

Below are the two reviews, our responses (*bold italics*), and changes made to the manuscript in response (*bold red italics*). The new revision also contains minor editorial changes made throughout the manuscript that show up on the marked copy but are not included in our responses to the reviewers given below.

Review 1, with our responses in bold italics; red indicates the changes that will be made upon revision:

This manuscript discusses the sources of organic carbon in surface sediments of Black Sea, Arabian Sea and Ross Sea. Contributions of ‘marine biomass, terrigenous vascular plant, and relict sources’ are evaluated using lipid biomarkers, stable carbon and radiocarbon analysis. To better understand the global carbon cycle and its impact on climate change, it is important to learn sources of OC in marine sediments, which is still not well-studied. Radiocarbon analysis of specific lipid biomarkers is a powerful tool for marine OC sources apportionment in the past 15 years and it is applied in this study. I realize that nice samples and data were obtained in this work, but the authors fail to show an interesting story. Some terms are not defined, some conclusions are not easy to understand because a lack of detailed explanation. The key points of some sections are not clear that I need to read several times to have an idea what valuable information I can obtain. The manuscript needs to be reorganized to make the manuscript easily understandable to the reader and highlighted the key points.

Specific comments:

Title: P9761: I suggest modification of the title. As mentioned in the abstract, the manuscript focuses on the sources of OC, but not lipid biomarker. Lipid biomarker is a tool for OC source apportionment.

Ok, we will modify the title slightly to: “Transfer of organic carbon through marine water columns to sediments – insights from stable and radiocarbon isotopes of lipid biomarkers”.

Abstract: P9762 Line7: What’s the definition of ‘relict sources’?

“Relict” is a commonly used term in geology, but to clarify we have changed “relict sources” to “relict kerogen sources.” See also lines 3-6, p 9765.

P9762 Line7: ‘sediment trap material’. It takes me some time to remember that ‘sinking particulate matter’, ‘sediment trap material’, ‘particulate organic matter/POM/bulk POM’ used in this manuscript are the same thing.

We agree that these terms are interchangeable, as are sediment organic matter, SOM etc used throughout. Actually “bulk POM” and “bulk SOM” are used to specifically distinguish the unfractionated material from the extracted SLE (see comment below) or specific isolated biomarkers. We do not feel that these need to be changed. POM and SOM were first defined on p 9764, line 27.

P9762 Line7-11: ‘Marine biomass in. . .respectively.’ P9762 Line15- 18: ‘These results. . .marine POC.’ I suggest you explain a little about how you get these conclusions, even though you have mentioned in the text. I feel that’s more important than or as important as the conclusion itself.

We are not sure what is requested here. Since this is in the abstract, it is a summary of results and discussion that follow and are developed in the main body, from which the abstract is derived. However, we will modify (changes in color) the abstract to:

*...“The goal was to develop a multi-parameter approach to constrain relative inputs of organic carbon (OC) from marine biomass, terrigenous vascular plant, and relict **kerogen** sources. **Using an isotope mass balance, we calculate that** marine biomass in sediment trap material from the Black Sea and Arabian Sea accounted for 66-100% of OC, with lower terrigenous (3-8%) and relict (4-16%) contributions. Marine **biomass** in sediments constituted lower proportions of OC (66-90%), with consequentially higher proportions of terrigenous and relict carbon (3-17% and 7-13%, respectively). Ross Sea data were insufficient to allow similar mass balance calculations. **These results suggest** that whereas particulate organic carbon is overwhelmingly marine in origin, pre-aged **allochthonous** terrigenous and relict OC becomes proportionally more important in sediments, **consistent with** pre-aged OC **being better** preserved during vertical transport to and burial at the seafloor **than** the upper ocean-derived marine OC.”*

By the way, what’s the definition of ‘pre-aged OC’? *“Pre-aged OC” is a term commonly used in the radiocarbon literature to designate allochthonous OC that has been aged prior to being delivered to its present depositional setting. Since it is widely used, we do not think a definition is needed here. But see line 10, p 9764 and lines 3-6, p 9765.*

Introduction:

P9763 Line9: “marine OC’ may contain ‘terrigenous plant and relict sediment OC’. So what’s the real meaning of ‘marine OC’ herein?

Again, we are not sure what the reviewer is asking. “Marine OC” is a commonly used term for autochthonous OC, as opposed to allochthonous terrigenous and relict kerogen OC. It is true that OC in the ocean will be a mix of autochthonous marine and allochthonous terrestrial and relict OC, but we do not feel that changing the terminology here is needed.

One extra question: Are there any previous studies on sources of marine OC in the same study areas? Without statement of historical work, it is not clear what knowledge the present work will added. At least, I know Eglinton et al., 1997, Science also ‘combined biomarker/stable carbon/radiocarbon studies of marine particulate matter’, studying the sample area (e.g. Black Sea and Arabian Sea).

To our knowledge, there are no comparable sediment trap OM-sediment SOM compound-specific biomarker/stable C/ radiocarbon isotope studies in the literature, especially not for these areas. The Eglinton et al paper 1997 cited here and on p 9764 line 7 does indeed give from ^{14}C data for sedimentary lipids in the Black Sea and Arabian Sea, but not in sediment trap material (marine particulate matter as the reviewer suggests), which is the novel feature of this paper. Kusch et al (cited p 9782) report radiocarbon data for some alkenes in several core tops (no trap material) in the western Black Sea.

But we will add the following to p 9778, line 12: “A similar spread in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values for marine, vascular plant and relict hydrocarbon biomarkers had been previously reported for Black Sea and Arabian Sea sediments (Eglinton et al., 1997).”

Results and discussions:

P9772-4 Section 3.2-3.3: When compound-specific stable carbon/radiocarbon analysis of sources biomarkers is used to estimate sources of OC, why it is still necessary to measure stable carbon/radiocarbon of bulk OC? *There is a tremendous literature on isotope compositions of bulk POM and SOM, so by including these here, it puts these samples into a wider perspective. Further, we use the compound-specific results as proxies for bulk OC, which really is what is of importance to biogeochemists.*

In this section, sometimes abbreviated names of the seas (BS, AS and RS) are used, sometimes non-abbreviated names are used. It takes me some time to remind what the abbreviation means, because they are not as commonly used as 'OC'. I suggest avoid using abbreviated names of the seas since the names are actually not long. *We feel that the abbreviations are not a problem and they have been defined when first used.*

Several points make Section 3.3 difficult to follow:

1) The discussion starts from BS and AS, switch to RS, back to BS and AS, again switch to RS, then to AS and RS. *To us, this order of the two paragraphs in this section labeled "bulk radiocarbon isotopes" is logical as we are taking about two separate sample sets (OC vs SLE): paragraph 1) presents radiocarbon of bulk BS, AS and RS trap and sediment OC; paragraph 2) then gives radiocarbon for BS, AS and RS trap and sediment SLE's.*

2) DIC probably means dissolve inorganic carbon, but it is not introduced in the text above, and the authors also don't mentioned DIC was measured before this data is showed. It is confusing that why the discussion switch to DIC herein. *Yes, DIC does mean dissolved organic carbon; we thought the term was widely accepted. But we will change to "pre-bomb and post-bomb mixed layer DIC (dissolved inorganic carbon)... these values determine the $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ of autochthonous marine biomass." DIC was not measured in this paper, so it was not included in methods; the values given are from the literature as cited. But mixed layer DIC is important for setting the ^{14}C of the autochthonous marine OC component, effectively one end-member.*

By the way, what's SLE (P9774, Line12 and also P9773, Line5). *SLE was defined when first used on p 9769 line 6.*

3) There is no prior explanation of 'pre-bomb and post-bomb' (P9773, Line25). Even though I know the change about atmospheric ^{14}C concentrations before and after nuclear weapon test, it is still not easy to make clear what the authors intend to tell herein. *Again "pre-bomb" and "post-bomb" are widely used terms in the radiocarbon community and we do not fell that they need to be redefined here. Pre- and post-bomb terms are related to the DIC question noted above.*

P9780 Section 3.6: Components of OC can vary a lot in radiocarbon age, why the radiocarbon ages of bulk OC can be used in the mass balance method? *The goal of this paper was to use lipid biomarkers to tease apart the isotopic contributions from the marine, terrestrial, and*

relict components, and then to try to apportion sources and show how the relative contributions from each changes between the water column POM and the underlying sediments, i.e. bulk OC. Using the biomarkers, we thought would give a better opportunity to determine the relevant endmembers, given that, as the reviewer points out, components of OC can vary a lot in radiocarbon age. Thus the ^{14}C of the biomarkers is used to estimate the relative inputs from the different OC sources.

Review 2, with our responses in bold italics; red indicates the changes that will be made upon revision:

The Wakeham and McNichol paper examines the stable and radiocarbon composition of a quite wide range of lipid biomarkers from a unique set of marine particulate samples, including both water column particles and surface sediments from the Black Sea, Arabian Sea and Ross Sea with contrasting oceanic settings. Both the sample set and the compound-specific ^{14}C data are very precious, given the laborious nature and stringent analytical standard required for this type of analysis. Some of the results are the first attempt applied to the specific environment and will add valuable information on the source and fate of lipid compounds in the ocean. In this regard, the paper is very worthy of publication.

The authors further attempt to constrain the relative inputs of marine, terrigenous, and relict OC sources by utilizing a multiparameter mixing model. While this approach has been used in quite many papers previously, it is not very clearly explained here, particularly the end-member values. For instance, both C_{added} and C_{other} are mentioned. What's the difference? Does C_{added} include both CT and CR? If so, why is $_{14}C_{\text{added}}$ assumed to equal $_{14}C_{\text{relict}}$? I think this needs to be clarified as it has a decisive effect on the result of the mixing model solution. ***Our model differs from many that have been used because we are not able to use the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values (see comment below). This forces us to make assumptions that are not necessary in other models. The mention of both C_{added} and C_{other} is an editing mistake; C_{other} will be edited to C_{added} . Clarification of the confusion is attempted with the following editing of the text between lines 554-557 and 570-574.***

554-557 For each sample, there is a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value assigned to the bulk SLE extract, fresh marine, fresh terrestrial and a relict/terrestrial mix. Bulk material is assumed to be a mixture of fresh marine and other "added" material, where the added material refers to the fresh terrestrial and relict/terrestrial mix. Given this, we can derive an equation the relative amounts of marine and "added" material.

570-574 Truly relict material has a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value of -1000 ‰ and fresh terrigenous material has the values determined in this study ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}_T$, Table 5). As stated earlier, the measured value of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_R$ appears to be a mixture of truly relict material and terrigenous material with a suite of ages. If we assume that the value we measured for "relict" material (Table 5) is a good representation of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{added}}$, then we can assign a unique solution to the mass balance.

