

# Mineralogical and environmental effects on the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ , $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , and clumped isotope composition of modern bryozoans

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## ABSTRACT

Extensive bryozoan fossil records date back to the early Ordovician, forming an important part of sedimentary archives, yet the applicability of classical 18-oxygen thermometry to bryozoan carbonate is still a matter of debate, with mineralogical and biological issues still hindering paleoclimate reconstructions. Complementing other methods (i.e.,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , Mg/Ca), clumped-isotope thermometry ( $\Delta_{47}$ ) could provide more accurate paleotemperature estimates and help identify potential biotic factors influencing the isotopic composition of bryozoans. Here we report on the first investigation of clumped-isotope thermometry applied to bryozoan carbonate, spanning a broad range of modern species living in different environments from two localities (Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea). We confirm that bryozoan  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records are affected by biotic and abiotic factors susceptible to bias in growth condition estimates. Our Atlantic bryozoans yield  $\Delta_{47}$  derived temperatures ( $T_{47}$ ) consistent with spring/fall seawater temperature (but only after correcting for minor mineralogical effects), reflecting seasonal growth bias or, more likely, moderate isotopic disequilibrium. By contrast, Mediterranean samples display large positive offsets from  $\Delta_{47}$  equilibrium values. We propose that this stronger disequilibrium is related to the higher salinity at this site, decreasing Carbonic Anhydrase activity, favoring  $\text{CO}_2$  hydroxylation over hydration, and slowing down DIC (dissolved inorganic carbon) equilibration reactions at the precipitation site. Our findings highlight how “vital effects” in bryozoans is not only species-specific as often assumed for other biocalcifiers, but could also depend on mineralogy and environmental factors.

## 1. Introduction

Biologists have long described bryozoans as a minor phylum, probably because of their small size and the difficulty of identifying them (Smith, 2014). This taxon remains therefore less scrutinized than mollusks or cnidarians. Nevertheless, the extensive fossil record and remarkable shape diversity of bryozoans have long attracted the interest of paleontologists. Bryozoans are sessile colonial epibionts formed from clonal individuals called zooids, with morphologies ranging from encrusting to erect (Smith, 2014). About 20,000 species of bryozoans are known, 5896 of which remain extant (Taylor et al., 2010; Taylor and Waeschenbach, 2015), with the oldest forms dating back to the Ordovician (Taylor and Kuklinski, 2011). Since their appearance they have

colonized all aquatic environments, from freshwater lakes to marine abyssal plains, including continental shelves where they are ubiquitous, making them one of the most common phyla found in carbonate platform archives. All freshwater bryozoans have soft skeletons, but many marine bryozoans build a calcareous skeleton and, like corals, play an important role in supporting marine ecosystems. Bryozoan colonies can grow over several years, even decades (Cocito et al., 1998; Brey et al., 1999; Bader and Schäfer, 2005). Carbonate production in short-lived ones (< 10 years) ranges between  $10^{-1}$  to  $10^{-2}$   $\text{mg}\cdot\text{y}^{-1}$  (Smith, 2014), while long-lived species could reach  $23.7$   $\text{mg}\cdot\text{y}^{-1}$  (Smith et al., 2001). It was noticed that bryozoans' growth rate varies seasonally over the course of a year, coldest periods (from late autumn to early spring) being marked by reduced or even no growth, while warmer periods are

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characterized by enhanced skeleton growth (Stebbing, 1971; Ryland and Sykes, 1972; Cocito et al., 1998; Fortunato, 2015). Thus, interannual variations in bryozoan chemistry are more likely to represent changes in seawater properties during warmer months of the year.

Although bryozoans are among the most important benthic carbonate producers of non-tropical continental shelves, our knowledge on their calcification process is less extensive than for other calcifiers. Most studies on this subject have focused on their mineralogical composition and its evolution through the geological record. Bryozoans have the ability to build a hard skeleton comprising different calcium carbonate polymorphs (Fortunato, 2015; Taylor et al., 2015). They can be entirely aragonitic (15%), entirely calcitic or Mg-calcitic (65%) or bimineralic (20%) (Lombardi et al., 2008). Given their pluri-mineralogic characteristics, numerous studies have attempted to understand the links between chemical/physical changes (e.g., pH, saturation state, temperature) and temporal variations in bryozoan mineralogy (Smith et al., 2006; Lombardi et al., 2008; Taylor et al., 2009; Loxton et al., 2014; Smith, 2014; Swezey et al., 2017; Figuerola et al., 2023). Morphological changes within bryozoan colonies were also investigated, which led to propose a relationship between zooid size and seasonal variations in water chemistry, forming the basis of the MART (Mean Annual Range of Temperature) method (O'Dea, 2003; Smith and Key, 2004; Knowles et al., 2009). Although temperature appears to be the main driver for most of the observed variations in zooid size (Amui-Vedel et al., 2007; Hageman et al., 2009; Knowles et al., 2010), some studies reported contradictory results supported by geochemical data (Jackson and Herrera-Cubilla, 2000; Novosel et al., 2004; Berning et al., 2005), casting doubts on the ability of this proxy to provide reliable temperature reconstructions. On the other hand, few researchers have attempted thus far to use bryozoan stable isotopes ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) or elemental ratios for paleoenvironmental applications (Forester et al., 1973; Rao and Nelson, 1992; Machiyama et al., 2003). Very little is known about isotopic fractionation between bryozoan skeleton and water or Dissolved Inorganic Carbon (DIC). Additionally, the fact that their skeleton can comprise more than one calcium carbonate polymorph further complicates interpretations. The few studies attempting to address the issue, by comparing modern bryozoan  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  to monitored environmental parameters (Brey et al., 1999; Crowley and Taylor, 2000; Smith et al., 2004) or ancient bryozoan isotopic record to other biocalifiers (Håkansson and Madsen, 1991; Key Jr et al., 2005) obtained contradictory results supporting the existence of potential vital effects on bryozoan carbon and oxygen isotopic compositions.

Here we attempt to shed some light on these issues by systematically investigating the mineralogical, elemental (Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca), stable isotope ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) and “clumped-isotope” signatures in nine modern bryozoan species.

Regarding clumped-isotope, the  $\Delta_{47}$  anomaly/tracer denotes the statistical overabundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$ — $^{18}\text{O}$  bonds within the carbonate mineral (Eiler and Schauble, 2004; Schauble et al., 2006). For fundamental reasons,  $\Delta_{47}$  values at thermodynamic equilibrium are expected to decrease as equilibration temperature increases, potentially constraining crystallization temperatures (Ghosh et al., 2006). In contrast to more traditional approaches such as  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  or Mg/Ca thermometry, clumped-isotope thermometry does not require any knowledge of the seawater composition ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ , Mg/Ca<sub>sw</sub>), making it possible to independently constrain both seawater temperature and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  from combined  $\Delta_{47}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  measurements. Over the past 15 years,  $\Delta_{47}$  signatures has been documented in wide variety of biocarbonates including foraminifera (Tripathi et al., 2010; Peral et al., 2018; Meinicke et al., 2020), bivalves (Henkes et al., 2013; Huyghe et al., 2022; De Winter et al., 2022), cephalopods (Davies et al., 2021), echinoderms

(Davies and John, 2019), corals (Thiagarajan et al., 2011; Saenger et al., 2012; Spooner et al., 2016; Kimball et al., 2016), brachiopods (Henkes et al., 2013; Bajnai et al., 2018; Davies et al., 2023), freshwater ostracods (Marchegiano et al., 2024), land snails (Dong et al., 2021). Although certain organisms, such as corals, echinoderms or brachiopods, are now known to present large departures from equilibrium  $\Delta_{47}$  values (e.g., Saenger et al., 2012; Bajnai et al., 2018; Davies et al., 2021), many other carbonates, both biogenic and abiotic, appear to follow the same equilibrium relationship between  $\Delta_{47}$  and formation temperature, despite being formed under very diverse chemical conditions (Daëron and Vermeesch, 2024, and references therein).

In cases where  $^{13}\text{C}$ — $^{18}\text{O}$  bonds do not attain an equilibrium distribution, clumped-isotopes may nevertheless be used to investigate biomineralization processes and potentially correct isotopic disequilibrium effects (e.g., Bajnai et al., 2020; Fiebig et al., 2021; Davies et al., 2022, 2023). Recent developments in isotope exchange modeling suggest that clumped-isotope may capture the key processes governing equilibrium and disequilibrium fractionations (Uchikawa et al., 2021; Guo, 2020; Watkins and Devriendt, 2022). These frameworks open new perspectives for studying the interactions between biotic (growth rate, cellular activity, enzymatic activity) and abiotic (pH, T, Salinity, [DIC], pCO<sub>2</sub>) factors controlling kinetic isotope effects (KIEs) involved in the formation of carbonates. In the context of bryozoans, these new approaches would be particularly helpful to better understand the evolution of calcification patterns within the Bryozoa phylum and through time.

In order to distinguish biotic from abiotic factors controlling bryozoan isotopic record, we compared the isotopic compositions ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\Delta_{47}$ ) between different bryozoan species from the same locality/environmental conditions on one hand, and of a bryozoan colony of the same species from two different localities. To quantify potential vital effects, the observed isotopic signatures were systematically compared to values expected from empirical calibrations (e.g., Tarutani et al., 1969; Kim et al., 2007b; Daëron and Vermeesch, 2024) based on in situ environmental data (temperature, pH, salinity, and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ ). Finally, we constrain potential mineralogical effects on stable and clumped-isotope fractionations by systematically comparing isotopic compositions with the mineralogy (Aragonite, Calcite, Mg-calcite) and elemental content (Mg and Sr) of the bryozoan skeleton.

## 2. Materials

### 2.1. Sampling sites and bryozoan collection

In order to investigate the stable and clumped-isotope fractionation between water and marine bryozoan skeletons, we selected only living bryozoan species for which physico-chemical parameters of seawater were monitored. Live bryozoan colonies were collected in June 2019 from localities where SOMLIT stations (Service d'Observation en Milieu Littoral) provide weekly records of seawater temperature, salinity and pH. Two sites with distinct environmental parameters were selected: Roscoff and Banyuls (Table 1). Bryozoans from Roscoff were collected in the Northern English Channel directly on the SOMLIT-Astan station (48°46'40 N, 3°56'15 W) at 11 m and 23 m depth and those from Banyuls, in the North-Western Mediterranean Sea a few meters away from the SOMLIT-Sola (42°29'30 N, 03°08'700 E) station, at 27 m depth (Fig. 1a). Fig. 1b and c show the seasonal variability of temperature and salinity at the two sites. Temperature and salinity measurements were carried out weekly using a rosette CTD system (conductivity, temperature, depth) at the sub-surface (11 m) and at the bottom (23 m) of the SOMLIT-Astan station and directly at the depth (27 m) of the SOMLIT-Sola station. Seawater pH (total scale) was weekly measured between

**Table 1**  
Physicochemical parameters of seawater together with carbon and oxygen isotope compositions of DIC and water, respectively at the sampling sites. Uncertainties includes 1SD around calculated average (Temperature, Salinity, pH and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ ).

