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1 2 3	Climatic variability over the last 30,000 years recorded in La Piscina de Yuriria, a Central Mexican Crater lake (DOI: 10.1002/jqs.2846)
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20 21	Running head: Palaeolimnology of a Mexican Crater Lake
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41	ABSTRACT: The Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt provides an excellent setting for reconstruction of late Quaternary climate from different natural archives. Moreover human impact on the landscape since the mid Holocene provides a good opportunity to investigate the complex interplay of natural and anthropogenic forcing of landscape change. However despite the wealth of records, understanding of the environmental history of the region and its wider significance for climate change across the northern neotropics remains incomplete. We present a radiocarbon-dated, multiple-proxy (sedimentology, sedimentary geochemistry, ostracods, diatoms, stable isotopes) record of climatic and environmental change based on the lacustrine sediments from La Piscina de Yuriria, a hydrologically-closed volcanic crater in the northern TMVB. Much of the last glacial interval was characterised by low effective moisture associated with a weakened North American Monsoon (NAM) although the interval from 30,000 to 27,500 aBP experienced abrupt changes in rainfall. The period corresponding to the late glacial stadial was also dry and the lake may have dried out at this time. There was a change to wetter but variable conditions during the early Holocene as the NAM strengthened. Progressive drying during the later Holocene was accompanied by phases of catchment disturbance, which were partly the result of human impact.
42 43 44 45	KEYWORDS: Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt; Palaeolimnology; diatoms; ostracods; stable isotopes
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#### 49 Introduction and previous work

The highlands of the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (TMVB), which cross Mexico at around 50 51 19°N, provide a range of opportunities for reconstructing past climates through the study of the sediments in its many lake basins, the availability of glacial deposits, tree ring records 52 53 and a wealth of historical documents (primarily since the Spanish conquest in 1521). In spite of these many possibilities, understanding of climatic variability over the late 54 55 Quaternary, particularly the late Pleistocene and early Holocene, is still rather limited 56 (Caballero et al., 2010). A number of factors help to explain this, including poor dating 57 control of many records, the effects of tectonic and volcanic activity, and especially human 58 disturbance, which over at least the last 4000 years has had a profound impact on the natural environment to the extent that only records from the highest elevations may be 59 unaffected (e.g. Lozano-Garcia and Vazguez-Selem, 2005). Lake sediment records have 60 61 dominated studies of central Mexican palaeoclimatology, although recent speleothem 62 records (Bernal et al., 2011) have also made a contribution. Palynology has played a central role in palaeolimnological investigations dating back to the 1950s (Sears and 63 64 Clisby, 1995; Watts and Bradbury, 1982; Goman and Byrne, 1998; Lozano-Garcia et al., 2005). In this context, the dominance of pine-oak woodlands at higher altitudes in the 65 66 TMVB has presented further challenges given the limited taxonomic resolution of these 67 pollen types in standard palynology and the impact of long-range dispersal, especially of pine pollen (Correa-Metrio et al., 2012). The climatic interpretation of pollen diagrams 68 69 from the TMVB has often hinged on decisions about the climatic conditions that changing 70 proportions of pine and oak represent, or indeed whether the presence of large 71 percentages of pine means that pine trees were actually present (c.f. Brown, 1985; Park et al., 2010). Pollen records are also highly susceptible to anthropogenic disturbance. 72 although the distinctive presence of Zea mays pollen in records is a clear indicator of 73 74 agricultural activity close to lakes. To help to resolve some of the uncertainties around

75 pollen-based reconstructions, the application of palaeolimnological methods, particularly 76 diatom, geochemical, isotopic and mineralogical analyses, has become increasingly 77 common across the TMVB. Whilst not immune to many of the complicating factors 78 outlined above, this multi-proxy approach has helped to improve our understanding of both 79 climatic and environmental change in this area. In this paper we present a well-dated palaeolimnological record from a crater lake. La Piscina de Yuriria, on the southern edge 80 81 of the Valle de Santiago region, southern Guanajuato, which extends back some 30,000 82 years (all ages guoted in this paper that relate to the radiocarbon time-span are in calendar years unless otherwise stated). This is considered in the context of other data 83 84 from adjacent crater lakes in the Valle de Santiago area and other lakes in the wider 85 region to explore the timing and nature of climatic change and human impact.

86

87 The present-day climate of the region, and climate forcing mechanisms over the late 88 Quaternary, are complex. Central Mexico falls under the influence of the North American 89 Monsoon (NAM). Variations in rainfall are forced by northern hemisphere summer 90 insolation over the longer term (millennial timescales) linked to precession, which has 91 caused changes in the position of the inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) (Metcalfe et 92 al., 2015). On shorter (centennial and shorter timescales), changes in the Pacific and 93 Atlantic Oceans, both of which are important moisture sources, have influenced rainfall 94 over tropical North America and Central America. During the last glacial and first half of the 95 Holocene, the presence of the Laurentide Ice Sheet influenced the climate of the NAM region. The ice sheet had direct effects, through its impact on the position of the jet stream 96 97 and the mid-latitude westerly winds, and indirectly via meltwater influx into the Gulf of 98 Mexico, a significant moisture source (Aharon, 2003). As the influence of orbitally-forced 99 summer insolation waned over the course of the Holocene, the effect of other factors such 100 as sea-surface temperature variations in the Pacific and Atlantic, linked to various inter-

annual modes of ocean-atmosphere re-organisation, has become increasingly important
(Metcalfe *et al.*, 2015).

103

# 104 Study Region

La Piscina de Yuriria lies within the Valle de Santiago, which is located at the northern edge of the Michoacán-Guanajuato Volcanic field (Fig. 1), and is distinctive because of the presence of at least seventeen maar type volcanoes, of which a number contained lakes (Aranda Gomez *et al.*, 2013). It lies on the margin of the volcanic uplands to the south and the lowlands of the Rio Lerma, in an area known as the Bajío, which became a very important agricultural region during the Spanish Colonial period (Butzer and Butzer, 1993).

111

112 Seven maar lakes have been identified around the town of Valle de Santiago, of which 113 four contained water in 1900 (Ordonez, 1900). K-Ar dating of some of the maars puts their 114 formation to between 1.2 Ma (Hoya San Nicolas) and 0.07 Ma (Hoya La Alberca). Unfortunately, the maar that contains La Piscina de Yuriria was not dated, although the 115 116 adjacent shield volcano is believed to date to 6.9 Ma (Aranda-Gomez et al., 2013). It has 117 been suggested that these maar lakes were once set within a large palaeolake, which 118 extended from the modern Laguna de Yuriria, northwards around the modern town of 119 Valle de Santiago. The maars have very small catchment areas and the lakes within them 120 were supported by the waters of the underlying Salamanca aguifer. Unfortunately, this 121 aguifer has been heavily exploited (there are more than 1600 active wells), which has resulted in a drawdown of about 2 m yr<sup>-1</sup> over the past 25 years (Alcocer et al., 2000). 122 As 123 a result all the maars are now dry, even those that contained deep lakes in the early 1980s. Alcocer et al. (2000) report on the many undesirable consequences of this 124 125 desiccation, including the loss of endemic fish species and lake margin wetland habitats, 126 the economic effect of the loss of fisheries and alkali fly collection and adverse health

effects due to the mobilisation of alkaline dust. La Piscina de Yuriria contained a lake 127 approximately 2 m deep in 1981 and was then observed to dry out through the 1980s, with 128 129 the development of a salt crust across the basin floor. Freshwater springs around the margins of the lake within the crater also dried up. A shallow lake was re-established in 130 131 the early 1990s, which was then made permanent in the early 2000s by the pumping of groundwater back into the crater. As this was one of the basins where adverse health 132 133 effects were reported due to dust mobilisation, this re-wetting of the basin may have been 134 a response.

135

136 The Valle de Santiago area lies towards the northern margin of what was the MesoAmerican cultural area in the pre-Hispanic period. There is limited evidence for 137 138 settlements during the Preclassic period associated with the Chupicuaro culture (ca. 800 – 139 0 BC). Population expanded during the Classic period (ca. AD 300 – 900) when urban 140 centres developed across the Bajío. In the late Postclassic (after ca. AD 1300) the area lay near the frontier between the settled Purépecha (Tarascans) to the south and the 141 142 nomadic Chichimec to the north (Gorenstein and Pollard, 1983). A church (convento) was built at Yuririapundaro (the Purépecha name for Yuriria) in 1550. The translation of 143 144 Yuririapundaro is 'Lake of Blood', referring to the distinct red colour of the water in the crater (de Escobar 1729 in Gomez de Orozco, 1972). A similar red colour, probably the 145 146 result of blooms of sulphur bacteria, was observed at the lake in the 1980s. According to Park et al. (2010) the Spanish settled in Valle de Santiago in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century 147 148 initiating a period of intensive agricultural exploitation that has lasted until the present day. 149

The dramatic effects of water extraction on the maar lakes attracted work on what had
been the deep lakes of Hoya la Alberca and the Hoya Rincon de Parangueo (Kienel *et al.*,
2009; Park *et al.*, 2010) partly in an effort to retrieve cores of laminated sediments before

these became lost through deflation or profoundly disturbed by desiccation and secondary 153 154 precipitation of evaporite minerals. The Hoya Rincon de Parangueo record goes back to 9600 aBP. Prior to this, there had been work on the Hoya San Nicolas (Brown, 1985; 155 156 Metcalfe et al., 1989), which had been cored in 1979 shortly after it dried out. The basal 157 date on this core was 12,600-12,700 aBP. This maar was re-cored in 2001 with the results reported by Park et al. (2010) giving a record believed to extend back to 11.600 aBP (but 158 159 not directly dated). As described further below, La Piscina de Yuriria was cored in 1981 160 and 1982 prior to its desiccation.

