APPENDIX 7. AMINO ACID RACEMIZATION (AAR) DATING REPORT

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NEaar

Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project:

Amino acid racemization analysis

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L-Asp



D-Asp

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Summary

This report documents the attempts to conduct amino acid racemization analysis for age estimation on the intra-crystalline protein fraction of *Bithynia tentaculata* opercula as part of the Medway Valley Palaeolithic project. It is concluded that the East Mersea Restaurant site is of Ipswichian (MIS 5e) age. All the other sites in the study are consistent with ages in MIS 9 and MIS 11. The pattern of protein decomposition, resulting in low levels of degradation within cold stages, along with the natural variability of the samples, precludes any further definitive age attributions to be made. Further data from the other geological investigations at the sites themselves may help resolve this. However, it is likely that the samples from the Barling Gravel and Apton Hall Farm are the youngest and those from Bradwell Hall are the oldest within this MIS 9/11 cluster.

Keywords Amino acid racemization

Geochronology

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Introduction

The Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project (MVPP) is focused on areas of Kent and Essex either side of the Thames Estuary in order to aid the management of the important Palaolithic resource contained within this region. As part of this project a regional Palaeolithic Research Framework was developed, including an integrated chronological and stratigraphic framework for sand/gravel aggregate deposits. This research included amino acid geochronology as part of the chronostratigraphic scheme.

Amino acid analyses were undertaken at the York Laboratory (NEaar) from key sites (Apton Hall Farm, Barling Gravel, Bradwell Hall, East Hyde, East Mersea Restaurant site and Shoeburyness). This involves isolating the intracrystalline protein fraction of gastropod shells and, in particular, the calcitic opercula from the fluvial gastropod *Bithynia tentaculata*, for which an excellent and growing database of protein degradation data has recently been assembled (Penkman, 2005).

This report details attempts to obtain age estimates on the Medway Valley material using amino acid racemization (AAR).

Amino Acid Racemization Geochronology

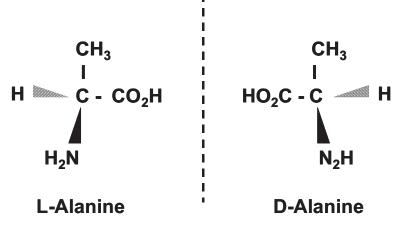
A new technique of amino acid analysis has been developed for geochronological purposes (Penkman, 2005), combining a new Reverse-Phase High Pressure Liquid Chromatography method of analysis (Kaufman & Manley, 1998) with the isolation of an "intra-crystalline" fraction of amino acids by bleach treatment (Sykes *et al.*, 1995). This combination of techniques results in the analysis of D/L values of multiple amino acids from the chemically-protected protein within the biomineral; enabling both decreased sample sizes and increased reliability of the analysis. Amino acid data obtained from the intra-crystalline fraction of the calcitic *Bithynia* opercula has been found to be a particularly robust repository for the original protein. This has enabled an increased level of resolution and therefore this material has been focused on in this study.

Theory

Amino acids, the building blocks of proteins, occur as two isomers that are chemically identical, but optically different. These isomers were designated as either D (dextro-rotary) or L (laevo-rotary) depending upon whether they rotate plane polarised light to the right or left respectively (Fig. 1). In living organisms the amino acids in protein are almost exclusively L and the D/L value approaches zero¹. The potential application to geochronology arises

¹ D-amino acids are synthesised by some organisms; they are found free in invertebrate body fluids where they play a role in osmoregulation and can occur peptide bound in bacterial peptidoglycan, where part of their function is resistance to proteases.

from the fact that after death amino acid isomers start to interconvert. This process is commonly termed racemization. In time the D/L value approaches one. The proportion of D to L amino acids is therefore an estimate of the extent of protein degradation, and if this is assumed to be predictable over time can be used to estimate age. Other indications of protein decomposition, such as the degradation of unstable amino acids, can also be used to estimate the age of a sample.



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Figure 1: L- and D- amino acid structure

Mechanisms of racemization

The rate of racemization is governed by a variety of factors, most of which have been studied in detail only for free amino acids. North East amino acid racemization (NEaar) analyse the intra-crystalline amino acid fraction and in this way, within a closed environment in which other factors (water content, concentration of cations, pH) are constant, the extent of racemization is a function of time and temperature. Over a small geographical area, such as that represented in this study, it can be assumed that the integrated temperature histories are effectively the same. Any differences in the extent of decomposition of protein within the sample are therefore age-dependent.

