



euromarinenetwork.eu

EUROMARINE SUMMER SCHOOL

Field research at the CO₂ vents along the coast of Ischia

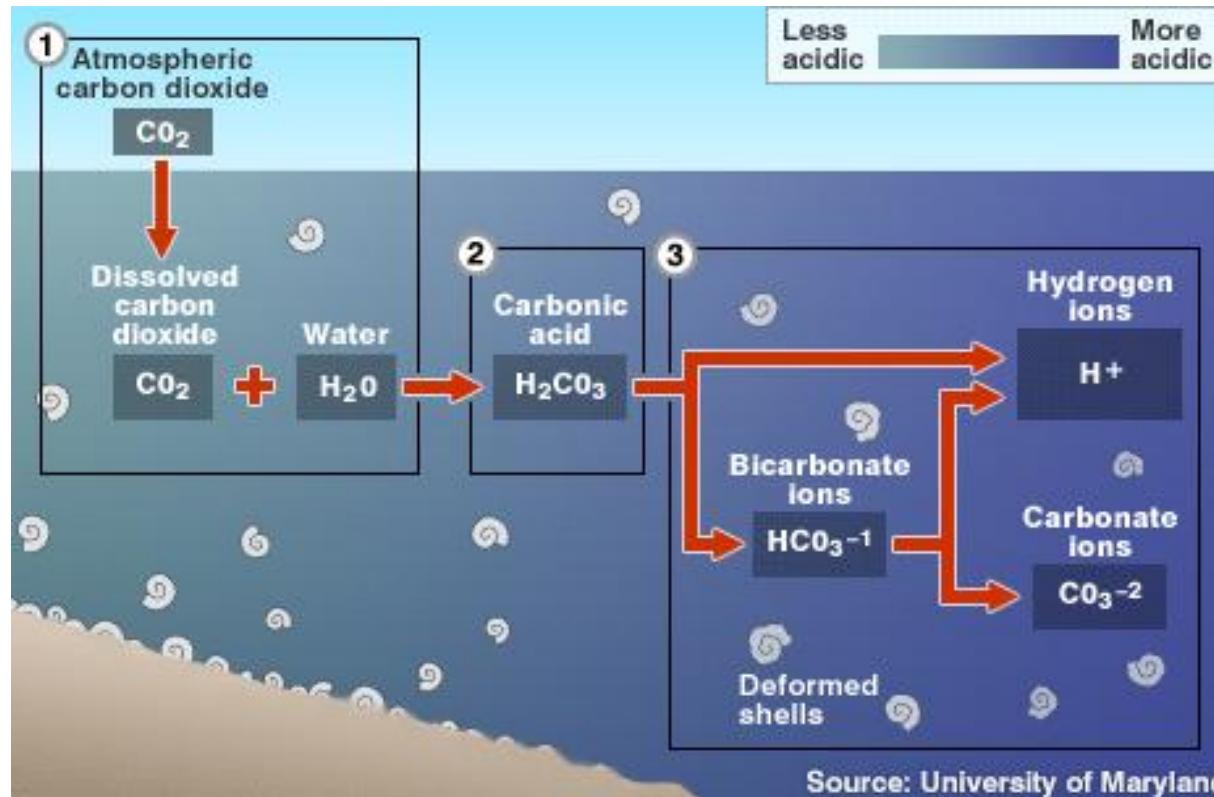
Núria Teixidó, Ischia Marine Center - SZN & Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche



Ocean Acidification

Global-scale change in the basic chemistry of the ocean

~ 25% CO₂



Net effect for biology:

- ↑ HCO₃⁻¹ photosynthesis
- ↓ pH acid/base
- ↓ CO₃⁻² calcification

→ Steeve, Irene

Insights into the future: Volcanic CO₂ Vents



95-98% CO₂
Ambient Temperature

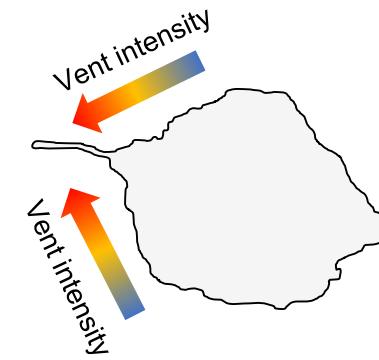
Photo: Pasquale Vassallo

CO_2 vents: natural analogues for future OA conditions



Castello Aragonese

Key insights on the direct and indirect effects

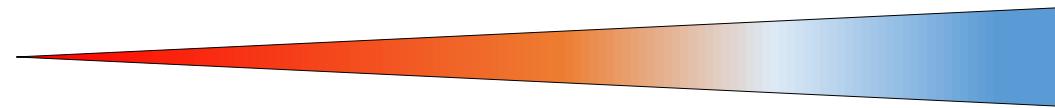


Extreme Low
pH ~ 6.6 – 7.2

Low
pH ~ 7.8 – 7.5

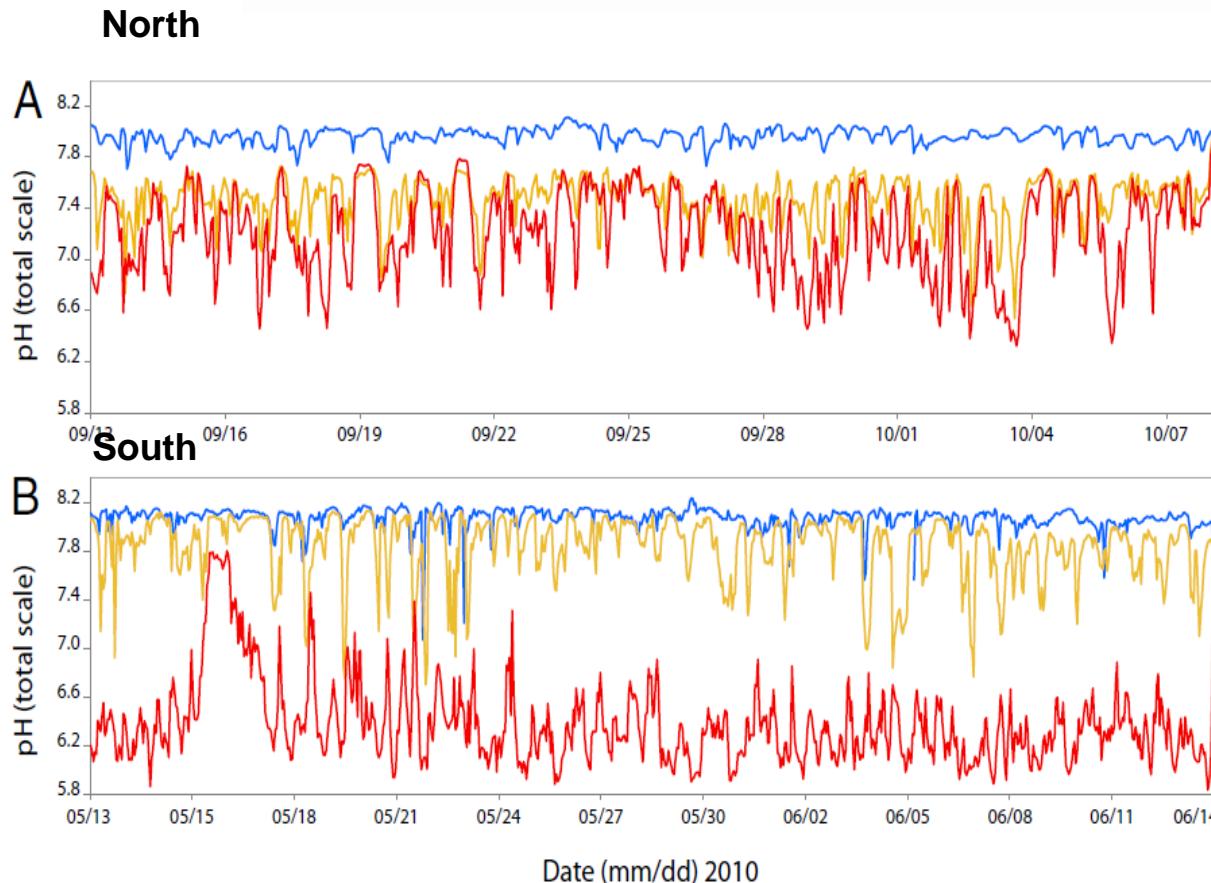
Ambient
pH ~ 8.0

pH
1.5 pH units



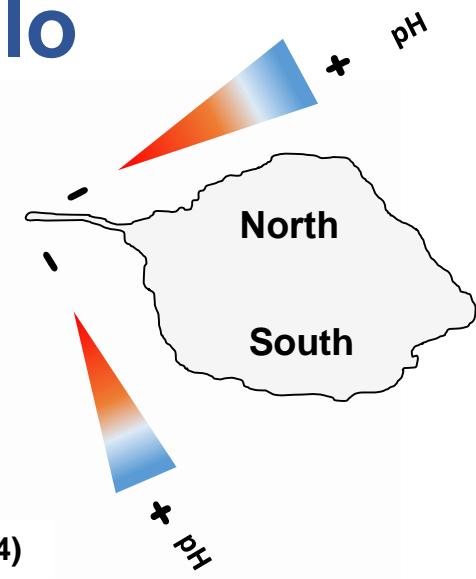
Hall-Spencer et al (2008) Nature, Kroeker et al (2011) PNAS, Kroeker et al (2013) Nat Clim Change, Foo et al (2018) Oceangr Mar Biol Annu Rev, Teixidó et al (2018) Nat Comms, Signorini et al (2025) Env Res, Carlot et al (submitted)

