

Evaluating the glacial-deglacial carbon respiration and ventilation change hypothesis as a mechanism for changing atmospheric CO₂

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Abstract

The prevailing hypothesis to explain pCO₂ rise at the last glacial termination calls upon enhanced ventilation of excess respired carbon that accumulated in the deep sea during the glacial. Recent studies argue lower [O₂] in the glacial ocean is indicative of increased carbon respiration. The magnitude of [O₂] depletion was 100-140 μmol/kg at the glacial maximum. Because respiration is coupled to d¹³C of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), [O₂] depletion of 100-140 μmol/kg from carbon respiration would lower deep water d¹³C_{DIC} by ~1 relative to surface water. Prolonged sequestration of respired carbon would also lower the amount of ¹⁴C in the deep sea. We show that Pacific Deep Water d¹³C_{DIC} did not decrease relative to the surface ocean and D¹⁴C was only ~50 late glacial. Model simulations of the hypothesized ventilation change during deglaciation lead to large increases in d¹³C_{DIC}, D¹⁴C and ε¹⁴C that are not recorded in observations.

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Key Points

- Highly-resolved proxy records of surface to deep water $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ gradients from the Pacific are similar in the late Holocene and last glacial maximum.
- Model simulations of the prevailing hypothesis for enhanced respired carbon accumulation do not match observations of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ and $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ in the deep Pacific.
- Processes other than carbon respiration and ocean stratification must also be involved in explaining lower [O₂] in the deep sea lower pCO₂ during the last glacial.

Abstract

The prevailing hypothesis to explain $p\text{CO}_2$ rise at the last glacial termination calls upon enhanced ventilation of excess respired carbon that accumulated in the deep sea during the glacial. Recent studies argue lower $[\text{O}_2]$ in the glacial ocean is indicative of increased carbon respiration. The magnitude of $[\text{O}_2]$ depletion was 100-140 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ at the glacial maximum. Because respiration is coupled to $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), $[\text{O}_2]$ depletion of 100-140 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ from carbon respiration would lower deep water $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ by $\sim 1\text{‰}$ relative to surface water. Prolonged sequestration of respired carbon would also lower the amount of ^{14}C in the deep sea. We show that Pacific Deep Water $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ did not decrease relative to the surface ocean and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ was only $\sim 50\text{‰}$ lower during the late glacial. Model simulations of the hypothesized ventilation change during deglaciation lead to large increases in $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$, $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ and $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ that are not recorded in observations.

Plain Language Summary

The prevailing hypothesis to explain atmospheric CO_2 variability during glacial/interglacial cycles assumes atmospheric CO_2 was sequestered into the deep sea as respired metabolic carbon. Recent studies argue in support of this by suggesting lower oxygen concentrations in the deep Pacific during the glacial reflects increased oxidation of marine organic matter that promoted a larger accumulation of respired carbon. We show this interpretation is not validated by independent tests, including records of deep water $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$.

1 Introduction

For over three decades efforts have been underway to identify the Earth System processes that modulate the concentration of atmospheric CO_2 on glacial/interglacial time scales. The prevailing hypothesis to explain the glacial/interglacial $p\text{CO}_2$ variability calls upon ocean-

44 stratification and reduced ventilation of deep waters during glaciations. In this scenario
45 atmospheric CO₂ is drawn down by the marine biological pump and respired metabolic carbon
46 accumulates in a deep ocean reservoir that remains isolated from the atmosphere. Much of the
47 research to test this hypothesis has focused on the last glacial termination where detailed records
48 from ocean and ice cores have documented the sequence of events surrounding the last glacial
49 termination and the rise in atmospheric pCO₂ from 18.5 to 15ka (Clark et al., 2012). These
50 events include the Heinrich 1 ice and meltwater advance across the North Atlantic that disrupted
51 deep water convection and the distribution of heat (Boyle, 2000; Hodell et al., 2017; McManus et
52 al., 2004; Seidov and Maslin, 2001). In the Southern Ocean, sea ice retreat and enhanced wind
53 forcing during the Heinrich 1 interval may have increased Ekman upwelling and altered air-sea
54 gas exchange (Anderson et al., 2009; Eggleston and Galbraith, 2018; Khatiwala et al., 2019;
55 Menviel et al., 2018). The increased upwelling is thought to have enhanced deep water
56 ventilation and release of excess respired carbon from the deep ocean to the atmosphere
57 (Anderson et al., 2009; Menviel et al., 2017; Sigman and Boyle, 2000). At the same time, the
58 strength and position of the southern Westerlies remains a difficult variable to robustly assess
59 from proxy records (Kohfeld et al., 2013; Sime et al., 2013).

60 The respired carbon hypothesis calls upon increased accumulation and isolation of
61 respired metabolic carbon in the deep sea due to greater ocean stratification and reduced
62 ventilation rates relative to today (Adkins, 2013; Menviel et al., 2012; Menviel et al., 2017;
63 Skinner et al., 2015). The hypothesis has recently been expanded to include accumulation of
64 'old' respired carbon throughout the deep Pacific (below 1500m) including the equatorial Pacific
65 (Anderson et al., 2019; Jacobel et al., 2019). The evidence in support of an expanded respired-
66 carbon reservoir comes from observations of lower dissolved oxygen concentrations in the

Pacific during the glacial. The lower oxygen levels during the glacial are attributed to the oxidation of organic carbon (Anderson et al., 2019; Jaccard and Galbraith, 2012; Jacobel et al., 2019), which would enhance the concentration of dissolved carbon. However, recent studies have found no evidence of enhanced productivity and export production in either the Eastern or Western Equatorial Pacific (Costa et al., 2016; Winckler et al., 2016), implying that if the respired carbon inventory increased, it must have been sourced from elsewhere. Such a scenario would require that additional respired carbon C_{org} and lower $[O_2]$ be transported to the deep Pacific via a conduit from higher latitudes, specifically the Southern Ocean because productivity appears to have been reduced in the North Pacific (Jaccard et al., 2010). Early box-models (Knox and McElroy, 1984) simulated depleted $[O_2]$ in the Southern Ocean and have been validated by proxy data (Jaccard et al., 2016; Lu et al., 2016).

