



RESEARCH LETTER

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Key Points:

- A new state of the EM over the Anthropocene
- Persistent warming since 1750
- Increasing oligotrophy is coupled with warming trend

Supporting Information:

- Readme
- Figure S1
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Recent unprecedented warming and oligotrophy of the eastern Mediterranean Sea within the last millennium

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Abstract The Mediterranean region is a climatic transitional zone between the subtropical/monsoon regime and the temperate westerlies and is subject to forces acting upon the global climate system. Much knowledge about its climate over the last millennium is derived from terrestrial records, whereas changes in sea surface temperatures (SSTs) and in the dissolved inorganic carbon pool (DIC) are poorly known. We present continuous high-resolution reconstructions of SST and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ in the eastern Mediterranean (EM) Sea, as inferred from oxygen and carbon isotope records from the skeletons of the reef builder gastropod *Dendropoma* sp. Spanning the past millennium, the SST reconstruction reveals a 250 year persistent warming trend during which the twentieth century was the warmest on record. Coupled with a distinct trend of $^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ depletion and superimposed upon decreased primary production, this climate reconstruction reflects a new state of the EM over the Anthropocene era that exceeds the natural variability of the last millennium.

1. Introduction

The eastern Mediterranean region is a key region for tropical-extratropical interactions [Fontaine et al., 2010]. Sea surface temperatures and deep water formation in the eastern Mediterranean (EM) basin have an important role in preconditioning North Atlantic thermohaline circulation [Bethoux et al., 1999]. In summer, it lies under the dominant influence of the subtropical desert belt, an area where the net fluxes of heat and moisture to the atmosphere result in a warm and salty sea surface layer [Bethoux et al., 1999]. Its thermal variability initiates a global atmospheric teleconnection that influences meridional overturning circulation, deep convection, and precipitation over the Sudan-Sahel region [Fontaine et al., 2010]. The Mediterranean Sea is also considered a sensitive region for climate forcing because of its size and limited exchange with the Atlantic Ocean [Bethoux et al., 1999]. Recently, it has been identified as a climate change “hot spot” in which intensive environmental impacts are expected because of growing anthropogenic pressure [de Madron et al., 2011].

Instrumental observations [Brunetti et al., 2006], documentary data [Camuffo et al., 2010], and terrestrial archives such as lakes, sediments, tree rings, and cave stalagmites [Jones et al., 2006; Luterbacher et al., 2012; Roberts et al., 2012] reveal a complex climatic variability over the last millennium. A limited number of marine records for the last millennium from the Algerian-Balearic Sea (Mg/Ca-based sea surface temperature (SST)) [Moreno et al., 2012] and Ionian Sea (foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and alkenone-based SST) [Taricco et al., 2009; Versteegh et al., 2007] show inconsistent SST trends during the Medieval Warm Period (MWP) and the Little Ice Age (LIA). Low-resolution foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records from the EM Sea show undefined paleo-oceanographic changes during the late Holocene [Schilman et al., 2003, 2001]. Thus, twentieth century trends and anthropogenically induced changes to SST and the dissolved carbonate system must be scaled against preindustrial natural variability derived from high-resolution proxies.

The vermetid *Dendropoma* sp. is a Mediterranean sessile gastropod that forms dense aggregations on rocky shores at the edge of the lower intertidal zone [Safriel, 1975], which is part of the shallow EM continental shelf system. The EM shelf lies in close proximity to the deep open water and is characterized by a large annual SST range of 15–30°C, owing to the combined influence of air-sea heat exchange and vertical mixing. Annual salinity variation is relatively small, ranging from 39.0 to 39.6 practical salinity unit (psu). The oxygen and carbon isotopic compositions of vermetid aragonitic skeletons ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Ver}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Ver}}$) were used to track the cooling of Mediterranean surface water during the LIA [Silenzi et al., 2004; Sisma-Ventura et al., 2009]. However, the exact relationships between the environmental parameters, namely,

mean annual SST, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of surface seawater ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$), and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of dissolved inorganic carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$), and their proxies, namely, skeletal $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Ver}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Ver}}$, have yet to be determined.

We conducted 2 years (2009–2010) of sampling of seawater SST, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$, and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ in four vermetid reef locations in parallel to living vermetid collection for skeletal isotope analyses ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Ver}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Ver}}$) to establish these relations. We also retrieved five vermetid cores from four locations off the Israeli coast in order to construct a climatic record for the EM over the last millennium.

