

1 **Temperature and hydrological variations during the Late-Glacial in the central**
2 **Mediterranean: application of the novel ostracod-clumped isotope thermometer.**

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15

16 **ABSTRACT**

17

18 This study shows, for the first time, the absence of a vital effect in the clumped isotope
19 carbonate (Δ_{47}) fossil [ostracod](#) signal and confirms the ability of the novel ostracod-
20 Δ_{47} thermometer to reconstruct past temperatures and hydrological conditions in complex
21 lacustrine systems. Furthermore, the application of Δ_{47} analyses on the ostracod
22 species *Candona angulata* and *Cyprideis torosa* from Lake Trasimeno record (central Italy),
23 which today precipitate their shells during the cold and the warm season respectively provides
24 evidence that by combining biological (i.e., ostracod shell precipitation timing),
25 paleontological (i.e., identification of ostracod species) and geochemical (i.e., Δ_{47}) approaches,

26 the ostracod- Δ_{47} thermometer accurately reconstructs past seasonality. Despite the absence of
27 a vital effect, not all species can be combined for Δ_{47} analyses in environments with seasonal
28 temperature variations; only those that precipitate their shells during the same season should
29 be considered. The application of the ostracod- Δ_{47} thermometer on the Trasimeno lacustrine
30 record gives rise to the first continental warm season paleotemperature reconstruction of the
31 last 43 ky in central Mediterranean area. The combination of Δ_{47} and oxygen isotope
32 composition ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$) measured on ostracod shells provides the isotopic composition of the
33 water from which the carbonate precipitated ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{w}}$) and thereby, changes in the
34 evaporation/precipitation balance in this area. Before the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM),
35 equivalent to the Marine Isotopic Stage 3 (MIS3, from 43 to 29ky), warm season temperatures
36 ranged from 15 ± 1.6 °C to 22 ± 2.3 °C, equivalent to 2 to 6 °C colder than today. Hydrological
37 conditions during this period are similar to the present-day ones, characterized by a permanent
38 lake and a high evaporation/precipitation ratio (E/P). The drastic decrease of the warm season
39 temperatures (ranging from 10 ± 2.9 °C to 17 ± 3.1 °C) and of the E/P ratio during LGM and
40 Late-glacial (MIS2, from 29 to 11.6 ky) correspond to the global climate cooling and low
41 summer insolation, suggesting an amplifying role, of the latter, in the effects of the millennial
42 scale climatic variations. At the Pleistocene/Holocene transition, both warm season
43 temperature (25 ± 2 °C) and the E/P ratio increased in conjunction with the summer insolation.
44 During the early [Holocene](#), warm season temperature (23 ± 2 °C) closely resembles present-
45 day values. However, cold season temperature (12 ± 2 °C) is approximately 4 °C warmer
46 than today. Notably, no hydrological differences are identified between the warm and the cold
47 season underlying a lower seasonality contrast compared to the present, along with enhanced
48 warm season precipitation. The good agreement between the Δ_{47} temperatures reconstructed
49 for the last 1 ky and the temperatures presently recorded at Lake Trasimeno (8 °C cold and

50 22 °C for warm season), confirms the accuracy of the analyses and the applicability of the
51 ostracod- Δ_{47} thermometer to reconstruct seasonal temperature changes.

52

53 **KEYWORDS**

54 Carbonate Clumped Isotope, Freshwater ostracods, Paleotemperatures, Paleohydrology,
55 Seasonality, Central Mediterranean.

56

57 **1. INTRODUCTION**

58

59 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) considers the [Mediterranean region](#) a
60 climate change hotspot ([Ali et al., 2022](#)). According to climate projections, the Mediterranean
61 region is expected to warm at a rate approximately 20 % higher than global average.

62 Additionally, it will undergo significant drying, a phenomenon not anticipated in other regions
63 situated at the same latitude ([Lionello and Scarascia, 2018](#)). The vulnerability of this region is
64 a consequence of complex and interacting processes related to the landscapes, geographical
65 location, high population density, and long history of human occupation ([Ali et al., 2022](#)).

66 Predictive modeling of potential future climate scenarios is key to develop strategies for
67 adaptation and mitigation. To generate these climate projections, the forcing mechanisms
68 driving [climate variability](#) across different temporal and geographical scales need to be better
69 understood. Moreover, ancient analogues must validate the forecasted changes scenario.

70 Owing to the Mediterranean's complex topography, each region responds differently to
71 atmospheric and marine climate dynamics ([Abrantes et al., 2012](#)). Accurate high-resolution
72 paleoclimatic reconstructions for the different Mediterranean regions are required. [Lake](#)
73 [sediments](#) certainly constitute one of the best continental archives for developing paleoclimatic
74 and [paleoenvironmental reconstructions](#) because they can capture rapid climate changes at

75 regional scales ([Gornitz, 2009](#)). [Paleotemperature](#) reconstructions have always been assumed
76 to play an important role in understanding climatic variations; however, despite more than half
77 a century of studies, quantitative and well-constrained continental temperature reconstruction
78 remains challenging. The complexity lies in disentangling and quantifying the effects of the
79 various parameters that impact the local climate and environment (e.g., temperature,
80 hydrology, lake structure). Continental quantitative temperature records in the central
81 Mediterranean area remain rare, mainly focussed on the last 15 ky (e.g., [Heiri et al.,](#)
82 [2015](#); [Larocque and Finsinger, 2008](#); [Robles et al., 2023](#); [Samartin et al., 2017](#)) and most of
83 them are based on transfer functions (e.g., pollen, chironomids, and ostracods). The oldest
84 temperature record comes from the Monticchio lake (southern Italy, [Fig.1](#)). It is based on pollen
85 analyses, and provides air temperature of the coldest month (January) from the last ca. 102 ky
86 ([Allen et al., 1999](#)). [Marchegiano et al. \(2020\)](#) applied the Mutual Ostracod Temperature
87 Range transfer function (MOTR, [Horne, 2007](#)) to ostracod assemblages from Lake Trasimeno
88 (central Italy, [Fig.1](#)) to reconstruct air temperature of the warmest (July) and coldest (January)
89 months during the [Late Pleistocene](#). However, this approach produced large temperature
90 ranges ([Marchegiano et al., 2020](#); [Fig. 3](#)).

91 The carbonate clumped isotope (Δ_{47}) technique ([Eiler, 2007](#)), currently mostly applied to
92 marine carbonate [fossils](#) and sediments ([de Winter et al., 2021](#); [Marchegiano and](#)
93 [John, 2022](#); [Meinicke et al., 2021](#); [Peral et al., 2020](#)), has the potential to significantly reduces
94 the methodological uncertainties associated with lake paleotemperature measurements. The
95 technique is based on the temperature-dependent abundance of ^{13}C - ^{18}O bonds in [carbonate](#)
96 [minerals](#). The increased abundance of these bonds in carbonate is associated with decreasing
97 water temperatures, revealing the temperatures at which [calcium carbonate](#) (CaCO_3)
98 precipitated. The combination of Δ_{47} and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ provide the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ and give insight on the
99 hydrological conditions.

100 The ostracod- Δ_{47} thermometer provides a new tool to reconstruct lacustrine water
101 temperatures, with an accuracy of $\sim \pm 2$ °C ([Marchegiano et al.,](#)
102 [2023](#)). [Marchegiano et al. \(2023\)](#), showed the applicability of the Δ_{47} technique on ostracod
103 shells as well as the absence of any vital effect (i.e., offset between the isotopic signal of
104 biogenic carbonate and inorganic [calcite](#) precipitated under same conditions)
105 on [ostracods](#) living at the same temperatures. Ostracods are aquatic micro-crustaceans (size
106 from 0.3 to 5 mm) with a stable bivalve low-Mg calcite shells easily to preserve and thus ideally
107 suited for geochemical analyses ([Holmes and De Deckker, 2012](#)). As they grow, they secrete
108 increasingly large carapaces from the ions dissolved in the host water and pass through 8
109 molting stages before reaching adulthood ([Turpen and Angell, 1971](#)). The shell calcification is
110 quick, ranging from a few hours to a few days ([Börner et al., 2013](#)), and representative of the
111 geochemical conditions of the environment at that time ([Chivas et al., 1983](#)).

112 This study generates the first ca. 43 ky continental warm season temperature record for the
113 central Mediterranean area by applying the novel ostracod- Δ_{47} thermometer on a ca. 8.9 m long
114 sedimentary core from Lake Trasimeno (central Italy). The Trasimeno sedimentary core has
115 been well analyzed in previous studies ([Francke et al., 2022](#); [Marchegiano et al.,](#)
116 [2018, 2019, 2020](#)) by using a multiproxy approach (i.e., micropaleontological,
117 sedimentological and geochemical) making this record particularly suitable to apply this novel
118 paleothermometer.

119 The clumped isotope technique has already been used on fossil ostracods ([Song et al.,](#)
120 [2022](#) and [Yue et al., 2022](#)), however, no studies ever determined whether a vital effect
121 influences the Δ_{47} signal on fossil ostracods. To fill this gap, Δ_{47} analyses are carried out on
122 two different ostracod species coming from the same sediment sample that lived and
123 precipitated their shells at the same season and temperatures. Also, by combining Δ_{47} with the
124 analyses of the classic oxygen isotopic composition of the ostracod shells ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$), this study

125 confirms the ability of the ostracod- Δ_{47} thermometer to reconstruct $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ variations in past
126 lacustrine environments.