An issue that complicates the inference of enhanced respired carbon from proxies of $[O_2]$ is the potential influence of air-sea disequilibrium on preformed $[O_2]$ in the deep water source region (Eggleston and Galbraith, 2018). In particular, expanded sea ice may have had a strong influence on air-sea exchange of CO_2 , and perhaps also on O_2 (Khaliwala et al., 2019). Large uncertainties exist, especially since the equilibration time for O_2 is a magnitude smaller than that of CO_2 . However, modern studies suggest a diminishing and proportional relationship between air-sea exchange and the fraction of sea ice up to ~90%, with seasonal and annual variability in Southern Ocean preformed O_2 at least partly attributable to sea ice and its indirect effects on biology (Bushinsky et al., 2017). Because zones of the South Ocean exhibit $[O_2]$ undersaturation during austral winter, expanded sea ice and shorter summer melting seasons are likely to have reduced air-sea exchange and lowered preformed $[O_2]$ in the glacial deep Pacific. For this reason, lower $[O_2]$ values in the deep Pacific during the last glacial cannot be directly converted to

estimates of carbon respiration without an independent form of validation. Here we use a separate proxy to assess how much of the oxygen concentration change in Pacific deep water can be attributed to metabolic carbon oxidation.

If oxygen depletion in the deep Pacific was solely the result of carbon respiration, there would have been an accompanying shift in deep water $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ (referred to as $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in ‰ relative to the VPDB standard). This is because photosynthetic carbon is depleted in ^{13}C by approximately 20‰ relative to dissolved carbon in surface waters. As photosynthetic carbon is oxidized in the subsurface, ^{12}C is added back to the pool of DIC, lowering its $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. This relationship is illustrated in Figure 1 where the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of DIC is plotted versus dissolved $[\text{O}_2]$ in the deep Pacific. In the modern ocean a decrease in $[\text{O}_2]$ of $\sim 100\text{--}140\ \mu\text{mol/kg}$ is accompanied by a lowering of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ by nearly 1‰ (Figure 1).

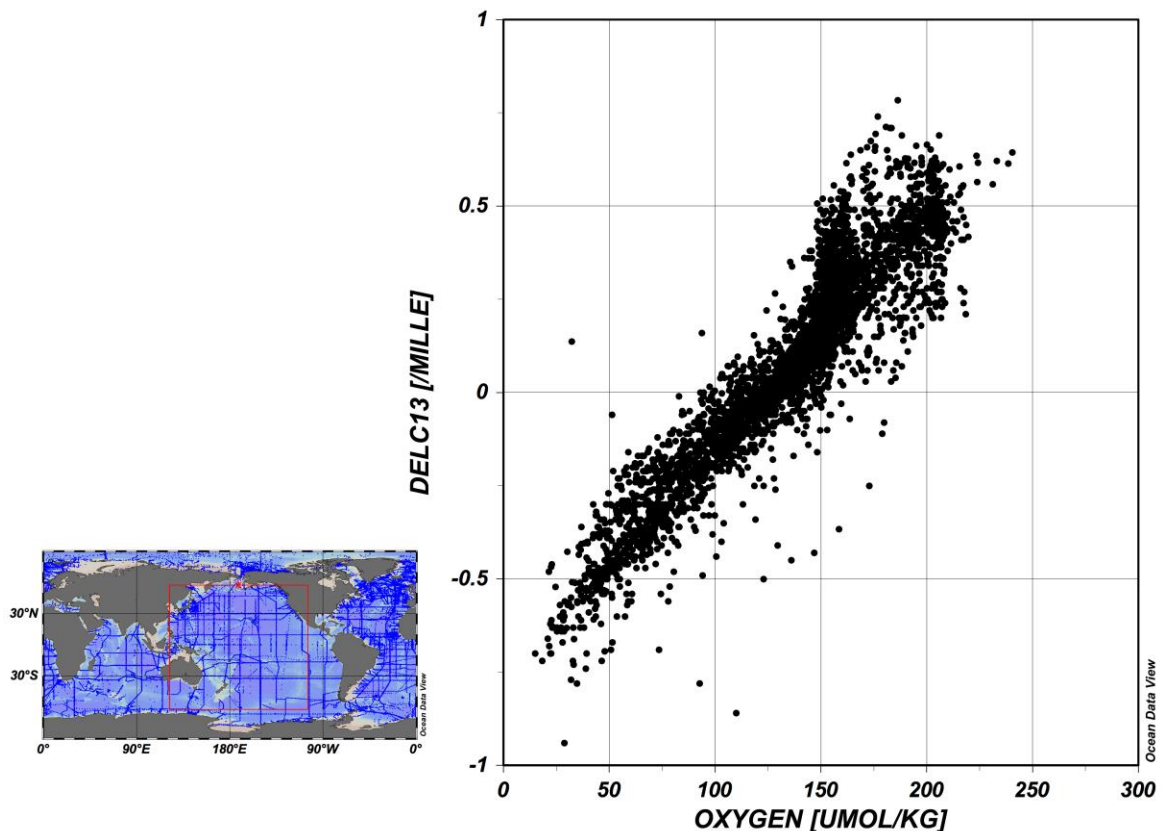


Figure 1. Plot of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of DIC vs dissolved O_2 from the GLODAP database of sites in the Pacific.

Over time deep waters lose $[O_2]$ and acquire lower $\delta^{13}C$ values as oxidized metabolic carbon is added.

