

Associate Editor (Dr. David Gillikin):

1) You cannot draw these conclusions based on one specimen. There are several published papers showing large differences in mollusk skeleton elemental ratios between specimens and species. Vital effects can result in large differences in relationships between elements and precipitation rates and even between different elements even within the same species. For example, look at the differences in Mg/Ca ratios between scallop specimens in Lorrain et al. 2005 cited in your manuscript. Also, consider the large differences in Sr vs precipitation rate between species shown in my own paper, Gillikin et al. 2005 ( doi:10.1029/2004GC000874). I urge you to include more data from a second specimen at a minimum. You need to replicate these patterns to draw the conclusions you discuss. With additional data your manuscript will be more well accepted by the community.

In the revised manuscript, data for an additional specimen of *Passaloteuthis* (end of Sections 2, Materials and Methods and 3, Results) are presented which show the same trends as the specimen for which multiple high resolution profiles were studied. These data were generated in collaboration with Dr. Philip A.E. Pogge von Strandmann who is now included as a co-author on this manuscript.

Additionally, a new paragraph (section 4.1.2) was added to the discussion chapter, where the unique angle of the analysis in this manuscript is laid out in more detail: It is acknowledged that considerable inter-specimen differences exist with respect to element composition and response to growth rate change in carbonate shells. This is also evident for the genus *Passaloteuthis* (Fig. 7 in the manuscript), even though average Sr/Ca and Mg/Ca of the two specimens reported here are nearly the same. Such differential metabolic response and changes in growth rate resulting from external forcings are of little concern to the present study, however. Here, the focus is on the comparison of shell secretion within in a single organism at different shell formation rates at discrete time intervals where differential effects of external forcings and metabolic controls (apart from shell secretion rate) are cancelled out.

Reviewer 1 (Prof. Adrian Immenhauser):

1) Adoption of termini “biomineralization”; “kinetics”; “carbonate secretion”

The terminology in the manuscript has been revised according to these terms and “precipitation rate” has been reformulated unless when abiogenic experiments are referred to.

2) Comparability of inorganic with organic systems (experimental fluid vs body fluid)

I agree that processes of shell formation and composition of body fluids are much more complex than what can currently be modeled using inorganic precipitation experiments. It was not my intention to advocate that inorganic experiments and growth experiments of molluscs are entirely interchangeable or that the former can replace the latter.

However, I feel that one can count it as an encouraging sign if empirical results on biological systems and experimental results on abiogenic precipitates converge. After all, most of palaeoenvironmental geochemistry relies on the assumption that fundamental physical controls on carbonate composition hold - regardless which animal (or “non-animal”) produced it. Quite a substantial body of literature employing this underlying assumption and yielding results consistent with non-geochemical interpretations of the rock record has emerged so that one can be confident that some truth is in this assumption.

I am of the opinion that one should incorporate as broad as possible a range of studies when investigating biomineralization signals whilst keeping their limited comparability in mind.

3) Multiple controls and feedbacks of shell secretion and kinetics

Prof. Immenhauser rightly points out that a multitude of environmental parameters, food availability, ontogenetic trends, stressors, sexual dimorphism, species specific effects, and many more have an effect on the chemical composition of biogenic shell materials. Many of these parameters will also have a bearing on shell secretion rate which in turn affects element incorporation, making biomineralization a very complex phenomenon.

I entirely agree with Prof. Immenhauser in this point, but what I investigated in the present study is a system, in which *relative* shell secretion rate can be viewed upon as an isolated parameter. I did not claim that this study is able to make inferences about *absolute* shell secretion rates or to make a point about the environmental and biological factors that control shell secretion rate.

The unique angle of the present study is to look at time slices of belemnite shell secretion. The assumption is that a growth band in a belemnite represents an ontogenetic isochron for which one particular expression of biomineralization controls is realized. The growth band, which then by definition has to represent the same amount of time, has a variable thickness along the whole of the belemnite rostrum, i.e., the rate at which it formed is variable for purely geometrical reasons, increasing from the alveolar area to the apex (Figs. 1, 2). By normalizing the chemical data of all measured profiles against data from a reference profile, all external controls on shell chemistry are then taken out of the equation and it becomes possible to isolate what the effect of this rate variability is.

This is now elaborated on in Discussion section 4.1.2.

4) Least squares regression doesn't solve all problems. Geochemical variability of fossil geochemistry may not represent secular global trends - heterogeneity and regional trends in oceanographic parameters have to be considered

It is true that it is only an inference that the chemical composition of fossil materials can be

used to reconstruct the chemical composition of seawater through time.

I am confident that this is possible for some elements to a certain degree to reconstruct past seawater composition. The elements Mg, Sr and Ca which are looked at in this study are amongst those which are thought to be uniformly distributed in the oceans due to their long residence time. Their concentrations and even their isotopic ratios vary within very narrow limits in the world oceans and this is unlikely to have been different in the past due to the particular chemical behaviour of these elements. For the above elements one can therefore neglect regional trends in fully marine environments – one reason e.g. for the success of the marine Sr isotope curve. For elements with much shorter oceanic residence times like Ce, Cr, Cd, Mn etc. it would be an entirely different story.