161

162 The interpretation of sequences from the Valle de Santiago maar lakes has been subject to the common uncertainties that affect records from the TMVB region. The interpretation 163 164 of pine pollen (or the ratio of pine to pine + oak) has been particularly significant here, with 165 Park et al. (2010) rejecting Brown's earlier interpretation of wetter conditions between ca. 5700 aBP and 3800 aBP in the Hoya San Nicolas. The shallower lakes also seem to have 166 dried up guite regularly through the Holocene, possibly three times in the case of Hoya 167 San Nicolas (Park et al., 2010). The basic framework of change based on these earlier 168 169 studies seems to be as follows: a cool and relatively moist late glacial (prior to ~12,700 170 aBP); a variable late glacial to Holocene transition; a dry (possibly very dry) early 171 Holocene: the rapid establishment of wetter conditions around 8400 aBP lasting until 5700 172 aBP; dry 5700 – 3800 aBP, then wetter again, but not as wet as the period between around 8400 and 6000 aBP. The late Holocene has been profoundly influenced by human 173 activity with evidence of maize cultivation and enhanced erosion (especially 2200 to 1300 174 175 aBP). Both Metcalfe et al. (1989) and Park et al. (2010) report a cessation of human disturbance around 1000 aBP followed by renewed activity after 400 aBP probably 176 177 associated with Spanish settlement. Our new data from La Piscina de Yuriria allow us

both to extend this record back into the last glacial and to test the framework outlinedabove.

180

# 181 Study site

182 This study is based on lake sediment records from La Piscina de Yuriria (20°30'N; 101°08'W. 1740 m a.s.l), which is one of the small (area = 0.75 km<sup>2</sup>), hydrologically-closed 183 184 maar lakes in the Valle de Santiago region (Fig. 1). The basaltic basin experiences a 185 subhumid, subtropical climate with annual precipitation of 700-800 mm and supports 186 subtropical thorn bush scrub around the lake and sparse oak woodland above 2200 m 187 a.s.l. (Metcalfe and Hales, 1994; Metcalfe et al., 1994). The lake seems to have been generally shallow in recent times (e.g. ~ 2 m deep in 1981 and 1982, <1 m in 1992, >1.8 188 189 m in 2004) and has dried up totally in some years (e.g. 1989). The lake was saline as a 190 result of evaporative enrichment, as well as highly eutrophic, with an alkalinity/Ca ratio >>1 191 and Na-CO<sub>3</sub>-Cl-type composition indicating that evaporative evolution occurred along 192 pathway IIIA of Eugster and Hardie (1978). The lake was fed by several circum-neutral to 193 alkaline springs that were fresh to slightly brackish (Table S1) and also of Na-HCO<sub>3</sub> type. 194 Evaporative enrichment is also reflected in the limited stable isotope data for the input 195 water (-9.2 ‰) versus lake water (+0.7 ‰) (Table S1). Recent water-level changes have 196 been the result of groundwater extraction for irrigation (e.g. Metcalfe and Hales, 1994) and 197 later artificial recharge; variations during the late Quaternary, which form a major focus of 198 the present study, have largely been driven by changes in effective moisture (precipitation 199 minus evaporation, or P-E), as discussed below.

200

## 201 Materials and methods

202 Field collection

203 Two lake sediment cores, namely cores YC1 (length 4 m) and YC2 (14.3 m). were recovered from La Piscina de Yuriria from under 2 m of water in 1981 and 1982, 204 205 respectively, by members of the Tropical Palaeoenvironments Research Group, at the time based at the University of Oxford, UK. Cores were initially wrapped in clingfilm and 206 207 aluminium foil and stored in plastic tubes at 4°C prior to sectioning into 1 cm slices, typically at 5 cm intervals, for analysis. Some of the data for core YC1 have been 208 209 published previously (Metcalfe and Hales, 1994; Metcalfe et al., 1994) but are summarised 210 here alongside previously unreported data for that core and for YC2.

211

### 212 Physical sedimentology

Sediment samples from YC1 and YC2 were analysed for organic carbon content using
loss on ignition at 450 °C, and for carbonate content by calcimetry. Low-frequency
magnetic susceptibility was measured using a Bartington MS1 magnetic susceptibility
meter.

217

# 218 Bulk sediment geochemistry

219 Dried sediment samples from YC1 were digested using a combination of HNO<sub>3</sub>, HF and 220 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> following Dean and Gorham (1976). The resulting residue was taken up in dilute HCI 221 prior to analysis of major and minor metals using atomic absorption spectrophotometry 222 (AAS). Samples from YC2 were prepared using the sequential digestion method of 223 Engstrom and Wright (1984) and each separate fraction analyses for major and minor 224 metals as for YC1. However, initial inspection of the results indicated that the fractionation 225 had not worked well for these complex sediments. Consequently, the results for the separated fractions were summed and the data treated as 'bulk' analyses, as for YC1. 226 227 Only selected metals are reported here, namely Fe, Mn, Al, and K, all of which are

abundant in catchment soils and sediments, and so are regarded as good tracers of

inwash, as discussed in further detail below.

230

#### 231 Stable isotopes in endogenic carbonate

Bulk, dried sediment samples from YC1 were sieved through an 80µm mesh to remove 232 233 shell material, treated with Clorox to remove organic carbon and then dissolved in 100 % 234 phosphoric acid. The evolved CO<sub>2</sub> was then analysed for oxygen and carbon isotopes 235 using a VG 'Micromass' mass spectrometer at the Laboratoire d'Hydrologie et de Géochimie Isotopique, Université de Paris-Sud. Samples from YC2 were prepared in a 236 237 similar way and analysed using a modified SIRA mass spectrometer at the University of 238 Liverpool. All stable isotope results are reported in standard delta notation relative to the 239 PDB standard.

240

As part of the evaluation of the stable isotope results, the mineralogy of the carbonate
fractions was assessed by X-ray diffraction using Phillips PW1320/10 and PW1050 X-ray
diffractometers. Specifically, the Mg content of calcite was assessed using the method of
Goldsmith *et al.* (1961)

245

246 Ostracods

Bulk sediment samples were disaggregated in ~5 %  $H_2O_2$ , sieved through a 63 µm sieve and the coarse fractions used for extraction of ostracod shells under a low-power binocular microscope. Because ostracod abundance varied dramatically, in some samples all of the ostracod valves were picked whereas in richer samples, only the first 350 valves were picked and overall abundance then estimated based on the weight of sediment examined. However, the unpicked fraction of rich samples was inspected for the presence of rare species not identified in the original count. Despite poor ostracod shell preservation in

many parts of the core, sufficiently well-preserved valves were found at a number of levels
to permit stable-isotope analyses, which were used to complement analyses on the
endogenic carbonate.

257

Specimens of ostracods from the picked fraction of YC2 were selected and studied 258 carefully for signs of damage, dissolution or replacement. Suitable individuals were then 259 260 cleaned carefully using a 000 size clean nylon paintbrush and ultra pure deionised water under a binocular microscope to remove surface contaminants. Stable-isotope analyses of 261 multiple shells of *Limnocythere sappaensis* were analysed for oxygen and carbon isotopes 262 263 using a VG Isocarb coupled to a VG Optima mass spectrometer at the NERC Isotope 264 Geosciences Laboratory, Keyworth (UK). Two samples, composed of up to 8 individual valves, were analyzed at most core levels selected and a weighted mean value for  $\delta^{18}O$ 265 and  $\delta^{13}$ C calculated for plotting purposes. 266

267

268 Diatoms

269 Diatom samples were prepared for analysis at 10 cm intervals in YC1 and 10 – 20 cm intervals (depending on sample availability) in YC2. In YC2, only material from 4 m to the 270 271 base was sampled in detail after preliminary analysis (samples prepared every 25 - 30 cm) had shown that the upper 4 m of the sequence seemed to match well with YC1. Poor 272 valve preservation between 7 m and 12 m meant that the majority of samples were taken 273 274 below and above this interval. Core samples were complemented by a surface sediment 275 sample and water samples from the lake margin. Samples were treated to remove 276 carbonates and organic matter following the method of Battarbee (1986). In some cases strong acids (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> or HNO<sub>3</sub>) were used to break up clumps of sediment. The final 277 278 suspension was mounted onto coverslips using Naphrax. The same method was used to 279 prepare surface sediment samples. Where possible, 400 valves were counted from each

280 level, although at levels with poor preservation this was sometimes reduced to 100 – 200 281 valves. Identifications were carried out using standard floras including Gasse (1986), 282 Krammer and Lange Bertalot (1988, 1991a and b), Patrick and Reimer (1966, 1975), 283 Schoeman and Archibald (1977). The separation of Navicula (Craticula) elkab from 284 Craticula halophila proved to be an important part of the study and is discussed in 285 Metcalfe (1990). The results from YC1 were published in Metcalfe and Hales (1994), and 286 preliminary results from YC2 were described in Park (1999). Diatom results are presented 287 here as percentages of the full counts. Species present at less than 2% and only 288 occurring in one sample are not plotted here.