If the waters in the deep Pacific lost 100 to 140 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ of $[O_2]$ during the last glacial maximum due entirely to metabolic carbon oxidation it would be reflected in the $\delta^{13}C$ of calcitic benthic foraminifera relative to surface water $\delta^{13}C$ as recorded by planktic foraminifera. The calcite of the surface-dwelling planktic foraminifera *Globigerinoides ruber* s.s. records changes in the $\delta^{13}C$ of western equatorial surface waters in contact with the atmosphere (Kawahata, 2005; Lin et al., 2004; Numberger et al., 2009) with a species-specific offset of 0.9‰ for specimens between 250-350 μm (Spero et al., 2003). Preindustrial $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ values of the western equatorial tropical surface waters would have been between 1.9-2.3‰ (Eide et al., 2017), values that are simulated well in current climate models (Menviel et al., 2015). The average $\delta^{13}C$ of late Holocene *G. ruber* in the western equatorial Pacific is 1.3‰ ($1\sigma=0.3\%$) (Figure 2). With a species-specific offset of 0.9 the late Holocene *G. ruber* are recording an average late Holocene $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$ value of $2.1\text{‰} \pm 0.3\text{‰}$, very close to the modern, preindustrial value. The epibenthic foraminifer *Cibicidoides mundulus* records the $\delta^{13}C$ of dissolved inorganic carbon of Pacific Deep Water, with minor influences from $CO_3^{=}$ and pressure (Schmittner et al., 2017). The $\delta^{13}C$ offset between late Holocene *G. ruber* and *C. mundulus* is $\sim 1.3\text{‰}$ and therefore is very close to the modern (pre-Industrial) surface to deep water $\delta^{13}C$ gradient. We use the $\delta^{13}C$ of fossil *G. ruber* and *C. mundulus* from a sediment core collected at 2114m in the western equatorial Pacific to reconstruct how the surface to Pacific Deep Water $\delta^{13}C$ gradient has varied in time and evaluate whether the gradient was larger during the late glacial relative to the Holocene as the carbon respiration hypothesis predicts. Sediment core MD98-2181 was collected within the core of Pacific Deep Water, which is the oldest and among the most oxygen depleted waters in the

deep North Pacific today. This water mass would have carried the oldest, most oxygen deficient and most carbon-rich waters southward toward the Southern Ocean during the deglaciation.

The prevailing hypothesis also predicts that as excess respired carbon accumulated in a more stratified and less ventilated glacial ocean the $^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$) would have decreased relative to the surface ocean. Then, during the deglaciation both $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ would have increased as older, O_2 -poor deep waters were replaced by younger, better ventilated waters with higher $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ (Menviel et al., 2018). We test this prevailing hypothesis by comparing new and existing data from the deep Pacific with the predictions and with an Earth System Model (LOVECLIM) simulation that depicts the timing and magnitude of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ response to the hypothesized changes in deep water ventilation.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ proxies

The MD98-2181 core was collected from the margin of Mindanao where the flux of terrigenous sediments to the sea floor is high and consequently the temporal resolution of individual samples from this core is also very high. Typical sediment accumulation rates are between 60 and 80cm/ky (Stott et al., 2007; Stott et al., 2004). The planktic foraminifera $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values (*Globigerinoides ruber* s.s.) are not affected by upwelling of subsurface waters and thus reflect the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of surface water DIC. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of the benthic foraminifera (*Cibicidoides mundulus*) record the history of Pacific Deep Water $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ DIC. Culturing studies have shown that this benthic foraminifer may migrate from the sediment water interface into the shallow most sediments briefly if disturbed but rapidly (within 24 hours) returns to the sediment water interface (Wollenburg et al., 2018). It appears therefore this species spends most of its life at the sediment water interface. After the MD98-2181 core was split, discrete samples were extracted

at 1 to 2-centimeter intervals. The samples were dried at 40°C and then disaggregated in a buffered solution of water and sodium hexametaphosphate. The disaggregated sediment was then washed over at >63µm screen to remove the finer material and then dried again. Planktic and benthic foraminifera from each sample were picked under a microscope. For stable isotope measurements the planktic species *Globigerinoides ruber* (white) was picked from the greater than 250µm fraction. The benthic species *Cibicidoides mundulus* (s.l.) was picked from the >180µm size fraction. The picked specimens were gently cracked open between glass slides, transferred to small centrifuge tubes and sonicated in buffered DI water for several seconds to remove fine debris (via syringe) from the calcite. After drying the calcite was loaded into vials for stable isotope analysis on a Micromass Instruments Isoprime Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer located at the University of Southern California following standard procedures in which a sample of CO₂ from the calcite is compared to a reference gas calibrated to the NBS PDB standard for both $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$. Average precision of the USC inhouse calcite standard (Ultiss) averaged <0.1‰ for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. Note, the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data from core MD98-2181 has not been published previously. Only the oxygen isotope data from this core have been published previously (Stott et al., 2007).

For radiocarbon measurements, different species of planktic and benthic foraminifera were picked, depending on the interval and the abundances of species. Specimens were cleaned in the same fashion as those for stable isotope measurements. The analyses were conducted at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) Laboratory and at the Keck Carbon Cycle AMS Laboratory at the University of California Irvine. In samples with enough *C. mundulus* (s.l.), *Cibicidoides wuellerstorfi* and *Uvigerina* for single species measurements, we analyzed more than one species to assess reproducibility. Typical

reproducibility of both benthic and planktic samples were within 300-500 years. There were intervals of the core where abundances were too low to obtain a measurement from a single species. In these cases, mixed species were used. There is also a portion of the core between 935cm and 1100cm that is disturbed and samples from this interval are not included in the study. Estimates of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ are based on the following equation:

$$\Delta^{14}\text{C} = (\text{Fm} * e^{\lambda/(\text{calendar age})} - 1) * 1000\text{‰}$$

