

We thank the reviewer for her/his comments and suggestions on our manuscript. We agree with most comments and modified/updated the manuscript accordingly. Below is a point-by-point reply, our answers appear in italics.

This is an interesting study that compares 4 different methods for quantifying calcification rates under high and low pH conditions. The authors conclude that that alkalinity anomaly, Ca anomaly, and ^{45}Ca methods are all in close agreement, but the ^{13}C method is not. This is a helpful study for researchers that are trying to calculate calcification rates of individual corals. The methods are rigorous. However, I personally have only done the TA anomaly technique so hopefully the other reviewers have hands-on experience with the other 3 methods. My comments below are minor. I believe this will make a nice contribution to the coral biogeochemistry literature.

Abstract

Line 27: add a comma after calcification

Done

Line 41: This is a bit of a meta comment, but what if the ^{13}C method is accurate and the other 3 are highly correlated, but wrong. How do we know which of these methods are “true” net calcification?

Interesting comment. The reason why we reject the ^{13}C method (as applied in our study) is not only because ^{13}C based rates are not correlated to the other methods but also because calcification rates based on this technique are much higher and much more variable than rates based on the other methods. As mentioned in the text, it is very unlikely that dissolution was a significant process during our incubations as nubbins were fully covered with tissue, therefore there is no distinction between net and gross calcification. Now, calcification (net or gross) consumes 1 mole of carbon and 1 mole of calcium to produce 1 mole of calcium carbonate. The fact that $\Delta[\text{Ca}]$ and $\Delta[A_T]$ and highly correlated following a 1:2 ratio fully confirms this. We should therefore have a 1:1 ratio between C and Ca fluxes, the fact that higher rates were obtained with the ^{13}C technique is problematic. Finally, several studies have shown that most of the calcium used by the calcification process comes from seawater, a significant proportion of the carbon used comes from the metabolism of the organism, suggesting that rates based on C incorporation (^{14}C or ^{13}C) must significantly underestimate true net calcification.

Introduction

Line 77: You can account for changes in nutrients (by measuring nitrate, phosphate, and ammonium and incorporating into the delta TA) as well as evaporation (normalize to salinity) in the alkalinity anomaly technique.

The reviewer is correct. We have added this small paragraph to deal with this comment: “This method assumes, however, that calcification is the only biological process influencing A_T (Smith and Key, 1975). Nitrogen assimilation through photosynthetic activities, nitrification as well as aerobic and anaerobic remineralization of organic matter are known to impact A_T through the consumption or release of nutrients (ammonium, nitrate and phosphate) and protons (Wolf-

Gladrow et al. 2007). While for some group of species (e.g. bivalves, sea urchins), corrections appear necessary to take into account the effect of nutrient release on A_T , changes in nutrient concentrations during incubations of isolated corals are too low (i.e. several orders of magnitude lower than changes in A_T) to introduce a significant bias in the calculations (Gazeau et al. 2015)."

Furthermore, ammonium concentrations have been measured at the start and end of selected incubations (only at ambient pH) that confirmed this assumption ($D [NH_4]$ were at least 2 orders of magnitude lower than DA_T).

We do not discuss here the need to correct for evaporation as this is discussed in details later in the text.

Line 96: Replace comma with semi-colon and add comma after "therefore".

Done

Line 113 – 114: Incorporate this sentence into the last paragraph

Done

Methods

Line 147: replace "a" with "and"

Done

Line 180: remove "a"

Done

Line 265 states that initial levels are not necessary to compute calcification and only final values with and without corals are used, but line 269 says that T_1 are concentrations are the start of the incubations. This is a bit confusing. Please clarify.

Equations 3 and 4 present the calculation procedure showing that initial levels are not necessary to compute calcification rates as stated in the text above the equations. We believe it is important to detail these equations and do not believe this is confusing as presented. However, to make sure there is no misunderstanding we added: "where A_{T1} and Ca_1 are A_T and Ca^{2+} concentrations at the start of the incubations (in $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$; not used in the computations), ..."

Line 275 – 276: Please explain the parameters in the equations.

Done.

Line 280: There is an empty box on the equation.

Corrected.

I think it is worth discussing why different incubation times were used. Why not do them all at the same time to reduce error with changing carbonate chemistry in the background (i.e. the longest time needed to get a result from all 4 methods)?

We did not have this information before starting this study. Incubation times have been chosen based on practical aspects (access to the lab etc...). The fact that they differ between different incubations is not in conflict with our objective which was

to compare changes in various parameters during the same incubation, not to compare different incubations between each other. A sentence has been added in the Material and Method section: “Incubation times were not fixed based on scientific considerations and differed between the different incubations due to practical constraints (i.e. access to the lab etc...).”

Please add incubation temperatures to table 1 or 2

As temperature was maintained constant and at the same level for all incubations, the temperature level is now mentioned in the legend of both tables.

Results section throughout: Instead of saying X and Y are presented in Figures 1 and 2, make a statement about the result and cite the figure and table after. (For example, see like 368).

Modified accordingly.

We thank the reviewer for her/his comments and suggestions on our manuscript. We agree with most comments and modified/updated the manuscript accordingly. Below is a point-by-point reply, our answers appear in italics.

This is a nice study comparing 4 different methods to measure short-term calcification rates in corals. The comparison of three less commonly used methods (calcium anomaly, ^{45}Ca , ^{13}C) with the commonly used alkalinity anomaly technique adds to the existing literature of method comparisons for estimating coral calcification. Furthermore, the current study has the benefit that the different methods were measured during the same incubation, minimizing the risk of other factors confounding the results. The authors show that two of the three methods are highly correlated and not significantly different from the alkalinity anomaly technique, and further provide useful recommendations on minimum and maximum incubation times for various volume to biomass ratios and techniques. Overall, this will be a useful addition to the existing literature on coral calcification methods. As a note of caution, I do not have experience with the calcium anomaly, ^{45}Ca and ^{13}C methods, therefore I cannot judge the experimental protocol used for these methods.

I only have one concern regarding the data: since there was no pH control during the incubations and some incubation times were rather long, especially when conducted in the dark, significant changes in carbonate chemistry did occur over the course of these incubations. For example, pH decreased from 8.05 to 7.62 under ambient conditions in the dark due to respiration and calcification. While this is clearly stated in the Results, the Discussion on acceptable changes in carbonate chemistry largely focuses on changes in ΔC_T rather than pH but I don't think such a change is acceptable in studies that actually aim to detect the impacts of low pH on coral calcification. Similarly, Riebesell et al. (2010) also recommend that changes in A_T during incubations should be within 10% of starting A_T , yet changes in this study were typically larger than this, except under low pH. Furthermore, there is no discussion whatsoever regarding changes in dissolved oxygen and this was also not measured, despite hypoxia/hyperoxia potentially stressing the corals. Again, while this may be less relevant for a method comparison, it is certainly relevant when making recommendations for general incubation times. I would therefore encourage the authors to discuss these aspects in more detail in the Discussion.

Many thanks for these very constructive comments. As stated in the manuscript (but clarified in the revised version), our study was designed to compare different techniques to estimate calcification rates and not to define the best experimental approach to study the effects of ocean acidification on coral species using these different approaches. As such, the chosen experimental protocol (e.g. incubation times) was not optimal and led, in some cases, to significant changes in the carbonate chemistry during incubations. We fully agree with the reviewer that the method we used to estimate maximal incubation times (i.e. only implying a change in $C_T < 10\%$) is not acceptable. Indeed, as stated by the reviewer, one should not only focus on C_T but on pH and A_T as well in order to make sure that carbonate chemistry is maintained under an acceptable range (as compared to starting conditions). While we could find in the literature some estimates of "acceptable" changes in C_T and A_T (respectively Langdon et al., 2010 and Riebesell et al., 2010), it is more difficult to estimate what changes in pH are acceptable. As such, we have arbitrarily decided to consider a maximal change in pH set to 0.06 which is the minimal change in global surface ocean pH projected for 2100. Therefore, the new estimated t_{\max} corresponds to the lowest value between t_{\max_pH} ($\Delta\text{pH}_T < 0.06$), $t_{\max_C_T}$ ($\Delta C_T < 10\%$) and

$t_{max_A_T}$ ($\Delta A_T < 10\%$). Except in the light under ambient pH conditions, t_{max} is always set to the maximal incubation time allowed to keep pH levels under an acceptable range ($\Delta pH_T < 0.06$).

Regarding oxygen levels, as pointed out by the reviewer, oxygen levels were not measured. However, our incubations were conducted in continuously mixed open systems, allowing equilibration with the atmosphere. Exchange at the air-sea interface is considerably faster for O_2 than for CO_2 . Furthermore, we have unpublished data from an other experiment that confirm that under the same experimental setup, where we also tracked the dissolved oxygen concentration over time, we did not observe any significant deviation from saturation.

The new paragraph now reads:

“Our study was designed to compare different techniques to estimate calcification rates and not to define the best experimental approach to study the effects of ocean acidification on coral species using these different approaches. As such, the chosen experimental protocol (e.g. incubation times) was not optimal and led, in some cases, to significant changes in the carbonate chemistry during incubations. However, our results provide some insights that we further discuss in the following section. Measuring and comparing calcification rates of organisms under varying pH conditions requires the careful choice of a volume and a time interval such that the precision of the calcification rate measurement is large enough to observe significant signals and that the change in carbonate chemistry parameters between the beginning and end of the incubation is small compared to the range of these parameters in the different treatments (Langdon et al. 2010). Table 5 illustrates the incubation time necessary to obtain measurable changes for each method (t_{min}) considering the ratio between incubation volume and coral size chosen for our study. As the ^{13}C incorporation method did not provide reliable rates, this technique was not considered in this analysis. The threshold for significant signals was set at 10-fold the analytical precision of the instruments (Langdon et al. 2010) for A_T and Ca^{2+} measurements (1.2 and $2.9 \mu mol kg^{-1}$, respectively) and above the detection limit of 15 cpm for ^{45}Ca activity estimated. Maximum incubation times are more difficult to estimate. Langdon et al. (2010) and Riebesell et al. (2010) recommend considering incubation times short enough to maintain A_T and C_T within an acceptable range (ΔA_T and $\Delta C_T < 10\%$). As it is more difficult to estimate what changes in pH are acceptable, we have arbitrarily considered a maximal change in pH of 0.06, corresponding to the lowest change in global surface ocean pH projected for 2100 (IPCC, 2014). Maximal incubation times, as presented in Table 5 (t_{max}), correspond then to incubation times that should not be exceeded in order to maintain acceptable conditions of the carbonate chemistry ($\Delta pH_T < 0.06$ and $\Delta A_T < 10\%$ and $\Delta C_T < 10\%$).