289

Initial zonation was carried out using CONISS, the stratigraphically constrained clusteranalysis program within Tilia (Grimm, 1987). The counts from the core samples were also
analysed using CANOCO and TWINSPAN. TWINSPAN (Hill, 1979; Jongman *et al.*, 1992)
provided a clustering that was not constrained stratigraphically. CANOCO (ter Braak,
1988) was used to explore further the variation between samples and species. The latter
analyses were used to determine whether the lake diatom assemblages showed repeat
occurrences through time and to explore that trajectory of change.

297

298 Chronology

Independent chronologies were established using AMS or radiometric radiocarbon dating
on bulk organic carbon or carbonate (8 levels were dated from YC1 and 16 from YC2).
Lack of appropriate material precluded the dating of terrestrial plant macrofossils from
either core, but the absence of carbonate bedrock within the catchment means that
hardwater error is unlikely to affect radiocarbon dates at this site. Radiocarbon
measurements were performed at the Oxford University Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit,
Simon Fraser University Radiocarbon facility, Laboratoire d'Hydrologie et de Géochimie

Isotopique, Université de Paris-Sud, the NERC Radiocarbon Facility, East Kilbride and the
Arizona AMS Laboratory, University of Arizona. Dates were calibrated using IntCal13
(Reimer *et al.*, 2013). For each core, outliers were identified and excluded from
subsequent age modeling, which was undertaken using Clam 2.2 (Blaauw, 2010).
Although some of the radiocarbon dates have been published previously, we report them
again here for the sake of completeness and because we have revised the calibrations.

313 Results

314 Chronology

315 The age model for YC1 is based on 7 of the 8 radiocarbon dates for that core (Table 1, Fig. 2) and the age-depth pairs well described by a 3<sup>rd</sup>-order polynomial curve. The age 316 model for YC2 is based on 12 of the 16 radiocarbon dates (Table 1, Fig. 2) and the age-317 depth pairs well described by a 3<sup>rd</sup>-order polynomial curve. The age models were used to 318 319 assign ages to each depth within the respective cores. An assessment of the comparability of the independent age models for YC1 and YC2 was also undertaken by comparing 320 321 variations in their physical sedimentology, which would be expected to change 322 synchronously in the two cores: this assessment is discussed below.

323

324 Physical sedimentology

325 Cores YC1 and YC2 core are both composed predominantly of brown to grey,

diatomaceous gyttja. In the lower sections of YC2 (at ~26,300, 19,900 and 8300 aBP),

327 centimetre-scale sand layers are present. Desiccation surfaces, represented by sub-

328 vertical fractures infilled with darker material, occur at several depths in the interval

between 16,800 and 14,300 and near the top of the sequence (~800 aBP). Nodular,

330 siliceous concretions were observed between the base of the sequence and ~17,500 aBP.

331 The interval 100 – 50 cm (representing ~1100 – 500 aBP) was not recovered in YC2.

332

Organic carbon content, estimated from loss-on-ignition (LOI) at 450°C, varies between ~9 333 334 and 44 % (Fig. 3). From the beginning of the YC2 record until ~14,000 aBP, values average ~15%, increasing and becoming more variable after this time, with peaks up to 44 335 336 %. The LOI record in the upper part of YC2 is well replicated in YC1. Carbonate content 337 averages around 18 % from the beginning of the record until 14.200 aBP, but with peaks 338 up to 40 % in places. Between 14,000 and 7800 aBP, carbonate content falls to 14 % and 339 becomes less variable. From 7800 aBP to the end of the YC2 record, there is a sharp 340 increase to an average of 33 %, with transient peaks up to 45 %. The pattern of change in 341 YC1 replicates that in the upper part of YC2, but values are systematically lower. 342

Magnetic susceptibility ( $\chi$ ) values (Fig. 3) are typically lower than 10 x 10<sup>-7</sup>m<sup>3</sup>kg<sup>-1</sup> but with a number of sharp peaks at several levels and a more gradual increase and then decline between ~10,100 and 6900 aBP. Values rise sharply at 3600 aBP, after which they remain high and show increased variability. The pattern of change in YC1 replicates that in the upper part of YC2.

348

349 Geochemistry and stable isotopes

Concentrations of K, Fe, Mn and Al are variable throughout the cores. For much of the lower part of YC2 values are generally low, although there are some transient peaks. Values typically become higher and more variable after about 5100 aBP in YC2, a pattern that is generally replicated in YC1. There is strong and statistically-significant correlation amongst all of the metals discussed here in YC1 and in the section of YC2 covering the past ~5000 years. Correlations are weaker for the earlier part of YC2 (Table S2).

356

Stable isotope values are available for fine-grained carbonates and, for a few levels from 357 YC2 only, for ostracod shells (Fig. 4). Mineralogical determinations showed that the calcite 358 present within the core had low magnesium content (≤4 mole %): nevertheless, 359 appropriate corrections were made to the  $\delta^{18}$ O values following Tarutani *et al.* (1969). 360 From the beginning of YC2 to 26,600 aBP,  $\delta^{18}$ O and  $\delta^{13}$ C values are typically low but 361 variable (from about 0 ‰ to around -11 ‰ and +7.6 to -1 ‰, for  $\delta^{18}$ O and  $\delta^{13}$ C, 362 respectively) and strongly covariant (Fig. 5). Between 25,000 and 14,200 aBP, the stable-363 364 isotope values are at relatively low resolution, and typically values are higher than in the preceding interval (up to about +3 ‰ and +8 ‰ for  $\delta^{18}$ O and  $\delta^{13}$ C, respectively) and 365 covariant. Between 10,900 and 6600 aBP, there is a further rise in variability, but  $\delta^{18}$ O and 366  $\delta^{13}$ C covary as before. Between 6600 and 4500 aBP, there is a significant shift in the 367 pattern of stable isotope variability, with  $\delta^{18}$ O values remaining relatively constant, but  $\delta^{13}$ C 368 increasing up to +15.4 ‰. After 4500 aBP,  $\delta^{18}$ O values vary between about 0 and -2.7 ‰ 369 and  $\delta^{13}$ C values are markedly reduced compared with the preceding interval. The 370 overlapping sections of YC1 and YC2 show similar patterns of change, especially for  $\delta^{13}$ C. 371 The low-resolution ostracod values are typically <sup>18</sup>O-enriched and <sup>13</sup>C-depleted compared 372 with those for fine-grained carbonates. 373

374

375 Ostracods

Ostracod abundance varies dramatically, between zero (i.e. barren levels) and ~35,000
valves per gram of sediment (Fig. 4). Significant zones of very high abundance are
present from the beginning of the YC2 record to until 28,700 aBP and at 21,900 – 21,300
aBP, 17,800 – 15,900 aBP, 13,700 – 12,900 aBP, 4800 - 2700 aBP, 2000 – 1100 aBP.
Significant zones that are barren or contain very few ostracods occur at 28,500 – 27,800
aBP, 19,000 – 18,500 aBP, 15,400 – 14,400 aBP, 10,500 – 8300 aBP, 5300- 4900 aBP.
The zones of high abundance generally contain monospecific assemblages of

*Limnocythere sappaensis* (both males and females): zones of lower abundance typically support other species as well, including at least one species of candonid, *Heterocypris* sp., *Physocypria* sp., *Potamocypris* sp., *Strandesia* sp. and *Cypria* sp. Although *L. sappanesis* is regarded as conspecific with *Limnocythere inopinata* (e.g. Martens, 1994), we adopt the name *L. sappaensis* here since this is widely used for the species in North America.

388

## 389 Diatoms

390 The diatom assemblages from surface sediment samples collected in 2 m of water in 1982 391 were dominated by Navicula (Craticula) elkab (22%), N. (C.) halophila (13%) and a variety 392 of Nitzschia species. A sample taken in 1997 in 0.3 m of water, just as a lake was becoming re-established, was dominated by Anomoeneis sphaerophora (48%) and 393 394 Navicula (Cracticula) elkab (16%). Anomoeoneis costata and Chaetoceros mulleri spores 395 made up 8% of the count each (Davies, 2000). A sample taken in 2004, at the edge of the 396 lake, was dominated by Navicula (Craticula) halophila (56%), a range of Nitzschia species, 397 Chaetocerous muelleri (some as resting spores) and Anomoeoneis sphaerophora f. 398 costata (Hill, 2006), although these each formed less than 6% of the assemblage. In 2004, the lake was hypereutrophic, with TP = 584  $\mu$ g l<sup>-1</sup> and chlorophyll-*a* 127  $\mu$ g l<sup>-1</sup> (Hill, 2006). 399

400

401 Preliminary diatom analysis of samples from the top 4 m (past ~5000 years) of the YC2 402 core indicated the presence of similar assemblages to those reported in Metcalfe and 403 Hales (1994), so efforts on this core were focused on the section below 4 m. Here, results 404 are presented from both core sequences (Fig. 6). As with the ostracods, diatom 405 preservation is highly variable through the sequences. In YC2 there was little or no valve preservation between 22,100 – 10,400 aBP cm. In YC1 there are gaps in the record due 406 to poor preservation between 2000 – 1100 aBP. Both sequences are dominated by N. (C) 407 408 halophila and N. (C) elkab, A. costata and A. sphaerophora, C. muelleri and a range of

*Nitzschia* species. These assemblages are all similar to those found in surface sediment
samples taken from the lake at different times, reflecting high (if varying) pH and alkalinity,
and highly evaporated conditions. A more distinctive aspect of the core records is the
abundance, at times, of small *Navicula* species (e.g. *N. fluens, N. minusculoides, N. muralis*).