2. Methods

2.1. General Site Description

The eastern Mediterranean continental shelf is narrow (20 km wide at its southern end and tapering to 10 km wide at its northern end), and therefore, the deep sea is relatively close to the shore. Water circulation over the EM shelf is northward throughout the year with strong seasonal variability. The shelf and slope current system are part of the Levantine basin's general circulation, which is composed of the Atlantic Ionian stream, the Mid-Mediterranean Jet, and the cyclonic basin-wide current that follows the coast [Gat *et al.*, 1996; Hecht *et al.*, 1988]. In summer, the strong currents are confined to the upper layer with seaward intensification. By contrast, in late winter, the slope jet remains offshore and does not intrude over the narrow shelf. During winter storms, strong southwesterly winds drive the northward flowing current and force downwelling over the shelf [Rosentraub and Brenner, 2007].

2.2. Seawater Sampling and Analysis

Seawater sampling was designed to establish the relationship between the open shelf water and the water surrounding shore-proximate vermetid reefs during 2009–2010. Surface water from four reef stations along the Israeli coast (Rosh Hanikra (RH), Haazrot Yaasaf (HY), Shiqmona (SQ), and Palmachim (PL; Figure S1 in the supporting information)) was sampled manually and analyzed for isotopic composition ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$), total alkalinity (A_T), and $^{25}\text{CpH}_{\text{Total}}$ on a monthly basis. All stations are not located in the vicinity of large freshwater inputs.

Continental shelf water samples from three stations: Rosh Carmel, Maagan Michael, and Gaash were collected on a seasonal basis, on board the research vessel Mediterranean Explorer.

Total alkalinity and $^{25}\text{CpH}_{\text{NBS}}$, measured based on the analytical procedures and calculations described by Dickson *et al.* [2007], were calibrated using certified reference material. The long-term analytical reproducibility of seawater analyses was 0.002 ($\pm 1\sigma$ standard deviation (SD)) pH units ($n = 333$) and $2 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ($\pm 1\sigma$ SD; $n = 333$) for alkalinity.

The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ of seawater were analyzed by a Gas Bench II connected in line to a Finnigan MAT 252 mass spectrometer. The results are reported relative to Vienna standard mean ocean water and Vienna Pee Dee belemnite (VPDB), respectively. The long-term precision of the laboratory working standard is 0.05‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and 0.08‰ for $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$.

2.3. Vermetid Sampling and Coring

Living vermetids were collected in the tidal zone from two reef sites (Haazrot Yaasaf and Acziv) for skeletal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ analysis. Each reef top represents an individual abrasion platform [Safriel, 1975], with the platforms separated from each other by a few meters to tens of meters. Skeletons from living vermetids (20–40 units) were collected from each reef top and were cleaned by mechanical brushing and sonication and then soaked for several hours in 30% H_2O_2 . Powders were homogenized (using mortar and pestle) for each reef top and dried at 50°C for 24 h.

Four sites of shore-proximate reefs along the Israeli coast were drilled: Hof-Dor, Shiqmona, Atlit, and Haazrot Yaasaf (Figure S1). The drilled reefs are composed of a fossil *Denedropoma* and show a thickness of 20–40 cm parallel to the direction of growth. The cores were cut by a diamond headsaw and were cleaned by mechanical brushing and sonication, soaked for several hours in 30% H_2O_2 , and dried overnight at 50°C.

Five vermetid cores were used for climate reconstruction. Each core was continuously subsampled at 5 mm intervals using a 1 mm diameter dental drill, which provides a temporal resolution of about 6 years. The