Under light and ambient pH conditions, even if the ratio between incubation volume and nubbin size is much higher than for previous similar studies (e.g. Cohen et al. 2017), all methods would allow a precise estimation of calcification rates over very short incubation times (~15 min to 1 h, depending on the method) while leading to moderate changes in carbonate chemistry. In the dark, and under ambient pH conditions, in the absence of pH increase due to photosynthesis, the decrease of pH due to respiration, narrows the possible incubation period to 1.3 h. While this is still larger than the incubation time allowing to obtain a significant signal with alkalinity

anomaly technique (~20 min), the other two methods necessitate longer incubation times to obtain precise estimates (> 1.5 h). At lower pH, both under light and dark conditions, and using open systems without a continuous pH regulation as in our study, it is obvious that all techniques are not well adapted to this experimental protocol. Indeed, as a consequence of lower calcification rates at lower pH and significant CO₂ degassing, incubation times necessary to obtain significant signals using these techniques are too large to maintain the carbonate parameters within an acceptable range. This is not insurmountable as a continuous regulation of pH using for instance pure CO₂ bubbling or incubations performed in a closed container (i.e. without contact to the atmosphere) would alleviate these problems.

Specific Comments

Abstract

L32: please state the respective pH values instead of ambient and low
Added

Introduction

L61: please also cite here other studies that recently compared various calcification methods, such as (Gazeau et al. 2015), (Schoepf et al. 2016) and (Cohen et al. 2017)
References added.

L84: “solid agreement” – this is rather colloquial and should be rephrased, e.g. “good agreement”
Modified

L114: you could add here that this was done under different pH and light conditions
Added

Methods

L124-138: Please provide more information on how water motion/flow was provided in the aquaria, how big the tanks were, rate of seawater renewal etc
Now provided.

L127: please provide more information on how many branches from how many different parent colonies were collected for each experiment.
*It now reads: “In June 2017, 40 terminal portions branches of *S. pistillata*, free of boring organisms, were cut from four different parent colonies (10 branches per parent colony) and suspended by nylon lines to allow tissues to fully cover the exposed skeleton for at least five weeks (Tambutté et al., 1995; Houlbrèque et al., 2015).”*

L130: what was the concentration of *Artemia* fed during experiment 1? This info is only provided for experiment 2

Added.

L137: please change to “biometrics parameters of the biological material”

Modified.

L146: looking at Fig. 1, I wonder whether the rod to which the nylon line was attached shaded the coral from light coming from above?

The thickness of the holder was only 4 mm. The position of the lights and water movement inside the incubation chamber allowed nubbins to slowly move inside the chamber and ensured no significant shading.

L147: should be “and low pH”

Corrected.

L273: a description of how coral skeletal dry weight was measured is missing from the Methods. Please add.

This was mentioned in the text, we added the apparatus used to weigh the samples: “Tissues were then dissolved completely in 1 mol L⁻¹ NaOH at 90 °C for 20 min. The skeleton was rinsed twice in 1 mL NaOH and twice in 5 mL in MilliQ water. It was then dried for 72 h at 60 °C, precisely weighed at ± 0.01 g using a Sartorius BP 310S (referred thereafter to as skeleton dry weight), and dissolved in 12 N HCl.”

L309: It’s good to see that model II regressions were used for the analyses.

Thanks, this is indeed appropriate when both variables are associated to experimental errors.

Results

L313: Table 2: why was the seawater activity much higher in experiment 2 than 1?

Answer

L316: please state whether this is SD or SE

Since we present SD values for all environmental conditions (as opposed to SE when we refer to estimated rates), a sentence has been added at the start of the Results section: “All values in Table 2 as well as in the text below correspond to the average between replicates (or incubations) ± standard deviation (SD).”

L328: was this change in pH during incubation similar for the different methods?

Indeed, as mentioned in the text, changes in pH were similar for the different incubations. Final pH levels were:

- *In the light*
 - ⁴⁵Ca: $pH_T (8.05 \pm 0.03; n = 6)$
 - ¹³C: $pH_T (8.06 \pm 0.04; n = 6)$
- *In the dark*
 - ⁴⁵Ca: $pH_T (7.61 \pm 0.1; n = 6)$
 - ¹³C: $pH_T (7.63 \pm 0.04; n = 6)$

L336: should be “were similar”

Corrected

L361: there are also some other data with asterisks in Table 3 – I assume they are also outliers but this is not explicitly discussed. Please clarify.

Clarified: “These estimates (n = 4) have been considered as outliers, marked with an asterisk in Table 3 and not included in the following analyses.”

Discussion

L443: please replace “that” with “why”

Replaced.

L461: should be “was” x2

Modified.

L492: should be “importantly”

Modified to “significant”.

L514: would be necessary for what? Please add.

*Modified to: “Conducting similar comparison studies with other coral species as well as other major calcifying groups widely studied in the context of ocean acidification (e.g. coralline algae, molluscs etc...) would be necessary **for a better understanding of ocean acidification impacts on ecosystem services provided by calcifying organisms.**”*

Figures and Tables

Table 3 is very long. I think this information could be better represented in a figure showing both the average of all six replicates per treatment/method and the individual data points spread around the average.

We respectfully disagree and prefer keeping the table as it is, as we believe it is important to provide the actual numbers to the reader. Individual data points are further shown in Figures 2-4.

Also, the legend does not currently explain what the asterisk next to some data means. Please add.

Added.

Table 4: please add the p-value for the regressions to the table.

Added.

1 **Intercomparison of four methods to estimate coral calcification under various**
2 **environmental conditions**

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20 Keywords: Calcification; Coral; Alkalinity anomaly; Calcium anomaly; ⁴⁵Ca incorporation;

21 ¹³C incorporation

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22 **Abstract**

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23 Coral reefs are constructed by calcifiers that precipitate calcium carbonate to build
24 their shells or skeletons through the process of calcification. Accurately assessing coral
25 calcification rates is crucial to determine the health of these ecosystems and their response to
26 major environmental changes such as ocean warming and acidification. Several approaches
27 have been used to assess rates of coral calcification, but there is a real need to compare these
28 approaches in order to ascertain that high quality and intercomparable results can be
29 produced. Here, we assessed four methods (total alkalinity anomaly, calcium anomaly, ⁴⁵Ca
30 incorporation and ¹³C incorporation) to determine coral calcification of the reef-building coral
31 *Stylophora pistillata*. Given the importance of environmental conditions on this process, the
32 study was performed under two starting pH levels (ambient: 8.05 and low: 7.2) and two light
33 (light and dark) conditions. Under all conditions, calcification rates estimated using the
34 alkalinity and calcium anomaly techniques as well as ⁴⁵Ca incorporation were highly
35 correlated. Such a strong correlation between the alkalinity anomaly and ⁴⁵Ca incorporation
36 techniques has not been observed in previous studies and most probably results from
37 improvements described in the present paper. The only method which provided calcification
38 rates significantly different from the other three techniques was ¹³C incorporation.
39 Calcification rates based on this method were consistently higher than those measured using
40 the other techniques. Although reasons for these discrepancies remain unclear, the use of this
41 technique for assessing calcification rates in corals is not recommended without further
42 investigations.

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48 1. Introduction

49 Calcification is the fundamental biological process by which organisms precipitate
50 calcium carbonate. Calcifying organisms take up calcium and carbonate or bicarbonate ions to
51 build their biomineral structures (aragonite, calcite and/or vaterite) which have physiological,
52 ecological and biogeochemical functions. Moreover, calcium carbonate plays a major role in
53 the services provided by ecosystems to human societies.

54 The ocean has absorbed large amounts of anthropogenic CO₂ since the start of the
55 industrial revolution and is currently sequestering about 22% of CO₂ emissions (average
56 2008-2017; Le Quéré et al., 2018). This massive input of CO₂ in the ocean impacts seawater
57 chemistry with a decrease in seawater pH, carbonate ion concentrations [CO₃²⁻] and an
58 increase in CO₂ and bicarbonate concentrations [HCO₃⁻]. These fundamental changes to the
59 carbonate system are referred to as “ocean acidification” (OA; Gattuso and Hansson, 2011).
60 Models project that the average surface water pH will drop by 0.06 to 0.32 pH units by the
61 end of the century (IPCC, 2014).

62 The effect of OA on the ocean is currently the subject of intense research with
63 particular attention to organisms producing CaCO₃. For instance, coral communities have
64 already proven to be particularly vulnerable to rapidly changing global environmental
65 conditions (e.g. Albright et al., 2018). In order to help project the future of coral reefs,
66 accurate estimates of calcification rates during realistic perturbation experiments are
67 necessary in order to produce high quality and intercomparable results. (Cohen et al., 2017;
68 Gazeau et al., 2015; Langdon et al., 2010; Riebesell et al., 2010; Schoepf et al., 2017).

69 Several methods are available to quantify rates of coral calcification. Calcification can
70 be measured as the increase of CaCO₃ mass (e.g. the buoyant weight technique; Jokiel et al.,

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72 1978) or following the incorporation of radio-labelled carbon or calcium in the skeleton
73 (Goreau, 1959), but also through the quantification of changes in a seawater constituent that is
74 stoichiometrically related to the amount of CaCO₃ precipitated. For instance, the alkalinity
75 anomaly technique (Smith and Key, 1975) has been widely used to estimate net calcification
76 of organisms and communities, especially of corals and coral reef environments (e.g. Smith
77 and Kinsey, 1978; Gazeau et al., 2015; Albright et al., 2016; Cyronak et al., 2018). Total
78 alkalinity (A_T) is directly influenced by bicarbonate and carbonate ion concentrations together
79 with a multitude of other minor compounds (Wolf-Gladrow et al., 2007). Calcification
80 consumes carbonate or bicarbonate, following the reversible reaction:



82 Calcification consumes two moles of HCO₃⁻, hence decreasing A_T by two moles per
83 mole of CaCO₃ produced (eq. 1). It is possible to derive the rate of net calcification (gross
84 calcification - dissolution) by measuring A_T before and after incubating an organism or a
85 community. This method assumes, however, that calcification is the only biological process
86 influencing A_T (Smith and Key, 1975). Nitrogen assimilation through photosynthetic
87 activities, nitrification as well as aerobic and anaerobic remineralization of organic matter are
88 known to impact A_T through the consumption or release of nutrients (ammonium, nitrate and
89 phosphate) and protons (Wolf-Gladrow et al. 2007). While for some group of species (e.g.
90 bivalves, sea urchins), corrections appear necessary to take into account the effect of nutrient
91 release on A_T , changes in nutrient concentrations during incubations of isolated corals are too
92 low (i.e. several orders of magnitude lower than changes in A_T) to introduce a significant bias
93 in the calculations (Gazeau et al. 2015).

94 In contrast to A_T , the concentration of calcium (Ca²⁺) in seawater is only biologically
95 influenced by net calcification and a 1:1 relationship can be used to derive net calcification

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99 rates (eq. 1). The depletion of A_T and Ca^{2+} needs to be corrected for gains of A_T and Ca^{2+}
100 resulting from evaporation. These corrections can be applied through the incubation of
101 seawater in the absence of coral (Schoepf et al., 2017). Both the alkalinity anomaly and
102 calcium anomaly methods are non-destructive and typically show a good agreement
103 (Chisholm and Gattuso, 1991; Murillo et al., 2014; Gazeau et al., 2015).