One observation which appears to be temporally robust is that different Sr/Ca ratios in marine shells have certain relative offsets from the seawater Sr/Ca ratio they form in. Even though it is very seldom utilized, a crude chemical mapping of the composition of modern biominerals is available since 50 years (Dodd, 1967, JOURNAL OF PALEONTOLOGY). The first order observation is that Sr/Ca of average bivalve calcite is lower than the Sr/Ca ratio of the average brachiopod, which in turn (for Jurassic and Cretaceous) is lower than the Sr/Ca ratio of the average belemnite (Voigt et al, 2003, INT J EARTH SCI; Korte and Hesselbo, 2011; PALEOCEANOGRAPHY; Ullmann et al, 2013, GEOLOGY; Sørensen et al, 2015, PPP; Ullmann et al, 2016, GONDWANA RESEARCH). For brachiopods one finds Sr/Ca ratios decreasing from craniids to thecideids to terebratulids and rhynchonellids (Brand et al, 2003, CHEM GEOL). Within the bivalves, oysters have a lower average Sr/Ca than pectinids. This is subject to ongoing research and could be refined ad infinitum. Once the translation factor from element/Ca(fossil) to element/Ca(seawater) is known and can be reproduced through time with multiple fossil groups, the likelihood is that the seawater element/Ca ratio thus studied can be confidently reconstructed.

What is imaged in Fig. 5 (now Fig. 7) is the “biomineralization noise”, one has to overcome for such an approach. Due to all sorts of intra-specimen, intra-specific, and inter-specific effects a large number of analyses has to be integrated for a meaningful average. Relative shell secretion rate, however, is a small player in this game, and this is the contribution I wanted to make with this study. While one may remain critical of the idea that seawater chemistry reconstructions can be done on the basis of shell chemistry, this study shows that shell secretion rate is not to blame if it does not work, because its forcing is inconsistent with observed data variability and its magnitude is too small.

5) Is the term “quantitative” justified?

The short answer is “yes”. What is presented is a quantification of the effect of relative shell secretion rate on the Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios found in a belemnite rostrum. I find that calcite that forms twice as fast as calcite at another point in the same growth increment will contain 8.1 +/- 0.9 % less Mg and 5.9 +/- 0.7 % more Sr than its slower-forming counterpart – regardless of the absolute Mg and Sr concentrations which are subject to more complex forcings (Figs. 3, 4). In this sense this appraisal is quantitative and reasonably precise. These quantitative data are now also backed up by qualitative data from another specimen.

What cannot be quantified is which parameters led belemnites to change their shell secretion rates through their lives.

6) The messages are “We can ignore kinetics (i.e. secretion rate)” and “belemnites are Mesozoic favourites”?

Message 1) is a first order “yes”. Indeed, besides showing the utility of belemnite calcite for constraining calcite formation rate controls on element uptake, this particular parameter is of

minor importance for generating the chemical complexities of biogenic shell calcite. Message number 2) is up for debate. Personally, I am a “belemnite fan” and find their calcite is superior to other fossil archives for certain applications, in particular, where large amounts of calcite are necessary (non-traditional isotopes of trace elements come to mind). However, I don't want to advocate that we should neglect other fossil groups (and non-fossil records) or be uncritical about belemnite rostra. The strength of future research will lie in merging the strings of evidence coming from all available sources.

7) Selective choice of references: Missing critical voices saying everything is swamped by biology or the archive is not valid.

It was not my intention to be uncritical about the use of belemnite rostra to constrain shell secretion rate effects on element uptake and neither did I intend to cite the literature in a biased fashion.

Part of the above allegation might be down to a misunderstanding about the aims of the paper as well: The dataset I present is of some value for constraining the effect of shell secretion rate on element partitioning into calcite, 1) because coeval calcite formed at various growth rates (factor of ca. 3) is available and 2) the signal of this relative secretion rate difference is significant despite overall ontogenetic changes in element/Ca ratios in the rostrum.

One may consider this present dataset “a lucky find” whereas for most other fossil groups trying to constrain shell secretion rate effects would fail. I am sure that many biological systems wouldn't lend themselves to such an analysis because the shell growth geometries aren't ideal and/or the chemical variability of the system prevents any meaningful analysis. This should, however, not be taken as evidence that biomineralization processes cannot be disentangled, it simply calls for selecting the right animal group for the right question.

In the revised version of the manuscript a new section (4.1.1) has been included, where it is critically assessed of what is thought about the belemnite rostrum as a geochemical archive including the articles recently published by the Bochum group (Hoffmann et al, 2016; Immenhauser et al, 2016).

Reviewer 2:

Referee 2 critically points out that this study relates to the signals of only one fossil and that these findings are therefore of limited extent.

It is true that the data for this study – even though > 300 ICP-OES analyses were conducted – relate only to a single rostrum. Despite the self-consistent results verified by three profiles compared to a reference profile and tentative support from geochemical profiles measured for other belemnite species it is at present not self-evident that a generalization of these patterns is possible. Given the consistency of the dataset and independent support from other lines of carbonate research I am confident, however, that this pattern holds. This confidence is boosted by the new, additional data now presented in the study which qualitatively confirm the previous findings.

This study was intended to be a proof-of-concept, to introduce a biomineralization system which deserves further research and to point out where synergies between research on abiogenic and various biogenic calcite archives may exist. It would be fantastic to see these initial results reproduced in other belemnite species and – if possible – tested in other biogenic calcite archives as well.

There is one particularly thrilling outcome I see in the presented dataset: If the temperature dependence of the precipitation rate forcing on Mg, Sr and other elements can be constrained more precisely, this approach yields a novel palaeotemperature proxy (section 4.1). This temperature proxy would be independent of seawater chemistry and much more robust against diagenesis and easier to measure than clumped isotopes: Once it is known what the rate forcings on elements like Mg, Sr and Li during coprecipitation with calcite are at various temperatures, one can potentially establish an overconstrained system for the two unknowns, 1) absolute precipitation rate and 2) temperature.

## Relevant changes:

Terminology has been revised throughout the manuscript.