414

## 415 **Discussion**

416 We discuss the chronology for the lake-sediment sequences and then the interpretation of

417 each of the palaeolimnological variables, before proceeding to reconstruct the

418 palaeolimnological history of La Piscina de Yuria for the late Quaternary.

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420 Core YC1 covers the interval from about 4600 aBP to the coring date. The anomalous age 421 at 44-46 cm probably represents inwash of older carbon from the catchment, substantiated 422 by the magnetic susceptibility data. Core YC2 covers the interval from about 31,000 aBP to the coring date. The four dates that are omitted from the age model are all younger than 423 expected, possibly the result of root penetration during times of low lake level. The general 424 425 pattern of age-depth relationships for YC1 and the upper part of YC2 suggests good 426 agreement between the two cores. Detailed comparisons based on the loss on ignition and magnetic susceptibility profiles (Fig. 2), which would be expected to agree for the two 427 428 closely-located sequences, suggest a small (~200 years) age offset, with YC2 being 429 consistently older. The fact that small differences exist is perhaps not surprising given that 430 different equivalent depths and contrasting materials were dated in the two cores (Table 431 1). However, rather than correct either one of the cores we prefer to use the age models 432 defined for each respective core and then refer to the resulting uncertainties as 433 appropriate.

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Loss on ignition (LOI) provides a good proxy for the organic carbon content of the 435 sediments (Dean, 1974). The carbon/nitrogen (C/N) ratios (available for YC1 only: data not 436 shown, but values vary between 11.6 and 49.4) indicate that the organic matter is of mixed 437 aquatic and terrestrial sources, suggesting that LOI provides a record of aquatic 438 439 productivity and terrestrial inwash at least for the past 4,600 years. The CaCO<sub>3</sub> content of 440 the sediment is best explained by endogenic carbonate formation within the lake, since the 441 catchment is devoid of carbonate rocks or sediments. In such settings, calcium carbonate precipitates from the water column when the lake becomes saturated with respect to 442 carbon minerals as a result of evaporative enrichment of water or mediated by aquatic 443 444 plants. However, enhanced aquatic productivity can also lead to carbonate dissolution (e.g. Cohen, 2003) and carbonate formation also depends on supply of ions from the 445 446 catchment, meaning that the interpretation of sedimentary CaCO<sub>3</sub> records is not always straightforward. 447

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The magnetic susceptibility of the sediments is strongly linked to inwash because the volcanic soils are rich in magnetic minerals. Increases in  $\chi$  in YC1 have therefore been interpreted as inwash events associated with either natural or anthropogenic catchment disturbance (Metcalfe and Hales, 1994). The elements Fe, Mn, Al and K are all associated with weathered volcanic soils, and their concentrations in the lake sediments are controlled by catchment inwash: Fe and Mn may also have been mediated by redox conditions within the lake although we do not have direct evidence for this.

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The oxygen and carbon isotope composition of lacustrine carbonate is a function of the temperature and isotopic composition of the water in the case of oxygen, and the carbonisotope composition of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) for carbon. In subtropical dryland lakes, such as La Piscina de Yuriria, the oxygen-isotope ratio of lake water is usually the

dominant control on the oxygen-isotope composition of carbonate, and this varies with the 461 degree of evaporative enrichment (Talbot, 1990). The carbon-isotope composition of DIC 462 is a complex function of carbon source (catchment- vs lake-derived) and in-lake 463 modification as a result of fractionation during DIC uptake by aquatic plants for 464 photosynthesis, and exchange with atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Talbot, 1990) The same general 465 466 controls determine the isotopic values of biogenic carbonates, such as ostracod shells, but 467 there may be taxon-specific differences in the exact location and timing (especially season) of carbonate formation compared with endogenic carbonate (e.g. Decrouv et al., 468 2011). Moreover, biogenic carbonate may not be precipitated in isotopic equilibrium with 469 470 lake water or DIC: ostracod shells, for example, demonstrate offsets from oxygen-isotope equilibrium and are typically <sup>18</sup>O-enriched compared with endogenic carbonate 471 472 precipitated in equilibrium with lake water (von Grafenstein et al., 1999). Further 473 palaeolimnological inferences can be drawn for the strength of covariance amongst 474 carbonate oxygen and carbon isotope values in sediment sequences, strong covariance 475 typically being associated with hydrologically-closed systems (Talbot, 1990).

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Although the occurrence and abundance of different lacustrine ostracod taxa are determined by a range of factors, in La Piscina de Yuriria, salinity, hydrochemistry and the extent to which the lake is seasonally permanent are likely to be the dominant controls. In saline lakes, there is moreover often a relationship between species diversity and ostracod abundance: highly saline lakes are typically dominated by a single species that is present in very high abundance (De Deckker and Forester, 1988).

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Habitat, pH, conductivity, ionic composition and nutrient levels are all major controls on the
presence and abundance of diatom species, with some species having well established
preferences in relation to some, or all, of these factors (e.g. Gasse, 1986; Kilham *et al.,*

487 1986). In La Piscina de Yuriria, the dominant controls over the full record appear to be 488 those associated with changes in evaporative concentration (pH, EC, ionic composition). 489 NaCl and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> waters have been shown to be particularly aggressive in relation to 490 diatom dissolution (Barker et al., 1994), so it is likely that some species may be over-491 represented in the sediment record due to their robust form and heavy silicification. This 492 seems particularly likely in the case of the cysts of C. *muelleri* and may also apply to the 493 more robust forms of species such as A. costata, Denticula elegans and Rhopalodia 494 gibberula. Although the impact of differential preservation needs to be borne in mind when interpreting the fossil record, saline-lake diatoms are well established as indirect tracers of 495 496 climate change (Gasse et al., 1997).

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From the base of YC2, which dates to a little before 30,000 aBP, until around 27,500 aBP, 498 the  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  record shows marked variability, with the lowest values equivalent to the 499 500 minimum for the sequence as a whole, and the highest values close to the maximum (Fig. 4). There is strong covariance between  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  and  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  (Fig. 5) consistent with a 501 502 hydrologically-closed lake undergoing temporal variations in the degree of evaporative 503 enrichment (Talbot, 1990) in response to changes in effective moisture. The most negative 504  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  values equate to un-evolved lake water that was probably fed by springs and rainfall with lower  $\delta^{18}$ O than at present ( $\delta^{18}$ O around -9 ‰ in summer 1992; Table S1). 505 possibly coupled with cooler conditions. In contrast, the most positive  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  values in this 506 507 interval are best explained by evaporative enrichment under reduced effective moisture. The lowest  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  can be explained by equilibration with atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> whereas the 508 more positive values require other, or additional, mechanisms to explain them. The uptake 509 of <sup>12</sup>C during aquatic photosynthesis by aquatic macrophytes or algae can lead to an 510 increase in the  $\delta^{13}C_{DIC}$  and hence of endogenic carbonates, but such an explanation 511 512 appears inconsistent with low TOC values in this interval (Fig. 3). An alternative

explanation is the formation of co-genetic,  $^{13}$ C-enriched, CO<sub>2</sub> during methane formation. 513 Despite the evidence pointing to low lake levels at this time, methane formation in shallow 514 515 and eutrophic lakes has previously been reported in Mexico (Lake Pátzcuaro: Metcalfe et al., 2007) and elsewhere (e.g. Lamb et al., 2000; Gu et al., 2004). The high concentrations 516 of *L. sappaensis* in this interval are consistent with the existence of a saline-alkaline lake 517 518 (Forester, 1986): interestingly, the peaks in ostracod abundance coincide broadly with the peaks in  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$ , suggesting that ostracod numbers increased with salinity, and hence 519 520 evaporative enrichment. The occurrence of siliceous nodules within the interval, associated with the levels that have the highest  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  values, is also consistent with the 521 522 existence of highly saline and alkaline water. The sporadic isotope values from ostracod shells in this interval show <sup>18</sup>O-enrichment compared with endogenic carbonates that is 523 524 broadly consistent with the approximate +0.7 ‰ vital offset recorded for the genus Limnocythere (von Grafenstein et al., 1999). In contrast, the carbon isotope values in 525 526 ostracod shells are similar to those in endogenic carbonate, suggesting that both sources of carbonate precipitated from DIC with a similar  $\delta^{13}$ C value once allowance has been 527 made for differences in the timing and exact location of formation. This period covers 528 diatom zones YC2-I and part of YC2-II (Fig. 6). The base of the core is dominated by C. 529 muelleri, a diatom known to inhabit chloride-rich waters, but the other taxa here do not 530 indicate hypersaline conditions, so it may be over-represented. The most negative  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$ 531 532 value may be reflected in the increase in the freshwater N. molestiformis and N. fluens 533 although the diatom assemblage overall continues to indicate shallow and alkaline conditions. The presence of Nitzschia palea and a form of Nitzschia frustulum (both 534 obligate N heterotrophs) also indicates eutrophic conditions, which may help to explain 535 methanogenesis in shallow water conditions (see above). The increasing abundance of N. 536 537 elkab, and species of Anomoeoneis indicate more consistently high pH (> 8.5) and alkalinity, probably associated with shallowing of the lake. Low magnetic susceptibility and 538

low concentrations of 'inwash' indicator elements (Fe, Mn, K and Al) in this interval
suggest that inwash of soil into the lake was limited despite the intervals of increased
effective moisture (Fig. 3).

