorum.

Hence, the period towards M2 can be seen as a period during which the northern GoM was relatively warm, with near-surface temperatures of $27^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and a high surface water salinity, as indicated by the presence of $O$. israelianum. Those conditions could develop as a result of a northward shift of the ITCZ. Because of this shift, warm and salty Caribbean waters could move into the GoM. However, around 3.365 Ma , both sea surface as subsurface temperatures decrease. During this decrease, P. zoharyi starts to become the dominant species, possibly indicating hyperstratification. At 3.361 Ma , temperatures start to increase again, although $P$. zoharyi still remains the dominant species, indicating that Caribbean waters likely did not reach as far north into the GoM as before.

### 4.3.2 M2: 3.312-3.264 Ma

At 3.303 Ma , the relative abundance of $O$. centrocarpum increases to $16 \%$. O. centrocarpum is an opportunist species, which thrives under changing conditions. Its presence at the onset of the M 2 indicates that the environmental conditions were changing. At the same time, $O$. israelianum increases to $16 \%$. O. israelianum is a species that thrives in waters with a high salinity so a possible explanation is that the northern GoM became even saltier at this time. Before 3.303 Ma , the dinocyst assemblages are already changing, however, only after 3.303 Ma the SSTs start to decrease. At 3.299 Ma the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ and TEX ${ }_{86}$ have dropped to $26.7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $20.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ respectively. During this SST drop, P. zoharyi starts to increase and reaches very high
relative abundances, up to $94.8 \%$. Today, $P$. zoharyi reaches high concentrations in warm and shallow marine environments (Limoges et al., 2014). However, as discussed in paragraph 4.1.1, it is unlikely that the sea level dropped enough to create shallow marine environments at the location of Site OPD 625B. High concentrations of $P$. zoharyi were also found in an open ocean, the Arabian Sea, during the Pleistocene (Reichart et al., 2004). There, ongoing evaporation and an interruption in the deep mixing, resulted in very high surface water salinity and the development of a strong pycnocline, causing hyperstratification (Reichart et al., 2004). Although the conditions in the Arabian Sea are very different from the GoM, hyperstratification can explain the presence of $P$. zoharyi in the GoM, which is also an open oceanic environment.

Hyperstratification could also explain the increase of relative abundance of $O$. israelianum and L. machaerophorum in the GoM during this time interval. During hyperstratification, the water is very saline. So during the period before the hyperstratification was fully developed, the salinity increased already and the upper water column started to become stratified.

The M2 interval, from 3.305 Ma to 3.285 Ma , starts with slightly decreasing SSTs. The environment starts to change, as indicated by the high relative abundance of O. centrocarpum. Most likely the water column conditions started to become more saline and stratified, as indicated by $O$. israelianum and $L$. machaerophorum, when the oceanic environment changed towards hyperstratification during the major drop in SSTs. During those conditions, P. zoharyi reached very high relative abundances, which still persisted when SSTs had already changed back to the same values as prior to the M2.

### 4.3.3 Mid-Piacenzian Warm Period: 3.264-3.023 Ma

After the M2, SSTs rose quickly, and remained stable during the whole mPWP, the nearsurface SSTs varied between $27.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $28.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. However, P. zoharyi still remained the dominant species, even when temperatures had returned to similar levels as before the M2, indicating that (seasonal) hyperstratification still occurred in the northern GoM after the cold period. Around 3.246 Ma , conditions started to change and P. zoharyi was only present in small values while $O$. centrocarpum, Spiniferites spp. and $O$. israelianum start to increase. The dinoflagellate assemblage looks similar as before the M2 so the warm and salty Caribbean waters likely reached the northern GoM again.

### 4.3.4 The demise of the mPWP starting with G20: 3.023-2.950 Ma

At 3.023 Ma , there is a sharp drop in subsurface temperatures to $18.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and a small drop in near-surface temperatures to $27.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ during an increase in $\delta^{18} \mathrm{O}$ values, the start of G20. The temperature drop was enough for the cold species B. tepikiense to occur again. During this period, at 3.015 Ma , O. centrocarpum reaches relative abundances of $38 \%$, becoming the most abundant species and indicating changing environmental conditions. When O. centrocarpum starts to decline, L. machaerophorum increases to $15 \%$, pointing towards increased stratification, possibly as a result of river influence. Close after those higher relative abundances of $L$. machaerophorum, the pollen over dinocyst ratio increases to $11.4 \%$. So both the presence of $L$. machaerophorum and that of pollen points towards river influence. However, both diols and $n$-alkanes are still below detection limit during this interval at ODP 625B, so it is unlikely that the mouth of the Mississippi became closer to site ODP 625B. Here again, the presence of $L$. machaerophorum can indicate the beginning of hyperstratification conditions. At 2.994 Ma , there is a drop in both near-surface as subsurface temperatures to $26.7^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $20.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ respectively. First O. centrocarpum increases and then $P$. zoharyi reaches high values of up to $80 \%$ again. After this event, $P$. zoharyi decreases but is still higher than during the period before, around $20-40 \%$. Just as during M2, sea level did not drop enough during these
cold periods for the Mississippi river mouth to become close to site ODP 625B (see figure 6 and 7). So the high abundances of P . zoharyi are likely indicating hyperstratification again.