Where Fm is the fraction of modern, $\lambda = 1/8,267$ is the decay constant for ^{14}C and a 5,730 year half-life (Stuiver and Polach, 1977). The uncertainties include the compounded analytical uncertainty of Fm and calendar ages. Calendar ages for the MD98-2181 samples were obtained by converting planktic ^{14}C ages to a calendar age using BChroncalibrate ages (Haslett and Parnell, 2008) with the Marine 20 calibration curve and a constant reservoir age. The surface reservoir age offset (ΔR) in the western tropical Pacific today is 0-50 years (Clark et al., 2006; Southon, 2002). There is no indication that the reservoir age of surface waters in the western tropical Pacific varied significantly during the past 22 thousand years. Thus, we applied a reservoir age correction ($\Delta\text{R}=0$) to each planktic ^{14}C age from the MD98-2181 core (supplemental Table 1). The metric $\epsilon^{14}\text{C} = ((\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{benthic}}/1000+1)/(\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{atm}}/1000+1)-1)*1000$ is used to characterize the ^{14}C disequilibrium between the contemporaneous deep ocean and the atmosphere (Soulet et al., 2016).

The 1σ uncertainties of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ and $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ are derived through a Monte-Carlo approach that fully propagates the uncertainties of ^{14}C measurements, calibrated calendar ages, atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values from the IntCal20 curve. These data are archived on PANGAEA.

3 Results and Discussion

The deep Pacific $[\text{O}_2]$ is estimated to have been $\sim 100\text{--}140\mu\text{mol/kg}$ lower during the glacial (Anderson et al., 2019). If that lowering of O_2 was due entirely to metabolic carbon oxidation (Anderson et al., 2019) it would have lowered deep Pacific $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ by 1.0‰ beyond the global mean ocean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ shift that is recorded by planktic foraminifera that inhabited the surface ocean where carbon respiration would not influence the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of DIC (Figure 1).

3.1 The Carbon Oxidation Hypothesis versus Pacific $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ Records During the Glacial

In Figure 2 we illustrate the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of surface-dwelling planktic and bottom-dwelling benthic foraminifera from core MD98-2181. We find that the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ offset between the surface ocean (planktic values) and Pacific Deep Water (benthic values) was $\sim 1.3\text{‰}$ in the late Holocene as it is in the modern ocean and was also 1.3‰ in the late glacial. Both the Holocene and the late glacial offsets between the tropical surface ocean and deep Pacific were therefore very close to the modern ocean offset. There is no evidence that Pacific Deep Water $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values were 2.3‰ lower than planktic values during the late glacial (the modern offset of 1.3‰ plus the 1‰ shift due to the oxidation of additional marine organic carbon) as required by the carbon oxidation hypothesis (Anderson et al., 2019).

3.2 Deep Pacific $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ Data Do Not Support a Significant Increase in Ventilation Rate at the Glacial Termination

There are relatively few high-resolution benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records from the deep Pacific that span the last glacial termination. The results from MD98-2181 are shown in Figure 3 together

with another well-resolved record from the deep North Pacific (Lund and Mix, 1998; Lund et al., 2011). In neither of these records is there evidence that deep Pacific $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values increased during the Heinrich 1 interval as predicted by the ocean ventilation hypothesis (Menviel et al., 2018) (Figure 2). It is possible that the LOVECLIM simulation overestimates the amount of ventilation in the deep Pacific and therefore overpredicts the magnitude of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ increase during the early deglaciation. However, the fact that both sites do not record anomalously low glacial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values and do not record an increase in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ during the early deglacial is not consistent with the prevailing hypothesis that calls for enhanced carbon oxidation to explain the lower glacial $[\text{O}_2]$ and increased $[\text{O}_2]$ during the deglaciation.