Intra-crystalline protein decomposition

The organic matter existing within individual crystals (intra-crystalline fraction) is believed to be a more reliable substrate for analysis than the whole shell (Sykes *et al.*, 1995; Penkman, 2005). The initial bleaching step in the recovery of the intra-crystalline fraction removes both secondary contamination and the organic matrix of the shell. This organic matrix degrades and leaches at an unpredictable rate over time, leading to variation in the concentration and D/L of the amino acids. Thus, as appears to be the case in ostrich eggshell (Miller *et al.*, 2000), the D/L values of amino acids in the intra-crystalline fraction of shells have been analysed; in the case of ostrich eggshell no bleaching step was used. The molluscan racemisation

data reported therefore contrasts with previous work that examined D/L values from whole mollusc shells containing both intra- and inter-crystalline material.

This isolation of the intra-crystalline fraction is believed to provide a closed system repository for the amino acids during the burial history of the shell. Only the amino acids within this fraction are protected from the action of external rate-affecting factors (except temperature), contamination by exogenous amino acids and leaching. Amino acids within the whole shell are not protected and can be leached out into the environment. Figure 2 shows a schematic of the intra-crystalline fraction with respect to the whole shell. The low level of Free amino acids observed in the inter-crystalline fraction of unbleached samples (Penkman, 2005) indicates that these have been lost through diagenesis, and as these tend to be more highly racemised than the Total fraction, this loss would lead to a lower than expected D/L for the Total fraction of the whole shell.

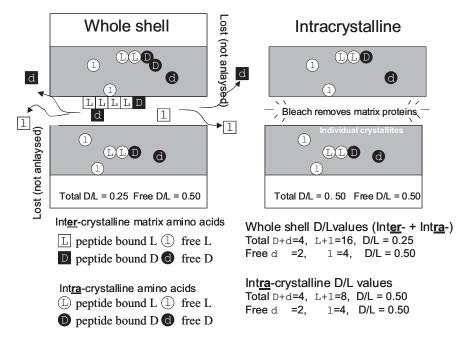


Figure 2: Schematic of intra-crystalline amino acids entrapped within carbonate crystallites. Unlike the proteins of the organic matrix between the crystallites, which leach from the shell with time, in a closed "intra-crystalline" system the amino acids are entrapped. Thus the relationship between the DL ratios of different amino acids and between free (non-protein bound) and total (both free and originally protein-bound amino acids, released by acid hydrolysis) amino acids is predictable. Analysis of the whole shell would result in lower than expected D/L for the total fraction, due to the loss of the more highly racemised frees.

Once a closed system inside mollusc shells has been isolated, then the kinetics of protein decomposition are much simpler to predict. In this laboratory the concept of age estimation using the extent of overall Intracrystalline Protein Degradation (IcPD) has been devised, which links the hydrolysis, racemisation and decomposition of all the amino acids isolated by this method. The concept behind the IcPD is to combine multiple information from a single sample to derive an overall measure of the extent of diagenesis of the protein in that fossil. Similar ideas have been used before, although not in such a comprehensive way. Divergence from the normal in a plot of A/I vs Gly/Ala is thought to indicate leaching in molluscs (Murray-Wallace and Kimber, 1987). Kaufman (2000) used ratios of Asx to Glx to screen out samples with any unusual values.

Traditionally AAR studies targeted a single amino acid racemisation reaction, that of L-isoleucine to D-alloisoleucine (A/I), due to the technical ease of separation and its slow rate of racemisation. The approach used in this study diverges from this, as dates are derived from the analysis of multiple amino acids. Whilst racemisation rates differ between individual amino acids, they should be highly correlated in a closed system. By linking together different amino acids, and then linking this to a temperature driven model of decay, which includes hydrolysis, racemisation and degradation, the extent of protein degradation can be derived. The pattern of decomposition appears to be different between mollusc genera, requiring separate models for each genus or species studied.

If a closed system is isolated, it should be possible to predict the relationship between geological time and IcPD increase, using not just racemisation but other measures of protein decomposition, such as total and relative concentrations. It follows from the innovations above that, assuming sampling is from an idealised closed system, the pattern of protein decomposition governs the observed racemisation of (a) free amino acids and (b) the total system, (c) the percentage of free amino acids and (d) the total concentration of amino acids.

This model can also be used as a method of assessing the internal reliability of each biomineral used and to determine how closely these substrates approximate to a closed system. Subsequently palaeotemperature information can be included and estimates made of the link between degradation and absolute age in environments with fluctuating temperatures. If an accurate temperature model is used, then age estimates can be derived directly from the IcPD data, although the results presented here do not incorporate any palaeotemperature information and are presented simply as a relative dating tool.