## 5. Summary and conclusions

Throughout the whole studied interval ( $3.400-2.950 \mathrm{Ma}$ ), there is a lack of terrestrial input, as indicated by the absence of diols, alkanes, pollen and the low BIT index. This points towards an absence of Mississippi river influence. However, at 2.515 Ma , pollen were abundant at ODP site 625B indicating terrestrial influence during the Pleistocene. From this can be concluded that the Mississippi changed its course between 2.950 Ma and 2.515 Ma . Further research is needed to indicate the time period during which the Mississippi started to influence the site location.

During the Late Pliocene, $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ SSTs were on average $23.4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ while the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ SSTs were on average $27.3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The lower temperatures represented by the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ index compared to those based on the $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}_{37}}$ can be explained by the different depths in the water column the GDGT's and alkenones on which the SSTs are based are produced. As a result, SSTs based on the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ represents 0-200 meter while $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ represents the near-surface temperatures. The fact that $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ is nearly saturated can explain why the record shows less variation than the $\mathrm{TEX}_{86}$ record as Uk37 becomes less useful at temperatures above $29^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

The period towards M2 can be seen as a period during which the northern GoM was warm, with near-surface temperatures of $27^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and high surface water salinities, as indicated by the presence of $O$. israelianum. Those conditions could develop as a result of a northward shift of the ITCZ. Because of this shift, the LC was stronger and warm and salty waters of the Caribbean could move far into the GoM.

The M2 is characterized by a temperature drop of $1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and an increase of O . centrocarpum, representing changing conditions. Then the conditions started to become more saline and stratified, as indicated by O. israelianum and L. machaerophorum. Eventually, during the major drop in SST, the salinity was very high and the pycnocline was very shallow and strong, creating hyperstratification. Because of these conditions, the lagoonal species $P$. zoharyi could occur in the open ocean. $P$. zoharyi reached very high relative abundances, which still persisted when SSTs had already changed back to warm values.

During the following mPWP, conditions eventually changed back to the same conditions as before the M2. So warm and salty Caribbean waters were again transported far into the GoM by the LC. However, there are only a few datapoints used in this study for the mPWP, so another study should focus on this period for a better comparison.

After the mPWP, conditions changed again as indicated by the occurrence of $O$. centrocarpum and a drop in TEX ${ }_{86}$ and $\mathrm{U}^{\mathrm{k}}{ }_{37}$ SSTs of $0.4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $0.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Then again, $P$. zoharyi reaches high values, indicating hyperstratification. However, this cold period G20 is less intense than the M2, as temperatures did not drop as much and the relative abundances of $P$. zoharyi were not as high as during the M2.

This study highlights the importance of a multiproxy approach as biomarkers or dinocyst alone would have told a very different story.