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Between ~27,500 and 14,000 aBP, there was a shift to more positive  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  and  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ 543 544 values, although with some stratigraphical variability and strong covariance between  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  and  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  (Fig.4, Fig. 5). The elevated  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  values suggest enhanced 545 evaporative enrichment of lake water under conditions of low effective moisture: the 546 presence of siliceous nodules at various points in this interval support the argument that 547 the lake was shallow, saline and strongly evaporated. Short-term variations in carbonate 548 content also support the occurrence of strong but variable evaporative enrichment (Fig. 3). 549 550 The presence of multiple surfaces that probably resulted from desiccation in the later part of this interval suggests that lake levels fell and the lake may have dried out totally on 551 several occasions. Elevated  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  values are too high to be explained solely by 552 equilibration with atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Enhanced aquatic productivity, in which <sup>12</sup>C-uptake by 553 aquatic plants and algae causes DIC to be enriched in <sup>13</sup>C, is incompatible with the low 554 TOC content in this interval: the production of  $^{13}$ C-enriched co-genetic CO<sub>2</sub> in a stagnant, 555 shallow, nutrient-rich lake could provide an alternative explanation as discussed above. 556 557 From 27,500 to 22,500 aBP, a period of evaporative enrichment and periodic desiccation is consistent with the diatom record for this interval (zones YC2-IIa and YC2-IIb), which 558 559 ends around 22,500 aBP in a period when diatoms were sparse and poorly preserved 560 (after which there is a break in diatom preservation, see above). There are two notable 561 peaks in N. minusculoides reaching 71% of the count between 27,000 and 26,000 aBP and 44% at around 24,000 aBP. The earlier peak is associated with a layer of sand (or 562 563 tephra, see below) and, moreover, there are no stable isotope data from this layer, so its 564 significance remains unclear. The presence of some freshwater taxa (e.g. N. fluens,

565 *Caloneis bacillum*) may reflect fluctuating conditions within a period of overall drying. 566 There are several marked peaks in ostracod abundance during this interval, with assemblages strongly dominated by Limnocythere sappaensis, which supports the 567 568 inference that the lake was generally saline and alkaline. The sporadic occurrence of other 569 taxa suggests the periodic influx of fresher waters: rather than whole-lake freshening, these taxa could indicate surface or subsurface inflow of fresh water at various times. Low 570 571 magnetic susceptibility values and low concentrations of 'inwash' elements suggest limited 572 transfer of soil or sediment from the catchment during this interval; two sharp peaks in magnetic susceptibility around 26,000 and 23,000 aBP (Fig. 3) may represent tephra, 573 574 rather than catchment inwash, although this remains to be confirmed.

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There is a gap in the stable isotope record between 14,000 and 11,000 aBP, but evidence for dry conditions during this interval comes from the presence of a desiccation surface and the occurrence of a possible palaeosol. It is also supported by the lack of diatom preservation. Sporadic ostracod occurrence also suggests that the lake may have been ephemeral during this time. This interval covers the northern hemisphere late glacial stadial event and confirms that this was a time of low effective moisture in central Mexico.

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After 11,000 aBP, there was a shift to more negative and also more variable  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  and 583  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  values, consistent with a general increase in effective moisture during the early 584 585 Holocene (Fig. 4). The rise in magnetic susceptibility, coupled with minor increases in 586 some of the 'inwash' elements, may also reflect enhanced inwash of catchment material 587 during the early Holocene. Diatom preservation resumes (zone YC2-III), with assemblages dominated by Nitzschia palea and Chaetoceros muelleri (Fig. 6). Assuming that C. 588 589 muelleri may be overrepresented, high percentages of N. palea and Nitzschia communis 590 indicate lower pH and TDS (total dissolved solids) (Gasse, 1986) and eutrophic conditions.

591 This assemblage shows some similarities to that in zone YC2-Ia, but zone YC2-III may represent the period when the lake was freshest and deepest, although not deep enough 592 593 to develop a truly planktonic flora. Today, assemblages with such high percentages of N. palea are found in shallow, freshwater lakes in Mexico with high levels of nutrient 594 595 enrichment such as Lakes Zacapu and Cajititlan (Hill, 2006 and S. Metcalfe, unpublished 596 data). Ostracod concentrations are low, but significantly the assemblages include a relatively high proportion of species other than L. sappaensis, consistent with fresher 597 598 water than in much of the pre-Holocene.

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600 Between about 8,000 and 4,500 aBP there was a marked change in the lake system. Increase in  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  values suggests enhanced evaporative enrichment associated with 601 602 decreased effective moisture (Fig. 4). Most notably, however, is the dramatic positive excursion in  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  values, up to a maximum of about +16 ‰ and, associated with this, 603 the breakdown in the positive covariance between  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  and  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  values that was 604 apparent during earlier intervals (Fig. 5). The very high  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  values are best explained 605 by methanogenesis, as discussed for earlier intervals above. Interestingly, the single 606  $\delta^{13}$ C<sub>ostracod</sub> value from this interval does not track the  $\delta^{13}$ C<sub>carb</sub> values, but instead is much 607 608 lower (Fig. 4). Although we cannot attach too much significance to a single value, this does suggest that the ostracods and the endogenic carbonate were formed in different 609 micro-environments within the lake, or perhaps during different seasons, from DIC with 610 contrasting  $\delta^{13}$ C values. Although the  $\delta^{18}O_{ostracod}$  values are more positive than the  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$ 611 612 values, as would be expected, the difference is too large to be explained by vital offsets alone, possibly lending support to the view that the endogenic and ostracod carbonates 613 614 were formed under contrasting conditions or at different times of the year. Ostracods occur sporadically in this interval, indicating that whatever conditions prevailed were not wholly 615 unsuitable for ostracods to live. This period straddles the diatom record at the top of YC2 616

(zone YC2-IV) and the bottom of YC1 (zone YC1-I). The diatom assemblage is notable for 617 its dominance by N. (C.) elkab and N. (C.) halophila (both cores), with Nitzschia frustulum 618 619 and N. palea (Fig. 6). The switch to an N. elkab/N. halophila flora is consistent with a 620 return to more alkaline conditions, probably driven by increasing evaporation. Navicula (C.) elkab does seem to have a distinct ecology, with a preference for hyper-alkaline, 621 Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> lakes, where Cl<sup>-</sup> is also important. Nitzschia frustulum tends to be more abundant 622 623 with N. (C.) elkab than with N. (C.) halophila (e.g. YC2-4c and base of YC1-1) supporting 624 the interpretation of high alkalinity (Gasse, 1986). Its presence with N. palea again seems to indicate high levels of nutrient enrichment. Overall, this assemblage is quite similar to 625 626 that sampled from the modern lake in 1982, when it was around 2 metres deep. A peak in magnetic susceptibility between about 5,500 and 4,500 BP (Fig. 3) associated with a 627 sharp reduction in  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  (Fig. 4) points to a climatically-controlled inwash event, which 628 may be reflected by rather poor diatom preservation in YC1. 629