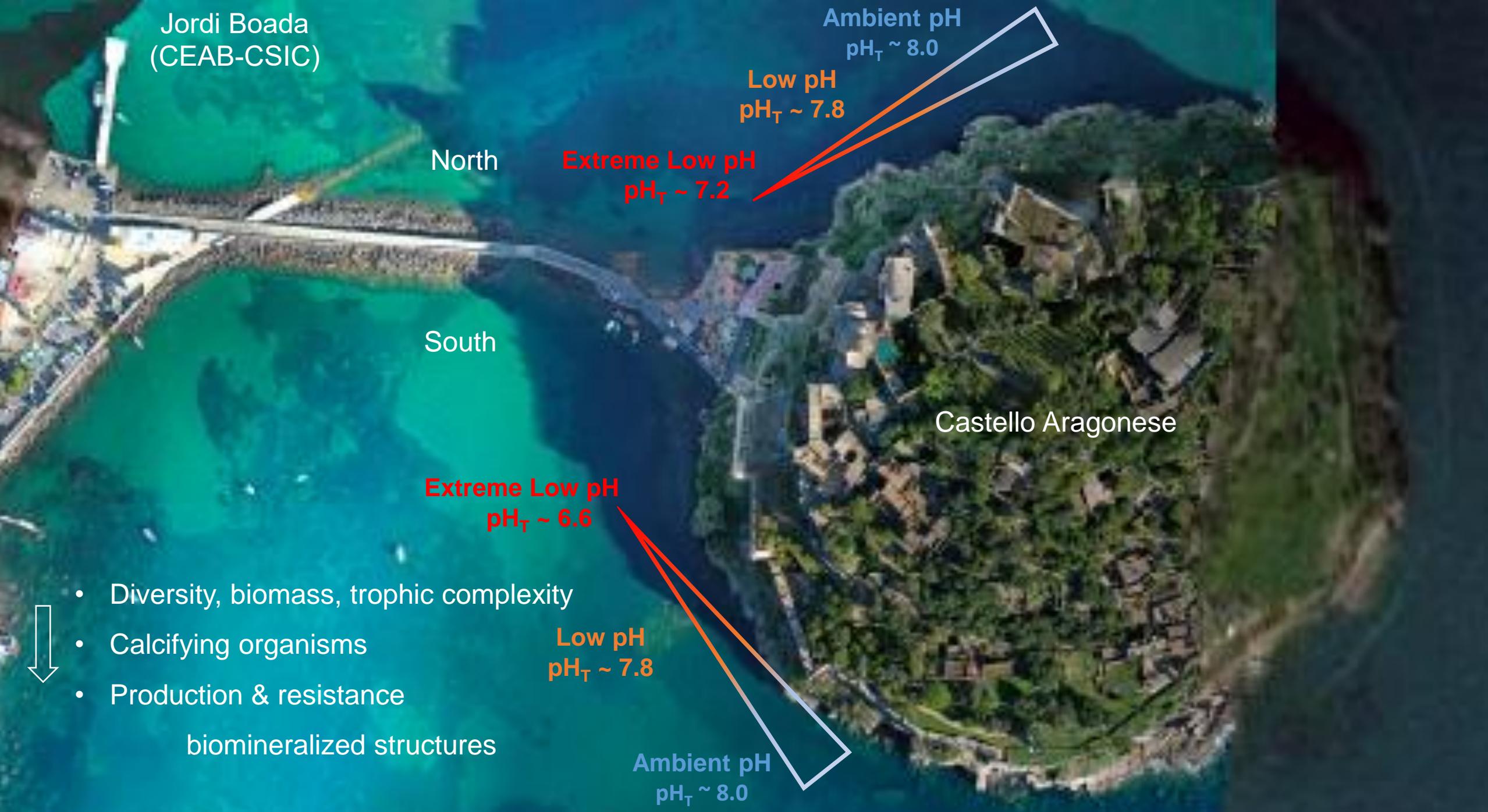
Seawater pH along the Castello



- Ambient ($\text{pH}_T = 7.95 \pm 0.06$)
- Low ($\text{pH}_T = 7.77 \pm 0.19$)
- Extreme low ($\text{pH}_T = 7.21 \pm 0.34$)

- Ambient ($\text{pH}_T = 8.06 \pm 0.09$)
- Low ($\text{pH}_T = 7.75 \pm 0.31$)
- Extreme low ($\text{pH}_T = 6.59 \pm 0.51$)





Jordi Boada
(CEAB-CSIC)

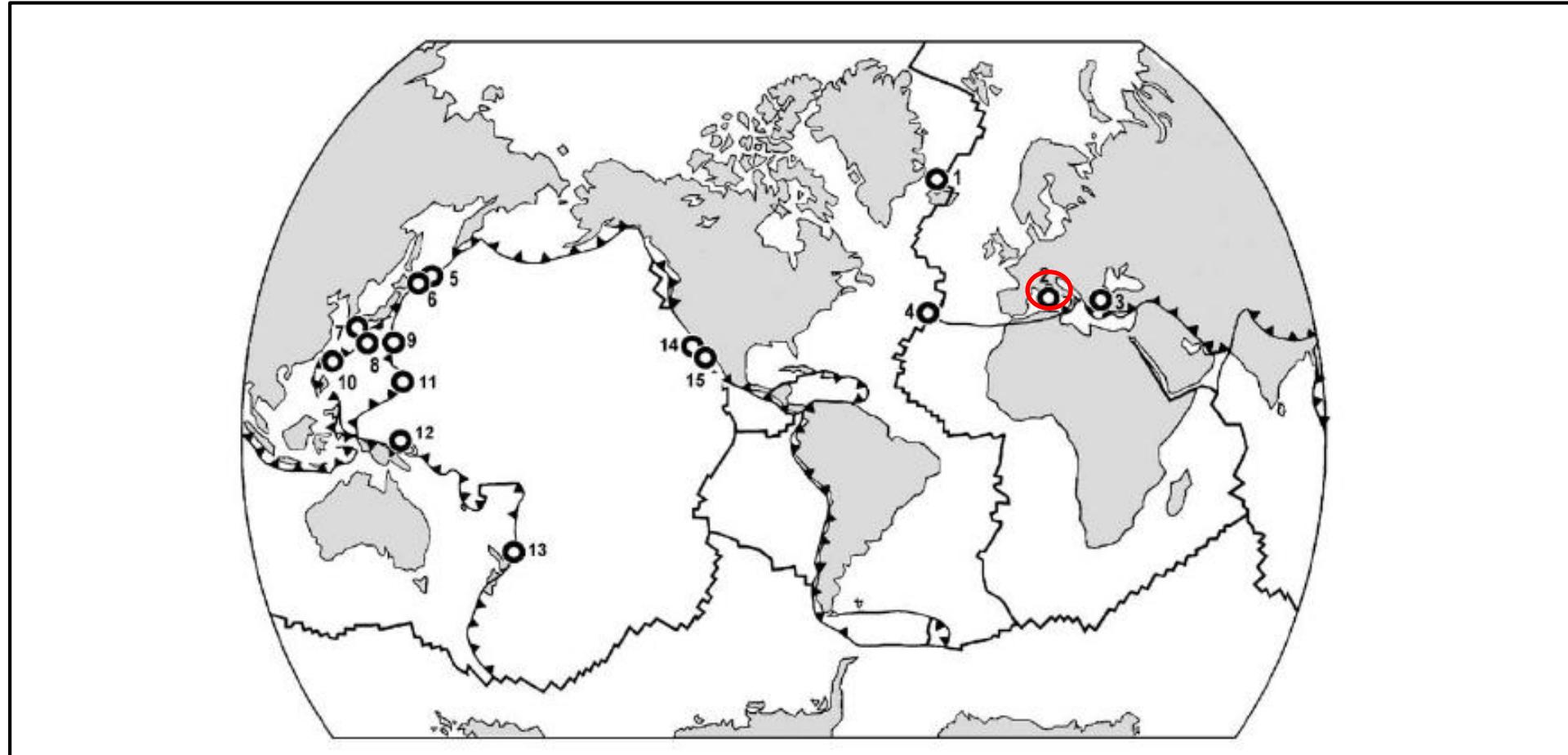
North

South

Castello Aragonese

→ Jordi
Gaia, Massimiliano

Coastal CO₂ vents occur worldwide



Tarasov et al (2005)

In situ effects of CO₂ vents on corals reefs

**Decline in calcifying foundation species,
loss of diversity, and structural complexity**



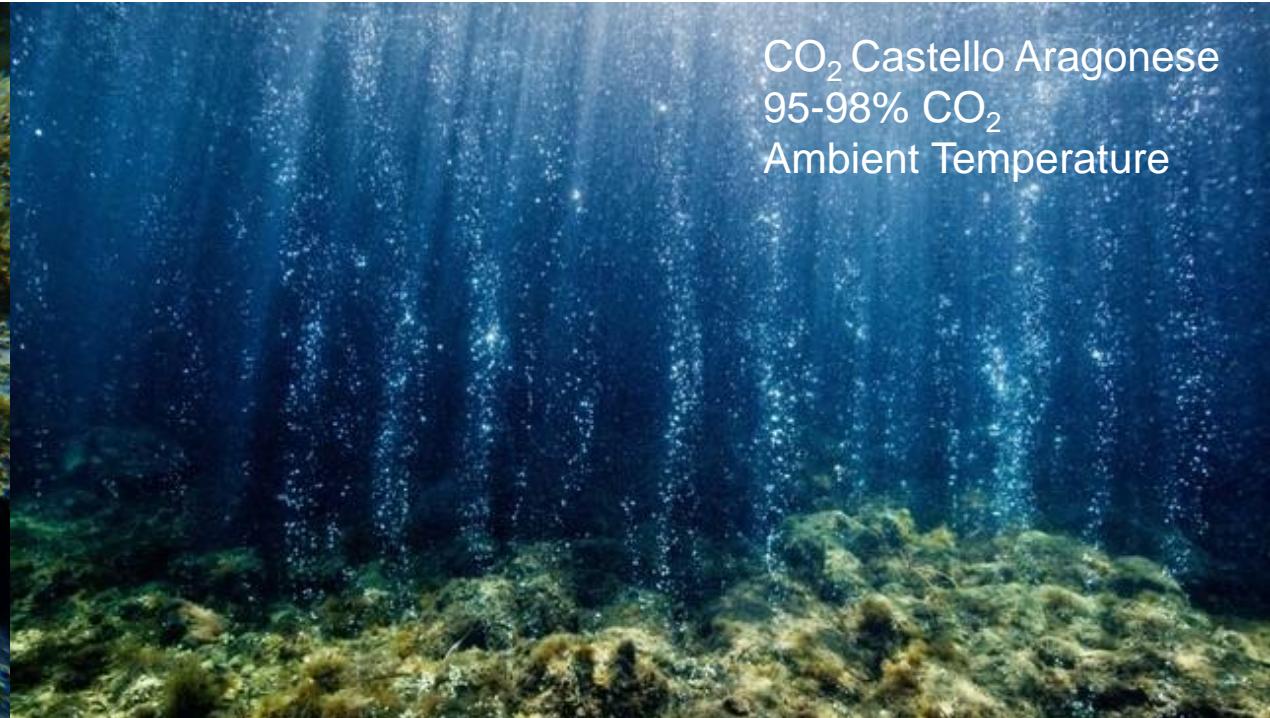
Fabricius et al (2011)

In situ effects of CO₂ vents on temperate marine communities

**Decline in calcifying foundation species,
loss of diversity, and structural complexity**



Ambient pH site
pH ~ 8.0
 $p\text{CO}_2$ ~ 440- 567 μatm



Low pH site
pH ~ 7.8
 $p\text{CO}_2$ ~ 1075- 1581 μatm

Biology/Ecology

1. Abundances (flora, fauna), morphology, age, biomass, diversity
2. Manipulative experiments on recruitment, reproduction, photosynthesis, respiration, and growth
3. Genetics/genomics/holobionts: local adaptation, gene expression,

..

Others?



