

1	Characterisation of organic inclusions in stalagmites using laser-ablation-
2	micropyrolysis gas chromatography-mass spectrometry
3	
4	Alison J. Blyth <sup>1,2*</sup> , David Fuentes <sup>3</sup> , Simon C. George <sup>4</sup> , Herbert Volk <sup>3,§</sup>
5	
6	<sup>1</sup> Department of Environment, Earth & Ecosystems, The Open University, Milton Keynes,
7	MK7 6AA, UK
8	<sup>2</sup> WA-OIG, Department of Chemistry / The Institute of Geosciences Research, Curtin
9	University, GPO Box U1987, Perth 6845, Western Australia, Australia
10	<sup>3</sup> CSIRO, PO Box 136, North Ryde, NSW 1670, Australia
11	<sup>4</sup> Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW 2109,
12	Australia
13	<sup>§</sup> Present address: BP Exploration Company, Sunbury-on-Thames, UK
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
	*Corresponding author. Postal address: Department of Applied Geology, Curtin University, Perth, WA 6845, Australia Email: Alison.Blyth@curtin.edu.au Tel: +61 8 9266 9388

#### 24 Abstract

25 Laser-micropyrolysis gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (La-Py-GC-MS) allows the 26 analysis of small targeted areas of organic material. In this proof of concept study a novel 27 application of the technique is demonstrated. Three types of organic matter preserved in 28 speleothems were analysed: dissolved organic matter within the calcite crystal matrix; 29 detrital organic inclusions; and lithified guano derived from birds and bats. The results 30 indicate that there is significant heterogeneity within each sample type, with guano samples 31 having the highest variability. However, there are also distinctive La-Py-GC-MS products that 32 allow separation of the sample types geochemically. These include the chain length 33 distribution within the longer chain *n*-alkanes (> $C_{20}$ ), with the guano sample having a 34 dominance of chain lengths below C<sub>27</sub>, whilst the other two sample types are dominated by 35 *n*-alkanes of C<sub>27</sub> and above. The detrital inclusion sample has a higher relative abundance of 36 pyrrole and methylpyrroles. A homologous series of longer chain alkylbenzenes is seen only 37 in the guano samples. 38 Our preliminary data indicate that fingerprints of La-Py-GC-MS analyses may be useful to

39 provide information on organic matter preserved in speleothems, but more work is required 40 to extend the technique to lower organic content samples, and to fully test the application 41 in a larger dataset of preserved organic matter types.

## 42 Keywords

43 Speleothem; laser micropyrolysis; organic inclusion, gas chromatography-mass44 spectrometry

### 45 **1. Introduction**

46 Laser-micropyrolysis gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (La-Py-GC-MS) can yield 47 geochemical information from laser spots as small as ~20 µm spot size, and thus provides 48 the ability to provide reasonably detailed analyses of heterogeneous pyrolysable organic 49 matter at resolutions similar to that of microscopy (Greenwood et al., 1996). In general, La-50 Py-GC-MS has been demonstrated to provide similar data to flash pyrolysis, but at the 10s of 51 microns scale (Yoshioka and Ishiwatari, 2002), and multiple applications have been 52 developed, especially within organic rich rocks. These include the analysis of individual 53 macerals, so as to ascertain the chemistry specific to each maceral type (Greenwood et al., 54 1993; Stout, 1993; Greenwood et al., 1998; Greenwood et al., 2001), the characterisation of 55 solid bitumens at the molecular level (Greenwood et al., 2001; Sestak et al., 2009), and the analysis of microfossils, such as Tasmanites algae (Greenwood et al., 1998; Greenwood et 56 57 al., 2000), acritarchs (Arouri et al., 1999; Arouri et al., 2000), chitinozoans (Jacob et al., 2007) 58 and pollen (Al Sandouk-Lincke et al., 2013). Oil-bearing fluid inclusions have also been 59 analysed by La-Py-GC-MS (Greenwood et al., 1998), although sensitivity and power of the 60 laser tends to lead to some laser artefacts that make comparison with other bulk analytical 61 methods difficult (George et al., 2012). Use of a pulsed femtosecond laser has allowed single 62 oil inclusions to be analysed successfully (Volk et al., 2010). Outside of geology, La-Py-GC-MS 63 has also found use in forensic studies such as analysis of paint flakes (Armitage et al., 2001; 64 Prati et al., 2014). A recent study comparing La-Py-GC-MS to Curie Point Pyrolysis GC-MS 65 (CP-Py-GC-MS) concluded that there were several advantages pertaining to the use of laser 66 pyrolysis, including the provision for smaller sample sizes and good spatial analytical control 67 (Al Sandouk-Lincke et al., 2014), but that the higher (estimated as > 1000 °C) and