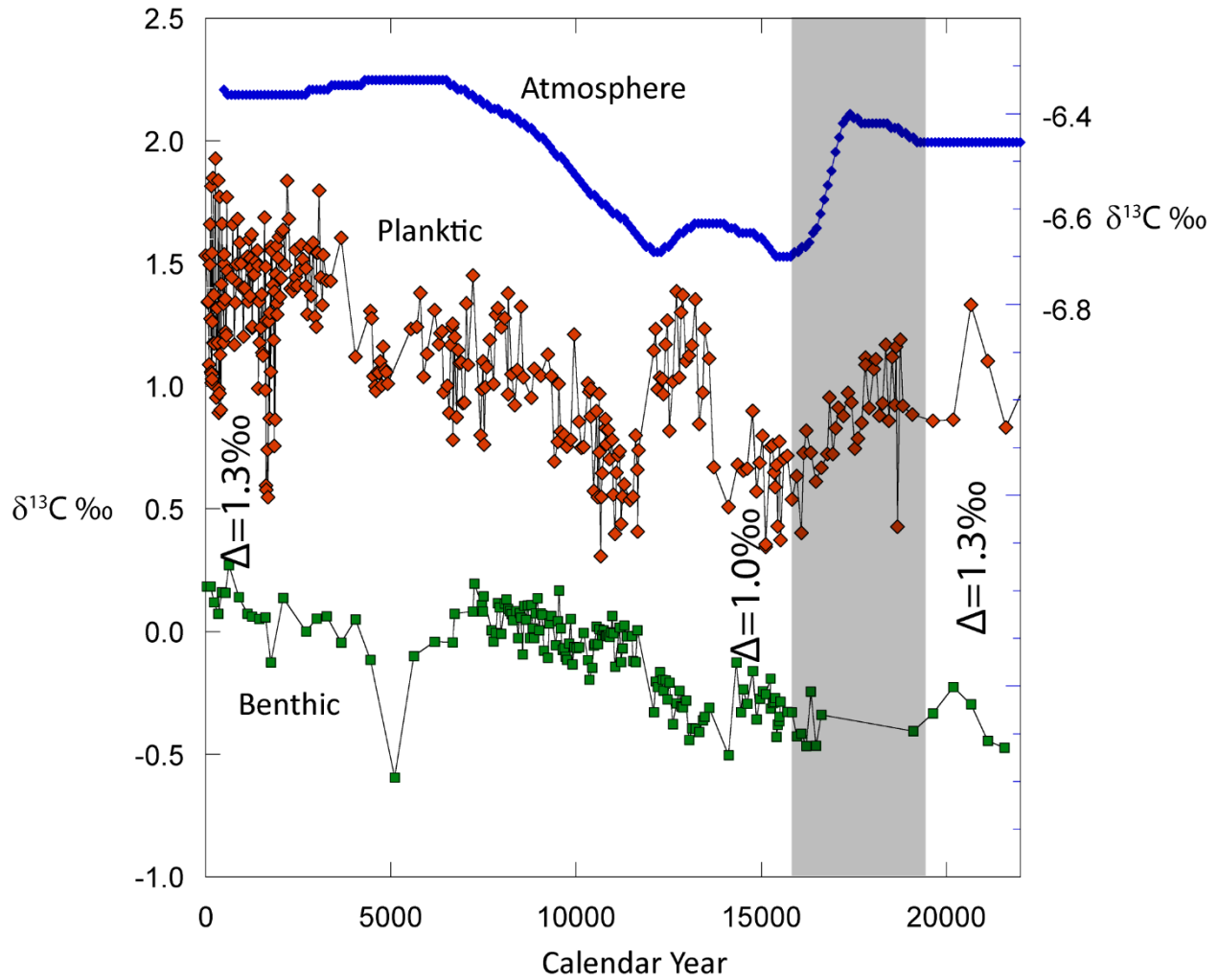


Figure 2. The record of atmospheric $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (CO_2) (Schmitt et al., 2012), planktic (*G. ruber*) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and benthic (*C. mundulus*) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ from core MD98-2181 from the western tropical Pacific. All values are plotted relative to the VPDB standard. Located at 2114m water depth, the core is bathed today by Pacific Deep Water.

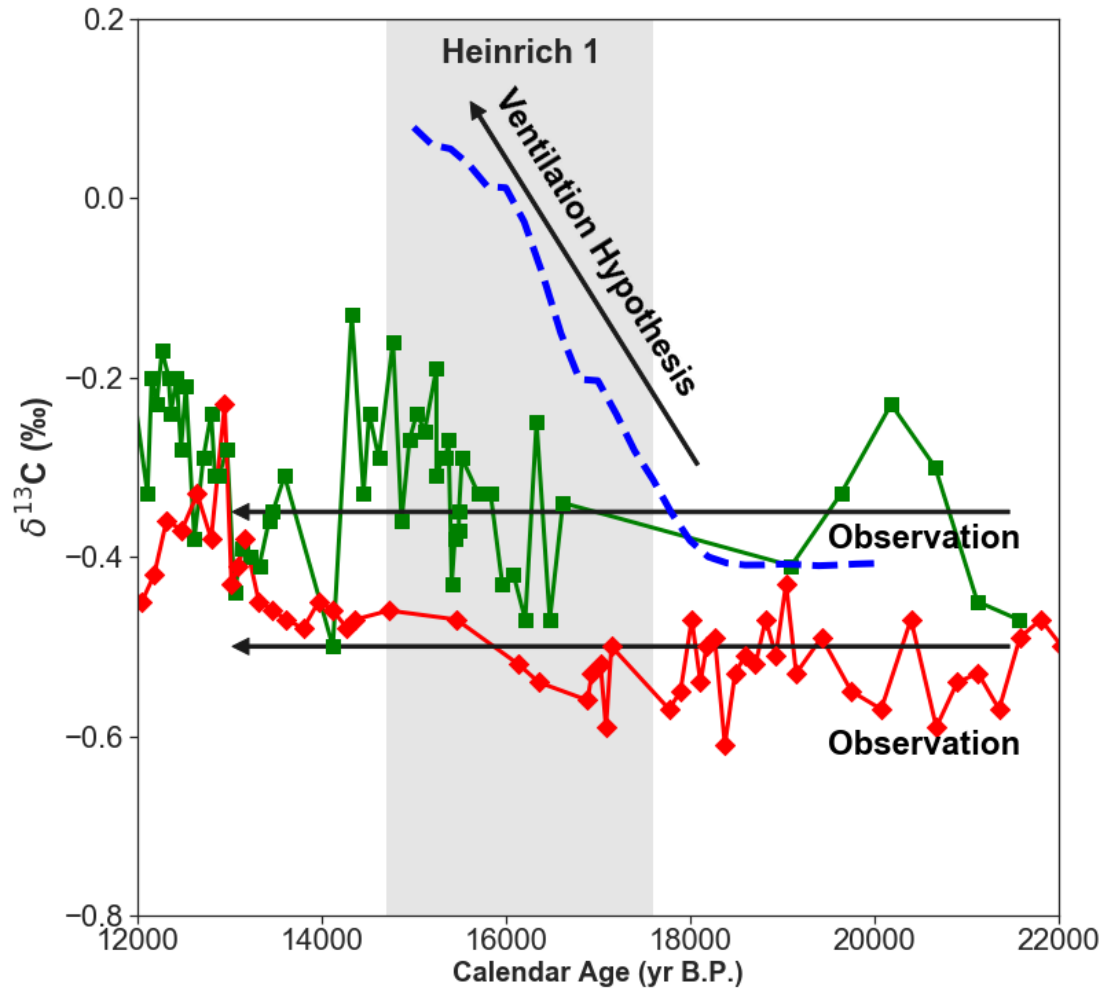


Figure 3. Benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (Obs) from deep Pacific cores MD98-2181 (green, this study) and W8709A-13PC (red) (Lund and Mix, 1998; Lund et al., 2011) and the LOVECLIM simulated Deep Pacific $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ response to enhanced ventilation (blue) (Meniel et al., 2018).