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104 The ^{45}Ca incorporation technique has been used since the 1950's (Goreau and Bowen,
105 1955; Goreau, 1959). While earlier techniques showed low reproducibility, methodological
106 improvements led to a significant reduction of the deviations between replicates (see
107 Tambutté et al., 1995, for more details). The strength of this method is that it is extremely
108 sensitive for measuring short-term variations in gross calcification rates. However, in contrast
109 to the A_T and Ca^{2+} anomaly techniques, it is a sample-destructive method.

110 Previous studies designed to compare calcification rate estimates using the ^{45}Ca
111 incorporation and A_T anomaly methods revealed subtle discrepancies. For example, Smith and
112 Roth in Smith and Kinsey (1978) reported an overestimation of rates based on the ^{45}Ca
113 method. In contrast, Tambutté et al. (1995) and Cohen et al. (2017) reported a decrease in A_T
114 without concomitant incorporation of ^{45}Ca , therefore, suggesting an overestimation of
115 calcification derived from A_T measurements. However, during these studies, in order to avoid
116 radioactive contamination of laboratory equipment, estimates of calcification were not
117 performed during the same incubations, but rather during incubations performed over two
118 consecutive days.

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119 In contrast to the ^{45}Ca incorporation method, to the best of our knowledge, no studies
120 have used carbon-based incorporation techniques to estimate coral calcification rates in the
121 framework of ocean acidification. Past studies that compared carbon and calcium
122 incorporation rates in coral skeletons based on a double labelling technique with $H^{14}CO_3$ and

125 ⁴⁵Ca showed that only a minor proportion of the labelled seawater carbon is incorporated in
126 the skeleton (e.g. Marshall and Wright, 1998) and that the major source of dissolved inorganic
127 carbon for calcification is metabolic CO₂ (70–75% of the total CaCO₃ deposition; Furla et al.,
128 2000). Consequently, under both light and dark conditions, the rate of ⁴⁵Ca deposition appears
129 greater than the rate of ¹⁴C incorporation (Furla et al., 2000). To the best of our knowledge,
130 only one study estimated calcification rates of a benthic calcifier (coralline algae) using a
131 stable carbon isotopic technique through addition of ¹³C-labelled bicarbonate (McCoy et al.,
132 2016). The present study aimed at comparing calcification rates measured using the alkalinity
133 and calcium anomaly methods, as well as the ⁴⁵Ca and ¹³C incorporation techniques, under
134 different pH and light conditions.

Moved (insertion) [1]

Moved up [1]: The present study aimed at comparing calcification rates measured using the alkalinity and calcium anomaly methods, as well as the ⁴⁵Ca and ¹³C incorporation techniques.

140 2. Material and Methods

141 Colonies of the reef-building coral *Stylophora pistillata* were incubated in the
142 laboratory, both in the light and dark, under ambient and lowered pH conditions. At ambient
143 pH (experiment conducted in July-August 2017), two sets of incubations were performed
144 using either ⁴⁵Ca or ¹³C additions and calcification rates based on these techniques were
145 compared to those derived, during the same incubations, by the alkalinity and calcium
146 anomaly techniques. At lowered pH (experiment conducted in August 2018), no incubations
147 with ¹³C addition were conducted and only the three other techniques were compared.

148 2.1. Biological material and experimental set-up

149 Specimens used in this experiment originated from colonies of the coral *Stylophora*
150 *pistillata* (Esper 1797) initially sampled in the Gulf of Aqaba (Red Sea, Jordan) and
151 transferred to the Scientific Centre of Monaco where they were cultivated under controlled
152 conditions for several years. In June 2017, ~~40~~ terminal ~~portions~~ branches of *S. pistillata*, free
153 of boring organisms, were cut ~~from four different parent colonies (10 branches per parent~~
154 ~~colony) and suspended by nylon lines to allow tissues to fully cover the exposed skeleton for~~
155 ~~at least five weeks~~ (Tambutté et al., 1995; Houlbrèque et al., 2015). The nubbins were fed
156 with rotifers (once a day) and artemia nauplii (twice a week; ~~ca. 1 nauplius mL⁻¹~~) and kept ~~in~~
157 ~~70 L aquaria (water renewal: 2 L min⁻¹)~~ under an irradiance of 200 μmol photons m⁻² s⁻¹
158 (12:12 light:dark photoperiod, light banks: HQI 250W Nepturion - BLV (Germany) / 200
159 μmol photons m⁻² s⁻¹), a seawater temperature of 25 ± 0.5 °C and a salinity of 38 ± 0.5. ~~Water~~
160 ~~motion was provided by a submersible pump (Minijet MN 606; RENA®)~~. Before the start of
161 the experiment, specimens were transferred to the International Atomic Energy Agency

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173 (IAEA). For the second set of experiments in 2018, nubbins were prepared in June 2018 and
174 cultured, under the conditions described above, at IAEA except that colonies were fed twice a
175 week with newly hatched brine shrimp nauplii (ca. 1 nauplius mL⁻¹). Biometrics parameters
176 (size, weight) of the biological material are shown in Table 1.

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177 Different types of incubations were conducted. In July-August 2017, one set of
178 incubations was performed under ambient pH conditions with the addition of radioactive
179 calcium dichloride (⁴⁵CaCl₂). During the same period, another set of incubations was
180 performed, under ambient pH conditions, with addition of labelled ¹³C-sodium bicarbonate
181 (¹³C-NaHCO₃ 99%). Finally, in August 2018, one set of incubations was performed under
182 lowered pH conditions (see thereafter for more details) with the addition of ⁴⁵CaCl₂. For all
183 sets of incubations, organisms were incubated for 5 to 11 hours (Table 1), both in the light
184 and dark, in 500 mL polyethylene beakers equipped with a magnetic stirrer (Fig. 1). Six and
185 five replicates were used, respectively, at ambient and low pH. Furthermore, for all sets of
186 incubations, one beaker was incubated, under the same conditions as the other beakers,
187 without coral and served as a control.

188 For each set of incubations, 2.4 L of seawater, pumped continuous from offshore of
189 the IAEA Monaco premises at 60 m depth, were filtered onto 0.2 µm (GF/F, 47 mm). For
190 incubations performed at lowered pH condition, pure CO₂ was bubbled in the 2.4 L initial
191 seawater batch using an automated pH-stat system (IKS Aquastar©) until the target pH was
192 reached. The pH electrode from the pH-stat system was inter-calibrated using a glass
193 combination electrode (Metrohm, Ecotrode Plus) calibrated on the total scale using a TRIS
194 buffer solution with a salinity of 35 (provided by A. Dickson, Scripps Institution of
195 Oceanography, San Diego). Initial pH_T (total scale) levels were set to ~7.2. It must be stressed
196 that pH levels were not regulated during the incubations. For ⁴⁵Ca-incubations, this initial

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199 batch was spiked with $^{45}\text{CaCl}_2$ to reach a nominal activity of $\sim 15 \text{ Bq mL}^{-1}$. As we anticipated
200 lower calcification rates during the set of experiments conducted at low pH, initial nominal
201 activity was set to $\sim 30 \text{ Bq mL}^{-1}$. Before distributing seawater to the experimental beakers, a
202 one-milliliter aliquot of seawater was removed for the precise determination of the initial
203 activity. Samples were stored, in the dark, in high-performance glass vials for 24 h before
204 counting. For ^{13}C -incubations, to determine seawater background isotopic level ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) of the
205 dissolved inorganic carbon pool ($\delta^{13}\text{C-C}_T$), three 27 mL samples were collected and gently
206 transferred to glass vials avoiding bubbles. Then, $\sim 8.95 \text{ mg}$ of $^{13}\text{C-NaHCO}_3$ were added to the
207 batch of filtered ambient seawater to increase $\delta^{13}\text{C-C}_T$ to ca. 1,500‰. For the determination
208 of $\delta^{13}\text{C-C}_T$ after enrichment, two 27 mL samples were handled as described above. The vials
209 were then sealed after being poisoned with 10 μL of saturated mercuric chloride (HgCl_2) and
210 stored upside-down at room temperature in the dark for subsequent analysis.

211 For all sets of incubations, samples for the measurements of pH_T , A_T (200 mL), and
212 Ca^{2+} concentrations (50 mL) were taken before distributing seawater to the experimental
213 beakers. While pH_T was measured immediately after sampling, samples for A_T measurements
214 were poisoned with 40 μL of 50% saturated HgCl_2 and stored in the dark at 4 °C pending
215 analysis less than two weeks later. Samples for $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ measurements were not poisoned and
216 stored in the dark at 4 °C pending analysis less than two weeks after sampling.

217 Gravimetrically determined amounts of filtered seawater (ca. 300 g) were transferred
218 to the incubation containers which were placed in a temperature-controlled (IKS Aquastar©)
219 water bath maintained at 25 ± 0.5 °C. Coral nubbins were suspended with a nylon line in the
220 experimental beakers 5 cm below the water level covered with transparent film to limit
221 evaporation (Fig. 1). During the low pH incubations conducted in 2018, to avoid
222 physiological stress, coral nubbins were acclimated by gradually lowering pH to the target

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226 levels during 24 h. This acclimation was performed in an open-flow 20 L aquarium (one full
227 water renewal per hour) using a pH-stat system as previously described and with a pH
228 decrease of ca. 0.03 units h⁻¹.

229 Incubations in the light were performed at an irradiance of 200 μmol photons m⁻² s⁻¹
230 during daytime whereas dark incubations were conducted at night. Incubation times were not
231 fixed based on scientific considerations and differed between the different incubations due to
232 practical constrains (i.e. access to the lab etc...). Before the beginning of the incubations, all
233 beakers (containing corals) were precisely weighed at ± 0.01 g (Sartorius BP 310S).

234 At the conclusion of the incubations, all beakers were precisely weighed to evaluate
235 evaporation and seawater samples were analyzed for pH_T, A_T and [Ca²⁺] as well as for ⁴⁵Ca
236 activity or δ¹³C-C_T depending on the type of incubations. pH_T was measured immediately and
237 samples for A_T and [Ca²⁺] determinations were filtered onto 0.2 μm (GF/F, Ø 47 mm),
238 poisoned with saturated HgCl₂ (only for A_T) and stored in the dark at 4 °C pending analysis
239 (within two weeks). The corals were then removed from the beakers for the analysis of
240 incorporated ⁴⁵Ca or ¹³C. Three additional corals which were not incubated were processed
241 for carbon isotopic composition of the previously accreted calcium carbonate (see section
242 “2.3. Computations and statistics”).