Materials and Method

Materials

Molluscan samples were collected and supplied by David Keen and Richard Preece from 37 samples consisting of eight sites. Amino acid racemization (AAR) analyses were undertaken on 33 individual *Bithynia tentaculata*

opercula and 4 individual *Bithynia troschelii* opercula. *Bithynia tentaculata* opercula were analysed from 8 horizons:

5 from Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A> (NEaar 3737-3739, 3826-3827);

5 from Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18) (NEaar 3740-3742, 3828-1829);

5 from Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11 (NEaar 3731-3733, 3822-2823); 5 from East Mersea Restaurant Site, Sample 3, MIS 5e (NEaar 3728-3730, 3820-3821);

4 from Shoeburyness borehole S1, 13.9 m (NEaar 3746-3748, 3831);

1 from Shoeburyness borehole S1, 14.42-14.44 m (labelled Shoeburyness Channel; NEaar 3132);

3 from East Hyde borehole EH1, 7.55 m (NEaar 3101-3103) and

5 from East Hyde borehole EH1, 9.2 m, MIS 11 (NEaar 3734-3736, 3824-2835).

4 *Bithynia troschelii* opercula (NEaar 3743-3745, 3830) were also analysed individually from Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18).

Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A> TQ 888 931

A borehole was drilled as part of the MVPP project at Apton Hall Farm, designated BH1. This provided a similar sedimentary sequence to that obtained by Roe (1994, 1999) at Canewdon, but no pollen assessment was undertaken so the two sequences cannot be correlated in detail. The opercula were obtained from the silty clay, above the sands and gravels, which rested on bedrock. Sample 3a is an amalgamation from samples taken between 5 and 5.5 m. Ostracods were most abundant at 4 and 5 m depths, all brackish. Opercula found at c. 5m depth. An OSL sample was also taken from the base of this sequence, but has not been dated as part of the current round of post-excavation analysis.

Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18) TQ 938 906

The samples taken from the Barling Gravel were obtained from a new section (S1) described during the MVPP project, from sample 5, near the base of the sequence. The gravel is believed to overlie the Barling Channel (Bridgland *et al.*, 2001), although the relationship was not seen in this exposure. The sediment consisted of horizontally bedded very sandy gravel with an organic clay matrix and frequent silty clay drapes, designated as Context 18. The sediments are characteristic of deposition in a cold environment. It is possible that some of the molluscan material found may have been reworked into the cold stage deposits from the interglacial channel deposits at the site. The opercula samples directly underlie OSL sample BLNG05-05, which provided an age estimate of MIS 6. However, the OSL dates in this sequence are inverted.

Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11 TL 988 054

Samples from Bradwell Hall were obtained from a new test pit (TP7), context 72. No pollen assessment has been undertaken. The molluscan assemblage included the characteristic "Rhenish fauna". It is thought that this channel can be correlated with the Tillingham Channel at East Hyde (Roe, 2001). OSL samples have also been taken from this site, but from a different unit (fine-grained gravel) whose stratigraphic relationship to the channel deposits is unclear (TP5, context 55). Gibbard *et al.* (1996) believed the fine-grained gravel to overlie the channel deposits, but evidence of this was not seen in the MVPP investigations.

East Mersea Restaurant Site, Sample 3, MIS 5e TM 053 136

The second of the two channel deposits at Cudmore Grove has less extensive exposures, and is essentially a fossiliferous gravel, buried by modern beach sand (Bridgland *et al*, 1995). The deposits are probably of Ipswichian age, since they contain the remains of *Hippopotamus*.

The samples from this site were archive material obtained from Richard Preece, University of Cambridge, identified as Sample 3 (from Unit 2 [sandy silt with bones and shells]).

Shoeburyness borehole S1, 13.9m and 14.42-14.44 m TQ 93375-85483

Opercula from Shoeburyness were obtained as archive material from borehole S1 (Roe, 1994; 1999) from Richard Preece, University of Cambridge. This borehole material is stored in archives managed by the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge. One operculum was obtained from 14.42-14.44 m (labelled 'Shoeburyness Channel') with further samples from a depth of 13.9 m. Ostracod analysis suggests that these samples come from a freshwater depositional environment, with brackish influence coming above c. 10m depth. Detailed pollen analysis has also been undertaken on this borehole (Roe, 1999) and the samples come from within a birch-pine phase which is postdated by the development of mixed-oak woodland.