Also, on Page 9780, it says “the small differences in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ coupled with significant error make it difficult to use the stable isotopic composition as a discriminating factor in determining the sources of the bulk material”. But it seems that $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values in Table 4 are still used for the calculations. Why so? How are the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values chosen? *^{13}C values, obtained by the same averaging as for ^{14}C , are indeed included in Table 4, but as stated in the text their range was small and as such they were not helpful in distinguishing OC source so they were not used in mass balance.*

Finally, as compared with marine-derived lipids, terrestrially derived lipids are relatively poorly represented in Tables 1-3 with only 3 compound classes, although they are probably the most abundant and workable types in the solvent extractable lipids. But considering the large range of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values found for various marine lipids (in Arabian Sea, for example), how much confidence do you have in having these three types of lipids to represent the average ^{14}C content terrestrial OC? As compared with marine biota, lipids are a relatively smaller component in the terrestrial biomass or OC. Some recent work has shown that other major terrestrial biopolymers (lignin) may have different ^{14}C ages in surface sediments. How will this affect the end-member values and hence the result of the mixing model? *We don't know how to answer this except to say that we had to work with what we were able to measure. Other compounds like lignin would indeed have been helpful, but in most of the samples available, there would have been too little lignin to work with as the trap and several sediments would have contained little lignin, and in any event at the time of analysis compound-specific lignin methods were not available. The results of the mixing model are not presented as the absolute answer but as an indication of what the data suggest is happening.*

Specific comment: Page 9771, Line 15: Pearson and Eglinton (2000) is not found in the references. *Yes, it will be added. Pearson, A., and Eglinton, T. I.: The origin of n-alkanes in Santa Monica Basin surface sediment: a model based on compound-specific $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data. Org. Geochem. 31, 1103-1116, 2000.*

1 **Transfer of ~~organic carbon~~ through marine water columns to sediments –**

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2 **Insights from stable and radiocarbon isotopes of lipid biomarkers**

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16 Key words: marine sediments, sediment traps, lipid biomarkers, stable carbon isotopes,
17 radiocarbon, Black Sea, Arabian Sea, Ross Sea

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Abstract

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Compound-specific ^{13}C and ^{14}C compositions of diverse lipid biomarkers (fatty acids, alkenones, hydrocarbons, sterols, and fatty alcohols) were measured in sinking particulate matter collected in sediment traps and from underlying surface sediments in the Black Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Ross Sea. The goal was to develop a multi-parameter approach to constrain relative inputs of organic carbon (OC) from marine biomass, terrigenous vascular plant, and relict kerogen sources. Using an isotope mass balance, we calculate that marine biomass in sediment trap material from the Black Sea and Arabian Sea accounted for 66-100% of OC, with lower terrigenous (3-8%) and relict (4-16%) contributions. Marine biomass in sediments constituted lower proportions of OC (66-90%), with consequentially higher proportions of terrigenous and relict carbon (3-17% and 7-13%, respectively). Ross Sea data were insufficient to allow similar mass balance calculations. These results suggest that whereas particulate organic carbon is overwhelmingly marine in origin, pre-aged allochthonous terrigenous and relict OC become proportionally more important in sediments, consistent with pre-aged OC being better preserved during vertical transport to and burial at the seafloor than the upper ocean-derived marine OC.

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58 **1 Introduction**

59 The dynamics of sources, sinks and processes that control burial of organic carbon (OC)
60 in marine sediments have important implications for the global carbon cycle,
61 paleoceanographic reconstructions and understanding climate variability (Berner, 1982;
62 Hedges and Keil, 1995; Burdige, 2007; Zonneveld et al., 2010). Assigning the
63 provenance of sedimentary OC remains a difficult task. Most burial occurs on
64 continental margins where terrigenous material constitutes a significant proportion of the
65 burial flux (Hedges et al., 1997; Burdige, 2005). But even at open ocean locations
66 remote from the continents where marine OC dominates the water column flux via the
67 biological pump, a terrigenous component delivered by long-range aeolian transport
68 (Zafiriou et al., 1995; Gagosian and Peltzer, 1986; Eglinton et al., 2002; Kawamura et al.,
69 2003) is still recognizable in sediments (Prah et al., 1989; Wakeham et al., 2002;
70 Zonneveld et al., 2010). Myriad biogeochemical and sedimentological processes during
71 transport through the marine water column and at the sediment-water interface affect the
72 quantity and nature of sedimentary OC. Structural characterization of most marine
73 organic matter is incomplete (Hedges et al., 2000; Lee et al., 2004), but it is generally
74 thought that marine OC is more reactive than terrigenous plant and relict sediment OC
75 (Cowie and Hedges, 1984; Wakeham et al., 1997). Even a small fraction of the most
76 recalcitrant relict carbon is amenable to bacterial assimilation (Petsch et al., 2001, 2003;
77 Pearson et al., 2005; Wakeham et al., 2006). Selective enrichment of terrigenous OC in
78 marine sediments over what is observed in the water column may result from differences
79 in the intrinsic reactivity of the organic molecules themselves, protection by degradation-
80 resistant macro-organic matrices and mineral surfaces, or environmental conditions

81 (oxygen availability, oscillating redox, microbial consortia present) (Hedges and Keil,
82 1995; Hedges et al., 2001; Aller, 1994; Wakeham and Canuel, 2006; Burdige, 2007).

83 A suite of geochemical tools are applied to characterize the source(s) and fate of
84 OC in the marine water column and sediments. Elemental compositions and ratios (e.g.,
85 OC/N) are often combined with carbon isotope analyses at the bulk level. Natural
86 abundance stable carbon isotopes ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) give insight into carbon source, carbon
87 assimilation pathways and carbon flow in marine ecosystems and food webs (Hayes,
88 1993; Fry and Sherr, 1994; Freeman, 2001; Pearson, 2010). Natural-abundance
89 radiocarbon analyses ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ or fraction modern f_m) add the dimension of “age” to the
90 character of organic matter and help define the residence time and redistribution of OC
91 (Blair et al., 2003; Ingalls and Pearson, 2005; Griffith et al., 2010). Molecular analyses
92 of biomarkers can distinguish between marine (e.g., sterols, alkenones), terrigenous
93 (plant waxes and lignin phenols) and relict (alkanes with a carbon preference index of ~1
94 and often an unresolved complex mixture) materials in the heterogeneous mixture that is
95 sedimentary OC. But biomarker compounds are often present at low concentrations, and
96 extrapolations to bulk OC are formidable. Single-compound (compound-specific)
97 isotope analyses help in this respect because they combine the source-specificity of
98 biomarkers with $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{biomarker}}$ -derived information on carbon flow (Freeman et al., 1990;
99 Hayes, 2001; Freeman, 2001) and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{biomarker}}$ -derived ages that indicate mixing of old
100 with modern OC (Eglinton et al., 1997; McNichol and Aluwihare, 2007; Ingalls and
101 Pearson, 2005). Early investigations in the marine water column showed that whereas
102 sinking particulate OC comprised of fresh planktonic detritus has a young radiocarbon
103 age, surface sedimentary OC has older ages of a “pre-aged” and/or relict terrigenous

104 component (Druffel et al., 1996; Wang et al., 1998; Hwang et al., 2010). Compound-
105 specific radiocarbon measurements confirm pre-aged biomarkers in sedimentary OC
106 (review by Ingalls and Pearson, 2005), and compound-class radiocarbon analyses have
107 subsequently shown pre-aged OC in water column particulate matter (Wang et al., 2001;
108 review by McNichol and Aluwihare, 2007). However, to date combined
109 biomarker/stable carbon/radiocarbon studies of marine particulate matter are few (an
110 exception being Ingalls et al., 2006), largely due to sample size limitations.

111 The present investigation attempts to fill this gap. The combination of lipid
112 biomarker composition with molecular stable- and radio-carbon isotopes offers a three-
113 dimensional approach for investigating OC sources and transport and alteration processes
114 in the ocean. In this study, compound-specific stable carbon and radiocarbon isotopes
115 were measured on multiple lipid biomarkers in sinking particulate matter collected in
116 sediment traps and from underlying surface sediments to evaluate the provenance of
117 sedimentary organic matter. Three sets of paired sediment trap-surface sediment samples
118 (POM – particulate organic matter; SOM – sedimentary organic matter) from the Black
119 Sea, Arabian Sea and Ross Sea were investigated as representatives of oceanic regions
120 characterized by widely disparate OC sources and depositional environments. Organic
121 carbon content (%OC), atomic C/N ratios ($C/N_{(a)}$), $\delta^{13}C$ and $\Delta^{14}C$ of bulk materials and
122 individual biomarkers (fatty acids, hydrocarbons, alkenones, alcohols, and sterols) were
123 measured to identify major molecular and isotopic compositions, and thereby shifts in
124 relative amounts of marine, terrigenous (pre-aged vascular plant-derived with continental
125 residence times of decades to centuries) and relict (derived from eroded ancient
126 sedimentary rocks and petrogenic material) carbon, in POM and underlying SOM.

127 Throughout this discussion it is important to remember that the sediment trap samples are
128 short snap-shots in time (up to 6 months) whereas the surface sediments may represent
129 centuries.

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131 **2 Materials and Methods**

132 **2.1 Study sites and samples**

133 Paired sediment trap and surface sediment (~0-2 cm) samples from three settings
134 (Fig. 1) were studied: Black Sea (anoxic water column; high biogenic and high
135 terrigenous OC); Arabian Sea (oxygen minimum zone; high biogenic OC, low
136 terrigenous OC); Ross Sea, Antarctica (high biogenic flux, relict continental OC). The
137 choice of these locations was predicated in part on the availability of large amounts of
138 archived sinking particulate matter to facilitate compound-specific radiocarbon analyses.

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140 **2.1.1 Black Sea**

141 The Black Sea site was in southwestern Black Sea (42°N, 32°E), at station BS of
142 the joint U.S. Turkish/German sediment trap program 50 km north of Asmara and 15 km
143 from the base of the continental slope (Hay and Honjo, 1989; Hay et al., 1990). Anoxic
144 conditions prevail below ~120-150 m water depth (Sorokin, 1983). Underlying
145 sediments contain up to ~6% OC (Ross and Degens, 1974; Premuzic et al., 1982; Calvert
146 et al., 1991). Biogenic and lithogenic particle fluxes and sediment accumulation have
147 been reported by Hay (1987) and Hay et al. (1990). The site is offshore of the rugged
148 Pontic Mountains on the north-Anatolian coastline and the continental margin is
149 particularly steep, typically 6° between 100 and 2000 m depths (Ross et al., 1974).

150 Lithogenic material delivered by the Sarkarya Nehri, Filyos and Kocacay Rivers, usually
151 during winter/spring, is deposited on the shelf, is frequently resuspended by storms, and
152 is subsequently transported off-shore as either surface, mid-water (~150 m depth) or
153 bottom water nepheloid layers and turbidites; a surface plume extending out to the study
154 site is sometimes visible on LANDSAT imagery (Hay, 1987). Sedimentation of
155 lithogenic material out of the water column is enhanced by biogenic material derived
156 from the annual succession of blooms of the coccolithophoride *Emiliana huxleyi* (spring)
157 and pennate diatoms *Rhizosolenia* sp. (summer), producing the characteristic light-dark
158 laminae (varve couplets) of Black Sea sediments (Hay, 1987; Hay et al., 1991). White
159 laminae are comprised almost exclusively of coccolithophores of *E. huxleyi*, whereas
160 dark laminae are predominately terrigenous clay minerals.