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## Appendices

Appendix 1: Site ODP625B information

| Sample code | Leg | Site | Hole | Core | Sect | Half | Top (cm) | Bottom (cm) | MBSF | Age <br> (ka) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GGOM8 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 5 | W | 77 | 79 | 134.1 | 2928.9 |
| GGOM8.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 5 | W | 87 | 89 | 134.2 | 2931.3 |
| GGOM9 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 5 | W | 109 | 111 | 134.42 | 2936.7 |
| GGOM9.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 5 | W | 121 | 124 | 134.545 | 2939.6 |
| GGOM10 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 5 | W | 137 | 139 | 134.7 | 2943.5 |
| GGOM10.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 11 | 13 | 134.95 | 2950.0 |
| GGOM11 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 43 | 45 | 135.27 | 2957.4 |
| GGOM11.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 56 | 58 | 135.4 | 2960.6 |
| GGOM12 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 78 | 80 | 135.62 | 2966.0 |
| GGOM12.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 86 | 88 | 135.7 | 2967.9 |
| GGOM13 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 106 | 108 | 135.9 | 2972.8 |
| GGOM13.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 116 | 118 | 136 | 2975.2 |
| GGOM13.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 126 | 128 | 136.1 | 2977.7 |
| GGOM14 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 136 | 138 | 136.2 | 2980.1 |
| GGOM14.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | 6 | W | 145 | 147 | 136.29 | 2982.3 |
| GGOM14.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 16 | CC | W | 5 | 7 | 136.41 | 2985.2 |
| GGOM14.3 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 2 | 4 | 136.62 | 2990.4 |
| GGOM14.4 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 16 | 19 | 136.765 | 2993.9 |
| GGOM15 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 23 | 25 | 136.83 | 2995.5 |
| GGOM15.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 36 | 38 | 136.96 | 2997.3 |
| GGOM16 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 50 | 52 | 137.1 | 3002.1 |
| GGOM16.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 61 | 63 | 137.21 | 3004.8 |
| GGOM16.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 72 | 74 | 137.32 | 3007.4 |
| GGOM17 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 80 | 82 | 137.4 | 3009.4 |
| GGOM17.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 88 | 90 | 137.48 | 3011.3 |
| GGOM17.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 103 | 106 | 137.63 | 3015.0 |
| GGOM18 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 111 | 113 | 137.71 | 3019.0 |
| GGOM18.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 120 | 123 | 137.8 | 3023.4 |
| GGOM19 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 1 | W | 136 | 138 | 137.96 | 3031.4 |
| GGOM19.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 2 | W | 11 | 13 | 138.22 | 3044.3 |
| GGOM20 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 2 | W | 19 | 21 | 138.3 | 3048.2 |
| GGOM21 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 2 | W | 48 | 50 | 138.59 | 3062.6 |
| GGOM22 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 2 | W | 108 | 110 | 139.19 | 3092.4 |
| GGOM23 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 2 | W | 139 | 141 | 139.5 | 3107.7 |
| GGOM24 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 3 | W | 17 | 19 | 139.79 | 3122.1 |
| GGOM25 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 3 | W | 84 | 86 | 140.46 | 3144.1 |
| GGOM26 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 3 | W | 108 | 110 | 140.7 | 3149.4 |
| GGOM27 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 4 | W | 17 | 19 | 141.3 | 3168.6 |
| GGOM28 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 4 | W | 47 | 49 | 141.6 | 3180.3 |
| GGOM29 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 4 | W | 77 | 79 | 141.9 | 3191.8 |
| GGOM29.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 4 | W | 85 | 87 | 141.98 | 3194.7 |
| GGOM30 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 4 | W | 107 | 109 | 142.2 | 3202.7 |
| GGOM30.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 4 | W | 117 | 119 | 142.3 | 3206.4 |


| GGOM31 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 4 | W | 137 | 139 | 142.5 | 3213.7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GGOM31.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 12 | 14 | 142.76 | 3223.1 |
| GGOM31.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 27 | 30 | 142.91 | 3228.6 |
| GGOM32 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 46 | 48 | 143.1 | 3235.5 |
| GGOM32.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 57 | 59 | 143.21 | 3239.5 |
| GGOM33 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 76 | 78 | 143.4 | 3246.5 |
| GGOM33.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 87 | 89 | 143.51 | 3250.7 |
| GGOM33.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 102 | 106 | 143.66 | 3256.4 |
| GGOM34 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 106 | 108 | 143.7 | 3257.9 |
| GGOM34.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 120 | 122 | 143.84 | 3263.2 |
| GGOM35 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 5 | W | 136 | 138 | 144 | 3269.2 |
| GGOM35.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 18 | 20 | 144.23 | 3278.0 |
| GGOM36 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 25 | 27 | 144.3 | 3280.6 |
| GGOM36.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 35 | 38 | 144.4 | 3284.4 |
| GGOM36.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 42 | 44 | 144.47 | 3287.0 |
| GGOM37 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 53 | 55 | 144.58 | 3291.2 |
| GGOM37.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 63 | 65 | 144.68 | 3295.0 |
| GGOM37.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 78 | 80 | 144.83 | 3299.4 |
| GGOM38 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 85 | 87 | 144.9 | 3301.4 |
| GGOM38.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 93 | 96 | 144.98 | 3303.8 |
| GGOM38.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 14 | 6 | W | 108 | 110 | 145.13 | 3308.2 |
| GGOM39 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 113 | 115 | 145.18 | 3309.6 |
| GGOM39.2 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 138 | 141 | 145.43 | 3317.0 |
| GGOM40 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | 6 | W | 145 | 147 | 145.5 | 3319.0 |
| GGOM40.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 17 | CC | W | 5 | 8 | 145.61 | 3322.2 |
| GGOM40.3 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 1 | W | 45 | 47 | 146.25 | 3340.7 |
| GGOM40.4 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 1 | W | 53 | 56 | 146.33 | 3343.3 |
| GGOM40.6 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 1 | W | 83 | 86 | 146.63 | 3352.1 |
| GGOM41 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 1 | W | 90 | 92 | 146.7 | 3354.2 |
| GGOM42 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 1 | W | 117 | 119 | 146.97 | 3362.1 |
| GGOM42.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 1 | W | 128 | 131 | 147.08 | 3365.3 |
| GGOM43 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 2 | W | 0 | 2 | 147.3 | 3371.7 |
| GGOM43.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 2 | W | 14 | 16 | 147.44 | 3375.8 |
| GGOM44 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 2 | W | 28 | 30 | 147.58 | 3379.9 |
| GGOM44.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 2 | W | 46 | 49 | 147.76 | 3385.2 |
| GGOM45 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 2 | W | 59 | 61 | 147.89 | 3389.0 |
| GGOM45.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 2 | W | 68 | 70 | 147.98 | 3391.7 |
| GGOM46 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 2 | W | 88 | 90 | 148.18 | 3397.5 |
| GGOM46.1 | 100 | 625 | B | 18 | 2 | W | 97 | 100 | 148.28 | 3400.5 |