Valerio, Sam, all

Research conducted over more than a decade

nature
Vol 454 | 3 July 2008 | doi:10.1038/nature07051

LETTERS 2008

Volcanic carbon dioxide vents show ecosystem effects of ocean acidification

Jason M. Hall-Spencer¹, Riccardo Rodolfo-Metalpa¹, Sophie Martin², Emma Ransome¹, Maoz Fine^{3,4}, Suzanne M. Turner⁵, Sonia J. Rowley¹, Dario Tedesco^{6,7} & Maria-Cristina Buia⁸

Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology 400 (2011) 278–287

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect



Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jembe



Effects of ocean acidification on macroalgal communities

Lucia Porzio^a, Maria Cristina Buia^{a,*}, Jason M. Hall-Spencer^b

^a Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn of Naples, Functional and Evolutionary Ecology Laboratory, Villa Dohrn, Punta San Pietro, 80077 Ischia (Naples), Italy

^b Marine Institute, Marine Biology and Ecology Research Centre, University of Plymouth, Plymouth PL4 8AA, UK



LETTERS

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 21 AUGUST 2011 | DOI:10.1038/NCLIMATE1200

Coral and mollusc resistance to ocean acidification adversely affected by warming

R. Rodolfo-Metalpa^{1,2*}, F. Houlbrèque^{1†}, É. Tambutte³, F. Boisson¹, C. Baggini², F. P. Patti⁴, R. Jeffree^{1†}, M. Fine^{5,6}, A. Foggo², J.-P. Gattuso^{7,8} and J. M. Hall-Spencer²

LETTERS

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 9 SEPTEMBER 2012 | DOI:10.1038/NCLIMATE1680

nature
climate change

Ocean acidification causes ecosystem shifts via altered competitive interactions

Kristy J. Kroeker^{1*}, Fiorenza Micheli¹ and Maria Cristina Gambi²

PROCEEDINGS B

rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org

Oceanography and Marine Biology: An Annual Review, 2018, 56, 237–310
© S.J. Hawkins, A.J. Evans, A.C. Dale, L.B. Firth, and I.P. Smith, Editors
Taylor & Francis

THE CARBON DIOXIDE VENTS OF ISCHIA, ITALY,
A NATURAL SYSTEM TO ASSESS IMPACTS
OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ON MARINE
ECOSYSTEMS: AN OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH AND
COMPARISONS WITH OTHER VENT SYSTEMS

SHAWNA ANDREA FOO^{1*}, MARIA BYRNE², ELENA
RICEVUTO¹ & MARIA CRISTINA GAMBI²

ARTICLE

DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-07993-1

OPEN

Functional biodiversity loss along natural CO₂
gradients

Nuria Teixidó^{1,2}, Maria Cristina Gambi¹, Valeriano Parravicini³, Kristy Kroeker⁴,
Fiorenza Micheli^{1,2,5}, Sébastien Villéger⁶ & Enric Ballesteros⁷



Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and
Ecology
Volumes 530–531, September–October 2020, 155435



Ocean acidification alters the responses of
invertebrates to wound-activated
infochemicals produced by epiphytes of
the seagrass *Posidonia oceanica*

Mirko Mutalipassi^{1,2}, Patrick Fink^{3,4,5,6,7}, Chingoleima Malbam⁹, Lucio Porzio⁹,
Maria Cristina Buia⁵, Mario Cristina Gambi⁵, Francesco Paolo Potti⁹,
Maria Beatrice Scipione⁹, Maurizio Lorenti⁹, Valerio Zupo⁹, R. Zupo⁹



Received: 26 June 2020 | Revised: 16 May 2022 | Accepted: 20 May 2022
DOI: 10.1111/mec.16553

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

MOLECULAR ECOLOGY WILEY

Molecular response of *Sargassum vulgare* to acidification at
volcanic CO₂ vents: Insights from proteomic and metabolite
analyses

Amit Kumar¹ | Simona Nonnis^{2,3} | Immacolata Castellano^{4,5} | Hamada AbdElgawad^{6,7} |
Gerrit T. S. Beemster⁷ | Maria Cristina Buia¹ | Elisa Maffioli² | Gabriella Tedeschi^{2,3} |
Anna Palumbo⁵ |

Received: 13 December 2021 | Revised: 15 March 2022 | Accepted: 22 March 2022
DOI: 10.1111/gcb.16265

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Global Change Biology WILEY

Resilient consumers accelerate the plant decomposition in a
naturally acidified seagrass ecosystem

Juhung Lee^{1,2} | Maria Cristina Gambi³ | Kristy J. Kroeker⁴ | Marco Munari⁵ |
Kabir Peay² | Fiorenza Micheli^{1,2,6}

Science of the Total Environment 771 (2021) 145438

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect



Science of the Total Environment

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv

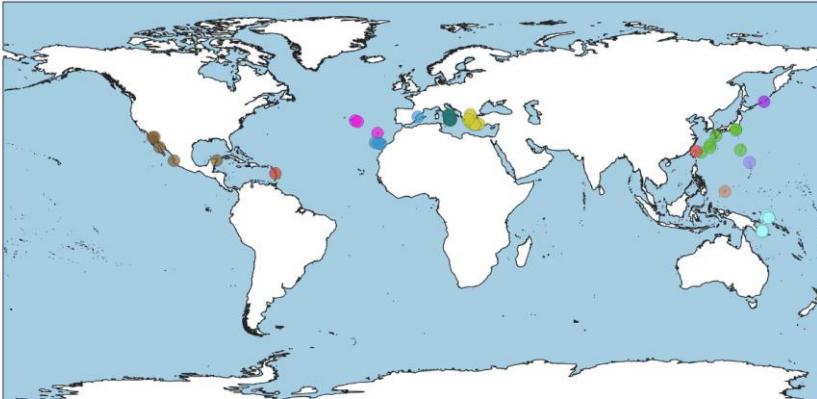


Boosted fish abundance associated with *Posidonia oceanica* meadows in
temperate shallow CO₂ vents

Alice Mirasol^{a,*}, Fabio Badalamenti^{b,c}, Antonio Di Franco^c, Maria Cristina Gambi^a, Nuria Teixidó^{a,d}



Research on coastal CO₂ vents following the Ischia study



Locations of the shallow water vent sites

- Dominica (Les Antilles) (1)
- Japan (24-31)
- Northern Mariana Island (38)
- Portugal (48-50)
- Taiwan (56)
- Greece (2-12)
- Mexico (32-36)
- Palau (39)
- Russia (51)
- Italy (13-23)
- New Zealand (37)
- Papua New Guinea (40-47)
- Spain (52-55)

Aiuppa et al (2020) Biogeochemistry
González-Delgado (2018)



ICONA

Home Members Research Sites Research Outline Events Publications Videos Contact

International CO₂ Natural Analogues Network (ICONA)

14 institutions, 5 countries

CO₂ vent research has been cited

ipcc
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

This Summary for Policymakers was formally approved at the Second Joint Session of Working Groups I and II of the IPCC and accepted by the 51st Session of the IPCC, Principality of Monaco, 24th September 2019

Summary for Policymakers



WG I X WG II

WMO UNEP

The Second World Ocean Assessment

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT II



United Nations

Sam

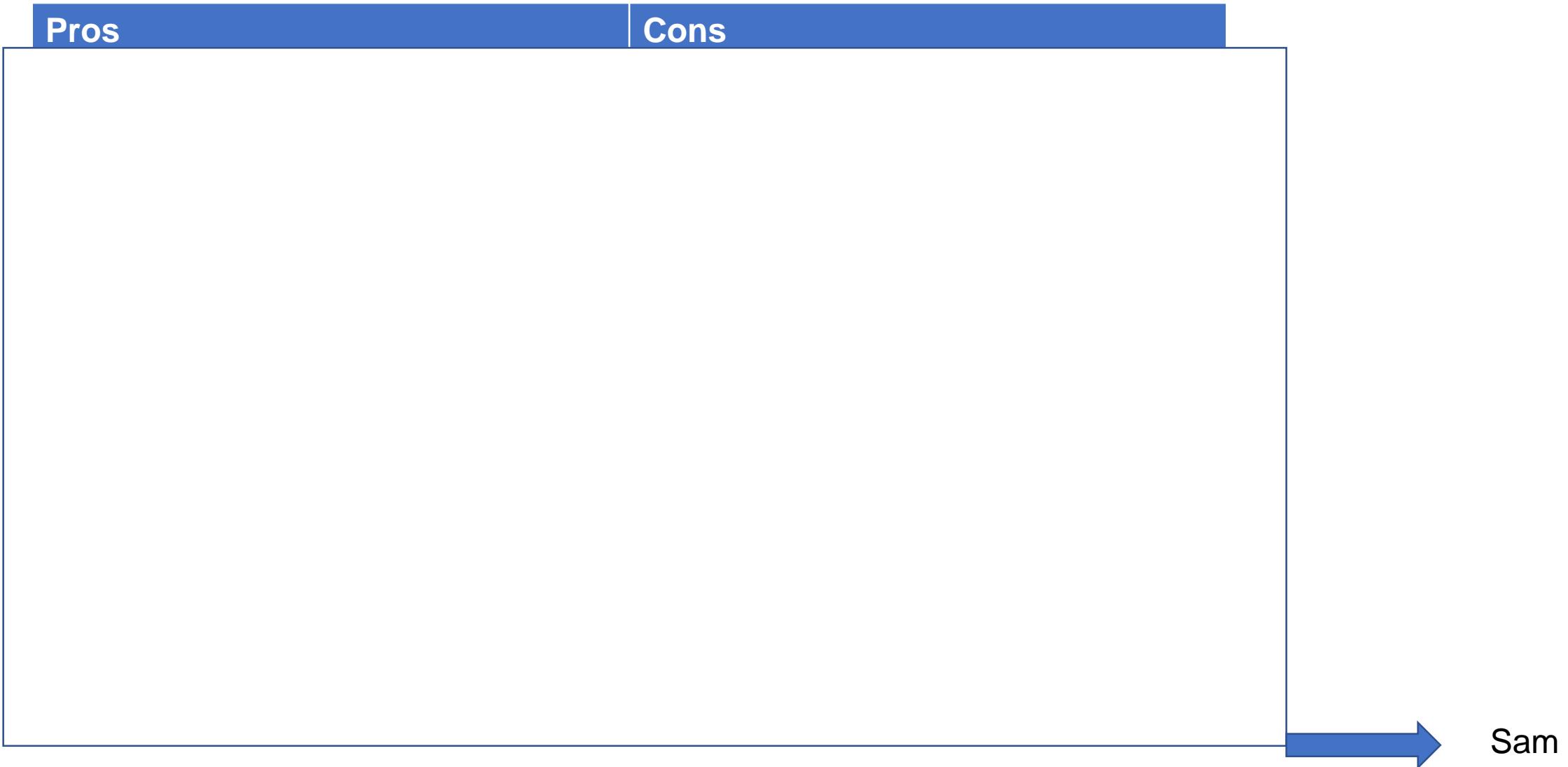
Natural CO₂ vents

- Need to avoid confounding gradients (temperature, salinity, total alkalinity, and toxic chemicals such as H₂S, CH₄)



Panarea

Natural CO₂ vents: Pros and cons



Environmental variability

Deployment of instrumentation

Temperature sensors



pH sensors



Light sensors (PAR)



