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## Origin of dissolved gas (CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, alkanes) in pore waters of a clay formation in the critical zone (Tégulines Clay, France)

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1 Title: Origin of dissolved gas (CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, alkanes) in pore waters of a clay formation in the  
2 critical zone (Tégulines Clay, France)

3

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9 Abstract

10

11 Understanding weathering processes in clay formations is an issue of primary importance for  
12 the preservation of our natural environment. Reactive-transport modeling used to simulate  
13 weathering of clay formations has indicated that reactive gases (CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>) are major  
14 parameters in controlling weathering processes.

15 The Lower Cretaceous Tégulines marine-clay formation outcropping in the area of Brienne-  
16 le-Chateau (north-eastern France) has been investigated in the context of a sub-surface  
17 waste repository. We developed gas monitoring (CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, alkanes) of core samples from  
18 two boreholes that entirely crosscut the Tégulines Clay formation, to define the  
19 consequences of weathering and oxidation processes on gases dissolved in pore waters. We  
20 discuss amounts of gas and the carbon isotopic composition of CO<sub>2</sub> in terms of pore-water  
21 chemistry including dissolved-inorganic carbon (DIC) and alkalinity, mineral reactivity,  
22 organic-matter degradation and oxygen diffusion. Degassing of samples conditioned under  
23 He atmosphere provided evidence of very high CO<sub>2</sub> production in the soil (0-30 cm), and high  
24 CO<sub>2</sub> degassing associated with a high oxygen level in the first 2-10 m of the clay. The CO<sub>2</sub>  
25 degassing increase observed in weathered clay relative to preserved clay resulted from  
26 calcite dissolution due to pyrite oxidation and organic matter degradation. The δ<sup>13</sup>C of CO<sub>2</sub>  
27 indicates that organic matter degradation was a major source of CO<sub>2</sub> at shallow depths and  
28 down to 10-12 m, which is the maximum depth at which we observed fossil roots. Then the  
29 CO<sub>2</sub> degassing decreased down to a constant value in preserved clay, where the carbonate  
30 system and the mineral assemblage control dissolved carbonates in pore waters. The profile  
31 of the δ<sup>13</sup>C<sub>CO2</sub> also provides evidence of progressive CO<sub>2</sub> diffusion of organic origin from the  
32 underlying Greensands aquifer in the lower part of Tégulines Clay up to ~ 40 m in the  
33 AUB230 borehole.

34 As a first step toward understanding interactions between Tégulines Clay and near surface  
35 waters or water at the Greensands interface, we developed a reactive-transport model to  
36 simulate in one dimension weathering processes under ambient temperature, constrained by  
37 geochemical reactions in soil (organic matter degradation) and in the clay (pyrite oxidation  
38 and calcite dissolution), exchange, DIC and pore water chemistry. The simulation was  
39 carried out for 10 kyrs, assuming that weathering and soil formation began after the last  
40 glacial maximum. The DIC profile cannot be simulated without considering evaporation  
41 processes in agreement with the isotopic data. This type of approach combining a complete  
42 field dataset (reactive-gas concentrations, δ<sup>13</sup>C of CO<sub>2</sub>, major-ion concentrations, δ<sup>18</sup>O and  
43 δD of pore waters) and reactive-transport modeling is necessary for better understanding of  
44 chemical weathering processes in the critical zone.

45

46 Keywords: chemical weathering, critical zone, pore waters, dissolved gas, carbon stable

47 isotopes, Tégulines Clay, reactive transport modeling

48

## 49 **1. Introduction**

50 The critical zone (CZ) extends from vegetation to groundwater and is a system that combines  
51 chemical, biological, physical, and geological processes supporting life all together (Brantley  
52 et al., 2007; Brantley et al., 2013; Sullivan et al., 2016; White et al., 2015). Among the  
53 various lithologies, marine-clay formations represent ~25 % of the continental surface. They  
54 are of peculiar interest due to their low permeability, complex fluid and gas transfers (slow  
55 vertical diffusion/lateral transfer), buffer capacity associated with carbonate minerals, and  
56 early diagenetic mineral assemblages. These are largely controlled by microbial activity and  
57 are consequently redox sensitive (Duffy et al., 2014; Lerouge et al., 2014; Lerouge et al.,  
58 2011). Interactions between marine-reduced clay formation, atmosphere and hydrosphere  
59 induce mineral, chemical, pore water, petrophysical and mechanical changes in the clay  
60 formation (Brantley et al., 2013; Lerouge et al., 2018; Soulet et al., 2018a; Sullivan et al.,  
61 2016; Yesavage et al., 2012 and references therein). Most of these interactions and changes  
62 are driven by biological activity, including macro- and micro-organisms, and vegetation. Clay-  
63 rock reactivity includes pyrite oxidation and sulfur state/pH changes, carbonate  
64 dissolution/alkalinity/DIC changes, organic matter degradation/DOC changes (Dideriksen et  
65 al., 2007; Drake et al., 2009; Duffy et al., 2014; Lerouge et al., 2018; Mazurek et al., 1996;  
66 Soulet et al., 2018a), and changes in other redox proxies (Tostevin et al., 2016; Yu et al.,  
67 2017). The progression of the weathering and oxidizing fronts is controlled by 1) the meteoric  
68 water influx rate, 2) oxidation reaction kinetics (pyrite oxidation, organic matter degradation),  
69 and 3) oxygen flux (Bolton et al., 2006; Brantley et al., 2013; Li et al., 2017). While numerous  
70 data are available on mineral reactions and pore water chemistry in the critical zone, little are  
71 available on gas transfer through the vadose zone and are essentially obtained by reactive-  
72 transport modeling (Hasenmueller et al., 2017; Heidari et al., 2017).

73  
74 Among scientific research on radioactive-waste disposal in deep geological clay formations,  
75 a core degassing methodology has been developed to monitor degassing in reduced-marine  
76 claystone conditioned in gas containers under helium just after sampling (Girard et al., 2005).  
77 The numerous degassing experiments carried out on cores of reduced-marine claystone  
78 (Callovian-Oxfordian Clay, Opalinus Clay, Toarcian shales of Tournemire) provided evidence  
79 of CO<sub>2</sub> and alkane steady state being attained after few months, and a relatively  
80 homogeneous range of CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressures ( $P_{CO_2}$ ) between 6 and 12 mbar (Gaucher et al.,  
81 2010; Lerouge et al., 2015; Wersin et al., 2016). The  $\delta^{13}C$  of the degassed CO<sub>2</sub> and of calcite  
82 separated from the claystone confirmed the thermodynamic equilibrium between carbonate  
83 solution species and calcite (Gaucher et al., 2010; Girard et al., 2005; Lerouge et al., 2015).

84

85 In this paper, we applied and developed the core degassing methodology to the Tégulines  
86 Clay of the Lower Cretaceous age that outcrops in the north-eastern part of the Paris Basin  
87 in France. For a decade, Tégulines Clay was investigated in the context of surface repository  
88 for low-level radioactive waste (Debure et al., 2018; Duffy et al., 2014; Lerouge et al., 2018).  
89 Chemical, mineral, and petrophysical characterization of core samples from two drilling  
90 campaigns in 2013 and 2015 provided evidence of weathering and oxidation processes  
91 down to ~20 m depth (Lerouge et al., 2018). Due to the significant mineral and pore-water  
92 changes including the perturbation of the carbonate system, it is of major interest to  
93 investigate the consequences of weathering and oxidation processes on core degassing in  
94 Tégulines Clay. We monitored CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> and alkanes degassed by core samples from  
95 three boreholes crosscutting the clay down to the Greensands aquifer, providing dissolved  
96 gas data through the critical zone. Amounts of gas, carbon isotopic composition of CO<sub>2</sub> and  
97 reactive transport modeling are discussed in terms of pore water chemistry, CO<sub>2</sub> origins, gas  
98 transfer, and key parameters for the understanding of weathering processes in the critical  
99 zone.

100

## 101 **2. Geological setting and sampling**

### 102 **2.1. Geological setting**

103 The Gault clay formation in the Aube department in the eastern part of the Paris Basin  
104 consists of siliciclastic shales deposited in an open marine environment from Middle to Upper  
105 Albian (Lower Cretaceous) on the Greensands formation (Amédéo et al., 2014). The  
106 stratotype of the Gault Clay defined in the Aube department consists of the Argiles Tégulines  
107 de Courcelles (82 m) overlain by the Marnes de Brienne (43 m). At -23 Ma (Early Miocene),  
108 the Paris Basin was eroded and became almost similar to the present day. Nowadays the  
109 Gault Clay formation outcrops as a 8-10 km large and 80-km long band of terranes oriented  
110 NE-SW through the Aube department (Figure 1a).

111 In the area we studied east of Brienne Le Chateau, Gault Clay is only represented by  
112 Tégulines Clay. The claystones consisted of the dominant clay fraction (47-72 %) associated  
113 with a quartz-feldspar silty fraction (28-43 %) and a carbonate fraction (0-22%) (Lerouge et  
114 al., 2018). Weathering of Tégulines Clay induced petrophysical, mineralogical and chemical  
115 changes (Lerouge et al., 2018).

## 116 **2.2. Sampling and rock description**

117 Samples were collected on three boreholes: AUB1010, AUB230 and AUB240, and a 5-meter  
118 deep pit (TPH1-1) (Figure 1b). The AUB1010 borehole, drilled in May 2015, crosscuts less  
119 than 1.9 m of surficial formations/weathered clay that were lost during the drilling, and ~32 m  
120 of clay before attaining the Greensands. Seventeen core samples came from the Tégulines  
121 Clay. The AUB230 borehole, drilled in December 2017 near the TPH1-1 pit, crosscuts ~5 m  
122 of surficial formations and ~63 m of Tégulines Clay before attaining the Greensands. Eight  
123 samples came from surficial formations dug in TPH1-1 pit and 28 core samples from  
124 Tégulines Clay. The AUB240 borehole was drilled in May 2018. About 12 m of Brienne marls  
125 overlie ~70 m of Tégulines Clay and protect them from weathering (Figure 1b). Twelve core  
126 samples came from the Brienne marls and 18 core samples from Tégulines Clay. All of these  
127 core samples were water-saturated.

128 The mineralogy and weathering profile of the AUB1010 borehole are detailed in Lerouge et  
129 al. (2018). The TPH1-1 pit and the AUB230 borehole were drilled in a cultivated cornfield in  
130 December 2017. The 0-0.3 m was a brownish sandy loam soil containing ~1.5 wt % of  
131 organic carbon. In the TPH1-1 pit, the following 0.3-5 m were ochrous sandy loam formed of  
132 61-70 % quartz-feldspar sandy fraction and 21-32 % of clay fraction that were crosscut by a  
133 grayish network associated with local black roots. Some detrital disseminated coarse quartz  
134 grains (up to 400  $\mu\text{m}$ ) are characteristic of these surficial formations. Surficial formations in  
135 the AUB230 borehole, ~10 meters from the TPH1-1 pit, were very similar but the bottom part  
136 was poorer in coarse detrital quartz grains, and looked like in situ dismantled Tégulines Clay.  
137 The organic matter content of the 0-5 m zone was lower than 0.2 wt.%. The mineralogy of  
138 the clay in the AUB230 borehole was quite similar to the AUB1010 borehole, taking into  
139 account that the 34 meters of the clay in the AUB1010 borehole corresponded to the last 34  
140 meters of the clay overlying Greensands aquifer (Lerouge et al., 2018) (Figure 2). The  
141 organic matter content of Tégulines Clay is  $\sim 0.5 \pm 0.1$  wt.% (Duffy et al., 2014). The bottom  
142 of the clay formation is characterized by the highest clay content (70-72 wt %), 27-29 wt % of  
143 quartz – feldspar silty fraction and no carbonate. The overlying ~ 9-12 m corresponds to the  
144 clay-quartz rich unit (UAQ) and is characterized by high quartz – feldspar silty content  
145 (AUB1010: 41-43 wt %; AUB230: 39-44 wt %) and low carbonate contents of 0-9 %. The  
146 overlying ~20 m crosscut in the AUB1010 borehole and ~35 m in the AUB230 borehole  
147 corresponded to the clay rich unit (UA unit) and were characterized by the highest clay  
148 content (AUB1010: 54-66 wt %; AUB230: 50-53 wt %), 4-8 % of carbonates and lower  
149 quartz-feldspar silty content (32-41 wt %). The overlying ~20-25 m crosscut only in the  
150 AUB230 borehole belonged to the carbonate-clay rich unit (UAC) with the highest calcite  
151 contents (16-27 wt %) and the lowest quartz – feldspar silty contents (20-31 wt %).

152 The oxidation profile developed in the clay from the AUB230 borehole was also very similar  
153 to that of the AUB1010 borehole, although the thickness in the two boreholes was very  
154 different. The top of the clay attained at 3.5-5 m below the ground surface consists of a  
155 plastic entirely oxidized claystone (57 % of clay and 42 % of quartz-feldspar), which  
156 progressively becomes greenish with a brown network associated with roots. Pyrite nodules  
157 and framboids entirely broke down into gypsum associated with goethite. Carbonates are not  
158 detected by XRD but were still observed in thin sections (Figure 3). The 5-11 m were plastic,  
159 yellowish green, and highly reactive; all the Fe-bearing minerals, including pyrite, glauconite  
160 were partially oxidized. Calcite gave evidence of partial dissolution, while gypsum and  
161 goethite precipitated (Figure 3). Down to a depth of 20-25 m, Tégulines Clay is plastic, green  
162 with rare yellowish aggregates of glauconite that attest to tiny oxidation (Debure et al., 2018;  
163 Lerouge et al., 2018). Below 20-25 m, the reduced clay is dark green, nonplastic,  
164 nonfractured and unoxidized. Diagenetic assemblage including framboidal pyrite, calcite,  
165 glauconite and francolite supports reducing conditions.  
166

## 167 **3. Methods**

### 168 **3.1. Squeezing and pore water chemistry**

169 Pore waters were extracted from clay samples by squeezing (Fernández et al., 2014), but  
170 using a modified method for collecting the squeezed pore waters under anoxic conditions.  
171 This method had already been applied to clay core samples from the AUB1010 borehole  
172 (Lerouge et al., 2018). The core sample mass was measured before and after squeezing.  
173 The initial core sample masses ranged between 300 and 500 g. Extractions were carried out  
174 at pressures ranging between 5 and 60 MPa (Table 1) over 9 days. Approximately 20 mL of  
175 pore water was collected. Two successive pressures were applied to some samples to favor  
176 pore water extraction, as indicated in Table 1.