Appendix 2: BIT, U* ${ }_{37}$ SSTs and TEX $_{86}$ SSTs

| Sample code | MBSF | Age (ka) | BIT | SST TEX ${ }_{86}$ | SST $U^{k}{ }_{37}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GGOM8 | 134.1 | 2928.9 | 0.040322 | 22.97683 | 27.96688 |
| GGOM8.1 | 134.2 | 2931.3 | 0.036432 | 22.626 | 27.52226 |
| GGOM9 | 134.42 | 2936.7 | 0.035441 | 23.86129 | 27.43452 |
| GGOM9.1 | 134.545 | 2939.6 | 0.037137 | 21.46853 | 27.41343 |
| GGOM10 | 134.7 | 2943.5 | 0.033372 | 23.30944 |  |
| GGOM10.2 | 134.95 | 2950.0 | 0.043132 | 21.30965 | 26.94873 |
| GGOM11 | 135.27 | 2957.4 | 0.056459 | 23.98367 | 27.35729 |
| GGOM11.1 | 135.4 | 2960.6 | 0.037648 | 23.31343 | 27.33993 |
| GGOM12 | 135.62 | 2966.0 | 0.031105 | 22.35 | 27.34056 |
| GGOM12.1 | 135.7 | 2967.9 | 0.029602 | 22.75085 | 27.81797 |
| GGOM13 | 135.9 | 2972.8 | 0.035865 | 23.55311 | 27.5186 |
| GGOM13.1 | 136 | 2975.2 | 0.033959 | 21.9674 | 27.30275 |
| GGOM13.2 | 136.1 | 2977.7 | 0.034752 | 21.33986 | 27.01191 |
| GGOM14 | 136.2 | 2980.1 | 0.035765 | 21.18168 | 26.90055 |
| GGOM14.1 | 136.29 | 2982.3 | 0.035568 | 20.92745 | 26.8697 |
| GGOM14.2 | 136.41 | 2985.2 | 0.034461 | 22.74477 | 27.18015 |
| GGOM14.3 | 136.62 | 2990.4 | 0.033916 | 22.06959 | 27.10226 |
| GGOM14.4 | 136.765 | 2993.9 | 0.035337 | 20.80221 | 26.68671 |
| GGOM15 | 136.83 | 2995.5 |  | 23.12614 | 26.62825 |
| GGOM15.1 | 136.96 | 2997.3 | 0.033042 | 21.31755 | 26.92974 |
| GGOM16 | 137.1 | 3002.1 | 0.025033 | 22.11489 |  |
| GGOM16.1 | 137.21 | 3004.8 | 0.025809 | 21.38312 | 27.4061 |
| GGOM16.2 | 137.32 | 3007.4 | 0.021849 | 20.25837 | 27.37838 |
| GGOM17 | 137.4 | 3009.4 | 0.028324 | 22.10016 | 27.68134 |
| GGOM17.1 | 137.48 | 3011.3 | 0.02948 | 21.75656 | 27.42659 |
| GGOM17.2 | 137.63 | 3015.0 | 0.032589 | 18.83144 | 27.23854 |
| GGOM18 | 137.71 | 3019.0 | 0.038787 | 23.15366 | 27.82337 |
| GGOM18.1 | 137.8 | 3023.4 | 0.03284 | 22.82064 | 27.30957 |
| GGOM19 | 137.96 | 3031.4 | 0.017028 | 22.1857 | 27.5262 |
| GGOM19.2 | 138.22 | 3044.3 |  | 23.56252 | 27.75606 |
| GGOM20 | 138.3 | 3048.2 | 0.033317 | 24.4812 | 27.89998 |
| GGOM21 | 138.59 | 3062.6 | 0.033786 | 22.87771 | 27.39695 |
| GGOM22 | 139.19 | 3092.4 | 0.041335 | 23.30772 | 27.85183 |
| GGOM23 | 139.5 | 3107.7 |  | 24.02303 | 27.7287 |
| GGOM24 | 139.79 | 3122.1 | 0.033851 | 23.45941 | 27.97046 |
| GGOM25 | 140.46 | 3144.1 | 0.033614 | 24.72345 | 27.40267 |
| GGOM26 | 140.7 | 3149.4 | 0.033894 | 23.36003 | 27.96154 |
| GGOM27 | 141.3 | 3168.6 | 0.040352 | 23.43068 | 27.58079 |
| GGOM28 | 141.6 | 3180.3 | 0.034219 | 23.09795 | 27.91719 |
| GGOM29 | 141.9 | 3191.8 | 0.052006 | 23.12823 | 28.06465 |
| GGOM29.1 | 141.98 | 3194.7 | 0.040153 | 22.6177 | 27.77832 |
| GGOM30 | 142.2 | 3202.7 | 0.049451 | 23.29539 | 27.53314 |
| GGOM30.1 | 142.3 | 3206.4 | 0.037688 | 22.63902 | 27.55159 |
| GGOM31 | 142.5 | 3213.7 | 0.042711 | 22.98543 | 27.64705 |