Table 1. Summary of Radiocarbon Measurements

| Core ID | Drilling Depth (cm) | Age Year B.P. | Error | Calibrated Year (1σ) | Median | SD | Calibrated Year (2σ) | Median | SD |
|----------|---------------------|---------------|-------|----------------------|--------|-----|----------------------|--------|-----|
| HD3-10 | 10 | 555 | 30 | 58–226 | 142 | 119 | 1–234 | 122 | 171 |
| HD3-21 | 21 | 680 | 35 | 148–355 | 252 | 146 | 121–418 | 270 | 210 |
| HD3-28 | 28 | 790 | 25 | 317–429 | 373 | 80 | 284–472 | 378 | 133 |
| HD3-33 | 33 | 805 | 30 | 330–446 | 388 | 82 | 289–483 | 386 | 137 |
| HD3-39 | 39 | 865 | 25 | 410–498 | 454 | 62 | 322–517 | 420 | 138 |
| HD3-47 | 47 | 1020 | 25 | 541–624 | 583 | 59 | 507–655 | 581 | 105 |
| SQ2-15 | 15 | 565 | 30 | 74–234 | 154 | 113 | 40–250 | 145 | 148 |
| SQ2-21 | 21 | 620 | 25 | 138–265 | 202 | 90 | 53–300 | 177 | 175 |
| SQ2-31 | 31 | 1080 | 35 | 553–644 | 599 | 64 | 512–680 | 596 | 119 |
| SQ2-37 | 37 | 1170 | 25 | 634–716 | 675 | 58 | 590–770 | 680 | 127 |
| SQ-45 | 45 | 1180 | 25 | 641–722 | 682 | 57 | 595–785 | 690 | 134 |
| AT3-19 | 19 | 550 | 30 | 50–224 | 137 | 123 | 1–241 | 121 | 170 |
| AT3-37 | 37 | 725 | 25 | 270–380 | 325 | 78 | 230–454 | 342 | 138 |
| HD6-35 | 35 | 745 | 25 | 287–394 | 341 | 76 | 256–450 | 353 | 137 |
| HY1-17.5 | 17.5 | 1160 | 25 | 627–710 | 669 | 59 | 558–756 | 657 | 140 |
| HY1-33.5 | 33.5 | 1360 | 25 | 792–905 | 849 | 80 | 730–947 | 839 | 153 |
| SQ4-3 | 3 | 1100 | 25 | 565–655 | 610 | 64 | 525–690 | 608 | 117 |
| SQ4-11.5 | 11.5 | 1250 | 25 | 678–783 | 731 | 74 | 654–867 | 761 | 151 |
| SQ4-22 | 22 | 1480 | 25 | 921–1029 | 975 | 76 | 875–1113 | 994 | 168 |

subsampling strategy is based on the averaging of 20–40 vermetid units for the same depth layer, which ensures low variability of the isotopic measurements [Sisma-Ventura *et al.*, 2009].

The carbonate powders from vermetid skeletons (200–250 μg) were reacted with 100% H₃PO₄ acid at 25°C and analyzed on a Gas Bench II in line with Finnigan MAT 252. The results are reported relative to the VPDB standard with long-term analytical precision (±1σ SD) of 0.05‰ for δ¹³C and 0.08‰ for δ¹⁸O. Duplicate reproducibility is 0.05‰ for δ¹³C and 0.08‰ for δ¹⁸O (*n* = 378; ±1σ SD).

2.4. ¹⁴C Dating

Radiocarbon dating was performed by accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) in the NOSAMS laboratory (National Ocean Sciences AMS Facility, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) on homogenous powders (about 3 mg). Raw radiocarbon dates were converted to calibrated calendar ages by using Calib 6.1 [Stuiver and Reimer, 1993] and the additional eastern Mediterranean reservoir age correction of 53 ± 43 ¹⁴C year [Reimer and McCormac, 2002]. All radiocarbon results are presented in Table 1. An age model was constructed for each core, by fitting a line through 1990 at the core top and through the remaining reservoir-corrected ¹⁴C dates. The set intercept was specified for the year 1990, when successful living vermetid populations were still present along the Israeli coast [Rilov *et al.*, 2004]. Individual core records are presented in Figures S2 and S3 in the supporting information.

To construct the composite records, isotopic data from samples of equal age from all five cores were binned, after adjusting overlapping records to a common age. The best-dated cores, HD-3 and SQ-4, were taken as a baseline for minimal peak matching (<20 year) for the remaining cores (AT-3, SQ-2, and HY-1), using AnalySeries [Paillard *et al.*, 1996]. This procedure yielded results that are well within the radiocarbon dating uncertainty (80 year; ±1σ SD). The averaging of data of equal age results in a mean error (±1σ) of 0.07‰ for δ¹⁸O and 0.16‰ for δ¹³C.