Salinity sensors



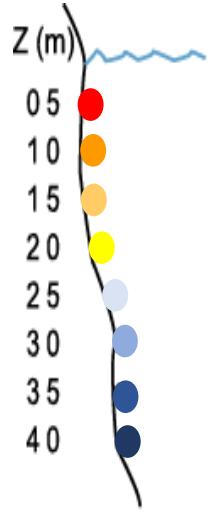
+
Discrete water samples



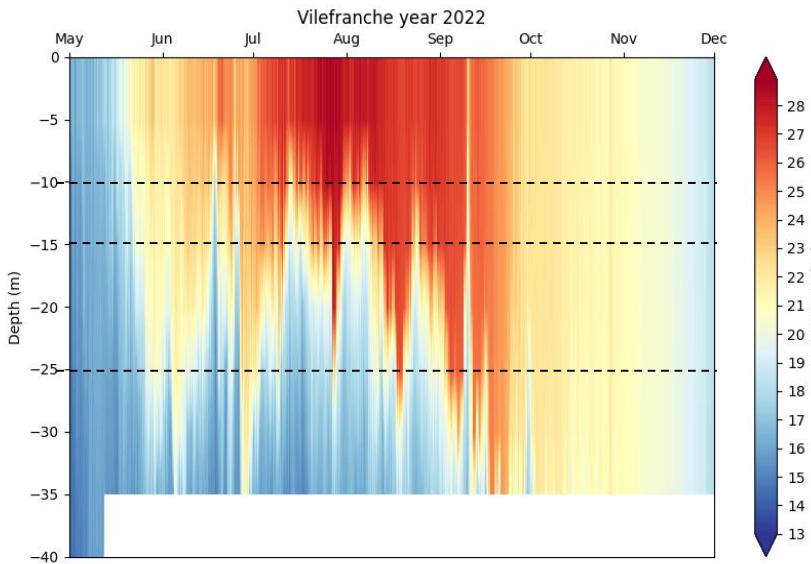
Carbonate chemistry

Temperature profiles to characterize Marine Heatwaves (MHWs)

Temperature sensors



Depth: 5 - 40 m, at every 5 m
Frequency: hourly

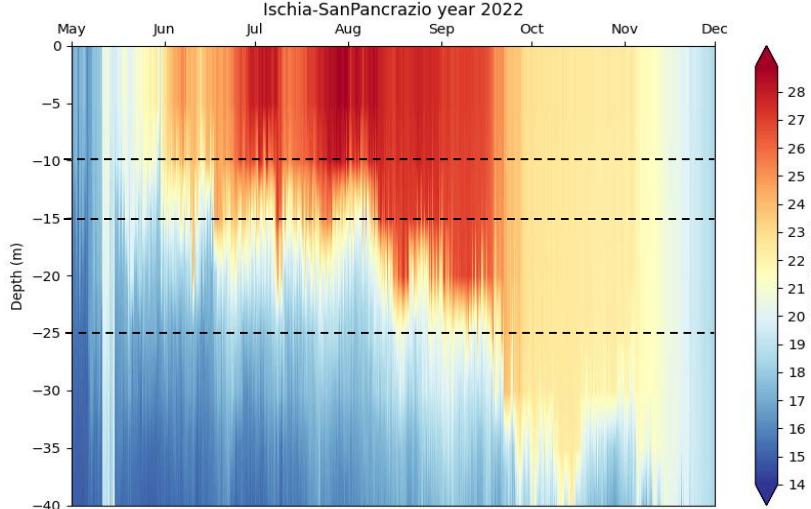


Scale: 2 sites, 1 year



Villefranche

26/07/2022
28.9 °C at 5 m
17.1 °C at 25 m

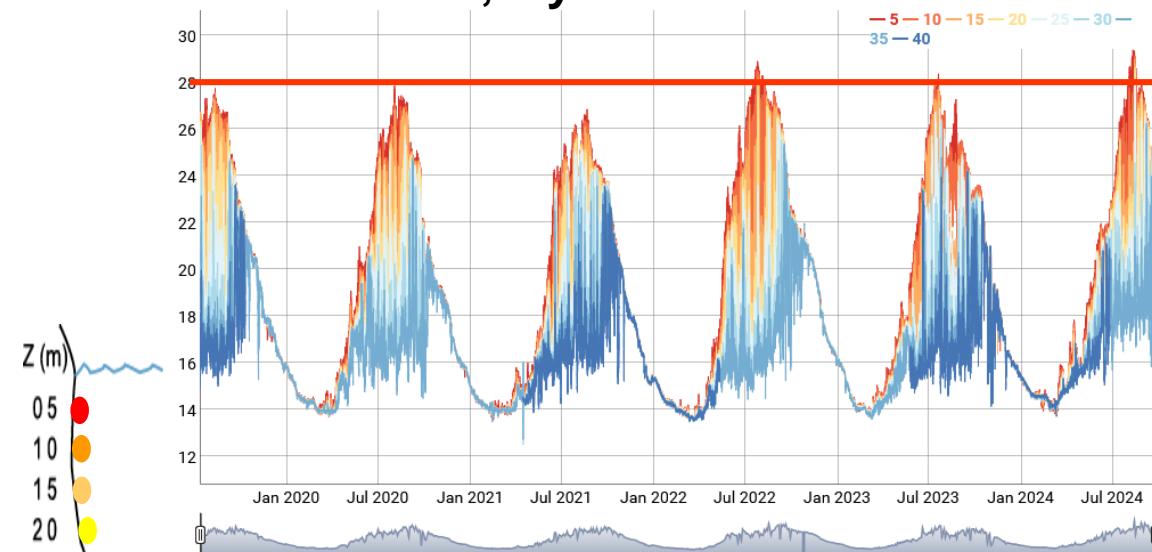


Ischia

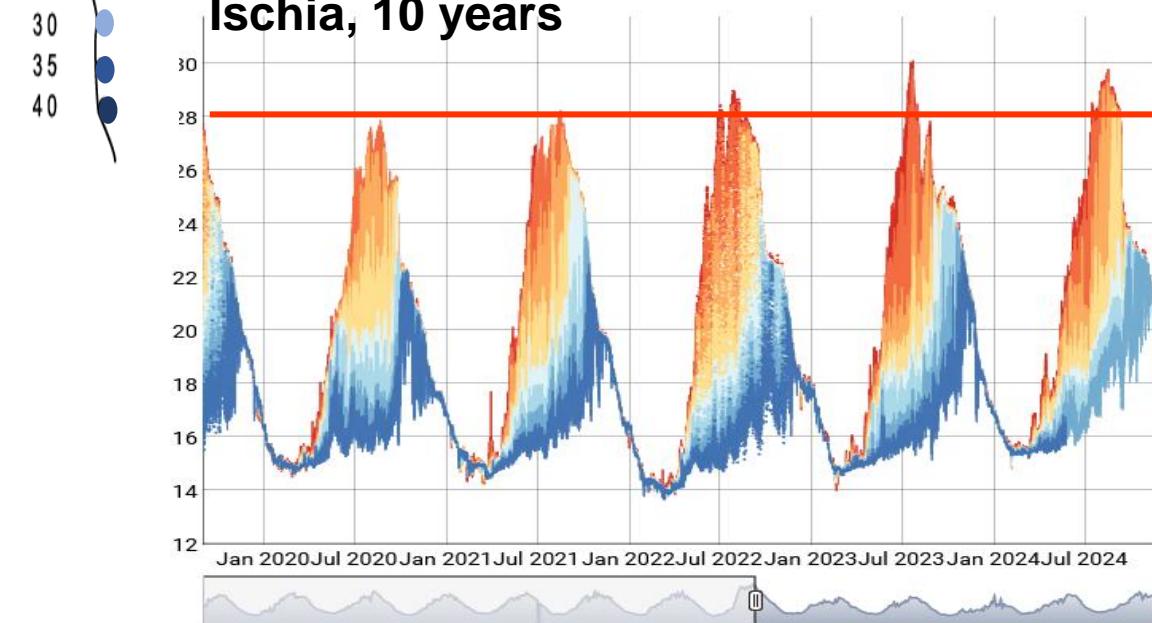
26/07/2022
28.4 °C at 5 m
18.6 °C at 25 m

Temperature series in Villefranche and Ischia

Villefranche, 5 years



Ischia, 10 years

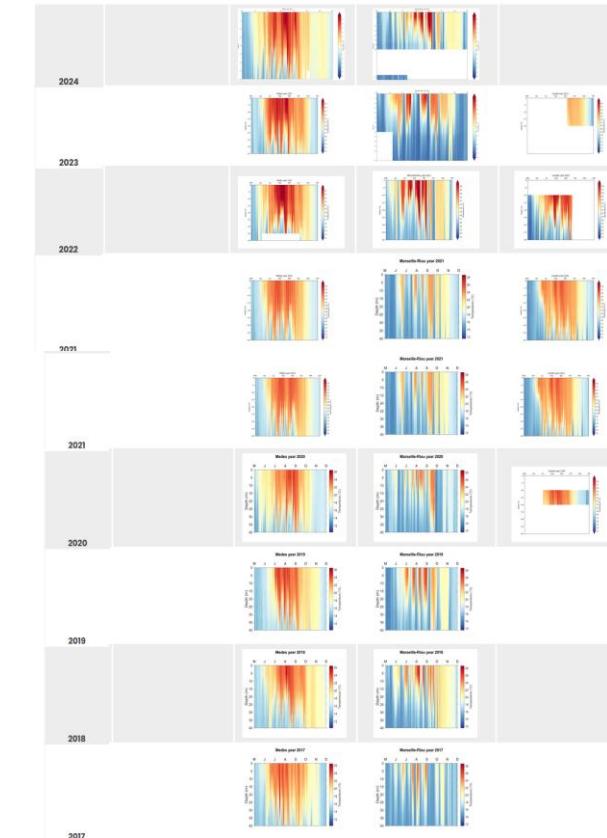
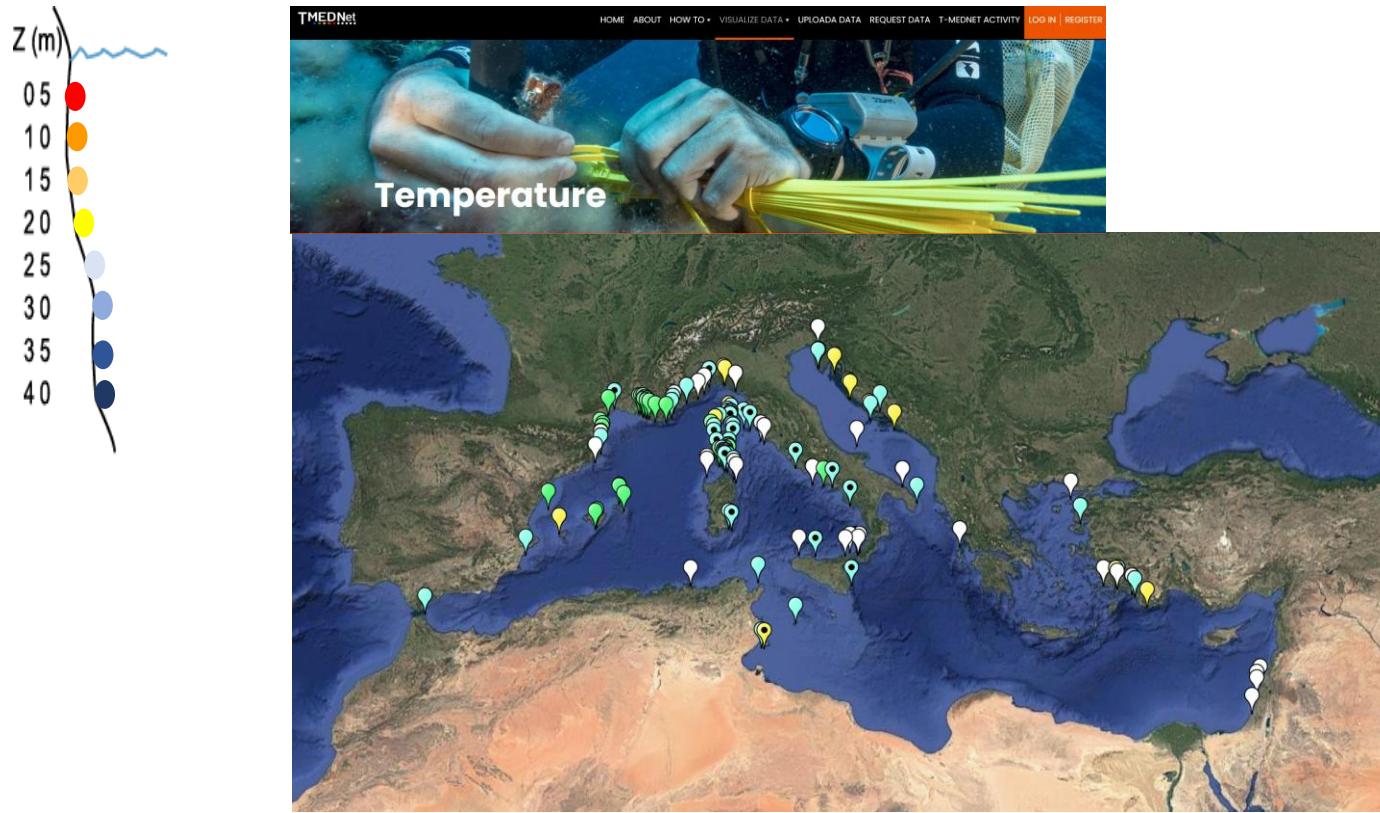