| GGOM31.1 | 142.76 | 3223.1 | 0.03741 | 22.218 | 27.35292 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| GGOM31.2 | 142.91 | 3228.6 | 0.042218 | 22.85909 | 27.70684 |
| GGOM32 | 143.1 | 3235.5 | 0.04214 | 23.69977 | 27.72331 |
| GGOM32.1 | 143.21 | 3239.5 | 0.039797 | 23.80139 | 27.72388 |
| GGOM33 | 143.4 | 3246.5 | 0.036913 | 22.17415 | 27.24098 |
| GGOM33.1 | 143.51 | 3250.7 | 0.033494 | 22.21257 | 27.6149 |
| GGOM33.2 | 143.66 | 3256.4 |  | 22.31579 | 27.41381 |
| GGOM34 | 143.7 | 3257.9 | 0.031326 | 23.13212 | 27.412222 |
| GGOM34.1 | 143.84 | 3263.2 | 0.033518 | 22.33073 | 27.56616 |
| GGOM35 | 144 | 3269.2 | 0.03859 | 22.5205 | 27.3454 |
| GGOM35.1 | 144.23 | 3278.0 | 0.038167 | 22.32808 | 27.27692 |
| GGOM36 | 144.3 | 3280.6 |  | 22.23222 | 26.71743 |
| GGOM36.1 | 144.4 | 3284.4 | 0.043649 | 21.53149 | 26.70312 |
| GGOM36.2 | 144.47 | 3287.0 | 0.043789 | 21.00946 | 26.79596 |
| GGOM37 | 144.58 | 3291.2 | 0.060318 | 21.14355 | 26.21494 |
| GGOM37.1 | 144.68 | 3295.0 | 0.045155 | 20.64225 | 26.70383 |
| GGOM37.2 | 144.83 | 3299.4 | 0.04782 | 21.23215 | 26.67271 |
| GGOM38 | 144.9 | 3301.4 | 0.048284 | 22.71661 | 27.20018 |
| GGOM38.1 | 144.98 | 3303.8 | 0.038815 | 22.94743 | 27.2457 |
| GGOM38.2 | 145.13 | 3308.2 | 0.036913 | 22.85064 | 27.4995 |
| GGOM39 | 145.18 | 3309.6 | 0.046787 | 22.87478 | 27.69701 |
| GGOM39.2 | 145.43 | 3317.0 | 0.043619 | 22.47955 | 27.48586 |
| GGOM40 | 145.5 | 3319.0 | 0.039623 | 23.47275 | 27.79748 |
| GGOM40.1 | 145.61 | 3322.2 | 0.028924 | 22.72577 | 27.34829 |
| GGOM40.3 | 146.25 | 3340.7 | 0.037119 | 22.44962 | 27.31054 |
| GGOM40.4 | 146.33 | 3343.3 | 0.033359 | 22.37631 | 27.45824 |
| GGOM40.6 | 146.63 | 3352.1 | 0.034662 | 23.39689 | 27.52508 |
| GGOM41 | 146.7 | 3354.2 | 0.029443 | 23.90619 | 27.21895 |
| GGOM42 | 146.97 | 3362.1 | 0.056796 | 23.13607 | 26.86804 |
| GGOM42.1 | 147.08 | 3365.3 | 0.046753 | 21.35468 | 26.55865 |
| GGOM43 | 147.3 | 3371.7 | 0.039389 | 23.77376 | 26.77967 |
| GGOM43.1 | 147.44 | 3375.8 | 0.033787 | 23.53836 | 27.14155 |
| GGOM44 | 147.58 | 3379.9 | 0.040693 | 23.78349 | 27.07217 |
| GGOM44.1 | 147.76 | 3385.2 | 0.030142 | 23.71385 | 27.32364 |
| GGOM45 | 147.89 | 3389.0 | 0.031424 | 23.46917 | 26.89217 |
| GGOM45.1 | 147.98 | 3391.7 | 0.031956 | 23.42014 | 26.95681 |
| GGOM46 | 148.18 | 3397.5 | 0.036278 | 25.06998 | 27.59263 |
| GGOM46.1 | 148.28 | 3400.5 | 0.032821 | 24.31588 | 27.35082 |