3. Results and Discussion

The 2 year sampling reveals similar average δ¹⁸O_{sw}, δ¹³C_{DIC}, alkalinity, and pH values in reef water (1–2 m deep) and in shelf water (up to 90 m deep) with no clear seasonal variations (Figure 1). Thus, the δ¹⁸O_{sw} and δ¹³C_{DIC} values of reef water reflect those of the open water, which suggests that vermetid skeleton deposition occurs under conditions that closely correspond to EM shelf water characteristics. The average δ¹⁸O_{Ver} of living vermetids from reef tops, 0.5‰ ± 0.13‰ (±1σ SD; *n* = 300 individual vermetids), translates to an average deposition temperature [Bohm *et al.*, 2000] of 25.3 ± 0.6°C, taking into account the 2 year average δ¹⁸O_{sw} of 1.6‰. This temperature is approximately 2°C higher than the annual average SST of the EM [Israel

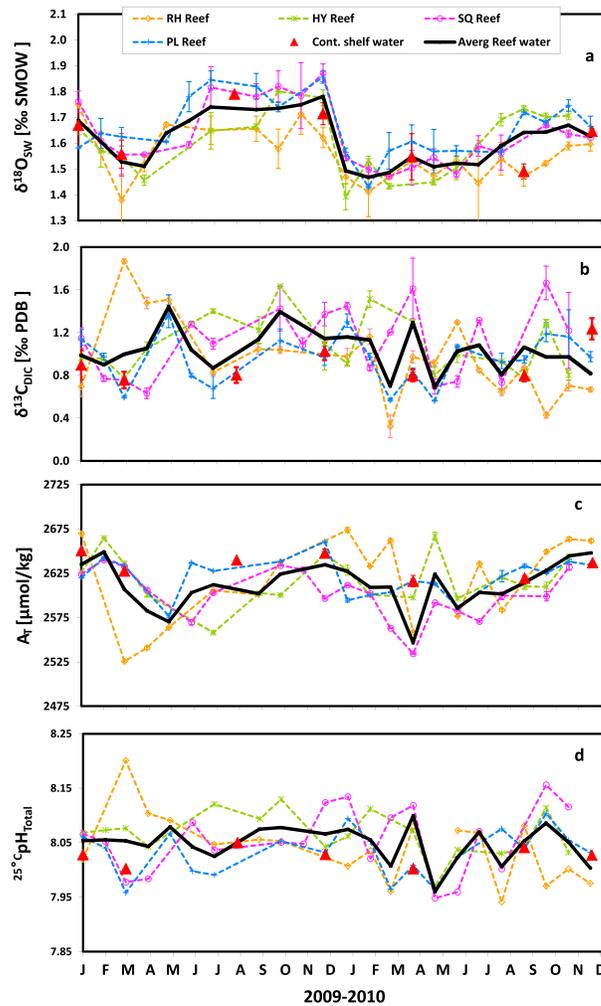


Figure 1. Two years of monthly measurements of the waters surrounding vermetid reefs and the continental shelf water. (a) $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{SW}}$, (b) $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$, (c) A_T , and (d) $^{25}\text{CpH}_{\text{Total}}$ at the four reef stations (RH, HY, SQ, and PL) presented together with the corresponding parameters of continental shelf surface water (red triangles; averaged for the upper 25 m). Vertical error bars denote the duplicate reproducibility ($\pm 1\sigma$ SD).

published results of *Sisma-Ventura et al.* [2009] but presents a better age control, higher resolution, and longer time span. Mean annual SST was reconstructed from the composite $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Ver}}$ record by applying the aragonite paleothermometer equation [Bohm et al., 2000]. EM $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{SW}}$ was assumed to be constant [Grauel et al., 2013] for the SST reconstruction as it is dominated by the advection and mixing of the Atlantic input [Rohling and Bigg, 1998], which was stable over the last millennium. The decrease of river discharge, especially due to the Nile damming during the second half of the twentieth century, has resulted with a salinity increase of about 0.3 psu [Skliris and Lascaratos, 2004]. Thus, a linear correction of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{SW}}$ was applied using the local relationship of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{SW}}/\text{salinity}$ (obtained from all surface data at depth <25 m; $\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{SW}}/\Delta S = 0.53$) while calculating SST since 1960.

The $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ reconstruction was achieved by applying a constant offset of 1.2‰ to the composite $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Ver}}$ record (Figure 2).