### 177 **3.2. Core degassing protocol**

#### 178 **3.2.1. Conditioning on the field**

179 Core samples were immediately conditioned on the field after leaving the core sampler in  
180 order to minimize contact with atmosphere and to preserve in situ conditions of the clay-  
181 rocks, in particular the redox state. The first centimeters around the core were cut to avoid  
182 contamination of the clay by drill muds. The core samples were conditioned in glass jars of



183 0.5, 1 or 1.5 L under a He pressure of 600-700  $10^{-3}$  bar after three short cycles of pumping  
184 and filling of He up to a pressure of 1.5 bar. The vacuum obtained with the pump  
185 corresponded to about 20-30  $10^{-3}$  bar. The pumping time was short to avoid clayrock  
186 desaturation. The three successive cycles of pumping and He fillings decreased the oxygen  
187 content in the gas phase ( $<5 \cdot 10^{-7}$  moles of  $O_2$ ). The samples were systematically weighed  
188 and ranged between 900 and 1000 g in a 1.5 L glass jar. The weight was proportionally  
189 adapted for other glass jars.

### 190 3.2.2. Gas monitoring

191 Glass jars were stored in a room at an almost constant temperature ( $\sim 20^\circ\text{C}$ ), and regularly  
192 monitored for total gas pressure ( $P_{\text{total}}$  expressed in bar) and concentrations of different gas  
193 species ( $\text{CO}_2$ , alkanes, oxygen and nitrogen) on a Varian star 3400 CX gas chromatograph  
194 over several months (at least 2 months). Oxygen and nitrogen gases were systematically  
195 measured to test the gas-tightness of the glass jars. Concentrations of gas species ( $X_{\text{gas}}$   
196  $_{\text{species}}$ ) are given in volume percent. The uncertainty on the concentrations of  $\text{CO}_2$ , alkanes,  $\text{O}_2$   
197 and  $\text{N}_2$  in the gas phase was 3 %. The detection limits for gas concentrations were 0.001 %  
198 for  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2$ , and 0.0002 % for alkanes. The uncertainty on the total pressure  
199 measured in the chromatograph was  $3 \cdot 10^{-3}$  bar. Data are firstly expressed in partial pressure  
200 of gas species ( $P_{\text{gas species}}$ ) using Equation 1:

$$201 \quad P_{\text{gas species}} = \frac{X_{\text{gas species}}}{100} \times P_{\text{total}} \quad (\text{eq 1})$$

202 To establish the degassing duration necessary for a steady state and improve the technique,  
203 the seventeen clay core samples from the AUB1010 borehole of the 2015 drilling campaign  
204 were regularly monitored for  $\text{CO}_2$  for more than 200 days in the laboratory. The  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  attained  
205 a steady state at about 60 days of degassing in all the gas-tight glass jars (Figure 4a). In five  
206 glass jars where  $P_{\text{total}}$ ,  $P_{\text{O}_2}$  and  $P_{\text{N}_2}$  increased slowly toward atmospheric values, providing  
207 evidence of micro-leaks, the  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  went on to increase slowly (Figure 4b). Two monitorings  
208 carried out on two aliquots of AUB1010-13.45 m showed that the  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  measured in a leaking  
209 glass jar was higher than that measured in a gas-tight jar (Figure 4b). In this study, the  
210 values of  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  measured at 60 days in gas-tight jars were considered as representative of the  
211  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  of the gas/solid/pore water steady state.

### 212 3.2.3. Carbon isotopic composition of $\text{CO}_2$

213 At the final stage of core degassing, an aliquot of gas of each sample was transferred into  
214 He-flushed Labco®-vials. The stable carbon isotopic composition of  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$ ) was

215 analyzed with a continuous flow Thermo Finnigan Delta<sup>plus</sup> XP isotope ratio mass  
216 spectrometer equipped with a GasBench II (Thermo Finnigan) for gas preparation and  
217 introduction. Isotopic compositions are reported in  $\delta$  units relative to international standards,  
218 defined by:  $\delta = (R_{\text{Sample}}/R_{\text{Standard}} - 1) \times 1000 \text{ ‰}$ . where R is the measured isotopic ratio in the  
219 sample and in the standard: Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water (V-SMOW) for oxygen,  
220 Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (V-PDB) for carbon. Internal reproducibility was  $\pm 0.2 \text{ ‰}$  for  
221 oxygen and carbon; accuracy for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  measurements with respect to V-PDB standard is  
222 better than  $\pm 0.5 \text{ ‰}$ .

#### 223 **3.2.4. Successive core-degassing**

224 Core degassing classically analyzes present-day dissolved gas. We now apply successive  
225 degassing stages to a same core sample, to define the origin of the gas, and the processes  
226 that controlled their production. Reproducible concentrations of a gas species during  
227 successive degassing would indicate that the rock controls the processes of gas formation.  
228 Decreasing concentrations of a gas species during successive degassing would suggest that  
229 the gas species is present as a finite stock in the claystone.

230 At the end of the first monitoring and the sampling of the gas aliquot for the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$   
231 measurement, all the gas was pumped out of the glass jar, and the core sample was re-  
232 conditioned under a He pressure of 600-700  $10^{-3}$  bar. The glass jar was again regularly  
233 monitored for total gas pressure ( $P_{\text{total}}$ ) and concentrations of different gas species ( $\text{CO}_2$ ,  
234 alkanes, oxygen and nitrogen), according to the § 3.2.2. The reconditioning was applied two  
235 times to clay core samples from the AUB1010 and AUB230 boreholes.

### 236 **3.3. Calculation of the concentrations of dissolved gas in pore** 237 **waters**

238 With the knowledge of all the parameters of the core degassing experiment, it is possible to  
239 estimate the initial concentrations of dissolved gas in pore waters (referred to as  
240  $[\text{gas species}]_0$ ) from the final measured partial pressures of gas ( $P_{\text{gas species}}$ ). The  
241 experiment is a closed system in which the core sample degasses in an atmosphere of inert  
242 gas until obtaining steady state between gas, pore waters and solid (Figure 5). In the initial  
243 system (0), core sample is water-saturated and the gas phase is only He. In the final system  
244 (f), gas species present in the gas phase are considered at equilibrium with gas dissolved in  
245 pore waters.

### 246 3.3.1. Oxygen and nitrogen

247 For gases such as oxygen and nitrogen, which are not controlled by the rock, the gas content  
248 in the rock represents a gas stock, which distributes between the gas phase (*gas*) and pore  
249 waters (*aq*) during the experiment. Consequently, for such gas species, it is possible to write  
250 the conservation equation of the species in the (gas + pore waters) system, as follows:

$$251 n_{\text{gas species}}(aq)_0 = n_{\text{gas species}}(gas)_f + n_{\text{gas species}}(aq)_f \quad (\text{eq. 2})$$

252 where  $n_{\text{gas species}}(gas)_f$  is the number of moles of the gas species at the end of the  
253 experiment, and  $n_{\text{gas species}}(aq)_0$  and  $n_{\text{gas species}}(aq)_f$  are the number of moles of the gas  
254 species dissolved in pore waters of the core sample at the beginning and at the end of the  
255 experiment, respectively.

256 The term  $n_{\text{gas species}}(aq)$  depends on the sample mass ( $M$ ), on the water content of the  
257 sample ( $W$  %) and on the concentration of the gas species dissolved in pore waters  
258 ( $[\text{gas species}]$ ) as follows:

$$259 n_{\text{gas species}}(aq) = \frac{M}{100} \times \frac{W}{1000} \times [\text{gas species}] \quad (\text{eq. 3})$$

260 By replacing  $n_{\text{gas species}}(aq)$  in equation 2 with the above expression,  $[\text{gas species}]_0$  can be  
261 expressed in function of  $n_{\text{gas species}}(gas)_f$ ,  $M$ ,  $W$  and  $[\text{gas species}]_f$  as follows:

$$262 [\text{Gas species}]_0 = n_{\text{gas species}}(gas)_f / \left( \frac{M}{100} \times \frac{W}{1000} \right) + [\text{gas species}]_f \quad (\text{eq. 4})$$

263 The term  $n_{\text{gas species}}(gas)_f$  can be deduced from the ideal gas law applied to the partial  
264 pressure of the gas species  $P_{\text{gas species}}$ , and measured in the volume of gas ( $V_G$ ) of the glass  
265 jar:

$$266 n_{\text{gas species}}(gas)_f = P_{\text{gas species}} \times \frac{V_G}{R \times T} \quad (\text{eq. 5})$$

267  
268 The  $[\text{gas species}]_f$  can be deduced from the Henry's law as follows:

$$269 [\text{gas species}]_f = \frac{P_{\text{gas species}}}{K_{\text{H}}(\text{gas species})} \quad (\text{eq. 6})$$

270 Replacing  $n_{\text{gas species}}(gas)_f$  and  $[\text{gas species}]_f$  in Equation 4 with the above expressions,  
271  $[\text{Gas species}]_0$  can finally be expressed as a function of  $P_{\text{gas species}}$ ,  $V_G$ ,  $M$ ,  $W$ , and  
272  $K_{\text{H}}(\text{gas species})$ , which are known parameters:

273  $[\text{Gas species}]_0 = P_{\text{gas species}} \times \left\{ \left( \frac{V_G}{R \times T} \right) / \left( \frac{M}{100} \times \frac{W}{1000} \right) + \frac{1}{K_{H(\text{gas species})}} \right\}$  (eq 7)

274

275 Nitrogen gas may be considered as an inert gas diffusing through Tégulines Clay. We  
 276 consequently apply Equation 7 directly to estimate concentrations of dissolved N<sub>2</sub> in  
 277 Tégulines pore waters. At 25°C,  $K_{H(\text{N}_2)}$  is 1639.34 (Schaap et al., 2001), and the term  
 278  $1/K_{H(\text{N}_2)}$  is negligible.

279 Oxygen gas is a reactive gas diffusing through Tégulines Clay. For this reason, the  
 280 concentrations of dissolved O<sub>2</sub> in Tégulines pore waters that may be calculated using  
 281 Equation 7 need to be taken with caution, and probably represent minimum values.  $K_{H(\text{O}_2)}$  is  
 282 769.23 at 25°C (Schaap et al., 2001), and  $1/K_{H(\text{O}_2)}$  is negligible, as is the case for nitrogen  
 283 gas.

284

### 285 3.3.2. Dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC)

286 Contrary to O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> gas, for which gas pressure is directly related to dissolved gas  
 287 concentration by the Henry law, the CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure is related to dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> by the  
 288 Henry law, but total dissolved inorganic carbon is distributed among three species CO<sub>2</sub>(aq),  
 289 HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>. Consequently, calculations need to take into account all the carbonate  
 290 species dissolved in pore waters as the total dissolved carbonate content (DIC) is defined by:

291  $\text{DIC} = [\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})] + [\text{HCO}_3^-] + [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  (eq 8)

292 At equilibrium, [HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>] and [CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>] can be expressed in term of [CO<sub>2</sub>(aq)],  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$  and [H<sup>+</sup>],  
 293  $K_1$  being the reaction constant for CO<sub>2</sub>(aq) = H<sup>+</sup> + HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and  $K_2$  being the reaction constant  
 294 for HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> = H<sup>+</sup> + CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> (Giffaut et al., 2014):

295  $\text{DIC} = [\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})] \times (1 + K_1 \times [\text{H}^+] + K_1 \times K_2 \times [\text{H}^+]^2)$  (eq 9)

296 Taking into account all the carbonate species dissolved in pore waters, the conservative  
 297 Equation 2 can be applied to the total amount of moles of carbonates dissolved in pore  
 298 waters ( $n_{\text{DIC}}(\text{aq})$ ) and CO<sub>2</sub> gas ( $n_{\text{CO}_2}(\text{gas})$ ) during experiments, as follows:

299  $n_{\text{DIC}}(\text{aq})_0 = n_{\text{CO}_2}(\text{gas})_f + n_{\text{DIC}}(\text{aq})_f$  (eq 10)

300 By replacing  $n_{\text{DIC}}(\text{aq})$  by their expressions given in equation 3, total dissolved inorganic  
 301 carbon content DIC<sub>0</sub> can be expressed in function of  $n_{\text{gas species}}(\text{gas})_f$ , M, W and  
 302 [gas species]<sub>f</sub>:

303  $DIC_0 = n_{CO_2}(gas)_f / \left( \frac{M}{100} \times \frac{W}{1000} \right) + DIC_f$  (eq 11)

304 According to the ideal gas law,  $n_{CO_2}(gas)_f = P_{CO_2} \times \frac{V_G}{R \times T}$

305 According to equation 9 applied to final state of the experiment,

306  $DIC_f = [CO_2(aq)]_f \times (1 + K_1 \times [H^+] + K_1 \times K_2 \times [H^+]^2)$

307  $DIC_f = P_{CO_2} / K_{H(CO_2)} \times (1 + K_1 \times [H^+] + K_1 \times K_2 \times [H^+]^2)$ , with  $[CO_2(aq)]_f = P_{CO_2} / K_{H(CO_2)}$

308 Replacing  $n_{CO_2}(gas)_f$  and  $DIC_f$  in Equation 11 by the above expressions,  $DIC_0$  can finally be  
 309 expressed as a function of  $P_{CO_2}$ ,  $V_G$ ,  $M$ ,  $W$ , and  $K_{H(CO_2)}$ , which are known parameters:

310 
$$DIC_0 = P_{CO_2} \times \left\{ \left( \frac{V_G}{R \times T} \right) / \left( \frac{M}{100} \times \frac{W}{1000} \right) + \frac{(1 + K_1 \times [H^+] + K_1 \times K_2 \times [H^+]^2)}{K_{H(CO_2)}} \right\}$$
 (eq 11)

311 For  $CO_2$ , contrary to  $O_2$  and  $N_2$ , the term  $\frac{(1 + K_1 \times [H^+] + K_1 \times K_2 \times [H^+]^2)}{K_{H(CO_2)}}$  is low but cannot be

312 neglected.  $[H^+]$  is deduced from the pH values of pore waters extracted by squeezing. The  
 313 equilibrium constants  $pK_1$  and  $pK_2$  are 6.37 and 10.33 at 25°C (Giffaut et al., 2014).