East Hyde borehole EH1, 7.55 and 9.2m MIS 11 TL 9804 0408

The archive borehole EH1 from the Asheldham/Tillingham Channel (Roe, 1994; 2001) was sampled at two depths for opercula, 7.55 m and 9.2 m (this latter is right at the base of the sequence). This borehole material is stored in archives managed by the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge. Ostracod analysis suggests freshwater influence most notable below 8.5m,

with more brackish conditions indicated above this. Thus, the 9.2 m sample definitely came from the freshwater phase, with the 7.55 m sample from the transition zone between freshwater and estuarine conditions. The Rhenish molluscan fauna was reported at a depth of 7.53m (Roe, 1994). Pollen assemblages from the East Hyde sequence were assigned by Roe (1994) to the late temperate substage of an interglacial (mixed-oak replaced by coniferous forest) and contained 'Type X'. An *Azolla* plant macrofossil was also reported from the sequence (Roe, 2001).

Sample Preparation

Shells were examined under a low powered microscope and any adhering sediment removed. The shell samples were then sonicated and rinsed several times in HPLC-grade water. The shells were then crushed to <100um. Only bleached samples were analysed.

Bleaching

50 µl of 12% solution of sodium hypochlorite at room temperature was added to each milligram of powdered sample and the caps retightened. The powders were bleached for 48 hours with a shake at 24 hours. The bleach was pipetted off and the powders were then rinsed five times in HPLC-grade water and a final rinse in HPLC-grade methanol (MeOH) to destroy any residual oxidant by reaction with the MeOH. The bulk of the MeOH was pippetted off and the remainder left to evaporate to dryness.

Hydrolysis

Protein bound amino acids are released by adding an excess of 7 M HCl to the bleached powder and hydrolysing at 110°C for 24 hours (H*).

20 µl per milligram of sample of 7 M Hydrochloric Acid (HCl) was added to each Hydrolysis ("Hyd", H*) sample in sterile 2 ml glass vials, were flushed with nitrogen for 20 seconds to prevent oxidation of the amino acids, and were then placed in an oven at 110°C for 24 hours. After 10 minutes in the oven, the caps of the 2 ml vials were re-tightened to prevent the samples drying out.

After 24 hours, the samples were dried in a centrifugal evaporator overnight.

Demineralisation

Free amino-acid samples ("Free", F) were demineralised in cold 2 M HCl, which dissolves the carbonate but minimises the hydrolysis of peptide bonds, and then dried in the centrifugal evaporator overnight.

Rehydration

When completely dry, samples were rehydrated with 10 μI per mg of Rehydration Fluid: a solution containing 0.01 mM HCl, 0.01 mM L-homo

arginine internal standard, and 0.77 mM sodium azide at a pH of 2. Each vial was vortexed for 20 seconds to ensure complete dissolution, and checked visually for undissolved particles.

Approximately 20 μ I of rehydrated sample was then placed in a sterile, labelled 2 ml autosampler vial containing a glass insert, capped and then placed on the autosampler tray of the HPLC.

For each set of sub-samples a blank vial was included at each stage to account for any background interference from the bleach, acid, or rehydration fluid added to the samples.

Analysis of Free and Hydrolysed Amino Acids

Amino acid enantiomers were separated by Reverse Phase High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (RP-HPLC). NEaar uses the method of Kaufman and Manley (1998) using an automated RP-HPLC system. This method achieves separation and detection of L and D isomers in the sub- picomole range.

Samples (2 μ l) were derivitised with 2.2 μ l *o*-phthaldialdehyde and thiol *N*isobutyryl-L-cysteine automatically prior to injection. The resulting diastereomeric derivatives were then separated on Hypersil C₁₈ BDS column (sphere d. 5 μ m; 250 x 3 mm) using a linear gradient of a sodium acetate buffer (23 mM sodium acetate, 1.3 mM Na₂EDTA; pH6), methanol, and acetonitrile on an integrated HP1100 liquid chromatograph (Hewlett-Packard, USA).

Individual amino-acids are separated on a non-polar stationary phase according to their varied retention times: a function of their mass, structure, and hydrophobicity. A fluorescence detector is used to determine the concentrations of each amino-acid and record them as separate peaks on a chromatogram. A gradient elution programme was used to keep the retention time to below 120 minutes.

The fluorescence intensity of derivitised amino acids was measured (Ex = 230 nm, Em = 445 nm) in each sample and normalised to the internal standard. All samples and blank extracts that had been subjected to identical preparation procedures were run in triplicate. Quantification of individual amino acids was achieved by comparison with the standard amino acid mixture.