68 unquantified temperature applied in laser pyrolysis will affect compound distributions. They 69 therefore concluded that the nature of the organic matter was important in assessing the 70 suitability of pyrolysis techniques, with more mature organic matter better suited to laser 71 work (Al Sandouk-Lincke et al., 2014). 72 Here, a laser pyrolysis instrument with an Nd-YAG infrared laser was used to characterise 73 organic matter preserved within speleothems. The analysis of organic matter in 74 speleothems is a subject of increasing research interest as it potentially provides new 75 palaeoenvironmental records focused on vegetation change (Xie et al., 2003; Blyth et al., 76 2007; 2011; Rushdi et al. 2011; Li et al., 2014), soil dynamics (Xie et al., 2003; Blyth et al., 77 2013b; Li et al., 2014), and temperature (Yang et al., 2011; Blyth & Schouten, 2013; Blyth et 78 al., 2014). However, the focus on biomarkers extractable by wet chemistry from the 79 carbonate means that most research to date has required relatively large sample sizes of 80 calcite (1 – 100 g) (Xie et al., 2003; Blyth et al., 2007; Yang et al., 2011; Blyth & Schouten 81 2013; Li et al., 2014), compared to established inorganic geochemical proxies. Selected 82 techniques published to date allow analysis of less than 1 g of calcite: thermochemolysis of 83 lignin (0.5 g; Blyth & Watson, 2009; Blyth et al., 2010); amino acid analysis (25–120 mg, 84 Lauritzen et al., 1998; Blyth et al., 2008); high performance liquid chromatography analysis 85 of short chain fatty acids (0.5–3.5 g, Bosle et al., 2014); and liquid chromatography-isotope 86 ratio mass spectrometry (LC-IRMS) analysis of bulk organic isotopes (0.2 g; Blyth et al., 2013a,b). Of these, only LC-IRMS of bulk  $\delta^{13}$ C has so far been fully applied in a multi-proxy 87 88 palaeoenvironmental reconstruction (Blyth et al., 2013b). The need for larger calcite 89 samples significantly limits the temporal resolution of the time-series recovered, and often 90 excludes the possibility of analysing individual organic inclusions or layers resulting from 91 biofilms or airborne, water-lain, or faunal detrital input. Alternative techniques such as 4

continuous fluorescence analysis have met with good success in providing high resolution
records of certain forms of dissolved organic matter (e.g. Baker et al., 1996; Baker et al.,
1998; Perrette et al., 2000; Baker & Bolton 2000; Perrette et al., 2005; Baker et al., 2008),
but are limited in the amount of molecular detail that can currently be recovered. The
development of new analytical techniques that can be applied at a high sample resolution
and with minimal wet chemical preparation is therefore desirable.
In this paper the La-Py-GC-MS technique was applied to three speleothem samples with

99 contrasting organic contents: (i) soil-derived dissolved organic matter distributed within the 100 crystalline calcite; (ii) detrital or *in-situ* particulate organic matter; and (iii) lithified guano of 101 a known faunal origin. Comparison of these samples and consideration of the characteristic 102 chemical differences provides an initial insight into the potential utility of the La-Py-GC-MS 103 technique, and possible future applications in speleothem geochemistry.

104

## 105 2. Materials and methods

#### 106 **2.1 Samples**

107 Three speleothem samples were analysed in this preliminary study to represent three 108 preserved organic matter types. The first is an Australian stalagmite (370 FS03) of Plio-109 Pleistocene age from the Nullarbor Plain, Australia. This sample has a black colouration 110 hypothesised to be due to a high proportion of humic acids entrapped in the crystalline 111 structure (Caldwell et al., 1982). Due to this abnormal organic content, it is the only 112 speleothem analysed where it was possible to pyrolyse the calcite using the La-Py-GC-MS 113 instrument as currently configured. The second sample is from an Ethiopian stalagmite

114 (Bero-1) from the Mechara region of Ethiopia, which formed between 10 ka and present in 115 an open cave, recessed into a cliff-face (Asrat et al., 2008). It contains laminae of visible 116 detrital organic matter, which may have been deposited by water, or due to the relatively 117 open nature of the cave, possibly by air or faunal input. The third sample (HV-1) is a crust of 118 lithified guano incorporated into a Peruvian stalagmite from Cueva de las Lechuzas in 119 Peruvian Amazonia, and is believed to be Holocene in age (H. Vonhof pers comm.). Based on 120 modern accumulations in the area, the guano is derived from a mixture of bats and oilbirds, 121 which both live in the cave.

122 A sample section approximately 5 mm x 5 mm was removed from each speleothem,

123 centring on visible organic inclusions in the case of Bero-1 and HV-1 guano. Prior to analysis,

124 the sample blocks were cleaned in dichloromethane to remove surface contamination.

125 Samples were thermally desorbed in the pyrolysis chamber of the instrument (see Section

126 2.2) at 100 °C for 10 minutes prior to analysis to reduce desorption artefacts, although the

127 latter were found to be significant only for the guano samples. To minimise these artefacts,

piece 2 of the guano was thermally extracted offline at 200 °C, and held at 100 °C in an oven
overnight prior to analysis.

130

## 131 2.2 Analytical methods

132 A detailed description of the instrument and methodology can be found elsewhere

133 (Greenwood et al., 1996; Greenwood et al., 1998; Bernard et al., 2010; Sandouk-Lincke et

al., 2013; Prati et al., 2014). Briefly, a continuous wave laser (Laser Applications 9500,

135 Nd:YAG laser,  $\lambda$ = 1064 nm) was tightly focused onto selected areas of the sample through

an Olympus BPX60M microscope equipped with reflected light illumination and using long

137 distance working objectives (20X/0.4 and 50X/0.5). The sample was located in a purpose-138 built pyrolysis chamber (100-110°C, 100 mL helium flow) which was interfaced to a GC-MS 139 system (Hewlett Packard 6890 GC interfaced to a 5973 mass selective detector, electron 140 energy 70eV) via a gas inlet system designed for maximum transfer efficiency of the gaseous 141 products. The products of the pyrolysis process were cryogenically trapped in a coiled nickel 142 loop using a liquid nitrogen bath. After trapping the products, a 6 port transfer valve was 143 rotated to transfer 1 mL/min helium through the trap and the contents were then desorbed 144 by heating to 320 °C. The products were cryo-focused again in a loop of GC column 145 immersed in a liquid nitrogen bath. The full scan GC-MS analysis (m/z 50-550) of the 146 pyrolysates was performed on a DB-5MS column (J&W, 60 m, 0.25 mm I.D., 0.25 μm film 147 thickness) with helium as carrier gas with constant pressure of 25 psi. The GC oven was 148 programmed for an initial temperature of 40 °C (2 min hold) followed by heating at 4 °C/ 149 min to 310 °C (30 min hold).