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After 4,500 aBP,  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  remained high although with some short-lived negative 631 excursions, whereas  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  values are reduced dramatically (Fig. 4). For the interval of 632 overlap between YC1 and YC2, there is good agreement between the isotope records, 633 especially so for  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ , once allowance is made for the slight age difference between the 634 two cores, as discussed earlier. There is a large increase in ostracod concentration within 635 636 much of this interval: the dominance of assemblages by L. sappaensis, coupled with the 637 large number of individuals, is consistent with the lake having been saline and alkaline for much of the time (Fig. 4).  $\delta^{18}O_{ostracod}$  values are <sup>18</sup>O-enriched compared to  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  values, 638 with the degree of enrichment consistent with vital offsets from oxygen-isotope equilibrium, 639 as discussed above. The  $\delta^{13}C_{ostracod}$  values agree well with those for  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ , suggesting 640 that the two sources of carbonate formed under the same set of conditions, as was the 641 case for the interval prior to the positive  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  excursion. The diatom record for this 642

interval was published by Metcalfe and Hales (1994), although here we plot the data 643 against our new age model (Fig. 6). The species encountered confirm the presence of a 644 shallow alkaline lake throughout the late Holocene, although the balance between CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> 645 646 and Cl<sup>-</sup> seems to have varied. The assemblage in zone YC1-II, for example, may indicate that  $Cl^{-}$  replaced  $CO_{3}^{2-}$  as the dominant anion. The assemblage is similar to Bradbury's 647 (1989) saline marsh group. Fresher conditions were then re-established, associated with 648 649 inwash from the catchment. This wetter/drier cycle is then repeated in zones YC1-III and 650 YC1-IV. Increasingly hostile conditions for diatom preservation are indicated through zone YC1-V, with only a patchy diatom record between about 2000 and 1200 aBP. It seems 651 652 likely that the single count available through this period is significantly affected by differential preservation. The diatom record resumes around 1000 aBP with a distinctive, 653 well-preserved sample dominated (55%) by Navicula muralis (zone YC1-VII). This diatom 654 655 is often found on mud flats and amongst aguatic vegetation (Hustedt, 1961-66). When 656 combined with very low magnetic susceptibility values, the diatom assemblages indicate 657 catchment stability. We note that this catchment stability occurs at a time in the late Classic when many sites in the relatively dry parts of Central Mexico were abandoned 658 (Beekman, 2010; Park et al., 2010). The most recent sediments preserve a flora quite 659 660 similar to that found in the various surface sediment samples, indicating a shallow alkaline lake, but with increasing nutrient levels. The very highly evolved chemistry and rather 661 662 distinctive diatom flora of La Piscina de Yuriria is described in Davies et al. (2002) and sampling in 2003 and 2004 confirmed its hypereutrophic status. Phases of inwash, 663 previously reported in YC1 and attributed to anthropogenic disturbance (Metcalfe et al., 664 665 1994), are also seen at broadly the same times in YC2, i.e. around 3,600 and 1500 aBP and over the past few centuries. An earlier phase at the base of YC1, which ended in that 666 667 core around 4700 aBP, appears in its entirety in YC2, starting around 5600 aBP. The 668 absence of Z. mays pollen from YC1 during this interval led Metcalfe et al. (1994) to

suggest that the inwash was climatically-mediated rather than the result of anthropogenic disturbance. For the wider region however, Park *et al.* (2010) suggest that agricultural activity began as early as around 5700 aBP (based on the presence of *Zea* pollen), and expanded around 3000 aBP. Lozano *et al.* (2013) also report the occurrence of *Z. mays* pollen from 3000 aBP in Lake Zirahuen, a lake previously thought to be un-affected by human impact. The main climatic and environmental changes revealed in the records from La Piscina de Yuriria are summarised in Table 2.

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There is a reasonable correspondence between phases of inwash, as indicated by magnetic susceptibility and 'inwash' elements, and intervals of low ostracod abundance for the whole of the Holocene (Fig. 7). This suggests that increased turbidity in the lake, which would likely have arisen during phases of increased inwash, was unfavourable for ostracod survival as has been noted previously (e.g. Bridgwater *et al.*, 1999). Therefore water turbidity is an additional control to hydrochemistry on ostracod assemblages in La Piscina de Yuriria.

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685 The number of palaeoclimatic records from the TMVB (and indeed the whole of Mexico), 686 extending back to 30,000 BP (Marine Isotope Stage 3) is small and limited to the Basin of Mexico (e.g. Caballero and Ortega-Guerrero, 1998; Roy et al., 2009; Lozano-García et al., 687 2015), Lake Cuitzeo (Israde et al., 2010), Lake Pátzcuaro (Watts and Bradbury, 1982; 688 689 Bradbury 2000) and Lake Zacapu (Correa-Metrio et al., 2012). Moreover, most of these 690 have limited dating control for the older sediments. Caballero et al. (2010) integrated 691 palaeolimnological records with evidence from glacial chronologies (Vazquez Selem and Heine, 2004) to provide a palaeoclimatic scenario for the period from around 30,000 aBP 692 693 to the last glacial maximum (LGM). A more recent consideration of the record from Lake 694 Chalco in the Basin of Mexico has been published by Lozano-Garcia et al. (2015). With

695 the exception of Lake Pátzcuaro (one of the westernmost sites), the records suggest drying and cooling after about 30,000 aBP, with glacial advances restricted until around 696 697 22,000 aBP. The data from La Piscina de Yuriria suggest that there were rapid shifts 698 between wet and dry conditions during this interval, with a general drying trend sometime 699 between about 27,500 and 25,000 aBP. However, the relatively low resolution of the 700 record after about 27.500 aBP means that a continuation of abrupt shifts in rainfall cannot 701 be ruled out. Major glacial advances in the TMVB occurred around the LGM (22,000 -18,000 aBP) with a suggested  $6 - 8^{\circ}$ C lowering in mean annual temperature. Reduced 702 703 temperature, along with low effective moisture, could have contributed to the elevated  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  values at this time. Although generally dry, there seem to have been short lived 704 705 lake highstands in Cuitzeo and rising water levels in the Chalco Basin (southern Basin of 706 Mexico) and the Lerma Basin around 18,000 and 19,000 aBP respectively (Caballero et al., 2002). Unfortunately the evidence from La Piscina de Yuriria is at too low resolution to 707 708 be able to detect these highstands. The late glacial in the TMVB (18,000 – 15,000 aBP) is 709 described as cold and dry, with minor glacial recession (Caballero et al., 2010): evidence 710 from La Piscina de Yuriria indicates a continuation of dry conditions through the late glacial 711 (=Younger Dryas) stadial. Significant warming and glacial retreat apparently started 712 around 14,000 aBP.

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Overall, the records of cool and dry conditions around the LGM and into the early
Holocene from the central and eastern part of the TMVB are most easily explained by a
reduction in summer season precipitation, which is driven today by the northward
movement of the ITCZ and the onset of the NAM. Records from the Pátzcuaro Basin, to
the west of this group, show high lake levels persisting through the LGM (Bradbury 2000;
Metcalfe *et al.*, 2007), while Correa-Metrio *et al.* (2012) suggest conditions moist enough
for pine forest to dominate over grasslands in the Zacapu basin. In both cases an increase

721 in winter precipitation may provide an explanation although it is hard to reconcile this with the stable-isotope data from La Piscina de Yuriria, which suggest an overall decrease in 722 effective moisture. Lachniet et al. (2013) have further suggested that the summer 723 724 monsoon did not collapse during the last glacial, although once again the evidence from 725 La Piscina de Yuriria does not appear to support this, nor does the latest interpretation of the Chalco record (Lozano-Garcia et al., 2015). The late glacial stadial was a time of dry 726 727 conditions, with some suggestion that La Piscina de Yuriria may have dried out. A dry 728 Younger Dryas stadial has also been reported from Zacapu (Correa-Metrio et al., 2012) 729 and from sites in northern Mexico (e.g. Roy et al., 2013). Interestingly, the Younger Dryas 730 is also reported as dry in the Juxtlahuaca speleothem record (Lachniet et al., 2013) where it is attributed to monsoon collapse. It appears that the weakening of the Atlantic 731 732 Meridional circulation (AMOC), the subsequent southward displacement of the ITCZ and a 733 weaker monsoon led to dry conditions over the northern hemisphere neotropics (Bush and 734 Metcalfe, 2012). Only at the northern edge of the NAM region did the resumption of cold 735 conditions allow more penetration of mid-latitude westerlies leading to wetter conditions (Metcalfe et al., 2015). 736

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738 The classic pattern of climatic change in the NH tropics and subtropics is for wetter conditions in the early Holocene driven by poleward migration of the ITCZ and a stronger 739 740 monsoon in response to insolation forcing. Whilst there is some support from this in Mexico, it seems that the establishment of the modern climatic regime was delayed by the 741 presence of the residual Laurentide Ice Sheet and the influence of meltwater pulses 742 743 entering the Gulf of Mexico (Metcalfe et al., 2015). The early Holocene interval in La Piscina de Yuriria indicates a change to wetter conditions overall, but with evidence for 744 abrupt shifts between wet and dry conditions. A similar pattern is recorded by Park et al. 745 746 (2010) for their other sites in the Valle de Santiago. The response of the wider NAM region

747 to the insolation maximum in the early Holocene is complex, with the clearest response in the south, where the direct influence of the ITCZ is strongest. Elsewhere, it seems that the 748 749 modern NAM regime may not have resumed until after 8000 aBP and there was a tradeoff between increasing precipitation and increasing temperatures (Metcalfe et al., 2015). 750 751 La Piscina de Yuriria shows an overall trend of drying from the mid Holocene onwards. This is consistent with the southward migration of the ITCZ and as the role of insolation 752 753 forcing became weaker, so the effect of other climate forcings such as ENSO, seems to 754 have become more important giving rise to increasingly complex patterns of change. This drying was accompanied by increasing human impact, as shown by evidence for phases 755 756 of sediment inwash and by the presence of Z. mays pollen. Increasing human impact during this interval is also evident from other sites in Mexico (Metcalfe et al., 1994). 757