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161 Sediment trap material (18.5 g dry weight) from the moored BS trap at ~250 m
162 depth under strongly anoxic conditions is a composite of a seven month-long time-series
163 collection (October 1985-April 1986). Trap material was preserved with buffered
164 formalin and stored refrigerated at 4°C. Surface sediment (0-2 cm; 109.7 gdw) was
165 composited from multicores collected at 2200 m water depth during the 1988 Black Sea
166 Expedition (Murray and Izdar, 1989; Hay and Honjo, 1989) at approximately the same
167 location as the trap mooring. Sediments were stored frozen. Radiocarbon dating of
168 sediments near the study site gave a sedimentation rate of 26 cm/kyr (Arthur and Dean,
169 1998). Thus the 0-2 cm sediment interval represents approximately one century.

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171 2.1.2 Arabian Sea

172 Arabian Sea samples were collected at mooring site MS-1 in the northwestern
173 Arabian Sea (Oman Margin) during the U.S. JGOFS Arabian Sea Process Study (ASPS)
174 in 1994-1995 (Smith et al., 1998). MS-1 was approximately 160 km from the Oman
175 coast off Ra's Sharbatat (17°41'N, 58°51'E) at a water depth of 1445 m. High seasonal
176 productivity during monsoon-driven upwelling enhances export into deep waters where
177 remineralization of sinking organic matter depletes dissolved oxygen down to levels of
178 ~5 μ M, producing the world's largest open ocean oxygen minimum zone (OMZ) (Smith
179 et al., 1998). Greater than 50% of the annual particle flux in the central Arabian Sea
180 occurs during the boreal summer southwest monsoon. Biogenic material, primarily
181 diatom-derived, dominates over lithogenic material (Haake et al., 1996; Honjo et al.,
182 1999), but some terrigenous material is delivered to the northwestern Arabian Sea as dust
183 from the Horn of Africa (Somalia and Ethiopia) and from the Arabian Peninsula by
184 strong summer monsoon winds (Ramage et al., 1972; Sirocko and Samthein, 1989; Dahl
185 et al., 2005).

186 Sediment trap material (35.5 gdw) was a composite of material collected in time-
187 series traps deployed in the OMZ at ~500 and ~900 m between May 1995 and January
188 1996, covering the southwest monsoon period (Wakeham et al., 2002). Mercuric
189 chloride was used as a biocide. Upon recovery, trap samples were sealed and stored
190 refrigerated at 4°C. Surface sediments (0-2 cm) were composited (142.7 gdw) from
191 multicores collected in 1995 at the same location as the trap deployment and stored
192 frozen. Passier et al. (1997) have estimated the sedimentation rate for this part of the
193 Oman Margin at 5 cm/kyr; the sediment sample thus represents about 400 years.

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195 **2.1.3 Ross Sea**

196 The Ross Sea site was in the southwestern Ross Sea where diatoms, primarily
197 *Nitzschia* sp., and *Phaeocystis antarctica*, dominate the phytoplankton community and
198 vertical flux during the austral summer bloom (Arrigo et al., 2002; Dunbar et al., 2003).
199 Sediments are largely biogenic oozes (biogenic silica 10-30%) with low OC (0.1-3%,
200 averaging 1.5%) and negligible biogenic carbonate (Dunbar et al., 1985; 1989).
201 Terrigenous material, primary lithogenics with low OC content, is delivered by glaciers
202 that drain the polar plateau and by aeolian transport from the ice-free Dry Valleys and
203 accounts for 2-25% of the vertical flux through the water column. In the western Ross
204 Sea, ice-rafted debris constitutes ~10% of sediments (Anderson et al., 1984) and aeolian
205 sedimentation (either through sea ice or directly onto the sea surface) could be up to 50%
206 of sediments in nearshore areas with limited glacial ice cover (Bentley, 1979, cited in
207 Dunbar et al., 1989). Nonetheless, sedimentary OC is dominated by biogenic water
208 column sources. Sediments are resuspended, mixed and redistributed within a pervasive
209 nepheloid layer.

210 Ross Sea samples were collected during 1998 cruises of the ROAVERRS
211 (Research on Ocean-Atmosphere Variability and Ecosystem Response in the Ross Sea)
212 program (Dunbar et al., 2003). Trap material (48.2 gdw) came from Gentoo and Adelie
213 time-series traps located at about 76° S, 172 E in the southwestern Ross Sea and
214 deployed ~50 m above the sea floor in 650-m deep water (Dunbar et al., 2003). Trap
215 material was preserved with 3% formalin and stored at 4°C. Surface sediments (515.1
216 gdw) were obtained from box cores (Ohkouchi et al., 2003) and stored frozen.

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218 Sedimentation rate determinations for the Antarctic margin often use acid-
219 insoluble organic carbon (AIOC) due to lack of calcareous foraminifera (Domack et al.
220 1989; Licht et al. 1996; Harris et al. 1996; Andrew et al. 1999). DeMaster et al. (1996)
221 reported AIOC-derived sedimentation rates in this region of the Ross Sea at ~4.5 cm/kyr.
222 AIOC-based chronology, however, is complicated by “contamination” by unknown
223 amounts of relict OC (Sackett et al. 1974). To overcome this problem, Ohkouchi et al.
224 (2003) applied compound-specific radiocarbon analysis of sedimentary fatty acids for
225 cores from the Gento and Adelie sites and found a 1200-2000 year offset between ages
226 of fatty acids and AIOC. The fatty acid-derived sedimentation rate was 7.5 cm/kyr vs. an
227 AIOC-derived rate of 15 cm/kyr. The sediment sample therefore represents 130-250
228 years of deposition.

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230 **2.2 Elemental analysis**

231 Freeze-dried and acidified (Hedges and Stern, 1984) trap material (bulk POM)
232 and sediments (bulk SOM) were analyzed for organic carbon (%OC) and total nitrogen
233 (TN) with a Fisons CHN analyzer (Model EA 1108) elemental analyzer.

234

235 **2.3 Lipid analysis**

236 Extraction, cleanup and isolation of fatty acids, hydrocarbons, alcohols and sterols
237 by preparative capillary gas chromatography (PCGC; Eglinton et al., 1996) are outlined
238 in Fig. 2. All laboratory glassware and SiO₂ were precombusted at 500 °C for 8 hr before
239 use. Freeze-dried POM and SOM were Soxhlet-extracted with methylene-
240 chloride:methanol (DCM:MeOH, 2:1 v/v) for 72 hr. Extracts were washed with 5%

241 NaCl solution and solvent lipid extracts (SLEs) were partitioned into DCM, after which
242 the DCM fraction was dried over Na₂SO₄. SLEs were saponified using 0.5 N KOH at
243 100° C for 2 hr, and nonsaponifiable lipids were extracted out of the alkaline mixture
244 with hexane after which the pH was adjusted to <2 with 6N HCl and acids were extracted
245 with hexane. Non-saponifiable lipids were fractionated on 5% deactivated silica gel into
246 a hydrocarbon fraction eluted with hexane, an alkenone fraction eluted with 10%
247 ethylacetate in hexane and an alcohol/sterol fraction eluted with 25% ethylacetate in
248 hexane. Straight-chained hydrocarbons were separated from branched and cyclic
249 hydrocarbons by urea adduction. Alkenones were isolated by sequential silica gel,
250 AgNO₃/silica gel chromatography and urea adduction after Ohkouchi et al. (2005).
251 Alcohols and sterols were acetylated with pyridine and acetic anhydride. Acids were
252 methylated with BF₃:MeOH and the fatty acid methyl esters (FAMES) were purified on
253 columns of activated SiO₂.

254

255 **2.4 Stable and Radiocarbon Analysis**

256 Isolation of purified individual hydrocarbons, sterol acetates, alcohol acetates and
257 FAMES was by preparative capillary gas chromatography (PCGC; Eglinton et al., 1996;
258 Wakeham et al., 2006). An HP 5980II GC equipped with an HP 7673 autoinjector, a
259 Gerstel CIS-3 cooled injection system and a Gerstel preparative fraction collector (PFC)
260 was fitted with RTX-1 megabore (60 m x 0.53 mm id x 0.5µm film) capillary column.
261 The GC temperature program was 60°C (1 min), 20°C/min to 160°C, 4°C/min to 300°C
262 and isothermal at 300°C for 20 min. An effluent splitter directed 1% of the column
263 effluent to the FID and the remaining 99% was sent to the zero-dead-volume splitter of

264 the PFC. The PFC was operated at 320°C and U-tube traps were held at room
265 temperature. Purified fractions were checked for purity and quantified by gas
266 chromatography-mass spectrometry (Agilent 6890 gas chromatograph, Agilent 5793
267 mass spectrometer, 30 m x 0.25 mm i.d. J&W DB-5 capillary column). Individual,
268 composited compounds or operational classes were transferred to glass ampules and
269 flame-sealed for isotope analysis.

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270 Stable and radio-carbon isotope measurements were made at the National Ocean
271 Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (NOSAMS) Facility at the Woods Hole
272 Oceanographic Institution. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values are reported relative to the VPDB (precision ± 0.2
273 ‰) and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values are reported according to Stuiver and Polach (1977) using the year of
274 sample collection for age correction. Acidified POM and SOM were transferred to pre-
275 combusted Vycor tubes containing CuO and Ag powder. Sample extracts and isolated
276 biomarkers were transferred with solvent to pre-combusted Vycor tubes, and after
277 evaporating the solvent, 100 mg pre-combusted CuO was added to the tube. Samples
278 were combusted to CO_2 at 850°C for 5 hours. After purification and quantification, a
279 split of the CO_2 was analyzed for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ on a VG Micromass Optima isotope ratio mass
280 spectrometer. The remaining CO_2 was reduced to filamentous graphite over either Fe or
281 Co powder. Radiocarbon analyses of both large and small samples were performed using
282 standard NOSAMS procedures (McNichol et al., 1994; von Reden et al., 1998; Pearson et
283 al., 1998). Processing and combustion blanks of a hydrocarbon fraction isolated from a
284 south Louisiana crude oil had replicate $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values between -980 and -998 ‰ (f_m 0.03
285 and 0.001, respectively). Contributions of added methyl carbon derived from methanol
286 in FAMES and acetyl carbons from acetic anhydride in alcohol and sterol esters were

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290 removed by isotopic mass balance (Pearson, 2000; Wakeham et al., 2006). The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and
291 $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values of carbon in the $\text{BF}_3\text{:MeOH}$ and acetic anhydride reagents were calculated
292 by measuring the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values of palmitic acid and cholesterol standards and of
293 methylpalmitate and cholesteryl acetate prepared using the same lots of $\text{BF}_3\text{-MeOH}$ and
294 acetic anhydride, respectively, and isolated by PCGC.