Description of additional specimen (end of sections 2, 3, new Figs. 5 and 6) has been added.

Discussion has been appended by critical assessment of belemnite growth bands and mineralogy (section 4.1.1) and section reliability of the observations (sections 4.1.2).

Acknowledgements have been appended by funding sources to P. Pogge von Strandmann and funding for additional analyses.

References have been appended.

# The effect of ~~precipitation~~-shell secretion rate on Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios in biogenic calcite as observed in a belemnite rostrum

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**Abstract.** Isotopic ratios and concentrations of the alkaline earth metals Mg and Sr in biogenic calcite are of great importance as proxies for environmental parameters. In particular, the Mg/Ca ratio as a temperature proxy has had considerable success.

It is often hard to constrain, however, which parameter ultimately controls the concentration of these elements in calcite.

Here, multiple Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca transects through a belemnite rostrum of *Passaloteuthis bisulcata* (Blainville, 1827) are used to isolate the effect of calcite ~~precipitation~~-secretion rate on incorporation of Mg and Sr into the calcite. With increasing calcite ~~precipitation~~-secretions rate Mg/Ca ratios decrease and Sr/Ca ratios in the rostrum increase. In the studied specimen this effect is found to be linear for both element ratios over a calcite secretion~~precipitation~~ rate increase of ca. 150 %. Mg/Ca ratios and Sr/Ca ratios show a linear covariation with increasing relative precipitation-growth rate, where a 100 % increase in precipitation-growth rate leads to a  $(8.1 \pm 0.9)$  % depletion in Mg and a  $(5.9 \pm 0.7)$  % enrichment in Sr. The magnitude of the precipitation-calcite secretion rate effect on Mg is  $(37 \pm 4)$  % greater than that on Sr.

Precipitation-Growth rate effects are well-defined in ~~the rostrum~~ of *Passaloteuthis bisulcata* but only account for a minor part of chemical heterogeneity. Biasing effects on palaeoenvironmental studies can be minimised by informed sampling, whereby the apex and apical line of the rostrum are avoided.

## 1 Introduction

The measurement of Mg and Sr concentrations in biogenic calcite as records of past environmental conditions and geochemical cycles has a long tradition (e.g., Odum, 1951; Turekian, 1955; Lowenstam, 1961). Palaeotemperature estimates from element concentrations in fossil calcite in particular have been intensively studied (e.g., Pilkey and Hower, 1960; Nürnberg et al., 1996; Elderfield and Ganssen, 2000; McArthur et al., 2007).

A number of empirical studies have documented positive co-variation of Mg/Ca ratios and/or Sr/Ca ratios with temperature in biogenic calcite from belemnites (Rosales et al., 2004; McArthur et al., 2007; Li et al., 2012), bivalves (Klein et al., 1996; Freitas et al., 2006; Tynan et al., in press), brachiopods (Brand et al., 2013; Butler et al., 2015), coccoliths (Stoll et al., 2001), echinoderms (Pilkey and Hower, 1960), foraminifers (Lea et al., 1999; Elderfield and Ganssen, 2000; Lear et al., 2002; de Nooier et al., 2014) and ostracods (Chivas et al., 1986; De Dekker et al., 1999). Inorganic precipitation experiments also show

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a significant temperature control on the incorporation of Mg and Sr into calcite (Kinsman and Holland, 1969; Katz, 1973; Oomori et al., 1987). While a positive co-variation of Mg/Ca ratios with ambient temperature in biogenic calcite agrees with experimental data, Sr/Ca ratios in shell calcite that are positively linked with temperature (e.g., Lea et al., 1999; Stoll et al., 2002; Ullmann et al., 2013a) contradict an expected negative correlation of these two parameters (Kinsman and Holland, 1969;

5 Rimstidt et al., 1998).

It is evident that a multitude of parameters besides temperature can affect element concentrations in biogenic calcite, e.g., pH (Lea et al., 1999), pCO<sub>2</sub> (Dissard et al., 2002; Müller et al., 2014), salinity (Klein et al., 1996; Lea et al., 1999; Hönisch et al., 2013) and notably ~~precipitation-calcite secretion~~ rate (e.g., Klein et al., 1996; Lorrain et al., 2005; Ullmann et al., 2015). Disentangling the effect of temperature on shell geochemistry from the effects of physiological responses triggered by temperature change, and constraining the relative contributions of these parameters on shell chemistry, is difficult in growth experiments. For micro-organisms analyses need to be ~~done-performed~~ at high spatial resolution and inter-specimen offsets become a concern (e.g., de Nooijer et al., 2014). Most shell-building macro-organisms for which growth rates can be readily established (e.g. Mouchi et al., 2013; Nedoncelle et al., 2013; Pérez-Huerta et al., 2014) form growth increments that do not show consistent, significant, lateral differences in ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate.

15 Belemnites, Mesozoic predators whose fossil calcite is of major importance for the reconstruction of palaeoenvironmental conditions during the Jurassic and Cretaceous (e.g., Podlaha et al., 1998; McArthur et al., 2000; Ullmann et al., 2014; Sørensen et al., 2015), constitute an exception to this. Their rostra are typically large (a few to tens of centimetres long and a few millimetres to centimetres in diameter) and are structured by a concentric arrangement of growth bands around the apical line, which itself traces the long axis of the fossil (Sælen, 1989; Ullmann et al., 2015). These growth bands show systematic lateral changes in thickness and can be sampled by milling, permitting high-precision analyses of element concentrations via ICP-OES or ICP-MS. In the rostra it is possible to differentiate between effects of crystal morphology, ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate and other physiological or environmental controls (Ullmann et al., 2015). A significant contribution of calcite ~~precipitation secretion~~ rate to Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca patterns in belemnite calcite has been noted (Ullmann et al., 2015). The observed negative correlation of Mg/Ca with ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate and positive correlation of Sr/Ca with ~~growth-secretion~~ rate in the calcite of a rostrum of the belemnite *Passaloteuthis bisulcata* agrees with published experimental studies (Lorens, 1981; Tesoriero and Pankow, 1996; Gabitov and Watson, 2006; Tang et al., 2008; Gabitov et al., 2014) and theoretical studies (DePaolo, 2011; Gabitov et al., 2014). The magnitude of ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate-induced changes of Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios, however, has so far remained unquantified in belemnite calcite.