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# 759 Conclusions

760 In summary, evidence from La Piscina de Yuriria indicates that the climate of Central Mexican highlands has changed dramatically over the past ~30,000 years. Between 761 762 30,000 and about 27,500 aBP it was highly variable with shifts, which may have been abrupt, between dry and wet conditions. Over much of the glacial period, from ~27,500 to 763 764 about 14,000 aBP, climate became drier: there may have been abrupt shifts during this 765 interval, but the low resolution of our data means that any such shifts are not revealed. 766 The occurrence of strong millennial scale variability during MIS3, with a global signature, 767 has been widely noted (Clement and Peterson, 2008), apparently driven by changes in AMOC. It is notable that there were three D/O warming events (2 - 4) between 30,000 and 768 769 22,000 aBP (Wolff et al., 2010) and two Heinrich events (H2 and H3). Modelling has 770 indicated differential sensitivity of AMOC under MIS3 and LGM conditions (e.g. Van 771 Meerbeeck et al. 2009), with the climate becoming less sensitive to AMOC changes as the 772 full glacial climate was established. The growth of the Laurentide Ice sheet from an

773 interstadial minimum around 35,000 aBP to its maximum by ca. 25,000 aBP (where it 774 remained until around 15,000 aBP) (Dyke et al., 2002) also reflects the shift of the global 775 climate system into full glacial mode, where other, less rapid forcings may have dominated 776 (see Baker and Fritz, 2015). There is evidence of drought during the period that 777 encompassed the late glacial stadial. During the Holocene, the climate initially became 778 wetter, although the positive water balance was insufficient to lead to major changes in the 779 lake's chemistry and diatom flora. A fall in lake levels under drier climate in the mid 780 Holocene was accompanied by a change in limnology that caused methane formation. 781 Inwash of catchment soils and sediments was the result of a combination of natural 782 climatic triggers and, for the later Holocene, anthropogenic disturbance.

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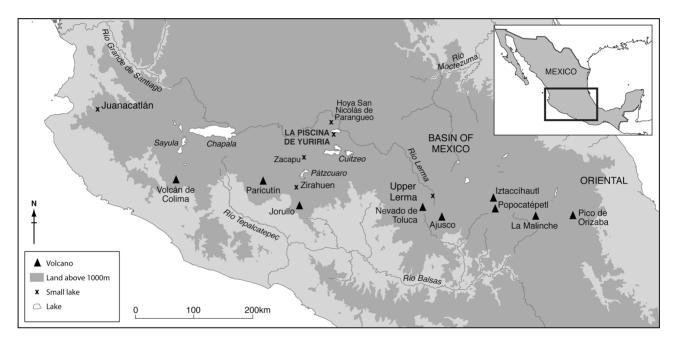
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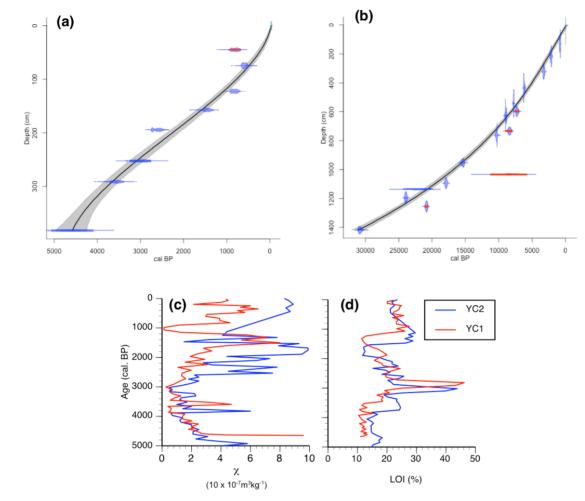
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- 1110
- 1111
- 1112 Figures



- 1113
- 1114 Fig. 1. Location of la Piscina de Yuriria and other sites referred to in the text.



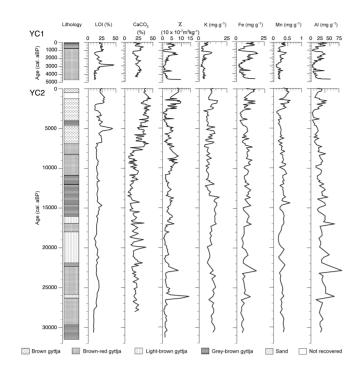
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1116 Fig. 2. Age-depth relationships for (a) YC1 (b) YC2, based on radiocarbon dates. The

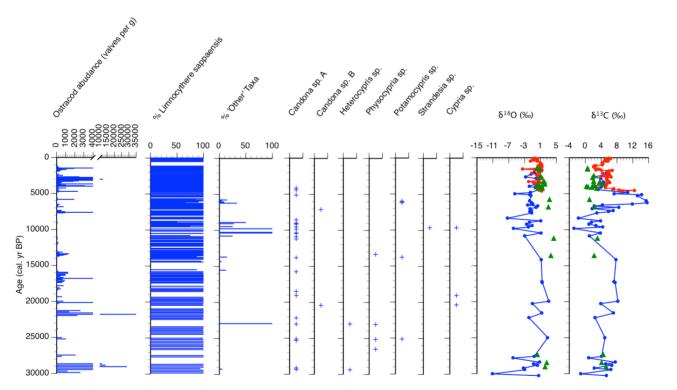
- 1117 datapoints are well described by 3rd order polynomial curves, AGE = -0.0001Depth<sup>3</sup> +
- 1118 0.06645Depth<sup>2</sup> + 2.473Depth 29.23 for YC1 and, AGE = -0.000005Depth<sup>3</sup> -

1119 0.0006Depth<sup>2</sup> + 12.23Depth – 109.1 for YC2 where age is in calendar years BP and depth

- 1120 is in cm in both cases. Detailed synchronisation for YC1 and the upper part of YC2 based
- 1121 on (c) loss-on-ignition and (d) magnetic susceptibility.

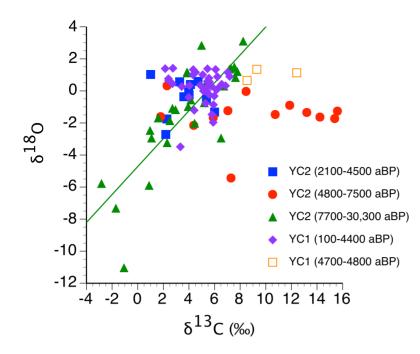


- 1123 Fig 3. Physical sedimentology and selected elemental geochemical variables for YC1 and
- 1124 YC2, plotted as a function of age in calendar years.



1126 Fig. 4. Ostracod assemblages for YC2 and stable isotopes: endogenic carbonate for YC1

- and YC2 and ostracod shells (triangles) for YC2). The 'other taxa' percentage curve
- 1128 includes all taxa except *Limnocythere sappaensis*.
- 1129





1131 Fig. 5. Covariance of  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  and  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  values for YC1 and YC2. For the interval YC2

1132 7700-30,300 aBP only, there is significant covariance between  $\delta^{18}O_{carb}$  and  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  values

1133 ( $R^2 = 0.68$ ).

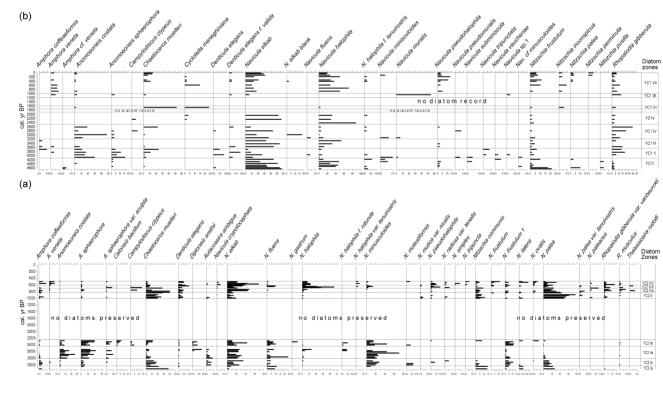
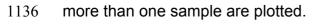


Fig. 6. Diatom abundance (%) for (a) YC2 and (b) YC1. Only taxa present at > 2% and in



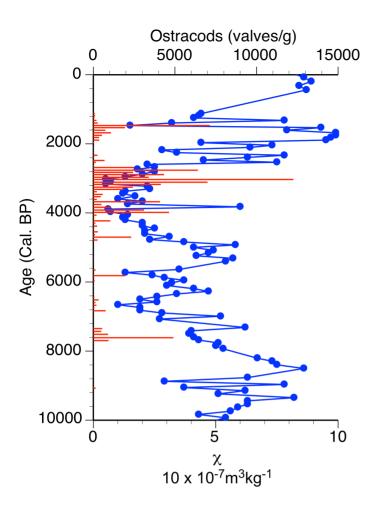




Fig. 7. Ostracod abundance and magnetic susceptibility for the last 10,000 years in core

1139 YC2.

- . . . .