127

128 **1.1 Study site: Lake Trasimeno**

129

130 Lake Trasimeno (latitude 43°08'N, longitude 12°06'E, 258 m above sea level, [Fig. 2](#)) is an
131 endorheic and very shallow lake (max depth of ~6 m and ~4 m in average) with a surface area
132 of 124.3 km² located in central Italy (Umbria region). It has a tectonic origin and the lacustrine
133 sedimentation started during the Middle Pleistocene ([Gasperini et al., 2010](#)). The [catchment](#)
134 [area](#) is predominantly represented by [Pliocene](#) to [Holocene](#) lacustrine and fluvial sandstone
135 and [claystone](#) deposits with very few carbonates ([Gasperini et al., 2010](#)). Because of its
136 characteristics, the hydrology of the lake strictly depends on climatic and environmental
137 variations. Lake-level fluctuations influence, at the seasonal and annual-decadal scale, the
138 physical-chemical and biological lake properties ([Ludovisi and Gaino, 2010](#)). The climate
139 regime is characterized by warm-arid summers and mild-humid winters. Today, water
140 temperatures are close to the atmospheric ones with a difference of 2 - 4 °C during the year.
141 Temperatures are homogeneous along the entire water column due to a continuous mixing
142 facilitated by the shallowness and the very large surface of the lake ([Marchegiano et al., 2017](#)).
143 Previous studies ([Marchegiano et al., 2018, 2019, 2020](#) and [Francke et al., 2022](#)) showed that,
144 over the last ca. 47 ky, Lake Trasimeno responded rapidly to millennial scale climatic
145 variations associated with Greenland stadial and [interstadial](#) events, according
146 to [Rasmussen et al. \(2016\)](#). Low (high) lake levels corresponded to cold (warm) and dry
147 (humid) stadial (interstadial) events. This demonstrates that Lake Trasimeno detects regional
148 as well as global climatic signals. The living and fossil ostracod fauna of Lake Trasimeno have
149 also been studied intensively ([Marchegiano et al., 2017, 2018, 2019](#) and [2020](#)), indicating a

150 prevalence of permanent low saline lake conditions during MIS3 and the Holocene and
151 ephemeral high [salinity](#) lake conditions during the MIS2.

152 Thanks to its strategical position in the central Mediterranean, its high sensitivity to climate
153 and environmental changes and the abundance and great preservation of the ostracod fauna,
154 Lake Trasimeno constitutes the perfect target to test the ostracod- Δ_{47} thermometer in past
155 sedimentary records and reconstruct atmospheric changes in the central Mediterranean.

156

157 **2. Material and Methods**

158

159 **2.1 Trasimeno core and its chronology**

160

161 An 8.6 m long [sediment core](#) (Co1320; 43° 09.624'N, 12° 03.491'E) ([Fig. 2](#)) was retrieved at
162 ~4.9 m water depth from a floating platform using a gravity piston corer (UWITEC®) during
163 a sampling campaign in November 2014. The core was split lengthwise in the laboratory. While
164 one-half was archived and stored at the University of Cologne (Germany), the other half was
165 used for visual lithological inspection and then subsampled at 2-cm intervals for geochemical
166 and micropalaeontological analyses ([Marchegiano et al., 2018, 2019, 2020](#) and [Francke et al.,
167 2022](#)).

168 The chronological model of the Trasimeno core Co1320 has been developed using ten
169 radiocarbon ages ([Fig. 3](#)) and ultimately covers the last ca. 47 ky ([Marchegiano et al., 2018](#)).

170 This study updates this calibration using a Bayesian age-depth modeling calculated by means
171 of the software rBacon 3.1 ([Blaauw et al., 2018; Blaauw and Christen, 2011](#)), and the IntCal
172 2020 calibration curve ([Reimer, 2020](#)) ([Fig. 3](#)). rBacon 3.1 software ([Blaauw et al.,
173 2018; Blaauw and Christen, 2011](#)) subdivides the core into a series of vertical sections (of
174 thick=5 cm thickness), and it estimates the accumulation rate (years/cm) for each of these

175 sections through millions of [Markov Chain Monte Carlo](#)(MCMC) iterations ([Fig. 3](#)). The
176 memory defines how much the accumulation rate of a particular depth in a core depends on a
177 depth above it. The age model is then formed combining the accumulation rate with estimated
178 starting dates for the first section ([Fig. 3](#)). The bulk organic matter samples at 631 cm
179 (COL3665.1.1) and 154.5 cm (COL3662.1.1) exhibit higher br/(cren+cren0) GDGT ratios,
180 indicating a substantial contribution from [soil organic matter](#) (SOM) ([Francke et al., 2022](#)).
181 This implies that the incorporation of pre-aged SOM in these samples may distort the bulk ¹⁴C
182 age. Consequently, the two samples are excluded from the age-depth model. Considering the
183 limited presence of carbonate bedrock in the [catchment area](#) and the high lake surface
184 compared to the water volume ratio that facilitate rapid exchange with the atmosphere, Lake
185 Trasimeno is anticipated to have minimal reservoir and/or hardwater effects on lacustrine
186 organic matter ([Francke et al., 2022](#)).

187

188 **2.2 Carbonate classic and clumped-isotope analyses**

189

190 For classic and clumped-isotope analyses, we selected a total of 16 samples ([Table 1](#)) by
191 combining the results of the [ostracod](#) assemblage analyses ([Marchegiano et al.,](#)
192 [2018](#) and [2019](#)), the derived MOTR temperature curve ([Marchegiano et al., 2020](#)) and the
193 updated age model. These samples correspond to the main temperature and environmental
194 variations along the entire core interval. To reach the required carbonate amount for clumped-
195 isotope analyses (minimum 500 µg per replicate), adjacent subsamples (2 cm thick) ([Table 1](#))
196 deposited during the same climatic event are merged (i.e., all samples belong to the same
197 Glacial stadial or interstadial) ([Marchegiano et al., 2018, 2019](#) and [2020](#)). All subsamples were
198 mixed before performing Δ_{47} analyses. Adult ostracod valves were picked and manually
199 cleaned with a brush under the stereomicroscope to remove any sediments and other possible

200 contaminants (i.e., organic matter). The good state of preservation (i.e., no diagenetic
201 alteration) and cleanliness of the ostracod shells was checked under the scanning [electron](#)
202 [microscope](#) (SEM) ([Fig. 4](#)). Analyses for Δ_{47} and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$ were carried out on the most abundant
203 species *Cyprideis torosa*, *Sarocypridopsis aculeata*, *Eucypris mareotica*, *Heterocypris*
204 *salina* and *Candona angulata* ([Fig. 4](#)). A total of 40 to 60 valves per replicate is needed to
205 assure sufficient material (500 - 600 μg per replicate), whereby the exact number depends on
206 the species (i.e., size and thickness of the shells). Each sample is replicated from 5 to 15 times
207 (300 - 1000 valves per samples in total). The Δ_{47} analyses of ostracod shells, which provide at
208 the same time the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$ data, were carried out at the in the AMGC clumped isotope lab of the
209 Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), using a Nu Instruments Perspective-IS [stable](#)
210 [isotope](#) ratio [mass spectrometer](#) (SIRMS) in conjunction with a Nu-Carb carbonate sample
211 preparation system, as described in detail in [De Vleeschouwer et al. \(2022\)](#). The analyses were
212 performed between March 2022 and November 2022. The carbonate standard ETH-4 was
213 systematically measured and compared to InterCarb values ([Bernasconi et al., 2021](#)) to assess
214 the accuracy and reproducibility. Analyses and results were monitored in the lab using the
215 Easotope software ([John and Bowen, 2016](#)). Within the ClumpyCrunch software
216 ([Daëron, 2021](#)), the raw measured Δ_{47} values were processed using the IUPAC Brand's isotopic
217 parameters ([Daëron et al., 2016](#)) and converted to the ICDES 90 °C scale, using the most recent
218 values for the ETH-1, ETH-2, and ETH-3 carbonate reference materials ([Bernasconi et al.,](#)
219 [2021](#)). Analytical and calibration uncertainties were propagated to calculate the final
220 uncertainties on temperatures. The Δ_{47} values were converted into temperatures using the
221 unified calibration ([Anderson et al., 2021](#)) as suggested by [Marchegiano et al. \(2023\)](#) and the
222 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{w}}$ values calculated from Δ_{47} and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$ data using the formula of [Kim and](#)
223 [O'Neil \(1997\)](#) for [calcite](#) ([Table 1](#)). Since the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$ suffers a species-specific offset
224 ([Holmes and Chivas, 2002](#)), to obtain meaningful comparisons, it is important to correct the

225 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$ by removing the species-specific offset to normalize the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$ values with the
226 theoretical inorganic calcite deposited at the isotopic equilibrium at the same moment in the
227 same environment. We used the values of these offsets previously calculated and reported
228 for *C. angulata* (2.2‰, [Von Grafenstein et al., 1999](#)) and *C. torosa* (0.8‰ [Keatings et al.,](#)
229 [2007](#)). The vital offset of *S. aculeata* and *H. salina* have never been calculated before and
230 without the analyses of living shells these values cannot be validated. However, *E. mareotica* is
231 considered to precipitate close to the isotopic equilibrium ([Li and Liu, 2010](#)) and because the
232 lack of substantial difference between the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$ values of *S. aculeata* and *E.*
233 *mareotica* (0.009‰ in sample TRAH1–1 and TRAH1–2), we assume this is also the case for *S.*
234 *aculeata* and *H. salina* (difference of 0.18 ‰ between TRA2 and TRA2B).