295 Several FA had unusually high $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values and were not used in subsequent
296 calculations of ranges, means and standard deviations of radiocarbon data (shown in bold
297 italics in Tables 1-3). The reasons for these enrichments are unknown (see Wakeham et
298 al., 2006 for additional discussion). Radiotracers had never been used in the SkIO
299 laboratory that was thoroughly checked for any radiocarbon contamination and crude oil
300 process blanks were free of modern carbon. The most enriched FA (most often but not
301 always 16:0, 18:1 and 18:0) were compounds isolated in the highest concentrations and
302 thus for which larger amounts of carbon were analyzed by AMS rather than the less-
303 abundant compounds. Such enrichments were not systematic, and in several cases
304 replicate AMS analyses from splits of the same isolates were made, but with similar
305 results indicating that any contamination must have occurred prior to or during PCGC
306 workup. However, Levin and Kromer (1997) suggested that the average ^{14}C of
307 atmospheric CO_2 between 1980 and present may have been $\sim 200\text{‰}$ whereas analysis of
308 post-bomb sediment from the Santa Monica Basin by Pearson and Eglinton (2000)
309 indicates an average ^{14}C of atmospheric CO_2 around 1960 may have been $\sim 400\text{‰}$. Thus
310 while it is not possible to completely rule out incorporation of higher amounts of post-
311 bomb ^{14}C into these biomarkers $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$, other marine biomarkers and bulk OC are not
312 consistent with such a scenario.

313

314 **3 Results and discussion**

315 **3.1 Bulk elemental compositions**

316 Organic carbon contents (%OC) of POM (Fig. 3a) were 8.7 % in the Black Sea
317 (BS), 6.4 % in the Arabian Sea (AS) and 5.5 % in the Ross Sea (RS). Total nitrogen
318 (%TN) contents were 1.1, 0.86, and 0.92 %, respectively, for the BS, AS and RS trap
319 material. Thus atomic C/N ratios were 7.7, 7.4, and 5.9 (Fig. 3b). Sediment %OC and
320 %TN were lower: 1.8, 2.3, and 0.54 % OC for the BS, AS, and RS, respectively; 0.20,
321 0.29, and 0.08 % TN for the BS, AS, and RS, respectively. $C/N_{(a)}$ ratios for sediments
322 were somewhat higher (9.4, 7.7, 6.5 for BS, AS, and RS, respectively) than for POM.
323 Except for the BS sediment, $C/N_{(a)}$ ratios of the other trap and sediment samples were
324 sufficiently Redfield-like to indicate the predominance of marine OC. The higher $C/N_{(a)}$
325 ratio of the BS sediment suggests a somewhat higher component of terrigenous OC;
326 alternately the higher $C/N_{(a)}$ ratio could result from preferential loss of nitrogen during
327 degradation of OC, but this process is likely limited by the anoxic water column of the
328 BS.

329

330 **3.2 Bulk stable carbon isotopes**

331 BS and AS POM $\delta^{13}C_{OC}$ values were typical for marine dominated OC: -22.9‰
332 and -22.4‰ for the Black Sea and Arabian Sea, respectively (Fig. 4a). $\delta^{13}C_{OC}$ values for
333 the corresponding SOM were both slightly more negative (BS -25.3‰) and more
334 positive (AS -20.8‰) compared to the corresponding POM. The ^{13}C -depletion in the
335 BS sediment could reflect a greater long-term/time-averaged terrigenous C_3 -plant OC

336 component (Collister et al., 1994; Conte and Weber, 2002; Chikaraishi et al., 2004) from
337 the heavily wooded Anatolian coast than was present in the short-term trap sample. The
338 relative enrichment of the AS sediment compared to the trap material could be the result
339 of the addition of isotopically-enriched aeolian-transported OC derived from C₄-grasses
340 in the arid Horn of Africa and Arabian Peninsula (Parker et al., 2004; Dahl et al., 2005),
341 but again sampling time-scales for trap and sediment are different.

342 The Ross Sea is a very different environment. Both POM and SOM had $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$
343 values of -27.9‰ , significantly isotopically depleted compared to BS and AS samples.
344 Algal biomass at high latitudes is typically depleted in ^{13}C relative to algal OC at lower
345 latitudes (Rau et al., 1991a,b; DeHairs et al., 1997; Freeman, 2001). Several factors may
346 be involved in this differential photosynthetic isotope fractionation, including high algal
347 growth rates, higher dissolved CO₂ concentrations associated with low seawater
348 temperatures, and carbon assimilation mechanism (Rau et al., 1991a,b; DeHairs et al.,
349 1997; Freeman, 2001). In the open southwest Ross Sea, diatom and *Phaeocystis* biomass
350 is -28‰ to -27‰ (Villinski et al., 2000). Sea-ice algae would add ^{13}C -enriched OC
351 (Gleitz et al., 1996; Gibson et al., 1999; Villinski et al., 2000) but is not a significant
352 source of algal OC at the study site. Antarctic kerogen and coal have $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ values of $-$
353 22‰ and -24‰ , respectively (Sackett, 1986; Burkins et al., 2000), and soils from the
354 McMurdo Dry Valley region have a wide range of $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ values, $\sim-30\text{‰}$ to $\sim-18\text{‰}$
355 (and C/N(a) of 11 ± 4) (Burkins et al., 2000).

356 Solvent lipid extracts (SLE) would help bridge the gap between bulk OC and
357 individual biomarkers. In all three sample pairs, SLE's were depleted by up to 4‰ in
358 ^{13}C compared with the respective bulk OC's (Fig. 4b). $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{SLE}}$ values for both traps and

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360 sediments followed the same trend among samples as $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$: $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{AS-SLE}} > \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{BS-SLE}} >$
361 $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{RS-SLE}}$. Lipids are a relatively abundant fraction of OC in phytoplankton and
362 zooplankton but are usually only a few percent of OC in particulate matter and sediments
363 (Wakeham et al., 1997; Wang and Druffel, 2001). They would thus not be major
364 contributors to particulate and sedimentary $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ compared to more abundant proteins
365 and carbohydrates that are ~4-6 ‰ enriched in ^{13}C relative to lipids. Intra-class
366 comparisons of isotopic compositions in marine systems are few. A study of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of
367 particulate and sedimentary OC in the northeast Pacific and Southern Oceans found that
368 total hydrolysable amino acids (THAA) and total carbohydrates (TCHO) in
369 phytoplankton, zooplankton and sediments were enriched in ^{13}C by about ~2 ‰ and ~3
370 ‰, respectively, relative to OC whereas lipids were depleted ~4 ‰ relative to OC (Wang
371 et al., 1998; Wang and Druffel, 2001).

372

373 **3.3 Bulk radiocarbon isotopes**

374 Radiocarbon isotopic values for BS and AS trap OC ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$) were 21 ‰ and 14
375 ‰ and for BS and AS sediments were -199 ‰ and -138 ‰, respectively (Fig. 4c and
376 Tables 1-3 which also lists radiocarbon ages and fraction (%) modern, f_m). RS POC and
377 SOC were depleted in ^{14}C (-208 ‰ and -355 ‰, respectively) relative to the two other
378 sites. $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ values for pre-bomb and post-bomb mixed-layer DIC (dissolved inorganic
379 carbon) in the Black Sea are ~-70 ‰ and 100 ‰, respectively (Jones and Gagnon, 1994)
380 and in the AS are ~-60 ‰ and ~70 ‰ (Stuiver and Östlund, 1983; Southon et al., 2002);
381 these values determine the $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ of autochthonous marine biomass. Pre-bomb and post-
382 bomb $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ values in the Ross Sea are lower than elsewhere, -130 ‰ and -100 ‰,

383 respectively (Berkman and Forman 1996; Gordon and Harkness 1992; Hall et al., 2010).
384 In the AS and RS, upwelling of ^{14}C -depleted deep-waters and the short residence time of
385 surface waters lead to the high surface-water reservoir ages (~ 700 yr and ~ 1100 yr for AS
386 and RS, respectively vs. ~ 400 yr for open ocean locations, including the BS; Stuiver and
387 Braziunas, 1993; Siani et al., 2000; Southon et al., 2002; Key, 2004; Hall et al., 2010).
388 Thus trap OC displayed post-bomb signatures for their respective regions but additionally
389 contained older carbon, especially in the Ross Sea. Sediments contained significant
390 contributions of old carbon, and corrected $^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ -ages (Tables 1-3) are significantly older
391 than estimated geological ages (100-400 yr, admittedly based on $^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ -derived
392 sedimentation rates).

393 Trap and sediment SLE's for the BS and RS had higher $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{SLE}}$ values than
394 corresponding $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ values (Fig. 4d): $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{SLE}}$ values were -96 ‰ and -150 ‰ for BS
395 trap and sediment, respectively; -154 ‰ and -211 ‰ for RS trap and sediment. That the
396 BS and RS trap lipid fractions had lower $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{SLE}}$ values than $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ values indicates that
397 some old carbon was extractable (e.g., plant waxes and petroleum hydrocarbons). But
398 the higher sediment $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{SLE}}$ values than sediment $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ suggested that residual OC
399 remaining after solvent extraction must be, by extension, still older, such as non-
400 extractable kerogen, especially in the RS sediment. On the other hand, $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{SLE}}$ of the AS
401 trap material was enriched (66 ‰) compared to $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ value, but the sediment was
402 depleted (-173 ‰) relative to its $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}}$ value. Thus solvent extraction of the AS trap
403 material released a greater proportion of fresh, young algal lipid into the SLE but
404 extraction of the sediment recovered an SLE with a greater proportion of older lipid. In
405 the only other reports to our knowledge that measured $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{SLE}}$ (Wang et al., 1998; Wang

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410 and Druffel, 2001), plankton and sedimentary lipids in the northeastern Pacific and
411 Southern Ocean were similar to or lower than, respectively, $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ of total OC. Lipids,
412 THAA and TCHO all had similar $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values in plankton, but in sediments lipids usually
413 had lower $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ signatures than THAA and THCO.