Here, a quantitative appraisal of the available data is presented, ~~-backed up by additional qualitative data~~ and the importance of calcite ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate for the interpretation of Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios in biogenic calcite is discussed.

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## 2 Materials and Methods

The studied, nearly complete rostrum of *Passaloteuthis bisulcata* (Blainville 1827) was collected from the Early Toarcian (Early Jurassic) Grey Shale Member at Hawsker Bottoms, Yorkshire, UK (67 cm above the base of the *Dactylioceras tenuicostatum* ammonite subzone, *D. tenuicostatum* zone; Hesselbo and Jenkyns, 1995). Detailed methodology for geochemical analyses and documentation of cathodoluminescence patterns is described in Ullmann et al. (2015). In brief, the specimen was cut perpendicular to the long axis into four slabs which were glued onto glass slides, ground down to a thickness of ca. 3.5 mm and polished. Element/Ca ratios were measured on transects prepared by incremental drilling of samples through the slabs using an Optima 7000 DV ICP-OES (Fig. 1). After grinding down the sampled slabs to ca. 0.5 mm and polishing, cathodoluminescence maps were made using a microscope equipped with a Citl Mk-3a electron source (Fig. 2). Element/Ca ratios were screened for diagenesis using Mn/Ca ratios and only data from well-preserved samples are further considered.

Data from the specimen of *Passaloteuthis bisulcata* analysed at high resolution are supplemented by geochemical results of an additional transect through another specimen of *Passaloteuthis* sp. from the Grey Shale Member at Hawsker Bottoms (1 cm above the base of the *Dactylioceras tenuicostatum* ammonite subzone, *D. tenuicostatum* zone; Hesselbo and Jenkyns, 1995; Table S1). A section of the specimen close to the phragmocone (comparable to profile one in Fig. 1) was prepared as described above and sampled along a traverse with 300  $\mu\text{m}$  spacing and drill depth of 500  $\mu\text{m}$  using a MicroMill with 0.6 mm diameter drill bit. Resulting powders were dissolved in weak HCl and diluted to a nominal Ca concentration of 10  $\mu\text{g/g}$  with 2 %  $\text{HNO}_3$  and analysed for Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca and Mn/Ca ratios using a Perkin Elmer Elan Quadrupole ICP-MS at the University of Oxford. Quantification of concentrations was performed using a set of matrix-matched, synthetic calibration solutions mixed from single element solutions. Accuracy and precision were assessed by multiple analyses of the international reference material JLS-1 and internal carbonate standards, and long-term reproducibility over a period of 3 years is found to be ca. 6 % (2 sd, n = 14) for all element ratios. Assessment of sample preservation was performed analogously to Ullmann et al. (2015).

## 3 Results

Cathodoluminescence microscopy reveals a multitude of characteristic, luminescent bands in the rostra-rostrum that constitute time stamps which can be correlated through the entire rostrum (Fig. 42). Differences in the distance of these luminescent bands from the apical line in the four profiles can be used to trace the relative precipitation-secretion rate changes in belemnite rostra (Fig. 42). Due to the position of the different profiles within the rostrum (Fig. 2A1A), relative precipitation-secretion rate becomes greater from profile one to four and the central growth bands in profile one are progressively lost (Figs. 1A,B, 2A,B). Profile four yields only the outer ~30 % of the growth bands present in profile one but these growth bands have thicknesses (relative precipitation-secretion rates) 2.3 to > 3 times greater than the correlative bands in profile one (Fig. 2C1C). Using exponential functions to express the differences in precipitation-secretion rate (Fig. 2C1C, Ullmann et al., 2015), Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios of the four geochemical profiles can be integrated in a common ontogenetic profile (Fig. 3). These overlays show common patterns but significant offsets between the profiles. All profiles are characterised by a steady decrease of Mg/Ca

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ratios and Sr/Ca ratios from the innermost growth bands reaching a minimum at ~ 60 % distance from the centre of the rostrum in the reference profile one (Fig. 3). Both ratios then increase until about 75 % distance on the reference profile and towards the rim show a minor decrease with subordinate peaks and lows which are specific to Mg and Sr. In addition to this general pattern, progressively lower Mg/Ca and higher Sr/Ca ratios are observed at the margin of the rostrum with increasing profile

5 number. Differences in element/Ca ratios with respect to the reference profile one as a function of changes in calcite ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate are plotted in Figure 4. For these plots, only geochemical data from the outer 2.0 mm (profile two) to 2.6 mm (profile four) were taken into account, where differences between the profiles are thought to be dominated by ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate effects (Ullmann et al., 2015). Deviations in Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca from the reference profile co-vary strongly and the resulting enrichment factors show strong co-variation with relative ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate (Figs. 4A–C).