Like $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$, the $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ values of Pacific Deep Water starts as a preformed value acquired in the Southern Ocean source region where AABW and UCDW waters are subducted to abyssal depths. Pacific Deep Water is the product of aging of these waters as they flow towards the North Pacific and gradually upwell (Talley, 2013). The $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ values decrease as waters

age during northward transit through the ocean and are transformed into Pacific Deep Water that then returns to the Southern Ocean (Key et al., 2004). Today, Antarctic surface water $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values are close to -100‰. Circumpolar deep waters are $\sim$ -150‰. Pacific Deep Water has the lowest $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ in the ocean of $\sim$ -200‰ (Figure S1), reflecting the roughly 1400 year residence time of deep water in the Pacific (Khatiwala et al., 2012; Primeau and Holzer, 2006). The western tropical Pacific surface water $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values are 0-50‰. The offset between tropical surface water and Pacific Deep Water today is therefore, $\sim$ 200-250‰ (Figure S1).

The radiocarbon content of deep and surface water is recorded in the calcite tests of bottom and surface-dwelling foraminifera. Using the radiocarbon decay constant and calendar ages for each interval of a sediment core the ^{14}C age of planktic and benthic foraminifers are converted to radiocarbon activity ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}$) (Methods). The surface (planktic) to deep water (benthic) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ offset in the late Holocene and in the late glacial was 150‰, very close to the modern offset (Figures S1 and S2). Therefore, there is no evidence that there was a much larger offset in the late glacial period that would be indicative of a longer residence time of Pacific Deep Water. These findings are supported by other, lower resolution results from the deep Pacific that do not document lower ^{14}C content during the last glacial maxima (Broecker et al., 2008; Broecker et al., 2004). Importantly, we show that high resolution $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values at MD98-2181 in the deep Pacific does not record a large increase during the early deglaciation as the prevailing hypothesis predicts (Menviel et al., 2018). The offset remains the same for 5 thousand years after the beginning of deglaciation as atmospheric pCO_2 rose by 35-40ppm.

For the purpose of using benthic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ and atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ offset to trace ventilation, $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ is perhaps a more accurate metric, where more negative values reflect a larger gradient between the deep and surface (see Method). $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ at the MD98-2181 site is $\sim$ 250‰ during the

LGM and $\sim 200\text{‰}$ during Holocene (Figure S2 lower panel). The 50‰ glacial-interglacial offset is consistent with changes in benthic-atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (Figure S2 upper panel). There are small increases occur during the Heinrich 1 and Younger Dryas time intervals (Figure S2). These shorter term features are also seen in other high resolution records from the North Pacific (Lund et al. 2013).

In Figure 4 the benthic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ record for MD98-2181 is plotted together with four previously published benthic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ records from deep water sites in both the north and south Pacific. These records are plotted with the simulated values from the Earth System Model (LOVECLIM) for the deep Pacific $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ in response to increased deep water ventilation at the onset of deglaciation (Menviel et al., 2018). In each of the observational records, spanning water depths between ~ 1500 and 2800m , there is a $\sim 100\text{‰}$ decrease in $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ between 17.5 and 14.5ka whereas the model simulates a 100‰ increase over this time interval. The observational records of deep water $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ document a decline in both the North and South Pacific as atmospheric pCO_2 was rising. This is in direct conflict with results from the LOVECLIM experiment that simulates the deep Pacific response to enhanced ventilation. Considering that the absolute values of atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ during the last glacial termination (i.e. from IntCal20) are different from the simulated atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ in LOVECLIM, $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ for the observational data and the model data are also calculated to allow a direct comparison of ^{14}C -based ventilation state from the data and from the model (Figure S2). The simulated deep Pacific $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ shows a rapid 150‰ increase, while the observations only record a 50‰ increase. This contrast in $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ clearly indicates the model overestimates the degree of enhanced ventilation during the early deglaciation.