414

415 **3.4 Biomarker molecular compositions**

416 Biomarker analyses focused on fatty acids, alkenones, fatty alcohols, sterols, and
417 hydrocarbons (Figs 5-7). In the following discussion, the operational distinction is made
418 between biomarkers of marine origin (hereafter termed “marine OC”), those derived from
419 pre-aged terrestrial vascular plants (“terrestrial OC”) and compounds originating from
420 eroded ancient sediment or petrogenic sources (“relict OC”). In all POM samples, short-
421 chain $\text{C}_{14}\text{-C}_{24}$ *n*- and methyl-branched *iso*- and *anteiso*- C_{15} and C_{17} compounds of marine
422 biomass dominated fatty acid distributions (Volkman, 2006). Long-chain, even-carbon
423 number predominant $\text{C}_{24}\text{-C}_{30}$ terrestrial vascular plant *n*-fatty acids were ~10-fold less
424 abundant. Sediments contained similar fatty acid distributions but with higher relative
425 abundances (but still ~3-5-fold less abundant) of long-chain compounds. Long-chain
426 $\text{C}_{37}\text{-C}_{39}$ alkenones derived from the haptophyte, *Emiliania huxleyi* (Volkman et al.,
427 1980), were abundant in BS (where coccoliths of *E. huxleyi* constitute the light laminae)
428 and AS traps and sediments, but absent from the RS. Low levels of hydrocarbons, a mix
429 of $\text{C}_{15}\text{-C}_{36}$ *n*-alkanes and an unresolved complex mixture (UCM) in the $\text{C}_{14}\text{-C}_{22}$ carbon
430 number range were present in BS and AS samples at levels ~10-fold lower than fatty
431 acids; none above blanks were detected in the RS. Short-chain *n*-alkanes ($\text{C}_{16}\text{-C}_{22}$)
432 showed no odd-over-even carbon number predominance (CPI ~1) and were underlain by

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434 an unresolved complex mixture (UCM), whereas long-chain *n*-alkanes (C₂₅ – C₃₁) were
435 odd-carbon predominant (CPI > 5). C₂₅-highly branched isoprenoid (HBI) alkenes of
436 diatom origin were the dominant hydrocarbons in AS POM but were only minor
437 components in BS POM and sediments and AS sediments. No hydrocarbons (above
438 blanks) were detected in RS samples. All POM samples contained abundant *n*-
439 hexadecanol (16 ROH, assumed derived primarily from zooplankton wax esters) and C₂₇-
440 C₃₀-Δ⁵, Δ^{5,22}, Δ^{5,24(28)} sterols [e.g., cholest-5-en-3β-ol (cholesterol), abbreviated as 27Δ⁵;
441 24-methylcholesta-5,22-dien-3β-ol, 28Δ^{5,22}; 24-methylcholesta-5,24(28)-dien-3β-ol,
442 28Δ^{5,24(28)}]; and in the BS, a significant amount of 4,23,24-trimethylcholest-22-en-3β-ol
443 (dinosterol), 30Δ²²], all of marine origin (Volkman, 2006). POM contained only low
444 amounts of even-carbon number predominant C₂₄-C₃₀ *n*-alcohols produced by vascular
445 plants, but sediments contained higher abundances of terrestrial *n*-alcohols than sterols.
446

447 3.5 Biomarker isotopic compositions

448 PCGC isolation for compound-specific isotope analyses targeted the most
449 abundant biomarkers of marine, terrigenous plant and relict origins. Short-chain *n*-fatty
450 acids (C₁₄-C₂₄, abbreviated as 14:0 FA, etc), C₃₇+C₃₈-alkenones, a short-chain *n*-fatty
451 alcohol [16ROH (*n*-hexadecanol)] and sterols [cholest-5-en-3β-ol (cholesterol),
452 abbreviated as 27Δ⁵; 24-methylcholesta-5,22-dien-3β-ol, 28Δ^{5,22}; and 4,23,24-
453 trimethylcholest-22-en-3β-ol (dinosterol), 30Δ²²], were designated as marine biomarkers.
454 Long-chain even-carbon number *n*-acids (C₂₆-C₃₀) and *n*-alcohols (C₂₄-C₂₈) and long-
455 chain odd-carbon numbered *n*-alkanes (C₂₇, and C₂₉) were tagged as terrigenous, vascular
456 plant markers; in some cases the long-chain fatty acids could be isolated individually but

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459 in other cases composites (e.g. C₂₄+C₂₆+C₂₈ fatty acids) were required. Long-chain even-
460 carbon numbered *n*-alkanes (composited C₂₄+C₂₆+C₂₈) and, in the AS sediment, short-
461 chain C₁₅+C₁₆+C₁₇+C₁₈ alkanes (and including some unresolved complex mixture that
462 could not be removed) were used as relict markers since these alkanes are not abundant in
463 marine or terrestrial biomass. As will be shown below, using long-chain *n*-alkanes as
464 either terrigenous plant or relict markers is problematic because in the present samples
465 there is overlap between odd- vs even-chain lengths and plant vs. relict sources. Thus it
466 is possible that long-chain *n*-alcohols, if present in sufficient abundances, may represent
467 the best “terrigenous” biomarkers since they would have neither modern marine (major
468 alcohols in wax esters are C₁₆ and C₁₈; Wakeham, 1982) nor relict sources. Highly
469 branched C₂₅ alkenes (HBI) of diatom origin (Belt et al., 2000) were the most abundant
470 hydrocarbons in AS trap material, less so in AS sediments, but they were underlain by a
471 UCM that could not be removed, thus yielding unrealistically ¹⁴C depleted results. In the
472 RS POM and SOM, only fatty acids, 16 ROH, and sterols (cholest-5-en-3β-ol and 24-
473 methylcholesta-5,22-dien-3β-ol) could be isolated. Stable carbon and radiocarbon
474 isotope results were weighted according to their abundance within each sample to give
475 means for each of the three sources (marine, terrigenous, and relict) that are designated
476 below as δ¹³C_M and Δ¹⁴C_M, δ¹³C_T and Δ¹⁴C_T, and δ¹³C_R and Δ¹⁴C_R.

477

478 3.5.1 Black Sea

479 For the Black Sea POM, short-chain fatty acids, long-chain alkenones, and sterols
480 had δ¹³C values between -26.1 ‰ to -23.2 ‰ (Fig. 8a and Table 1), generally 1-4 ‰
481 more ¹³C-depleted than bulk POM (-22.9 ‰). Interestingly, alkenones were the most

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485 ^{13}C -depleted of this group. Overall these “marine” biomarkers had an abundance
486 weighted average $\delta^{13}\text{C}_M$ of -25.3 ± 1.1 ‰ (Table 4), typical for marine lipids.
487 Radiocarbon values for the marine biomarkers (excluding the highly ^{14}C -enriched 18:1
488 fatty acid outlier at 288 ‰) ranged from 65 ‰ to 146 ‰, giving $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_M$ of 92 ± 28 ‰,
489 considerably enriched in ^{14}C relative to bulk POM ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{OC} -199$ ‰) (Fig. 8b). Long-
490 chain even-carbon number acids and alcohols and odd-carbon number alkanes had $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
491 values ranging from -30.1 ‰ to -27.0 ‰, yielding a mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_T -28.7 \pm 1.6$ ‰, roughly
492 3‰ depleted in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ compared to marine lipids. Terrigenous markers had a much greater
493 range of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values (1 ‰ for the fatty acids, -44 ‰ for the alcohols, and -181 ‰ for the
494 alkanes) but a mean $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_T$ of -53 ± 60 ‰. It is possible that some fraction of the long-
495 chain fatty acids are zooplankton (wax ester) derived young carbon whereas the long
496 chain alkanes may contain a relict component. Thus the long-chain alcohols may
497 represent the best “terrigenous” biomarkers since they would have neither modern marine
498 (major alcohols in wax esters are C_{16} and C_{18} ; Wakeham, 1982) nor relict sources with a
499 $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ of -1000 ‰. The single sample of “relict” biomarkers isolated by PCGC was a
500 composite of $\text{C}_{24}+\text{C}_{26}+\text{C}_{28}$ *n*-alkanes that had a $\delta^{13}\text{C}_R$ of -29.3 ± 0.2 ‰ and a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_R$ of $-$
501 677 ± 10 ‰; this $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value probably also reflects a mix of moderately pre-aged
502 terrigenous ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ of -44 ‰ might be reasonable if the alcohols are a good representative
503 of terrigenous OC) and radiocarbon-dead ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}_R$ of -1000) relict carbon.

504 Marine biomarkers in the BS sediment had $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values ranging from -31.9 ‰ to
505 -26.0 ‰ (mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_M -28.8 \pm 1.1$ ‰), about 2.5 ‰ depleted in ^{13}C relative to both BS
506 bulk SOM (-25.3 ‰) and the marine group of BS POM (also -25.3 ‰). Radiocarbon
507 contents of marine biomarkers ranged from -46 ‰ to 75 ‰ (mean $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_M 2 \pm 44$ ‰,

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512 excluding 16:0 at 214 ‰ and 18:0 at 374 ‰), considerably enriched in ¹⁴C relative to
513 bulk POM ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{OC}} -199$ ‰) but depleted in ¹⁴C compared to marine biomarkers in BS
514 POM. Terrigenous biomarkers displayed $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values between -31.9 ‰ to -29.7 ‰
515 (mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{T}} -30.5 \pm 0.65$ ‰). Thus although there was a considerable overlap in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
516 values for marine and terrigenous groups, concentration weighting yielded an offset of ~
517 2 ‰ as would be expected. Plant-wax alkanes (C_{27} and C_{29}) and alcohols (C_{24} and C_{26})
518 were strongly depleted in $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ relative to the marine lipids (range -231 ‰ to -100 ‰),
519 with a mean $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{T}}$ of -171 ± 58 ‰. Long-chain even-carbon numbered [$\text{C}_{24}+\text{C}_{26}+\text{C}_{28}$]
520 alkanes had a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value of -29.3 ‰ and a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{R}}$ of -609 ‰, again suggesting they are

521 pre-aged but not exclusively relict. A similar spread in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values for marine,
522 vascular plant and relict hydrocarbon biomarkers had been previously reported for Black
523 Sea and Arabian Sea sediments (Eglinton et al., 1997).

525 3.5.2. Arabian Sea

526 The marine biomarkers in the AS trap POM had $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values between -27.1 ‰
527 and -16.7 ‰ (mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{M}} -23.5 \pm 2.5$) and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ contents ranging from -91 ‰ to 111 ‰
528 (Fig. 9a and b and Table 2) (mean $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{M}} -67 \pm 40$ excluding $\text{C}_{14:0}$ at 178 ‰ and HBI
529 alkenes at -514 ‰). The negative $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value for the HBI alkenes is due inclusion of a
530 UCM which could not be removed. The only vascular plant compounds in the AS trap in
531 sufficient quantity for AMS analysis were analyzed as a composite of [$\text{C}_{27}+\text{C}_{29}$] *n*-
532 alkanes, giving a $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{T}}$ of -28.4 ‰ and a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{T}}$ of -320 ‰. The single sample of
533 [$\text{C}_{24}+\text{C}_{26}+\text{C}_{28}$] *n*-alkanes gave a $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{R}}$ of -28.5 ± 0.2 ‰ and a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{R}}$ of -731 ± 14 ‰.

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536 The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values for marine biomarkers in AS sediments ranged from -26.8‰ to
537 -18.2‰ ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_M$ mean $-24.5 \pm 2.1\text{‰}$), and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ ranged from 104 to -171‰ ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}_M -$
538 $59 \pm 60\text{‰}$, excluding 18:0 FA at 190‰ and HBI alkenes at -256‰). Vascular plant
539 [$\text{C}_{26}+\text{C}_{28}+\text{C}_{30}$] *n*-alcohols had a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value of -24.1‰ and a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value of $-113 \pm 13\text{‰}$
540 and [$\text{C}_{27}+\text{C}_{29}$] *n*-alkanes displayed a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value of -27.7‰ and a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value of $-430 \pm$
541 11‰ . Together, the terrigenous biomarkers had a concentration weighted $\delta^{13}\text{C}_T$ value of
542 $-27.7 \pm 0.20\text{‰}$ and a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_T$ of $-270 \pm 110\text{‰}$. Two groups of *n*-alkanes in AS sediments
543 could be assigned to relict sources. Short-chain [$\text{C}_{14}+\text{C}_{15}+\text{C}_{16}+\text{C}_{17}$] alkanes and the UCM
544 under this group of homologs had a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value of -29.4‰ and a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value of -887‰ .
545 Long-chain [$\text{C}_{24}+\text{C}_{26}+\text{C}_{28}$] *n*-alkanes had a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value of -27.7‰ and a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value of $-$
546 430‰ . Thus $\delta^{13}\text{C}_R$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_R$ for the AS sediments would be $-28.4 \pm 0.2\text{‰}$ and -879
547 $\pm 45\text{‰}$, respectively.