## 314 4. Results

### 315 4.1. Pore-water chemistry

316 Pore waters of four samples of surficial formation from the TPH1-1 pit and of eleven clay  
 317 core samples from the AUB230 borehole were extracted by squeezing. Natural ground  
 318 waters from the TPH1-1 were also collected at 5.4 meters deep. The chemistry of the pore  
 319 waters was given in Table 1.

320 The pore waters extracted from surficial formations and natural ground waters at 5.4 m in the  
 321 TPH1-1 pit have neutral pH values of ~7.2-7.4, and low alkalinities of 0.57 meq/L PW. It is  
 322 noteworthy that pore waters extracted by squeezing and natural pore waters in surficial  
 323 formations have consistent chemical compositions. The clay's pore waters have pH values  
 324 ranging from 7.4 to 8.2, and alkalinity ranging from 1.2 to 9.9 meq/L. Pore waters in samples  
 325 from the lower part of the clay formation are characterized by the lowest alkalinity values and  
 326 may be classified as Ca-sulfate type waters. Pore waters in weathered samples of the upper  
 327 part of the clay formation are characterized by increasing alkalinity and evolve to Ca-Mg-  
 328 sulfate type waters toward the surface.

## 329 **4.2. Gas monitoring**

330 We applied a core-degassing protocol to the eight samples of surficial formation from the 5-  
331 meter deep TPH1-1 pit, the twelve samples of Brienne marls from the AUB240 borehole, and  
332 the sixty-three clay core samples from the three AUB240 (18 samples), AUB230 (28  
333 samples) and AUB1010 (17 samples) boreholes. We applied two other successive core  
334 degassing procedures on the clay core samples from the AUB230 borehole and the  
335 AUB1010 borehole, in order to define the process of gas formation. All the gas  
336 measurements were expressed as concentrations of dissolved gas in mmol/L of pore water  
337 (supplementary data; Figure 6). The  $P_{CO_2}$  were also given for comparison with literature data  
338 (supplementary data).

### 339 **4.2.1. Gas monitoring of reduced Tégulines Clay: AUB240 reference borehole**

340 About twelve meters of Brienne marls overly Tégulines Clay in borehole AUB240 and protect  
341 them from weathering. Core degassing of overlying Brienne marls have  $CO_2$  concentrations  
342 ranging between 1.2 and 4.3 mmol/L PW. The highest values are measured in the upper part  
343 of the Brienne marls in contact with alluvium. The  $O_2$  concentrations vary a lot with values up  
344 to 0.39 mmol/L PW, and  $N_2$  concentrations range between 0.7 and 7.7 mmol/L PW.

345 The  $CO_2$ ,  $O_2$  and  $N_2$  profiles of reduced Tégulines Clay with depth are almost flat. A  
346 reference-average  $CO_2$  concentration calculated between the top of the clay at 20 m and the  
347 bottom at 90 m is  $1.5 \pm 0.5$  mmol/L PW. The  $O_2$  concentrations were generally below the  
348 detection limit except for four samples, whereas the average  $N_2$  concentration was  $1.8 \pm 1.0$   
349 mmol/L PW. The  $CH_4$  concentrations ranged between  $1.15 \cdot 10^{-3}$  and  $4.3 \cdot 10^{-3}$  mmol/L PW. The  
350 highest values were measured in the middle of the formation.

### 351 **4.2.2. Gas monitoring of weathered Tégulines Clay: AUB1010 and AUB230** 352 boreholes

#### 353 *AUB230 borehole*

354 The 5-meter deep TPH1-1 pit and the AUB230 borehole crosscut ~5 m of surficial formations  
355 consisting of soil and sandy loam, and ~63 m of weathered Tégulines Clay before attaining  
356 the Greensands. The soil sample (TPH1-1 0-30 cm) directly in contact with the atmosphere  
357 degassed a lot of  $CO_2$  (11.5 mmol  $CO_2$ /kg of soil), and a significant amount of  $CH_4$  ( $1.9 \cdot 10^{-1}$   
358 mmol/L PW). The  $N_2$  concentration was high (10.6 mmol/L PW), whereas the  $O_2$   
359 concentration was very low (0.04 mmol/LPW). Samples of underlying surficial formations  
360 down to 5 m degassed less  $CO_2$  than soil (1.4-2.7 mmol/L PW). The  $O_2$  and  $N_2$  concentrations

361 varied a lot with values up to 2.1 and 11.7 mmol/L PW, respectively. Methane was not  
362 detected. The CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> profiles of weathered Tégulines Clay with depth are curvilinear  
363 (Figure 6). The O<sub>2</sub> concentrations reached up to 0.9 mmol/L PW in the 5-10 m zone and  
364 were close to the detection limit below 10 m down to 68 m. The N<sub>2</sub> profile was almost flat with  
365 values ranging between 1.4 and 4.7 mmol/L; increased N<sub>2</sub> concentrations was however  
366 observed at ~25 m (up to 6.9 mmol/L PW). The CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations significantly increased up  
367 to 8.5 mmol/L PW in the 5-15 m zone, in relation with the increase of the O<sub>2</sub> concentrations.  
368 Below ~20 m, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations ranged between 0.5 and 3.3 mmol/L PW, with an  
369 average value of  $1.6 \pm 0.9$  mmol/L PW. The CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations ranged between  $4.1 \cdot 10^{-4}$  and  
370  $\sim 3.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$  mmol/L PW with the highest value measured in the middle of the formation.

#### 371 *AUB1010 borehole*

372 Tégulines Clay is very close to the surface in the AUB1010 borehole. The CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>  
373 profiles of the weathered clay with depth are also curvilinear (Figure 6). The O<sub>2</sub>  
374 concentrations reached up to 1.8 mmol/L PW in the 1.9-10 m zone and were close to the  
375 detection limit below 10 m down to 34 m, whereas the N<sub>2</sub> concentrations varied a lot, ranging  
376 between 2.3 and 14.2 mmol/L PW. The CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations significantly increased up to  
377 8.6 mmol/L PW in the 1.9-15 m zone, in relation with the increase of the O<sub>2</sub> concentrations.  
378 Below ~20 m, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations ranged between 1.2 and 2.8 mmol/L PW, with an  
379 average value of  $1.7 \pm 0.8$  mmol/L. The CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations were lower than  $9.6 \cdot 10^{-4}$  mmol/L  
380 PW, except a value of  $1.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$  mmol/L PW at interface with Greensands.

#### 381 *Second and third gas degassing*

382 The CO<sub>2</sub> profiles of the second degassing of core samples from boreholes AUB1010 and  
383 AUB230 have the same shape as the CO<sub>2</sub> profiles from the first degassing (Figure 7).  
384 However, the CO<sub>2</sub> values measured in the upper part (< 15 m) were lower than that of the  
385 first degassing at the same depth (Figure 7). The CO<sub>2</sub> profile of the third degassing was quite  
386 flat, with an average CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of  $1.4 \pm 0.7$  mmol/L PW for the AUB1010 borehole  
387 and of  $1.6 \pm 0.7$  mmol/L PW for the AUB230 borehole.

388 Oxygen, nitrogen and methane concentrations measured in gas during the second and third  
389 degassings were near or below the detection limit of the technique.

### 390 **4.3. Carbon isotopic composition of CO<sub>2</sub>**

391 The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  largely ranged between -25.5 and -7.7 ‰ PDB. The profiles of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  with  
392 depth were different in the three boreholes (Figure 8). The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  profile of reduced  
393 Tégulines Clay from the AUB240 borehole with depth was almost flat, with values ranging

394 between -12.0 and -7.9 ‰ PDB. The highest values were measured at the top in contact with  
395 Brienne marls. The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  of Brienne marls are in the same range as Tégulines Clay.

396 The profiles of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  of the AUB1010 and AUB230 boreholes with depth are curvilinear.  
397 The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  of the clay from the AUB230 and AUB1010 boreholes ranged between -19.5 and  
398 -10.5 ‰ PDB, and between -19.8 and -12.5 ‰ PDB, respectively. The highest values were  
399 measured at ~20-22 m for the AUB1010 borehole (-12.9 to -12.5 ‰ PDB), and between 15  
400 and 40 m for the AUB230 borehole (-11.8 to -10.3 ‰ PDB). The lowest values were  
401 measured toward the top and the bottom of the formation.

402 The surficial formations overlying the clay in the AUB230 borehole had the lowest values: -  
403 25.5 ‰ VPDB for the soil sample (TPH1-1 0-30 cm) in contact with atmosphere, and -21 ‰  
404 VPDB for underlying sandy loam.

## 405 **5. Discussion**

### 406 **5.1. Dissolved gas contents of reduced Téguline Clay pore waters** 407 **– Comparison with other reduced-marine clays**

408 The most representative, well-preserved reduced Tégulines Clay from the AUB240 borehole  
409 between 20 and 90 m deep is characterized by  $\text{O}_2$  concentrations below the detection limit  
410 and an average  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  of  $4.1 \pm 0.9 \cdot 10^{-3}$  bar. These results are in the range of  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  compiled  
411 by Aarão Reis and Brantley (2019) for sedimentary confined aquifers (1 to 100 mbar at  
412 25 °C), and of  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  values of other marine reduced formations (Gaucher et al., 2010;  
413 Gaucher et al., 2009; Lerouge et al., 2015; Tremosa et al., 2012; Wersin et al., 2016). The  
414  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  profile with depth is almost flat. This can be a good indication of internal control of this  
415 parameter by the mineralogy as its nature is constant throughout the formation.

416 The highest  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  (-10.4 to -7.9 ‰) are consistent with  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  calculated at equilibrium  
417 with calcite in Tégulines Clay, where the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  ranges between 0.4 and 2.9 ‰ (Lerouge et al.,  
418 2018), and carbon isotopic fractionation between calcite and  $\text{CO}_2(\text{g})$  of 10.5 ‰ at 20°C  
419 (Deines et al., 1974; Mook et al., 1974). They also agree well with values measured in other  
420 reduced clay formations, and confirm that degassed  $\text{CO}_2$  is controlled by carbonates in the  
421 mineral assemblage and not by degradation of organic matter or diffusion of gas coming from  
422 other geological formations (Gaucher et al., 2006; Gaucher et al., 2010; Girard et al., 2005;  
423 Tremosa et al., 2012).



424 **5.2. Influence of weathering on chemistry and dissolved gas**  
425 **contents of Téguline Clay pore waters**

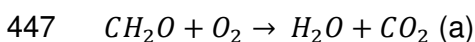
426 Present-day pore waters from Tégulines Clay outcrops have a complex history resulting from  
427 their past interactions with external waters coming from overlying Cretaceous chalk, and from  
428 their current interactions with percolating meteoric waters and ground waters of the  
429 underlying Greensands aquifer. Tégulines Clay is a marine-clay formation that originally  
430 evolved in reducing conditions. After 23 Ma of erosion in the Paris Basin, present-day  
431 Tégulines clay outcrops or is overlaid by soils and a few meters of surficial formations in the  
432 studied area. The bottom of the Tégulines Clay is in contact with the Greensands aquifer,  
433 whose water recharge is located less than 10 km southeast.

434 Below we discuss the nature of the external fluids and modifications to the chemistry and  
435 dissolved gas (O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations in Tégulines Clay pore waters through the  
436 weathering profile.

437 **5.2.1. Surficial fluids through soil and surficial formations**

438 At surface and down to the top of the clay (example of the AUB230 borehole), pore waters  
439 are infiltrating meteoric waters, which interact with mineral assemblage in carbonate-free soil  
440 and surficial formations. These waters analyzed by squeezing and natural ground waters  
441 collected in the pit at ~5.4 m were much-diluted Ca – HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> type waters.

442 The pore water at 0-30 cm shows the highest alkalinity: ~ 1.4 meq/L. The δ<sup>13</sup>C<sub>CO2</sub> of soil (-  
443 25.5 ‰) indicates that the CO<sub>2</sub> derived from organic matter degradation. During the  
444 monitoring of soil degassing, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration rapidly increased, whereas O<sub>2</sub>  
445 concentration was low (supplementary data). These data indicate that CO<sub>2</sub> results from the  
446 degradation of organic matter, according to the respiration reaction (a):



448 Between 0.3 and 5 m, the DIC of surficial formations were less than 0.9 meq/L. The  
449 significant DIC difference between soil and surficial formations can be interpreted in different  
450 ways:

- 451 1) CO<sub>2</sub> was produced internally by soil and surficial formations, and DIC differences  
452 were due to lower organic matter content in surficial formation (0.2 wt.%) than in soil  
453 (1.5 wt.% in soil);

- 454 2) CO<sub>2</sub> was produced internally by soil and surficial formations, and DIC differences  
455 were due to lower oxygen support in surficial pore waters than in soil; the diffusion  
456 rate of dissolved oxygen was four times lower than that of oxygen gas (Bolton et al.,  
457 2006);  
458 3) CO<sub>2</sub> produced by organic matter degradation migrated into surficial formation.