Scale: 2 sites, 5 year and 10 year data

Year	Temp (°C) Vlfr, 1-2 m	Temp (°C) Vlfr, 5m	Temp (°C) Ischia, 5m
2014	26.2		27.1
2015	28.4		28.9
2016	26.6		28.1
2017	27.7		29.0
2018	29.0		29.1
2019	28.7	27.75	28.1
2020	28.2	27.88	28.6
2021	26.9	26.87	28.3
2022	29.2	28.92	28.9
2023	28.8	28.37	30.1
2024	29.8	29.39	29.8
2025	27-28		

TMEDNet: Network of temperature and climate change effects in the Mediterranean

Pan-Mediterranean scale, decades



<https://t-mednet.org/>

pH sensor calibration



Data, metadata, R scripts ordered and saved



pCloud

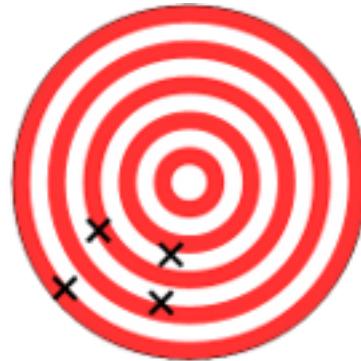


R Studio[®]

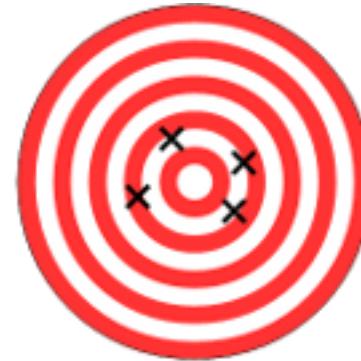


Jérémie, Steeve

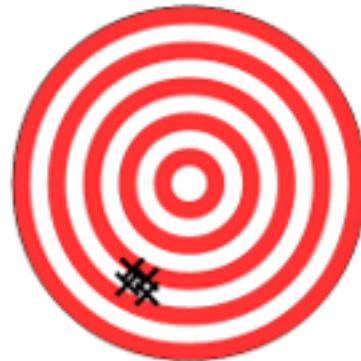
Measuring pH: high resolution pH sensors



Not Accurate
Low Precision



Accurate
Low Precision



Not Accurate
High Precision



Accurate
High Precision

pH sensors

Accuracy, Precision

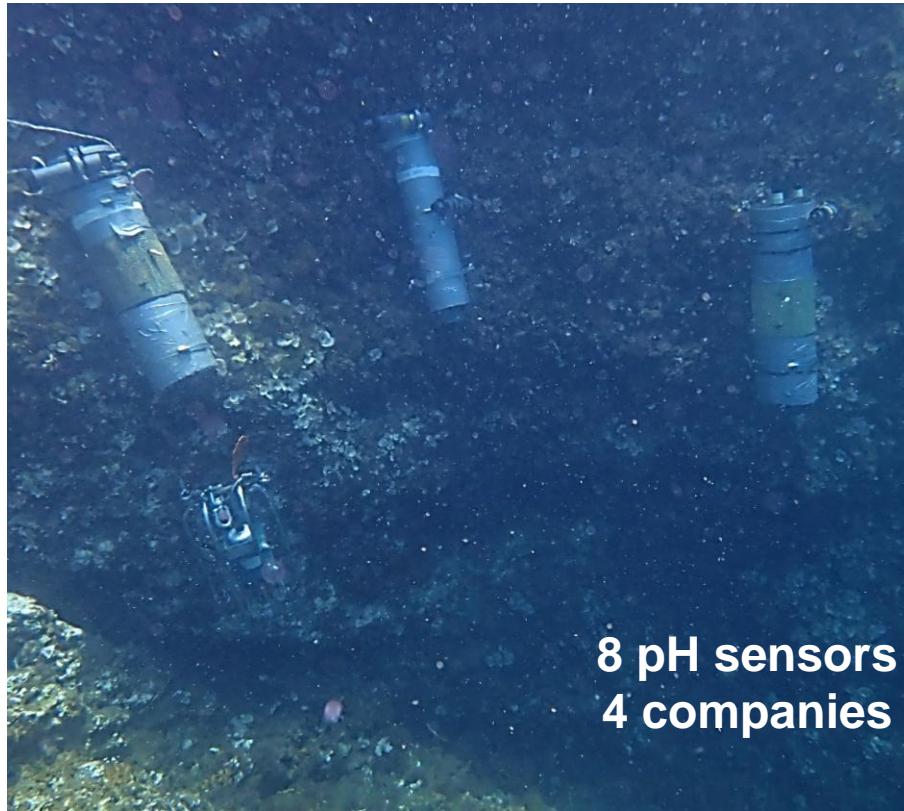
What is missing?

1* SeaFET v2 (Sea-Bird)

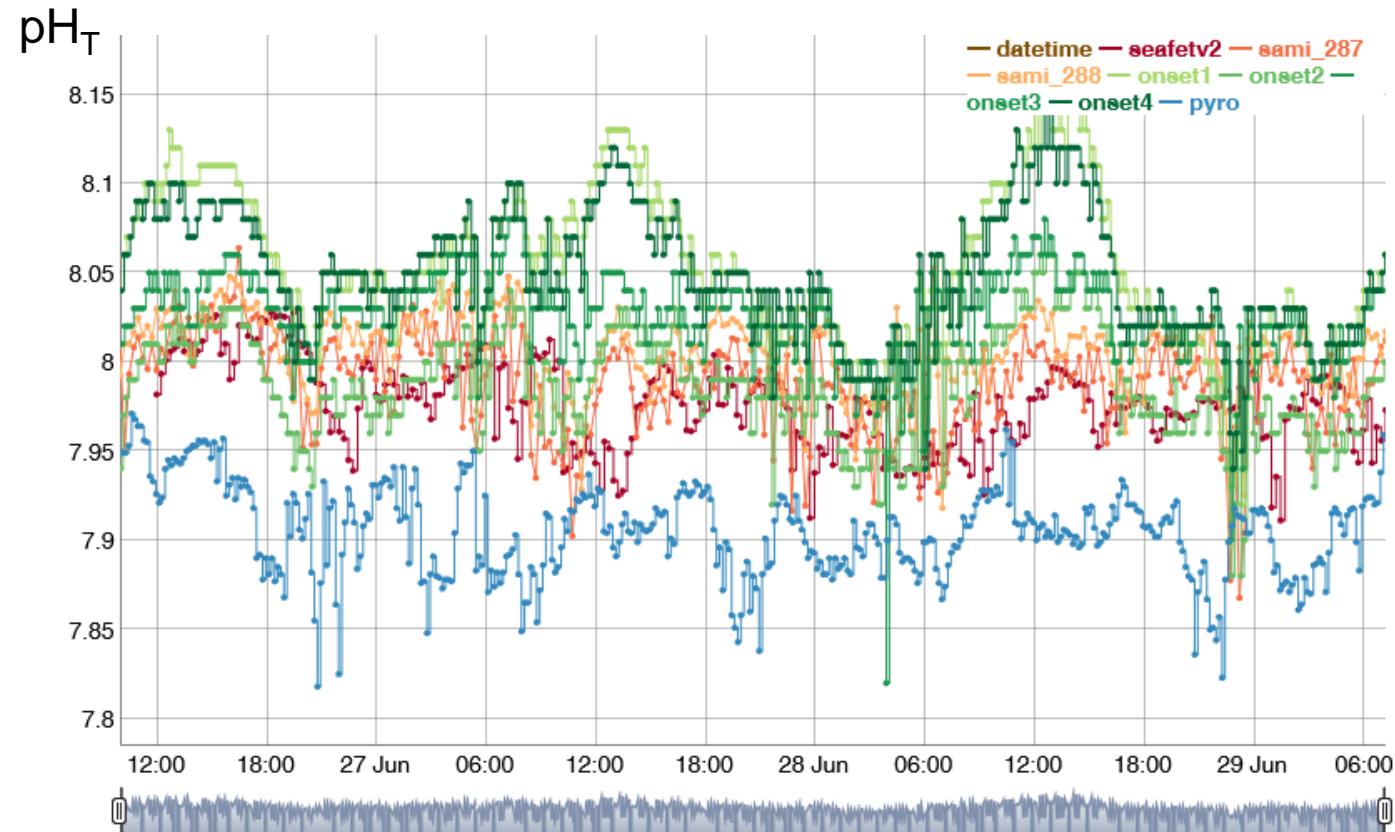
2* Sami pH (Sunburst)

1* AquapHOx (Pyroscience)