235

236 3. Results

237

238 3.1 Classic and clumped-isotopes

239

240 The Δ_{47} values of the ostracod samples range from 0.648 to 0.594 ‰ with a SE from 0.009 to
241 0.015 ‰ ([Table 1](#)). Values of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{ost}}$ vary from -0.45 ‰ to 3.20 ‰ and from
242 -3.47 ‰ to 3.99 ‰ (SE of 0.1 ‰ on average). The number of replicated measurements carried
243 out per sample is determined based on the availability of sample material. The large number of
244 replicates per specimen ensures the robustness of the results. The repeatability along the 8
245 sessions of the standards used to standardize the results and the ostracod samples is 33.2 ppm
246 and 31.4 ppm, respectively. The repeatability of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ost}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{ost}}$ is 39.0 ppm and
247 17.8 ppm, respectively. The ETH4 standard, used to assure and control the quality of the
248 analyses, presents a Δ_{47} value of 0.446 ‰ and a standard error (SE) of 0.0059 for 67 replicates.
249 The difference between our measured value of ETH4 and the official one

250 from [Bernasconi et al. \(2021\)](#) (ETH4- Δ_{47} value of 0.4505 ± 0.0015) is negligible (Δ_{47} of
251 0.0045) and falls within the calculated SE. This confirms both the accuracy and precision of
252 the Δ_{47} analyses presented in this study. The box plots for Δ_{47} temperatures ([Fig. 6](#)) are made
253 including all replicate measurements per each sample (see [Table 1](#) in supplementary material)
254 and show median temperatures of $17\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ during the MIS3, of $12\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ during MIS2 and of $23\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
255 during the [Holocene](#). The larger probability density in MIS3 and the Holocene is due to the
256 internal higher replicate variability in the measured samples. This differs from the analytical
257 uncertainties reported for each Δ_{47} -temperature data that is, instead, determined using the
258 "pooled" standardization method outlined by [Daëron \(2021\)](#), which considers the
259 reproducibility constraints obtained from both standard and sample analyses.

260

261 **4. Discussion**

262

263 **4.1 Species-specific effect on the ostracod- Δ_{47} paleothermometer**

264

265 In the first application of the ostracod- Δ_{47} thermometer on living ostracod that precipitated their
266 shells at known temperatures, [Marchegiano et al. \(2023\)](#) demonstrated the absence of a vital
267 offset at genus and species level. By converting the measured Δ_{47} values in temperatures, using
268 the unified clumped isotope calibration of [Anderson et al. \(2021\)](#), ostracod species, coming
269 from a lab culture ($23\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) and natural environments (12 and $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) recorded the corresponding
270 temperatures with a precision of around $\pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ([Marchegiano et al., 2023](#)). Moreover, the
271 species *E. virens* and *B. fuscata* that lived at the same time and environment and precipitated
272 their shells at the same temperature, presents a very small offset of $0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ that falls within the
273 analytical uncertainty ([Marchegiano et al., 2023](#)).

274 To confirm the absence of a species-specific effect also in the [fossil](#) record, this study analyzed
275 the Δ_{47} of two different ostracod species coming from the same sediment layers. *S.*
276 *aculeata* (TRA-2) and *H. salina* (TRA2b) and *S. aculeata* (TRAH2-1) and *E.*
277 *mareotica* (TRAH2-2) were abundantly found in the same ostracod assemblages
278 ([Marchegiano et al., 2018](#) and [2019](#)) and modern studies suggest that they all live during the
279 warm season ([Meish, 2000](#) and [Li and Liu, 2010](#)). We can thus assume that they precipitated
280 their shells at the same time, season and in the same temperature and environment. This is also
281 supported by $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_c$ analyses performed on ostracod shells, which show comparable
282 values and thus similar livelihood in the same sediment layers (*S. aculeata* (TRA-2)
283 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ 0.03‰ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_c$ 3.99‰ and *H. salina* (TRA2b) $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ -0.21‰ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_c$ 3.6‰; *S.*
284 *aculeata* (TRAH2-1) $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ 0.61‰ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_c$ 3.58‰ and *E. mareotica* (TRAH2-2)
285 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ 0.69‰ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_c$ 1.7‰).

286 The absence of a consistent offset, within the analytical uncertainty, between *S. aculeata*(TRA-
287 2) and *H. salina* (TRA2b) (Δ_{47} $0.002 \pm 0.01\%$, [Table1](#)) and between *S. aculeata*(TRAH2-1)
288 and *E. mareotica* (TRAH2-2) (Δ_{47} $0.001 \pm 0.01\%$ [Table1](#)) confirms the absence of the vital
289 offset in fossil ostracod shells at genus and species level. This finding is also supported by the
290 analyses of recent shells of *C. torosa* (TRAR2, 22.5 ± 2.3 °C today average warm season T is
291 of 21.4 °C) and *C. angulata* (TRAR2 8 ± 2.9 °C, today average cold season T is of 9.5 °C) both
292 recording temperature very close to the ones measured today at lake Trasimeno during the
293 respective precipitation season.

294 Although there is no vital offset in the ostracod- Δ_{47} signal, it remains important to know the
295 timing of precipitation of ostracod shells to provide accurate [paleotemperature](#) reconstructions.
296 Therefore, not all species can be mixed for Δ_{47} analyses but only the ones that precipitate their
297 shells during the same season. Thus, by combining the Δ_{47} technique, with paleontological and

298 biological knowledge of the ostracod fauna, the ostracod- Δ_{47} paleothermometer has the
299 potential to accurately reconstruct past temperatures and [seasonality](#) variations.

300

301 **4.2 Ostracod- Δ_{47} temperature reconstruction**

302

303 To correctly use ostracod shells as a geochemical tool, it is necessary to understand their
304 ecological preferences and life history (i.e., timing of shell precipitation). The species used in
305 this study are widespread and quite well known. *Cyprideis torosa* ([Fig. 4](#)) lives at a wide range
306 of [salinities](#) ([Griffith and Holmes, 2000](#)) in permanent water conditions ([Meisch, 2000](#)) and
307 occurs today in the freshwater Lake Trasimeno ([Marchegiano et al., 2017](#)). This species seems
308 to produce two generations per year with adulthood calcification in spring and autumn
309 ([Heip, 1976](#) and [Roberts et al., 2020](#)). Today, the water temperature of Lake Trasimeno ranges
310 from 11 °C (April) to 23 °C (June) during spring and from 16 °C (October) to 8 °C (December)
311 in autumn ([World Lake Database, 2013](#)). The Δ_{47} analyses obtained on recent *C. torosa* shells
312 (TRAR2) yield temperatures of 22.5 ± 2.3 °C. Therefore, it seems that at Lake Trasimeno,
313 there is a prevalence of spring generations or that shells continue to calcify also during the
314 summer. This work considers *C. torosa* species as indicative of late-spring/early-autumn
315 (warm season) temperatures (today May–October water mean T are 21.4 °C). In the Trasimeno
316 record, *C. torosa* is very abundant during the relatively warm and humid [MIS 3](#) (from ca. 46
317 to 34 cal ky BP), and the Holocene, indicating a permanent lake with low saline water
318 ([Marchegiano et al., 2018](#) and [2019](#)). The *C. torosa* Δ_{47} temperature during MIS 3 ranges from
319 15 ± 1.6 °C to 22 ± 2.3 °C and of 23.2 ± 2.5 °C in the [Early Holocene](#) ([Table 2](#)).
320 *Sarocypridopsis aculeata* and *Eucypris mareotica* ([Fig. 4](#)) are often found together and indicate
321 ephemeral-shallow lake conditions and high salinity conditions ([Martin-Puertas et al., 2008](#)).
322 They do not live in Lake Trasimeno today ([Marchegiano et al., 2017](#)) and disappeared from

323 the fossil record at the Pleistocene-Holocene transition suggesting a change from prevalent
324 ephemeral to permanent lake conditions ([Marchegiano et al., 2018](#) and [2019](#)). *S.*
325 *aculeata* develops up to three summer generations per year (time of shells calcification) and
326 adults very rarely survive in the colder months ([Meish, 2000](#)). *E. mareotica* hatches between
327 late June and early July and reaches the adults stage in late July-early August ([Li and](#)
328 [Liu, 2010](#)). Today, the water temperature of Lake Trasimeno during summer ranges from 26 °C
329 (August) to 21 °C (September) (World Lake database 2023) ([Table 2](#)). Because these species
330 are not part of the living fauna today, Δ_{47} analyses on recent *S. aculeata* and *E. mareotica* are
331 not possible to confirm their precipitation season in Lake Trasimeno. However, assuming that
332 during the entire Holocene temperatures were similar to today, the Δ_{47} analyses made on Early
333 Holocene *S. aculeata* shells (TRA2, temperature of 24.9 ± 2 °C), confirm that *S.*
334 *aculeata* precipitates its shell during the summer season at Lake Trasimeno (today mean water
335 T are of 24 °C). The seasonal attribution can also be extended to *E. mareotica* since no
336 significant difference in temperature is observed between samples TRAH2–1 (*S. aculeata*) and
337 TRAH2–2 (*E. mareotica*) (13 and 13.2 ± 3 °C respectively) originating from the same sediment
338 layers. In the Trasimeno record, *S. aculeata* and *E. mareotica* form the most abundant species
339 at the end of the MIS 3 and during the cold and dry MIS 2 (from ca. 34 to 10 ky BP) indicating
340 shallow-ephemeral lake conditions and higher salinities ([Marchegiano et al., 2018](#)). The
341 Δ_{47} temperatures derived from *S. aculeata* shells during MIS2 range from 10 ± 2.9 °C to
342 17 ± 3.1 °C and it is of 24.9 ± 2 °C at the Pleistocene-Holocene transition ([Table 2](#)).

343 *Heterocypris salina* ([Fig. 4](#)) is a cosmopolitan species often found together with *S.*
344 *aculeata* and *C. torosa* but it does not tolerate ephemeral conditions. This species lives today in
345 Lake Trasimeno ([Marchegiano et al., 2017](#)). It has 2 to 3 summer generations (time of shells
346 calcification) and lives for 45 days ([Meish, 2000](#)). At the Pleistocene-Holocene transition,
347 samples TRA 2 and TRA 2B, *S. aculeata* and *H. salina* are measured and provide a very

348 similar temperature (24.9 ± 2 °C and 24.3 ± 2.2 °C respectively) confirming that they both
349 precipitate during the summer season ([Fig. 5](#) and [Table 2](#)).