## 1150 Tables

### 1151 Table 1. Radiocarbon dates from cores YC1 and YC2.

Table 1. Radiocarbon dates from cores YC1 and YC2

Core	Depth (cm)	Date Type	Lab number	Radiocarbon age (yr)	Error (yr)	Cal ; range (95 % confid	e (yr)	Material Ils)	Notes
YC1	44-46	AMS	OxA-1963	875	90	670	951	carbonate	omitted from age mode
YC1	74-75	AMS	OxA-1964	570	80	500	673	carbonate	
YC1	122-123	AMS	OxA-1965	900	60	705	927	carbonate	
YC1	157-158	AMS	OxA-1966	1570	80	1307	1680	carbonate	
YC1	194-195	AMS	OxA-1967	2540	60	2383	2759	carbonate	
YC1	250-255	AMS	RIDDL-62	2840	120	2751	3323	carbonate	
YC1	291-292	AMS	OxA-1968	3320	90	3372	3824	carbonate	
YC1	380-385	AMS	RIDDL-63	4100	200	4084	5278	carbonate	
YC2	129-130	AMS	AA13908	860	50	689	908	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	216-217	AMS	AA13907	2125	50	1955	2306	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	321-322	AMS	AA13906	3040	70	3008	3391	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	430-440	Radiometric	SRR-5189	5410	50	6018	6300	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	537-547	Radiometric	SRR-5190	6925	45	7670	7911	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	592-602	Radiometric	2815-Ors	6340	140	6939	7552	bulk organic carbon	omitted from age mode
YC2	622-632	Radiometric	SRR-5191	8055	50	8730	9120	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	728-738	Radiometric	2844-Ors	7570	188	8001	8967	bulk organic carbon	omitted from age mode
YC2	761-762	AMS	AA13905	9105	80	9969	10511	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	953-954	AMS	AA13904	12865	105	15085	15728	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	1029-1039	Radiometric	2812-Ors	7100	1200	5752	11244	carbonate	omitted from age mode
YC2	1093-1094	AMS	AA13903	14705	105	17617	18165	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	1130-1140	Radiometric	2869-Ors	18180	980	19938	24375	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	1190-1200	Radiometric	SRR-5192	19880	75	23676	24160	bulk organic carbon	
YC2	1250-1260	Radiometric	SRR-5193	17275	90	20577	21103	bulk organic carbon	omitted from age mode
YC2	1413-1423	AMS	AA16907	26590	280	30308	31189	bulk organic carbon	

# 1166 Table 2. Summary of climatic and environmental changes at La Piscina de Yuriria over the

## 1167 past 30,000 years

#### Table 2. Summary of climatic and environmental changes at La Piscina de Yuriria over the past 30,000 years

Age Range (cal. aBP)	Climatic and environmental conditions	Key evidence
0-4,500	Lower effective mositrue under dier climate regime but with short-lived wetter intervals	Oxygen isotopes
	Saline -alkaline lake	Ostracods, diatoms
	Transient anthropogenically-induced inwash events associated with catchment instability	Elemental geochemistry and magnetic susceptibility
4,500-8,000	Reduced effective moisture leading to enhanced evaporative enrichment under drier climate	Oxygen isotopes
	Saline - alkaline lake with nutrient enrichment and short- lived fresher interval	Ostracods, diatoms
	Intense methane formation	Carbon isotopes
	Climatically-contorlled inwash event during wet intervals	Elemental geochemistry and magnetic susceptibility
8,000-11,000	Higher effective moisture, but with evidence of variability under wetter but variable climatic regime	Oxygen isotopes
	Fresher and deeper lake, but eutrophic	Ostracods, diatoms
11,000-14,000	Dry climate, lake dessication	Stratography (presence of desiccation surface)
14,000-25,500	Reduced effective moisture leading to enhanced evaporative enrichment under drier climate	Oxygen isotopes
	Periodic lake desiccation	Stratography (presence of desiccation surface)
	Saline - alkaline lake with short-lived fresher intervals	Ostracods, diatoms
	Shallow eutropic lake with methane formation	Diatoms, carbon isotopes
	Stable catchment with limited inwash	Elemental geochemistry and magnetic susceptibility
27,500-30,000	Rapid shifts between low and high effective mositure under variable dry to wet climatic regime, possibly accompanied by cooler conditions	Oxygen isotopes
	Saline - alkaline lake	Ostracods, diatoms
	Shallow eutropic lake with methane formation	Diatoms, carbon isotopes
	Stable catchment with limited inwash	Elemental geochemistry and magnetic susceptibility

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# 1171 Supporting online information

1172 Table S1. Water Chemistry for La Piscina de Yuriria. Date from Davies (1995) and various

### 1173 unpublished sources.

#### Table S1. Water Chemistry for La Piscina de Yuriria. Date from Davies (1995) and various unpublished sources.

	Year	Water depth (m)	Туре	pН	EC <sup>^</sup> (µScm-1)	Alkalinity (Total) (meqL <sup>-1</sup> )		SO <sub>4</sub> (meqL <sup>-1</sup> )	K (meqL <sup>-1</sup> )	Na (meqL <sup>-1</sup> )	Ca (meqL <sup>-1</sup> )	Mg (meqL <sup>-1</sup> )	TP (µgL <sup>-1</sup> )	δ <sup>13</sup> C <sub>DIC</sub> ‰VPDB	δ <sup>18</sup> O ‰ VSMOW	δD ‰ VSMOW
	1982 (April) 1982 (April) 1982 (April) 1982 (April) 1982 (April) 1982 (May) 1982 (May) 1992 (August) 1992 (August) 1997 (March) 2003 (March) 2003 (March)	2 (surface) 2 (at depth) 0.2 (margin) 0.2 (margin) 0.2 shore 0.2 (margin) 0.2 (margin)	Lake Lake Spring Spring Lake Spring Lake well spring Lake Lake Lake Lake Groundwater	11.0 NA 11.0 7.5 7.0 9.6 7.7 10.5 6.8 8.0 10.2 9.5 9.6 8.0	26000 23000 500 1100 27500 700 15620 315 452 8130 1907 2910 1076	300.0 326.0 294.0 6.2 5.0 333.0 8.0 248.2 3.7 7.7 68.3 20.8 16.4 ND	174.3 141.5 116.3 0.4 1.1 203.0 4.2 117.4 0.4 0.4 27.5 6.2 16.7 ND	29.3 30.2 29.5 1.4 3.6 33.5 0.3 50.0 9.6 7.5 9.2 0.4 0.8 ND	30.7 24.8 32.1 0.6 1.0 32.1 0.6 22.0 7.0 1.7 1.5 ND	478.5 478.5 413.3 3.7 9.6 543.7 8.9 298.5 5.7 8.4 95.8 26.3 163.4* ND	0.0 0.0 1.0 1.1 0.0 0.9 0.3 4.4 3.3 5.9 2.9 2.6 ND	0.0 0.0 1.3 1.6 0.0 1.6 0.1 3.9 3.7 1.9 2.4 0.0 ND	ND <sup>#</sup> ND ND ND ND ND ND 562.0 744.5 ND	ND ND ND ND ND -0.2 -10.4 -11.6 ND ND ND ND	ND ND ND ND ND 0.7 -9.2 -9.1 ND ND ND ND	ND ND ND ND ND -25 -69 -69 ND ND ND ND
1174 1175	<sup>^</sup> Electrical cond <sup>#</sup> ND = not dete * possible cont	rmined														
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- 1190 Table S2. Correlation matrices (R<sup>2</sup> values) for correlation amongst selected geochemical
- variables from (a) YC1 (b) YC2, whole core (c) YC2 post 5000 aBP. In each table the null
- 1192 hypothesis (H<sub>o</sub>) is that there is no statistically-significant relationship between the two

### 1193 variables

Table S2. Correlation amongst selected geochemical variables (a) Core YC1

		К	Fe	Mn	AI
К	R <sup>2</sup>	1.			
	p-value				
	H0 (5%)				
Fe	R <sup>2</sup>	0.65	1.		
	p-value	1.68E-16			
	H0 (5%)	rejected			
Mn	R <sup>2</sup>	0.68	0.77	1.	
	p-value	8.35E-18	0.00E+00		
	H0 (5%)	rejected	rejected		
AI	R <sup>2</sup>	0.52	0.901	0.67	1.
	p-value	4.76E-12	0.00E+00	2.46E-17	
	H0 (5%)	rejected	rejected	rejected	

(b) Core YC2 - all

		к	Mn	Fe	AI
к	R <sup>2</sup>	1.			
	p-value				
	H0 (5%)				
Fe	R <sup>2</sup>	0.15	1.		
	p-value	0.00001			
	H0 (5%)	rejected			
Mn	R <sup>2</sup>	0.06	0.45	1.	
	p-value	0.00581	4.00E-17		
	H0 (5%)	rejected	rejected		
AI	R <sup>2</sup>	0.22	0.19	0.37	1.
	p-value	4.32E-08	6.67E-07	0.	
	H0 (5%)	rejected	rejected	rejected	

(b) Core YC2 - post 5000 aBP

		к	Mn	Fe	AI
к	R <sup>2</sup>	1.			1
	p-value				
	H0 (5%)				
Fe	R <sup>2</sup>	0.61	1.		
	p-value	9.64E-08			
	H0 (5%)	rejected			
Mn	R <sup>2</sup>	0.49	0.75	1.	
	p-value	5.96E-06	7.15E-11		
	H0 (5%)	rejected	rejected		
AI	R <sup>2</sup>	0.59	0.71	0.8	1.
	p-value	2.00E-07	9.10E-10	1.67E-12	
	H0 (5%)	rejected	rejected	rejected	

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