10 Best fits for these relations are:

$$\Delta \frac{Mg}{Ca} = (0.994 \pm 0.007) - (0.081 \pm 0.009) * \Delta \text{precipitationsecretion rate} \quad (1)$$

$$\Delta \frac{Sr}{Ca} = (1.006 \pm 0.006) + (0.059 \pm 0.007) * \Delta \text{precipitationsecretion rate} \quad (2)$$

$$\Delta \frac{Mg}{Ca} = (2.37 \pm 0.04) - (1.37 \pm 0.04) * \Delta \frac{Sr}{Ca} \quad (3)$$

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where  $\Delta(\text{Mg}/\text{Ca})$  and  $\Delta(\text{Sr}/\text{Ca})$  are the enrichment factors for the element/Ca ratios and  $\Delta_{\text{precipitation-secretion rate}}$  is the deviation in ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate from profile one (0 = 0 %; 1 = 100 %). A ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate increase of 100 % thus results in a  $(8.1 \pm 0.9)$  % depletion in Mg and a  $(5.9 \pm 0.7)$  % enrichment in Sr.

Geochemical data for the transect through an additional specimen of *Passaloteuthis* sp. (Figs. 5,6) confirm the trends observed here and by Ullmann et al. (2015) qualitatively: Diagenesis traced by enrichments in Mn is confined to the apical zone and the dorsal margin and absolute values of Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios vary independent of each other. Enrichments of Mg and Sr towards the apical zone as well as a combination of higher Sr/Ca and lower Mg/Ca ratios in the faster growing, thicker dorsal part as compared to the ventral part of the transect are observed (Fig. 6).

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## 4 Discussion

### 25 4.1 Shell secretion of belemnite rostra and its utility to test growth rate effects

In order to function as a biological experiment tracing the effects of shell secretion rate on Mg and Sr concentrations, the calcite must have been formed incrementally by the belemnite and the secretion rate signal must be large enough not to be masked by other controls. Many aspects of belemnite biomineralisation remain obscure and there is still some ongoing debate about the original mineralogy (aragonite or calcite) and biomineral architecture of belemnite rostra (e.g., Dauphin et al., 2007; Hoffmann et al., 2016; Immenhauser et al., 2016).

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#### 4.1.1 Original shell mineralogy and possible porosity

An originally aragonitic rostrum of *Passaloteuthis* analogous to suggestions of Dauphin et al. (2007) for Late Cretaceous *Goniocamax* can confidently be excluded, because the originally aragonitic phragmocones of *Passaloteuthis* are often found to be replaced by minerals other than calcite at Hawsker Bottoms (e.g., pyrite or barite), whereas these phases have never been observed to replace growth bands in the rostra. Also a 50-90 % original porosity of the bulk of the rostrum which was cemented without direct control of the belemnite as envisioned by Hoffmann et al. (2016) is very unlikely for *Passaloteuthis*. A restricted zone of original porosity in the apical zone of this genus (Fig. 1A) has been proposed (Ullmann et al., 2015), because here geochemical data fall on a mixing trend with early diagenetic cements of the phragmocone, a signal that is not observed elsewhere in the rostrum apart from its contact with the surrounding sediment matrix. *Passaloteuthis* rostra from Hawsker Bottoms still preserve their original intra-crystalline organic matrix as evidenced by their translucent brown colour and pleochroic behaviour when observed under polarized light (Ullmann et al., 2014). Growth increments can be traced at a resolution of < 10  $\mu\text{m}$  throughout the entire rostrum using cathodoluminescence microscopy. The relative positions of the luminescent bands faithfully define the outline of the rostrum at a given ontogenetic stage and their luminescence intensities are the same in the four profiles without any indication of the typical bright luminescence indicative of early diagenetic cements at Hawsker Bottoms (Ullmann et al., 2015, Fig. 2). Isotope and element patterns can be consistently correlated using only growth band positions (Ullmann et al., 2015), which should not be possible if the larger part of the calcite was formed without the clear temporal transgression defined by the growth bands.  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values in the studied profiles reach a maximum of +3.3 ‰ V-PDB and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values a minimum of -2.2 ‰ V-PDB (Ullmann et al., 2015), in good agreement with other shelly fossils in the area (Korte and Hesselbo, 2011). If these values were to represent a mixture of less than 50 % original signal with a greater part of calcite representative of bottom water conditions (lighter  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of -0.4 ‰ or heavier, Ullmann et al., 2014, 2015), recalculated values for the original calcite would become incompatible with other coeval calcite archives. The sum of these observations suggests that – apart from a small zone around the apical line – the rostrum of *Passaloteuthis* was formed in growth increments of calcite with very little original porosity.

#### 4.1.2 Utility of *Passaloteuthis* to test growth rate effects on Mg and Sr

Biological controls on element incorporation into shell carbonate are strong and lead to partly significant intra-species differences (e.g., Gillikin et al., 2005; Ullmann et al., 2013a, 2015; Sørensen et al., 2015; Fig. 7). This biological regulation of element partition coefficients (e.g., Gillikin et al., 2005) is also evident in belemnites, which have high Sr concentrations when compared to other coeval calcite fossils (see discussion in Ullmann et al., 2013b). This problem makes constraining the controls on absolute levels of element/Ca ratios in shell carbonate challenging, but is cancelled out, when comparing coeval growth increments within a single fossil. While metabolic controls lead to systematic ontogenetic changes in Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca in *Passaloteuthis* (Figs. 3,6), at a given ontogenetic stage these metabolic controls are expressed in the same way at the sites of

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mineralization at each of the studied profiles. The only anticipated difference is the rate of shell secretion, which can thus be isolated as a geochemical forcing and is systematically faster the closer to the rostrum's apex the profile is laid (Fig. 1).