Collection locality	Water depth (m)	Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )		Salinity (psu)		pH		$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}^*$ (‰)		$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}^{**}$ (‰)	
		Annual average	Growth period	Annual average	Growth period	Annual average	Growth period	Annual average	Growth period	Annual average	Growth period
Roscoff (Astan)	23	12.92 $\pm$ 1.80	13.87 $\pm$ 1.47	35.2 $\pm$ 0.1	35.2 $\pm$ 0.1	7.84 $\pm$ 0.1	7.84 $\pm$ 0.1	0.44 $\pm$ 0.02	0.44 $\pm$ 0.02	1.5 $\pm$ 0.5	1.5 $\pm$ 0.5
Roscoff (Astan)	11	12.93 $\pm$ 1.80	13.87 $\pm$ 1.47	35.2 $\pm$ 0.1	35.2 $\pm$ 0.1	7.84 $\pm$ 0.1	7.84 $\pm$ 0.1	0.44 $\pm$ 0.02	0.44 $\pm$ 0.02	1.5 $\pm$ 0.5	1.5 $\pm$ 0.5
Banyuls (Sola)	24	15.31 $\pm$ 2.72	16.34 $\pm$ 2.50	38.1 $\pm$ 0.3	38.2 $\pm$ 0.3	8.03 $\pm$ 0.14	8.04 $\pm$ 0.14	1.32 $\pm$ 0.08	1.34 $\pm$ 0.08	1.5 $\pm$ 0.5	1.5 $\pm$ 0.5

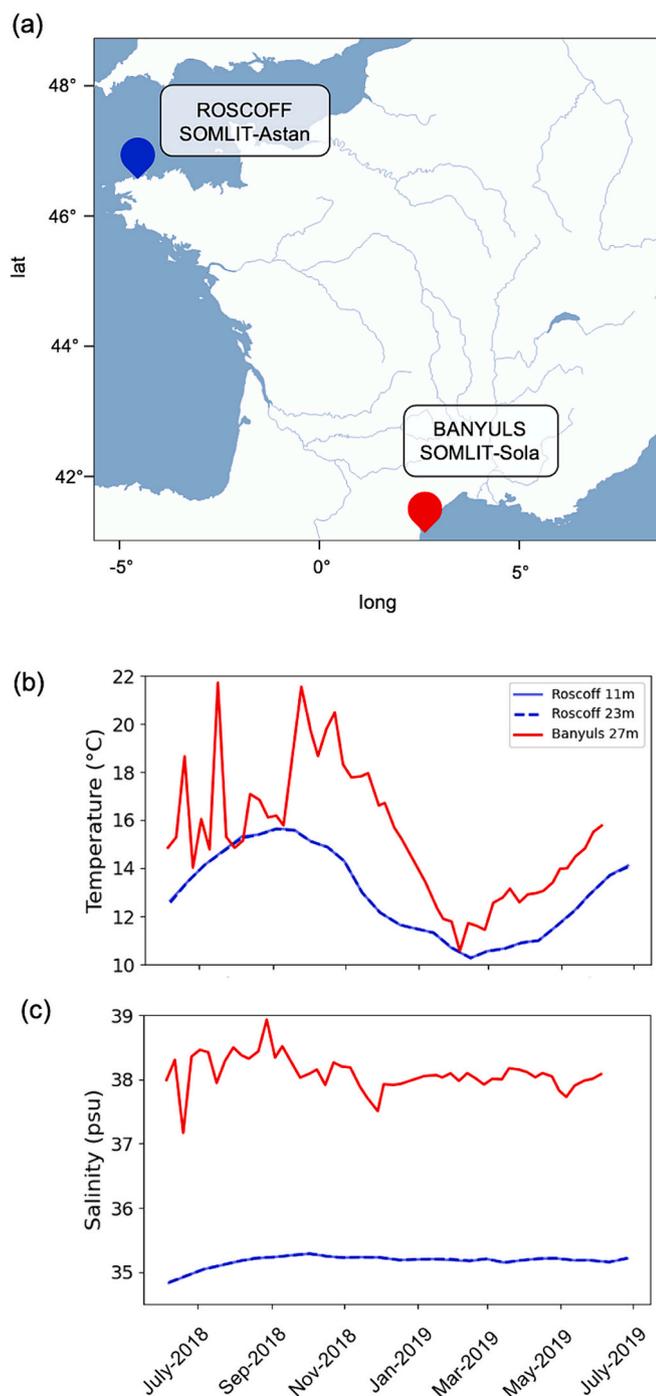
\*  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  values based on the salinity and Lartaud et al. (2010) calibration at Roscoff and Pierre (1999) calibration at Banyuls.  
\*\*  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$  estimated from the global gridded dataset of Liu et al. (2021).

0 and 30 m depth at both stations using a spectrophotometric approach with m-cresol purple (Douglas and Byrne, 2017). Temperature, salinity and pH records from 1997 onwards are accessible from SOMLIT web site ([www.somlit.fr](http://www.somlit.fr)). We did not directly measure the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of the water and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of the DIC in this study. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  values at each site were estimated from salinity records based on regional transfer equations (Lartaud et al., 2010, for the French Atlantic Ocean; Pierre, 1999, for the Mediterranean Sea). These reconstructed  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  values (Table 1) are in good agreement with those derived from the global gridded Atlas of LeGrande and Schmidt (2006). The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of the DIC at each site were estimated based on the global gridded dataset of Liu et al. (2021) (Table 1). Like most coastal bio-calcifiers, bryozoan skeleton growth is seasonal (Stebbing, 1971; Ryland and Sykes, 1972; Cocito et al., 1998). From late autumn to early spring, when nutrient levels and temperature are at their lowest, bryozoans almost entirely stop their growth to reduce energy consumption (Fortunato, 2015). Thus, the composition of our samples is expected to record environmental conditions from springs to early autumns in the year preceding our sampling (June to October 2018 and April to June 2019).

## 2.2. Sampling strategy and cleaning procedures

In total, three bryozoan species from Banyuls and seven from Roscoff, including one species in common to both sites (*Pentapora foliacea*) were collected (Table 2). Immediately after collection, all samples were rinsed in deionized water to remove any salt residue, then dried at ambient temperature. For all bryozoan species, the most recent part of each skeleton corresponding to one year of growth (i.e., the tips) was detached from the rest of the colony. Branching colonies such as *Cellaria fistulosa*, *Crisia denticulata*, *Cellepora pumicosa* or *Osmalosecosa ramulosa* typically build one new branch at the top of their skeleton each year (Tavener-Smith and Williams, 1972). We, thus sampled these newly formed branches at the top of the colony (tips) measuring about  $\sim$ 1 cm long each for analysis (Fig. 2, e, f, g). Several tips per colony were sampled in order to avoid biases linked to intra-colony heterogeneities (Smith and Key, 2004, Supplementary Material.Fig. A.4, A.6). Massive colonies such as *P. foliacea* sometimes exhibit well-developed growth marks such as alternating dark and clear growth bands (Stebbing, 1971). The last year of growth corresponding to a thinner and clearer layer surrounding a dark line in the skeleton is thus easily identified (Lombardi et al., 2006). We collected up to three pieces, each around 10 by 5 mm, from the uppermost part of the colonies for chemical characterization (Fig. 2, a, b, c, d). *Membranipora membranacea*, *Sertella beaniana*, *Tubicellepora avicularis* are also part of massive bryozoan colonies group. However, all of them did not show well developed growth mark. We thus based our sampling on the assumption that 1 year of growth would represent about 1 cm length as described in previous studies (Cocito et al., 1998; Fortunato, 2015). Finally, in order to assess intra-colony changes, we also collected three samples from the base of the colony (the oldest part of the colony attached to the substrate) from the massive species of *P. foliacea*.

Before performing isotopic measurements, we tested different cleaning procedures and evaluated their potential effect on the calcium carbonate isotopic signatures, i.e.,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\Delta_{47}$ . One of these cleaning procedures implies an oxidative stage (Supplementary Material, protocols 4, 5, 6, 7), whereas the other does not (Supplementary Material, protocols 1, 2, 3). These two cleaning procedures were tested on *C. fistulosa* and *P. foliacea* bryozoan species, because of their differences in shape and in mineralogy. Both cleaning procedures require a first step of rinsing in de-ionized water neutralized at pH above 7 with NaOH (0.1 M) solution. We have taken the precaution to perform very short sonication cycles of 30 s during this first step to avoid any potential loss of mineralogical features in our samples (Loxton et al., 2017), while improving salt and organic matter removal. This first step was repeated twice for all samples. Samples were then rinsed one last time with neutralized de-ionized water over a 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  nylon filter mounted on a



**Fig. 1.** (a) Location of the two sampling sites accompanied by weekly record of (b) temperature and (c) salinity measured at the SOMLIT stations Astan (blue) and Sola (red) between June 2018 and June 2019. No difference is observed between the temperature and the salinity recorded at 11 m and 23 m depth at Roscoff and the two curves are superimposed. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

vacuum filtration unit, and dried at room temperature in a drying oven under vacuum. In order to test the effect of organic matter removal on the isotopic compositions, half of the dried samples was recovered for a second cleaning step in which they were rinsed in an oxidative solution composed of NaOH (0.5 M) + H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (15%) at 40 °C for 30 min, before being rinsed and dried another time as described above. We tested these two cleaning procedures on entire pieces (0.5 cm<sup>2</sup>, Supplementary

**Table 2**

Order, species, collection locality, water depth of the collection and bryozoan sampling details.