The EM-SST composite record (Figure 2a) reveals moderate fluctuations, with an amplitude of about 1°C, during the MWP (900–1300 A.D.) [Moberg et al., 2005] and stable SST during the period 1250–1450 A.D. A cooling of about 0.8°C during the LIA (1450–1850 A.D.) [Moberg et al., 2005] began at about 1470 A.D. and culminated at about 1530 A.D. A persistent warming trend started around 1750 and continues until the present. The late 1990s

Oceanographic and Limnological Research, 2010] due to preferential aragonite deposition during the warm season [Gentry et al., 2008; Ivany et al., 2003]. The average $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Ver}}$ of living vermetids, $-0.31\text{‰} \pm 0.38\text{‰}$ ($\pm 1\sigma$ SD; $n = 300$ individual vermetids), is offset by 1.2‰ from the annual average $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ of 1.03‰ \pm 0.3‰, reflecting the combined isotope effects of calcification and metabolic contribution which range 10–37% in most gastropods [McConnaughey and Gillikin, 2008].

The five *Dendropoma* sp. cores show ^{14}C ages spanning from 1480 ± 25 years B.P. to the present, which captures the entire last millennium. The vermetid reef accumulation rates range from 0.5 to 1.04 mm yr^{-1} , with an average of $0.77 \pm 0.18 \text{ mm yr}^{-1}$ (Table 1). The isotope values of all cores are within the same range with a good agreement in the overlapping periods. The three cores, HD-3, AT-3, and SQ-2, show a pronounced depletion trend in the last 400 years. Cores HY-1 and SQ, which represent the older part of the millennium, show heavier isotopic values. All cores show decadal to centennial fluctuations in both $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records. The continuous composite records, spanning from 975 A.D. to the present, were generated by averaging data from the five cores after adjusting overlapping records to a common age. Overall, the records compare well with the patterns and the isotope values of the previously

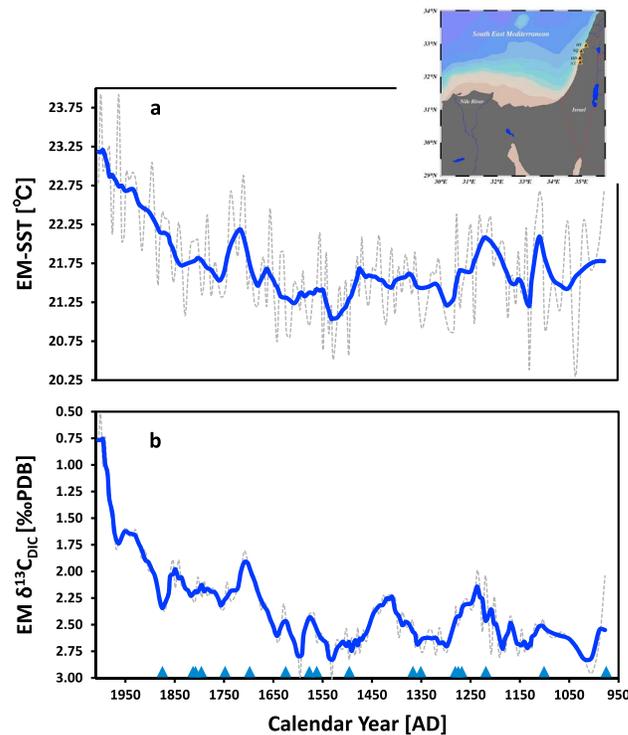


Figure 2. Vermetid-derived sea surface temperature and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ reconstructions for the eastern Mediterranean over the last millennium. (a) EM-SST composite record (dashed gray) and 20 year smoothed trend line (thick blue). (b) EM- $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ composite record (dashed gray line) and 20 year smoothed trend line (thick blue). Triangles denote radiocarbon age control. Inset: a map of the study area. The color-coded lines indicate the bathymetry of the EM shelf water.