150 The size of the laser crater was controlled by a combination of instrumental parameters 151 such as choosing the appropriate magnification depending on the spatial resolution 152 required for the sample, the laser power and time span of the laser event. The 370 FS03 and 153 Bero-1 stalagmite samples were pyrolysed using a 50x objective and applied power of 19.4 154 W for 1 s or 1.2 W for 0.2 s, respectively, yielding spot sizes of  $\sim$ 20  $\mu$ m. The lithified guano 155 sample was pyrolysed using a 20x objective and applied power of 1.9 W for 0.2 s, yielding 156 spot sizes of  $\sim$ 40-50 µm. Between 80 and 127 shots into different parts of each sample were 157 aggregated in each run using a liquid nitrogen trap, so as to provide sufficient sensitivity for 158 compound identification. The analytical runs chosen for data analysis are those that 159 produced the largest compound yields for their sample type. Figure 1 shows SEM images of

the pyrolysis holes in Bero-1 and HV-1. Compounds were identified by comparison to mass
spectral libraries and gas chromatographic retention times (e.g. Eganhouse et al., 1993).

163 **3. Results and discussion** 

#### **3.1 Compounds identified**

165 Figure 2 shows representative pyrograms for each of the three sample types, and 166 identified pyrolysis products are listed in Table 1. All the samples contain a homologous 167 series of *n*-alkanes ( $C_6 - C_{31}$ ), *n*-alkenes ( $C_6 - C_{18}$ ) and a range of low molecular weight 168 aromatic compounds. In addition to the major peaks visible on the TIC pyrogram, other 169 peaks include several compounds of lower abundance that were quantified in some or all of 170 the samples, including o-xylene, n-propylbenzene, iso-propylbenzene, ethylmethylbenzenes, 171 trimethylbenzenes, methylindenes, pyrrole, methylpyrroles, phenol, a methylphenol, furan, 172 and methylfurans. In terms of organic matter fingerprinting, the main distinguishing 173 considerations to separate the three sample types were found to be the relative proportions 174 of compounds within the *n*-alkane series, and the presence or absence of some key 175 aromatic groups.

176

### 177 **3.2** *n*-Alkenes and *n*-alkanes

Homologous series of *n*-alkenes and *n*-alkanes are frequently seen from the pyrolysis of
organic matter (Hatcher & Clifford 1994; Fezzey & Armitage, 2006; Al Sandouk-Lincke et al.,
2014), deriving from the pyrolysis breakdown of larger biopolymers. Their dominance in a
pyrogram has previously been associated with humic acids (Fezzey & Armitage, 2006),

although it has also been suggested that this dominance is a result of an inherent analytical
bias in favour of non-polar compounds (Hatcher & Clifford 1994). The results here indicate
that interrogation of the relative chain length distribution within each group (*n*-alkenes; *n*alkanes <C<sub>20</sub>; *n*-alkanes >C<sub>20</sub>) is informative in partially separating the three sample types.
Low and higher molecular weight n-alkanes are discussed separately due to the bimodality
of the chromatograms.

The *n*-alkene series runs from C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> in Bero-1, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>16</sub> in 370 FS03, and C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>21</sub> in the HV-1 188 189 guano samples (Fig. 3). Within the alkenes present, there is little variation between repeat 190 analyses of each sample type for Bero-1 and HV-1 ( $r^2 = 0.90$  to 0.98, p = 0.0000). For 370 191 FS03, only one analytical run (370 FS03 brown) produced a series of alkenes, with the 192 second run (370 FS03 black) containing only  $C_{14}$  at a measurable abundance. When 193 considering the differences between sample types, the Bero-1 detritus and HV-1 guano 194 show a significant correlation (Fig. 4a;  $r^2 = 0.83$ , p = 0.0000), with decreasing abundance 195 with increasing chain length. In contrast the organic matter coating the crystals in 370 FS03 196 does not correlate with either of the other sample types, having a reduced number of 197 measurable alkenes, and three distinct maxima at C<sub>8</sub>, C<sub>14</sub>, and C<sub>16</sub>.

198 For *n*-alkanes, different distributions and relationships are apparent between the three 199 sample types in both the low molecular weight (LMW, chain length C<sub>19</sub> and below) and high 200 molecular weight (HMW, chain length C<sub>20</sub> and above) components. Fig. 5 shows the LMW 201 groups. Variation within each sample type is greater than for the *n*-alkenes. Repeat analyses 202 for Bero-1 show a significant correlation ( $r^2 = 0.73$ , p < 0.0001), as do the two repeats on HV-1 piece 2 ( $r^2 = 0.67$ , p < 0.0005). However, there is no meaningful relationship between HV-1 203 piece 2 and HV-1 piece 1 ( $r^2 = 0.16$ , p > 0.1). This difference is most likely down to the 204 205 increased pre-extraction for piece 2, with piece 1 still showing alkane artefacts from 9

206 desorption. There is also no meaningful correlation between the two analyses of 370 FS03 207  $(r^2 = 0.06, p > 0.1)$ , partly because one repeat (370 FS03 black) did not contain measurable 208 alkanes at the lower end of the chain length range. However, the overall trend in this 209 sample, *n*-alkanes increasing in abundance with increasing chain length, is similar for both 210 analyses, and is contrary to that in Bero-1 and HV-1, both of which have a decrease in n-211 alkane abundance with increasing chain length, but with different patterns. Therefore, as for 212 the *n*-alkenes, LMW *n*-alkanes seem most useful in separating 370 FS03 from the other two 213 sample types, based on the trend of the inverse correlations (Fig. 4b). It is not certain at 214 present why the *n*-alkanes and *n*-alkenes exhibit different chain length patterns in these 215 results, and this is an issue that merits further research before definite environmental 216 interpretations are developed from this approach. 217 The HMW group shows more distinct and useful patterns. In particular, the dominant