459 The presence of abnormal high O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> concentrations in surficial formations (higher than  
460 dissolved gas solubility) indicates the presence of trapped atmosphere bubbles. That also  
461 strongly suggests that organic matter is not degraded much in the surficial formation. The flat  
462 CO<sub>2</sub> profile in the surficial formation would rather indicate advective transport of CO<sub>2</sub>  
463 produced by soil through surficial formation toward Tégulines Clay.

464

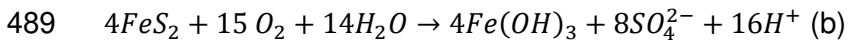
### 465 **5.2.2. Weathered Tégulines Clay**

466 Pore waters at the top of the Tégulines Clay have a significantly higher ionic strength than  
467 pore waters infiltrated from surficial formations and well-preserved, reduced Tégulines Clay  
468 pore waters, due to higher alkalinity, and calcium, chloride and sulfate contents. Core  
469 degassing also provided evidence of the highest DIC (up to ~9 mmol/L PW), and dissolved  
470 O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> concentrations. Some O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> concentration values were higher than gas  
471 solubility; that could be due to uncertainties on the water content, desaturation of the sample,  
472 or air bubbles trapped by the core samples.

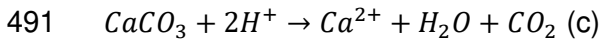
473 The highest chemical changes were observed from the top of the formation down to ~10 m,  
474 corresponding to the highly reactive transition zone (AUB1010: Lerouge et al. (2018);  
475 AUB230: this study). These changes in pore water chemistry have already been described in  
476 other case studies (Brantley et al., 2013; Hendry and Wassenaar, 2000; Jin and Brantley,  
477 2011; Tuttle and Breit, 2009; Tuttle et al., 2009) and predicted by reactive-transport  
478 modelling of weathering in clay aquitard (Heidari et al., 2017; Jin et al., 2010; Kim and Lee,  
479 2009).

480 Chemical variations in the pore water, including high alkalinity and DIC, result from  
481 interactions between oxygenated surficial waters and mineral assemblage of the reduced  
482 clay. The O<sub>2</sub> concentrations recorded in this zone attest to the presence of O<sub>2</sub> that drives  
483 oxidative weathering of pyrite, organic matter and other Fe<sup>2+</sup> bearing minerals including clay  
484 minerals (illite, illite-smectite mixed layers, chlorite, glauconite), carbonates (ankerite) and  
485 magnetite, (Brantley et al., 2013; Duffy et al., 2014; Lerouge et al., 2018). The oxidation of  
486 pyrite in the presence of water is a source of protons according to reaction (b) that

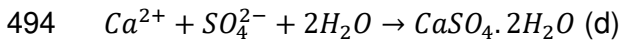
487 contributes to carbonate dissolution and DIC increase (Lebedeva et al., 2007; Torres et al.,  
488 2014):



490 The increase of protons induces calcite dissolution according to reaction (c):



492 Iron hydroxides and gypsum are secondary minerals formed from reactions (b) and (d),  
493 respectively:



495

496 Below 10-11 m down to ~15-18 m, the DIC, dissolved O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> concentrations, and cation  
497 and anion concentrations rapidly decreased to reach a relatively homogeneous reduced clay  
498 composition. The O<sub>2</sub> concentration became close or below the detection limit in agreement  
499 with reducing conditions.

500 At the bottom of the Tégulines Clay in contact with Greensands, pore waters had a  
501 significantly lower ionic strength than pore waters in preserved clay, providing exchanges  
502 between Tégulines clay and the Greensands aquifer. The low ionic strength of pore waters  
503 was related to slightly lower DIC than reference Tégulines Clay. Claystone does not show  
504 any evidence of weathering, but calcite is absent.

### 505 **5.2.3. Origin of dissolved inorganic carbon in weathered Tégulines Clay**

506 The major reactions increasing the DIC in weathered Tégulines Clay are the dissolution of  
507 carbonates present in the claystone and the degradation of organic matter from external and  
508 internal sources. The wider  $\delta^{13}C_{CO_2}$  range (-19.8 to -10.5 ‰) of the weathered clay than for  
509 reduced clay internally controlled by calcite ( $\delta^{13}C_{CO_2\text{-calcite}} \sim -10.4$  to  $-7.9$  ‰ PDB) is consistent  
510 with mixing between the CO<sub>2</sub> component internally controlled by calcite, and a second CO<sub>2</sub>  
511 component due to degradation of organic matter, whose  $\delta^{13}C_{CO_2\text{-organic matter}}$  is assumed  $\sim -$   
512  $25.5$  ‰ PDB. From the  $\delta^{13}C_{CO_2}$  of each clay sample, we estimate the contribution of these  
513 components ( $X_{\text{organic matter}}$  and  $X_{\text{calcite}}$ ) in percent for the three boreholes (Figure 9). The profiles  
514 of organic contribution are similar in the AUB1010 and AUB230 boreholes and provide  
515 evidence that degradation of organic matter is the major source of CO<sub>2</sub> in calcite-free surficial  
516 formations ( $X_{\text{organic matter}} \sim 60$ -80%), at the top of the clay down to  $\sim 8$ -9 m ( $X_{\text{organic matter}} \sim 32$ -  
517 60%), and toward the interface with Greensands ( $X_{\text{organic matter}}$  up to 60 ‰). The depth of about  
518 ten meters corresponds approximatively to the depth of the root network observed in  
519 boreholes.

520 The contributions given in percent may be used to estimate the DIC associated to these  
521 contributions:

522 
$$\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite}} = X_{\text{calcite}} \times \text{DIC} \text{ and } \text{DIC}_{\text{organic matter}} = X_{\text{organic matter}} \times \text{DIC}$$

523

524 From the top of the clay to ~10 m for AUB230 and AUB1010, the  $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite}}$  increased from 1-2  
525 to 6.5 mmol/L, and then decreased to ~1-2 mmol/L at 20-25 m for AUB 230 and at 16 m for  
526 AUB1010. The  $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite}}$  in the weathered clay was higher than the average DIC value  
527 measured in the reduced clay, which is attributed to calcite equilibrium in the reduced system  
528 ( $1.5 \pm 0.5$  mmol/L PW referred to as  $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite } 0}$ ). That confirms the displacement of the

529 carbonate system ( $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite dissolution}}$ ) with pyrite oxidation and decreasing pH (Table 2).  
530 According to the reaction (c), one mole of  $\text{CO}_2$  and one mole of Ca are produced by  
531 dissolution of one mole of  $\text{CaCO}_3$ . The  $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite dissolution}}$  partially explains the Ca concentration  
532 increase in pore waters, but Ca concentration is also controlled by Ca-bearing mineral  
533 precipitation such as gypsum and the clay exchanger (Lerouge et al., 2018).

534 The  $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite dissolution}}$  also can be expressed in millimoles of dissolved calcite per 100 g of rock,  
535 using the water and carbonate contents of the rock (Table 2). Even though  $\text{CO}_2$  degassing  
536 reveals the effects of weathering on the clay, the calculated percentages of calcite  
537 dissolution to explain  $\text{CO}_2$  degassing data remain small (<0.3 millimoles of calcite per 100 g  
538 of rock) in the highly reactive transition zone. They are however higher in the weathered clay  
539 from the AUB1010 than from the AUB230 borehole. That is consistent with a higher intensity  
540 of clay weathering in the AUB1010 borehole, suggested by decreasing methane, and  
541 increasing oxygen and nitrogen degassing. It is noteworthy that our calculations correspond  
542 to a measurement at a time t of a reactive system, i.e. in situ reactivity and diffusion of pore  
543 waters through the formation. The diffusion rate of oxygen dissolved in pore waters is so  
544 slow that we assume minerals and the system were at a steady state (pseudo-equilibrium) at  
545 a time t.

546 On the other side, at the bottom of the clay at ~34 m in the AUB1010 borehole and at ~68 m  
547 in the AUB230, the DIC was lower than in preserved reduced Tégulines and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  was ~ -  
548 18 ‰, suggesting a dilution or isotopic exchange of  $\text{CO}_2$  internally controlled by calcite with  
549 Greensands waters poor in  $\text{CO}_2$  of organic origin. The profile of the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  in the lower part  
550 of the clay suggests progressive diffusion of  $\text{CO}_2$  of organic origin through the clay formation  
551 up to ~ 30-40 m in the AUB230 borehole and ~20-25 m in the AUB1010 borehole.

552 Assuming contemporaneous weathering progressions at the top and the bottom of Tégulines  
553 clay in the AUB230 and AUB1010 boreholes, the lower thickness of the clay formation in the  
554 AUB1010 borehole and decompaction processes might explain the higher weathering  
555 intensity in AUB1010 borehole.

### 556 **5.3. Modeling approach**

557 The distribution of DIC and major ions (Ca, Mg, Cl,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) with depth showed that the main  
558 geochemical reactions occur in the soil zone (organic matter degradation), the highly reactive  
559 and 0-10 m oxidized clay zone (pyrite oxidation and calcite dissolution), and in a lower  
560 proportion at the interface with aquifer waters of underlying Greensands. The solute profiles  
561 in the unoxidized clay are consequently the result of downward diffusion from pore waters of  
562 the oxidized clay and of upward diffusion from aquifer waters of underlying Greensands.  
563 Even though chloride is generally considered as a natural conservative tracer, chloride also  
564 shows a curvilinear profile relatively well-correlated with DIC, Ca, Mg and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ -profiles.  
565 These ion concentrations combined with previous oxygen and hydrogen isotopes of clay  
566 pore waters in the first ten meters of the AUB1010 borehole (Lerouge et al., 2018) seem to  
567 support evaporation processes.

568 Since surface erosion rates are low in the Paris Basin (Prijac et al., 2000), we neglect  
569 erosion processes and focus on chemical weathering. We now propose in a first approach to  
570 simulate chemically in one dimension the DIC concentrations through the weathering profile  
571 developed on Tégulines Clay, using the reactive transport code PhreeqC v3.1.2 (Parkhurst  
572 and Appelo, 2013) with the ThermoChimie thermodynamic database (Giffaut et al., 2014).  
573 The initial 1D-model setup considers a 32 meter high column (with 1 meter meshes) formed  
574 of uniformly distributed reduced clay. The column height is approximatively the thickness of  
575 the clay in the AUB1010 borehole. Initial porosity was 0.25 (Lerouge et al., 2018). Clay pore  
576 waters chosen for the model were arbitrarily those of the AUB1010-23 m sample. Indeed,  
577 Tégulines Clay is a marine formation, and consequently early pore waters had composition  
578 close to seawater. However, the formation has been outcropped since ~23 Ma ago, and  
579 meteoric waters have diffused through it since, and diluted the pore waters. The lack of  
580 knowledge of the paleogeography and paleoclimate of the area do not allow a running  
581 simulation over 23 Ma. In this study, we chose to model scenarios over a period of 10 kyrs,  
582 which corresponds to the last ice age, even though the present-day pore-water chemistry is  
583 not the same as 10 kyrs ago. Therefore, we assessed the pore waters by equilibration with  
584 the calcite-pyrite-goethite-  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  assemblage and the clay exchanger, according to the  
585 THERMOAR model developed by (Gaucher et al., 2006; Gaucher et al., 2009). Since the  
586 kinetic dissolution of silicate minerals such as quartz and feldspars is much longer than 10  
587 kyrs (Appelo and Postma, 2005; Lasaga, 1984), we simplified the geochemical model  
588 focusing on water-rock interactions of calcite and pyrite, and cation exchanges identified in  
589 the weathered clay, and assumed silicate minerals to be stable. The surficial waters diffusing  
590 through the vertical column considered in the model were natural pore waters in soil (TPH1-1

591 0-30 cm waters), equilibrated with the atmospheric pressure of oxygen, and taking into  
592 account the kinetic reaction of organic matter degradation in soil (Marty et al., 2015; Marty et  
593 al., 2018).

594 The diffusion coefficient was set to  $5 \cdot 10^{-11}$  m<sup>2</sup>/s for each ion based on HTO experiments  
595 (ANDRA, 2015). There was no consideration of multi-component diffusion (each ion with its  
596 own diffusion coefficient; Hasenmueller et al., 2017).

597 In a first model, we considered the reactivity in soil and in the clay without evaporation. In  
598 that case, the model did not reproduce the DIC curvilinear profile, with high DIC values in the  
599 first meters, and ion curvilinear profiles (Figure 10). Different kinetics values for pyrite  
600 oxidation and organic matter degradation did not significantly change the results.

601 In the second model, we introduced evaporation processes through concentrating surficial  
602 waters by approximatively six-fold, and adjusted it to DIC measurements. In that way we  
603 simulated evaporation processes in the first meter of the clay column (i.e. first cell of the  
604 model). This second model reproduced the DIC curvilinear profile defined by core sample  
605 degassing quite well and also alkalinities measured on pore waters extracted by squeezing  
606 (Figure 10). This suggests that organic matter degradation in soil and evaporation processes  
607 were the major reactions needed to explain the CO<sub>2</sub> anomaly in the 0-10 m zone of the  
608 AUB1010 borehole, which is consistent with the CO<sub>2</sub> carbon isotope data, which also show  
609 the major contribution of CO<sub>2</sub> derived from organic-matter degradation in soil into this zone.  
610 Our model differs on this point from the Opalinus Clay chemical weathering model, where  
611 kerogen in the clay formation is considered as the major source of degraded organic matter  
612 (Hasenmueller et al., 2017).