350 *Candona angulata* ([Fig. 4](#)) prefers slightly salty permanent waters and is often found together
351 with *H. salina* and *C. torosa*. Today, this species lives in the deepest part of Lake Trasimeno in
352 association with *C. torosa* ([Marchegiano et al., 2017](#)). *C. angulata* is a winter species that lives
353 from November to March and precipitates its shell from November to February ([Meish, 2000](#)).
354 Today, the winter water temperatures at Lake Trasimeno range from 12 °C (November) to 7 °C
355 (February) ([World Lake Database, 2013](#)). In the Trasimeno record, *C. angulata* is present
356 almost during the entire interval, but it is found at such small percentages that Δ_{47} analyses
357 could not be conducted. It is, instead, very abundant in the Holocene and in this study is used
358 to reconstruct seasonal variations during this time period. The Δ_{47} analyses made on *C.*
359 *angulata* (TRAR2) gave temperatures of 8 ± 2.9 °C in recent shells and of 11.8 ± 2.1 °C in the
360 Early Holocene (TRAHOL1) ([Fig. 5](#) and [Table 2](#)). On the same samples *C. torosa*, a late-
361 spring/early-autumn species, records temperatures of 22.5 ± 2.3 °C and 23.2 ± 2.5 °C
362 respectively ([Fig. 5](#)). The good correspondence with today mean water temperatures of Lake
363 Trasimeno (8 °C during November-February and of 21.4 °C during May-October) confirms
364 the accuracy of the analyses, the applicability of the ostracod- Δ_{47} on fossil shells and the ability
365 of the method to reconstruct paleotemperatures, even at seasonal scale.

366

367 **4.3. Paleoclimate reconstruction**

368

369 In this study, all Δ_{47} temperatures measured on *C. torosa*, *S. aculeata*, *E. mareotica*, and *H.*
370 *salina* shells are considered as warm season temperatures (from late spring to early autumn).
371 Instead, Δ_{47} temperatures from *C. angulata* are considered as cold season temperatures (from
372 November to March). Changes in shell calcification season along the Trasimeno record are

373 unlikely because drastic hydrological variations only occurred at the transition between the
374 MIS3 and 2 and MIS2 and the Holocene. Within each interval, where the same ostracod species
375 are used for Δ_{47} temperatures reconstruction, lake level and [water geochemistry](#) do not show
376 large variations as supported by ostracod assemblages, [sedimentology](#), and geochemical
377 analyses ([Marchegiano et al., 2018](#) and [Francke et al., 2022](#)). Also, during periods colder than
378 today, if a change in shell calcification season had happened, it would usually have occurred
379 toward warmer temperatures (seasons) ([Yue et al., 2022](#) and [Van der Meeren et al., 2011](#)).
380 Temperature changes during the analyzed interval are not biased by change in shell
381 precipitation season.

382 In a previous study ([Marchegiano et al., 2020](#)), the Mutual Ostracod Temperature Range
383 transfer function (MOTR, [Horne, 2007](#)) was applied to all the samples from 7.4 to 3.1 m depth
384 of the Trasimeno core. The MOTR method uses temperature ranges of species that have been
385 calibrated by correlating their distributions using DIVA-GIS software (version 7.5) and
386 comparing them with the air temperatures of the WorldClim database (version 1.3)
387 ([Hijmans et al., 2001](#)). Past mean January (coldest month) and July (warmest month) air
388 temperature ranges for specific ostracod assemblages are reconstructed by overlapping the
389 calibrated temperature ranges of each species found in the given assemblage (Mutual Climate
390 Range principle, [Atkinson et al., 1986](#)).

391 Warm season water temperatures based on ostracod- Δ_{47} fall within the uncertainties into the
392 July minimum and maximum mutual ostracod air temperature range (MOTR) reconstructed
393 for this interval ([Marchegiano et al., 2020](#)), and correspond well to the peak (higher T) and
394 minima (lower T) of the MOTR curves ([Fig. 5](#)). This correspondence suggests a close
395 connection between air and water temperature variations in Lake Trasimeno and a prompt
396 reaction of the lake system to climatic changes. The LATTEMIS3 ([Table 1](#)) is the only sample,
397 including the Δ_{47} uncertainties that falls outside the MOTR ([Fig. 5](#)). This could be explained

398 by a lack of (or reduced) response of the ostracod fauna (i.e., change in the ostracod
399 assemblages) to the fast environmental change at the onset of this cold event (probably
400 associated to H3).

401 Colder and warmer periods at Lake Trasimeno are certainly linked to the millennial-scale
402 climatic variations (warm-humid interstadial GI, cold-arid stadial GS and coldest and driest
403 Heinrich events), as confirmed by prior studies ([Marchegiano et al.,
404 2018, 2020](#) and [Francke et al., 2022](#)). These millennial-scale climatic events are likely
405 associated to reduction (cold events) and enhancing (warm events) of the Atlantic Meridional
406 Overturning Circulation (AMOC) plus a displacement of cooling conditions throughout the
407 central Mediterranean area during the GS and Heinrich events ([Francke et al., 2022](#)). However,
408 because of chronological limitations, it is not possible to identify exactly which events have
409 been recorded.

410 The *C. torosa*- Δ_{47} temperatures during MIS3 ranges from 15 ± 1.6 °C to 22 ± 2.3 °C, with a
411 median temperature of 17 °C, indicating warm season temperatures from 2 to 6 °C lower than
412 today ([Fig. 6](#) and [Table 2](#)). During the same interval, air temperatures of the coldest month
413 based on pollen from south Italy (Lake Monticchio) fall around -8 °C, reaching -16 °C in the
414 coldest events ([Allen et al., 1999](#)). Meanwhile, marine annual surface temperatures based
415 on [alkenones](#) for the Alboran Sea range from 10 to 16 °C ([Cacho et al., 1999](#)) ([Fig. 6](#)). In this
416 interval, the coldest event (15 ± 1.6 °C) at Lake Trasimeno can be tentatively associated to
417 the Heinrich events (H4). Likewise, the warmest events (20 ± 2.1 and 22 ± 2.3 °C) are likely
418 linked to the GIs (10 and 8) and the event at ca. 18 ± 1.7 °C to is probably associated with the
419 GS (12).

420 At the transition between MIS 3 and MIS 2, which corresponds to the onset of full glacial
421 conditions, *S. aculeata*- Δ_{47} warm season temperature drastically decrease to 10 ± 2.9 °C and
422 then slowly increase up to 15 ± 3 °C at the end of MIS 2. The median warm season temperature

423 for the MIS2 is 12 °C (from 12 to 7 °C colder than today warm season mean temperatures)
424 ([Fig. 6](#)). The substantial decrease in temperature observed at Lake Trasimeno is only
425 marginally reflected in the marine surface mean annual temperatures at the Alboran Sea and it
426 is nearly absent in the Monticchio winter temperature, which remains around -8 °C. This
427 divergence in behavior between the three records may be attributed to a diverse climate
428 response and/or the influence of regional parameters. However, differences between the air
429 temperature of the coldest month (pollen from Lake Monticchio, southern Italy) and warm
430 season water temperatures (Δ_{47} – ostracod from Lake Trasimeno, central Italy) can potentially
431 be explained by the reduced summer insolation experienced during MIS2 ([Fig. 6](#)). The coldest
432 temperatures in this interval can be tentatively associated to the Heinrich's events. Considering
433 the last cold event of this interval was the [Younger Dryas](#), summer temperatures at Lake
434 Trasimeno (15 ± 3 °C) match the pollen summer temperature at Lake Matese (southern
435 Italy, [Robles et al., 2023](#)) and the chironomid summer temperatures at Lake Piccolo di
436 Avigliana (northern Italy, [Larocque and Finsinger, 2008](#)), both recording a temperature of
437 16 °C. The brGDGT mean annual temperatures of Lake Matese, in the same period, is instead
438 12 °C ([Robles et al., 2023](#)) ([Fig. 6](#)).

439 At the Pleistocene - Holocene transition (i.e., the onset of the interglacial), warmer season
440 temperatures increased by 10 °C (temperatures of 25 ± 2 °C, 3 °C higher than the warmer
441 season temperatures today, see [Table 2](#)) with Holocene median temperatures of 23 °C ([Fig. 6](#)).
442 Because of the very shallow/ephemeral conditions of Lake Trasimeno during MIS 2 and the
443 Pleistocene – Holocene transition ([Marchegiano et al., 2018](#) and [2019](#)), a possible
444 overestimation of lake water temperatures from 2 to 4 °C (i.e., the modern temperature
445 difference between lake water and atmosphere at Lake Trasimeno today) need to be considered
446 as temperatures could be closer to the atmospheric ones.

447 During the Early Holocene, the warm season temperatures closely resemble those of the present
448 day. However, the cold season temperature (12 ± 2.1 °C) is approximately 4 °C warmer than
449 today (8 °C), indicating a reduced seasonality ([Fig. 6](#)). This decrease in seasonality during the
450 Early Holocene aligns well with previous findings in hydrological records from central-
451 southern Italy ([Magny et al., 2012](#) and [Marchegiano et al., 2019](#)). The temperature record
452 based on Δ_{47} measurements from Lake Trasimeno provides the first confirmation of a lower
453 seasonality, also in temperatures, than today for central-southern Italy. Latest Holocene (last
454 ca. 1 ky) Δ_{47} temperatures are the same as today at Lake Trasimeno (8 °C winter and 22 °C for
455 late spring/early autumn).