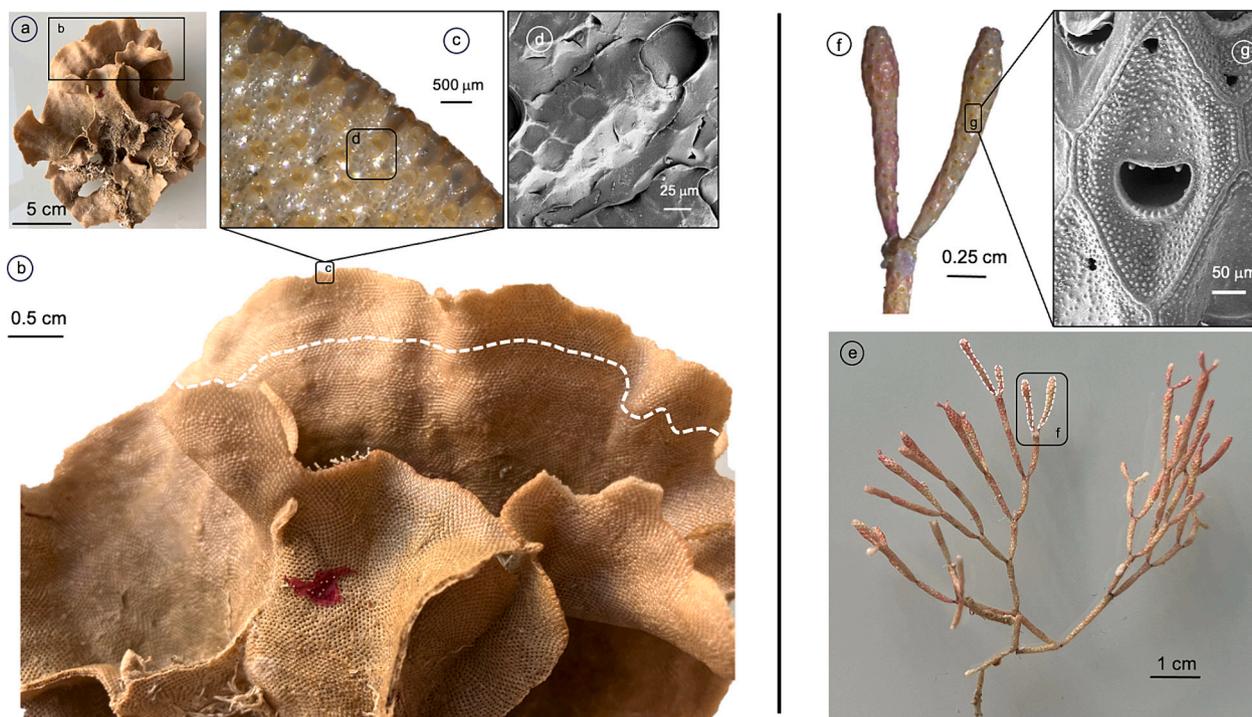
Order	Species	Collection locality	Water depth (m)	Samples part of the colony
Cheilostomata	<i>Pentapora foliacea</i>	Roscoff	23	Tips
Cheilostomata	<i>Pentapora foliacea</i>	Roscoff	23	Base
Cyclostomata	<i>Crisia denticulata</i>	Roscoff	23	Tips
Cheilostomata	<i>Cellepora pumicosa</i>	Roscoff	23	Tips
Cheilostomata	<i>Osmalosecosa ramulosa</i>	Roscoff	23	Tips
Cheilostomata	<i>Cellaria fistulosa</i>	Roscoff	23	Tips
Cheilostomata	<i>Membranipora membranacea</i>	Roscoff	11	Tips
Cheilostomata	<i>Sertella beaniana</i>	Banyuls	27	Tips
Cheilostomata	<i>Pentapora foliacea</i>	Banyuls	27	Tips
Cheilostomata	<i>Tubicellepora avicularis</i>	Banyuls	27	Tips

Material, protocols 1, 4, 7), coarse-grained powder (> 350 μm, Supplementary Material, protocols 2, 5) and fine-grained powder (> 250 μm, Supplementary Material, protocols 3, 6). Finally, we also tested the effect of a last rinse with methanol to improve sample drying and organic matter removal by flocculation (Supplementary Material, protocols 2b, 2c, 4b, 4c, 5b, 5c). After drying all samples were finely crushed and homogenized. Results are presented in Supplementary Material. Table A.1. No significant differences in Δ<sub>47</sub> values at the 0.01‰ level were detected between the cleaning procedures (see Supplementary Material. Fig. A.4, A.5, A.6 for details). The maximum differences observed for δ<sup>13</sup>C and δ<sup>18</sup>O between cleaning treatments are about 0.95 ‰ and 0.47 ‰, respectively, and can most likely be attributed to intra-colony isotopic variability. Regardless of fragment size, nearly all samples submitted to an oxidative pretreatment yield lower δ<sup>18</sup>O and δ<sup>13</sup>C values. Similar effects of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> pretreatment were previously observed in other biocarbonates such as corals, foraminifera, or coralline algae, and have been interpreted as potentially reflecting preferential dissolution of isotopically enriched part of calcium carbonate during the oxidative cleaning step (Grottoli et al., 2005; Peral et al., 2018; Key Jr et al., 2020). Based on our observations and other studies alerting on the effect of oxidative treatment on stable isotope composition of calcium carbonate samples (Boiseau and Juillet-Leclerc, 1997; Lebeau et al., 2014; Key Jr et al., 2020), we opted to forego this potentially destructive oxidative step and cleaned all samples with the following procedure: We first crushed the samples to coarse powder then rinsed the powder twice in neutralized de-ionized water and finally dried the samples under vacuum at room temperature for 48 h. (see Supplementary Material. Fig. A.2).

### 3. Analytical methods

#### 3.1. X-Ray powder Diffraction (XRD)

The mineralogical content of our bryozoan samples was characterized using X-Ray powder Diffraction (XRD). XRD measurement was obtained on 100 mg calcium powder of each bryozoan species. To obtain this 100 mg powder several tips of the same colony were crushed together and homogenized so that XRD results take into account the natural variability in term of mineralogical content of the bryozoan skeleton. XRD analyses were performed using a Panalytical Empyrean diffractometer equipped with a Cu anode (λKα = 1.541874 Å) and a multichannel X'celerator detector allowing to access to the content of aragonite, calcite and Mg-calcite (Supplementary data 4). Mg-calcite produces distinct XRD spectrum from calcite related to change in the crystal lattice due to Mg substitution to Ca and easily to detect in bryozoan. An example of how the difference between the two spectra is marked in bryozoan samples is given in Fig. B5 of Supplementary data 1.



**Fig. 2.** Sampling strategy for massive (*P. foliacea*: a, b, c, d) and branching (*C. fistulosa*: e, f, g) bryozoan colonies. General view of a dried uncleaned *P. foliacea* (a) and *C. fistulosa* (e) whole colony. (b), (f) Zoom on the last growing part i.e., tips of the colony, which was sampled for isotopic and elemental analysis. The dashed white line symbolizes the limit between the last year of growth and the rest of the skeleton. (c) Zoecium chamber arrangement within the *P. foliacea* colony observed under a binocular magnifier (Leica, DMS 1000). (d), (g) Structure of a single zoecium chamber observed under scanning electron microscope (SEM).

Each pattern was recorded during 60s each  $0.0131^\circ$  in the  $\theta$ - $\theta$  Bragg-Brentano geometry ( $10^\circ$ - $65^\circ$   $2\theta$  range). The detection limit was estimated to be around 0.5%. Mineral identification was performed using the Highscore Plus 3.0 software and two databases: ICSD (Inorganic Crystal Structure Database) and COD (Crystallography Open Database). We have chosen the Rietveld method (Lutterotti et al., 2004) to analyze the whole diffraction pattern. The MAUD program (Material Analysis Using Diffraction) is a general diffraction program mainly based on the Rietveld method and specially used for quantitative phase analysis and refinement of lattice parameters in this work. For samples containing N mineralogical phases (as it is the case for bryozoans), quantitative phase determination using the Rietveld method only provides errors on N-1 phases. In our case, the XRD spectrum of Mg-calcite was taken as the reference for this calculation, and errors are then calculated only for the aragonite and calcite phases (Table 3, Supplementary data 4).

### 3.2. Stable and clumped-isotope measurements

A total of 332 clumped-isotope analyses (153 sample analyses and 179 reference materials), were performed over 10 analytical sessions between 2022 and 2023 at LSCE's clumped-isotope facility. For each analysis, 3.5–4.0 mg of carbonate powder were converted to  $\text{CO}_2$  by reaction with 103% phosphoric acid at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  in a common acid bath for 10 min. Residual water was cryogenically removed from the product  $\text{CO}_2$ , which was then flushed with Helium (25 mL/min) through a Porapak Q column held at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  and quantitatively recollected by cryogenic trapping. Final  $\text{CO}_2$  pressure at room temperature ( $20^\circ\text{C}$ ) was then directly measured within a small cold finger volume to estimate the  $\text{CO}_2$  yield for each acid reaction based on the  $\text{CO}_2$  yield for pure  $\text{CaCO}_3$  standards (ETH-1/2/4). The  $\text{CO}_2$  was then transferred into an Isoprime 100 dual-inlet mass spectrometer equipped with 6 Faraday collectors ( $m/z$  44 to 49). Each sample was analyzed for 150 min during which the sample gas and the working reference gas were allowed to flow from volume-matched 10-mL reservoirs into the ion source through a pair of

fused silica capillaries (length: 65 cm, internal diameter: 110  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Gas pressures were adjusted to achieve an ion-beam current of 80 nA at  $m/z = 44$ , every 20 min, with differences between analyte gas and working gas generally below 0.1 nA. Background currents for each  $m/z$  value were measured 12 times (before and after each pressure adjustment) for each analysis. All background measurements within 6 h of any given analysis were used to determine a mass-specific relationship linking background currents to the total amperage measured for  $m/z = 44$  and time for that analysis. Background-corrected ion current ( $\delta_{45}$  to  $\delta_{49}$ ) values were corrected for oxygen-17 contributions using the IUPAC  $^{17}\text{O}$  correction parameters (Brand et al., 2010) and converted to non-standardized (raw)  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\Delta_{47}$  values as described by Daëron et al. (2016). The isotopic compositions ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) of the working reference gas  $\text{CO}_2$  were computed based on nominal  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VPDB}}$  values for carbonate standards ETH-1, ETH-2, ETH-3 reported by Bernasconi et al. (2018), using the value of 1.00813 (Kim et al., 2007a) for  $^{18}\text{O}$  fractionation associated with the  $90^\circ\text{C}$  acid reaction. Raw  $\Delta_{47}$  values were corrected and normalized to the I-CDES reference frame (Bernasconi et al., 2021) using a pooled regression approach implemented by the D47crunch Python library (Daëron, 2021). Final analytical uncertainties are derived from long-term external reproducibility of samples and standards ( $N_f = 338$ ) and account for standardization errors. The long-term external repeatability of  $\Delta_{47}$  values for reference materials and unknown samples was 8.6 ppm (1SD,  $N_f = 148$ ) and 7.7 ppm (1SD,  $N_f = 190$ ) respectively. The long-term external repeatability of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VSMOW}}$  measurements on carbonate standards was 0.024‰ and 0.042‰, respectively. The full isotopic analysis report for this study can be found in Supplementary data 2.

### 3.3. Elemental ratio measurements

Concentrations of Mg, Ca and Sr were measured at Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP) using an Agilent 7900 quadrupole ICP-MS (Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry). Elemental

concentrations were measured after the following cleaning procedure: specimens were sonicated for 30 s in de-ionized water (resistivity 18 M $\Omega$ .cm<sup>-1</sup>) twice and dried at 50 °C in a drying oven. They were then plunged in a NaOH (0.5 M) + H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (15%) solution at 50 °C for 30 min. Cleaned carbonates were then rinsed carefully in de-ionized water, over a 0.2- $\mu$ m nylon filter mounted on a vacuum filtration unit, and dried overnight at 40 °C in a drying oven under vacuum. Cleaned powdered carbonates were then dissolved in 5% distilled HNO<sub>3</sub> with de-ionized water in an over-pressured and air filtered clean room. A blank sample containing only distilled HNO<sub>3</sub> with de-ionized water prepared in the same condition was also analyzed to track any potential contamination coming from acid or de-ionized water. An internal standard (scandium) was injected just before and after all sample measurements to correct the signal from potential matrix effect and drift during the analytical session. The linear relationship between signal and elemental concentration was established using a set of SPC (Scientific® PlasmaCAL) calibration standards. Uncertainties for each element analyzed were calculated considering the standard deviation on consecutive signal acquisition ( $n = 3$ ) on the same sample and internal standard repeatability (Table 3, Supplementary data 3).