EM temperatures are linked to the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and the Asian Monsoon [Jones *et al.*, 2006]. A reconstruction of the NAO index over the last millennium shows a persistent positive mode of NAO during the MWP and a negative mode for the LIA [Trouet *et al.*, 2009] (Figure 3f). This feature was identified in marine, lake, and stalagmite records from the western Mediterranean [Martin-Puertas *et al.*, 2010], suggesting NAO forcing of the western Mediterranean climate during the last millennium. However, clear patterns of NAO forcing over the EM are missing from the few marine records from this region [Roberts *et al.*, 2012; Taricco *et al.*, 2009; Versteegh *et al.*, 2007] and lake records from Turkey, Greece, and the Levant [Roberts *et al.*, 2012]. Instead, the strong correlation ($r^2 = 0.76$, $n = 75$, $p < 0.001$) between our EM-SST composite record and the reconstruction of monsoon winds from Arabian Sea sediment cores [Anderson *et al.*, 2002] (Figure 3b) suggests long-term forcing by monsoon circulation over the EM. The positive correlation between the index of the Indian Summer Monsoon and the instrumental SST obtained from the Levantine and Ionian basins was further demonstrated for instrumental records [Alpert *et al.*, 2005; Raicich *et al.*, 2003]. Hence, we attribute the persistent warming trend in the EM since 1750 A.D. to the monsoon-Mediterranean teleconnection, with increases in monsoon circulation increasing the SST of the EM [Raicich *et al.*, 2003].

The reconstructed EM $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ record (Figure 4a) shows centennial-scale fluctuations of 0.5–1‰ during the period 975–1750 A.D., followed by a distinct ^{13}C depletion trend of 1.5‰ from 1750 A.D. to the present. The variability between 975 A.D. and 1750 A.D. occurred under stable atmospheric CO_2 concentrations and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values [Francey *et al.*, 1999]. This suggests that the main influence on $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ was primary production rather than SST changes, which were less than 1°C during this period. Primary production in the EM Sea is highly dependent on nutrient delivery by rivers and dust storms [Herut *et al.*, 2002]. Periods of heavy $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ are associated with increased productivity because of the preferential uptake of ^{12}C during photosynthesis. At present, the EM is considered to be oligotrophic [Thingstad *et al.*, 2005] because of the limited concentration of phosphate in surface and deep waters. The preindustrial diminishing of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ cycles since the end of

core top reconstructed SST of 23.2°C agrees well with the EM present mean annual SST of 23.4°C . The EM-SST record is strongly correlated ($r^2 = 0.92$, $n = 42$, $p < 0.001$) with the Italian 250 year instrumental air temperature anomaly [Brunetti *et al.*, 2006] (Figure 3c), with both records showing warming by 2°C since about 1750 A.D. The long-term EM-SST trends are comparable with Northern Hemisphere air temperature reconstructions [Mann *et al.*, 2008; Moberg *et al.*, 2005], with an EM regional amplification factor of 2. This regional amplification was previously identified from 120 year instrumental data [Metaxas *et al.*, 1991]. These correlations suggest that the vermetid-derived SST record mainly reflects Northern Hemisphere changes in air temperatures, amplified for this specific region, and is a reliable proxy for paleo-oceanographic reconstructions.

The different SST and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ patterns between the Central and EM records compared to the western Mediterranean records (Figures 3e and 3d), specifically during the Anthropocene since 1750 A.D., also suggests that the recent EM warming trend is not transmitted via the Atlantic input outflow [Sklliris *et al.*, 2012] but rather through atmospheric forcing. In general,