613 Even though the PhreeqC reactive transport modeling at ~10 kyrs reproduced the DIC profile  
614 well, the profiles of major ions did not fit so well. Especially chloride concentration was not  
615 high enough. Further investigations need to be made in terms of knowledge of  
616 paleogeography, hydrology of the system and timing of the processes to explain the  
617 discrepancies between the reactive transport model and the data. For chloride and sulfate,  
618 discrepancies might be due to some anionic exclusion considered as negligible in Tégulines  
619 Clay (Lerouge et al., 2018) and/or to diffusion coefficients different for each ion, as has been  
620 demonstrated for Opalinus Clay (Van Loon et al., 2018). In addition, the model does not  
621 include how porosity changes with time or the complex water/gas behavior in the  
622 unsaturated/saturated zone. Taking into account these parameters might partially solve  
623 discrepancies between the model and the data. However, this is beyond the scope of this  
624 study ; other reactive transport codes (CrunchFlow, TOUGHREACT, MIN3P (Bao et al.,  
625 2017; Mayer et al., 2002), or HP1 (Jacques and Šimůnek, 2005; Jacques et al., 2008;  
626 Šimůnek et al., 2006)) that have been developed to model such hydrogeochemical

627 processes (Li et al., 2017; Steefel et al., 2015) are more suitable for watershed scale  
628 modeling.

## 629 **6. Conclusion**

630 In degassing claystone, monitoring CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> and alkane gas and carbon isotopes on CO<sub>2</sub>  
631 we have powerful techniques for defining the depth of the weathering profile in a reduced-  
632 marine clay formation. These contribute to a better understanding of weathering processes.  
633 In our case study of Tégulines Clay from the eastern part of the Paris Basin, degassed CO<sub>2</sub>  
634 significantly increased between 4 and 11 m in the highly reactive transition zone of the  
635 weathering profile. The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of degassed CO<sub>2</sub> provided evidence of the two major CO<sub>2</sub>  
636 sources: organic matter degradation and the calcite equilibrium. The increase of degassed  
637 CO<sub>2</sub> corresponds both to the degradation of plant roots observed in borehole down to 11 m  
638 and to calcite dissolution due to acidic pH (pyrite oxidation, organic matter degradation), due  
639 to interactions with oxygen diffusing from atmosphere through the clay. The measurements  
640 of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the gas phase relative to a volume of degassed clayrock allowed us  
641 to estimate the equivalent concentrations of total CO<sub>2</sub> dissolved in clay pore waters that are  
642 consistent with total dissolved-carbonate concentration and alkalinity values in clay pore  
643 waters extracted by squeezing. Measurements of CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> partial pressures of constitute  
644 key parameters for accurately describing and understanding processes affecting pore water  
645 chemistry in the highly reactive transition zone of the weathering profile. Coupled with DIC  
646 modeling, those data revealed that evaporation is an additional key parameter to consider in  
647 understanding the critical zone and the processes occurring at the redox front. Overall, our  
648 results suggest that dissolved gases and their isotopic signatures are good markers of  
649 weathering processes in the critical zone.

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657

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843 List of figures and tables

844 Figure 1: (a) Geological map of the eastern part of the Paris basin and location of the  
845 studied area; (b) Location of the boreholes.

846 Figure 1: Lithological log of Tégulines clay based on the AUB111 and AUB121  
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849 brownish zones indicate the surficial zones in which the weathering processes  
850 (reworked sediments/highly oxidized sediments) have significantly modified the bulk  
851 rock mineralogy.

852 Figure 3: Micrographs of the thin sections of téguline clay from the AUB230 borehole  
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854 presence of carbonate bioclasts and pyrite oxidation down to 10.30 m.

855 Figure 4:  $P_{CO_2}$  monitoring (mbar) of core samples from the AUB1010 borehole. (a)  
856 gas-tight glass jars; (b) gas-leaking glass jars.

857 Figure 5: Schema of the core degassing dispositive including all the parameters that  
858 are recorded.

859  $X_i$  is the concentration (given in volume %) of the  $i$  species in the gas phase,  $P_{total}$  is the total gas  
860 pressure, and  $V_G$  is the volume of gas in the glass jar.  $M$  and  $V_R$  are the mass (in g) and the volume (in  
861 L) of rock in the glass jar.  $W$  is the water content of the rock (in weight %).  $[i]_{(0)}$  and  $[i]_{(t)}$  are the initial  
862 and final concentrations of the species dissolved in pore waters (given in mmol/L), respectively. In  
863 grey, the data that we measure and in red, the data we want to calculate.

864 Figure 6: Gas concentrations ( $CO_2$ ,  $CH_4$ ,  $O_2$  and  $N_2$ ) of samples from AUB1010,  
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866 borehole to define the interfaces of Téguline Clay with surficial formations (loam) and  
867 Greensands. Data are given in mmol/L of pore water. Black symbols represent  
868 Tégulines Clay data, green symbols Brienne marl data and yellow symbols loam  
869 data.

870 Figure 7:  $CO_2$  Profiles with depth established for the three successive degassing of  
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872 each borehole to define the interfaces of Téguline Clay with surficial formations  
873 (loams) and Greensands. Data are given in mmol/L of pore water.

874 Figure 8:  $\delta^{13}C_{CO_2}$  of samples from AUB1010, AUB230 and AUB240 boreholes with  
875 depth. A schematic log is given for each borehole to define the interfaces of Téguline  
876 Clay with surficial formations (loam) and Greensands. Data are given in  $\delta$  permil  
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878 symbols Brienne marl data and yellow symbols loam data.

879 Figure 9: Organic contribution (%) calculated on the base of a mixing between an  
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881 endmember (-7.7 ‰ PDB).

882

883 Figure 10: DIC profile of the AUB1010 borehole compared with reactive transport  
884 model of DIC using Phreeqc. ETP: Evapotranspiration.

885 Table1: Chemical compositions of ground waters collected at 5.4 m in the TPH1-1 pit,  
886 and pore waters extracted by squeezing on four core samples from the TPH1-1 pit  
887 and of eleven samples from the AUB230 borehole. P were the successive pressure  
888 of extraction applied during the squeezing of the core sample.

889

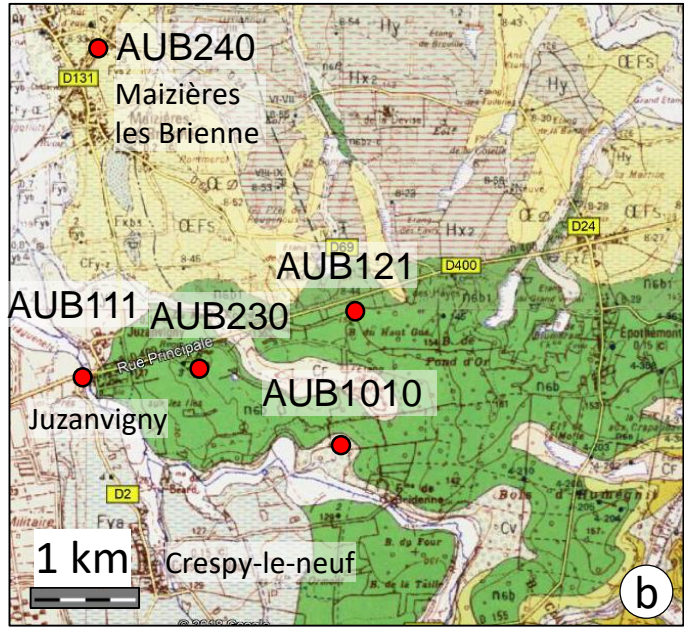
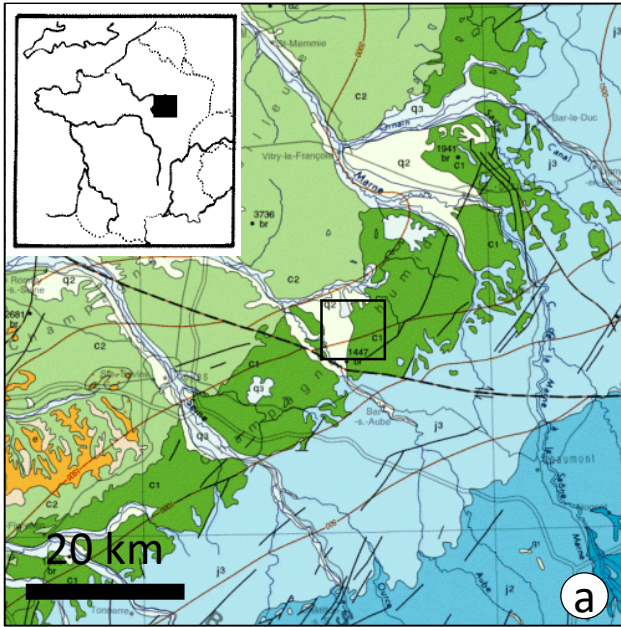
890 Table 2: AUB1010 and AUB230 boreholes - DIC,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$ , concentrations of  $\text{CO}_2$   
891 attributed to degradation of organic matter ( $\text{DIC}_{\text{organic matter}}$ ), to total calcite ( $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite}}$ )  
892 calculated on the basis of a mixing between an organic  $\text{CO}_2$  endmember ( $-27.4 \pm 1.9$   
893 ‰ PDB) ( $\text{DIC}_{\text{organic matter}}$ ) and a calcite equilibrium-derived  $\text{CO}_2$  endmember ( $-9.0 \pm$   
894  $1.3$  ‰ PDB) and to calcite dissolution ( $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite dissolution}}$ ) calculated by  $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite}} -$   
895  $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite 0}}$  ( $1.5 \pm 0.5$  mmol/L PW), water content of the sample, conversion of  $\text{DIC}_{\text{calcite}}$   
896 dissolution in mmol/100 g of rock, calcite content of the sample and estimation of the  
897 percent of calcite dissolution due to calcite system displacement.