243 2.2. Analytical techniques

244 Immediately after sampling, pH_T was measured on a Metrohm 826 mobile pH-logger
245 and a glass electrode (Metrohm, Ecotrode Plus) calibrated on the total scale using a TRIS
246 buffer of salinity 35 (provided by A. Dickson, Scripps University, USA). A_T was determined
247 in triplicate 50 mL subsamples by potentiometric titration on a titrator Titrando 888
248 (Metrohm) coupled to a glass electrode (Metrohm, Ecotrode Plus) and a thermometer

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249 (pt1000). The pH electrode was calibrated before every set of measurements on the total scale
250 using a TRIS buffer of salinity 35 (provided by A. Dickson, Scripps University, USA).
251 Measurements were carried out at a constant temperature of 25 °C and A_T was calculated as
252 described in Dickson et al. (2007). Certified reference material (CRM; batches 143 and 156)
253 provided by A. Dickson (Scripps University, USA) were used to check precision (standard
254 deviation within measurements of the same batch) and accuracy (deviation from the certified
255 nominal value). Over the six series of A_T measurements performed during the experiment,
256 mean accuracy and precision (\pm SD) were respectively 7.2 ± 1.2 and $1.2 \pm 0.2 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$.
257 $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ was determined in triplicate using the ethylene glycol tetra acetic acid (EGTA)
258 potentiometric titration (Lebel and Poisson, 1976). About 10 g of sampled seawater and 10 g
259 of HgCl_2 solution (ca. 1 mmol L^{-1}) were accurately weighed out. Then, about 10 g of a
260 concentrated EGTA solution (ca. 10 mmol L^{-1} , also by weighing) was added to completely
261 complex Hg^{2+} and to complex nearly 95% of Ca^{2+} . After adding 10 mL of borate buffer
262 ($\text{pH}_{\text{NBS}} \sim 10$) to increase the pH of the solution, the remaining Ca^{2+} was titrated by a diluted
263 solution of EGTA (ca. 2 mmol L^{-1}) using a titrator (Titrand 888, Metrohm) coupled to an
264 amalgamated silver combined electrode (Metrohm Ag Titrode). Following Cao and Dai
265 (2011), the volume of EGTA necessary to titrate the remaining ca. 5% of Ca^{2+} were obtained
266 by manually fitting a polynomial function to the first derivative of the titration curve using the
267 function “loess” of the R software¹. The EGTA solution was calibrated prior to each
268 measurement series using International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans
269 (IAPSO) standard seawater (salinity = 38.005). Mean $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ precision obtained using this
270 technique was $2.9 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ($n = 40$), corresponding to a coefficient of variation (CV) of
271 0.026%.

¹The R Development Core Team, R.: A language and environment for statistical computing, 2018.

272 To determine the specific activity in radio-labelled seawater, the 1 mL aliquots were
273 transferred to 20 mL glass scintillation vials and mixed in proportion 1:10 (v:v) with
274 scintillation liquid Ultima Gold™ XR. According to a method adapted from Tambutté et al.
275 (1995), at the end of incubation sampled nubbins were immersed for 30 min in beakers
276 containing 300 mL of unlabelled seawater to achieve isotopic dilution of the ⁴⁵Ca contained in
277 the gastrovascular cavity. Constant water motion was provided in the efflux medium by
278 magnetic stirring bars. Tissues were then dissolved completely in 1 mol L⁻¹ NaOH at 90 °C
279 for 20 min. The skeleton was rinsed twice in 1 mL NaOH and twice in 5 mL in MilliQ water.
280 It was then dried for 72 h at 60 °C, precisely weighed at ± 0.01 g using a Sartorius BP 310S
281 (referred thereafter to as skeleton dry weight), and dissolved in 12 N HCl. Three 200 µL
282 aliquots from each skeleton dissolution were transferred to 20 mL glass scintillation vials and
283 mixed with 10 mL scintillation liquid Ultima Gold™ XR. Radioactive samples were
284 thoroughly mixed to homogenize the solution and kept in the dark for 24 h before counting.
285 The radioactivity of ⁴⁵Ca was counted using a Tri-Carb 2900 Liquid Scintillation Counter.
286 Counting time was adapted to obtain a propagated counting error of less than 5% (maximal
287 counting duration was 90 min). Radioactivity was determined by comparison with standards
288 of known activities and measurements were corrected for counting efficiency and physical
289 radioactive decay.

290 The analyses of seawater δ¹³C-C_T as well as of the ¹³C signature of coral calcified
291 tissues were performed at Leuven University. For δ¹³C-C_T analyses, a helium headspace (5
292 mL) was created in the vials and samples were acidified with 2 mL of phosphoric acid
293 (H₃PO₄, 99%). Samples were left to equilibrate overnight to transfer all C_T to gaseous CO₂.
294 Samples were injected in the carrier gas stream of an EA-IRMS (Thermo EA1110 and Delta
295 V Advantage), and data were calibrated with NBS-19 and LSVEC standards (Gillikin and

296 Bouillon, 2007). Corals were treated following the same protocol as for ^{45}Ca incorporation
 297 measurements and powdered. Triplicate subsamples of carbonate powder (~100 μg) were
 298 placed into gas-tight vials, flushed with helium, and converted into CO_2 with H_3PO_4 . After 24
 299 h, subsamples of the released CO_2 were injected into the EA-IRMS system as described
 300 above. Data were calibrated with NBS-19 and LSVEC. Carbon isotope data are expressed in
 301 the delta notation (δ) relative to Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (VPDB) standard and were
 302 calculated as:

$$303 \quad R_{\text{sample}} = \frac{\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{sample}}}{1000 + 1} \cdot R_{\text{VPDB}} \quad (2)$$

304 2.3. Computations and statistics

305 The carbonate chemistry was assessed using pH_T and A_T and the R package seacarb².
 306 Propagation of errors on computed parameters was performed using the new function “error”
 307 of the package seacarb (Orr et al., 2018) on the R software, considering errors associated to
 308 the estimation of A_T as well as errors on dissociation constants.

309 Estimates of coral calcification rates based on changes in A_T and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ during
 310 incubations were computed following equations (3) and (4), respectively. As shown in these
 311 equations, initial levels of A_T and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ are not necessary to compute calcification rates and
 312 only final values in the incubations with corals and without corals (controls) were used:

$$313 \quad G_{AT} = -\frac{(A_{T2} - A_{T1}) - (A_{T2c} - A_{T1c})}{2t} \cdot \frac{W_w}{W_c} = -\frac{(A_{T2} - A_{T2c})}{2t} \cdot \frac{W_w}{W_c} \quad (3)$$

$$314 \quad G_{Ca} = -\frac{(Ca_2 - Ca_1) - (Ca_{2c} - Ca_{1c})}{t} \cdot \frac{W_w}{W_c} = -\frac{(Ca_2 - Ca_{2c})}{t} \cdot \frac{W_w}{W_c} \quad (4)$$

²seacarb: seawater carbonate chemistry with R. Gattuso, J.-P., J. M. Epitalon, H. Lavigne, J. C. Orr, B. Gentili, M. Hagens, A. Hofmann, A. Proye, K. Soetaert and J. Rae, 2018. <https://cran.r-project.org/package=seacarb>

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315 where A_{T1} and Ca_1 are A_T and Ca^{2+} concentrations at the start of the incubations (in $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$;
 316 **not used in the computations**), A_{T2}/A_{T2c} and Ca_2/Ca_{2c} are A_T and Ca^{2+} concentrations at the end
 317 of the incubations, respectively with and without corals, t is the incubation duration in h, W_w
 318 and W_c are respectively the mass of seawater (average between initial and final weights) and
 319 the coral skeleton dry weight (g; DW). G_{AT} and G_{Ca} are therefore expressed in $\mu\text{mol CaCO}_3 \text{ g}$
 320 $\text{DW}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$. Error propagation was used to estimate errors:

$$321 \quad SE_{G_{AT}} = \frac{\sqrt{SE_{AT_2}^2 + SE_{AT_{2c}}^2}}{2t} \cdot \frac{W_w}{W_c} \quad (5)$$

$$322 \quad SE_{G_{Ca}} = \frac{\sqrt{SE_{Ca_2}^2 + SE_{Ca_{2c}}^2}}{t} \cdot \frac{W_w}{W_c} \quad (6)$$

323 where $SE_{AT_2}/SE_{AT_{2c}}$ and $SE_{Ca_2}/SE_{Ca_{2c}}$ correspond to standard errors associated with the
 324 measurement of three analytical replicates per sample for A_T and Ca^{2+} at the end of the
 325 incubations, respectively with and without corals, t is the incubation duration in h, W_w and W_c
 326 are respectively the mass of seawater (average between initial and final weights) and the coral
 327 skeleton dry weight (g DW).

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328 Coral calcification rates based on ^{45}Ca incorporation were estimated using measured
 329 seawater activity and activity recorded in the skeleton digest. Rates were then normalized per
 330 g skeleton dry weight using the formula:

$$331 \quad G_{^{45}\text{Ca}} = \frac{\text{Activity}_{\text{sample}} \cdot \frac{\text{Ca}}{\text{Activity}_{\text{seawater}}}}{W_c \cdot t} \quad (7)$$

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332 where $\text{Activity}_{\text{sample}}$ is the average of counts per minute (CPM) of three 200 μL
 333 aliquots from the dissolved skeleton sample, $\text{Activity}_{\text{seawater}}$ is the total CPM in the 1 mL
 334 seawater samples, Ca is the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ measured in the corresponding samples (average between
 335 initial and final values, $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$) and further converted to $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ considering a

338 temperature of 25 °C and a salinity of 38, W_c is the skeleton dry weight (in g) and t the
339 incubation duration (h). G_{45Ca} is therefore expressed in $\mu\text{mol CaCO}_3 \text{ g DW}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$. The standard
340 errors for these calcification rate estimates were propagated based on standard errors
341 associated with the measurements of triplicate samples for both $\text{Activity}_{\text{sample}}$ and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$.

342 The precipitation of calcium carbonate minerals (G) during the incubation interval was
343 also estimated using measured $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values and isotope mass balance calculations [eq. (8) and
344 (9) below]. The CO_2 released during phosphoric acid digestion is derived from two sources:
345 new coral CaCO_3 and previously accreted skeletal carbonate mineral. The new carbon
346 acquired in each measured nubbins ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_N$) was assumed to have the same carbon isotope
347 composition as the labelled seawater C_T (average between initial and final level, $\delta^{13}\text{C}-C_T \sim$
348 1,400-1,700‰). The previously accreted skeletal material was assumed to have a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value
349 equal to the measured value for the background sample ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_P$). The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_M$),
350 representing the mixture of new calcified material and previously accreted carbonate mineral,
351 is then calculated the following mixing equation:

$$352 \quad \delta^{13}\text{C}_M = f_G \cdot \delta^{13}\text{C}_N + (1 - f_G) \cdot \delta^{13}\text{C}_P \quad (8)$$

353 where f_G is the fraction of the calcium carbonate mineral precipitated during the experiment,
354 and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_N$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_P$ are the carbon isotope compositions of the newly precipitated and
355 previously accreted calcium carbonate, respectively. Equation (8) was solved for f_G to
356 determine the calcium carbonate precipitated during the incubation using:

$$357 \quad G_{13c} = \frac{f_G}{t \cdot M_{\text{CaCO}_3}} \cdot 1e^6 \quad (9)$$

358 where M_{CaCO_3} is the molar mass of calcium carbonate (g mol^{-1}) and t is the incubation
359 duration in h. $G_{13\text{C}}$ are therefore expressed in $\mu\text{mol CaCO}_3 \text{ g DW}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$. The standard errors for
360 these calcification rate estimates were calculated based on standard errors associated with the
361 triplicate measurements of $\delta^{13}\text{C}_\text{P}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_\text{N}$.