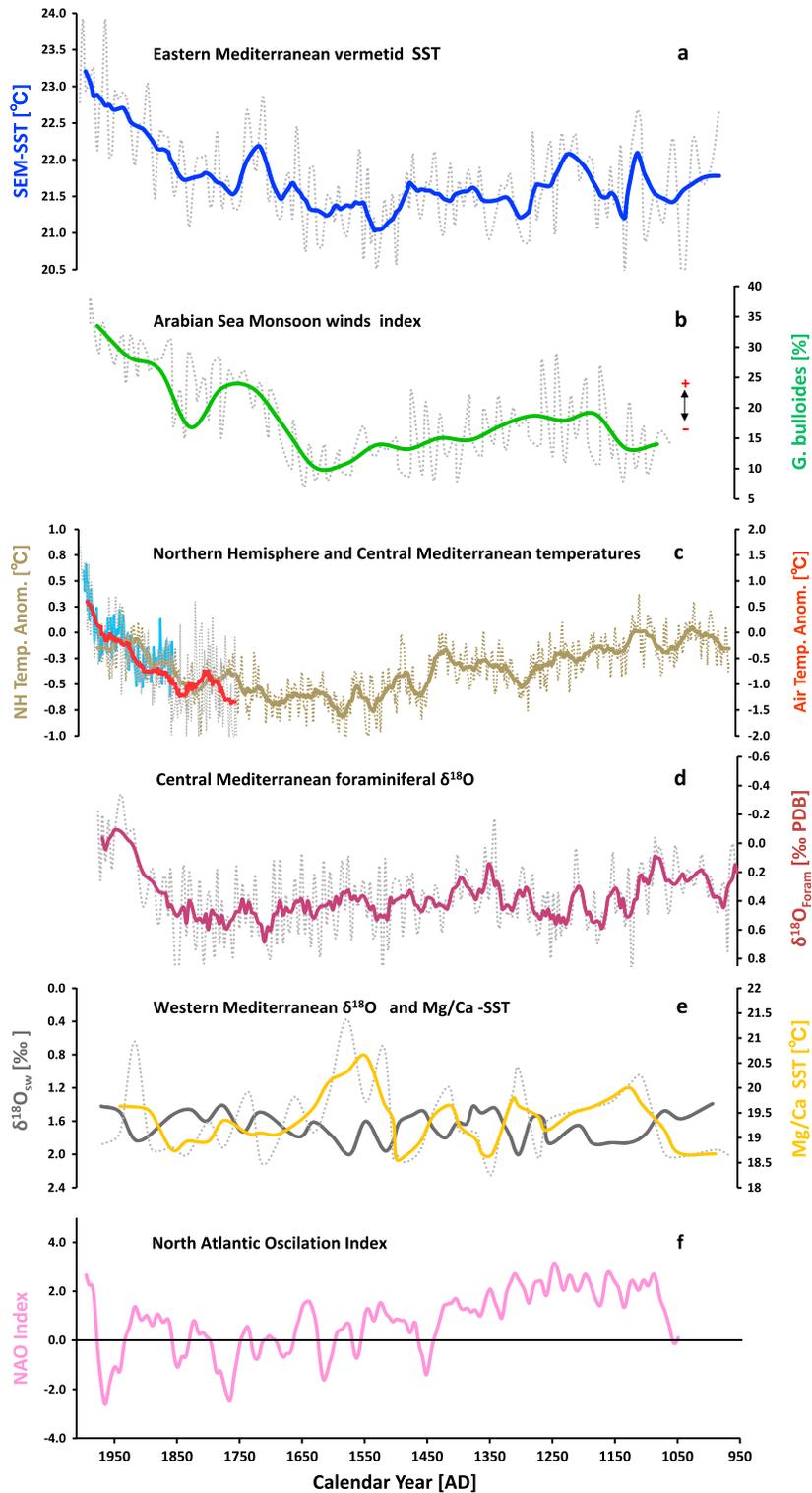


Figure 3. Comparison of EM-SST to Mediterranean and Northern Hemisphere Climate Records. (a) EM-SST composite record (dashed gray line) and 20 year smoothed trend line (thick blue). (b) Monsoon wind strength reconstruction based on foraminifera *G. bulloides* abundance (%) from the Arabian Sea [Anderson *et al.*, 2002] (dashed gray line; 50 year smoothed trend line, thick green). (c) NH air temperature anomaly reconstruction [Moberg *et al.*, 2005] (dashed gray line; 20 year smoothed line, thick brown) presented with the HadCRUT2v (IPCC 2007) instrumental temperature data (blue line, left vertical axis). The Italian 250 year instrumental air temperature anomaly [Brunetti *et al.*, 2006] (red line, right vertical axis). (d) Central Mediterranean, Ionian Sea, South Italy slope foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records [Taricco *et al.*, 2009] (dashed gray line; five-point running average, thick red line). (e) Western Mediterranean, Algerian-Balearic basin, Mg/Ca-based SST (dashed gray line; three-point averaged black line), and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ (green line) records [Moreno *et al.*, 2012]. (f) Winter North Atlantic Oscillation (Morocco-Scotland difference; NAO_{ms}) index reconstruction [Trouet *et al.*, 2009] (pink line).