456

457 **4.4 Paleohydrology reconstruction**

458

459 Because of the endorheic and shallow nature of Lake Trasimeno, its water geochemistry strictly
460 depends on the climatic variations and particularly, on the E/P ([Fron dini et al., 2019](#)). This was
461 confirmed by the comparison between recent $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^2\text{H}$ lake water values and the local
462 evaporation line (LEL) ([Fron dini et al., 2019](#)) and by the moderate positive correlation
463 ($R^2 = 0.24$) between past $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in bulk carbonates data indicating an exchange between
464 lake water and atmosphere due to evaporation ([Francke et al., 2022](#)). The oxygen [isotopic](#)
465 [composition](#) of precipitation ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_p$) at Lake Trasimeno today varies between -9.9‰ in
466 January and -1.9‰ in July ([Bowen and Wilkinson, 2002](#)) as a consequence of decreasing
467 summer precipitation and increasing temperatures. The differences between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_p$ and
468 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ today is between ca. 9 and 11 ‰ during winter and ca. 3 and 6 ‰ during summer,
469 indicating a large loss of light isotope ($\delta^{16}\text{O}$) through evaporation. However, the small
470 difference of 2 ‰ between today $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ summer (ca. 3.8 to 1.2 ‰) and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ winter (-1 to 1

471 ‰) (monitored values from [Froncini et al., 2019](#)) also suggests a minor contribution of summer
472 precipitation to the annual $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ budget.

473 There is a good agreement between the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ values reconstructed from ostracod shells and
474 the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ curve on bulk carbonate from [Francke et al. \(2022\)](#) suggesting a co-variance of these
475 two isotopic signals ([Fig. 5](#)). However, the slight difference in the absolute values between
476 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of calcite (measured on bulk carbonate) and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ of the water (measured on ostracods)
477 can be due to both the [isotopic fractionation](#) between $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of the water and the one recorded in
478 the carbonate as well as a difference in timing of carbonate precipitation between ostracod (few
479 hours and related to the calcification season) and bulk carbonate (annual average).

480 During the mild and more humid MIS 3, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ warm season values range from 2.0 ± 0.2 to
481 1.0 ± 0.2 ‰, within the present-day variability. Lower values correspond to colder
482 temperatures (18 ± 1.7 °C) and higher values to warmer ones (ca. 22 ± 2.3 °C) suggesting
483 colder-drier and warmer-humid periods. Although ostracod assemblages indicate permanent
484 lake conditions, they also suggest that the variations in precipitation and/or evaporation amount
485 remain low. The lack of abrupt and [extreme hydrological](#) fluctuations, which are evident in the
486 NGRIP record ([Rasmussen et al., 2016](#)) during the MIS 3, in favor of a gradual decline in
487 rainfall, and thus of the lake level, from the MIS 3 to MIS 2, has also been identified
488 in [speleothem](#) records from southern and central Italy ([Columbo et al. 2020](#)). This pattern
489 appears associated with a shift in the moisture source from the Atlantic, which was the primary
490 source during the MIS 4 and 5, to the Mediterranean, attributed to the expansion of the northern
491 ice sheets, combined with the decreased effectiveness of the westerlies in delivering moisture
492 (i.e., less moisture availability in the Mediterranean) ([Columbu et al., 2020](#)).

493 During the cold and arid MIS2, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ warm season values range from 1.5 ± 0.3 to 0 ± 0.3 ‰
494 ([Fig. 5](#)). Considering that several studies in central and southern Italy, including pollen
495 (e.g., [Allen et al., 1999](#); [Follieri et al., 1988](#)) and speleothem records ([Columbo et al., 2022](#)),

496 suggest a low precipitation during MIS2 in the central Mediterranean area, and that ostracod
497 assemblages at Lake Trasimeno also indicate low lake level/ephemeral conditions
498 ([Marchegiano et al., 2018](#)), the lighter values, in average, during MIS2 compared to MIS3 can
499 be due to a decrease of evaporation as consequence of lower summer insolation ([Fig. 5](#)). A
500 trend toward heavier $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ values, from around 28 ky to ca. 16 ky indicating a general decrease
501 of rainfall amount ([Fig. 5](#)), corresponds well to the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ speleothem records from Sant'Angelo
502 cave (southern Italy, [Columbo et al., 2022](#)), Ostolo cave ([Northern Iberian Peninsula, Bernal-
503 Wollum et al., 2021](#)) and Soreq cave (Israel, [Bar-Matthews et al., 2003](#)). This trend, also
504 observed in the NGRIP record ([Rasmussen et al., 2016](#)), confirms the continues influence of
505 the ice-sheet extent variations at higher latitude on central Mediterranean area. The datapoint
506 likely associated to the Younger Dryas event ([Fig. 4](#) and [5](#)) at Lake Trasimeno (ca. 12.5ky),
507 shows warmer season $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ lighter values ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_w 0.6 \pm 0.3 \text{ ‰}$). This anomaly, compared to
508 other speleothem records in southern Italy, which present mean annual heavier $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ values
509 associated to dryer conditions, can be explained by cold and wetter summers and cold and dryer
510 winters. This seasonal variation in rainfall amount have been also recognized in northern Iberia
511 speleothems ([Baldini et al., 2019](#) and [Bernal-Wormull et al., 2023](#)).

512 At the Pleistocene – Holocene transition, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ warmer season values are the highest of the
513 entire interval ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_w 2.7 \pm 0.2 \text{ ‰}$) probably due to an increase in evaporation (water enriched
514 of heavier $\delta^{18}\text{O}$) caused by high temperatures and highest summer insolation ([Fig. 5](#)). Ostracod
515 assemblages still indicate low lake level/ephemeral conditions ([Marchegiano et al., 2018](#))
516 suggesting warmer season conditions more arid than today, as also recorded by pollen archives
517 from southern and central Italy ([Magny et al., 2012](#)). On the contrary, speleothem $\delta^{18}\text{O}_c$ mean
518 annual records, indicate the onset of wetter conditions due to the decrease of ice-sheet extent,
519 high availability of Atlantic moisture and increase of westerly-driven winter rainfall amount

520 across the Mediterranean ([Columbo et al., 2022](#)). This contrasting signal continues to support
521 a different seasonal rainfall amount most probably linked to summer insolation.

522 In the Early Holocene, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ decrease and warm and cold season values are very close
523 ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_w 1 \pm 0.2$ and 0.9 ± 0.2 ‰) ([Fig. 5](#)). Ostracod assemblages indicate an increase of lake
524 level ([Marchegiano et al., 2019](#)), these values suggest lower E/P ratios (and thus high humidity)
525 during both seasons, documenting/supporting low seasonality contrast in the hydrology.
526 However, seasonal temperatures are different (11.8 ± 2.1 and 23.2 ± 2.5 °C). The same
527 paleohydrological behavior has been observed in Lake Pergusa and Lake Preola (southern
528 Italy) ([Magny et al., 2012](#)) and in Sant'Angelo cave (southern Italy, [Columbo et al., 2022](#)), as
529 well as in eastern Mediterranean ([Marino et al., 2009](#); [Develle et al., 2010](#)). Conversely,
530 records from northern Italy and western Mediterranean present a higher seasonality contrast
531 with drier summers during and after ca. 9800 cal a BP ([Finsinger et al., 2010](#) and [Peyron et al.,](#)
532 [2011](#)). This study also confirms Early Holocene, climatic conditions in central Italy similar to
533 those ones in southern Italy. Therefore, the climatic limit between northern and
534 southern [climatic zone](#) in Italy, previously settled at 40° latitude by [Magny et al. \(2012\)](#), needs
535 to be moved to 43° latitude, as previously suggested by [Marchegiano et al. \(2019\)](#).

536 In the latest part of the Holocene, the reconstructed $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ values ([Fig. 5](#)) appear similar to
537 today and indicate a difference of 2‰ between seasons suggesting high winter and low summer
538 precipitation as typical of present-day central [Mediterranean climate](#). This larger contrast of
539 precipitation amount between seasons seems to have started in central – southern Italy around
540 ca. 4.5 cal ky BP ([Magny et al., 2012](#)). Similar seasonal patterns in precipitations have been
541 also observed in the western Mediterranean ([García-Alix et al., 2021](#); [Toney et al., 2020](#)).

542

543 5. CONCLUSIONS

544

545 The analyses carried out on recent samples (last ca. 1ky) confirm the applicability of the
546 ostracod-clumped isotope thermometer to reconstruct paleotemperatures, [seasonality](#) and
547 hydrological conditions. The absence of a vital effect at genus and species level is confirmed
548 also in the signal of fossil Δ_{47} -ostracod shells. However, despite the lack of a vital effect, in
549 environments with seasonal temperature variations, not all species can be measured together.
550 Only species that precipitate their shell during the same season can be combined.

551 The application of the ostracod- Δ_{47} thermometer on the Trasimeno lacustrine core (central
552 Italy), provides the very first absolute continental warm season paleotemperature and
553 hydrological conditions for the last 43 ky in the central Mediterranean area. It indicates warm
554 season temperatures heavily impacted by millennial scale climatic events. Insolation conditions
555 enhance the effect of the millennial scale [climate variability](#), by increasing warm season
556 temperature differences between warmer/high insolation [MIS 3](#) (median temperatures of
557 17 °C), colder/lower insolation MIS2 (median temperatures of 12 °C) and warmer/higher
558 insolation during Holocene (median temperatures of 23 °C). This trend is also observed in
559 warm season hydrological conditions with high evaporation during MIS3 and Holocene and
560 low ones in the MIS2.

561 During the [Early Holocene](#), cold season temperatures appear warmer than today, and similar
562 hydrological conditions exist between warm and cold seasons underlying a lower seasonality
563 contrast than today with enhanced warm season precipitation.

564 The new Δ_{47} -ostracod thermometer represents a major advance to better document past climate
565 seasonal fluctuations, especially on the continents, as these organisms are common in many
566 lacustrine setting.