898

899

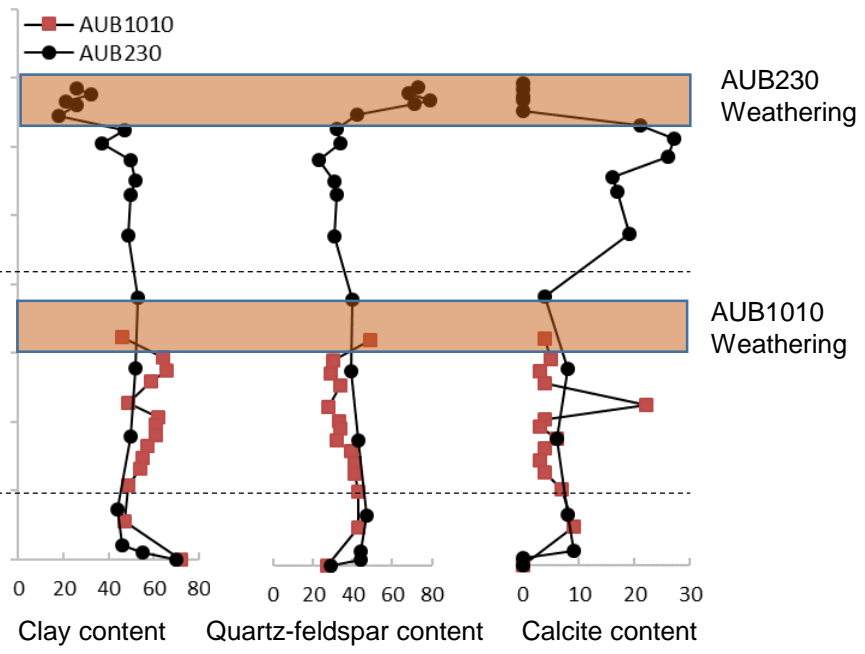
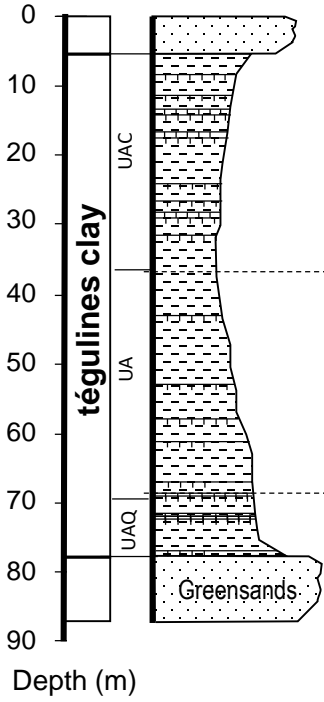
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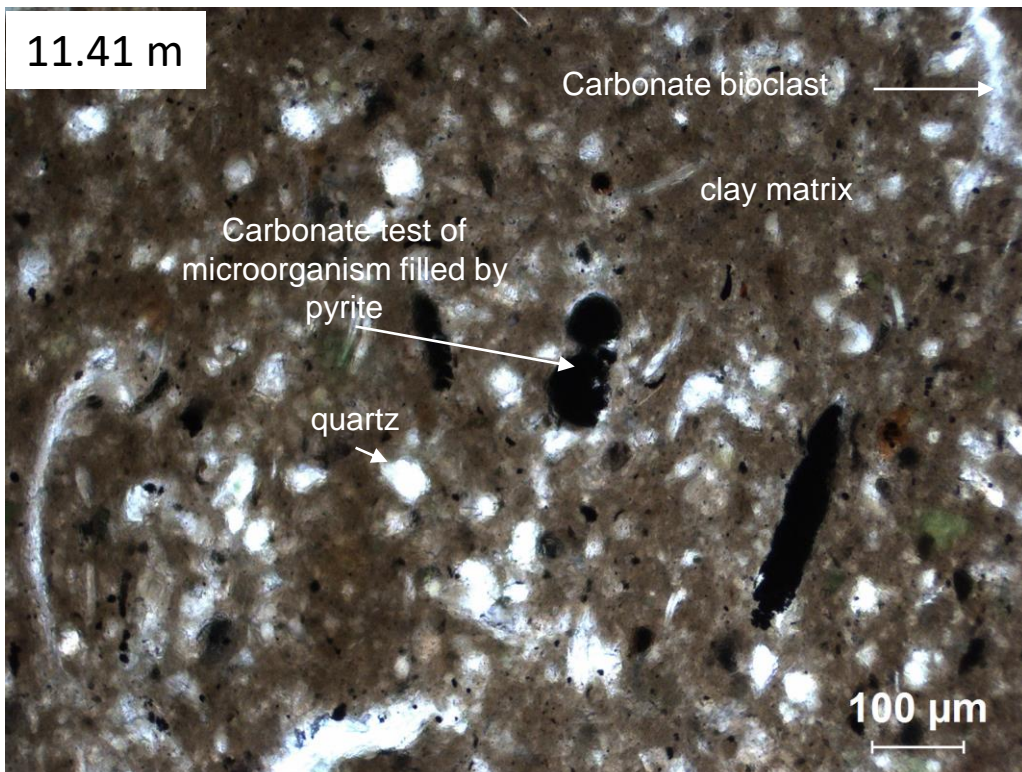
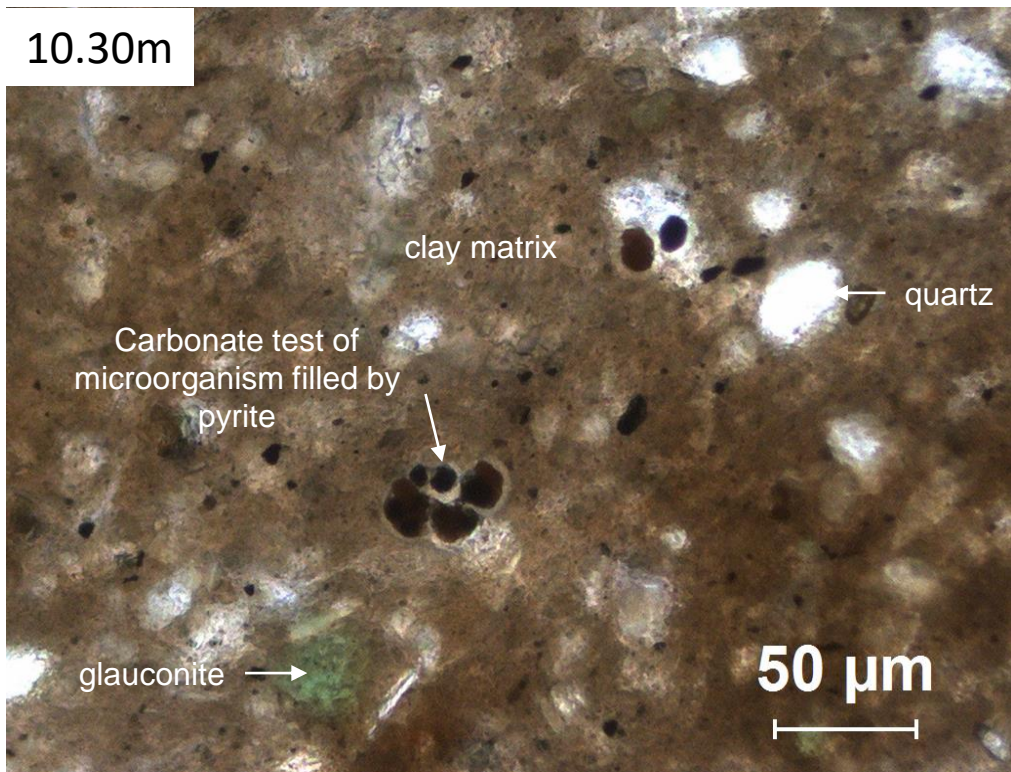
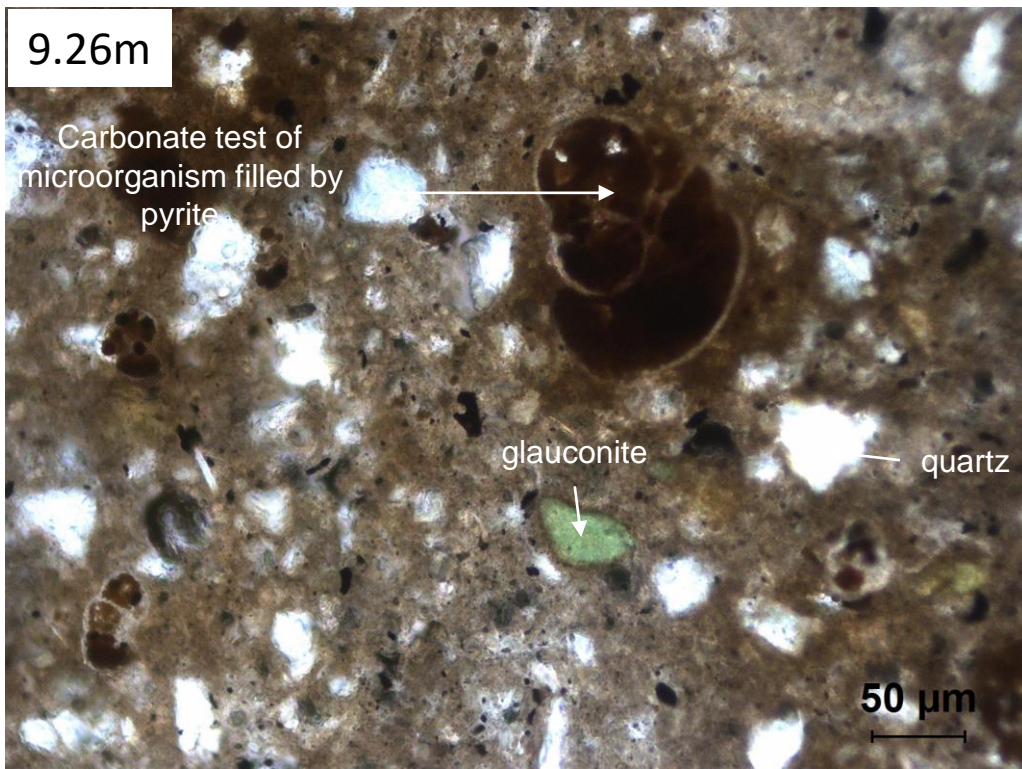
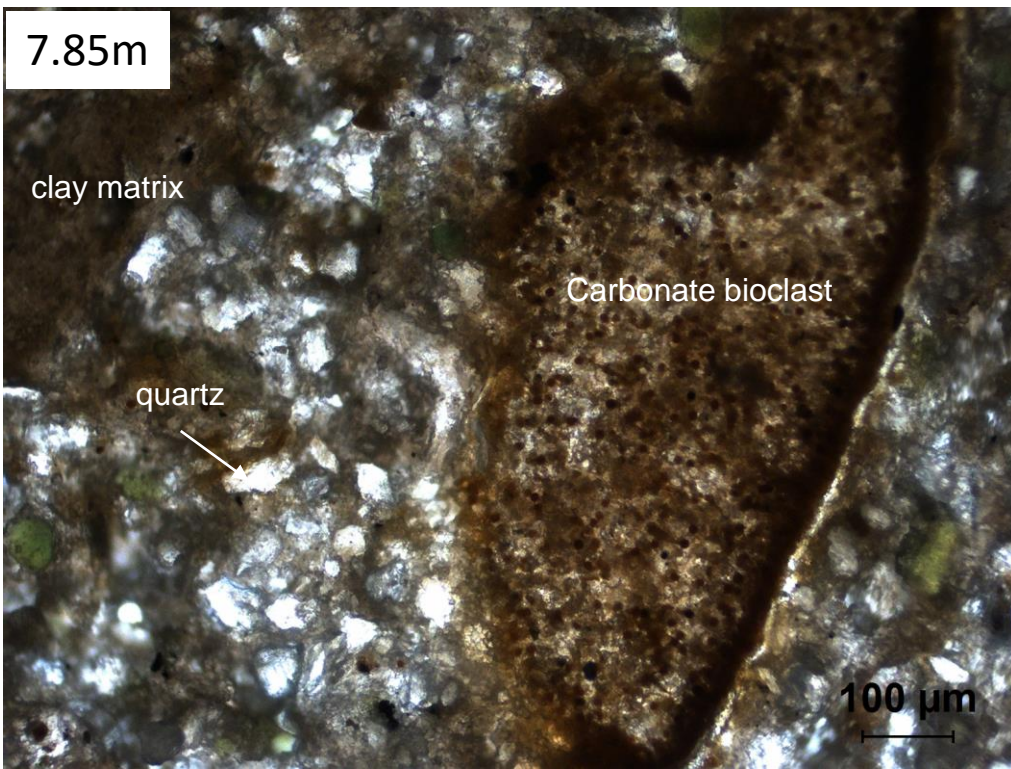
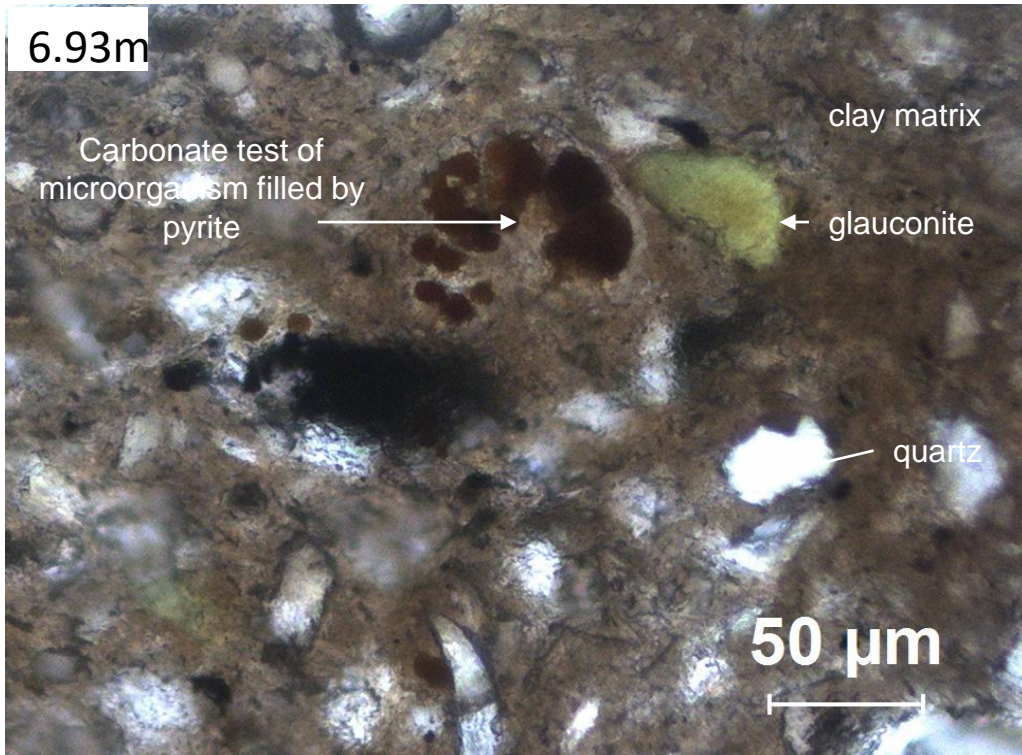
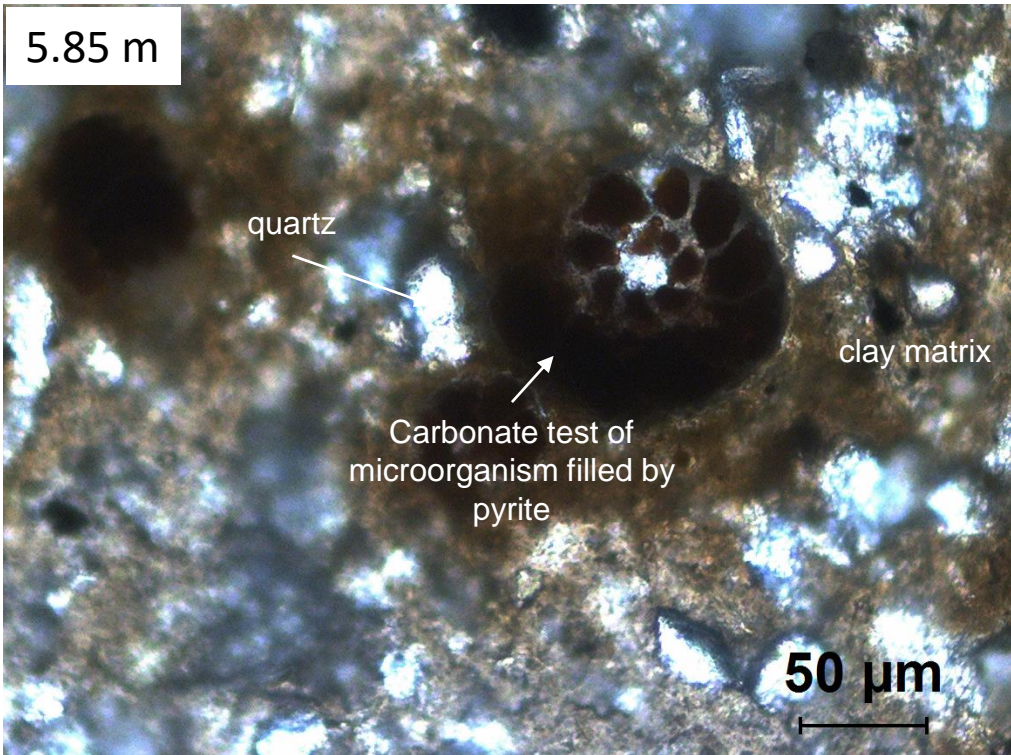
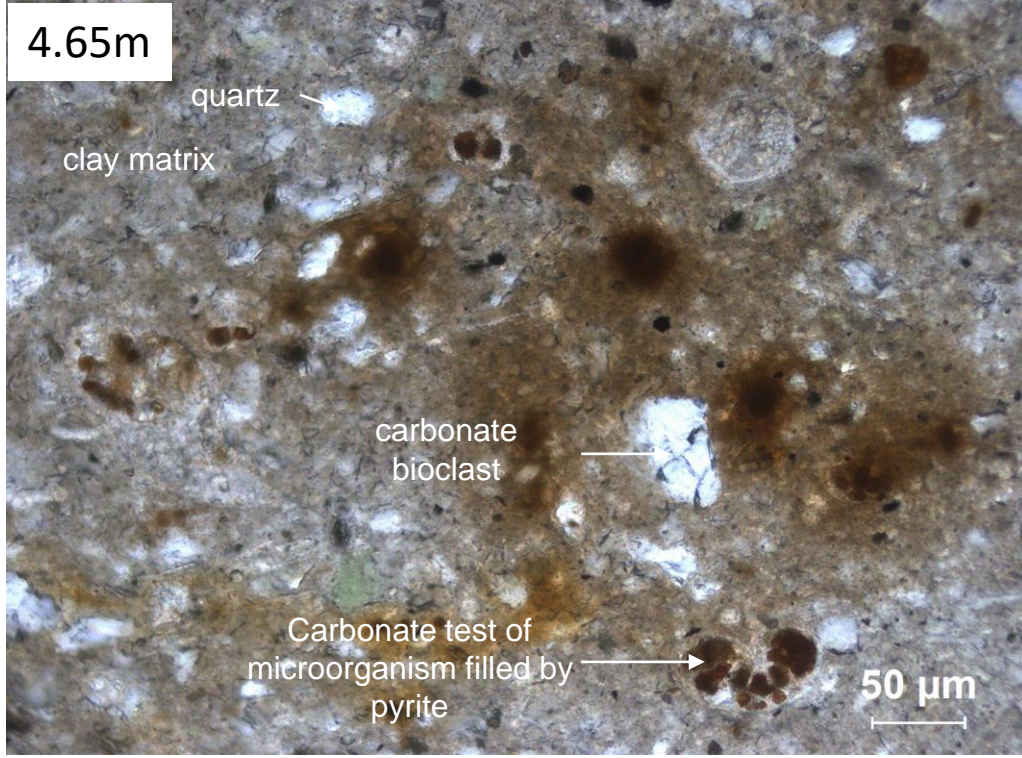
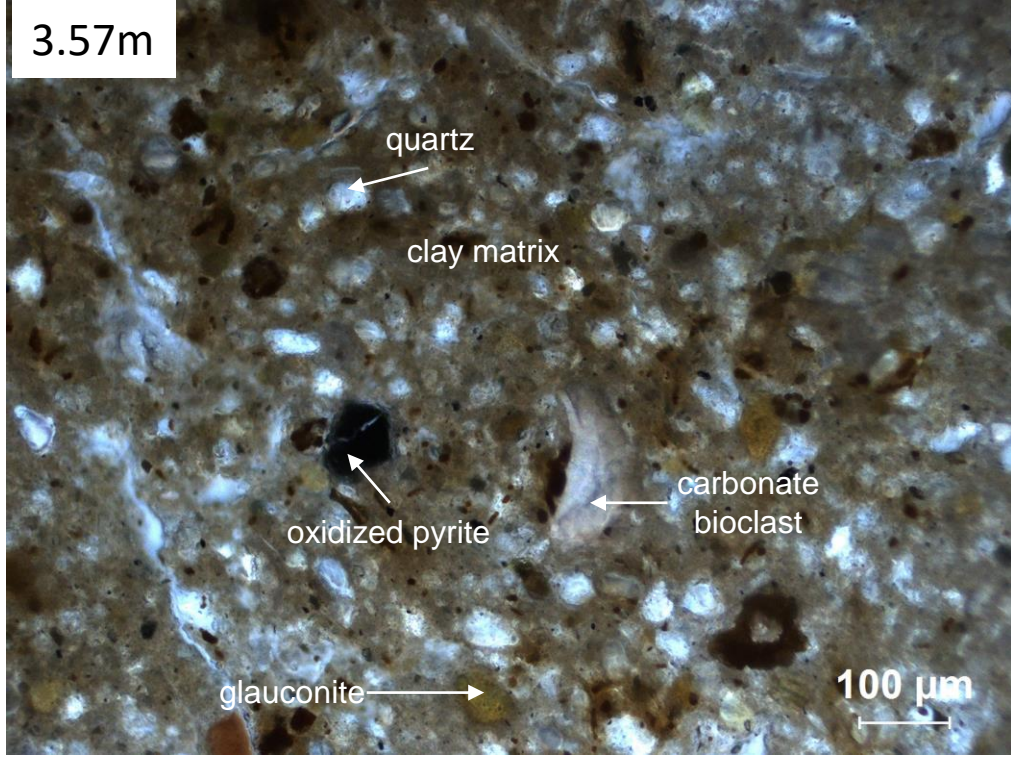