218 chain length in the distribution is different in each sample type, and consistent between 219 analyses of the same sample type, regardless of other variations in the composition. Bero-1 220 shows a maximum at C<sub>29</sub>, 370 FS03 at C<sub>27</sub>, and HV-1 at C<sub>23</sub> (Fig. 6). Over the whole 221 distribution there is very little variation between the two Bero-1 runs ( $r^2 = 0.95$ , p = 0.0000). 222 In the HV-1 guano samples, the two runs of piece 2 also have a good correlation ( $r^2 = 0.79$ , p 223 < 0.0001), but the relationship between the two pieces is much less significant ( $r^2 = 0.53$ , p < 100224 0.1). The two runs of 370 FS03 also have a relatively weak correlation ( $r^2 = 0.53$ , p < 0.1). 225 When the average relative distributions are compared between sample type, there is a 226 reasonable correlation between Bero-1 and 370-FS03 ( $r^2 = 0.70$ , p < 0.001), but not between 227 either of these and HV-1. This is clearly shown in the % chart in Figure 7, where it can be 228 seen that the HV-1 guano is dominated by chain lengths between C<sub>20</sub> and C<sub>23</sub>, whereas the 229 Bero-1 detritus and 370-FS03 organic matter are dominated by C<sub>27</sub>-C<sub>31</sub>. 10

230

### 231 **3.3 Other compounds**

232 A number of compound groups have been identified as being significant in natural 233 organic matter pyrolysis, including phenols, pyrroles, furans, and aromatic hydrocarbon 234 precursors such as indenes, methylbenzenes and naphthalenes (e.g. Wilson et al., 1983; 235 White et al., 2007). The relative abundance of these fractions has previously been suggested 236 as a method of discriminating between organic matter types in soils (White et al., 2007). 237 However, in this study, although there are some bulk differences between the three sample 238 types (Fig 8a), there are also good correlations, with p values under 0.05 (Fig 8b). This result 239 suggests that for these three samples, using this technique, the relative abundance of the 240 compounds listed above is not a good discriminator. However, two compound groups do 241 stand out as different. The pyrroles (nitrogen compounds most likely derived from proteins; 242 Wilson et al., 1983), have a much higher relative abundance in the Bero-1 detritus (Fig. 8), 243 and a set of longer-chain alkylbenzenes only occur in the HV-1 guano (Fig. 9). The presence 244 of only a single isomer at each carbon number for these alkylbenzenes indicates a natural 245 source (Takada & Ishiwatari 1989). The guano samples did not contain any of the 246 compounds previously identified as diagnostic pyrolysis markers for chitin (e.g. 247 acetylpyridones, acetamidofuran, etc; see Stankiewicz et al., 1996), indicating that the 248 guano may not have been derived from an insectivorous source, although further work on 249 modern cave guano samples would be required to demonstrate this. 250

#### 251 **3.4 Future research directions**

252 Overall the results of this study indicate some intriguing differences between the 253 three sample types, but caution also needs to be applied in designating a parameter as due 254 to source organic matter variations, as some parameters (e.g. alkane chain length) have 255 been shown to have a relationship with pyrolysis temperature (Al Sandouk-Lincke et al., 256 2014). Although laser pyrolysis temperatures will be uniformly high, they are not controlled 257 as exactly as in other pyrolysis techniques, which means the precise range of pyrolysis 258 temperatures applied here cannot be quantified. The data here are preliminary, and the 259 abundances of compounds measured is relatively low, so the sample range is not at this 260 stage sufficient to provide definitive identifications of the source of organic matter 261 inclusions in time-series records. A limitation on this technique is the applicability only to speleothem samples with 262 263 discrete organic inclusions or a high visible organic content within the crystal matrix. The 264 early stage of this research trialled the technique on speleothems without visible organic 265 contents, but no data was recoverable, as the laser was not sufficient to pyrolyse the calcite. 266 Experimentation with the technique using alternate laser sources is therefore indicated to 267 attempt to expand the applicability, as this approach would be of particular potential use in

characterising organic matter at laminae level resolutions which are too small to be feasible

to study via the conventional wet chemistry methods currently used on speleothems. Such a

270 study would also be able to investigate the effect of calcite type and texture on organic

271 matter ablation.

A final issue that would benefit from further research is that of potential
contamination, as a recent study published after the completion of the experimental phase
of this research has suggested that some molecules in speleothem extractions may be

275	artefacts due to contamination (Wynn & Brocks 2014). The 2014 study only dealt with a
276	limited suite of biomarkers within speleothems, and not the organic inclusions and
277	macromolecules analysed in this paper. Precautions were taken in this work by solvent
278	cleaning and thermal desorption prior to laser pyrolysis to maximise the integrity of the
279	data. However, there is certainly scope for further research to consider the potential
280	changes in pyrolysis products with depth from the cut surface within a single inclusion or
281	laminae, and whether any such changes may relate to contamination or natural
282	heterogeneity.