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548 549 3.5.3. Ross Sea

550 Ross Sea POM and SOM contained only marine-derived fatty acids (here C_{26} is
551 considered marine assuming the absence of much terrigenous FA input to the RS) and
552 alcohols/sterols in sufficient abundance for compound-specific isotopic analysis. In
553 keeping with a ^{13}C isotope depletion in high latitude regions, noted above, fatty acids had
554 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values ranging from -35.3 to -31.7‰ and alcohols/sterols values ranging from $-$
555 35.4 to -31.8‰ (Fig. 10a and Table 3), together giving a mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_M$ of $-33.3 \pm 1.8\text{‰}$.
556 Radiocarbon contents ranged from -216 to -100‰ , with the alcohols/sterols slightly
557 depleted relative to the fatty acids, for a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_M -155 \pm 47\text{‰}$ (Fig. 10b).

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561 Fatty acids and sterols/alcohols in RS sediments had $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values ranging from –
562 36.6 to -31.7‰ and -34.3 to -33.0‰ , respectively, for a mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_M$ of $-34.3 \pm 1.9\text{‰}$.
563 Radiocarbon contents of fatty acids from RS sediments were more variable than for RS
564 POM, with values ranging from -302 to -83‰ . Sterols from RS sediments were very
565 unchanged from sterols in POM with $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values between -202 and -178‰ for sterols.
566 Overall this gave a mean $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_M$ of $-163 \pm 77\text{‰}$, also essentially the same as for $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_M$
567 of the trap material.

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569 3.6 The provenance of POM and SOM in the Black Sea and Arabian Sea

570 Concentration-weighted isotope values (Table 4) can be used to constrain the
571 ranges of isotopic compositions of marine, terrigenous and relict biomarkers, and by
572 extension organic carbon, in Black Sea and Arabian Sea POM and SOM. Neither
573 terrigenous nor relict biomarkers could be isolated from the Ross Sea in sufficient
574 quantities for AMS analyses. Overall, $\delta^{13}\text{C}_M > \delta^{13}\text{C}_T \sim \delta^{13}\text{C}_R$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_M > \Delta^{14}\text{C}_T \gg$
575 $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_R$ (Fig. 11). Furthermore, SOM biomarkers were generally ^{13}C -depleted and ^{14}C -
576 depleted relative to their corresponding POM samples, indicative of higher proportions of
577 ^{13}C depleted but older, pre-aged OC in sediments. The range of $\delta^{13}\text{C}_R$ was relatively
578 small compared to $\delta^{13}\text{C}_M$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_T$ of POM and SOM, but the span of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_R$ values was
579 quite large since the odd carbon number hydrocarbons constituting these groups are a mix
580 of old but not radiocarbon “dead” terrigenous vascular plant ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values similar to
581 average $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_T$ values) and truly relict ($\Delta^{14}\text{C} = 1000\text{‰}$) OC.

582 The relative contributions of marine, pre-aged terrigenous, and relict OC (f_M , f_T ,
583 and f_R) to sediment trap material and sediments can be estimated in the Black, Arabian,

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587 and Ross Seas using an isotopic mass balance. Plots of $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{M,T,R}$ vs. $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{M,T,R}$ in both the
 588 sediment traps and sediment (Fig. 11) show significantly different values for the
 589 radiocarbon content of the different carbon pools but relatively small differences in the
 590 stable isotopic content in the Black and Arabian Seas and in the Ross Sea sediments. The
 591 small differences in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ coupled with significant error make it difficult to use the stable
 592 isotopic composition as a discriminating factor in determining the sources of the bulk
 593 material. However, the large differences observed in the $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values make it possible to
 594 use these data to constrain the relative amounts of relict, terrestrial and marine
 595 components.

596 For each sample, there is a $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value assigned to the bulk SLE, fresh marine,
 597 fresh terrestrial and a relict/terrestrial mix. Bulk material is assumed to be a mixture of
 598 fresh marine and other “added” material, where the added material refers to the fresh
 599 terrestrial and relict/terrestrial mix. Given this, we can derive the relative amounts of
 600 marine and “added” material.

$$601 \quad I = f_M + f_{added} \quad (1)$$

$$602 \quad \Delta^{14}\text{C}_{bulk} = f_M (\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{mar}) + f_{added} (\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{added}) \quad (2)$$

603 Solving this equation for f_{added}

$$604 \quad f_{added} = \frac{D^{14}\text{C}_{bulk} - D^{14}\text{C}_M}{D^{14}\text{C}_{added} - D^{14}\text{C}_M} \quad (3)$$

605 The value of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{added}$ can range from that for relict material (-1000 ‰) to that of
 606 the bulk material. Using this information, we can calculate the relative amounts of
 607 marine and “added” material as a function of the $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ of the “added” material. Further,
 608 we can combine the radiocarbon value measured on the terrestrial portion with the value

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613 of truly relict material to calculate how much of the “added” material might come from
614 fresh terrestrial material using the equations below.

$$615 \quad f_{added} = f_T + f_R \quad (4)$$

$$616 \quad \Delta^{14}C_{added} = f_T(\Delta^{14}C_T) + f_R(\Delta^{14}C_R) \quad (5)$$

617 Truly relict material has a $\Delta^{14}C$ value of -1000‰ and fresh terrigenous material
618 has the values determined in this study ($\Delta^{14}C_T$, Table 5). ~~As stated earlier, the measured~~
619 ~~value of $\Delta^{14}C_R$ appears to be a mixture of truly relict material and terrigenous material~~
620 ~~with a suite of ages.~~ If we assume that the value we measured for “relict” material (Table
621 5) is a good representation of $\Delta^{14}C_{added}$, then we have a unique solution to the mass
622 balance. This solution is indicated by the vertical lines in Figure 12, and the values listed
623 in Table 5. Using this model, we force ourselves to an extreme situation where all the
624 “added” material is either vascular or totally dead. Thus, the relative fractions of
625 terrestrial and relict material must be considered maximum and minimum values,
626 respectively.

627 For the calculations, concentration weighted $\delta^{13}C_M$, $\delta^{13}C_T$, $\delta^{13}C_R$, $\delta^{13}C_B$, $\Delta^{14}C_M$,
628 $\Delta^{14}C_T$ and $\Delta^{14}C_B$ values listed in Table 4 were used. The relative fractions of marine,
629 terrestrial and relict material (f_M , f_T , and f_R) as a function of $\Delta^{14}C_{added}$ are shown in Fig.
630 12. It is most likely that the marine component is dominant in both the trap and sediment
631 samples, although the possible values range from >80 to 0%. Fresh vascular material can
632 account for 0 up to almost 100%. The amount of relict material is constant at a low
633 proportion, ranging from 0 to < 20% in both the trap and sediments. In the AS, the
634 marine component is dominant in both the trap and sediments; the trap data indicate that
635 there can be virtually no relict or vascular material input to this sample, while the

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642 sediment data suggest that up to 30% of the material may come from either relict or
643 vascular sources. In the RS sediment, marine material dominates in almost all instances,
644 with possible values ranging from 90 to 30%. Relict material can account for >10 to 0%
645 and vascular from 0 to <70%.

646 In the Black Sea and Arabian Sea cases here, it is likely that the marine
647 component contributes the most material because a marine biogenic flux dominates at
648 both sites. No comparable combined biomarker, ^{13}C , and ^{14}C studies of POM at other
649 sites exist to our knowledge. But the high amounts of marine OC in the Black Sea and
650 Arabian Sea sediments contrasts with other environments where similar biomarker-
651 isotopic mass balances have been made, although using a narrower range of biomarkers.
652 In nearshore sediments on the northern California Margin off the high-energy Eel River
653 that erodes ancient sedimentary rocks in its watershed (Blair et al., 2003), fractional
654 contributions from marine, terrestrial and relict components were estimated at 0-10, 50-
655 75 and 30-50 % of total OC (Drenzek et al, 2009). On the Washington Margin off the
656 lower-energy Columbia River, marine, terrestrial and relict OC contribute 2, 89-95 and 3-
657 9 % of bulk sedimentary OC (Feng et al., 2013). Sediments in the Beaufort Sea had f_M, f_T
658 and f_R values of 13-27, 36-42, and 34-37%, respectively, with the elevated f_R values
659 consistent with the well-defined petrogenic signature of *n*-alkanes and polycyclic
660 aromatic hydrocarbons in Mackenzie River and Beaufort Sea sediments (Yunker et al.,
661 1993, 2002). For surface sediments in the southwest Black Sea near our study site,
662 Kusch et al (2010) estimate a f_R of ~18% of TOC. In the Santa Monica Basin of the
663 California Borderlands, 80-87% of the *n*-alkanes were of terrigenous plant origin whereas
664 up to 20% of the alkanes were derived from petroleum or shales (Pearson and Eglinton,

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666 2000), but since alkanes are not abundant in most marine biota, no estimation of the
667 marine component was made.

668 For the Black Sea, the graphs for the relative contributions look similar for both
669 the trap and sediment samples. A strict interpretation of these results suggests that there
670 is a greater relative amount of non-marine material in the sediment trap than in the
671 sediments themselves. Given the limitations of our data set, we believe that it is more
672 likely that the relative amounts of material are actually very similar. This is somewhat
673 surprising for two reasons. First, under a differential degradation/preservation case
674 (Wakeham and Canuel, 2006), a more labile component of marine OC would be
675 selectively degraded as POM moved between the trap depths and the surface sediments,
676 leaving behind increased proportions of selectively preserved, more refractory
677 terrigenous and relict components in sediments. Alternately, lateral advection of
678 terrigenous and relict OC below the trap depths either by mid-depth or bottom currents
679 might simply allow this pre-aged material to bypass the traps to be deposited directly on
680 the sediments. At the Black Sea site, advective transport of continental material
681 containing terrigenous and relict carbon to the study site is likely via surface, mid-water
682 (~150 m depth) or bottom water nepheloid layers and turbidites. Surface and mid-water
683 plumes moving offshore could carry some continental material to the shallow (~250 m)
684 sediment trap. But a greater amount of terrigenous and relict carbon might, after
685 temporary storage on the narrow continental shelf, be remobilized to move laterally down
686 the steep continental slope under the trap. This type of advective remobilization of pre-
687 aged material is well documented at other locations for both marine derived alkenones
688 (e.g., Ohkouchi et al., 2002; Mollenhauer et al., 2003) and terrigenous/relict OC (e.g.,

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690 Aller et al., 2004; Mead and Goñi, 2006; Mollenhauer and Eglinton, 2007; Kusch et al.,
691 2010; Hwang et al., 2010). Aeolian transport of leaf wax OC and petrogenic OC to the
692 sediments of the central Black Sea have been reported (Wakeham 1996; Eglinton et al.,
693 1997), but the importance of aeolian delivery to the southwestern Black Sea is unknown.
694 Nonetheless, a small leaf wax/petrogenic signal was detected in the trap POM. Because
695 the trap was already deployed within the anoxic zone (which starts at 120-150 m), OC
696 degradation in the water column and surface sediments should be depressed, so that
697 degradation might not be a significant cause for any reduction in f_M for the sediments.