567

568 **DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST**

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

571

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580

581 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

582 Data are available in the supplementary material section during the review process, and they
583 will be successively deposited in a data repository, most probably EarthChem.

584

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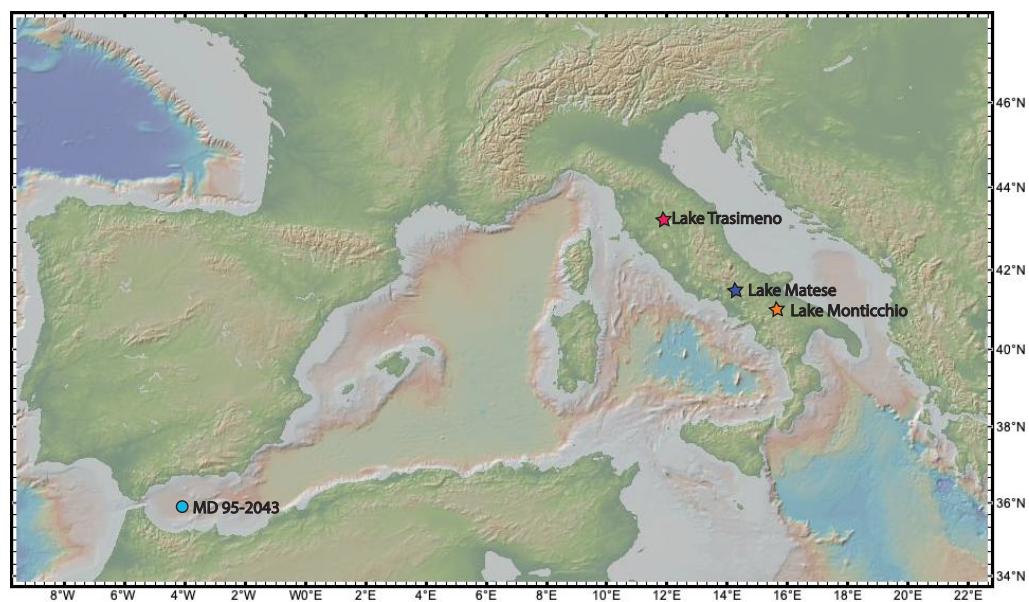
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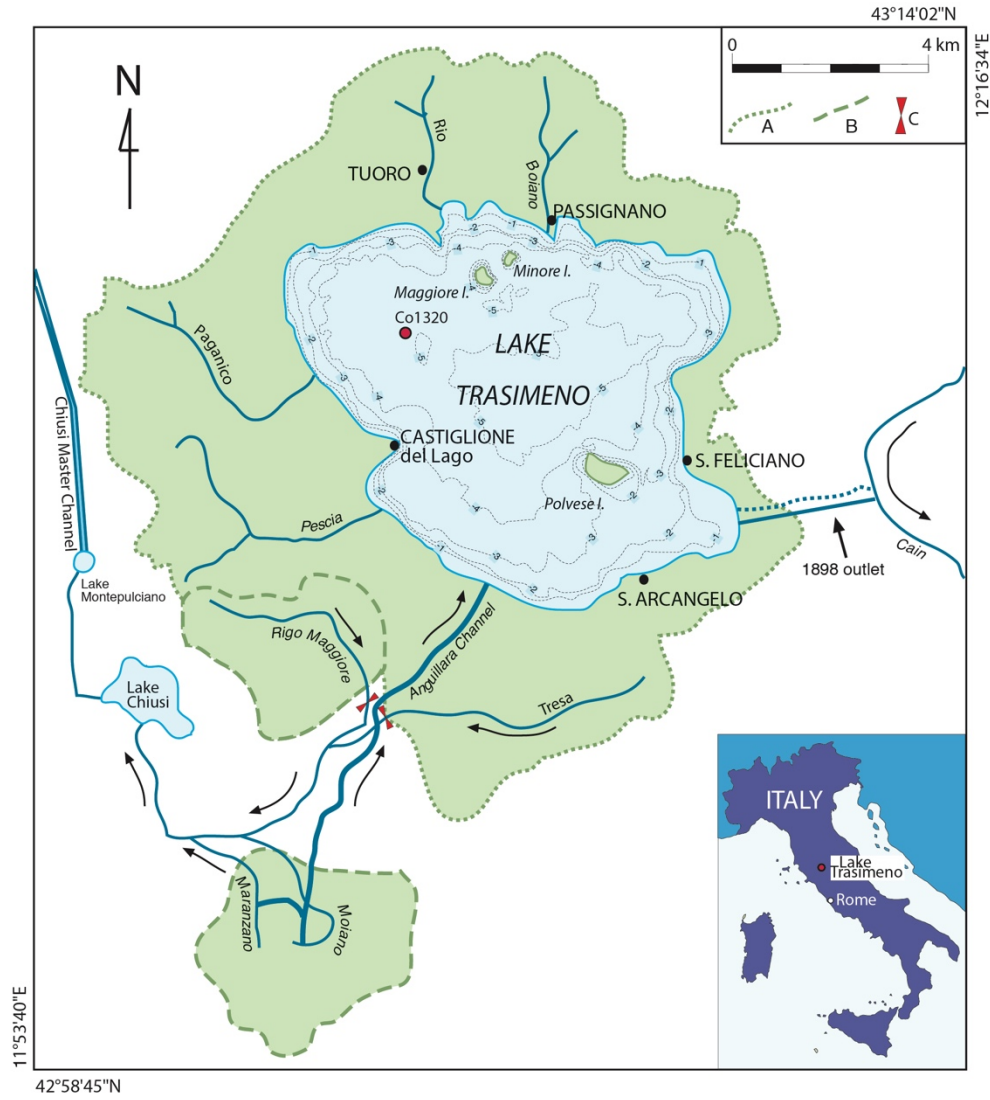
849 **FIGURE AND TABLE CAPTIONS**



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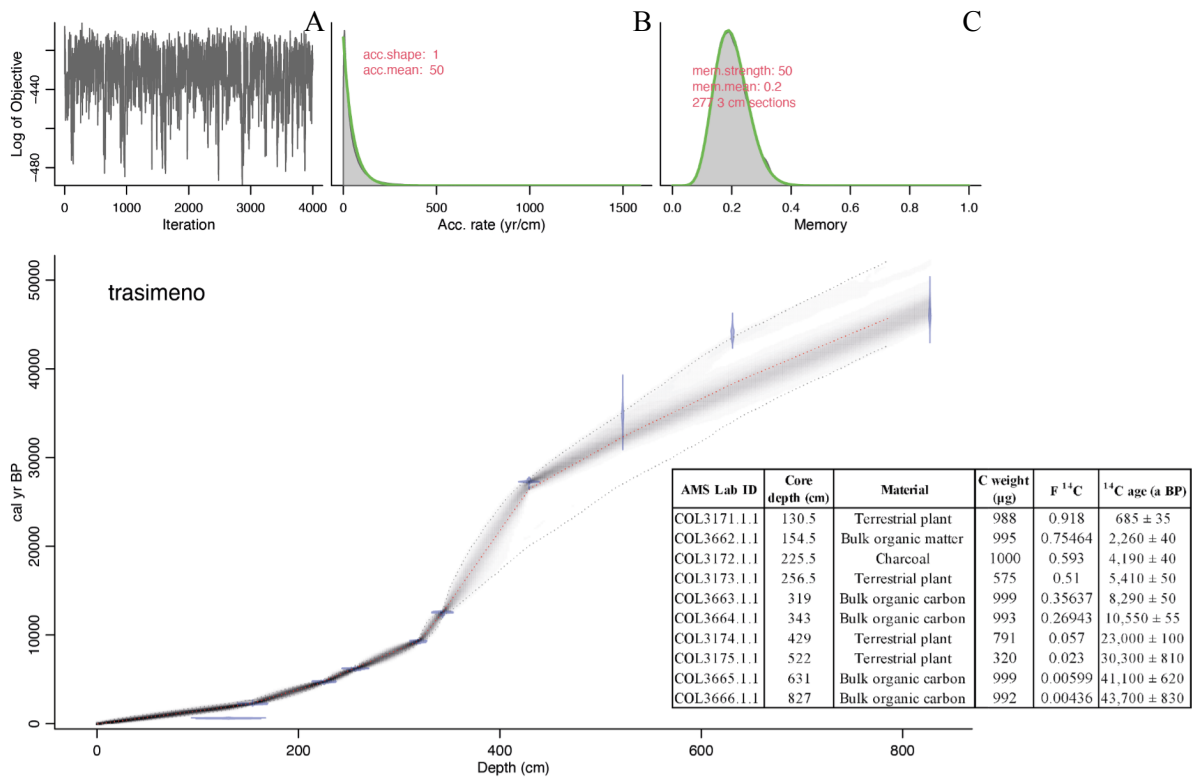
852 Fig. 1: Location of the records discussed in this study. Marine record MD 95-2043 from
 853 Alboran Sea (Cacho et al., 1999). Lacustrine records from Lake Trasimeno (this study), Lake
 854 Matese (Robles et al., 2023) and Lake Monticchio (Allen et al., 1999)