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Mineralogy, Mg/ca and Sr/ca ratio

The XRD results on bulk samples from each bryozoan species are summarized in Table 3 and fully reported in Appendix E. Our samples are predominantly composed of Mg-calcite, but certain species are aragonitic (*M. membranacea*) or bimineralic (*P. foliacea*, *C. fistulosa*, *C. pumicosa*, *T. avicularis*) (Fig. 3). We note smaller enrichment in aragonite content in *P. foliacea* (tips) from Roscoff compared to those of Banyuls (i. e., 16 to 23% Aragonite and 77 to 84% Mg-calcite). In addition, the mineralogy of *P. foliacea* also appears to vary with the age of the colony. A decrease in aragonite content in favor of Mg-calcite is observed from the base to the top of this colony.

The Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios of bulk samples range from 19.3 to 118.8 mmol/mol and from 3.2 to 10.5 mmol/mol respectively (Table 3). As expected, these ratios are controlled at first order by skeleton mineralogy. The highest Mg/Ca and lowest Sr/Ca values are obtained for Mg-calcite samples, e.g., *O. ramulosa*. On the contrary, lowest Mg/Ca and highest Sr/Ca values are obtained for predominantly aragonitic

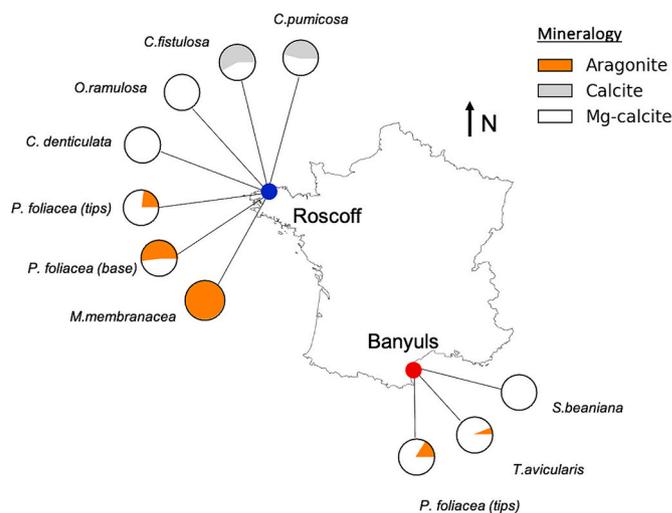


Fig. 3. Mineralogical composition of the different bryozoan samples from Roscoff and Banyuls. aragonite is represented in orange, calcite in gray and Mg-calcite in white. Pie charts give the mean proportion of aragonite, calcite and Mg-calcite present in the bulk of each species studied (see Table 3).

samples, e.g., *M. membranacea*. Based on Mg/Ca ratio we also calculated the mol % MgCO<sub>3</sub> in each sample. These values are reported in Table 3 and range from 1.60 to 9.08 mol% MgCO<sub>3</sub>.

### 4.2. Stable and clumped-isotope compositions

#### 4.2.1. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ characterization

Measurements of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in analyte CO<sub>2</sub> were converted to carbonate  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (VPDB) values (noted  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ ) according to sample's mineralogy and based on "effective" acid fractionation factors for aragonite and calcite (Kim et al., 2007a). We assume that the same fractionation factor applies to Mg-calcite and regular calcite. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$  value of bimineralic species was thus calculated taking into account the proportion of aragonite relative to calcite+Mg-calcite:

Table 3

Weight percentage (%) of aragonite, calcite and Mg-calcite and Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios (mmol/mol) in bryozoans bulk samples. For each sample containing more than two mineralogical phases, the error on quantitative calculation of phases ratio is also indicated. The Mg-content in carbonate samples is reported in mol % MgCO<sub>3</sub> based on Mg/Ca ratio.

Sample	Locality	Aragonite (%)	Error (%)	Calcite (%)	Error (%)	Mg-calcite (%)	Mg/Ca (mmol/mol)	2SE	Sr/Ca (mmol/mol)	2SE	mol % MgCO <sub>3</sub>
<i>P. foliacea</i> (tips)	Roscoff	23	1.7	0	0	77	95.62	0.8	5.13	0.04	7.44
<i>P. foliacea</i> (base)	Roscoff	52	1.3	0	0	48	55.89	0.6	7.28	0.08	4.48
<i>C. denticulata</i> (tips)	Roscoff	0	0	0	0	100	84.14	0.7	3.75	0.04	6.60
<i>C. pumicosa</i> (tips)	Roscoff	0	0	46	4.5	54	116.86	0.4	3.51	0.02	8.94
<i>O. ramulosa</i> (tips)	Roscoff	0	0	0	0	100	114.89	0.9	3.22	0.04	8.80
<i>C. fistulosa</i> (tips)	Roscoff	0	0	52	2	48	78.52	0.8	3.52	0.03	6.19
<i>M. membranacea</i> (tips)	Roscoff	100	0	0	0	0	19.30	0.3	10.49	0.10	1.59
<i>S. beaniana</i> (tips)	Banyuls	0	0	0	0	100	110.81	0.3	3.29	0.01	8.52
<i>P. foliacea</i> (tips)	Banyuls	16	3.4	0	0	84	88.89	0.4	4.57	0.02	6.95
<i>T. avicularis</i> (tips)	Banyuls	6	8.4	0	0	94	118.84	0.7	3.65	0.03	9.08

$$\delta^{18}O_{(c)}VPDB = \frac{\left(\frac{\delta^{18}O_{(CO_2)}VPDB + 1000}{1.008129} - 1000\right) \times \% \text{ Calcite or } \text{Mgcalcite} + \left(\frac{\delta^{18}O_{(CO_2)}VPDB + 1000}{1.00041} - 1000\right) \times \% \text{ Aragonite}}{100}$$

Where  $\delta^{18}O_{CO_2}$  corresponds to the measured  $\delta^{18}O$  value in the  $CO_2$  gas released during carbonate acid reaction, 1.008129 and 1.00041 correspond, respectively, to the acid fractionation factors for calcite and aragonite (Kim et al., 2007a).

Bryozoan  $\delta^{18}O_c$  values ranged from 0.29‰ to 1.92‰, and  $\delta^{13}C_{VPDB}$  values ranged from -1.99‰ to 0.7‰ (Table 4). The distributions of  $\delta^{13}C$  and  $\delta^{18}O_c$  values are similar between the two localities, with a pattern of  $\delta^{13}C$  values >2.5‰, and  $\delta^{18}O_c$  values <1‰ (excluding isotopic values for the sample taken from the oldest part of *P. foliacea*, i.e., base).

#### 4.2.2. Clumped-isotope ( $\Delta_{47}$ ) characterization

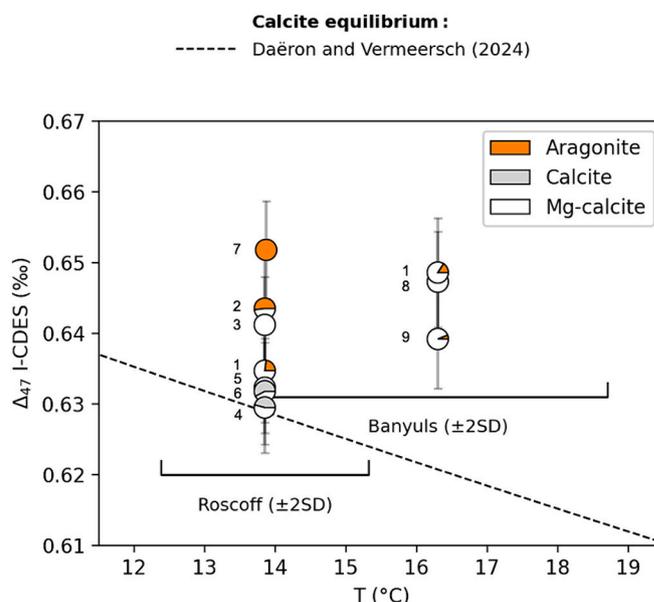
Clumped-isotope results are summarized in Table 4 and fully reported in Supplementary data 2. Our measured  $\Delta_{47}$  values range from 0.652‰ to 0.630‰. We found up to 0.0223‰ difference in clumped-isotope values between species coming from the same locality (i.e., Roscoff) and thus grown under the same environmental conditions (i.e., temperature). This range of  $\Delta_{47}$  values is >95% confidence level (CL) on measurements (~0.006 to ~0.008). By contrast, species from Banyuls yield indistinguishable  $\Delta_{47}$  values between each other with respect to 95% CL. More surprisingly, *P. foliacea* tips from Banyuls give  $\Delta_{47}$  values significantly higher (0.0139‰) than those obtained from *P. foliacea* tips coming from Roscoff. This is contrary to the decrease  $\Delta_{47}$  value expected with increasing seawater temperature at Banyuls (Fig. 4). We find that  $\Delta_{47}$  values of *P. foliacea* tips, *C. pumicosa*, *O. ramulosa* and *C. fistulosa* from Roscoff are consistent, within uncertainties, with the OGLS23 calibration recently compiled by Daëron and Vermeesch (2024) (Fig. 4). The 3 remaining species (*M. membranacea*, *P. foliacea* base and *C. denticulata*) yield  $\Delta_{47}$  values 12.3 to 22.9 ppm greater than expected. The maximum offset from the OGLS23 equilibrium line is observed for the aragonite species *M. membranacea* (Fig. 4). By contrast, all Banyuls samples yield greater than expected  $\Delta_{47}$  values.

**Table 4**

Number of replicates (n) and mean oxygen and carbon stable and clumped-isotope compositions of bryozoan samples. All isotopic compositions are reported in per mill. The  $\delta^{18}O_{CO_2}$  (VSMOW) was converted to  $\delta^{18}O_c$  (VPDB) according to samples mineralogical content and the acid fractionation factors (see eq. 1). The  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  values were calculated from  $\delta^{18}O_c$  with respect to the  $\delta^{18}O_{sw}$  values estimated from salinity records at both sites (Table 1). Clumped-isotope are reported in the I-CDES reference scale.