# **4. Conclusions**

285	•	The Peruvian guano (HV-1) has two distinguishing features separating it from both
286		the other sample types: the dominance of the lower carbon numbers in the long
287		chain (> $C_{20}$ ) <i>n</i> -alkanes, and the presence of longer chain alkylbenzenes. These
288		features are consistent between both guano pieces, despite some other
289		differences in composition.
290	•	The detrital inclusions in the Ethiopian sample Bero-1 contain higher proportions
291		of furans, pyrroles and phenols than the other samples.
292	•	The DOM in the black Nullarbor Plain speleothem 370 FS03 differed from the
293		other samples in the trends of the <i>n</i> -alkenes and shorter chain <i>n</i> -alkanes, and in
294		the smaller range of aromatic and nitrogen compounds. This is consistent with
295		the proposed dominance of humic acids as the cause for the colouration in these
296		samples (Caldwell 1982), in the light of some research on pyrolysis of humic acids
297		(Fezzey & Armitage 2006). However, the absence of some compounds may be a

298	function of the low abundance of pyrolysable material in the sample, rather than
299	in the nature of that material, meaning that a direct comparison with other OM
300	types must be approached with caution.
301 •	The results indicate that La-Py-GCMS may have the potential to characterise
302	detrital organic matter in speleothems, and further work on a greater range of
303	samples, and with alternative laser set-ups to allow the pyrolysis of the calcite is
304	indicated to test the true applicability of this approach

305

## 306 Acknowledgements

307 Some aspects of this work were supported by ARC DP0985214, and NERC grant 308 NE/G016925/1, HG A3897. AJB acknowledges a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship held at 309 the Open University. Curtin University and an AINSE Research Fellowship to AJB are also 310 acknowledged for support during final data analysis. Bero-1 was loaned by Andy Baker of 311 the University of New South Wales, and collected by Asfawossen Asrat of Addis Ababa 312 University. 370 FS03 was supplied and dated by Jon Woodhead of the University of 313 Melbourne under ARC DP0985214. HV-1 was collected and supplied by Hubert Vonhof of 314 Vrij University, Amsterdam. All sample owners are thanked for their contribution.

315

#### 316 **References**

Al Sandouk-Lincke, N.A., Schwarzbauer, J., Volk, H., Hartkopf-Froder, C., Fuentes, D., Young,
 M., Littke, R., 2013. Alteration of organic material during maturation: A pyrolytic and

- 319 infrared spectroscopic study of isolated bisaccate pollen and total organic matter
- 320 (Lower Jurassic, Hils Syncline, Germany). Organic Geochemistry 59, 22-36.
- 321 Al Sandouk-Lincke, N.A., Schwarzbauer, J., Hartkopf-Fröder, C., Volk, H., Fuentes, D., Young,
- 322 M., Littke, R. 2014. The effect of different pyrolysis temperatures on organic
- 323 microfossils, vitrain and amber - a comparative study between laser assisted- and
- 324 Curie Point-pyrolysis-gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis 107, 211-223. 325
- 326 Armitage, S., Saywell, S.S., Roux, C., Lennard, C., Greenwood, P., 2001. The analysis of
- 327 forensic samples using laser micro-pyrolysis gas chromatography mass spectrometry.
- 328 Journal of Forensic Science 46, 1043–1052.
- 329 Arouri, K., Greenwood, P.F., Walter, M.R., 1999. A possible chlorophycean affinity of some 330 Neoproterozoic acritarchs. Organic Geochemistry 30, 1323-1337.
- 331 Arouri, K.R., Greenwood, P.F., Walter, M.R., 2000. Biological affinities of Neoproterozoic
- 332 acritarchs from Australia: microscopic and chemical characterisation. Organic 333
- Geochemistry 31, 75-89.
- Asrat, A., Baker, A., Leng, M.J., Gunn, J., Umer, M. 2008. Environmental monitoring in the 334 335 Mechara caves, Southeastern Ethiopia: implications for speleothem palaeoclimatic
- 336 studies. International Journal of Speleology 37, 207-220.
- 337 Baker, A., Barnes, W.L., Smart, P.L., 1996. Speleothem luminescence intensity and spectral
- 338 characteristics: signal calibration and a record of palaeovegetation change. Chemical 339 Geology 130, 65-76.
- 340 Baker, A., Genty, D., Smart, P.L., 1998. High-resolution records of soil humification and
- 341 palaeoclimate change from speleothem luminescence excitation and emission
- 342 wavelength variations. Geology 26, 903–906.
  - 15

Baker, A., Bolton, L., 2000. Speleothem organic acid luminescence intensity ratios: a new
palaeoenvironmental proxy. Cave and Karst Science 27, 121–124.

- Baker, A., Smith, C.L., Jex, C., Fairchild, I.J., Genty, D., Fuller, L. 2008. Annually laminated
  speleothems: a review. International Journal of Speleology 37, 193-206.
- 347 Bernard, S., Horsfield, B., Schulz, H-M., Schreiber, A., Wirth, R., Anh V., Tiem T., Perssen, F.,
- 348 Koenitzer, S., Volk, H., Sherwood, N., Fuentes, D. 2010. Multi-scale detection of
- 349 organic and inorganic signatures provides insights into gas shale properties and
- evolution. Chemie der Erde. 70(S3):119-133.
- 351 Blyth, A.J. & Watson J.S., 2009. Thermochemolysis of organic matter preserved in
- 352 stalagmites: a preliminary study. Organic Geochemistry, 40, 1029-1031.
- Blyth, A.J., Schouten, S., 2013. Calibrating the glycerol dialkyl glycerol tetraether signal in
   speleothems. Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta 109, 312–328.
- Blyth, A.J., Asrat, A., Baker, A., Gulliver, P., Leng, M., Genty, D., 2007. A new approach to
- 356 detecting vegetation and land-use change: high resolution lipid biomarker records in
- 357 stalagmites. Quaternary Research 68, 314–324.
- Blyth, A.J., Baker, A., Penkman, K.E.H., Collins, M.J., Gilmour, M.A., Moss, J.S., Genty, D. &
- 359 Drysdale, R. 2008. Molecular organic matter in speleothems as an environmental
- 360proxy. Quaternary Science Reviews, 27, 905-921
- 361 Blyth A.J., Watson, J.S., Woodhead, J. & Hellstrom, J. 2010. Organic compounds preserved in
- 362 a three million year old stalagmite from the Nullarbor Plain, Australia. Chemical
  363 Geology 279, 101-105.
- Blyth, A.J., Baker, A., Thomas, L.E., van Calsteren, P., 2011. A 2000-year lipid biomarker
- 365 record preserved in a stalagmite from northwest Scotland. Journal of Quaternary
- 366 Science 26, 326–334.
  - 16