698 In the Arabian Sea, the sediment trap material indicates the material is all marine
699 while the sediments show a small influence of non-marine material. The Arabian Sea site
700 was in an area of intense upwelling dominated by high export of diatomaceous material
701 (Wakeham et al., 2002), remote from fluvial inputs but potentially affected by aeolian
702 transport of pre-aged OC off the Arabian Peninsula and Horn of Africa during the windy
703 monsoon periods (Dahl et al., 2005). The AS trap was deployed within the OMZ where
704 organic matter degradation has reduced dissolved oxygen concentrations to $\sim 5 \mu\text{M}$
705 (Smith et al., 1998), but AS sediments were collected at 1400 m water depth where
706 bottom waters are oxygenated. Indeed within and below the OMZ, OC fluxes decreased
707 5-10 fold between the trap and surface sediments, even as %OC did not change as
708 dramatically (Lee et al., 2000 for OC; Wakeham et al., 2002 for AS lipid fluxes).

709 Comparative studies have shown conclusively that, among other things (e.g., intrinsic
710 reactivity of organic molecules and protection by macromolecular organic matrices and
711 mineral surfaces), oxygen availability is a key control on OC and lipid
712 degradation/preservation water columns and sediments (e.g., Hedges and Keil, 1995;

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714 Gong and Hollander, 1997; Wakeham and Canuel, 2006; Burdige, 2007; Mollenhauer
715 and Eglinton, 2007). Enhanced degradation (diminished preservation) in the oxygenated
716 AS should be greater than in the anoxic Black Sea, and if marine OC is more labile than
717 terrigenous/relict OC, f_M in the AS POM and SOM would, as observed, be higher than in
718 the BS. Extensive production of petroleum reserves on the Arabian Peninsula and intense
719 tanker traffic in the Arabian Sea is an additional source of refractory and radiocarbon-
720 dead petrogenic OC to AS particulate matter and sediments.

721 The RS sediment results are consistent with previous studies suggesting that
722 marine material is the most important source of organic matter to the sediments (Arrigo et
723 al., 2002; Dunbar et al., 2003). The solutions that suggest a relatively large input of
724 vascular plant material seem unrealistic given these prior studies. The Ross Sea data set
725 is very limited and in fact does not include unambiguous lipids of either terrestrial or
726 relict origins with which to constrain the isotopic compositions of these endmembers.

727

728 **4 Conclusions**

729 This study examined the compound-specific ^{13}C and ^{14}C compositions of diverse
730 biomarker indicators of marine biomass, terrigenous vascular plant, and relict sources of
731 organic carbon in sediment traps and underlying surface sediments in the Black Sea, the
732 Arabian Sea and the Ross Sea. Using an isotopic mass balance approach, it was possible
733 to constrain relative inputs from these three sources, with marine biomass accounting for
734 66-100% of extractable lipids and organic carbon in Black Sea and Arabian Sea sediment
735 trap material. The remaining 3-8% derives from terrigenous and 4-16% from relict
736 sources. Sediments contained lower proportions of marine biomarkers (66-90%) and

737 consequentially higher proportions of terrigenous and relict carbon (3-17% and 7-13%,
738 respectively). These results suggest that although particulate organic carbon is
739 overwhelmingly marine in origin, there are significant proportions of pre-aged
740 terrigenous and relict OC present. Because these latter fractions become proportionally
741 more important in sediments, it is likely that they are better preserved than the marine
742 component, and/or they reach the sediments by lateral advection rather than only by the
743 vertical sinking that affects the upper ocean-derived marine POC. This approach
744 demonstrates the strengths, and limitations, of such a multi-parameter approach for
745 studying marine OC cycling and budgeting.
746

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Table 1. Stable carbon and radiocarbon isotope data for Black Sea POM and SOM.

Black Sea Trap						
	source	ID #	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (‰)	<i>fm</i>	Age
OC		OS-32870	-22.9	21 ± 2	1.026 ± 0.003	>Mod
SLE		OS-38316	-27.2	-96 ± 16	0.909 ± 0.016	770 ± 140
14:0 FA	M	OS-38328	-25.6	132 ± 13	1.064 ± 0.014	>Mod
b-15:0 FA	M	OS-38321	-25.3	90 ± 9	1.029 ± 0.011	>Mod
16:1 FA	M	OS-38327	-25.4	81 ± 11	1.025 ± 0.011	>Mod
16:0 FA	M	OS-38333	-24.3	146 ± 9	1.086 ± 0.011	>Mod
18:1 FA	M	OS-38318	-23.2	288 ± 11	1.228 ± 0.008	>Mod
18:0 FA	M	OS-38320	-23.9	77 ± 11	1.028 ± 0.011	>Mod
24+26+28 FA	T	OS-38331	-27.0	1 ± 16	0.967 ± 0.014	265 ± 110
alkenones	M	OS-39539	-26.6	87 ± 14	1.099 ± 0.014	>Mod
24+26+28 HC	R	OS-39911	-29.3	-677 ± 10	0.325 ± 0.009	9030 ± 210
27+29 HC	T	OS-39908	-30.0	-181 ± 14	0.825 ± 0.010	1550 ± 100
27 Δ^5 sterol	M	OS-53936	-26.4	79 ± 11	1.046 ± 0.011	>Mod.
28 $\Delta^{5,22}$ sterol	M	OS-53934	-26.1	65 ± 9	1.034 ± 0.009	>Mod.
30 Δ^{22} sterol	M	OS-53957	-25.7	69 ± 15	1.040 ± 0.015	>Mod.
24+26+28 ROH	T	OS-53956	-30.1	-44 ± 12	0.925 ± 0.012	625 ± 110
Black Sea Sediment						
OC		OS-32871	-25.3	-199 ± 6	0.806 ± 0.004	1740 ± 35
SLE		OS-38309	-27.9	-150 ± 15	0.856 ± 0.008	1250 ± 80
14:0 FA	M	OS-38630	-28.6	18 ± 15	0.957 ± 0.016	350 ± 130
b-15:0 FA	M	OS-38632	-30.5	-27 ± 14	0.919 ± 0.019	680 ± 170
16:1 FA	M	OS-38628	-31.9	75 ± 14	1.019 ± 0.013	>Mod
16:0 FA	M	OS-38627	-29.1	214 ± 18	1.151 ± 0.018	>Mod
b-17:0 FA	M	OS-38642	-30.5	57 ± 20	1.006 ± 0.020	>Mod
18:1 FA	M	OS-38637	-27.0	-24 ± 20	0.999 ± 0.020	5 ± 100
18:0 FA	M	OS-38636	-29.5	374 ± 27	1.310 ± 0.023	>Mod
22:0 FA	M	OS-38639	-28.9	-46 ± 26	0.919 ± 0.027	680 ± 230
24:0 FA	M	OS-38640	-29.2	-34 ± 26	0.934 ± 0.024	550 ± 220
26:0 FA	T	OS-38641	-30.5	-223 ± 31	0.754 ± 0.021	2270 ± 230
alkenones	M	OS-39536	-28.6	45 ± 13	1.069 ± 0.013	>Mod
24+26+28 HC	R	OS-39909	-29.2	-609 ± 11	0.393 ± 0.007	7500 ± 150
27 HC	T	OS-39907	-30.0	-231 ± 8	0.774 ± 0.011	2060 ± 110
29 HC	T	OS-39906	-31.0	-125 ± 8	0.880 ± 0.008	1020 ± 75
27 Δ^5 sterol	M	OS-53948	-27.0	-33 ± 12	0.937 ± 0.012	520 ± 100
30 Δ^{22} sterol	M	OS-53943	-26.0	-15 ± 9	0.942 ± 0.011	475 ± 95
24 ROH	T	OS-53951	-29.7	-176 ± 8	0.796 ± 0.011	1840 ± 110
26 ROH	T	OS-53958	-31.2	-100 ± 16	0.871 ± 0.018	1100 ± 160

M = marine; T = terrigenous; R = relict
 FA = fatty acid; ROH = alcohol; HC = alkane

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Table 2. Stable carbon and radiocarbon isotope data for Arabian Sea POM and SOM.

Arabian Sea Trap						
	source	ID #	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (‰)	<i>fm</i>	Age
OC		OS- 32868	-22.4	14 ± 13	1.020 ± 0.013	>Mod
SLE		OS- 38314	-24.7	66 ± 14	1.073 ± 0.014	>Mod
14:0 FA	M	OS- 37311	-25.7	178 ± 17	1.107 ± 0.017	>Mod
b-15:0 FA	M	OS- 37314	-23.2	56 ± 13	0.997 ± 0.014	25 ± 110
16:1 FA	M	OS- 37304	-24.0	55 ± 21	0.999 ± 0.014	5 ± 100
16:0 FA	M	OS- 37298	-23.8	97 ± 14	1.039 ± 0.013	>Mod
18:1 FA	M	OS- 37297	-23.1	38 ± 21	0.990 ± 0.013	80 ± 100
18:0 FA	M	OS- 37302	-23.8	111 ± 15	1.060 ± 0.015	>Mod
22:0 FA	M	OS- 37305	-23.8	51 ± 14	1.012 ± 0.014	>Mod
24:0 FA	M	OS- 37313	-24.7	69 ± 14	1.033 ± 0.013	>Mod
26:0 FA	M	OS- 37315	-25.2	80 ± 16	1.047 ± 0.016	>Mod
alkenones	M	OS-39910	-23.9	-6 ± 9	1.000 ± 0.011	>Mod
24+26+28 HC	R	OS-55323	-28.5	-731 ± 14	0.270 ± 0.013	10500 ± 390
HBI HC	M	OS-55248	-24.5	-514 ± 10	0.488 ± 0.010	5750 ± 160
27+29 HC	T	OS-55325	-28.4	-320 ± 24	0.684 ± 0.024	3050 ± 280
27 Δ^5 sterol	M	OS-56344	-16.7	-32 ± 12	0.939 ± 0.012	505 ± 100
28 $\Delta^{5,22}$ sterol	M	OS-56348	-27.1	-86 ± 13	0.888 ± 0.013	955 ± 120
16 ROH	M	OS-56347	-22.5	-91 ± 12	0.861 ± 0.012	1200 ± 110
Arabian Sea Sediment						
OC		OS- 32869	-20.8	-138 ± 2	0.867 ± 0.003	1140 ± 30
LE		OS- 38322	-25.0	-173 ± 11	0.833 ± 0.011	1470 ± 100
14:0 FA	M	OS- 38332	-26.6	-10 ± 13	0.931 ± 0.013	575 ± 110
b-15:0 FA	M	OS- 38324	-24.5	-70 ± 11	0.878 ± 0.011	1040 ± 100
16:1 FA	M	OS- 38313	-26.0	-112 ± 7	0.842 ± 0.007	1380 ± 65
16:0 FA	M	OS- 38329	-25.0	104 ± 12	1.046 ± 0.012	>Mod
18:1 FA	M	OS- 38334	-24.8	-171 ± 13	0.791 ± 0.013	1880 ± 140
18:0 FA	M	OS- 38325	-24.7	190 ± 10	1.135 ± 0.010	>Mod
22:0 FA	M	OS- 38326	-26.8	103 ± 12	0.864 ± 0.012	1180 ± 110
24:0 FA	M	OS- 38317	-25.4	-91 ± 7	0.879 ± 0.006	1040 ± 55
26:0 FA	M	OS- 38319	-24.7	-116 ± 7	0.858 ± 0.007	1230 ± 70
alkenones	M	OS- 39902	-24.1	-202 ± 7	0.803 ± 0.003	1760 ± 65
24+26+28 HC	R	OS-55329	-27.6	-805 ± 9	0.197 ± 0.008	13050 ± 340
HBI HC	M	OS-56341	-18.2	-256 ± 8	0.748 ± 0.008	2330 ± 85
15+16+17+18 HC	R	OS-55251	-29.4	-887 ± 5	0.114 ± 0.004	17500 ± 250
27+29 HC	T	OS-55318	-27.7	-430 ± 11	0.573 ± 0.011	4470 ± 160
27 Δ^5 sterol	M	OS-56349	-24.0	-152 ± 13	0.822 ± 0.013	1570 ± 130
16 ROH	M	OS-56351	-23.3	-99 ± 13	0.853 ± 0.012	1270 ± 110
26+28+30 ROH	T	OS-56350	-24.1	-113 ± 14	0.861 ± 0.012	1200 ± 110