Sample	Locality	n	$\delta^{13}C_c$ VPDB (‰)	2SE (‰)	$\delta^{18}O_{CO_2}$ VSMOW (‰)	$\delta^{18}O_c$ VPDB (‰)	2SE (‰)	$^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$ (‰)	2SE (‰)	$\Delta_{47}$ I-CDES (‰)	95% CL (‰)
<i>P. foliacea</i> (tips)	Roscoff	7	0.38	0.02	39.93	0.51	0.04	1.0310	0.06	0.6347	0.0073
<i>P. foliacea</i> (base)*	Roscoff	15	0.63	0.02	41.51	1.91	0.03	1.0324	0.05	0.6435	0.0086
<i>C. denticulata</i> (tips)	Roscoff	7	-0.3	0.01	39.77	0.45	0.03	1.0309	0.05	0.6412	0.0068
<i>C. pumicosa</i> (tips)	Roscoff	9	-1.19	0.02	39.60	0.29	0.03	1.0308	0.05	0.6295	0.0064
<i>O. ramulosa</i> (tips)	Roscoff	9	-0.81	0.02	39.97	0.64	0.03	1.0311	0.05	0.6323	0.0064
<i>C. fistulosa</i> (tips)*	Roscoff	12	0.70	0.02	40.13	0.79	0.03	1.0313	0.05	0.6318	0.0075
<i>M. membranacea</i> (tips)	Roscoff	7	-1.70	0.01	40.09	0.35	0.03	1.0308	0.05	0.6518	0.0069
<i>S. beaniana</i> (tips)	Banyuls	7	0.43	0.02	41.20	1.83	0.04	1.0314	0.21	0.6473	0.0071
<i>P. foliacea</i> (tips)	Banyuls	6	0.02	0.02	41.37	1.92	0.04	1.0315	0.21	0.6486	0.0077
<i>T. avicularis</i> (tips)	Banyuls	7	-1.99	0.02	40.46	1.09	0.05	1.0307	0.21	0.6392	0.007

\*Average  $\delta^{18}O$ ,  $\delta^{13}C$  and  $\Delta_{47}$  values obtained during the cleaning test phase (protocol 2 and equivalent 2b) and samples prepared for interspecies comparison.



**Fig. 4.** Measured  $\Delta_{47}$  versus local seawater temperature measured in-situ during bryozoan growth. The average temperature during bryozoan growth period is indicated for each site based on in-situ temperature record. Horizontal brackets correspond to the 2SD around this calculated average temperature during bryozoan growth period reflecting seasonal temperature variability typical of coastal environments. Samples mineralogical content are also indicated (aragonite in orange, calcite in gray and Mg-calcite in white). The OGLS23  $\Delta_{47}$  calibration line (Daëron and Vermeesch, 2024), considered as the equilibrium value, is shown as a black dashed line. Numbering of pie charts refers to the different bryozoan species; 1- *P. foliacea* (tips), 2- *P. foliacea* (base), 3- *C. denticulata*, 4- *C. pumicosa*, 5- *O. ramulosa*, 6- *C. fistulosa*, 7- *M. membranacea*, 8- *S. beaniana*, 9- *T. avicularis*.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Characterization of oxygen and carbon isotope fractionation between bryozoans and seawater

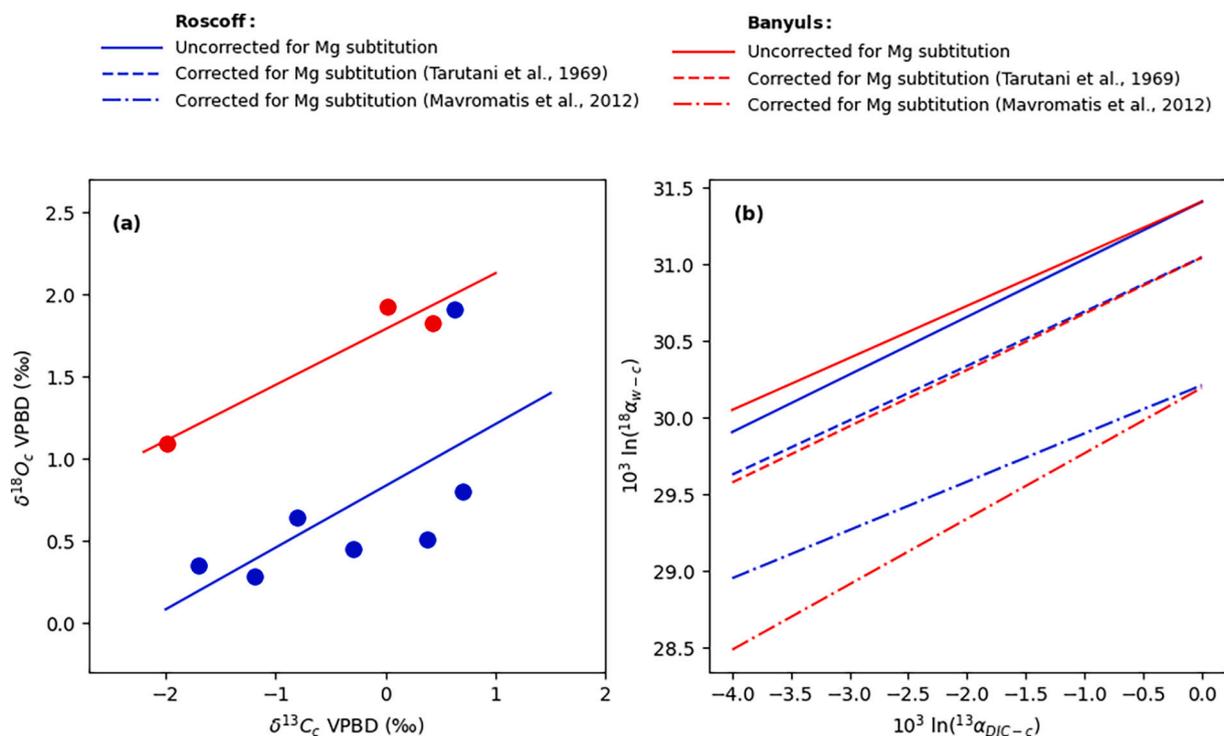
#### 5.1.1. Bryozoan $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ positive correlation

Oxygen and carbon isotopes between species from the same locality are much more scattered than might be expected a priori in organisms grown under the same environmental conditions (Table 4). At both sites,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values tend to be weakly correlated, with similar positive slopes of 0.34 vs 0.38 at Banyuls and Roscoff, respectively, consistent with previous bryozoan studies (Crowley and Taylor, 2000; Smith and Key, 2004; Bader and Schäfer, 2005) (Fig. 5a). The  $^{18}\text{O}$  fractionation between calcite and water ( $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$ ) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  fractionation between calcite and DIC ( $^{13}\alpha_{\text{DIC-c}}$ ) are potentially affected by Mg substitution within the crystal lattice (Tarutani et al., 1969; Jiménez-Lopez et al., 2004, 2006; Mavromatis et al., 2012). Based on experimental precipitation of Mg-enriched calcite, Tarutani et al. (1969) proposed that  $^{18}\text{O}$  fractionation factor increases by 0.06‰ per mol %  $\text{MgCO}_3$ . This number was revisited by Jiménez-Lopez et al. (2004) and Mavromatis et al. (2012) based on new experiments respectively yielding factors of +0.17‰ and +0.18‰ per mol %  $\text{MgCO}_3$ . Concerning  $^{13}\text{C}$  fractionation, Jiménez-Lopez et al. (2006) reported 0.024‰ enrichment per mol %  $\text{MgCO}_3$ . Because our samples contain a substantial amount of  $\text{MgCO}_3$  (Table 3) we may look for potential Mg effect on bryozoan  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records by testing whether correcting isotopic value from Mg substitution would modify  $^{13}\alpha_{\text{DIC-c}}$  and  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  distribution (range and slope). We tested this assumption applying Tarutani et al. (1969) and Mavromatis et al. (2012) correction factor to our  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  values and Jiménez-Lopez et al. (2006) correction factor to our  $^{13}\alpha_{\text{DIC-c}}$  values. At face value, applying Mg correction slightly modifies the  $1000\ln^{13}\alpha_{\text{DIC-c}}$  and  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  by decreasing them (Fig. 5b). However, doing so does not substantially

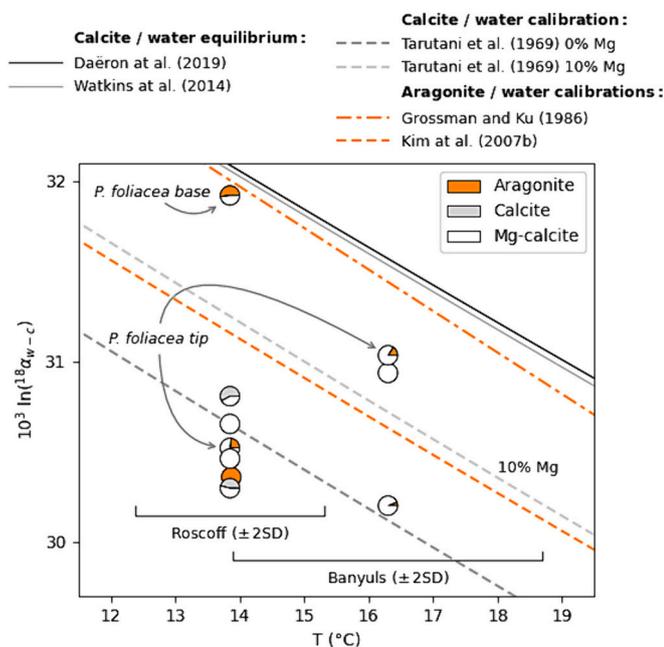
affect the offset between species and the correlation between  $1000\ln^{13}\alpha_{\text{DIC-c}}$  and  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$ . Thus, Mg substitution alone does not explain the spreading of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of bryozoans. Some other biocarbonates exhibit also a positive correlation between  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , such as corals (e.g., McConnaughey, 1989a; Smith et al., 2000; Adkins et al., 2003; Rollion-Bard et al., 2003a; Blamart et al., 2005), brachiopods (e.g., Auclair et al., 2003; Parkinson et al., 2005; Rollion-Bard et al., 2016; Bajnai et al., 2018), or cephalopods (Chung et al., 2021). It has been proposed that these correlations could be related to kinetic isotope effects (KIEs) within the DIC- $\text{CO}_2$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  system before precipitation (McConnaughey, 1989b), to pH-dependent effects occurring at the fluid –  $\text{CaCO}_3$  interface (Adkins et al., 2003), or to a combination of both (Rollion-Bard et al., 2003b, 2010). This could also be the case in bryozoans.