- |  |                 |   |                  |
|--|-----------------|---|------------------|
|  | Quaternary      |  | Early Cretaceous |
|  | Eocene          |  | Late Jurassic    |
|  | Late Cretaceous |  | Middle Jurassic  |

- |   |                 |   |            |
|---|-----------------|---|------------|
|  | Tégulines Clay  |  | Quaternary |
|  | Greensands      |   |            |
|  | Plicatules Clay |   |            |

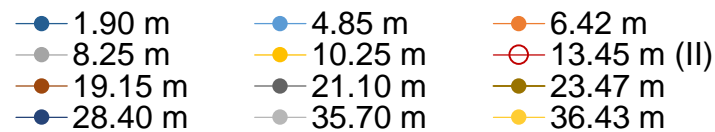
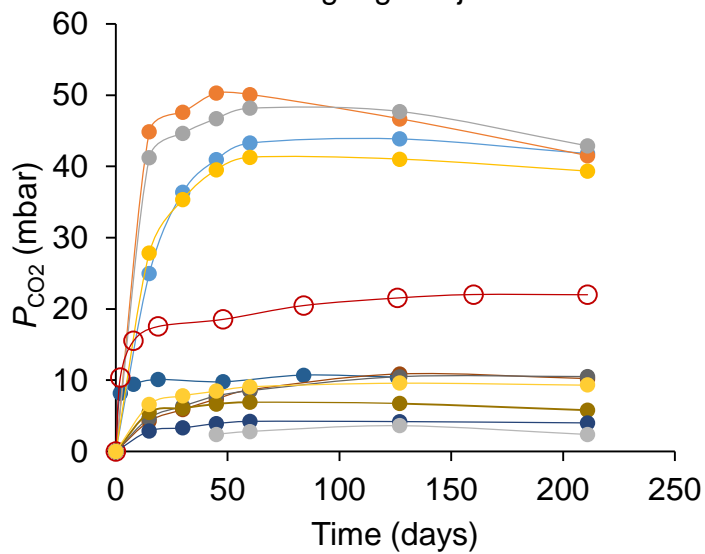




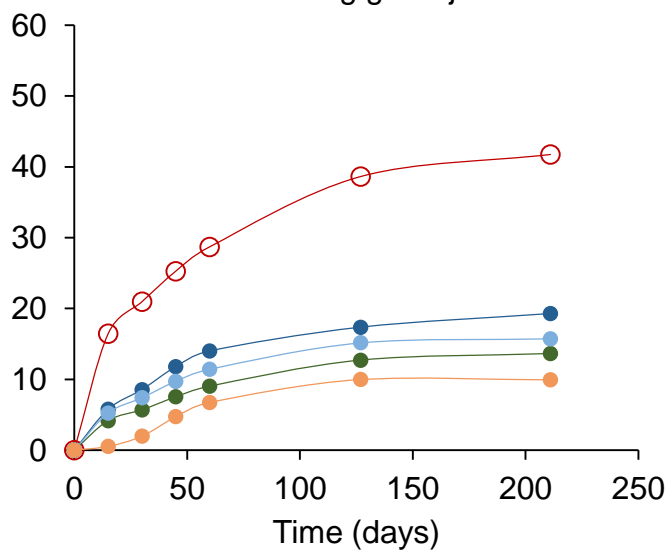


**a**

## Gas-tight glass jars

**b**

## Leaking glass jars



# Gas

$T, V_G$

Initial state

$P_{\text{total}(0)}$

$\approx$

Final state

$P_{\text{total}(f)}$

$X_{\text{CO}_2}, X_{\text{N}_2}, X_{\text{O}_2}$

$P_{\text{total}(0)}$

## Water (W)

$[N_2]_{\text{aq}(0)}, [O_2]_{\text{aq}(0)},$

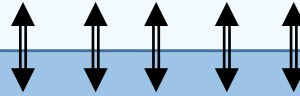
$\text{DIC}_{(0)}, [CO_2]_{\text{aq}(0)},$

$[HCO_3^-]_{(0)}, [CO_3^{2-}]_{(0)}$

$[N_2]_{\text{aq}(f)}, [O_2]_{\text{aq}(f)},$

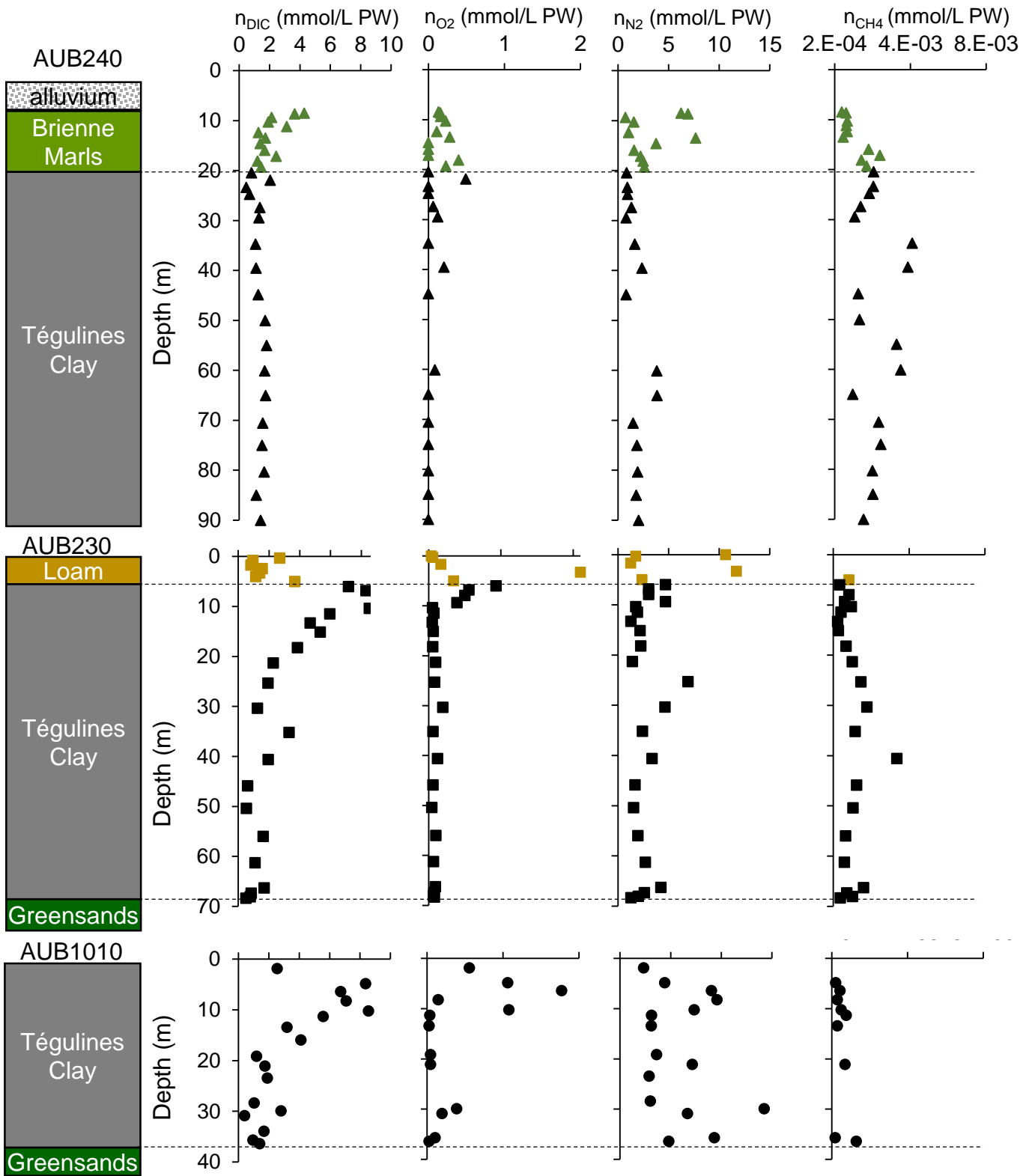
$\text{DIC}_{(f)}, [CO_2]_{\text{aq}(f)},$