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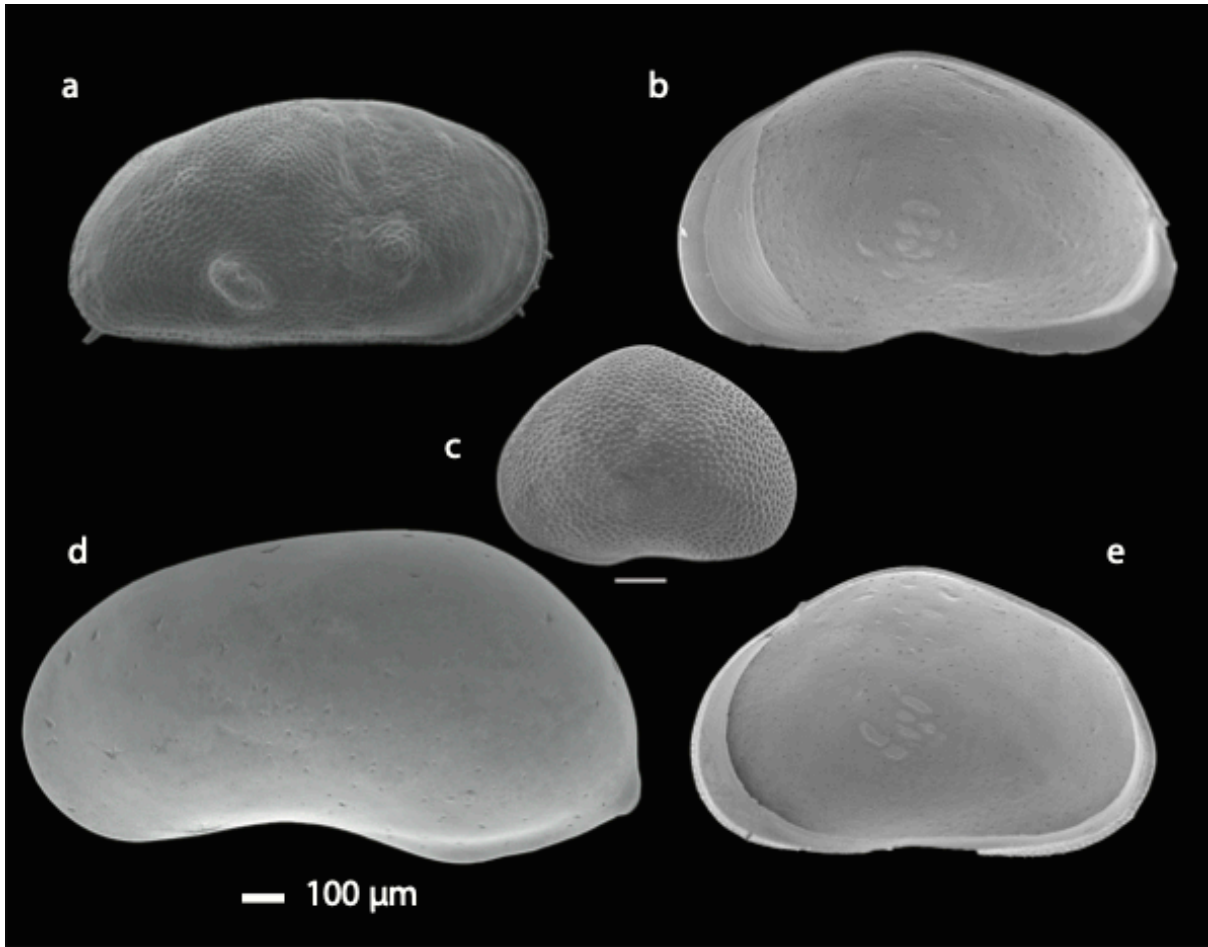
857 Fig. 2: Lake Trasimeno and core location, modified from Marchegiano et al. (2018). A, Natural
 858 catchment area; B, artificially-joined basins; C, sluice gates of the artificially-joined channels.



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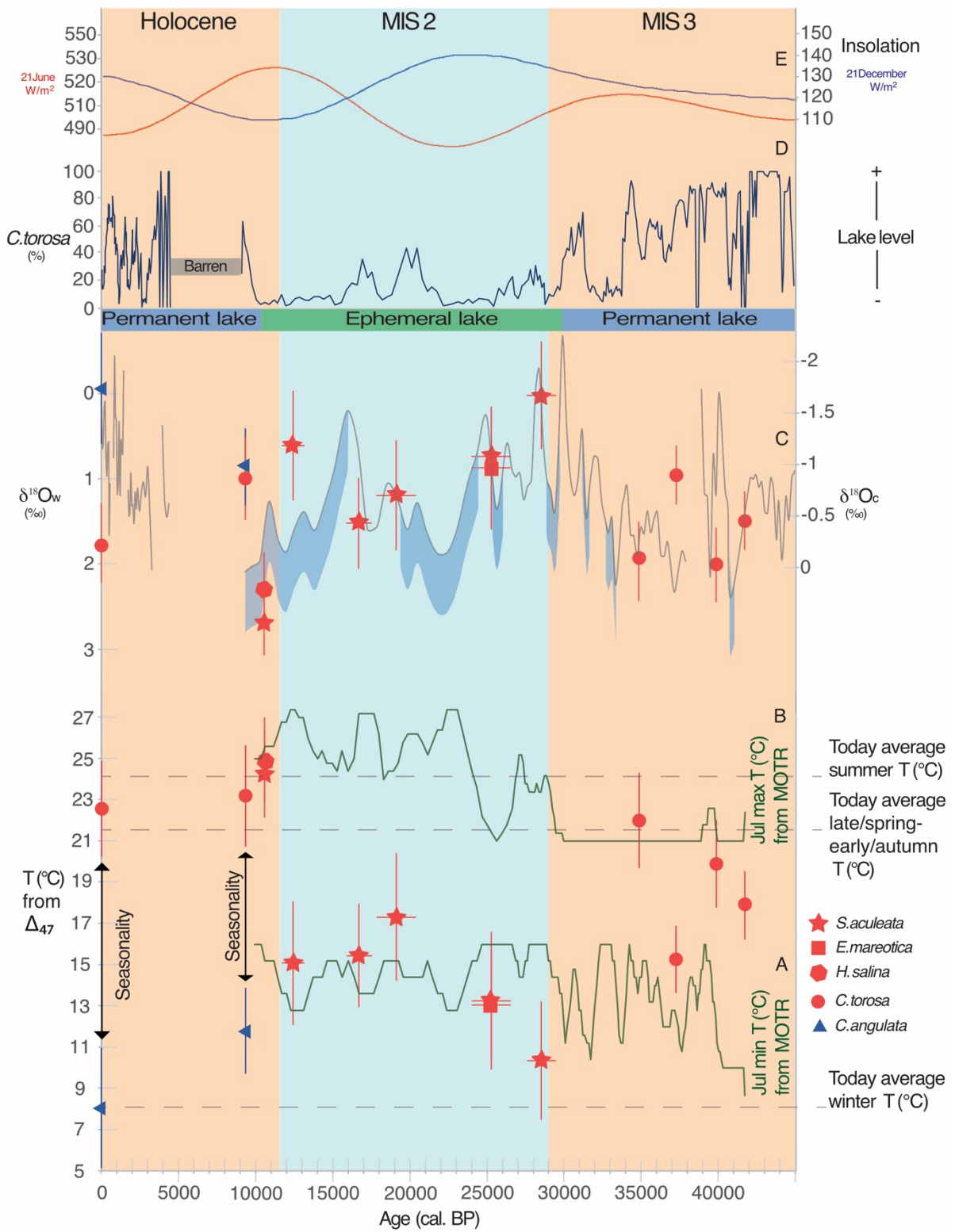
861 Fig. 3: Chronology of the Trasimeno core. The chronology is based on radiocarbon ages from
 862 Marchegiano et al., (2018) modelled with Bayesian statistics using Bacon 3.1 0 by Blaauw &
 863 Christen (2011) and IntCal 2020 (Reimer et al. 2020). A, Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
 864 iterations; B, prior (green) and posterior (grey histogram) distribution for the accumulation
 865 sedimentation rate (years/cm); C, memory.



866

867

868 Fig. 4: Ostracod SEM pictures, made at the University of Roma Tre, obtained from samples of
869 the Lago Trasimeno Co1320 core, a. *Cyprideis torosa*, b, *Eucypris mareotica*, c,
870 *Sarcypridopsis aculeata*, d, *Candonina angulata* and e, *Heterocypris salina*.