367	Blyth, A.J., Shutova, Y., Smith, C.I. 2013a. $\delta^{13}$ C analysis of bulk organic matter in speleothems
368	using liquid chromatography-isotope ratio mass spectrometry. Organic
369	Geochemistry 55, 22-25.
370	Blyth, A.J., Smith, C.I., Drysdale, R.N., 2013b. A new perspective on the $\delta^{13}$ C signal preserved
371	in speleothems using LC-IRMS analysis of bulk organic matter and compound specific
372	stable isotope analysis. Quaternary Science Reviews 75,143–149.
373	Blyth, A.J., Jex, C.N., Baker, A., Khan, S., Schouten, S. 2014. Contrasting distributions of
374	glycerol dialkyl glycerol tetraethers (GDGTs) in speleothems and associated soils.
375	Organic Geochemistry 69, 1-10
376	Bosle, J.M., Mischel, S.A., Schulze, A.L., Scholz, D. Hoffmann, T. 2014. Quantification of low
377	molecular weight fatty acids in cave drip water and speleothems using HPLC-ESI-
378	IT/MS - development and validation of a selective method. Analytical and
379	Bioanalytical Chemistry DOI: 10.1007/s00216-014-7743-6.
380	Caldwell, J., Davey, A.G., Jennings, G.N., Spate, A.P., 1982. Colour in some Nullarbor Plain
381	speleothems. Helictite 20, 3–10.
382	Eganhouse, R.P, Dorsey, T.F., Phinney, C.S., Westcott, A.M., 1993. Determination of C <sub>6</sub> –C <sub>10</sub>
383	aromatic hydrocarbons in water by purge-and-trap capillary gas chromatography.
384	Journal of Chromatography 628, 81-92.
385	Fezzey, S., Armitage, R.A. 2006. Pyrolysis GC-MS and THM-GC-MS studies of a black coating
386	from Little Lost River Cave, Idaho. Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis 77, 102-
387	110.
388	George, S.C., Volk, H., Dutkiewicz, A., 2012. Mass Spectrometry Techniques for Analysis of

- 389 Oil and Gas Trapped in Fluid Inclusions, in: Lee, M.S. (Ed.), Handbook of Mass
- 390 Spectrometry. Wiley, pp. 647-673.

391	Greenwood, P.F., Zhang, E., Vastola, F.J., Hatcher, P.G., 1993. Laser Micropyrolysis Gas-
392	Chromatography Mass-Spectrometry of Coal. Analytical Chemistry 65, 1937-1946.
393	Greenwood, P.F., George, S.C., Wilson, M.A., Hall, K.J., 1996. A new apparatus for laser
394	micropyrolysis-gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. Journal of Analytical and
395	Applied Pyrolysis 38, 101-118.
396	Greenwood, P.F., George, S.C., Hall, K., 1998. Applications of laser micropyrolysis gas
397	chromatography mass spectrometry. Organic Geochemistry 29, 1075-1089.
398	Greenwood, P.F., Arouri, K.R., George, S.C., 2000. Tricyclic terpenoid composition of
399	Tasmanites kerogen as determined by pyrolysis GC-MS. Geochimica et
400	Cosmochimica Acta 64, 1249-1263.
401	Greenwood, P.F., George, S.C., Pickel, W., Zhu, Y.M., Zhong, N.N., 2001. In situ analytical
402	pyrolysis of coal macerals and solid bitumens by laser micropyrolysis GC-MS. Journal
403	of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis 58, 237-253.
404	Greenwood, P.F., van Heemst, J.D.H., Guthrie, E.A., Hatcher, P.G., 2002. Laser micropyrolysis
405	GC-MS of lignin. Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis 62, 365-373.
406	Greenwood, P.F., 2011. Lasers used in analytical micropyrolysis. Journal of Analytical and
407	Applied Pyrolysis 92, 426-429.
408	Hatcher, P.G., Clifford, D.J. 1994. Flash pyrolysis and in situ methylation of humic acids from
409	soil. Organic Geochemistry 21, 1081-1092.
410	Jacob, J., Paris, F., Monod, O., Miller, M.A., Tang, P., George, S.C., Beny, J.M., 2007. New
411	insights into the chemical composition of chitinozoans. Organic Geochemistry 38,
412	1782-1788.