362 Model-II linear regressions (Sokal and Rohlf, 1995) were used to compare net
363 calcification rates obtained with the different methods. All regressions were performed using
364 function “lmodel2” of the package lmodel2³ on the R software.

³lmodel2: Model II Regression, Legendre P. and J. Oksanen, 2018. <https://cran.r-project.org/package=lmodel2>

365 3. Results

366 Environmental conditions at the start of the different incubations are shown in Table 2.

367 All values in Table 2 as well as in the text below correspond to the average between replicates
368 (or incubations) \pm standard deviation (SD). All incubations performed under ambient pH_T
369 (~ 8.05) were conducted under carbonate chemistry favorable to calcification with saturation
370 states with respect to aragonite (Ω_a) well above 1 (average of 4.0 ± 0.1 over the four
371 incubations). In contrast, during experiments at low pH_T (initial $\text{pH}_T \sim 7.2$), seawater was
372 corrosive with respect to aragonite ($\Omega_a \sim 0.75$). However, as pH was not regulated during the
373 incubations (see previous section), it increased, at lowered pH, to an average of 7.75 ± 0.03 (n
374 = 5) in dark conditions and to an average of 7.84 ± 0.03 in light conditions ($n = 5$). Evolution
375 of pH in control beakers (final pH_T of 7.78 and 7.48; $n = 1$ for both in the light and in the
376 dark, respectively) showed that the observed increase in beakers with corals was due to the
377 additive effects of biological control (photosynthesis minus respiration and calcification) and
378 exchanges at the interface in the light, and mostly due to CO_2 exchange with air during the
379 much longer incubations performed in the dark. Assuming linear variations with time, the
380 average conditions of the carbonate chemistry in the lowered pH experiments were slightly
381 favorable to aragonite production ($\Omega_a = 1.4 \pm 0.2$ in the dark, $n = 5$ and 1.6 ± 0.05 in the light,
382 $n = 5$). Under ambient pH conditions (both for ^{45}Ca and ^{13}C incubations), pH did not change
383 during incubations in the light (average final pH_T of 8.05 ± 0.03 , $n = 12$, data not shown)
384 while it decreased in the dark, due to respiration and calcification, to reach an average pH_T
385 level of 7.62 ± 0.07 , $n = 12$, data not shown). In control beakers under ambient pH, pH_T
386 slightly increased in the light (8.09 , $n = 2$) and did not change in the dark (8.05 , $n = 2$).

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387 ^{45}Ca activities in seawater did not change during the incubations, reaching a final
388 activity of 16.1 ± 1.2 (n = 12) and 28.5 ± 0.6 (n = 10) Bq mL⁻¹ under ambient and lowered pH
389 conditions, respectively (including both dark and light incubations, data not shown).

390 Furthermore, for all incubations, these values were similar to those measured in beakers
391 without corals (control, data not shown). Under ambient pH levels (no incubation at lowered
392 pH), seawater was enriched in ^{13}C ($\delta^{13}\text{C}-C_T$) from a background level of $0.26 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$ (n = 3)
393 to $1,740 \pm 4.7\text{‰}$ (n = 2) and $1,634 \pm 11\text{‰}$ (n = 2) in the light and dark, respectively. During
394 light condition incubations, $\delta^{13}\text{C}-C_T$ levels decreased to an average of $1,636 \pm 10\text{‰}$ (n = 6,
395 data not shown) while they decreased to an average of $1,466 \pm 24\text{‰}$ in dark conditions (n = 6,
396 data not shown). Incubations in control beakers (without corals) showed that the majority of
397 $\delta^{13}\text{C}-C_T$ loss for both types of incubations (light and dark) was due to ^{13}C incorporation by
398 corals with a minor effect of gas exchanges at the interface (data not shown).

399 Both A_T and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$, declined in all incubations as a consequence of coral calcification
400 (Table 3). Changes in A_T during incubations in control beakers (data not shown) were
401 comprised between 0.1 and 1.1% of the initial level. Similar results were observed for $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$
402 with a relative change comprised between 0.05 and 1.15% of the initial value. These minimal
403 changes were corroborated with no measurable changes in seawater weight between the start
404 and the end of all incubations (data not shown), showing that evaporation, if any, was
405 minimal using our experimental set-up over the considered incubation times. At ambient pH
406 levels, decreases in A_T and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ (average of -380 ± 97 and $-194 \pm 51 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ for both
407 parameters, respectively, n = 24 including both ^{45}Ca and ^{13}C incubations) were roughly
408 similar under light and dark conditions although coral specimen used for dark incubations
409 were ca. 166% heavier (skeleton dry weight, see Table 1). Incubations performed under
410 lowered pH levels showed much lower A_T and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ net consumption rates than under

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416 ambient pH levels. Under these pH conditions, an extremely high A_T consumption rate was
417 observed in one beaker (dark incubation, see Table 3) while no changes in $[Ca^{2+}]$ was
418 observed in a total of three beakers (see Table 3). These estimates (n = 4) have been
419 considered as outliers, marked with an asterisk in Table 3 and not included in the following
420 analyses.

421 ^{45}Ca activities in coral skeleton reached maximum levels under ambient pH and light
422 conditions (average of 87.5 ± 9.1 Bq, n = 6). Although seawater was more enriched in ^{45}Ca at
423 the lower pH levels (see above), ^{45}Ca activity in corals incubated under these conditions were
424 much lower with lowest values measured in the dark (average of 19.6 ± 9.1 Bq, n = 5). $\delta^{13}C$
425 levels measured in coral skeletons (-3.69 to 8.92‰) showed significant enrichment as
426 compared to background levels (-3.97 ± 0.35 ‰, n = 9).

427 Calcification rates using the different techniques were higher in the light than in the
428 dark and much lower rates were estimated at lowered pH (Table A1, Figs. 2, 3 and 4). The
429 rates measured by alkalinity anomaly (G_{AT}) and calcium anomaly (G_{Ca}) techniques were
430 highly correlated (Fig. 2; $R^2 = 0.98$, $p < 0.01$, n = 34). No significant difference was observed
431 between rates measured by the two methods (see Table 4 for the 95% confidence intervals of
432 the slope and intercept). The ^{45}Ca method provided also very similar rates than the two
433 previous approaches (Fig. 3; G_{Ca} vs. $G_{^{45}Ca}$ not shown) although the slope and the intercept of
434 the geometric regression between G_{AT} and $G_{^{45}Ca}$ were significantly different from 1 and 0,
435 respectively. Finally, the only approach that did not provide similar rates to the others was the
436 ^{13}C incorporation technique. Calcification rates based on this method were systematically
437 higher than those measured using the other three techniques (see Table 4), and rates were not
438 always significantly related (e.g. $R^2 = 0.33$, $p > 0.05$, n = 12 for G_{AT} vs $G_{^{13}C}$, see Fig. 4; other
439 relationships not shown).

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Deleted: Estimated rates of calcification using the different techniques are presented in supplementary Table 1 and are compared in Figs. 2, 3 and 4 as well as in Table 4. Rates were higher in the light than in the dark and much lower rates were estimated at lowered pH

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450 4. Discussion

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451 Under all experimental conditions (ambient pH vs low pH, light vs dark), significant
452 consumption rates of A_T and Ca^{2+} as well as significant incorporation rates of ^{45}Ca and ^{13}C
453 were observed in the zooxanthellate coral *Stylophora pistillata*. For all methods, calcification
454 rates were lower in dark than in light conditions. Such trends are expected as it has long been
455 established that calcification rates increase in zooxanthellate corals during periods in which
456 photosynthesis is occurring (Yonge, 1931), a process known as light-enhanced calcification
457 (e.g. Gattuso et al., 1999). Even under lowered pH conditions, at pH levels far below those
458 predicted to occur in the next decades (starting pH_T of ca. 7.2, average pH_T during incubations
459 of ca. 7.5), all corals appeared to produce calcifying structures under both light and dark
460 conditions. The organisms selected for this experiment were fully coated with tissues with no
461 exposed calcareous structures which can explain the absence of observable net dissolution
462 such as reported by Cohen et al. (2017) in a similar study. Since our experimental protocol
463 was not designed to address the potential impact of decreasing pH levels on calcification rates
464 of this species (no control of carbonate chemistry during incubations, no acclimation of the
465 organisms etc.), we will not discuss further the observed decrease of calcification rates
466 identified by the three techniques used at these pH levels.

467 Under all experimental conditions, rates of calcification calculated using the alkalinity
468 and the calcium anomaly techniques were highly correlated with a slope of 1 and no
469 significant intercept. These results are consistent with previously published data on colonies
470 of *Pocillopora damicornis* (Chisholm and Gattuso, 1991), *Cladocora caespitosa* (Gazeau et
471 al., 2015) and several other coral species (Murillo et al. 2014). Although the precision
472 obtained on Ca^{2+} measurements is among the highest reported to date (Gazeau et al., 2015),

473 the alkalinity anomaly technique appears as the most appropriate to estimate calcification
474 rates of isolated corals (better precision, stronger signals). As observed by Murillo et al.
475 (2014), this is not true when an entire community including sediment is investigated. The
476 occurrence of several processes in the sediment that can impact A_T prevents the use of this
477 technique. It is therefore recommended to use the calcium anomaly technique when working
478 in natural settings, assuming that Ca^{2+} concentrations are measured with an analytical
479 technique as precise as the one used in our study ($CV < 0.05\%$). Similarly, although
480 corrections are possible when applying the alkalinity anomaly technique on organisms that
481 significantly release nutrients (echinoderms, bivalves etc.), the use of the calcium anomaly
482 technique is highly recommended instead (Gazeau et al., 2015).