## Appendix 3: Relative abundances dinocysts






## Appendix 4 absolute abundances

| GGOM12 | GGOM10.2 | GGOM7 | GGOM5 | GGOM3 | GGOM1 | GGOM code |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 135.62 | 134.95 | 133.85 | 133.2 | 132.6 | 131.99 | Depth (mbsf) |
| 2966 | 2950 | 2923 | 2904 | 2888 | 2871 | Age (ka) |
| 10.04 | 10.09 | 4.96 | 5.23 | 5.13 | 5.02 | Gram sediment |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 604.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Achomosphaera |
| 420.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 235.8 | 333.3 | I. aculeatum |
| 1681.0 | 666.6 | 0.0 | 805.5 | 707.3 | 833.3 | I. paradoxum |
| 840.5 | 666.6 | 2071.3 | 402.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | I. patulum |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 235.8 | 0.0 | I. strialatum |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Impagidinium spp |
| 6303.9 | 4333.0 | 4142.6 | 3020.6 | 6601.2 | 2333.2 | Lingulodinium |
| 420.3 | 0.0 | 2761.7 | 604.1 | 235.8 | 666.6 | Melitasphaeridium |
| 12607.8 | 10332.6 | 8975.6 | 7048.1 | 5658.1 | 3833.1 | O. centrocarpum |
| 5883.7 | 5999.6 | 1380.9 | 1611.0 | 4479.4 | 4333.0 | O. israeilanum |
| 0.0 | 1666.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | O. centro short process |
| 7144.4 | 2333.2 | 2071.3 | 3624.8 | 943.0 | 1499.9 | P. dalei |
| 36983.0 | 27664.8 | 64900.3 | 8659.1 | 9194.5 | 3333.1 | Polysphaeridium |
| 2941.8 | 333.3 | 0.0 | 604.1 | 1178.8 | 500.0 | S. bentorii |
| 11767.3 | 2333.2 | 6904.3 | 3826.1 | 4007.9 | 1999.9 | S. mira + S. hyper |
| 1681.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 604.1 | 707.3 | 0.0 | S.pachyderma |
| 5043.1 | 4999.7 | 13808.6 | 8256.4 | 5186.6 | 3166.4 | S. ramosus |
| 8405.2 | 1999.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Spiniferites spp |
| 2521.6 | 2333.2 | 7594.7 | 2013.8 | 2829.1 | 3666.4 | Brigantedinium |
| 1681.0 | 999.9 | 0.0 | 201.4 | 471.5 | 333.3 | N. labyrinthus |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Pyxidinium |
| 1681.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Echinidinium |
| 0.0 | 999.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | B. tepikiense |
| 1681.0 | 1666.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Hystricokolpoma |
| 4202.6 | 2333.2 | 7594.7 | 2013.8 | 2829.1 | 3666.4 | Total heterotroph |
| 1260.8 | 3666.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Indet. |
| 0.0 | 1666.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Pollen |
| 1681.0 | 33997.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Bissacates |
| 108007.0 | 67662.0 | 114611.1 | 41886.0 | 42671.9 | 26831.5 | Total dino |