413 Lauritzen, S.E., Haugen, J.E., Lovlie, R., Giljenielsen, H. 1994. Geochronological potential of

414 Isoleucine epimerization in calcite speleothems. Quaternary Research 41, 52-58.18

415	Li, X., Hi, C., Huang , J., Xie, S., Baker, A. 2014. A 9000-year carbon isotopic record of acid-
416	soluble organic matter in a stalagmite from Heshang Cave, central China:
417	Palaeoclimate implications. Chemical Geology 388, 71-77.
418	Perrette, Y., Delannoy, J-J., Bolvin, H., Cordonnier, M., Destombes, J.L., Zhilinskaya, E.A.,
419	Aboukais, A. 2000. Comparative study of a stalagmite sample by stratigraphy, laser
420	induced fluorescence spectroscopy, EPR spectrometry and reflectance imaging.
421	Chemical Geology 162, 221-243.
422	Perrette, Y., Delannoy, J-J., Desmet, M., Lignier, V., Destombes, J.L. 2005. Speleothem
423	organic matter content imaging. The use of a Fluorescence Index to characterise the
424	maximum emission wavelength. Chemical Geology 214, 193-208.
425	Prati, S., Fuentes, D., Sciutto, G., Mazzeo, R., 2014. The use of laser pyrolysis-GC-MS for the
426	analysis of paint cross sections. Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis 105, 327-
427	334.
428	Rushdi, A.I., Clark, P.U., Mix, A.C., Ersek, V., Simoneit, B.R.T., Cheng, H., Edwards, R.L 2011.
429	Composition and sources of lipid compounds in speleothem calcite from
430	southwestern Oregon and their palaeoenvironmental implications. Environmental
431	Earth Sciences 62, 1245-1261.
432	Sestak, S., Singh, V., Volk, H., George, S.C., Dutkiewicz, A., 2009. Pyrolysis of Jamison
433	Sandstone solid bitumen from the Mesoproterozoic Roper Superbasin. Journal of
434	Geochemical Exploration 101, 94.
435	Stankiewicz, B.A., van Bergen, P.F., Duncan, I.J., Carter, J.F., Briggs, D.E.G., Evershed, R.P.
436	1996. Recognition of chitin and proteins in invertebrate cuticles using analytical
437	pyrolysis / gas chromatography and pyrolysis gas chromatography mass
438	spectrometry. Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry 10, 1747-1757. 19

439	Stankiewicz, B.A., Briggs, D.E.G., Evershed, R.P. 1997. Chemical composition of Palaeozoic
440	and Mesozoic fossil invertebrate cuticles as revealed by pyrolysis-gas
441	chromatography / mass spectrometry. Energy and Fuels 11, 515-521.
442	Stout, S.A., 1993. Lasers in organic petrology and organic geochemistry. 2. In-situ laser
443	micropyrolysis GCMS of coal macerals. International Journal of Coal Geology 24, 309-
444	331.
445	Takada, H., Ishiwatari, R. 1989. Biodegradation experiments of linear alkylbenzenes (LABs):
446	Isomeric composition of $C_{12}$ LABs as an indicator of the degree of LAB degradation in
447	the aquatic environment. Environmental Science and Technology 24, 86-91.
448	Volk, H., Fuentes, D., Fuerbach, A., Miese, C., Koehler, W., Bärsch, N., Barcikowski, S., 2010.
449	First on-line analysis of petroleum from single inclusion using ultrafast laser ablation.
450	Organic Geochemistry 41, 74-77.
451	White, D.M., Hodkinson, I.D., Seelen, S.J., Coulson. S.J. 2007. Characterization of soil carbon
452	from a Svalbard glacier-retreat chronosequence using pyrolysis-GC/MS analysis.
453	Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis 78, 70-75.
454	Wilson, M.A., Philip, R.P., Gillam, A.H., Gilbert, T.D., Tate, K.R. 1983. Comparison of the
455	structure of humic substances from aquatic and terrestrial sources by pyrolysis gas
456	chromatography-mass spectrometry. Geochmica et Cosmochimica Acta 47, 497-502.
457	Wynn, P.M., Brocks, J.J. 2014. A framework for the extraction and interpretation of organic
458	molecules in speleothem carbonate. Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry
459	28, 845-854.
460	Xie, S., YI, Y., Huang, J., Hu, C., Cai, Y., Collins, M., Baker, A., 2003. Lipid distribution in a
461	subtropical southern China stalagmite as a record of soil ecosystem response to

462 palaeoclimate change. Quaternary Research 60, 340–347.

463	Yang, H., Ding, W., Zhang, C.L., Wu, X., Ma, X., He, G., Huang, J., Xie, S., 2011. Occurrence of
464	tetraether lipids in stalagmites: implications for sources and GDGT-based proxies.
465	Organic Geochemistry 42, 108–115.
466	Yoshioka, H., Ishiwatari, R., 2002. Characterization of organic matter generated from Green
467	River shale by infrared laser pyrolysis. Geochemical Journal 36, 73-82.
468	Zhang, Z.R., Greenwood, P., Zhang, Q., Rao, D., Shi, W.J., 2012. Laser ablation GC-MS
469	analysis of oil-bearing fluid inclusions in petroleum reservoir rocks. Organic
470	Geochemistry 43, 20-25.
471	
472	