483 Calcification rate estimates based on changes of A_T or Ca^{2+} were highly correlated
484 with estimates based on ^{45}Ca incorporation in corals. These results are not consistent to those
485 reported by Smith and Roth (in Smith and Kinsey, 1978), Tambutté et al. (1995) and Cohen et
486 al. (2017). These studies revealed discrepancies between the alkalinity anomaly and the ^{45}Ca
487 incorporation techniques. Smith and Roth found that rates measured with the ^{45}Ca method
488 were higher than those measured using the alkalinity anomaly technique (significant ^{45}Ca
489 incorporation at $\Delta A_T = 0$). Results from both Tambutté et al. (1995) and Cohen et al. (2017)
490 suggested the opposite with a decrease in A_T consumption without any concomitant ^{45}Ca
491 incorporation. A number of reasons may explain these discrepancies. First, the present study
492 is the first one comparing these techniques in the same incubations, in contrast to the other
493 ones in which incubations for A_T anomaly and ^{45}Ca incorporation were performed over two
494 consecutive days (due to radioactive contamination issues). Second, calcification expressed as
495 absolute changes in A_T during incubations, measured during our experiment, were at least one
496 order of magnitude higher than measured during these studies (44,200 to 745,600 nmol vs

497 less than 4,000 nmol in previous experiments). Cohen et al. (2017) have shown that such
498 discrepancies were much higher at very low rates and that the ratio between rates estimated
499 based on ^{45}Ca incorporation and A_T consumption were getting closer to 1 with increasing
500 calcification rates. Nevertheless, even at the highest levels of calcification computed during
501 these studies, ^{45}Ca -based rates were still significantly different from ΔA_T -based rates, which is
502 in contrast with our results.

503 As already mentioned, although calcification rates of the present study were lower at
504 lowered pH levels, there was still a close to perfect agreement between the different
505 techniques. While the ^{45}Ca labelling technique is thought to provide rates of gross
506 calcification, there is no doubt that both the A_T and Ca^{2+} anomaly techniques allow the
507 estimation of net calcification rates (gross calcification – dissolution). A full agreement of
508 rates computed from these methods further suggest that no dissolution of previously
509 precipitated CaCO_3 structures occurred during our study, even under lowered pH conditions.
510 The corals used in our experiment were fully covered with tissues which is likely the reason
511 [why](#) no dissolution was measured.

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512 Furthermore, we must note that the protocol for ^{45}Ca incorporation considered in our
513 study differed from the one used in the above-mentioned past studies. A much smaller activity
514 was used ($0.025 \text{ kBq mL}^{-1}$) compared to Tambutté et al. (1995; 40 kBq mL^{-1}) and Cohen et al.
515 (2017; 9 kBq mL^{-1}). Moreover, in contrast to Cohen et al. (2017), rates were not corrected for
516 ^{45}Ca incorporation on the skeleton of dead corals. This choice was motivated by the absence
517 of detectable radioactivity on bare skeletons exposed for 7 h and treated with the same
518 protocol than one used in our study (Lanctôt, pers. comm.).

519 To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study comparing calcification rates
520 measured using the ^{13}C labelling technique to the more widely used alkalinity and calcium

522 anomaly techniques. It shows that ^{13}C -derived rates were systematically higher and much
523 more variable (with large uncertainties) than the ones estimated using the two other
524 techniques. As already mentioned, several studies have shown that most of the carbon
525 precipitated in the skeleton comes from coral and its symbiotic zooxanthellae (e.g. Erez,
526 1978; Furla et al., 2000), leading to an underestimation of calcification rates based on
527 labelled, radioactive carbon incorporation. As there is no reason for ^{13}C to behave differently,
528 our results appear inconsistent with a metabolic source of carbon. As the nubbins were treated
529 following the same protocol as for ^{45}Ca incorporation measurements, it is unclear why much
530 stronger ^{13}C incorporation was obtained and why variability was so high. Before better
531 insights on such discrepancies can be developed, we recommend to avoid this technique to
532 estimate coral calcification rates.

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533 Our study was designed to compare different techniques to estimate calcification rates
534 and not to define the best experimental approach to study the effects of ocean acidification on
535 coral species using these different approaches. As such, the chosen experimental protocol
536 (e.g. incubation times) was not optimal and led, in some cases, to significant changes in the
537 carbonate chemistry during incubations. However, our results provide some insights that we
538 further discuss in the following section. Measuring and comparing calcification rates of
539 organisms under varying pH conditions requires the careful choice of a volume and a time
540 interval such that the precision of the calcification rate measurement is large enough to
541 observe significant signals and that the change in carbonate chemistry parameters between the
542 beginning and end of the incubation is small compared to the range of these parameters in the
543 different treatments (Langdon et al. 2010). Table 5 illustrates the incubation time necessary to
544 obtain measurable changes for each method (t_{\min}) considering the ratio between incubation
545 volume and coral size chosen for our study. As the ^{13}C incorporation method did not provide

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552 reliable rates, this technique was not considered in this analysis. The threshold for significant
 553 signals was set at 10-fold the analytical precision of the instruments (Langdon et al. 2010) for
 554 A_T and Ca^{2+} measurements (1.2 and 2.9 $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$, respectively) and above the detection limit
 555 of 15 cpm for ^{45}Ca activity estimated. Maximum incubation times are more difficult to
 556 estimate. Langdon et al. (2010) and Riebesell et al. (2010) recommend considering incubation
 557 times short enough to maintain A_T and C_T within an acceptable range (ΔA_T and $\Delta C_T < 10\%$).
 558 As it is more difficult to estimate what changes in pH are acceptable, we have arbitrarily
 559 considered a maximal change in pH of 0.06, corresponding to the lowest change in global
 560 surface ocean pH projected for 2100 (IPCC, 2014). Maximal incubation times, as presented in
 561 Table 5 (t_{max}), correspond then to incubation times that should not be exceeded in order to
 562 maintain acceptable conditions of the carbonate chemistry ($\Delta\text{pH}_T < 0.06$ and $\Delta A_T < 10\%$ and
 563 $\Delta C_T < 10\%$).

564 Under light and ambient pH conditions, even if the ratio between incubation volume
 565 and nubbin size is much higher than for previous similar studies (e.g. Cohen et al. 2017), all
 566 methods would allow a precise estimation of calcification rates over very short incubation
 567 times (~15 min to 1 h, depending on the method) while leading to moderate changes in
 568 carbonate chemistry. In the dark, and under ambient pH conditions, in the absence of pH
 569 increase due to photosynthesis, the decrease of pH due to respiration, narrows the possible
 570 incubation period to 1.3 h. While this is still larger than the incubation time allowing to obtain
 571 a significant signal with the alkalinity anomaly technique (~20 min), the other two methods
 572 necessitate longer incubation times to obtain precise estimates (> 1.5 h). At lower pH, both
 573 under light and dark conditions, and using open systems without a continuous pH regulation
 574 as in our study, it is obvious that all techniques are not well adapted to this experimental
 575 protocol. Indeed, as a consequence of lower calcification rates at lower pH and significant

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599 CO₂ degassing, incubation times necessary to obtain significant signals using ~~these techniques~~
600 are too large to maintain the carbonate parameters within an acceptable range. This is not
601 insurmountable as a continuous regulation of pH using for instance pure CO₂ bubbling or
602 incubations performed in a closed container (i.e. without contact to the atmosphere) would
603 alleviate these problems.

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604 In conclusion, the present study is the first one allowing a direct (i.e. during the same
605 incubations) comparison of three methods used to estimate coral calcification rates, the
606 calcium and alkalinity anomaly techniques and the ⁴⁵Ca incorporation technique. These
607 methods provided very consistent calcification rates of the coral *Stylophora pistillata*
608 independently of the conditions set for the incubations (light vs dark, ambient vs low pH).
609 Among these three methods, the alkalinity anomaly and the ⁴⁵Ca incorporation techniques
610 appear to be the most sensitive allowing the quantification of coral calcification rates without
611 significant changes in targeted environmental conditions. In contrast, the ¹³C incorporation
612 technique did not provide reliable calcification rates and its use is not recommended until
613 further investigations clarify the discrepancies. Finally, this study was restricted to a single
614 coral species and used nubbins fully covered with tissues. Conducting similar comparison
615 studies with other coral species as well as other major calcifying groups widely studied in the
616 context of ocean acidification (e.g. coralline algae, molluscs etc...) would be necessary [for a](#)

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617 [better understanding of ocean acidification impacts on ecosystem services provided by](#)
618 [calcifying organisms](#).

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633 Acknowledgements

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637 Cuban Coastal Zone Through the Application of Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques" National
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641 measurements.

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750 alkalinity: the explicit conservative expression and its application to biogeochemical
751 processes, *Marine Chemistry*, 106, 287-300, doi:10.1016/j.marchem.2007.01.006,
752 2007.

753 Table 1. Experimental details for the series of incubations of the coral *Stylophora pistillata* performed under ambient and low pH, and in
754 the light and dark following ^{45}Ca or ^{13}C labelling. The ratio $W_w:W_c$ corresponds to the ratio between seawater weight (g) and skeletal dry
755 weight (g). Values represent mean \pm standard deviation (SD); n is the number of true replicates considered for each experiment. All
756 incubations were conducted at 25 ± 0.5 °C.

pH conditions	Ambient (n = 6)				Lowered (n = 5)	
	^{45}Ca		^{13}C		^{45}Ca	
Added label	Light	Dark	Light	Dark	Light	Dark
Coral size (mm)	33.2 \pm 1.5	44.7 \pm 1.5	36.3 \pm 2.2	50.2 \pm 1.7	26.0 \pm 1.6	28.9 \pm 1.9
Coral Skeleton dry weight (g)	2.5 \pm 0.5	3.8 \pm 0.7	2.6 \pm 0.5	4.7 \pm 0.5	2.1 \pm 0.2	2.8 \pm 0.4
Ratio $W_w:W_c$	126.4 \pm 25.6	81.9 \pm 14.7	106.9 \pm 24.5	67.8 \pm 7.5	146.5 \pm 14.3	110.0 \pm 12.4
Incubation time (h)	8	8	9.12	9.12	5	11

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759 Table 2. Environmental conditions at the start of incubations of the coral *Sylophora pistillata*. pH on the total scale (pH_T), partial pressure
 760 of CO₂ (pCO₂ in μatm), total alkalinity (A_T in $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$), dissolved inorganic carbon (C_T in $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$), saturation states with respect to
 761 aragonite (Ω_a) and calcite (Ω_c) as well as calcium concentrations ([Ca²⁺] in $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$) are presented. Labelled seawater ⁴⁵Ca activity
 762 (Activity_{seawater} in Bq mL⁻¹) and the isotopic level, after enrichment, of the seawater dissolved inorganic carbon pool ($\delta^{13}\text{C-C}_T$ in ‰) are
 763 also shown. Means \pm standard deviation (SD) of analytical triplicates (duplicates for $\delta^{13}\text{C-C}_T$) are shown when available. All incubations
 764 were conducted at 25 \pm 0.5 °C.