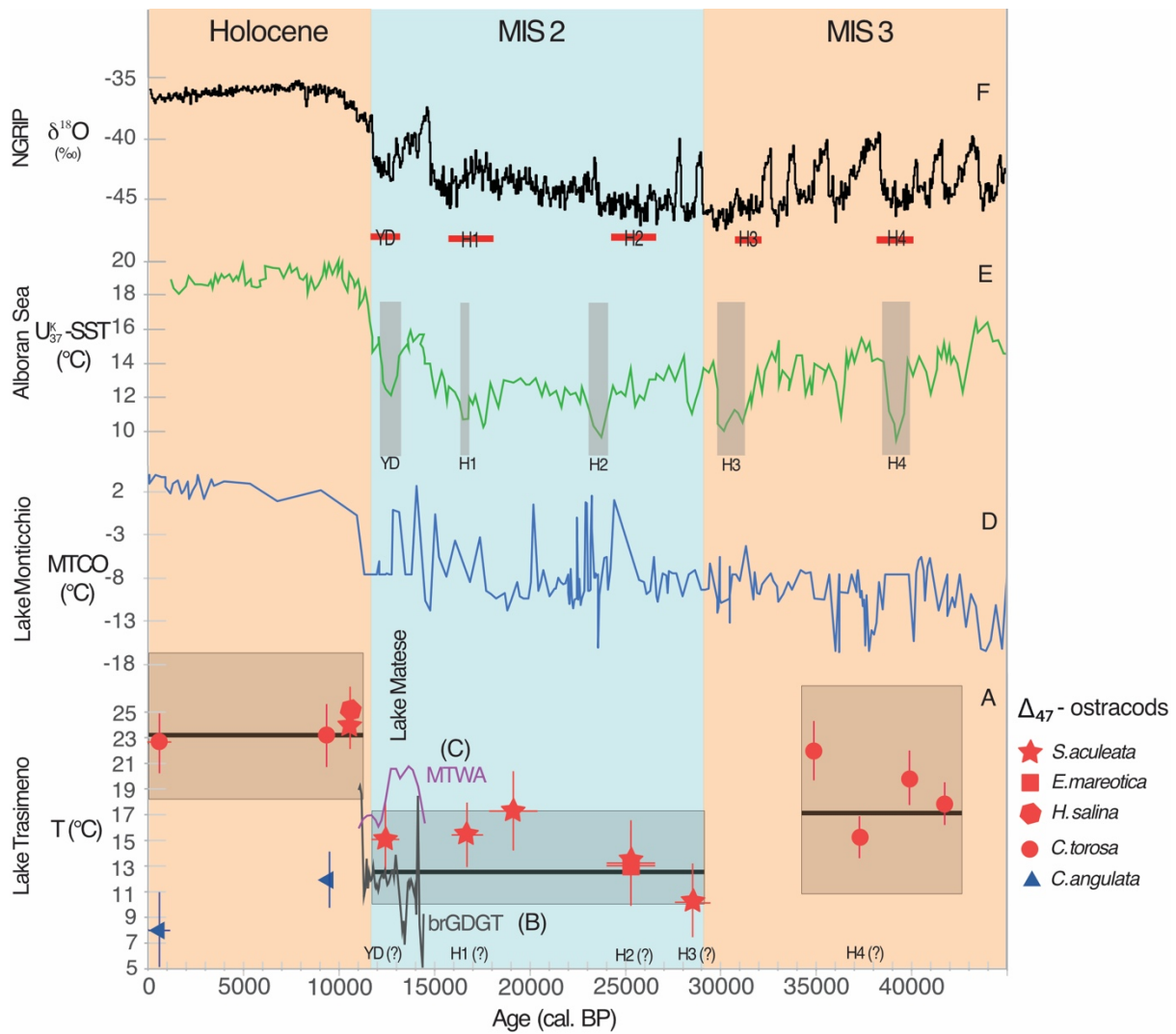


871

872 Fig. 5: Clumped isotope temperature and reconstructed $\delta^{18}O_w$ (this study) from the most

873 abundant species *Cyprideis torosa*, *Eucypris mareotica*, *Sarocypridopsis aculeata*, *Candona*

874 *angulata* and *Heterocypris salina* (red and blue symbols: red symbols, warm season species;
875 blue symbols, cold season species). Mutual Ostracod Temperature Range (MOTR, from
876 Marchegiano et al., 2020) A (Jul min) and B (Jul max) curves, bulk carbonate $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data of
877 Lago Trasimeno from Francke et al. (2022) (C black line,), the uncertainty in certain carbonate
878 samples (blue shade) is due to the mixed composition of aragonite/calcite and the subsequent
879 application of different correction factors (+0.6 for the aragonite, Tarutani et al., 1969)
880 (Francke et al., 2022); $\delta^{18}\text{O}_w$ reconstructed from ostracod shells (red and blue symbols: red
881 symbols, warm season species; blue symbols, cold season species), *C. torosa* ostracod
882 abundance used to reconstruct lake level variations (D curve) (Marchegiano et al., 2018) and
883 summer and winter insolation (E curve) (Laskar et al., 2004). Present mean water winter, late
884 spring/early autumn and summer temperature are indicated.



885

886 Fig. 6: Paleotemperature reconstruction at Lake Trasimeno and comparison with other
 887 Mediterranean records (A). Box plots for Δ_{47} temperatures, including all replicate
 888 measurements per each samples (see Table 1 in supplementary material), show median (black
 889 bold line), the first (25%) and third quartiles (75%, i.e. the grey box covers 50% of the
 890 probability density function) (A), brGDGT mean annual (B) and pollen reconstructed mean
 891 temperatures of the warmest month (MTWA) (C) from Lake Matese (Robles et al., 2023),
 892 pollen reconstructed mean temperatures of the coldest month (MTCO) from Lake Monticchio
 893 (D) (Allen et al., 1999) alkenones marine surface annual mean temperature from Alboran Sea
 894 (E) (Cacho et al., 1999) and the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from the North Greenland Ice Core Project (F)
 895 (Rasmussen et al., 2016).

Sample name	Depth (cm)	n°. repli- cate s	Δ_{47} (‰)	Δ_{47} (‰) (1SE)	Δ_{47} -T (2SE)	$\delta^{13}C$ (‰)	$\delta^{18}O$ (‰)	Specie	Vital offset (‰)	$\delta^{18}O_{corr}$ (‰) (VPDB)	$\delta^{18}O_w$ (‰)	$\delta^{18}O_w$ (‰) SE	Average age (ky. cal BP)	Age
TRAR1	14-83	6	0.648	0.0144	8.0 ± 2.9	-0.49	3.13	C. angulata	-2.2	0.93	-0.1	0.326	0.7	HOL- OCENE
TRAR2	14-83	10	0.601	0.0111	22.5 ± 2.3	-3.17	0.42	C. torosa	-0.8	-0.38	1.7	0.234	0.7	
TRAHOL1	316-322	9	0.599	0.0115	23.1 ± 2.5	-0.28	-0.45	C. torosa	-0.8	-1.25	1.0	0.248	9	
TRAHOL2	316-322	10	0.636	0.0111	11.8 ± 2.1	2.17	3.20	C. angulata	-2.2	1.00	0.9	0.226	9	
TRA2	328-330	12	0.594	0.0101	24.9 ± 2.0	3.99	0.03	S. aculeata	0	0.03	2.7	0.202	10.5	
TRA2B	328-330	11	0.596	0.0105	24.3 ± 2.2	3.60	-0.21	H. salina	0	-0.21	2.3	0.215	10.5	
TRAGH1	336-348	6	0.625	0.0140	15.1 ± 3.0	2.54	0.05	S. aculeata	0	0.06	0.6	0.321	12	LGM- MIS2
TRAH1	363-375	8	0.623	0.0123	15.4 ± 2.5	3.50	0.86	S. aculeata	0	0.86	1.5	0.267	17	
TRAGS2	375-393	6	0.617	0.0140	17.3 ± 3.1	3.58	0.15	S. aculeata	0	0.15	1.2	0.323	19	
TRAH2-1	413-431	7	0.631	0.0131	13.0 ± 2.7	3.09	0.61	S. aculeata	0	0.61	0.7	0.290	25	
TRAH2-2	413-431	5	0.631	0.0153	13.2 ± 3.3	1.70	0.69	E. mareotica	0	0.70	0.9	0.360	25	
LATEMIS3	445-477	6	0.640	0.0140	10.3 ± 2.9	0.10	0.50	S. aculeata	0	0.50	0.0	0.316	28	
TRA4	561-569	10	0.603	0.0111	22.0 ± 2.3	-1.32	0.74	C. torosa	-0.8	-0.06	2.0	0.233	35	BLG- M- MIS3
TRA5	603-616	14	0.624	0.0094	15.2 ± 1.6	-0.47	1.15	C. torosa	-0.8	0.35	1.0	0.173	37	
TRA6	658-654	11	0.609	0.0107	19.9 ± 2.1	0.64	1.21	C. torosa	-0.8	0.41	2.0	0.219	40	
TRA7	732-748	14	0.616	0.0093	17.9 ± 1.7	-3.47	1.12	C. torosa	-0.8	0.32	1.5	0.171	42	

896

897 Table 1: Carbonate classic and clumped isotopes results. The Δ_{47} -T are calculated using the
898 unified calibration (Anderson et al., 2021) and the $\delta^{18}O_w$ calculated from Δ_{47} and $\delta^{18}O_{ost}$ data
899 using the formula of Kim and O'Neal (1997). BLGM: Before Last Glacial Maximum; LGM:
900 Last Glacial Maximum.

901

SPECIES	CALCIFICATION SEASON	AGE	SAMPLE	$\Delta_{47}\text{-T}$ (2SE)	TODAY AVERAGE SEASON WATER-T
<i>C. torosa</i>	late-spring/early-autumn	HOLOCENE	TRAR2	$22,5 \pm 2,3$	21.4
			TRAHOL1	$23,1 \pm 2,5$	21.4
		BLGM-MIS3	TRA4	$22 \pm 2,3$	21.4
			TRA5	$15,2 \pm 1,6$	21.4
			TRA6	$19,9 \pm 2,1$	21.4
			TRA7	$17,9 \pm 1,7$	21.4
<i>S. aculeata</i>	summer	HOLOCENE	TRA2	$24,9 \pm 2$	24
		LGM-MIS2	TRAGI1	$15,1 \pm 3$	24
			TRAH1	$15,4 \pm 2,5$	24
			TRAGS2	$17,3 \pm 3,1$	24
			TRAH2-1	$13,0 \pm 2,7$	24
			LATEMIS3	$10,3 \pm 2,9$	24
<i>E. mareotica</i>	summer	LGM-MIS2	TRAH2-2	$13,2 \pm 3,3$	24
<i>H. salina</i>	summer	HOLOCENE	TRA2B	$24,3 \pm 2,2$	24
<i>C. angulata</i>	winter	HOLOCENE	TRAR1	$8 \pm 2,9$	8
			TRAHOL2	$11,8 \pm 2,1$	8

902

903 Table 2: Ostracod species used for $\Delta_{47} - T$ reconstruction, their shell calcification season (*C.*
904 *torosa*, from Heip, 1976, Roberts et al., 2020 and consideration from this study; *S. aculeata*
905 Meisch et al., 2000; *E. mareotica*, Li and Liu, 2010; *H. salina*, Meisch et al., 2000; *C.*
906 *angulata*, Meisch et al., 2000) and present average seasonal Lake Trasimeno water
907 temperatures (World Lake database 2023)