<ul> <li>Table 1. List of identified and quantified compounds</li> <li>Figure 1. SEM images showing laser ablation holes (indicated with arrow) in a) a detrital</li> <li>inclusion in Bero-1, and b) the lithified guano of HV-1.</li> <li>Figure 2. Total ion chromatograms of La-Py-GC-MS analyses of a) Bero-1 debris run 1; b) 37</li> <li>FS03 brown; c) HV-1 p2. 127 shots. Compound identifications are provided in Table</li> <li>1.</li> <li>Figure 3. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of <i>n</i>-alkenes in a) Bero-1 debris; b) 370 FS03;</li> <li>HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within each sample</li> <li>type. C<sub>11</sub> is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption</li> <li>artefacts.</li> <li>Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Figure 1. SEM images showing laser ablation holes (indicated with arrow) in a) a detrital</li> <li>inclusion in Bero-1, and b) the lithified guano of HV-1.</li> <li>Figure 2. Total ion chromatograms of La-Py-GC-MS analyses of a) Bero-1 debris run 1; b) 37</li> <li>FS03 brown; c) HV-1 p2. 127 shots. Compound identifications are provided in Table</li> <li>1.</li> <li>Figure 3. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of <i>n</i>-alkenes in a) Bero-1 debris; b) 370 FS03;</li> <li>HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within each sample</li> <li>type. C<sub>11</sub> is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption</li> <li>artefacts.</li> <li>Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> </ul>	474	Table 1. List of identified and quantified compounds
<ul> <li>476 inclusion in Bero-1, and b) the lithified guano of HV-1.</li> <li>Figure 2. Total ion chromatograms of La-Py-GC-MS analyses of a) Bero-1 debris run 1; b) 37</li> <li>478 FS03 brown; c) HV-1 p2. 127 shots. Compound identifications are provided in Table</li> <li>479 1.</li> <li>Figure 3. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of <i>n</i>-alkenes in a) Bero-1 debris; b) 370 FS03;</li> <li>481 HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within each sample</li> <li>482 type. C<sub>11</sub> is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption</li> <li>483 artefacts.</li> <li>484 Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>485 shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> <li>21</li> </ul>	475	Figure 1. SEM images showing laser ablation holes (indicated with arrow) in a) a detrital
<ul> <li>Figure 2. Total ion chromatograms of La-Py-GC-MS analyses of a) Bero-1 debris run 1; b) 37</li> <li>FS03 brown; c) HV-1 p2. 127 shots. Compound identifications are provided in Table</li> <li>1.</li> <li>Figure 3. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of <i>n</i>-alkenes in a) Bero-1 debris; b) 370 FS03;</li> <li>HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within each sample</li> <li>type. C<sub>11</sub> is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption</li> <li>artefacts.</li> <li>Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> </ul>	476	inclusion in Bero-1, and b) the lithified guano of HV-1.
<ul> <li>FS03 brown; c) HV-1 p2. 127 shots. Compound identifications are provided in Table</li> <li>1.</li> <li>Figure 3. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of <i>n</i>-alkenes in a) Bero-1 debris; b) 370 FS03;</li> <li>HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within each sample</li> <li>type. C<sub>11</sub> is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption</li> <li>artefacts.</li> <li>Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> </ul>	477	Figure 2. Total ion chromatograms of La-Py-GC-MS analyses of a) Bero-1 debris run 1; b) 370
<ul> <li>479 1.</li> <li>480 Figure 3. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of <i>n</i>-alkenes in a) Bero-1 debris; b) 370 FS03;</li> <li>481 HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within each sample</li> <li>482 type. C<sub>11</sub> is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption</li> <li>483 artefacts.</li> <li>484 Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>485 shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> <li>21</li> </ul>	478	FS03 brown; c) HV-1 p2. 127 shots. Compound identifications are provided in Table
<ul> <li>Figure 3. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of <i>n</i>-alkenes in a) Bero-1 debris; b) 370 FS03;</li> <li>HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within each sample</li> <li>type. C<sub>11</sub> is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption</li> <li>artefacts.</li> <li>Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> <li>21</li> </ul>	479	1.
<ul> <li>HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within each sample</li> <li>type. C<sub>11</sub> is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption</li> <li>artefacts.</li> <li>Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> </ul>	480	Figure 3. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of <i>n</i> -alkenes in a) Bero-1 debris; b) 370 FS03; c)
<ul> <li>482 type. C<sub>11</sub> is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption</li> <li>483 artefacts.</li> <li>484 Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>485 shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> <li>21</li> </ul>	481	HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within each sample
<ul> <li>483 artefacts.</li> <li>484 Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>485 shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> <li>21</li> </ul>	482	type. $C_{11}$ is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with alkane desorption
<ul> <li>484 Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i>-alkenes; b)</li> <li>485 shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> <li>21</li> </ul>	483	artefacts.
<ul> <li>485 shorter chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (<c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>)</c<sub></li> <li>21</li> </ul>	484	Figure 4. Scatter plots showing the correlations between sample types for a) <i>n</i> -alkenes; b)
	485	shorter chain <i>n</i> -alkanes ( <c<sub>20); c) longer chain <i>n</i>-alkanes (&gt;C<sub>20</sub>) 21</c<sub>

Table and Figure captions

486	Figure 5. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of shorter chain n-alkanes ( $< C_{20}$ ) in a) Bero-1
487	debris; b) 370 FS03; c) HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs
488	within each sample type. $C_{11}$ is excluded from HV-1 piece 1, as it co-eluted with
489	alkane desorption artefacts.
490	Figure 6. Distribution of carbon chain lengths of longer chain <i>n</i> -alkanes in a) Bero-1 debris;
491	b) 370 FS03; c) HV-1. Scatter plots show the level of correlation between runs within
492	each sample type.
493	Figure 7. A percentage bar chart showing the increased dominance of compounds below $C_{25}$
494	in HV-1 in comparison to increased longer chain compounds in Bero-1 and 370 FS03.
495	Figure 8. a) Pie charts showing the average relative abundances of aromatic compounds
496	within each sample type. Pyrroles are a major feature of Bero-1. b) Scatter plots
497	showing the correlation between the different sample types for the aromatic
498	compounds.
499	Figure 9. A percentage bar chart of propyl-, methyl- and alkyl benzenes in the three sample

500 types, showing the presence of longer chain alkyl benzenes in HV-1 only.



2014/06/19 12:04 NL x60











b) *n*-alkanes <C<sub>20</sub>



c) *n*-alkanes >C<sub>20</sub>











## Figure 8.



- Xylenes & Ethylbenzenes
- Napthalenes
- Styrene
- 1-H-Indene & methyl
- Methylpyroles
- Methylbenzenes
- Long Chain Alkylbenzenes
- ∃ Furans & Methylfuran
- Phenol & Methylphenols