#### **4.1-2 Controls on element uptake and expected ~~precipitation-growth~~ rate effects**

Calcite precipitation experiments have established that Sr concentration should increase and Mg concentrations decrease with increasing precipitation rate (Lorens, 1981; Tesoriero and Pankow, 1996; Gabitov and Watson, 2006; Tang et al., 2008; Gabitov et al., 2014). The same signature is expected to be imposed by decreasing temperature (Rimstidt et al., 1998), necessitating the measurement of a reliable temperature proxy alongside the element concentrations or comparing coeval growth increments. The latter approach is adopted here, which rules out that temperature can have a significant effect on the observed trends. Metabolic effects on element incorporation and/or changes in the composition of the mineralising fluid throughout ontogeny are clearly evident (Figs. 3,6), but are not manifested as a strong co-variation of Mg and Sr. These effects can thus be accounted for by normalising element/Ca data to element/Ca ratios of profile one, i.e., by computing element enrichment factors. Furthermore, changes in relative growth rate (within a factor of four) and likely also absolute growth rate in the rostrum are not very large, so that the observed effects are comparable throughout the studied part of the profiles. They therefore image a linear segment of a relationship, which over a wider range of ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rates is expected to follows a more complex, curved function (e.g., Tang et al.; DePaolo, 2011; Gabitov et al., 2014).

The observed sensitivities of Sr/Ca ratios and Mg/Ca ratios to changing ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate (5.9 % increase and 8.1 % decrease per 100 % ~~precipitation-shell secretion~~ rate increase) can be compared with experimental results supported by theoretical considerations. The growth entrapment model (Watson and Liang, 1995) predicts that elements present in the surface layer of a growing crystal become more efficiently trapped the faster the crystal forms. Results of precipitation experiments at 20–25°C approximated with this model Gabitov et al. (2014) predict a Sr/Ca sensitivity observed in *P. bisulcata* for calcite growth rates of ca. 0.05 nm s<sup>-1</sup> and ca. 40 nm s<sup>-1</sup>, whereas measured Mg/Ca sensitivity is matched at ca. 0.3 nm s<sup>-1</sup> and ca. 20 nm s<sup>-1</sup>. It is conceivable that at slightly different temperatures a better match between these two elements could be obtained, because the response of Sr changes significantly with temperature (Tang et al., 2008). No equivalent experiments for Mg are available, however, so this hypothesis cannot be quantitatively explored. Nevertheless, conditions can be found in experimentally constrained relationships under which the proposed sensitivities of Mg and Sr to ~~precipitation-shell secretion~~ rate change recorded in *P. bisulcata* are met, further supporting that ~~precipitation-relative secretion~~ rate is the ultimate control of the observed signal in Fig. 4.

#### **4.2-3 Significance of ~~precipitation-shell secretion~~ rate effects for fossil Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca data**

In order to use Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca data of fossil carbonates to study aspects of palaeoenvironments, it is imperative that the dominant controls of the signal are constrained. After excluding data that are affected by crystallographic forcing near the centre of the rostrum (Ullmann et al., 2015, Fig. 6) and samples showing clear ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate effects, the residual range between the measured extreme values in the studied rostrum is still ± 25 % for Mg/Ca ratios and ± 12 % for Sr/Ca ratios

(Fig. 57). Reported variability within the genus *Passaloteuthis* and all Toarcian (Early Jurassic, ca. 183–174 Ma) belemnite rostra (Bailey et al., 2003; Rosales et al., 2004; Ullmann et al., 2014) is considerably larger (Fig. 75). Some of this variability is likely related to crystallographic controls on Mg and Sr incorporation (Fig. 57, Ullmann et al., 2015). In practice, there are only a few samples affected by this factor in published data sets: Crystallographic controls leading to such Sr and Mg enrichments are most prevalent near the apical line of the rostrum (Ullmann et al., 2015), an area where sampling is avoided (if possible) because of a high probability of diagenetic overprint (e.g., Podlaha et al., 1998; McArthur et al., 2000; Ullmann and Korte, 2015). For *Passaloteuthis*, the observed range of Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca values in the genus (Ullmann et al., 2014) is reduced by a third, when the highest 5 % of the element/Ca ratios are excluded.

Significant changes of average Sr/Ca and Mg/Ca ratios have been observed for whole belemnites specimens throughout the Toarcian (McArthur et al., 2000; Bailey et al., 2003; Rosales et al., 2004). These changes are considerably larger than observed intra-specimen variability (Fig. 57) and show a large increase of both Sr/Ca and Mg/Ca ratios around the Early Jurassic Toarcian Oceanic Anoxic Event (ca. 183 Ma, McArthur et al., 2000; Bailey et al., 2003; Rosales et al., 2004). On an even longer time scale of the Early and Middle Jurassic – some 38 million years – Sr/Ca ratios in belemnite rostra averaged per ammonite biozone drift between 1.2 and 2.3 mmol mol<sup>-1</sup>, probably tracing secular changes in seawater composition (Ullmann et al., 2013b).

While effects of ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate on Sr/Ca and Mg/Ca ratios in belemnite rostra are significant (Fig. 4,6), all the above described ranges of data are considerably larger than the maximum observed effect of calcite ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate in *P. bisulcata* (Fig. 57), suggesting that ~~precipitation-growth~~ rate is of minor importance for controlling element/Ca ratios in *P. bisulcata*. This likely also holds for other belemnites as seen by Sr/Ca ratios in transects through multiple specimens yielding comparable results in *Belleflocamax mammillatus* (Sørensen et al., 2015), even though the generalisation remains to be tested rigorously. When sampling belemnite rostra for palaeoenvironmental studies, avoiding the apical zone and targeting profiles as far away from the apex as possible (i.e., profile one rather than profiles three or four) ensures the least possible bias exerted by crystallographic forcing and ~~changing-precipitationinternal growth~~ rate effects. Deriving information about past seawater composition then depends mostly on other potential controls on shell chemistry like metabolic, kinetic, and temperature effects (e.g. Rosales et al., 2004; McArthur et al., 2007; Li et al., 2012) and the generation of large datasets which enable constraining average values precisely.