#### 5.1.2. Does $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ thermometry apply to bryozoan $\text{CaCO}_3$ ?

Partitioning of oxygen isotopes between calcium carbonate, water and DIC at low temperatures (0–50 °C) forms the basis of the oldest and most widely-used stable isotope paleothermometer (Urey, 1947; Epstein et al., 1953). Barring large isotopic disequilibrium, the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of carbonates should reflect both the temperature and the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of the fluid from which they formed (Urey, 1947), making carbonate  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records the cornerstone of paleoclimate reconstructions since >70 years. Urey's prediction, however, came with the caveat that “whether animals lay down carbonates in equilibrium with water” remained a working hypothesis. Obviously, chemical/isotopic equilibrium *stricto sensu* implies that chemical/isotopic fluxes are perfectly balanced, precluding net growth of the mineral. One may nevertheless propose that, in slightly saturated systems where the ratio of crystallization to dissolution tends toward one, the effective  $^{18}\text{O}$  fractionation between water and carbonate may be indistinguishable from its equilibrium limit (e.g., Gabitov et al., 2012; Watkins et al., 2014; Devriendt et al., 2017), so that  $^{18}\text{O}$



**Fig. 5.** (a) Distribution of bryozoan  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values excluding entirely aragonitic sample (*M.membranacea*) and (b) calculated  $1000\ln^{13}\alpha_{\text{DIC-c}}$  and  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  as a function of sampling localities (Banyuls: red, Roscoff: blue) and with respect to environmental record. (a) Solid lines describe the general trend between  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values. (b) Corresponds to a comparison between  $1000\ln^{13}\alpha_{\text{DIC-c}}$  and  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  before (solid line) and after correction for Mg substitution effect on  $1000\ln^{13}\alpha_{\text{DIC-c}}$  and  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  with respect to enrichment factor defined by Jiménez-Lopez et al. (2006) for  $1000\ln^{13}\alpha_{\text{DIC-c}}$  and Tarutani et al. (1969) (dashed lines) or Mavromatis et al. (2012) (semi-dotted line) for  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$ . (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)



**Fig. 6.**  $^{18}\text{O}$  fractionation between water and bryozoan carbonate ( $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$ ) as a function of growth temperature measured in-situ. The mineralogical proportions are represented in each circle with orange for aragonite, gray for calcite and white for Mg-calcite. The  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$ /temperature relationships documented in the literature are also reported for aragonite (orange - Grossman and Ku, 1986; Kim et al., 2007b), calcite (black/gray - Tarutani et al., 1969; Watkins et al., 2014; Daëron et al., 2019) and Mg-calcite containing 10 mol% of  $\text{MgCO}_3$  (light gray - Tarutani et al., 1969).

fractionation at equilibrium may be constrained by studying natural calcites formed at extremely slow growth rates, not achievable in laboratory calibration studies (Coplen, 2007; Levitt et al., 2018; Daëron et al., 2019). However, a growing body of evidence implies that such  $^{18}\text{O}$  quasi-equilibrium is very rarely achieved at Earth surface conditions, because natural carbonates (particularly biogenic ones) most often precipitate very fast from supersaturated solutions. Nevertheless, in various laboratory experiments (e.g., Tarutani et al., 1969; Kim and O’Neil, 1997; Kim et al., 2007b), as well as in various biocarbonates (e.g., Grossman and Ku, 1986; Anderson and Arthur, 1983; Daëron and Gray, 2023), oxygen isotope fractionation between water and  $\text{CaCO}_3$  ( $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$ ) appears to vary primarily with calcification temperature in a predictable way, with  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$ /temperature slopes indistinguishable from that of  $^{18}\alpha$  between carbonate ions and water ( $\sim 0.21$  ‰ per degree at  $\sim 25$  °C). Early studies of bryozoan oxygen isotopes thus assumed that  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  of bryozoans would follow or approximate relationships documented in experimental precipitates and biocarbonates (Rao and Nelson, 1992; Bone and James, 1997; Key et al., 2013). On the other hand, later studies have raised the possibility of bryozoan “vital effects” (Crowley and Taylor, 2000; Smith et al., 2004; Nehyba et al., 2008) potentially making  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  sensitive to parameters other than temperature. We may look for such vital effects in our data set by checking whether different bryozoan species from the same locality display similar  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values, with perhaps small differences arising from mineralogy, and whether the temperature sensitivity documented by *P. foliacea* between Roscoff and Banyuls differs from that expected for “classical”  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  thermometry.

As seen in Fig. 6,  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  values for colony tips within each site are only moderately scattered ( $\pm 0.25$ ‰). This scatter is not greater than that expected based on the temperature variability recorded in-situ during the probable bryozoan growth period (April to October). However, we note that the  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  value of the fully aragonitic bryozoan (*M. membranacea*) is lower than the  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  values of most

calcite-enriched samples (Fig. 6), which is not consistent with the expected 0.6 to 0.75‰ enrichment in  $^{18}\text{O}$  in aragonite relative to calcite (Tarutani et al., 1969; Zhou and Zheng, 2005; Kim et al., 2007b). Furthermore,  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  for *P. foliacea* at Banyuls is about 0.5‰ greater than for *P. foliacea* at Roscoff. This is at odds with the fact that Banyuls seawater is on average 2.5 °C warmer than at Roscoff, which should decrease  $1000\ln^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  by 0.5‰. Although we did not directly measure seawater  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , our  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  estimates, derived from local salinity, are consistent with regional values (LeGrande and Schmidt, 2006), with Mediterranean Sea  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  about 1‰ greater than North Atlantic ones. It is thus likely that  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  at one or both sites is sensitive to additional biological and/or environmental factors beyond temperature and seawater  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ .

Finally, we find that  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values at the base of *P. foliacea* (i.e., the oldest part of the skeleton) are heavily enriched (+1.4‰) relative to the tips of the same colony (Table 4, Fig. 6). *Pentapora foliacea* may grow over several years (Pätzold et al., 1987) or decades (Cocito et al., 1998) with typical growth rates ranging from 1 to 2 cm/yr. This implies that the age difference between our tip and base samples does not exceed 15 years. Average local seawater temperature has not risen by  $>1.5$  °C over the past 15 years, as attested by the weekly temperature record at Astan station ([www.somlit.fr](http://www.somlit.fr)). The isotopic difference between *P. foliacea* base and tips is thus unlikely to reflect environmental changes exclusively.

On the other hand, enriched  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values at the base of *P. foliacea* suggest that the oldest part of *P. foliacea* would have formed during colder period ( $\pm 8.8$  °C). According to the seawater temperature readings at the Astan station, coldest temperatures are reached in February and range from 8.79 to 10.5 °C ([www.somlit.fr](http://www.somlit.fr)). We cannot exclude that bryozoan growing period evolves during the whole colony lifespan. However, in 1998, Cocito et al. noted the absence of ovicells (i.e., dilatation of the zooecium wall in which ova developed) in *P. foliacea* from October to February by monitoring growth and mortality of Mediterranean *P. foliacea* colonies over an entire year. Over the same period, they also reported zero and even negative colony’s growth. Thus, it is also unlikely that the base of *P. foliacea* had formed in February. It is also interesting to note that  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  values of the colony base lie pretty close ( $<0.2$ ‰ away) to those predicted by Daëron et al. (2019) and Watkins et al. (2014) for calcite/water equilibrium, while those from the tips lie on the calibration from Tarutani et al. (1969) established from laboratory precipitated calcite (Fig. 6). The calcite/water equilibrium was established based on the oxygen isotopic composition of natural calcites from cave (Coplen, 2007; Daëron et al., 2019). Since they were formed extremely slowly under stable environmental conditions, the composition of these two natural samples are considered to record equilibrium values of  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$ . Bryozoan growth rate typically ranges from  $1.10^{-7}$  to  $4.10^{-7}$  mol.m $^{-2}$ .s $^{-1}$  (Cocito and Ferdeghini, 2001), which is about 3 orders of magnitude faster than the natural slow-growing calcites used to constrain equilibrium  $^{18}\text{O}$  fractionation ( $1\text{--}8.10^{-10}$  mol.m $^{-2}$ .s $^{-1}$ , Coplen, 2007; Daëron et al., 2019). Cocito et al. (1998) have shown that *P. foliacea* grows even faster in its early stages than during the rest of its life. Several evidences for such “ontogenetic effects” (also known as the “astogenetic effect” in the case of colonial organisms) on  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  values exists in the literature (e.g., Huyghe et al., 2020; Davies et al., 2021). Contrary to observed increase in  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  values of *P. foliacea* early stage, astogenetic effects on  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  values are characterized by  $^{18}\text{O}$  depletion which is supposed to be controlled by  $\text{CO}_2$  absorption kinetics during rapid  $\text{CaCO}_3$  accretion (Spero and Lea, 1996; Goodwin et al., 2003; Huyghe et al., 2020; Davies et al., 2021). In this way, neither astogenetic effects nor environmental changes explain intra-colonial isotopic discrepancies. One last potential explanation would be the alteration from the oldest part of the *P. foliacea* skeleton. Recently, Batson et al. (2020) investigated bryozoan skeleton resorption capacity. Their review revealed the incredible plasticity of the colony’s skeleton and showed that after initial formation colony structures can change in two ways: I) the secretion or removal of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  mineral; II) skeletal resorption that renovate or remove an already-functioning skeletal

element in the secondary zone of the colony (the oldest part). The extent of this alteration process can go from the microscopic to the colony-wide scale and occurs in the next one to ten years after initial skeleton precipitation (Batson et al., 2020). Isotopic and mineralogical changes observed between the base and the top of the *P. foliacea* colony could result from resorption transforming the calcite to aragonite in the oldest parts of the colony. In this way, the elevated  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  value from the base of the *P. foliacea* could be related to KIEs arising from physiologically controlled dissolution and reprecipitation of the skeleton during colony reshaping (Watkins et al., 2013, 2014; Devriendt et al., 2017). At this point, resorption effects on isotopic fractionation seem to be the most likely hypothesis that justifies isotopic evolution along the bryozoan skeleton. Further information on the development of the different calcium carbonate polymorphs within the bryozoan skeleton and their spatial and temporal evolution at the colony scale would be particularly helpful to settle this issue.

### 5.1.3. Is bryozoan $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ composition influenced by metabolic sources?

The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  recorded in marine biocalifiers is influenced by two main factors: the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of seawater DIC and the metabolic  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ , which refers to the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  derived from respired  $\text{CO}_2$  product (mitochondrial respiration). Bryozoan  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values are broadly scattered at Roscoff and Banyuls ( $\pm 1.2\text{‰}$ ) and almost cover the same range of values. While the average  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of bryozoans does not differ markedly between the two sites, we note that *P. foliacea* tips samples show a slight decrease in their  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values between Roscoff and Banyuls ( $\sim 0.36\text{‰}$ ). This is in line with the slightly lower  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of the DIC at Banyuls compared to Roscoff (Table 1).

The  $^{13}\text{C}$  fractionation factor between  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  and  $\text{CaCO}_3$  was given by Romanek et al. (1992), who measured that calcite and aragonite should respectively be enriched by 1‰ and 2.7‰ in  $^{13}\text{C}$  compared to bicarbonate ions in solution. Regardless of the sampling site, we can affirm, on the basis of seawater pH record, that DIC mostly derived from bicarbonate ions. Based on this assumption, we calculated predicted  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of bryozoan if they were exclusively derived from seawater DIC (Supplementary data 1, Table. B.2). As already observed in bryozoan by Crowley and Taylor (2000), comparison between measured  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and the predicted value by Romanek et al. (1992) yields large discrepancies (i.e., up to  $-5.90 \pm 0.51\text{‰}$ ). Such depletion in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  could suggest that at least one carbon source other than seawater DIC contributes to bryozoan skeleton carbon isotopic composition. Apart from DIC, metabolic  $\text{CO}_2$  was already shown to be a substantial source of carbon, as for example in corals where it reaches up to 75% contribution (Furla et al., 2000).