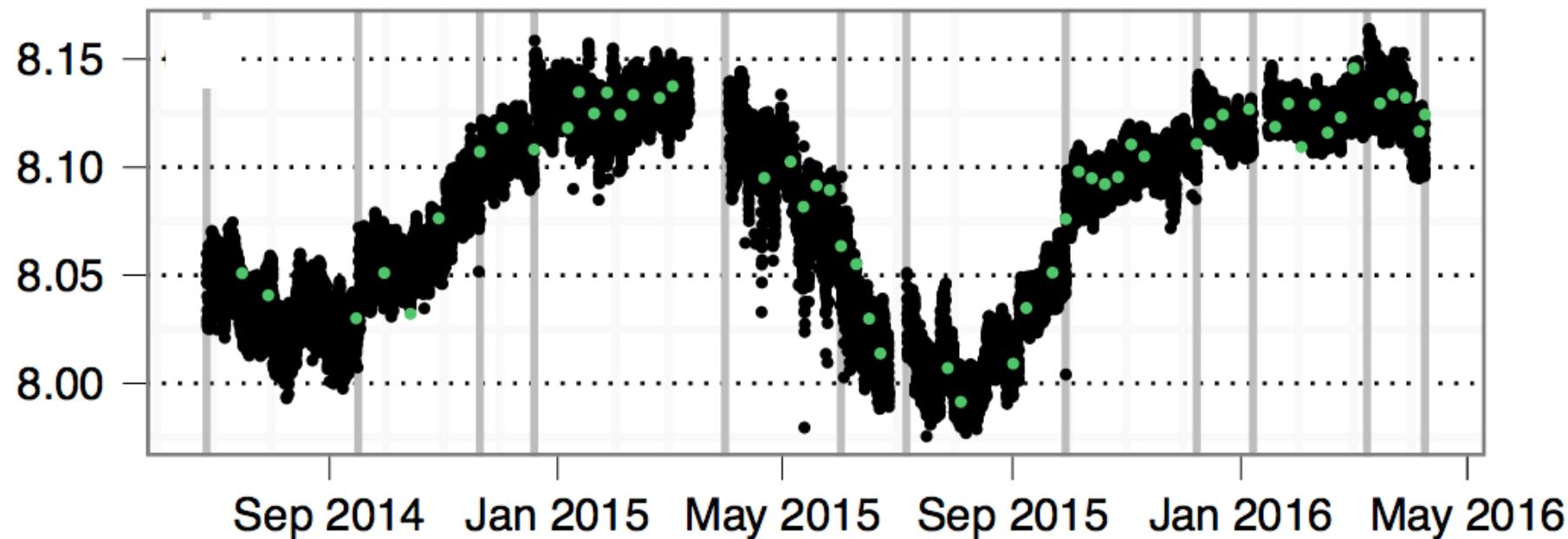
4* Hobo pH (Onset)



8 pH sensors
4 companies



pH measurements- Spectrophotometric



Environmental variability: Carbonate chemistry

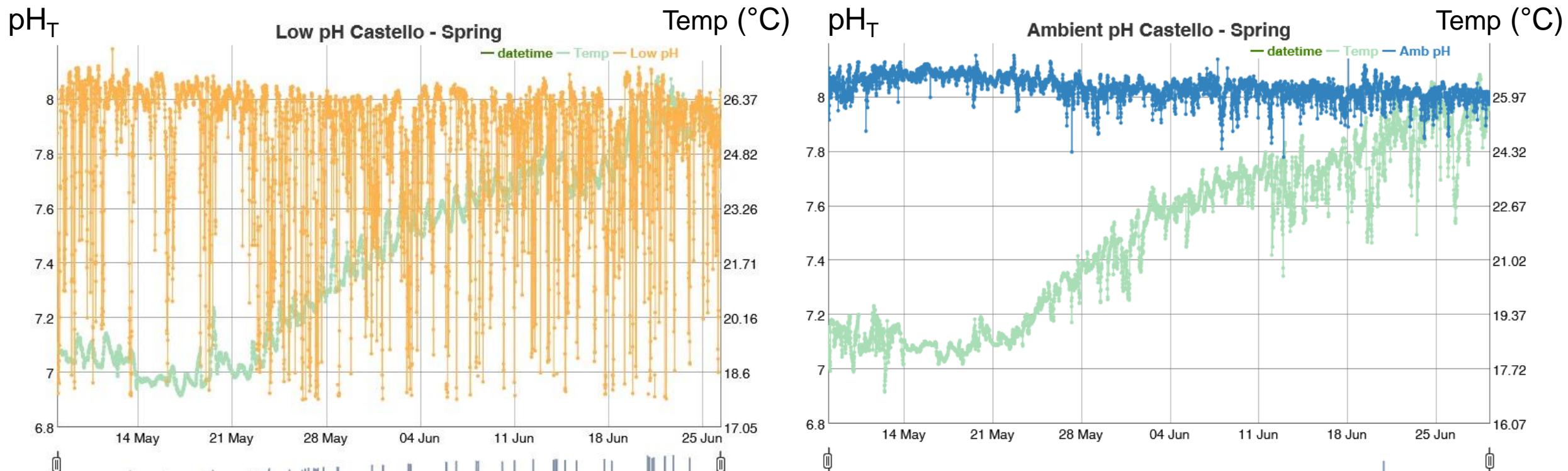
pH sensors



Steeve

Time series pH_T and variability

Low pH and high variability at the CO₂ vents



Mean pH_T = 7.71 (25th = 7.75, 75th = 8.01), n= 4738

Mean pH_T = 8.033 (25th = 8.06, 75th = 8.01), n= 5013

Measurements every 15 minutes



PANGAEA

<https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.964032>

Effects of Ocean Acidification Example on Posidonia epiphytes

Ambient $\text{pH}_T \sim 8.0$
 $p\text{CO}_2 \sim 440\text{-}567 \mu\text{atm}$

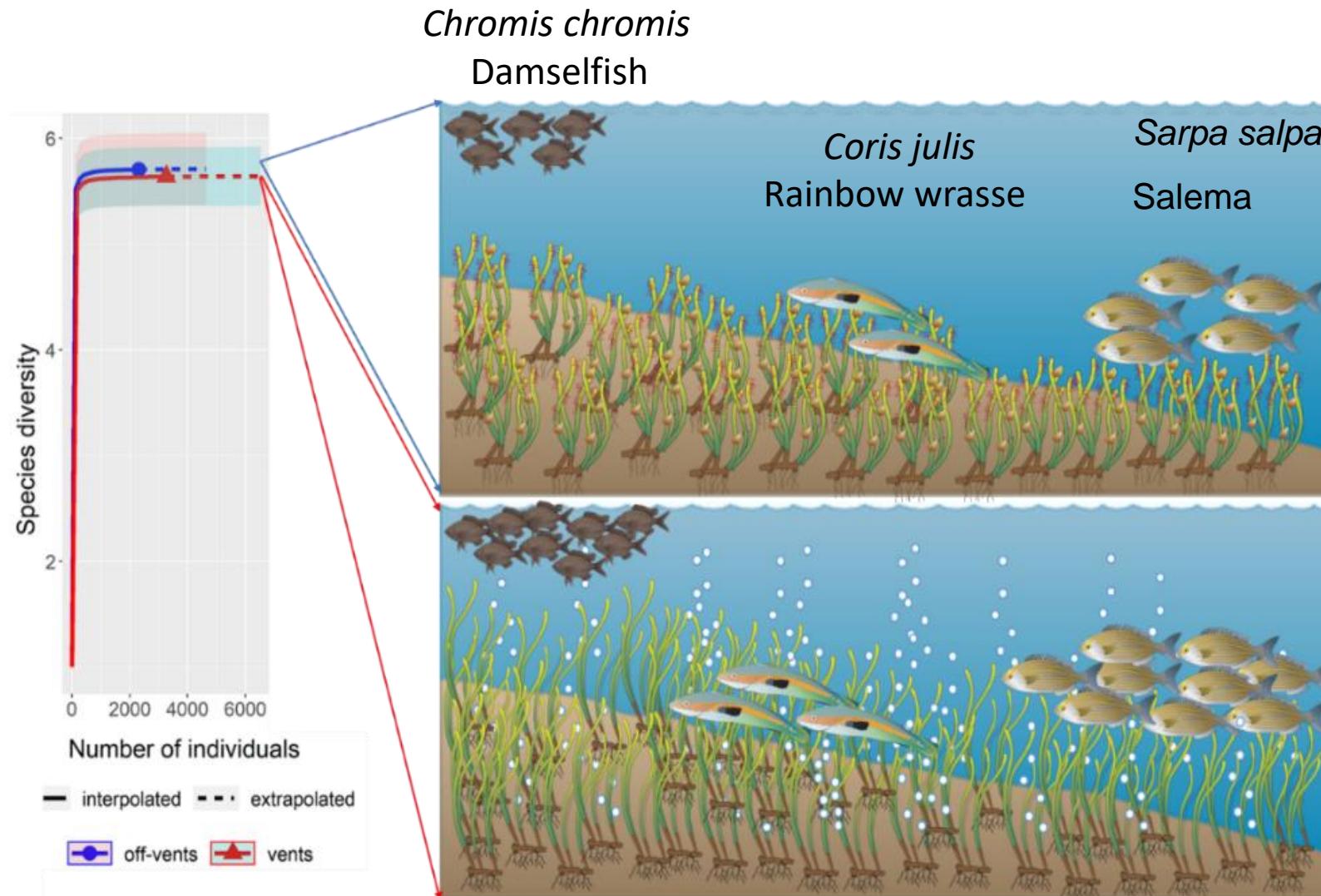
Low $\text{pH}_T \sim 7.8\text{--}7.5$
 $p\text{CO}_2 \sim 1075\text{--}1582 \mu\text{atm}$

Extreme low $\text{pH}_T \sim 6.6\text{--}7.2$
 $p\text{CO}_2 > 6558 \mu\text{atm}$



Irene, Alice

How does exposure to high $p\text{CO}_2$ alter fish abundance in *Posidonia oceanica* meadows?

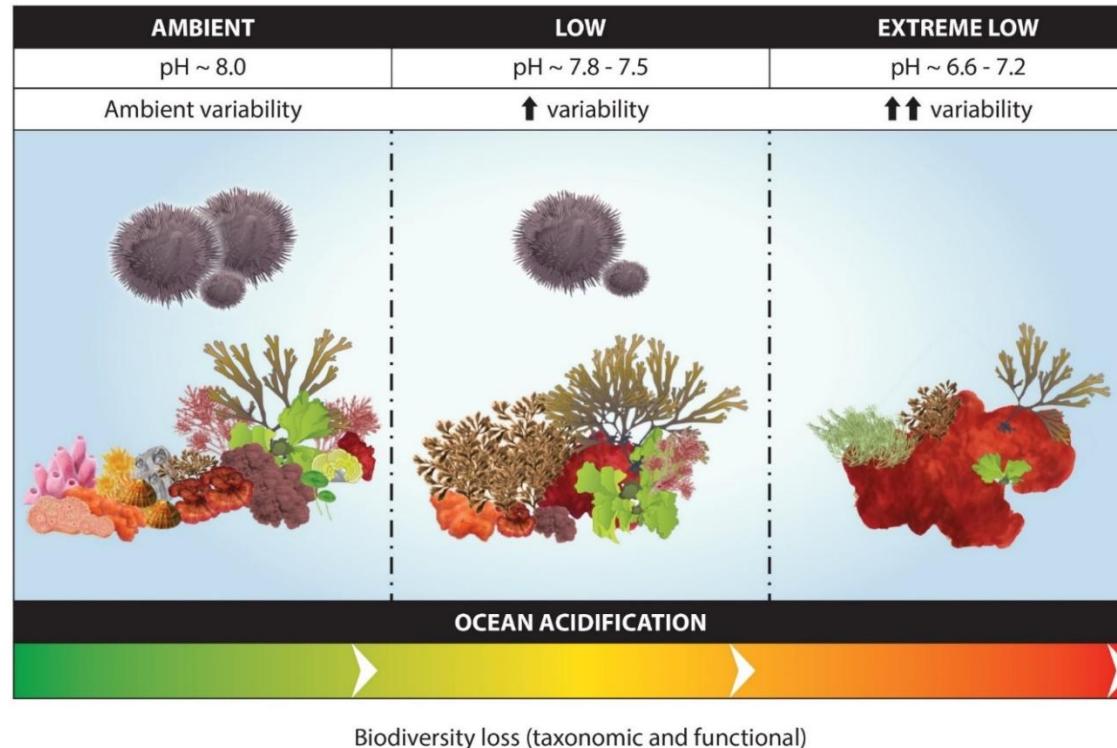


Greater
palatability/nutritional value
(high N on leaves)