pH conditions Added label Light conditions	⁴⁵ Ca		Ambient		¹³ C		Lowered ⁴⁵ Ca	
	Light	Dark	Light	Dark	Light	Dark	Light	Dark
pH _T	8.05	8.05	8.06	8.05	7.21	7.24		
pCO ₂	427.6 \pm 8.2	438.8 \pm 8.5	425.6 \pm 8.2	424.1 \pm 8.2	3,727.2 \pm 66.8	3,460.1 \pm 62.1		
A _T	2,556.0 \pm 0.5	2,620.0 \pm 0.7	2,615.2 \pm 0.6	2,535.9 \pm 1.8	2,558.4 \pm 0.3	2,552.9 \pm 2.4		
C _T	2,206.4 \pm 7.4	2,264.1 \pm 7.6	2,252.9 \pm 7.7	2,188.2 \pm 7.6	2,597.1 \pm 2.5	2,579.8 \pm 3.5		
Ω_a	3.9 \pm 0.2	4.0 \pm 0.2	4.1 \pm 0.2	3.9 \pm 0.2	0.7 \pm 0.0	0.8 \pm 0.0		
Ω_c	5.9 \pm 0.3	6.1 \pm 0.3	6.2 \pm 0.3	5.9 \pm 0.3	1.1 \pm 0.1	1.2 \pm 0.1		
[Ca ²⁺]	11,179.6 \pm 0.0	11,164.0 \pm 2.0	11,096.5 \pm 13.4	11,098.5 \pm 2.8	11,281.2 \pm 5.5	11,277.6 \pm 0.3		
Activity _{seawater}	16.6	15.1	-	-	28.5	30.4		
$\delta^{13}\text{C-C}_T$	-	-	1,740 \pm 4.7	1,634 \pm 11	-	-		

765

767 Table 3. Changes in total alkalinity (A_T) and calcium concentrations ($[Ca^{2+}]$) during the different types of incubations as compared to

768 control beakers: $\Delta A_T = A_{T2} - A_{T2c}$, $\Delta[Ca^{2+}] = Ca_2 - Ca_{2c}$, both expressed in $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$. Standard errors (SE) have been calculated as

769
$$\sqrt{SE_{A_{T2}}^2 + SE_{A_{T2c}}^2}$$
 and
$$\sqrt{SE_{Ca_2}^2 + SE_{Ca_{2c}}^2}$$
 for A_T and $[Ca^{2+}]$, respectively, where SE correspond to standard errors associated with the

770 measurement of three analytical replicates per sample. ^{45}Ca activity ($\text{Activity}_{\text{sample}}$ in Bq) and ^{13}C incorporation ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_M$ in ‰) of sampled

771 corals are also shown. Values of ^{45}Ca activity and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ are mean \pm standard error of the mean (SE) associated with the measurement of

772 three aliquots for each coral. [Outliers \(n = 4; see text for details\)](#) are identified with an asterisk.

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Experiment	Beaker#	ΔA_T	SE ΔA_T	$\Delta[Ca^{2+}]$	SE $\Delta[Ca^{2+}]$	Activity _{sample}	SE Activity _{sample}	$\delta^{13}\text{C}_M$	SE $\delta^{13}\text{C}_M$
Ambient pH - ^{45}Ca - Light	1	-343.6	1.3	-166.0	6.0	78.5	1.9	-	-
	2	-368.9	0.9	-174.1	5.1	86.5	2.9	-	-
	3	-336.9	0.9	-181.3	2.7	78.2	2.3	-	-
	4	-364.3	0.9	-190.6	6.3	85.2	0.8	-	-
	5	-406.7	0.7	-225.6	1.4	95.7	2.6	-	-
	6	-407.5	1.2	-175.9	1.1	100.6	3.5	-	-
Ambient pH - ^{13}C - Light	1	-386.3	1.5	-195.0	3.8	-	-	-1.4	2.0
	2	-422.6	1.3	-206.8	4.2	-	-	1.8	3.2

3	-405.4	1.9	-200.9	2.1	-	-	3.4	5.1
4	-481.6	1.3	-253.2	2.0	-	-	1.1	2.0
5	-498.4	1.3	-260.5	5.7	-	-	0.8	0.7
6	-618.1	1.8	-317.7	4.4	-	-	0.1	1.8
1	-300.5	1.4	-168.9	0.6	-	-	-0.3	1.3
2	-440.8	1.4	-220.7	2.5	-	-	-3.0	0.5
3	-223.5	1.9	-135.1	0.8	-	-	-3.1	0.6
4	-347.3	1.1	-185.3	0.2	-	-	0.5	5.4
5	-571.7	1.3	-301.7	1.2	-	-	0.6	2.1
6	-434.5	1.3	-224.6	3.7	-	-	0.7	6.1
1	-290.2	1.6	-157.9	2.2	56.44	1.24	-	-
2	-274.3	1.2	-130.4	4.4	50.1	0.74	-	-
3	-300.8	1.3	-168.3	0.9	57.17	1.75	-	-
4	-327.0	2.7	-139.3	5.3	66.24	0.69	-	-
5	-342.8	1.2	-172.6	3.0	68.37	3.11	-	-
6	-228.3	1.8	-113.4	2.5	52.36	2.49	-	-

Lowered pH - ⁴⁵ Ca - Light	1	-59.3	2.2	-1.6*	6.9	20.2	0.7	-	-
	2	-44.2	2.2	-11.0	2.2	15.3	0.4	-	-
	3	-71.3	2.8	-28.0	5.9	22.5	0.3	-	-
	4	-70.2	2.4	-35.7	7.6	23.4	0.4	-	-
	5	-56.4	2.5	-19.6	7.1	20	0.9	-	-
Lowered pH - ⁴⁵ Ca - Dark	1	-745.6*	13.2	0.8*	0.3	14.5	0.2	-	-
	2	-52.4	2.1	-1.0*	1.0	22.1	0.3	-	-
	3	-50.5	2.1	-22.5	2.8	22.1	0.1	-	-
	4	-54.3	2.1	-30.3	8.5	23.3	0.4	-	-
	5	-99.4	2.1	-32.8	4.1	16.1	0.1	-	-

776 Table 4. Model-II regression results of the comparison between calcification rates estimated using the different methods considered in this
 777 study: the alkalinity and calcium anomaly techniques (G_{AT} and G_{Ca} , respectively) as well as the ^{45}Ca and ^{13}C incorporation techniques
 778 ($G_{^{45}Ca}$ and $G_{^{13}C}$, respectively). The number of samples (n), the regression coefficient (R^2), the slope and intercept (including their 95%
 779 confidence intervals, 95% CI), as well as p value are shown for each comparison. Few identified outliers (n = 4) have been removed from
 780 the analyses, see Table 3 and Table A1.

Methods compared	n	R ²	Slope		Intercept		p value	
			Value	95% CI	Value	95% CI		
G_{AT} vs. G_{Ca}	32	0.98	0.95	0.90	1.00	0.09	0.18	<u>4.9 e⁻²⁷</u>
G_{AT} vs. $G_{^{45}Ca}$	21	0.99	0.94	0.90	0.98	0.09	0.15	<u>3.9 e⁻²¹</u>
G_{Ca} vs. $G_{^{45}Ca}$	20	0.97	1.00	0.91	1.09	-0.06	0.07	<u>5.9e⁻¹⁵</u>
G_{AT} vs. $G_{^{13}C}$	12	0.33	0.49	0.05	1.2	0.77	2.1	<u>0.0506</u>
G_{Ca} vs. $G_{^{13}C}$	12	0.32	0.46	0.03	1.1	0.94	2.2	<u>0.0551</u>

781

785 Table 5. Incubation times (t_{\min} , h) necessary to obtain significant signals using the three methods: the alkalinity anomaly technique (A_T),
 786 the calcium anomaly technique (Ca^{2+}) and the ^{45}Ca incorporation techniques (^{45}Ca), see text for calculation procedures. t_{\max} (h) is the
 787 maximum incubation time to maintain carbonate chemistry within an acceptable range ($\Delta pH_T < 0.06$ and $\Delta A_T < 10\%$). The
 788 ratios between incubation volume (in mL) and the size of the rubbins (in cm), considered in our study for the different sets of incubations
 789 (Ambient pH vs Low pH; Light vs Dark), are also shown. t_{\min} values are noted in bold when higher than t_{\max} .

	Ratio V:S		t_{\min} (h)		t_{\max} (h)
	A_T	Ca^{2+}	^{45}Ca	^{45}Ca	
Ambient pH – Light	77-95	0.26	1.00	0.6	4.7
Ambient pH – Dark	59-69	0.33	2.10	1.5	1.3
Lowered pH – Light	109-121	1.25	6.15	1.1	0.5
Lowered pH – Dark	95-109	1.60	11.20	3.4	1.3

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795 Table A1. Calcification rates estimated by the different methods considered in this study: the alkalinity and calcium anomaly techniques
 796 (G_{AT} and G_{Ca} , respectively) as well as the ^{45}Ca and ^{13}C incorporation techniques (G_{45Ca} and G_{13C} , respectively). All rates are mean \pm
 797 standard errors of the mean (SE) and are expressed in $\mu\text{mol CaCO}_3 \text{ g DW}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$.

Experiment	Beaker#	G_{AT}	SE G_{AT}	G_{Ca}	SE G_{Ca}	G_{45Ca}	SE G_{45Ca}	G_{13C}	SE G_{13C}
Ambient pH - ^{45}Ca - Light	1	3.28	0.01	3.17	0.11	3.41	0.08	NA	NA
	2	3.21	0.01	3.03	0.09	3.29	0.11	NA	NA
	3	2.69	0.01	2.89	0.04	2.77	0.08	NA	NA
	4	3.38	0.01	3.54	0.12	3.48	0.03	NA	NA
	5	2.41	0.00	2.68	0.02	2.53	0.07	NA	NA
	6	2.43	0.01	2.10	0.01	2.65	0.09	NA	NA
Ambient pH - ^{13}C - Light	1	3.26	0.01	3.29	0.06	NA	NA	1.92	1.35

2	3.30	0.01	3.23	0.07	NA	NA	4.27	2.27
3	3.09	0.01	3.06	0.03	NA	NA	5.47	3.66
4	2.98	0.01	3.14	0.02	NA	NA	3.74	1.36
5	2.80	0.01	2.92	0.06	NA	NA	3.49	0.41
6	2.73	0.01	2.81	0.04	NA	NA	3.00	1.22
1	1.33	0.01	1.50	0.01	NA	NA	2.58	0.79
2	1.63	0.01	1.63	0.02	NA	NA	0.68	0.23
3	0.85	0.01	1.03	0.01	NA	NA	0.61	0.30
4	1.24	0.00	1.32	0.00	NA	NA	3.14	3.67
5	1.96	0.00	2.07	0.01	NA	NA	3.21	1.35
6	1.42	0.00	1.46	0.02	NA	NA	3.28	4.16