As a general view,  $\text{CO}_2$  derived from metabolic processes is largely depleted in  $^{13}\text{C}$  (up to  $-25\text{‰}$ , e.g., Blamart et al., 2005) and  $^{18}\text{O}$ . Applying simple mass balance calculation and considering a  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of metabolic  $\text{CO}_2$  of  $-25\text{‰}$ , we estimated that between 10% to 30% of the respiratory  $\text{CO}_2$  could contribute to carbon uptake within bryozoan  $\text{CaCO}_3$ . On the other hand, bryozoan  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  record could also be affected by kinetic isotope fractionation within the DIC- $\text{CO}_2$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  system before precipitation as attested by  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ - $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  covariation (Fig. 5a). As a matter of fact,  $\text{CO}_2$  (de)hydration and (de)hydroxylation reactions taking place within the DIC- $\text{CO}_2$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  system are characterized by slow exchange rates. In the context of rapid  $\text{CaCO}_3$  precipitation, where all reactions are pushed forward to convert  $\text{CO}_2$  to  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  (as it is the case during biocalcification), isotopic equilibrium between DIC, water and  $\text{CO}_2$  may not be maintained, as (de)hydration and (de)hydroxylation reactions occur slower than precipitation (e.g., McConnaughey, 1989b; Chen et al., 2018) resulting in a synchronous depletion of heavy isotopes ( $^{18}\text{O}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) in biocalcification (e.g., McConnaughey, 1989b; Chen et al., 2018; Guo, 2020; Watkins and Devriendt, 2022). Already proposed as a potential explanation for positive  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ - $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  correlation observed in various types of biocalcification, the influence of kinetic effects on bryozoan  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records has remained unclear until now. The good agreement between our data with previous anomalous  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ - $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records in other types of biocalcification (i.e., brachiopods, cold-water

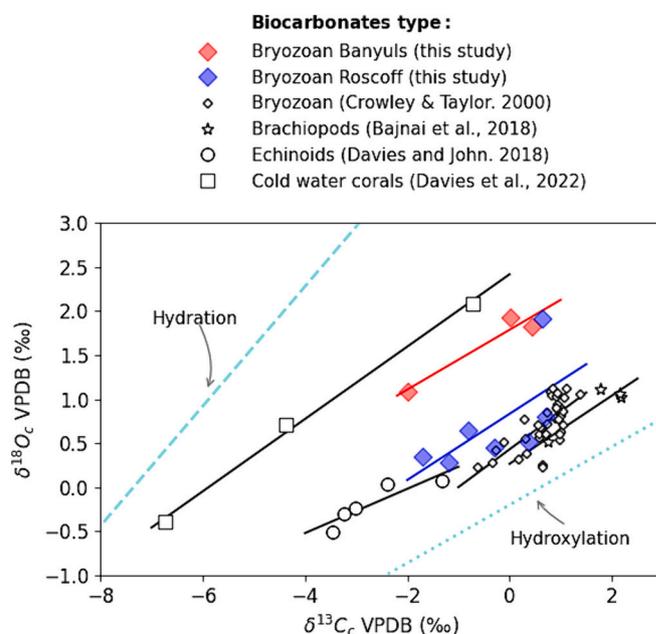
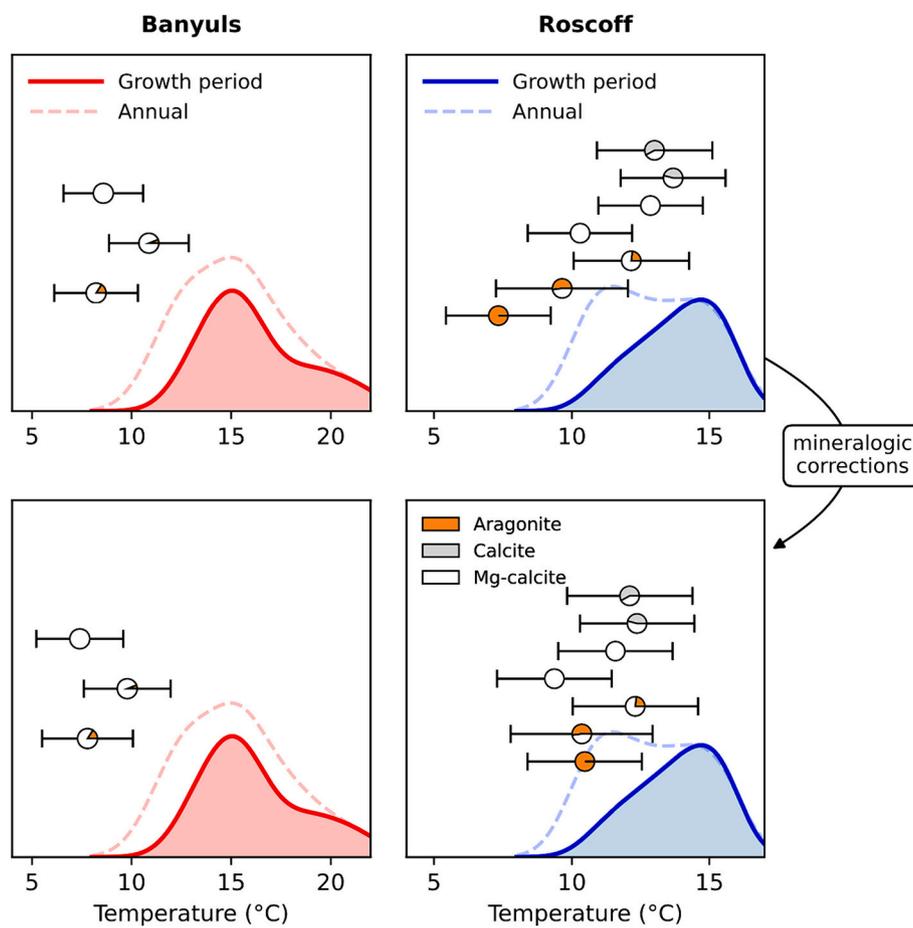


Fig. 7. Comparison of bryozoan  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ - $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  correlation slope (in blue: Roscoff sample, in red: Banyuls sample) with other biocalcification from the literature known to be affected by KIEs; open circle: echinoids *Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis* (Davies and John, 2019), open star: temperate brachiopods (Bajnai et al., 2018), open square: cold water corals (Davies et al., 2022). For comparison purpose we also reported  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of bryozoan samples from Otago shell (black diamonds) previously published by Crowley and Taylor (2000). For data from the literature shown here, we only reported isotopic composition of biocalcification grown in the same environmental conditions so that  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ - $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  correlation does not result from change in temperature,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$  nor  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ . Are also shown the expected correlation slopes between  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  resulting from KIEs during  $\text{CO}_2$  hydration (cyan dashed line) and hydroxylation (black dashed line) by Guo (2008). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

corals, echinoids) where the influence of KIEs was confirmed, supports that bryozoan isotopic composition is affected by small but existent disequilibrium potentially related to KIEs during  $\text{CO}_2$  (de)hydroxylation (Fig. 7).

### 5.2. Bryozoan growth temperature derived from clumped-isotope thermometry

Because clumped-isotope thermometry does not require any a priori knowledge on the isotopic composition of the calcification fluid (Schauble et al., 2006), one could expect that bryozoans  $\Delta_{47}$  signatures strictly reflect environmental temperature recorded between April and October. Although establishing a universally applicable  $\Delta_{47}$  calibration has long remained challenging, at least in part due to subtle inter-laboratory differences (Petersen et al., 2019), the recent definition of a new metrological scale for  $\Delta_{47}$  appears to have solved these issues (Bernasconi et al., 2021), effectively reconciling previously discrepant calibrations studies (Anderson et al., 2021; Daëron and Vermeersch, 2024). Here we use the OGLS23 composite calibration based on  $\sim 100$  (mostly calcitic) samples, with formation temperatures ranging from 0 to  $1100\text{ °C}$  (Daëron and Vermeersch, 2024). Comparing growth temperatures estimated from in situ observations ( $T_{\text{obs}}$ ) to those derived from clumped-isotope ( $T_{47}$ ), we find that most Roscoff samples have  $T_{47}$  values generally consistent with the lower range of  $T_{\text{obs}}$ , except for *M. membranacea* for which  $T_{47} < T_{\text{obs}}$  (Fig. 8 top panel). By contrast, all samples from Banyuls have  $T_{47}$  values about 5 to  $8\text{ °C}$  colder than the local mean annual temperature (Fig. 8 top panel). In order to better



**Fig. 8.** Comparison, for bryozoan samples from Banyuls (left-red) and Roscoff (right-blue), of local seawater temperature (bottom curves) based on weekly in situ record ( $T_{\text{obs}}$ ) and apparent calcification temperatures derived from  $\Delta_{47}$  ( $T_{47}$  derived from OGLS23). Colored bell-shaped curves represent the temperature distributions over the most likely growth period of bryozoans. The distribution of temperature all year round is also shown (Colored dashed curves). Mineralogical contents for each sample are indicated (aragonite: orange, calcite: gray, Mg-calcite: white). The position of each pie chart relative to x-axis is determined by  $T_{47}$  derived from OGLS23 only (top panel) and from OGLS23 taking into account of the mineralogical effect on  $\Delta_{47}$  predicted by Hill et al. (2020) (bottom panel). For complementary information about mineralogical effect on  $\Delta_{47}$  see text (section 5.3.1). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

constrain the sources for positive offset in  $\Delta_{47}$  from bryozoan, we may look for potential mineralogical effects on  $T_{47}$  by checking whether  $\Delta_{47}$  covariates with bryozoan mineralogical properties, and  $\Delta_{47}$  sensitivity to environmental parameters over than temperature documented by *P. foliacea* between Roscoff and Banyuls.

### 5.3. On the positive offset in bryozoan $\Delta_{47}$

#### 5.3.1. Mineralogical effects on $\Delta_{47}$ equilibrium

At Roscoff, aragonitic samples yield higher  $\Delta_{47}$  values than others. This is qualitatively consistent with the theoretical predictions of Hill et al. (2020), who predicted that equilibrium  $\Delta_{47}$  values should be 12 ppm greater for aragonite than for calcite at ambient temperatures. Conversely, the substitution of Ca for Mg in the crystal lattice tends to lower equilibrium  $\Delta_{47}$  values (by 5 ppm for a 10% enrichment in Mg). Previous  $T_{47}$  calibrations almost exclusively include calcite or low magnesium calcite samples (Anderson et al., 2021; Fiebig et al., 2021; Daëron and Vermeesch, 2024) and have been shown to be consistent with theoretically predicted calcite equilibrium  $\Delta_{47}$  values. De Winter et al. (2022) recently investigated the temperature dependence of  $\Delta_{47}$  in aragonite bivalve shells (*A. islandica*), obtaining  $\Delta_{47}$  values greater than predicted by the largely inorganic calibration of Anderson et al. (2021) but consistent on average with an alternative  $\Delta_{47}$  calibration based on planktic foraminifera (Meinicke et al., 2020). Proposing that the

Anderson et al. calibration underestimates  $T_{47}$  by 2.7 °C in carbonates formed at low temperatures (0–18 °C), they argued against the need for mineralogy-specific  $\Delta_{47}$  calibrations. Since then, Daëron and Gray (2023) re-assessed the calcification temperatures in several foraminifer calibration data sets, concluding that the Meinicke et al. (2020) calibration over-estimates foraminifer calcification temperatures by 2–3 °C at low temperatures, and that using updated species-specific oxygen-18 calibrations reconciles foraminiferal  $\Delta_{47}$  calibrations with inorganic calibrations believed to constrain equilibrium  $\Delta_{47}$  values (Anderson et al., 2021; Fiebig et al., 2021, both of which contribute heavily to the combined OGLS23 calibration used in this study). Finally, we now have additional “cold” constraints from *A. pecten* shells that formed at –1.8 °C (Huyghe et al., 2022), which appear fully consistent with Anderson et al. (2021). In light of the above, we propose that De Winter et al.’s (2022) conclusion may be re-assessed. We note, in particular, that the average  $\Delta_{47}$  residuals between their four *A. islandica* samples and the OGLS23-predicted equilibrium  $\Delta_{47}$  values is  $+10 \pm 4$  ppm (95% CL, cf. fig. B.7 of Supplementary data 1), consistent with the theoretical offset between aragonite and calcite (Hill et al., 2020).

