

## Late-Holocene record of environmental changes in the Ross Sea: from seasonal to centennial time scales

Tommaso Tesi (1), Leonardo Langone (1), Karen Gariboldi (2), Simon Belt (3), Lukas Smik (3), Francesco Muschitiello (4), Ester Colizza (5), Federico Giglio (1), Patrizia Giordano (1), Furio Finocchiaro (5), Caterina Morigi (2), Lucilla Capotondi (1), Fiorenza Corticella (2), and Andrea Gallerani (1)

(1) ISMAR-CNR, Italy, (2) Department of Earth Sciences University of Pisa, Italy, (3) School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences University of Plymouth, UK, (4) Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, UK, (5) Dipartimento di Matematica e Geoscienze, University of Trieste, Italy

We present data from a laminated sediment core collected in the Edisto inlet (Ross Sea, Antarctica). The expanded record (14.6 m long) covers the last ca. 2800 years and it is dominated by dark- and light-brown diatom oozes. We used a suite of proxies which include diatom assemblages, bulk OC and TN, nitrogen and carbon stable isotopes, opal, grain size and biomarker analyses with focus on the new IPSO-25 proxy (di-unsaturated highly branched isoprenoid) of landfast sea ice.

A sub-sample of well-defined dark and light laminae (n=33) exhibited a statistically different (t-test) composition in terms of stable carbon isotopes, IPSO-25, relative percentage of the diatom *Corethron pennatum*, as well as porosity. Dark laminae are likely indicative of spring blooms when the delta-13C signature and IPSO-25 concentration are high, whereas porosity is comparatively low. The heavy delta-13C signature and high IPSO-25 values are consistent with deposition of sea-ice diatoms growing in reduced availability of dissolved inorganic carbon typical of sea-ice matrix. By contrast, the IPSO-25 in light laminae decreases by up to three-orders of magnitude together with a marked decrease of delta-13C. We interpret these trends to reflect a protracted opening of the bay later in summer and a greater availability of carbon for photosynthesis. Under these conditions, the greater *Corethron pennatum* concentration in the light-brown laminae might indicate a different environment likely associated with open water conditions. In addition, the relatively higher abundance of *Corethron pennatum* resulted in a “sponge-like” matrix which explains the marked difference in porosity between light and dark laminae.

The same suite of parameters were then analysed throughout the sediment core (n=300). Spectral analysis of the core data revealed a pervasive and persistent cyclicity at ~90 years consistent with the Gleissberg solar cycle. Based on the information gained from the laminae analysis, we infer that through a top-down effect solar activity might influence regional wind patterns, which in turn exerts first-order control on the landfast sea ice dynamics and diatom ecology in the Edisto Inlet.