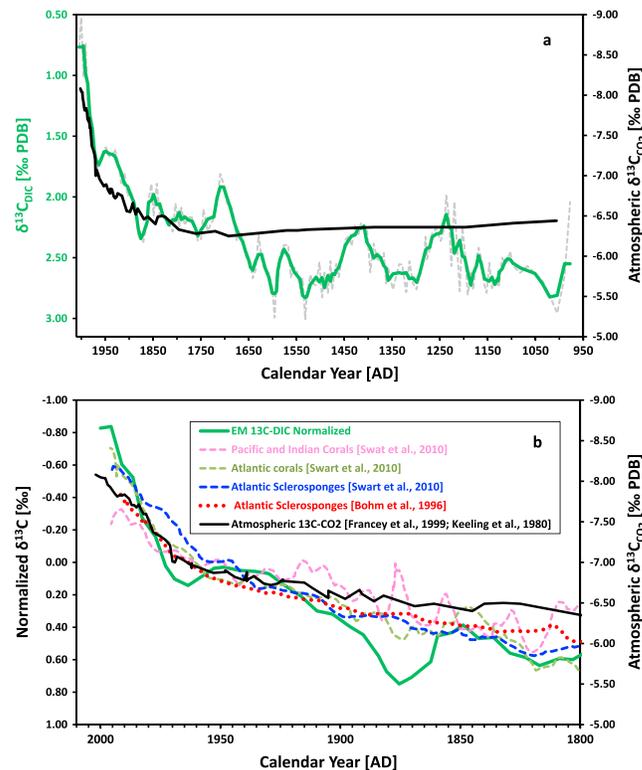


Figure 4. EM $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ reconstructions in comparison to atmospheric $\delta^{13}\text{C}\text{-CO}_2$ and to coral and sclerosponge $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. (a) Last millennium composite EM $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ (dashed gray line) and 20 year smoothed trend line (thick green) shown with the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of atmospheric CO_2 from Antarctic ice cores (black line) reconstruction [Francey et al., 1999]. (b) Normalized EM $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ (green line) from 1800 to present versus normalized $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records from published data for corals and sclerosponges [Bohm et al., 1996; Swart et al., 2010]. All data were normalized to the mean value $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ from 1900 to the present day. Changes in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of atmospheric CO_2 (black line) show a similar depletion trend.

warming rate of $0.0086^\circ\text{C yr}^{-1}$ (1904–2006) [Axaopoulos and Sofianos, 2009]. At this rate of warming, an increase of about 1°C is expected by the end of the 21st century, during which the mean annual SSTs will be more than 2°C higher than the last millennium’s average of $21.6 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. Thus, with continued global warming, major alternation in thermohaline circulation and deep water formation are expected for the EM Sea. Based on the coupling between temperature and primary production, this process will be accompanied by increasingly oligotrophic conditions, which will have a large impact on the biological ecosystems of the region.

Data supporting Figures 1 and 2 are available as Tables S1 and S2 in the supporting information. Location map, age-depth data, and unspliced $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ core records are in Figures S1, S2, and S3, respectively.

the LIA may reflect a transition to a more oligotrophic state. This decreased productivity can be caused by both the warming and drying of the region, probably forced by increased monsoon circulation. Both processes affect nutrient delivery to the surface water by reducing vertical mixing and fresh water input [Azov, 1991]. The notable isotopic depletion trend of the industrial era closely follows the records of atmospheric $\delta^{13}\text{C}\text{-CO}_2$ [Francey et al., 1999] and of the Atlantic and Pacific $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of corals [Swart et al., 2010] and sclerosponges [Bohm et al., 1996] (Figure 4b). This indicates that the Suess effect masks the isotopic signature of productivity in the region. The rate of $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ decrease (-0.021‰ yr^{-1}) during the second half of the twentieth century is consistent with the measured rate at which $\delta^{13}\text{C}\text{-CO}_2$ decreases in the tropical atmosphere [Keeling et al., 2005] (-0.0205‰ yr^{-1} (1977–2008)), and indicates that the EM carbonate system responds rapidly to the anthropogenic addition of CO_2 .

The reconstructed SST and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ records show that during the Anthropocene, the EM Sea has reached thermal and primary productivity states that are aberrant for the last millennium. The reconstructed warming rate from 1830 to 2010 of $0.0082^\circ\text{C yr}^{-1}$ is similar to the Mediterranean instrumental

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