$\stackrel{N}{ } \stackrel{\underset{\sim}{0}}{\hat{N}} \dot{O}$




$\underset{\sim}{\text { M }} \dot{-} \dot{\dot{O}} \dot{\sim}$


| GGOM33 | GGOM30 | GGOM25 | GGOM24 | GGOM21 | GGOM19 | GGOM18.1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 143.4 | 142.2 | 140.46 | 139.79 | 138.59 | 137.96 | 137.8 |
| 3246.5 | 3202.7 | 3144.1 | 3122.10744 | 3063 | 3031 | 3023.4 |
| 10.18 | 10.15 | 5.12 | 5.50 | 5.09 | 5.00 | 10.28 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 166.7 | 371.8 | 0.0 | 254.4 | 678.3 | 322.2 |
| 999.9 | 333.3 | 1115.3 | 322.2 | 254.4 | 1017.5 | 966.6 |
| 666.6 | 999.9 | 495.7 | 322.2 | 254.4 | 678.3 | 966.6 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 247.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 339.2 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 166.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 322.2 |
| 1666.6 | 2499.8 | 1115.3 | 322.2 | 8648.5 | 5765.7 | 6766.2 |
| 333.3 | 333.3 | 123.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 5666.3 | 8332.8 | 6939.7 | 6121.8 | 7885.4 | 10005.2 | 17398.8 |
| 3666.4 | 2999.8 | 1734.9 | 1611.0 | 6613.6 | 2543.7 | 9021.6 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2798.1 | 3730.7 | 0.0 |
| 3333.1 | 5333.0 | 619.6 | 1611.0 | 7885.4 | 3561.2 | 2899.8 |
| 66662.1 | 2999.8 | 1734.9 | 37375.2 | 11446.6 | 2374.1 | 5799.6 |
| 333.3 | 166.7 | 371.8 | 322.2 | 1271.8 | 847.9 | 0.0 |
| 1999.9 | 1666.6 | 2354.5 | 644.4 | 6359.2 | 3900.3 | 3222.0 |
| 1999.9 | 166.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1017.5 | 1526.2 | 2899.8 |
| 2999.8 | 999.9 | 1487.1 | 1933.2 | 6104.8 | 6274.4 | 6766.2 |
| 1666.6 | 5666.3 | 1611.0 | 1611.0 | 5087.4 | 5087.4 | 2577.6 |
| 333.3 | 1499.9 | 867.5 | 644.4 | 1271.8 | 1356.6 | 2899.8 |
| 333.3 | 166.7 | 371.8 | 322.2 | 254.4 | 847.9 | 644.4 |
| 0.0 | 166.7 | 371.8 | 644.4 | 763.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 833.3 | 619.6 | 7732.8 | 0.0 | 339.2 | 1611.0 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 166.7 | 371.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 333.3 | 2333.2 | 1487.1 | 8377.2 | 1271.8 | 1695.8 | 4510.8 |
| 0.0 | 2499.8 | 1858.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3866.4 |
| 333.3 | 666.6 | 619.6 | 2577.6 | 508.7 | 1017.5 | 966.6 |
| 7999.4 | 18832.0 | 15614.3 | 29642.4 | 6613.6 | 2713.3 | 19332.0 |
| 92660.3 | 35497.6 | 22554.0 | 61540.2 | 68170.7 | 50873.7 | 65084.4 |


| GGOM38.1 | GGOM37.2 | GGOM37.1 | GGOM37 | GGOM36.2 | GGOM36.1 | GGOM35 | GGOM33.2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 144.98 | 144.83 | 144.68 | 144.58 | 144.47 | 144.4 | 144 | 143.66 |
| 3303.8 | 3299.4 | 3295 | 813.273 | 3287 | 3284.4 | 3269.2 | 3256.4 |
| 10.12 | 10.23 | 10.17 | 10.09 | 10.21 | 10.49 | 10.04 | 10.39 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 261.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 371.8 | 302.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1306.2 | 0.0 | 2416.5 | 371.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 1380.9 | 0.0 | 1115.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 420.3 |
| 261.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 878.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1045.0 | 2761.7 | 0.0 | 4089.5 | 1208.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2416.5 | 0.0 |
| 8359.8 | 0.0 | 4833.0 | 1858.8 | 1510.3 | 2636.2 | 14499.0 | 4622.9 |
| 8621.0 | 5523.4 | 7249.5 | 3717.7 | 1812.4 | 878.7 | 7249.5 | 2101.3 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2351.2 | 0.0 | 4833.0 | 1115.3 | 604.1 | 0.0 | 7249.5 | 1681.0 |
| 11755.9 | 276171.4 | 483300.0 | 68777.3 | 51350.6 | 175745.5 | 483300.0 | 84052.2 |
| 1306.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 6008.6 | 11046.9 | 9666.0 | 2230.6 | 1812.4 | 4393.6 | 0.0 | 3362.1 |
| 261.2 | 0.0 | 2416.5 | 1115.3 | 604.1 | 878.7 | 4833.0 | 420.3 |
| 4963.6 | 8285.1 | 9666.0 | 3717.7 | 1510.3 | 0.0 | 14499.0 | 2521.6 |
| 2612.4 | 0.0 | 2416.5 | 4089.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4833.0 | 1260.8 |
| 2873.7 | 2761.7 | 2416.5 | 10409.5 | 1510.3 | 0.0 | 2416.5 | 1681.0 |
| 1828.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 371.8 | 604.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 261.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1681.0 |
| 261.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2416.5 | 420.3 |
| 261.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 302.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 3134.9 | 2761.7 | 2416.5 | 10409.5 | 1510.3 | 0.0 | 2416.5 | 3362.1 |
| 261.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1306.2 | 1380.9 | 2416.5 | 0.0 | 604.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 420.3 |
| 30826.7 | 33140.6 | 48330.0 | 0.0 | 21446.4 | 12302.2 | 9666.0 | 25215.7 |
| 54338.6 | 307931.1 | 529213.5 | 103351.8 | 62829.0 | 185411.5 | 543712.5 | 104224.7 |