Fig. 8 shows how correcting previous calibrations for mineralogical effects would offset our  $T_{47}$  values. At Roscoff, these corrections reconcile the  $T_{47}$  values obtained for each bryozoan species and tend to suppress, at least partially, the apparent offsets between  $T_{47}$  and  $T_{\text{obs}}$ . While the average  $T_{47}$  remains 2–3 °C colder than the temporal average

of environmental temperatures, it is debatable whether this reflects systematic isotopic disequilibrium or reduced growth in the summer.

The same cannot be said, however, of the Banyuls samples, for which  $T_{47}$  values remain substantially colder than the environmental temperature minimum even after mineralogical correction. Banyuls samples are more homogenous both in mineralogy and in uncorrected  $\Delta_{47}$  values which in itself is not contradictory with potential mineralogical effects on  $T_{47}$ . The fact that the Banyuls samples yield much greater  $\Delta_{47}$  than expected thus point to a source of disequilibrium other than mineralogy.

### 5.3.2. Potential effect of environmental parameter other than temperature on $\Delta_{47}$ equilibrium

Positive  $\Delta_{47}$  offsets from equilibrium values have been widely documented in the literature and are often thought to be related to kinetic isotope effects associated with rapid  $\text{CO}_2$  absorption (Guo, 2020). Such offsets have been reported in corals (Thiagarajan et al., 2011; Saenger et al., 2012; Spooner et al., 2016; Davies et al., 2022), brachiopods (Bajnai et al., 2018; Letulle et al., 2023; Davies et al., 2023), cephalopods (Davies et al., 2021), and echinoids (Davies and John, 2019). The same explanation could also apply to bryozoans, but we still need to account for the fact that only bryozoans from one site (Banyuls) are clearly offset from equilibrium regarding  $\Delta_{47}$  values. A natural hypothesis is that this is due to environmental differences between the two sites, with the most obvious chemical differences being pH and salinity (Table 1). Although previous studies have so far reported that  $\Delta_{47}$  thermometry appears insensitive to pH or salinity in other organisms such as foraminifera (e.g., Tripathi et al., 2010; Peral et al., 2018), these two factors are known to directly or indirectly influence isotopic fractionations in the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -DIC- $\text{CaCO}_3$  system.

The distribution of DIC species between  $\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})$ ,  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  and  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  is primarily controlled by pH. Banyuls seawater has an average pH value about 0.2 units higher than Roscoff seawater, favoring  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  over  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ . From theoretical calculations, Hill et al. (2014) reported that  $\Delta_{63}(\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3) > \Delta_{63}(\text{HCO}_3^-) > \Delta_{63}(\text{CO}_3^{2-})$  with  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  depleted about 0.033% in  $\Delta_{63}$  compared to  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  ( $\Delta_{63}$  being the DIC equivalent of  $\Delta_{47}$  in  $\text{CO}_2$ , primarily tracing the excess of  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^{18}\text{O}$  bonds in the (bi)carbonate ions). Assuming that bryozoan  $\Delta_{47}$  signatures are directly inherited from the average  $\Delta_{63}$  values of DIC (such as would be the case if the DIC was rapidly and quasi-quantitatively precipitated at the calcifying sites), an increase in pH should decrease  $\Delta_{47}$  which is the reverse of our observation. On the other hand, an increase in pH should simultaneously decrease the rate of isotope exchange between DIC and water and increase the relative contribution of  $\text{CO}_2$  hydroxylation vs hydration (e.g., Johnson, 1982) potentially promoting increase of  $\Delta_{47}$  of the DIC pool (Watkins and Hunt, 2015; Uchikawa et al., 2021; Guo, 2020). Nevertheless, seawater pH may not be directly relevant in this case, particularly if bryozoans exert a strong control on pH at the calcifying site, as do many other biocalifiers (e.g., Blamart et al., 2007; Rollion-Bard et al., 2003b, 2010; Allison and Finch, 2010; Rollion-Bard and Erez, 2010; McCulloch et al., 2012). A potential way to test this hypothesis would be to measure the boron isotopes ( $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ ) composition of bryozoan in order to constrain calcification pH (e.g., Hemming and Hanson, 1992). The absence of such data prevents us from going any further on this subject, for time being.

Contrary to pH, calcifying fluid salinity is more likely to closely reflect seawater salinity because marine calcifiers are generally unable to strongly regulate  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  concentrations (e.g., Erez, 2003; Gray et al., 2023). Although increased salinity at a given pH will slightly reduce  $\text{pK}_2$ , (increasing the ratio of  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  over  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) and promote the formation of cation- $(\text{H})\text{CO}_3$ -complexes, potentially increasing  $\Delta_{47}$  of the DIC by a small amount (Hill et al., 2020), a salinity difference of 3 psu appears insufficient to explain the large clumped-isotope offsets at Banyuls. There is, however, an alternative way in which salinity may hinder the achievement of clumped-isotope equilibrium in biocarbonates. Increased salinity has been reported to reduce the activity of Carbonic Anhydrase (CA) enzymes both in laboratory experiments

(Nielsen and Frieden, 1972a; Olsen et al., 2022) and in bivalves (Nielsen and Frieden, 1972b). CAs are metalloenzymes, ubiquitous in all meta-zoans, which increase the rates of  $\text{CO}_2$  hydration and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  dehydration reactions, promoting isotopic equilibrium within the DIC pool (e.g., Uchikawa and Zeebe, 2012; Watkins and Hunt, 2015; Thaler et al., 2017). Given the time needed to reach isotopic equilibrium without CA (on the order of 1 day or longer Zeebe and Wolf-Gladrow, 2001; Rollion-Bard et al., 2011), the undetectable  $\Delta_{47}$  departure from equilibrium values at Roscoff supports the assumption that CA is present in bryozoans, as in many other calcifiers. Based on the experimental predictions of Nielsen and Frieden (1972a) and Olsen et al. (2022), we estimate that the increased salinity at Banyuls ( $\sim 0.59$  M  $[\text{NaCl}]$  vs 0.51 M at Roscoff) could reduce CA activity by 25–35%. A reduction of this magnitude should substantially decrease the rate of isotopes exchange between DIC and water, which is the main process driving DIC species toward isotopic equilibrium. All current models of the evolution of DIC isotopologues predict strong enrichments in  $\Delta_{63}$  in the early stage following rapid  $\text{CO}_2$  absorption (Guo, 2020; Uchikawa et al., 2021; Watkins and Devriendt, 2022). In view of these results, we tentatively propose that increased salinity and the resulting reduction of CA activity is the most likely explanation for the out-of-equilibrium clumped-isotope signatures at Banyuls. We acknowledge that this process alone is not sufficient to explain the  $^{18}\alpha_{w-c}$  values we observe at both sites, which probably reflects additional fractionations between DIC and the mineral phases (e.g., Watkins et al., 2013; Devriendt et al., 2017).

## 6. Conclusions

Few studies have attempted so far to reconstruct climate from bryozoan  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  records due to their polycrystalline patterns and the uncertainty of the potential isotopic disequilibrium issues. Here, we show that combined information from mineralogical and clumped-isotope composition of bryozoan skeleton discriminates between mineralogical, environmental and biological effects and provides keys for a better interpretation.

Our combined  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  results clearly indicate that bryozoan isotopic composition is controlled by multiple biotic and abiotic factors, potentially hindering their use as paleoenvironmental tracers. Furthermore, our findings document important variations in  $^{18}\text{O}$  fractionation between water and carbonate at the scale of a single colony, which cannot simply be attributed to inter-annual temperature variability. These discrepancies might result instead from bryozoan skeleton physiologically controlled resorption/precipitation processes.

This exploratory investigation of bryozoan clumped-isotope highlights potential small mineralogical effects on  $\Delta_{47}$  and suggests that the  $\Delta_{47}$  thermometry should be corrected for mineralogy. We also find evidence of  $>0.02\%$   $\Delta_{47}$  offsets from equilibrium, only detectable in samples from the Mediterranean Sea. The existence of these large offsets is likely driven by environmental factors, and we propose that they reflect a salinity-driven decrease in carbonic anhydrase activity. New models accounting for the effect of salinity and other environmental parameters on CA activity are needed to quantitatively estimate the corresponding impact on oxygen and clumped-isotope compositions of bryozoans.

Historically, “vital effects” in carbonates produced by very different organisms have often been described and conceptualized in different ways. Species-specific oxygen-18 fractionation laws in foraminifera were once (and may still be) an indispensable tool for paleoceanographic reconstructions (cf Daëron and Gray, 2023, and references therein), although the influence of seawater chemistry and other parameters has been a growing concern for some time (Spero, 1992; Spero et al., 1997; Spero and Lea, 1993; Zeebe et al., 2008). Isotopic disequilibria in coccolithophores, on the other hand, are best understood using more quantitative models accounting for  $\text{pCO}_2$  and other chemical parameters (Rickaby et al., 2010; Hermoso et al., 2016; McClelland et al., 2017), with the magnitude of coccolith disequilibrium effects

having varied substantially at geological time scales (Bolton and Stoll, 2013; Godbillot et al., 2022). In other organisms such as bivalves and cephalopods, ontogenic processes may strongly modulate  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{18}\text{O}$  and clumped-isotope signatures (Lorrain et al., 2004; Davies et al., 2021; Huyghe et al., 2020; Huyghe et al., 2022). Our results suggest that, in the case of bryozoans, “vital effects” are not primarily species-specific, but rather a combination of environment-specific and mineralogy-specific, which may be disentangled by pairing isotopic measurements with careful mineralogical characterizations and by comparing bryozoans from different localities.

### CRedit authorship contribution statement

**Marie Pesnin:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Methodology, Investigation, Data curation. **Caroline Thaler:** Writing – review & editing, Methodology, Data curation. **Mathieu Daëron:** Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Methodology, Funding acquisition, Data curation. **Sébastien Nomade:** Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Funding acquisition. **Claire Rollion-Bard:** Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Funding acquisition.

### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

### Data availability

I have shared the link to my data at the Attach File step

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### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemgeo.2024.122148>.

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