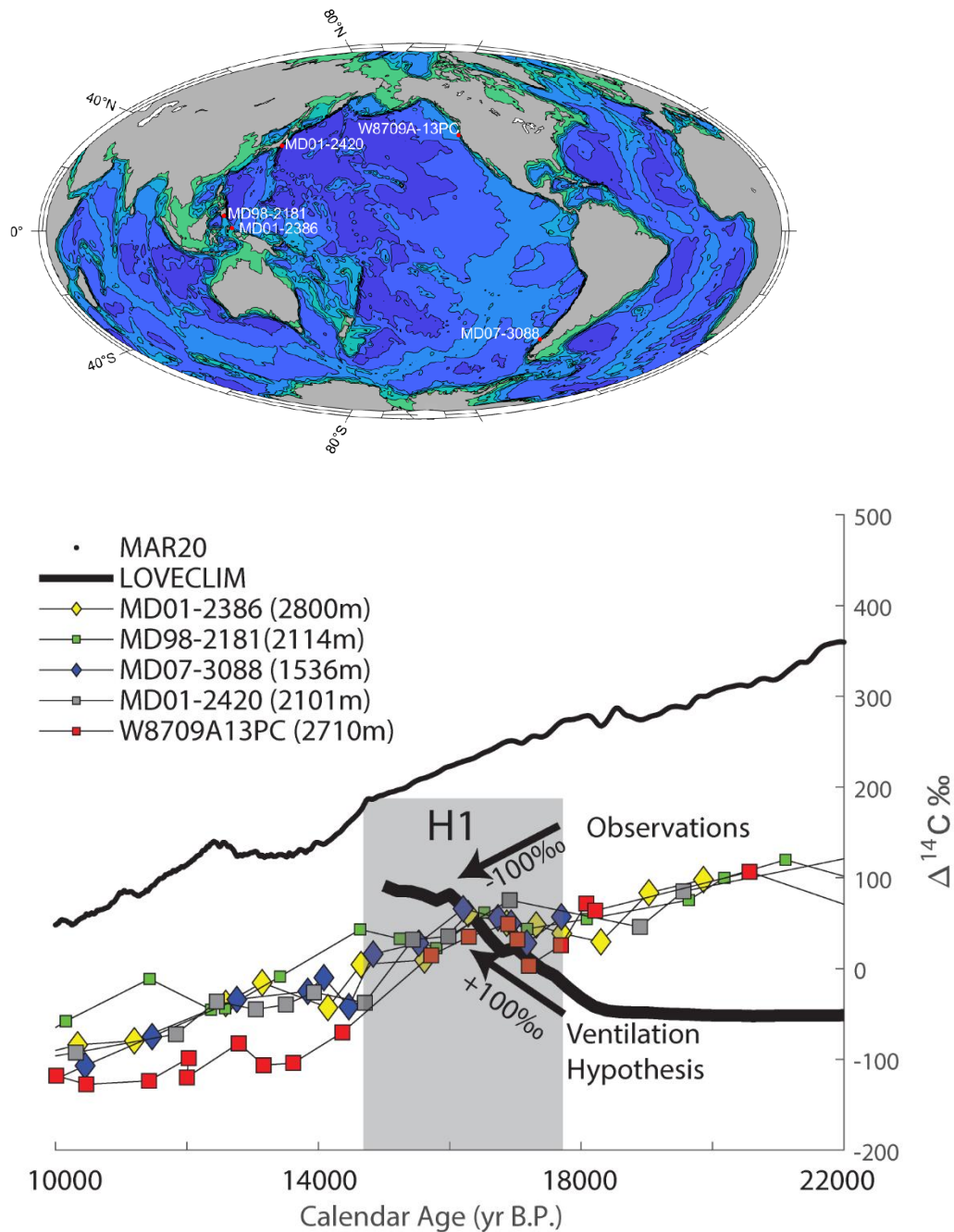


Figure 4. Upper Panel, Deep Pacific core locations. Lower Panel Benthic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ from the deep Pacific cores. Lower Panel, MARINE20 (global surface ocean) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (Heaton et al., 2020). The solid black line is the simulated deep Pacific (130E-130W, 0-50N, 2000-3000m) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ response to enhanced ventilation during the deglaciation using LOVECLIM (Menviel et al., 2018). Core MD98-2181 data is from this study. Raw ^{14}C ages from Core MD01-2386 (Broecker et al.,

2008); MD07-3088 (Siani et al., 2013); MD01-2420 (Okazaki, 2012); W8709A-13PC (Lund, 2013).

4 Conclusions

The observational data now available from the deep Pacific Ocean spanning the last 25kys do not support the prevailing hypothesis that calls upon significantly reduced deep water ventilation rate and enhanced accumulation of respired carbon. The small (50‰) decrease in $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ may reflect some reduction in ventilation rate during the LGM but not to the extent that it affected the amount of respired carbon that accumulated as there is no indication that the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of Pacific Deep Water was lower as would have occurred if the reduced $[\text{O}_2]$ was due entirely to carbon respiration. We suggest a more likely explanation for lower deep-water oxygen concentrations during the glacial was reduced O_2 ocean-atmosphere equilibration in the source regions where deep waters formed, warranting further investigation into past variability of preformed O_2 of deep source waters.

Acknowledgments, Samples, and Data

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[GRL]

Supporting Information for

Evaluating the glacial-deglacial carbon respiration and ventilation
change hypothesis as a mechanism for changing atmospheric CO₂