| GGOM44.1 | GGOM44 | GGOM43.1 | GGOM42.1 | GGOM42 | GGOM40.6 | GGOM40.1 | GGOM39 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 147.76 | 147.58 | 147.44 | 147.08 | 146.97 | 146.63 | 145.61 | 145.18 |
| 3385.2 | 3379.9 | 3375.8 | 3365.3 | 3362.1 | 3352.1 | 3322.2 | 3309.6 |
| 10.41 | 10.11 | 10.29 | 10.33 | 10.14 | 10.87 | 10.72 | 10.19 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 920.6 | 644.4 | 460.3 | 0.0 | 460.3 | 0.0 | 690.4 | 0.0 |
| 5523.4 | 644.4 | 3222.0 | 3411.5 | 2761.7 | 3624.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 460.3 | 128.9 | 460.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 690.4 | 1380.9 |
| 0.0 | 644.4 | 0.0 | 568.6 | 460.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 515.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 5523.4 | 1546.6 | 6444.0 | 1421.5 | 920.6 | 12082.5 | 2761.7 | 11046.9 |
| 920.6 | 0.0 | 460.3 | 0.0 | 1380.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 8285.1 | 3093.1 | 15649.7 | 15351.9 | 15649.7 | 10874.3 | 13118.1 | 3682.3 |
| 17030.6 | 3608.6 | 20712.9 | 5117.3 | 5063.1 | 9666.0 | 7594.7 | 10586.6 |
| 1380.9 | 0.0 | 3222.0 | 1137.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 7824.9 | 5026.3 | 11507.1 | 1990.1 | 4142.6 | 14499.0 | 4142.6 | 6444.0 |
| 920.6 | 644.4 | 2761.7 | 10234.6 | 30839.1 | 181237.5 | 86994.0 | 46028.6 |
| 1841.1 | 386.6 | 1841.1 | 1137.2 | 0.0 | 6041.3 | 2071.3 | 0.0 |
| 4602.9 | 1546.6 | 6444.0 | 2842.9 | 8285.1 | 12082.5 | 4833.0 | 4142.6 |
| 13808.6 | 515.5 | 2761.7 | 1137.2 | 460.3 | 2416.5 | 690.4 | 5983.7 |
| 3682.3 | 1804.3 | 10586.6 | 4548.7 | 4142.6 | 9666.0 | 4142.6 | 6444.0 |
| 5063.1 | 2319.8 | 11967.4 | 6538.8 | 16110.0 | 13290.8 | 6904.3 | 10586.6 |
| 1841.1 | 0.0 | 2761.7 | 852.9 | 1841.1 | 1208.3 | 4142.6 | 1841.1 |
| 460.3 | 386.6 | 2301.4 | 2842.9 | 1380.9 | 4833.0 | 2071.3 | 460.3 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 8745.4 | 773.3 | 3222.0 | 284.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1380.9 | 1380.9 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 852.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 128.9 | 0.0 | 284.3 | 460.3 | 0.0 | 690.4 | 460.3 |
| 10586.6 | 773.3 | 5983.7 | 1137.2 | 1841.1 | 1208.3 | 5523.4 | 3222.0 |
| 5523.4 | 1933.2 | 1841.1 | 7675.9 | 18411.4 | 1208.3 | 2071.3 | 1380.9 |
| 1380.9 | 386.6 | 460.3 | 2558.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 690.4 | 0.0 |
| 8745.4 | 11083.7 | 20712.9 | 20184.9 | 24855.4 | 30206.3 | 45568.3 | 4142.6 |
| 88835.1 | 24229.4 | 106786.3 | 60270.4 | 93898.3 | 281522.3 | 142228.3 | 110008.3 |