Ambient pH - ¹³C - Dark

Ambient pH - ⁴⁵ Ca - Dark		1	1.59	0.01	1.72	0.02	1.54	0.03	NA	NA
		2	1.39	0.01	1.32	0.04	1.26	0.02	NA	NA
		3	1.46	0.01	1.64	0.01	1.43	0.04	NA	NA
		4	1.29	0.01	1.10	0.04	1.33	0.01	NA	NA
		5	1.44	0.01	1.45	0.03	1.44	0.07	NA	NA
		6	0.75	0.01	0.75	0.02	0.89	0.04	NA	NA
Lowered pH - ⁴⁵ Ca - Light		1	1.00	0.04	0.05*	0.23	0.85	0.03	NA	NA
		2	0.66	0.03	0.33	0.07	0.58	0.02	NA	NA
		3	0.96	0.04	0.75	0.16	0.80	0.01	NA	NA
		4	1.04	0.04	1.06	0.23	0.94	0.02	NA	NA
		5	0.75	0.03	0.52	0.19	0.73	0.03	NA	NA

Lowered pH - ⁴⁵ Ca - Dark	1	2	3	4	5								
	4.05*	0.22	0.25	0.30	0.48	0.07	-0.01*	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	NA	NA
		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01*	0.01	0.24	0.00	0.00	NA	NA
							0.22	0.03	0.30	0.00	0.00	NA	NA
							0.34	0.10	0.35	0.01	0.01	NA	NA
							0.32	0.04	0.21	0.00	0.00	NA	NA

799 **Figure captions**

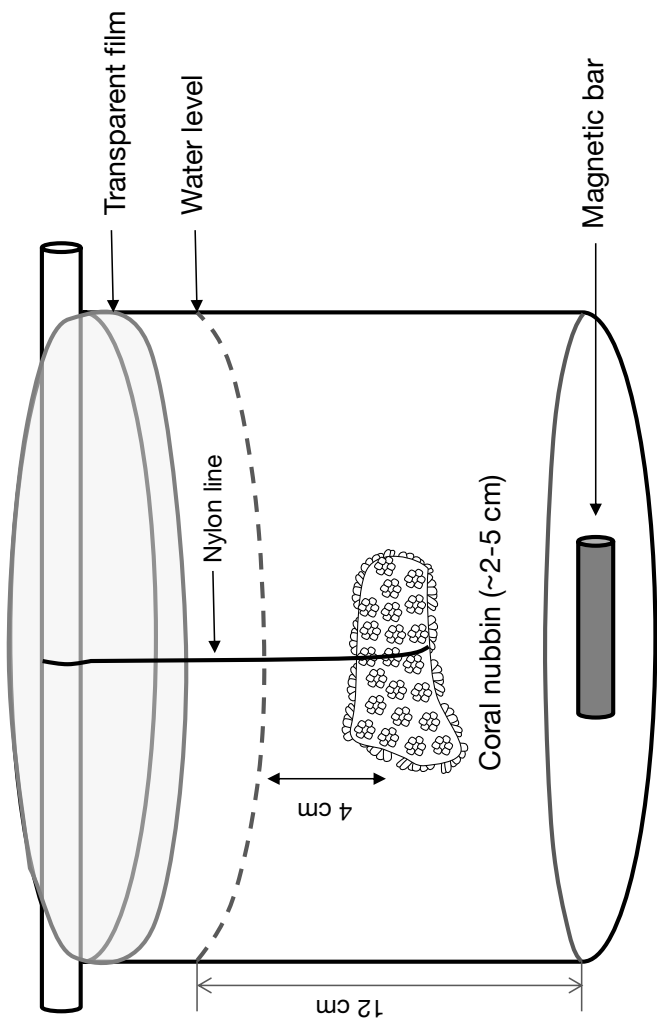
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800 Fig. 1. Scheme of the polyethylene container in which a coral nubbin is suspended with a
801 nylon line and covered with a transparent film.

802 Fig. 2. Calcification rates estimated based on the alkalinity anomaly technique (G_{AT}) as a
803 function of calcification rates estimated based on the calcium anomaly technique (G_{Ca}). The
804 dashed line represents the 1:1 relationship while the full line represents the model-II
805 regression relationship. Horizontal error bars represent standard errors (SE) associated with
806 the estimation of G_{Ca} . Vertical error bars representing SE associated with the estimation of
807 G_{AT} are too small to be visible. The corresponding dataset can be found in Table A1.

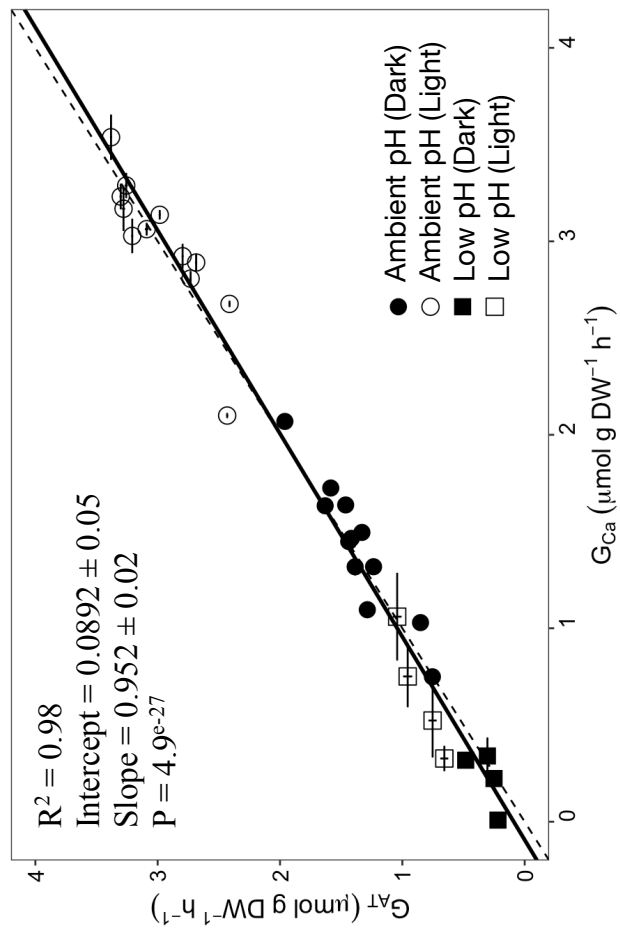
808 Fig. 3. Calcification rates estimated based on the alkalinity anomaly technique (G_{AT}) as a
809 function of calcification rates estimated based on the ^{45}Ca incorporation technique (G_{45Ca}).
810 The dashed line represents the 1:1 relationship while the full line represents the model-II
811 regression relationship. Horizontal error bars represent standard errors (SE) associated with
812 the estimation of G_{45Ca} . Vertical error bars representing SE associated with the estimation of
813 G_{AT} are too small to be visible. The corresponding dataset can be found in Table A1.

814 Fig. 4. Calcification rates estimated based on the alkalinity anomaly technique (G_{AT}) as a
815 function of calcification rates estimated based on ^{13}C incorporation technique (G_{13C}). The
816 dashed line represents the 1:1 relationship while the full line represents the model-II
817 regression relationship. Horizontal error bars represent standard errors (SE) associated with
818 the estimation of G_{13C} . Vertical error bars representing SE associated with the estimation of
819 G_{AT} are too small to be visible. The corresponding dataset can be found in Table A1.



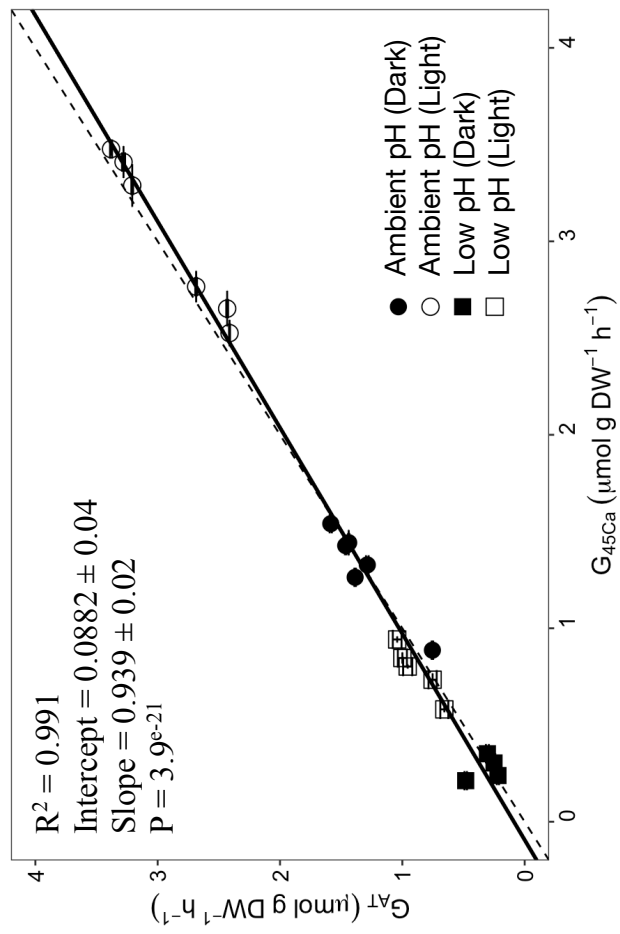
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821 Fig. 1.



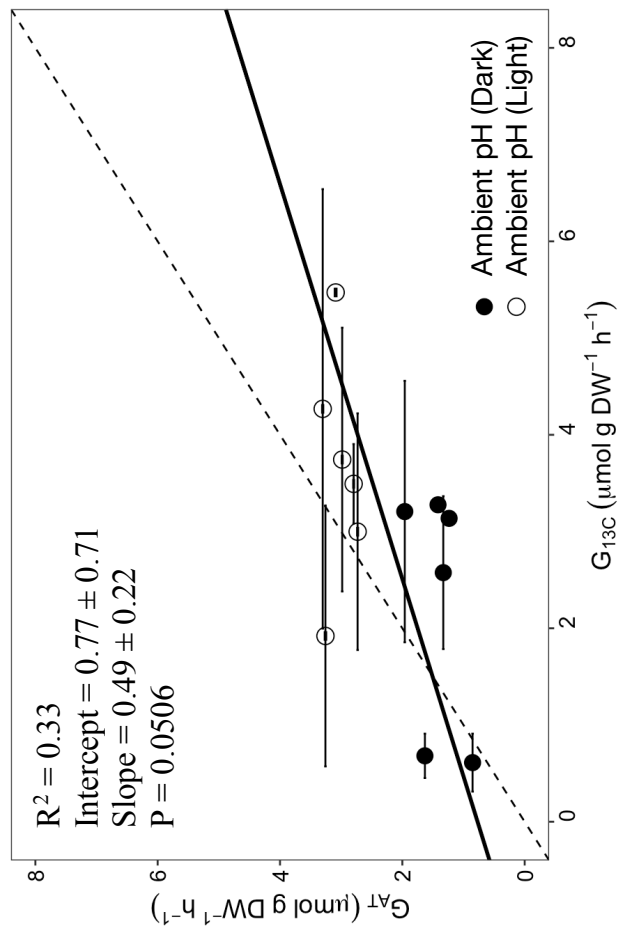
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823 Fig. 2.



824

825 Fig. 3.



826

827 Fig. 4.