Alice
Antonia
Valerio

Effects of Ocean Acidification on rocky reefs



Preserved traits:

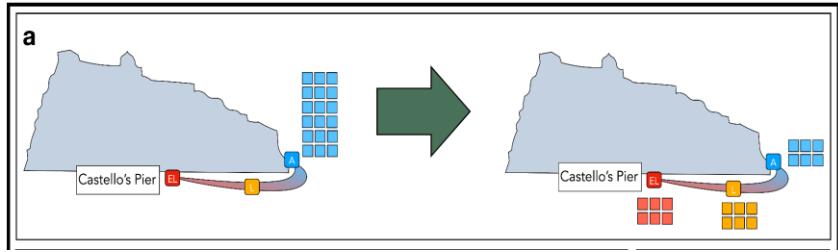
- Encrusting and filamentous forms
- Seasonal & high-growing life histories
 - Photosynthetic autotrophy
 - Lack of calcified structures

Vulnerable traits:

- Tree-like and massive forms
- Long-lived & slow-growing life histories
- Heterotrophic feeding strategies
- Calcification

How do ecosystem processes change under OA over time?

Experiment transplants using tiles



Community: Species, cover, and biomass

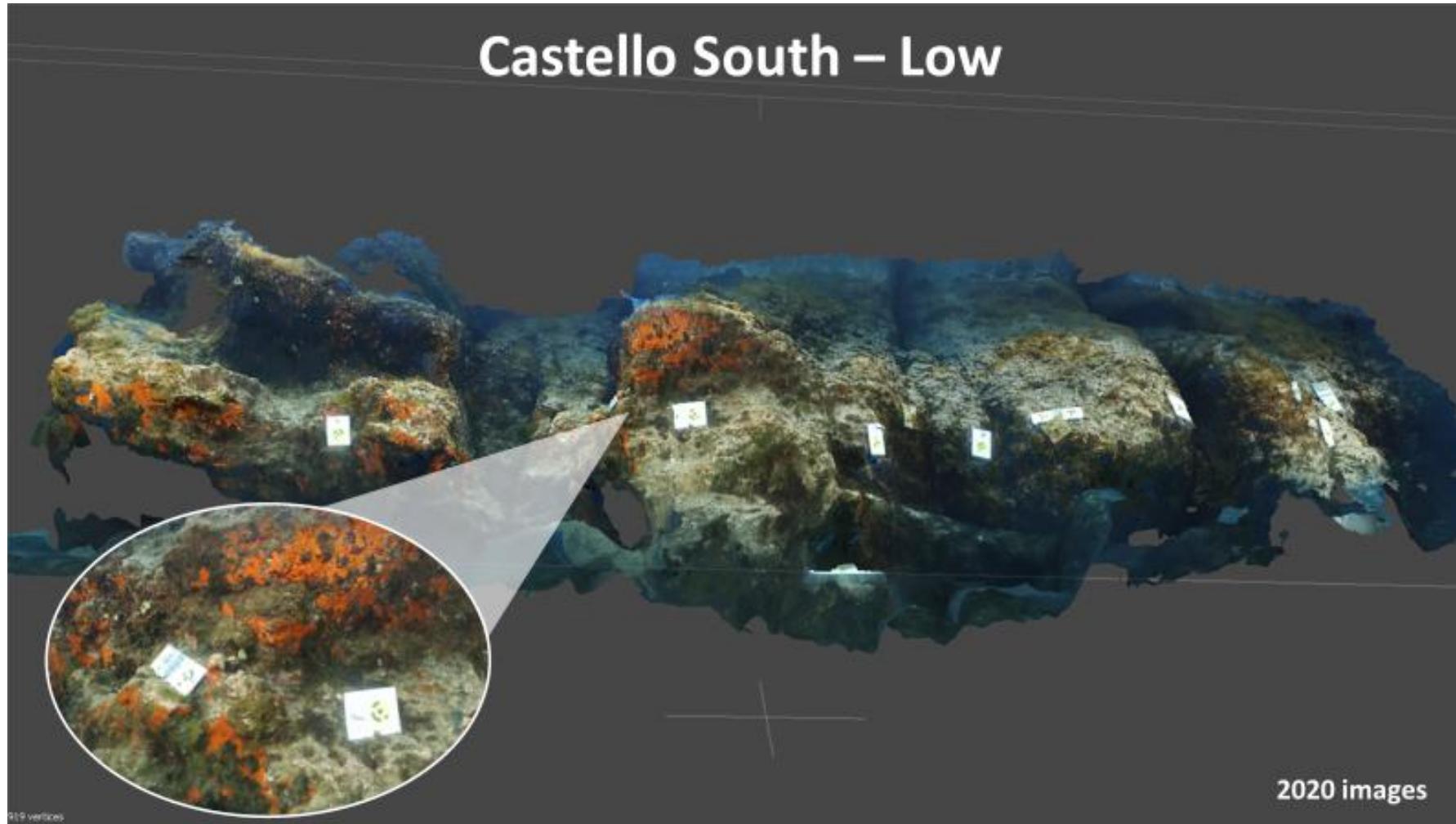


Processes:
Calcification,
Net Photosynthesis, Gross photosynthesis, Respiration
Nutrients uptake



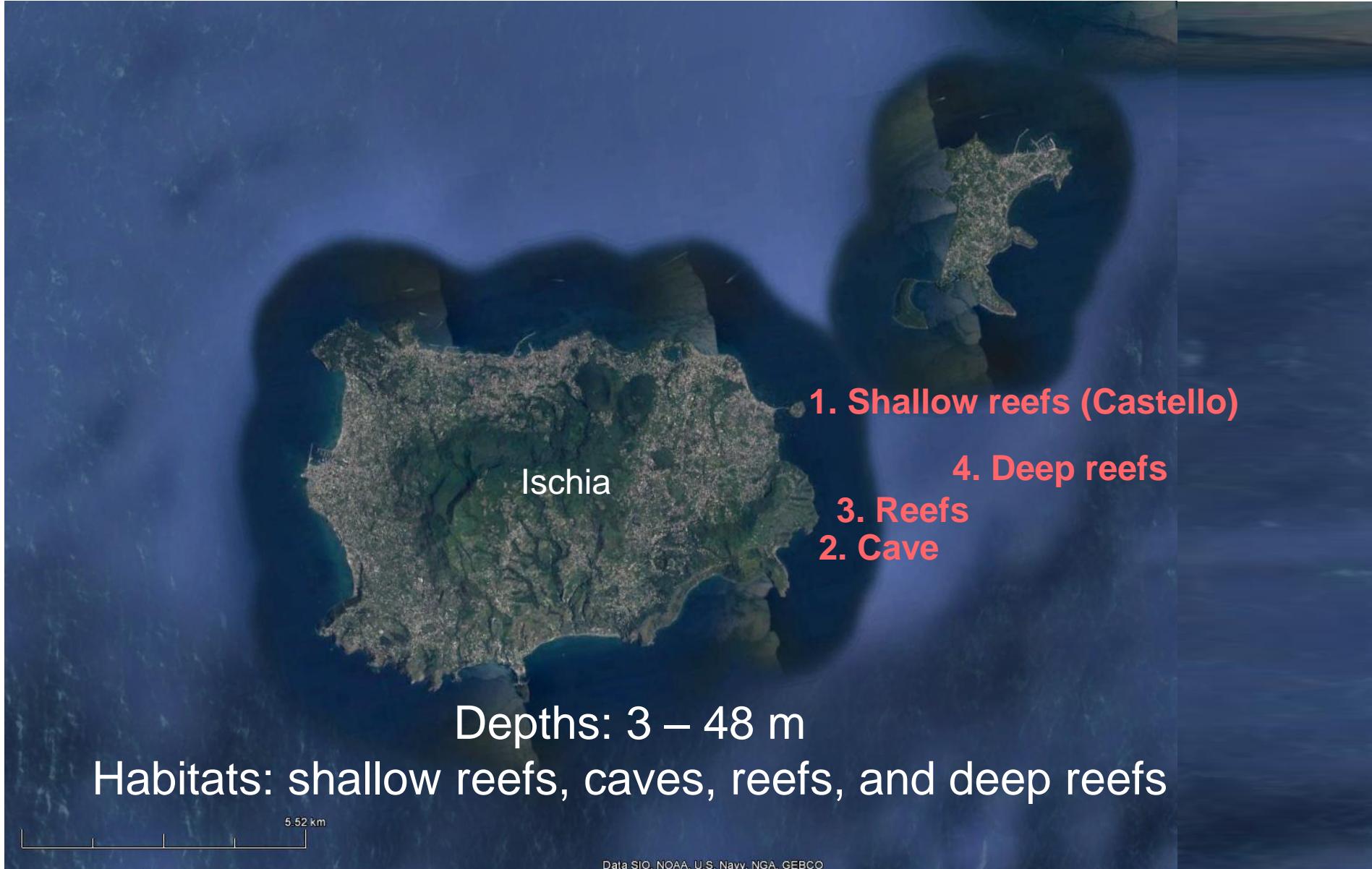
Carlot et al. (submitted) Ecology Letters
→ Incubations with Posidonia

New insights using 3D underwater imaging approaches



PhD: Gaia Grasso
Jordi
Gaia, Massimiliano

New CO₂ vent systems across habitats and depths



Broadening the Scope of the Ecological Effects of Ocean Acidification



Vent 1. Shallow reef & *Posidonia oceanica*: Castello Aragonese

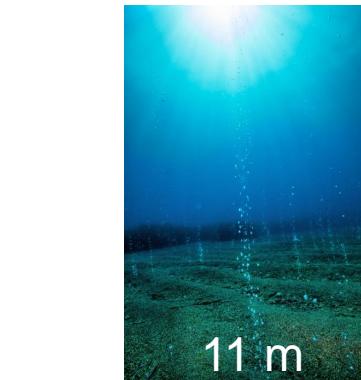
Vent 2. Semi-submerged cave: Grotta del Mago



Vent 3. Reef & *Posidonia oceanica*: Chiane del Lume



11 m



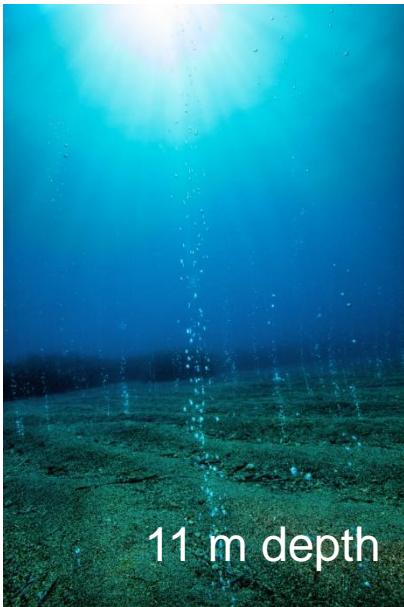
Vent 4. Deep reef (Coralligenous outcrops): Madonnina



48 m

How natural coral populations persist under low pH environments?