## 5 Conclusions

The biomineral structure of belemnite rostra provides a unique opportunity to isolate effects of calcite ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate from other controlling processes during biomineralisation.

Changes in relative ~~precipitation-growth~~ rate in the rostrum of the belemnite *P. bisulcata* result in a depletion of Mg (8.1 ± 0.9 % per 100 % ~~secretionprecipitation~~ rate increase) and enrichment of Sr (5.9 ± 0.7 % per 100 % ~~secretionprecipitation~~ rate increase).

While the forcing exerted by changing ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate is significant and can be precisely quantified, it is of minor importance for the overall variability of Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios in belemnite rostra. This is important when considering the utility of belemnite rostra for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

Sampling geochemical transects along profiles as near as possible to the protoconch of the rostrum and avoiding the apical zone helps minimising biasing effects of ~~secretion precipitation~~ rate (and crystallographic forcing) on palaeoenvironmental datasets.

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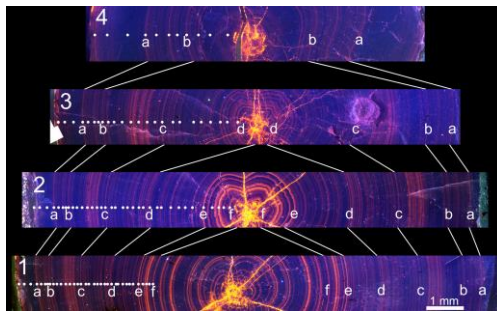


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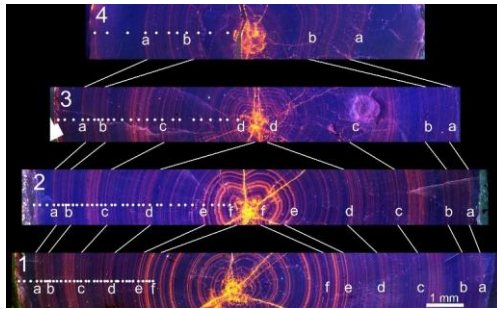
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**Figure 1:** Cathodoluminescence pattern for sections through the rostrum adjacent to geochemical transects one to four. Letters “a” to “f” correlated between the profiles with white lines as well as white dots indicate arbitrarily chosen marker bands for illustration of differences in precipitation rate (see also Fig. 2). Note the increasing distance of marker bands from profile one to four.

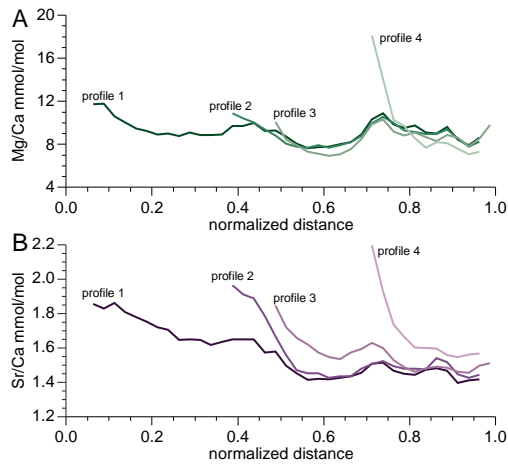


Figure 21: Studied geochemical profiles and their relative precipitation-secretion rates. A) Schematic representation of the rostrum of *P. bisulcata* with approximate positions of the transects. B) Cross plot of distance of selected luminescent bands (a-f and white dots from Fig. 42) from the margin of the rostrum in profiles one to four with respect to its position in profile one. Stippled lines indicate selected relative precipitation-secretion rates with respect to profile one. Letters and circles are positioned as in Figure 1. C) Relative precipitation-secretion rate in geochemical transects computed from exponential relationships documented in Ullmann et al. (2015).



**Figure 2: Cathodoluminescence pattern for sections through the rostrum adjacent to geochemical transects one to four. Letters “a” to “f” correlated between the profiles with white lines as well as white dots indicate arbitrarily chosen marker bands for illustration of differences in shell secretion rate (see also Fig. 2). Note the increasing distance of marker bands from profile one to four.**

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**Figure 3: Aggregated geochemical data for the four profiles plotted against distance from the central apical line of the rostrum (zero) to the margin (one) with profile one as a reference. The bin size is 2.5 % of the profile length. A) Mg/Ca ratios. B) Sr/Ca ratios.**