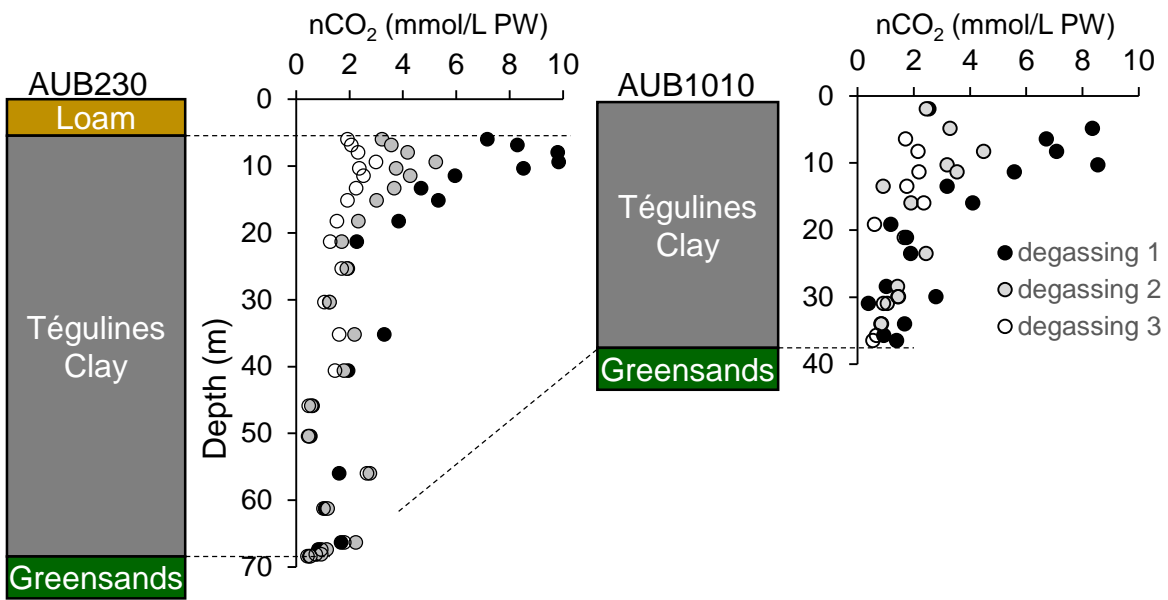
$[HCO_3^-]_{(f)}, [CO_3^{2-}]_{(f)}$

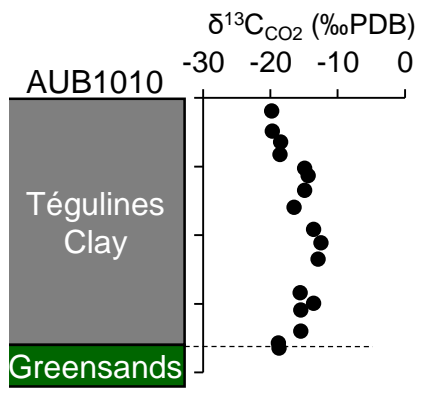
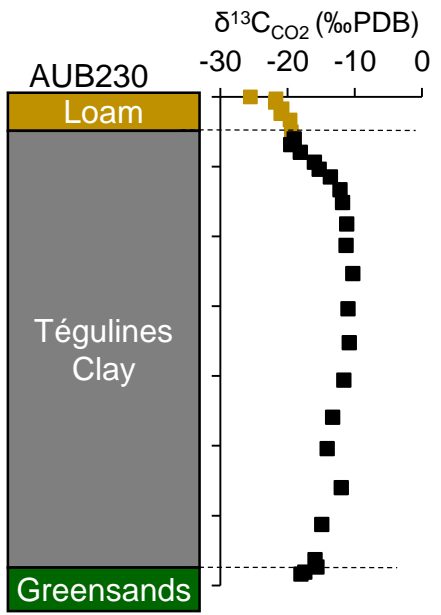
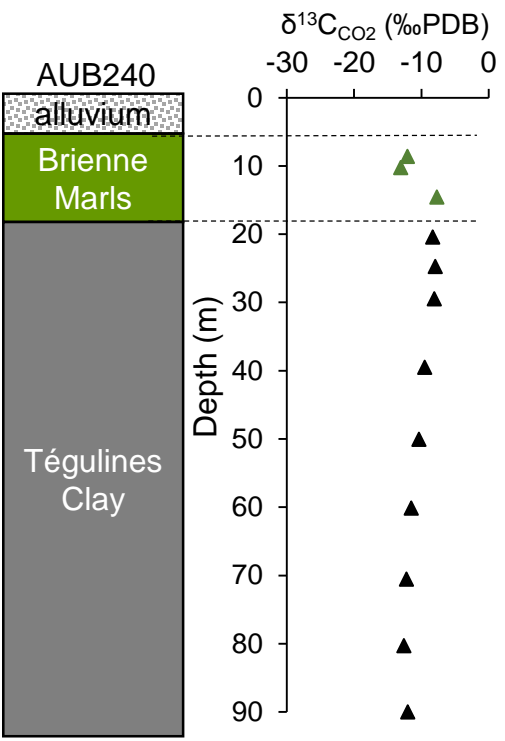


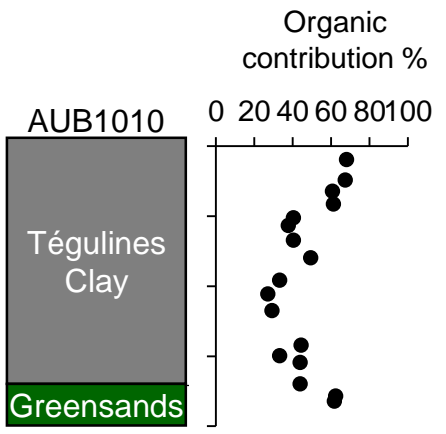
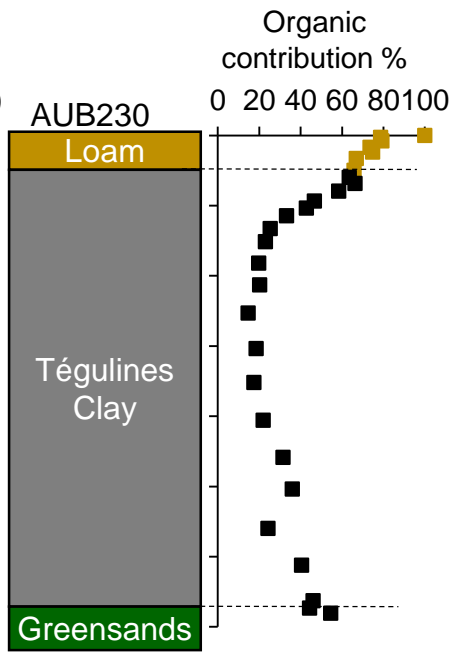
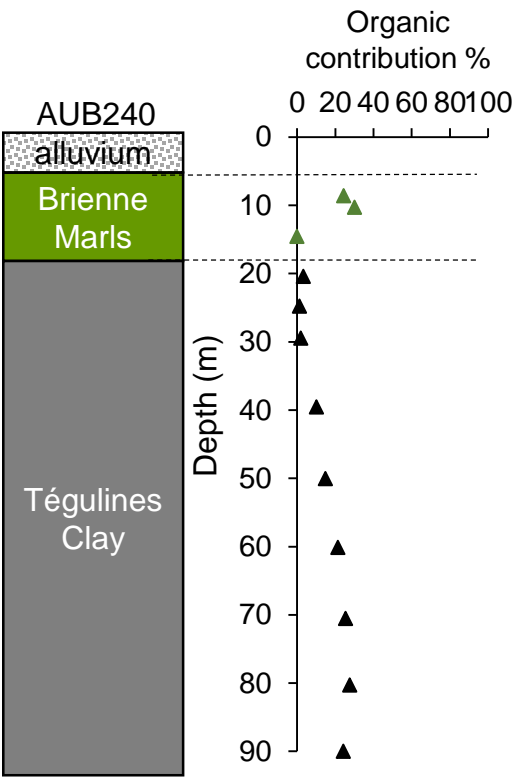
## Clay rock

$M, V_R$



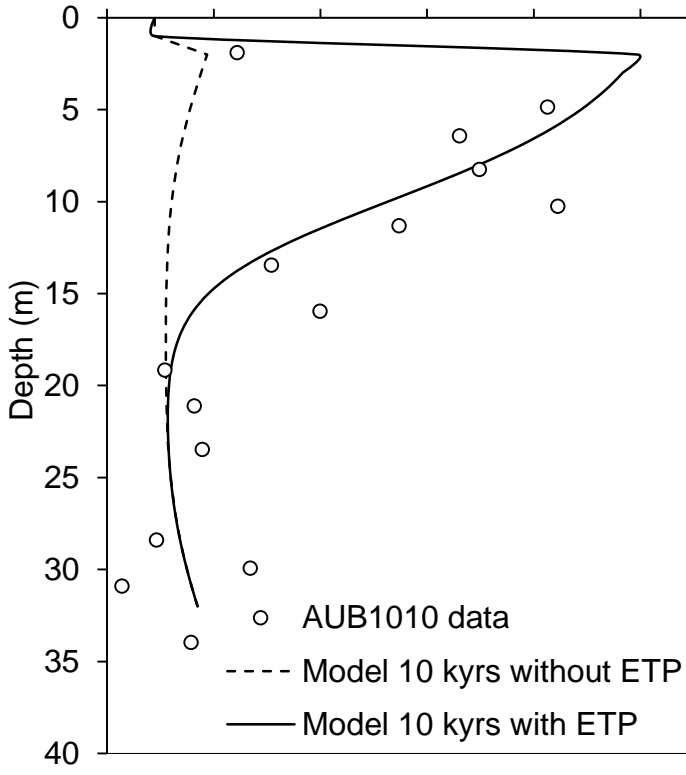






DIC (mmol/L)

1.E-4 2.E-3 4.E-3 6.E-3 8.E-3 1.E-2





	TPH1-1 pit					AUB230 borehole										
Depth (m)	0.3	1.7	2.4	4	5.4	5.9	7.9	11.4	15	21	30.4	41	50	61.3	66.3	68.4
P (MPa)	5	5,10	10	5		5	15	15, 30	10, 15	15	10, 20	40, 60	40	50	50, 60	40
pH	7.2	7.0	6.8	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.4	7.5	8.0	7.5	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9
Alkalinity (meq/L)	1.4	0.9	< 0.5	0.8		5.5	8.1	6.5	4.4	4.2	2.9	3.0	2.3	3.5	2.9	2.0
Cations (mmol/L)																
Na <sup>+</sup>	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	5.4	8.5	7.0	3.9	3.3	2.6	2.8	2.2	2.1	4.3	1.6
K <sup>+</sup>	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.4	3.3	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.5	11.2	15.0	11.2	15.0	7.7	4.0	5.0	2.1	1.4	8.0	0.8
Mg <sup>2+</sup>	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	4.9	8.0	7.0	9.9	6.8	3.9	4.5	1.5	1.3	7.8	0.7
Sr <sup>2+</sup>				0.02		0.09	0.14	0.15	0.18	0.23	0.17	0.42	0.08	0.08	0.59	0.06
Al <sup>3+</sup>				0.01												0.01
Si				0.24	0.23	0.43	0.57	0.27	0.16	0.17	0.21	0.20	0.17	0.15	0.18	0.13
Anions (mmol/L)																
Cl <sup>-</sup>	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.4	7.8	12.6	14.8	12.7	6.8	2.8	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.1	1.1
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	9.8	18.7	15.6	20.8	12.5	5.4	8.7	2.1	1.4	15.6	1.0
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	0.0	0.9	0.5		1.99		0.03				0.02		0.02	0.03		

	DIC	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	DIC organic matter	DIC calcite	$\sigma$	DIC calcite dissolution	$\sigma$	water content	DIC calcite dissolution	Calcite content	calcite diss.
	mmol/L	‰	mmol/L			mmol/L		%	mmol/100g	mol/100g	%
AUB230											
0.0	65.7	-25.5	65.7	0.0	-	-		20.5	-	0.00	
0.3	3.1	-21.7	2.4	0.7	0.08	-		18.4	-	0.00	
0.8	1.1	-21.8	0.9	0.3	0.03	-		17.8	-	0.00	
1.7	0.9	-20.8	0.7	0.3	0.03	-		22.7	-	0.00	
2.4	1.8	-21.0	1.3	0.5	0.06	-		15.5	-	0.00	
3.3	1.6	-19.6	1.0	0.6	0.07	-		16.3	-	0.00	
5.0	4.2	-19.4	2.6	1.6	0.18	-		18.5	-	below dl	
6.0	8.3	-19.0	5.0	3.3	0.4	2.2	1.1	19.0	0.04	0.21	0.02
6.8	9.7	-19.5	6.1	3.5	0.4	2.5	1.2	18.2	0.05	0.21	0.02
8.0	10.9	-18.1	6.0	5.0	0.6	3.9	1.3	14.4	0.06	0.27	0.02
9.4	11.4	-16.0	4.8	6.6	0.8	5.0	1.3	18.5	0.09	0.27	0.03
10.4	9.9	-15.3	3.7	6.2	0.7	4.5	1.2	16.6	0.08	0.26	0.03
11.5	6.7	-13.6	1.8	4.9	0.6	3.4	0.9	16.5	0.06	0.26	0.02
13.3	5.3	-12.2	1.0	4.4	0.5	2.8	0.8	16.9	0.05	0.26	0.02
15.1	6.0	-11.8	1.0	5.0	0.6	3.5	0.9	15.9	0.06	0.26	0.02
18.2	4.3	-11.2	0.5	3.7	0.4	2.3	0.7	13.2	0.03	0.26	0.01
21.3	2.6	-11.3	0.3	2.2	0.3	0.9	0.6	15.6	0.01	0.26	0.01
25.3	2.2	-10.3	0.2	2.0	0.2	0.7	0.6	15.6	0.01	0.26	0.00
AUB1010											
1.9	2.6	-19.8	1.9	1.0	0.1	0.4	0.4	18.9	0.01	0.05	0.01
4.9	8.8	-19.7	6.3	3.5	0.4	2.6	1.3	24.0	0.06	0.05	0.12
6.4	8.1	-18.5	4.6	3.5	0.4	2.8	1.2	23.0	0.06	0.03	0.22
8.3	8.0	-18.6	4.9	3.6	0.4	2.7	1.2	19.6	0.05	0.04	0.13
10.3	9.0	-14.9	3.5	6.4	0.7	5.0	1.2	17.6	0.09	0.06	0.15
11.3	5.6	-14.4	2.1	4.5	0.5	2.8	1.0	18.6	0.05	0.04	0.13
13.5	3.2	-14.9	1.4	2.5	0.3	1.1	0.8	23.5	0.03	0.03	0.08
16.0	2.5	-16.5	2.1	2.6	0.3	0.5	0.5	16.5	0.01	0.06	0.02
19.2	1.2	-13.6	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	20.1	0.00	0.03	0.01
21.1	1.7	-12.5	0.4	1.7	0.2	0.5	0.5	15.5	0.01	0.04	0.02