Chiare del Lume



Magician's cave



Cladocora caespitosa

Symbiotic coral



Astroides calyculus

Asymbiotic coral



Carbone et al (2021) L&O
Teixidó et al (2020) GCB

How natural coral populations persist under low pH environments?

Grotta del Mago (Magician's Cave)



How natural coral populations persist under low pH environments?

- i. Does the population at the CO₂ vent exhibit significant trait variation?:

number of polyps, size, growth, mineralogy

- i. Do these populations display genetic differentiation?

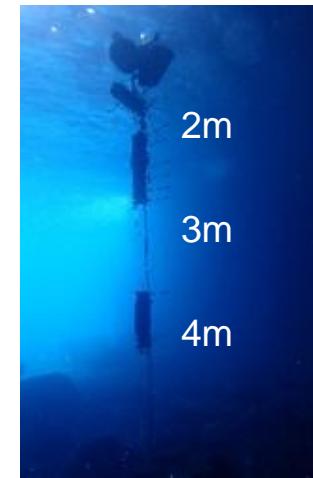
Ambient pH



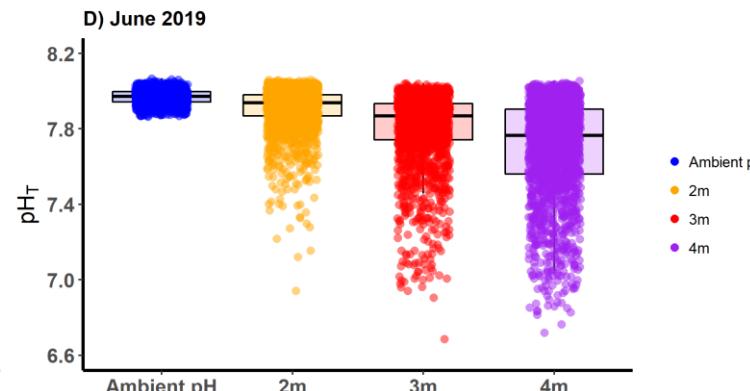
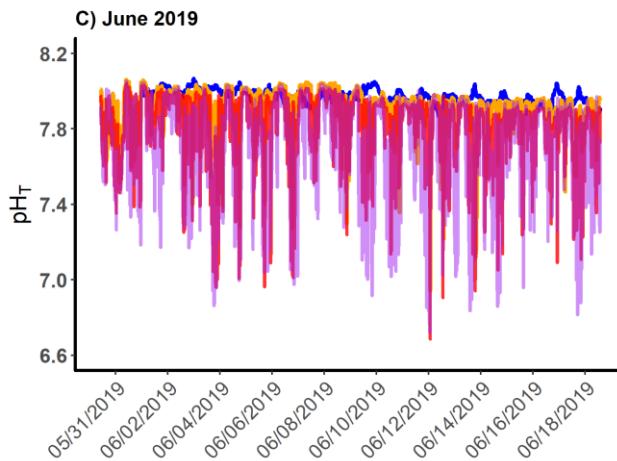
CO₂ vent



pH time series and variability



Deployment of SeaFET™ pH sensors for 20-30 days, measurements 15 minutes & discrete water samples for Total Alkalinity (TA)



Ambient	$\text{pH}_{T=}$ 7.97 (7.94 , 7.99)	$\Omega_a \sim 3.89$
2m	$\text{pH}_{T=}$ 7.88 (7.86, 7.98)	$\Omega_a \sim 1.44$
3m	$\text{pH}_{T=}$ 7.74 (7.74, 7.93)	$\Omega_a \sim 1.23$
4m	$\text{pH}_{T=}$ 7.60 (7.56, 7.90)	$\Omega_a \sim 1.05$

Low pH and high variability at the CO₂ vent

Skeletal characteristics

Colonies shifted to a skeletal phenotype characterized by:

Ambient pH

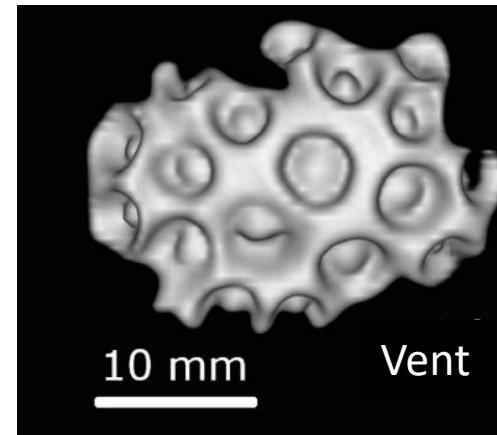
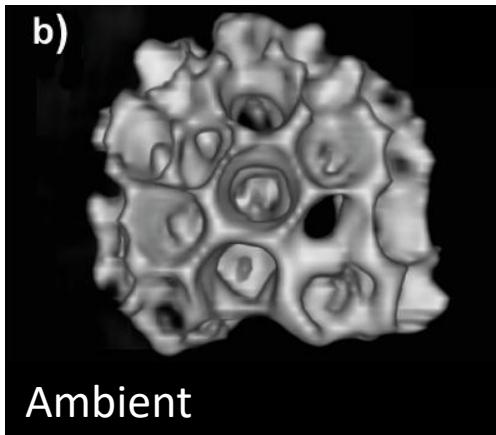


CO₂ vent



CO₂ vent :

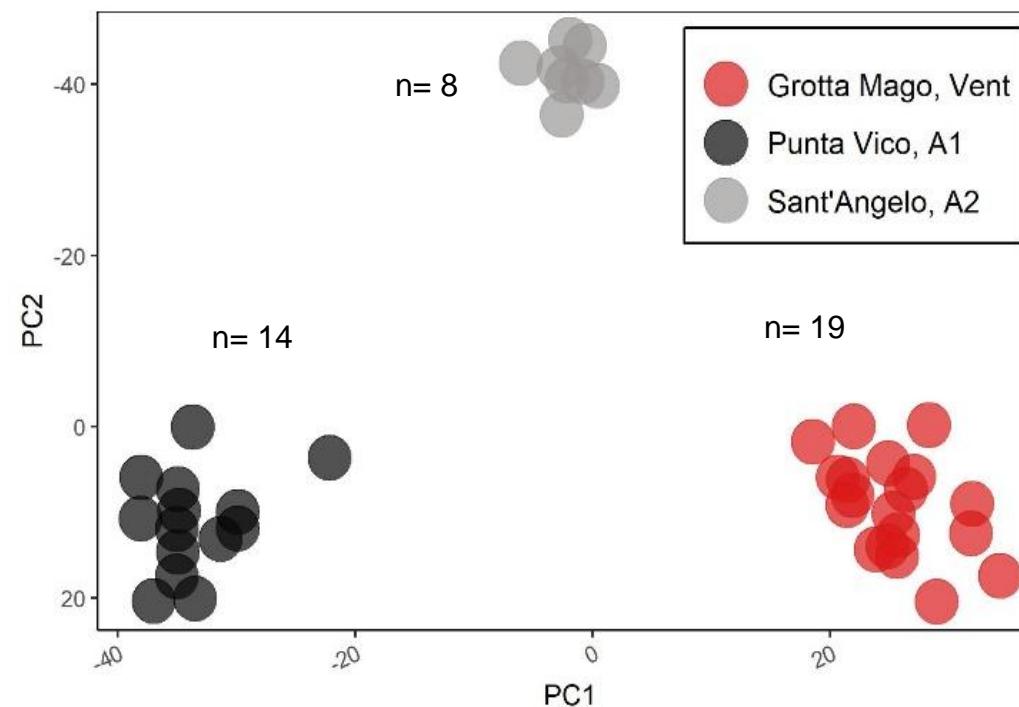
- encrusting morphology
- smaller size
- fewer polyps
- *less porous*
- *denser skeletons*



that same calcification is allocated to a minor number of polyps, and these few polyps result in having a more dense skeleton

Population genetic structure

**Strong population genetic structure
(distinct populations)**



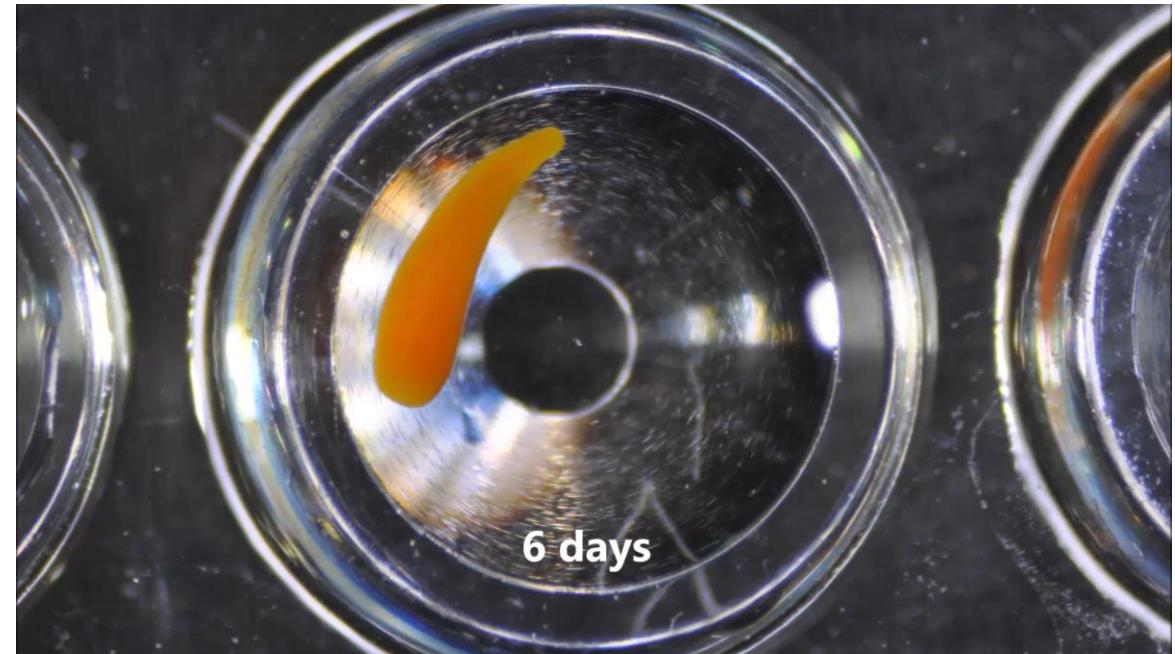
Coupling *in situ* measurements and laboratory experiments



Laboratory experiments of 5 to 9 months with controlled temperature and pH.

Unexpected finding: larvae release from the mothers

larvae → polyp



3D Reconstruction of coral polyp density using micro-Computed Tomography

Gene expression larvae and juvenile corals