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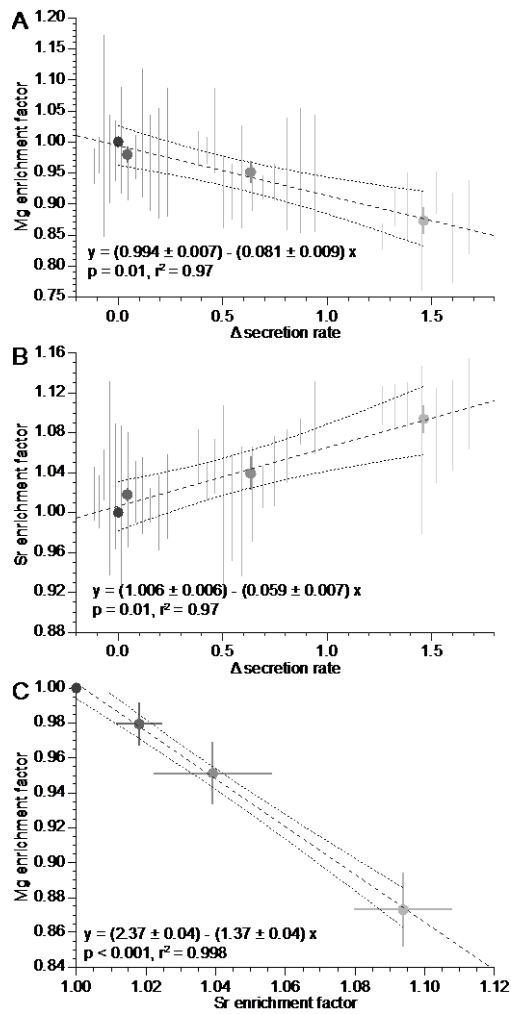


Figure 4: Changes in Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios as a function of precipitation rate. A) Mg enrichment factor as a function of change in precipitation rate expressed as a relative deviation from the reference precipitation rate of profile 1. Vertical lines denote 2 standard error uncertainties for each binned interval of profiles two to four and circles show average values with two standard error uncertainty. The trend line from ordinary least square regression of the mean values is shown with 95 % uncertainty envelope. B) Sr enrichment factor as a function of calcite precipitation rate. Symbols as in A). C) Correlation of Mg depletion with Sr enrichment.

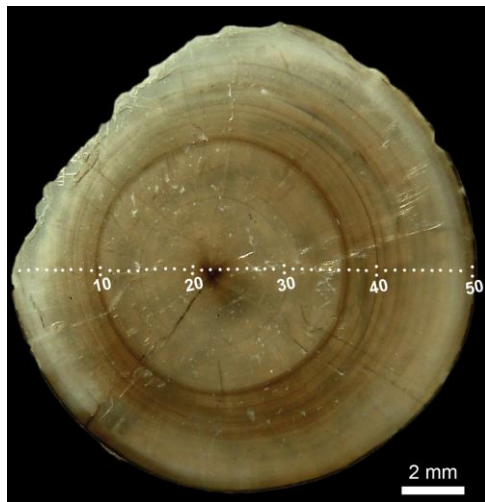


Figure 5: Section through additional specimen of *Passaloteuthis* sp. with sample positions for geochemical analyses.

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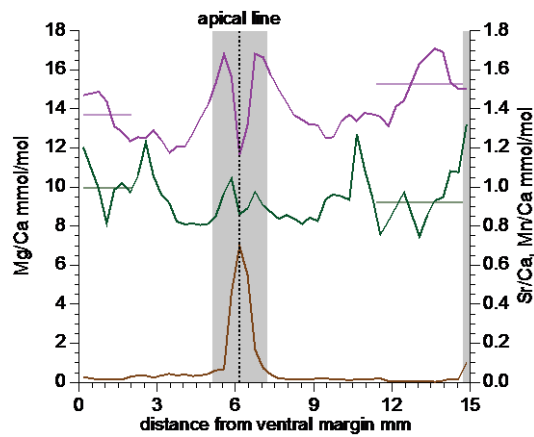


Figure 6: Geochemical data for additional specimen of *Passaloteuthis* sp. (Mg/Ca green; Sr/Ca violet; Mn/Ca brown). Samples excluded from interpretation due to postdepositional alteration (Ullmann et al., 2015) are shaded in gray. Significant differences in average Sr/Ca and Mg/Ca between the ventral (slow growing) and dorsal (fast growing) part of the section (light straight lines) are evident and are compatible with the findings from the multi profile dataset.

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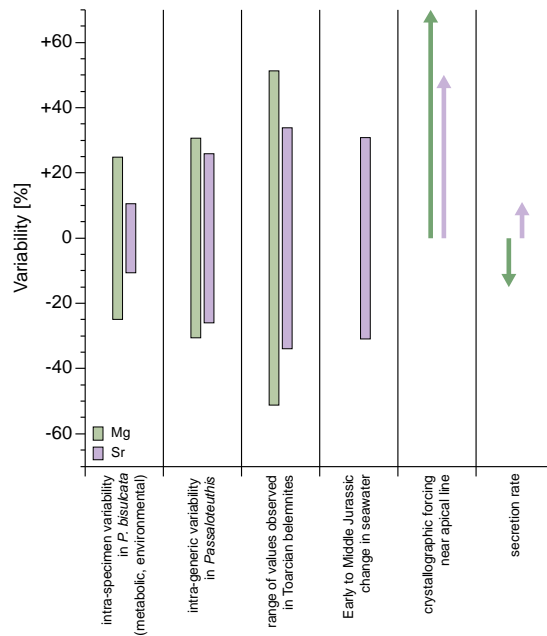


Figure 57: Variability of Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios in belemnite calcite. Intra-specimen variability accounts for residual range of values in *P. bisulcata* after accounting for crystallographic forcing and ~~precipitation-shell~~ secretion rate (Ullmann et al., 2015). Intra-species variability of *Passaloteuthis* (Ullmann et al., 2014) and range of values observed in Toarcian belemnites (Bailey et al., 2003; Rosales et al., 2004; Ullmann et al., 2014) do not exclude samples potentially affected by crystallographic forcing and are thus likely overestimated. Range of reconstructed seawater Sr/Ca ratios is from Ullmann et al. (2013b). Length of arrows for crystallographic forcing and ~~precipitation-secretion~~ rate indicate maximum observed effect in *P. bisulcata*.