M = marine; T = terrigenous; R = relict

FA = fatty acid; ROH = alcohol; HC = alkane

Table 3. Stable carbon and radiocarbon isotope data for Ross Sea POM and SOM.

Ross Sea Trap						
	source	ID #	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (‰)	<i>fm</i>	Age
OC		OS-32872	-28.0	-208 ± 6	0.797 ± 0.004	1820 ± 40
SLE		OS-38330	-32.7	-154 ± 15	0.852 ± 0.015	1290 ± 140
14:0 FA	M	OS-38626	-34.9	-115 ± 14	0.831 ± 0.012	1490 ± 110
16:0 FA	M	OS-38624	-31.7	-100 ± 10	0.853 ± 0.010	1270 ± 95
18:0 FA	M	OS-39272	-35.3	-105 ± 15	0.854 ± 0.015	1270 ± 140
22:0+24:0 FA	M	OS-38635	-31.8	-175 ± 19	0.796 ± 0.019	1830 ± 190
27 Δ^5 sterol	M	OS-50105	-32.0	-216 ± 7	0.761 ± 0.007	2190 ± 75
28 $\Delta^{5,22}$ sterol	M	OS-50107	-35.4	-180 ± 8	0.796 ± 0.007	1830 ± 70
14+16 ROH	M	OS-50100	-31.8	-191 ± 9	0.764 ± 0.008	2160 ± 80
Ross Sea Sediment						
OC		OS-32873	-27.9	-355 ± 3	0.649 ± 0.003	3480 ± 35
SLE		OS-38323	-30.0	-211 ± 18	0.795 ± 0.018	1850 ± 180
14:0 FA	M	OS-38633	-36.6	-83 ± 5	0.862 ± 0.015	1190 ± 140
br-15:0 FA	M	OS-38625	-32.3	-128 ± 12	0.824 ± 0.012	1560 ± 120
16:0 FA	M	OS-39266	-32.5	430 ± 11	1.439 ± 0.011	>Mod
18:0 FA	M	OS-38644	-31.0	189 ± 29	1.196 ± 0.029	>Mod
24:0 FA	M	OS-38634	-33.5	-208 ± 22	0.765 ± 0.023	2150 ± 240
26:0 FA	M	OS-38645	-30.3	-302 ± 27	0.677 ± 0.029	3130 ± 340
27 Δ^5 sterol	M	OS-50108	-33.0	-178 ± 10	0.798 ± 0.010	1810 ± 95
28 $\Delta^{5,22}$ sterol	M	OS-50106	-34.3	-202 ± 8	0.775 ± 0.007	2050 ± 70

FA = fatty acid; ROH = alcohol

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1167 Table 4. Abundance weighted mean table carbon and radiocarbon isotope values for

1168 composited marine, terrigenous, and relict biomarkers.

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	$\delta^{13}\text{C} (\text{‰}) \pm \text{s.d.}$	$\Delta^{14}\text{C} (\text{‰}) \pm \text{s.d.}$	$f_m \pm \text{s.d.}$	Age $\pm \text{s.d.}$	n
BS trap					
marine	-25.3 ± 1.1	78 ± 9	1.110 ± 0.066	>Mod	7
terrigenous	-28.7 ± 1.6	-75 ± 94	0.930 ± 0.043	580 ± 360	3
relict	-29.1	-677 ± 9	0.325 ± 0.009	9030 ± 220	1
BS sediment					
marine	-28.8 ± 1.8	-30 ± 10	0.970 ± 0.023	240 ± 56	6
terrigenous	-30.5 ± 0.7	-171 ± 58	0.833 ± 0.066	1470 ± 615	5
relict	-29.2	-609 ± 8	0.393 ± 0.007	7500 ± 150	1
AS trap					
marine	-23.5 ± 2.5	64 ± 20	$1.071 \pm .019$	>Mod	7
terrigenous	-26.8 ± 2.3	-320 ± 24	0.684 ± 0.024	3050 ± 280	2,1
relict	-28.5	-731 ± 13	0.270 ± 0.013	10140 ± 360	1
AS sediment					
marine	-24.5 ± 2.1	-63 ± 110	0.941 ± 0.110	490 ± 1440	8
terrigenous	-27.7	-430 ± 13	0.573 ± 0.011	4470 ± 150	1
relict	-28.5 ± 1.2	-846 ± 58	0.114 ± 0.004	17440 ± 270	1
RS trap					
marine	-33.3 ± 1.8	-155 ± 47	$0.850 \pm .045$	1310 ± 420	7
terrigenous	nd [*]	nd [*]	nd [*]	nd [*]	nd [*]
relict	nd [*]	nd [*]	nd [*]	nd [*]	nd [*]
RS sediment					
marine	-33.2 ± 1.9	-105 ± 31	0.900 ± 0.030	850 ± 270	6
terrigenous	-31.8 ± 2.8	-255 ± 66	0.750 ± 0.056	2310 ± 560	2
relict	nd [*]	nd [*]	nd [*]	nd [*]	nd [*]

nd^{*} not determined

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1173 Table 5. Isotopic values used in mass balance calculations. The values of f_M , f_T , and f_R

1174 are those values calculated assuming that the actual value of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{added}$ is that measured on

1175 the compounds defined as relict.

Sample	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{bulk}$ (‰)	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}_M$ (‰)	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}_T$ (‰)	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{add}$ (‰)	f_M	f_T	f_R
BS trap	-100	80	-75	-677	0.76	0.08	0.15
BS sed	-150	-30	-171	-609	0.79	0.1	0.11
AS trap	64	64	-320	-731	1	0	0
AS sed	-173	-63	-430	-846	0.86	0.04	0.1
RS sed	-210	-105	-255	--	--	--	--

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Figure Captions

Figure 1. Sampling locations in the Black Sea, Arabian Sea and Ross Sea.

Figure 2. Scheme of extraction, isolation and analysis of biomarkers.

Figure 3. (a) Organic carbon (%OC) and (b) C/N(a) for bulk trap and sediments.

Figure 4. (a) The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and (b) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values of bulk organic carbon (OC) and (c) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and (d) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values solvent extractable lipids (SLE) for trap POM and sediments.

Figure 5. Histograms of relative abundances of (a) fatty acids, (b) hydrocarbons, and (c) sterols/alcohols POM and SOM from the Black Sea. Carbon numbers are given for fatty acids, alkanes, and alcohols; sterol abbreviations are $27\text{D}_{5,22} = 27\Delta^{5,22}$ etc.

Figure 6. Histograms of relative abundances of (a) fatty acids, (b) hydrocarbons, and (c) sterols/alcohols in POM and SOM from the Arabian Sea. Carbon numbers are given for fatty acids, alkanes, and alcohols; sterol abbreviations are $27\text{D}_{5,22} = 27\Delta^{5,22}$ etc.

Figure 7. Histograms of relative abundances of (a) fatty acids, (b) hydrocarbons, and (c) sterols/alcohols in POM and SOM from the Ross Sea. Carbon numbers are given for fatty acids, alkanes, and alcohols; sterol abbreviations are $27\text{D}_{5,22} = 27\Delta^{5,22}$ etc.

Figure 8. The (a) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and (b) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values of bulk POC and SOC and individual biomarkers for trap and sediments from the Black Sea (see also Table 1). Filled symbols are trap biomarkers; open symbols are sediment biomarkers. All values have been corrected for procedural blanks and any derivative carbon, as needed.

Dashed lines are pre-bomb (lower) and post-bomb (upper) mixed-layer $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$.

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Figure 9. The (a) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and (b) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values of bulk POC and SOC and individual biomarkers for trap and sediments from the Arabian Sea (see also Table 2). Filled symbols are trap biomarkers; open symbols are sediment biomarkers. All values have been corrected for procedural blanks and any derivative carbon, as needed. Dashed lines are pre-bomb (lower) and post-bomb (upper) mixed-layer $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$.

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Figure 10. The (a) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and (b) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values of bulk POC and SOC and individual biomarkers for trap and sediments from the Ross Sea (see also Table 3). Filled symbols are trap biomarkers; open symbols are sediment biomarkers. All values have been corrected for procedural blanks and any derivative carbon, as needed. Dashed lines are pre-bomb (lower) and post-bomb (upper) mixed-layer $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$.

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Figure 11. Concentration weighted average $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values of marine (M), terrigenous (T) and relict (R) lipids in (a) Black Sea, (b) Arabian Sea, and (c) Ross Sea traps and sediments.

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Figure 12. Relative amounts of marine (M, blue solid line), terrestrial (T, red dashed line) and relict (R, black small-dashed line) carbon as a function of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{add}}$ in Black Sea and Arabian Sea trap material (a and c, respectively) and in Black Sea, Arabian Sea and Ross Sea sediments (b, d, and e, respectively). Only real solutions are depicted. The solid black line indicates the solution when $\Delta^{14}\text{C}_{\text{added}}$ is equal to the value measured on compounds defined as relict. There are not enough data to construct a graph for the Ross Sea sediment trap.

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