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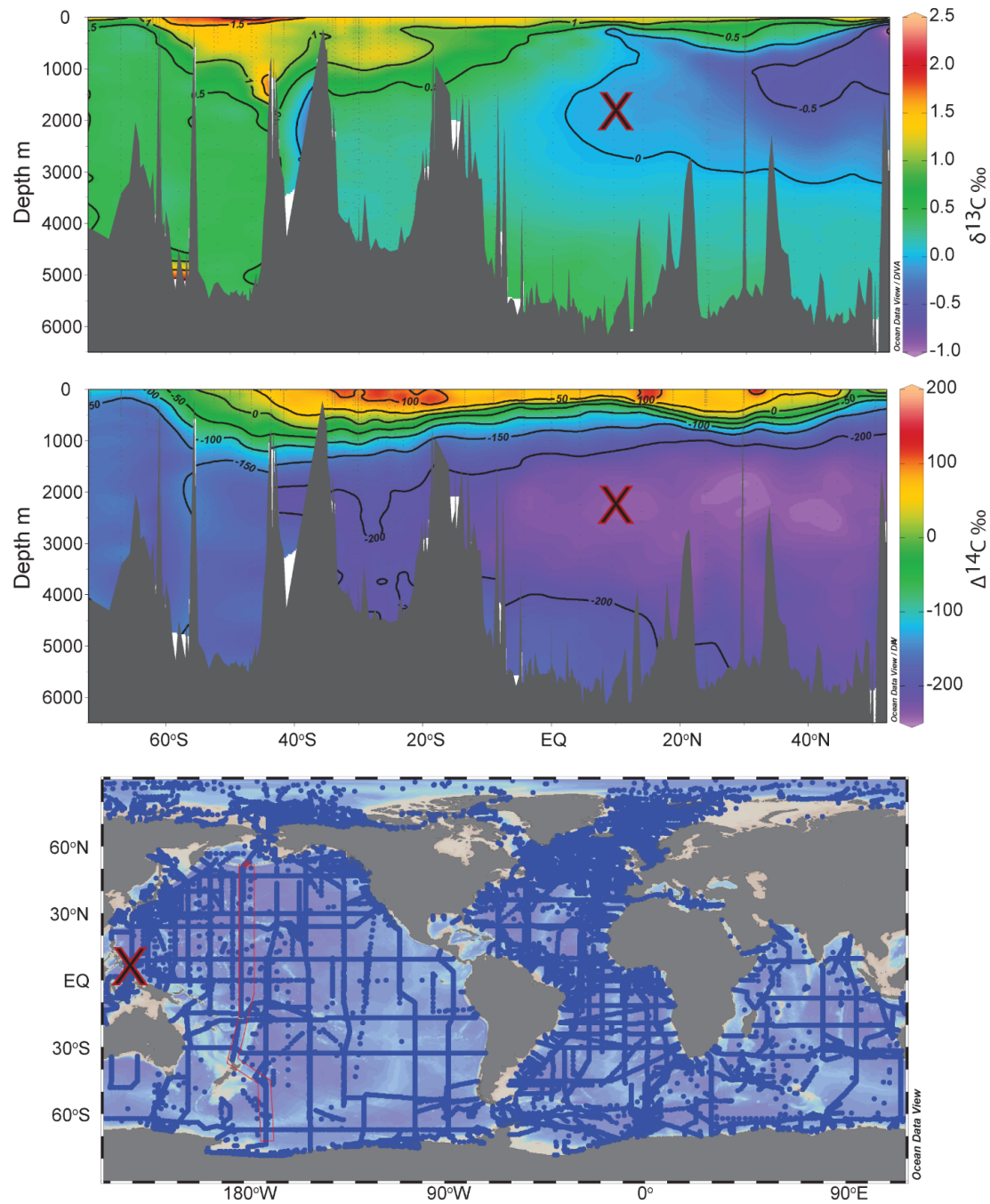
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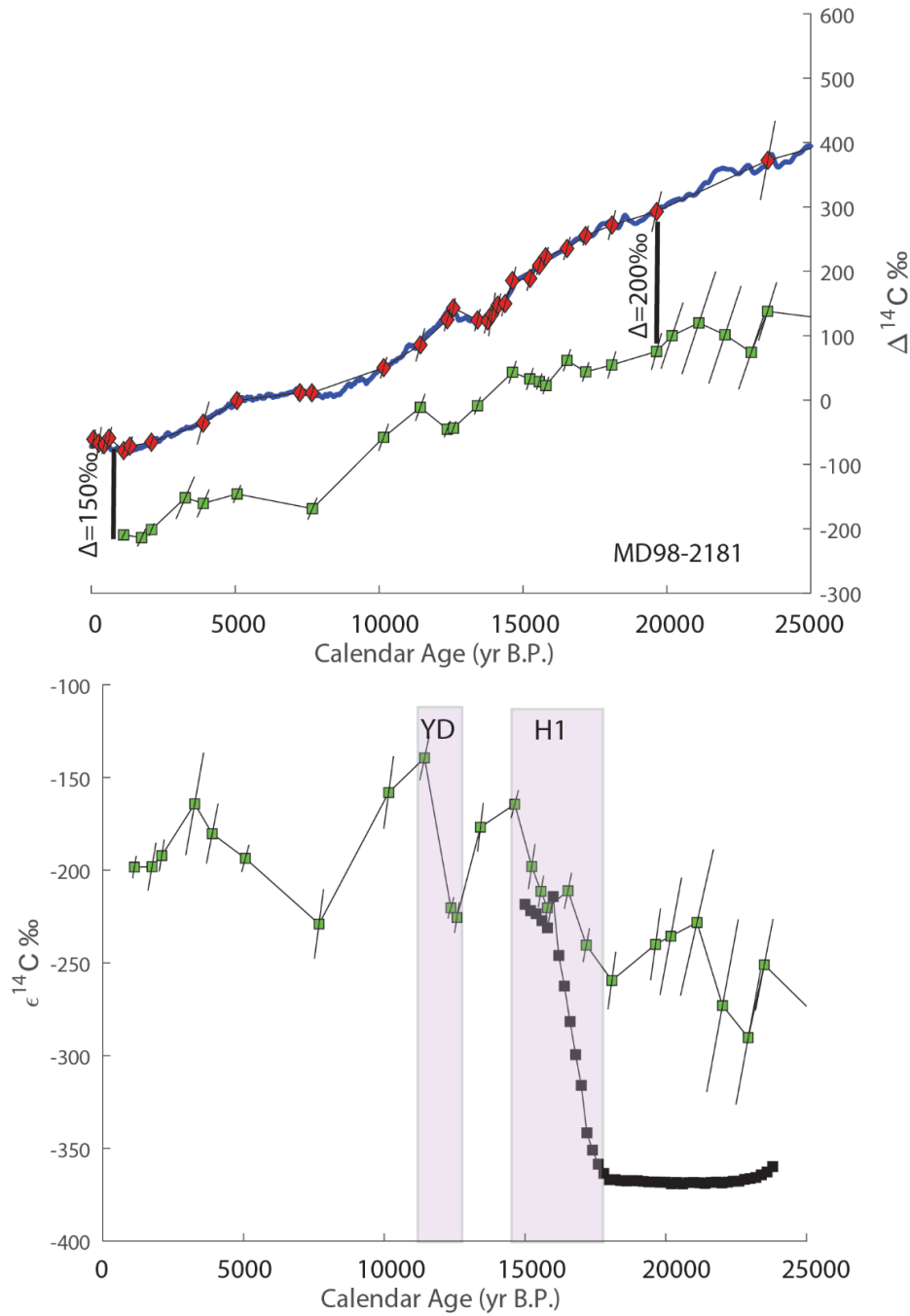
Figures S1 to S2

Introduction

The supplemental figures referred to in the manuscript.



Supplemental Figure S1. GLODAP transect of $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ (upper panel) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (middle panel) through the Pacific. The location and depth of the MD98-2181 site is marked with a red X.



Supplemental Figure S2. Upper panel planktic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (red) and benthic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (green) with the Mar20 $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ record (blue). The quivers represent the combined age (horizontal) and radiometric (vertical) uncertainties (1σ). Lower panel shows MD98-2181 benthic $\epsilon^{14}\text{C}$ (green) and the values from the LOVECLIM simulation of Menviel et al. (2018) (black). The shaded intervals mark the increases during the H1 and YD.