External standards containing a variety of D- and L- amino acids, allowing calibration with the analyte samples, were analyzed at the beginning and end of every run, and one standard was analyzed every ten samples. Blanks were randomly interspersed amongst the standards.

The L and D isomers of 10 amino acids were routinely analysed. During preparative hydrolysis both asparagine and glutamine undergo rapid irreversible deamination to aspartic acid and glutamic acid respectively (Hill,

1965). It is therefore not possible to distinguish between the acidic amino acids and their derivatives and they are reported together as Asx and Glx.

Results and Discussion

In total we conducted 148 analyses, all of which were on bleached samples. As previously observed, bleaching reduced the yields of amino acids and also increased reproducibility.

The extent of racemization in five amino acids (D/L of Asx, Glx, Ser, Ala and Val), along with the ratio of the concentration of Ser to Ala ([Ser]/[Ala]), are reported for both the Free and Hyd fractions (Appendix 4). These indicators of protein decomposition have been selected as their peaks are cleanly eluted with baseline separation and they cover a wide range of rates of reaction. It is expected that with increasing age, the extent of racemization (D/L) will increase whilst the [Ser]/[Ala] value will decrease, due to the decomposition of the unstable serine.

On the basis of the relative D/L values and concentrations (Appendix 4) the amino acid data from the opercula from the East Mersea Restaurant site were consistent with a correlation with MIS 5e. The data from all the other sites analysed indicated an age assignment within MIS 9 or MIS 11. Data from other MIS 9 and MIS 11 sites are also presented for comparison. Discussion of data from opercula from Clacton and Cudmore Grove are also discussed. Channels of different ages are present at Clacton (Warren, 1955) but the material from Clacton analysed in the present study comes from samples correlated with the Lower Freshwater Bed at West Cliff, attributed to MIS 11 (Bridgland et al., 1999). The Cudmore Grove channel deposits are exposed on the foreshore of Mersea Island at Cudmore Grove. The main deposit, containing Middle Pleistocene sediments, was originally associated with the main Thames-Medway system and therefore correlated with the Clacton Channel deposits of the Hoxnian, but are now thought to represent a tributary of the river and likely to be of the interglacial following this (Roe et al., in prep). These two sites represent intra-crystalline protein degradation values from an early MIS 11 site (Clacton) and a late MIS 9 site (Cudmore Grove), which may aid interpretation of the Medway dataset.

The data obtained from Asx, Glx, serine (Ser), alanine (Ala) and valine (Val) is discussed in detail below. Sample EH9.2Bto1bF (NEaar 3734) from East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, has abnormally low levels of protein degradation in the Hyd fraction compared to that of the Free fraction, indicative of a compromised system. If the amino acids were contained within a closed system, the relationship between the Free and the Hyd fractions should be highly correlated, with non-concordance enabling the recognition of compromised samples (Preece & Penkman, 2005). This operculum from East Hyde showed this non-concordance and so was rejected from the dataset.

The pattern of protein degradation with time is slightly different for the opercula of *Bithynia troschelii* compared to that of the *B. tentaculata* opercula.

Amino acid racemisation is governed by the original protein sequence and conformation. Whilst developing the research into closed-system protein degradation it became clear that the reaction rates were species-specific, even in the intra-crystalline fraction. This necessitates the comparison of amino acid data only within a single species, meaning that the *Bithynia troschelii* data cannot be directly compared to the *B. tentaculata* data. Whilst analyses at NEaar have shown that the differences in amino acid composition and protein decay patterns between the *B. tentaculata* and *B. troschelii* opercula are negligible (Penkman *et al.*, submitted 2006), direct comparison of the data between these two species should not yet be undertaken. As *B. troschelii* opercula were analysed only from the Barling Gravel, all the age interpretation made in this study is based on the *B. tentaculata* dataset.

Aspartic acid / Asparagine (Asx)

Asx is one of the fastest racemizing of the amino acids discussed here (due to the fact that it can racemize whilst still peptide bound; Collins *et al.*, 1999). This enables good levels of resolution at younger age sites, but decreased resolution beyond MIS 7.

The values of Asx D/L for the Free and Hyd samples for East Mersea Restaurant Site are the lowest in this set of samples, consistent with a correlation with the Ipswichian.

The D/L values for the other sites fall within the range of that expected from MIS 9 and MIS 11 material (Fig. 3).

There is overlap between the Asx D/L data from MIS 9 and MIS 11 sites (Fig. 3, first two columns in each graph), due to the plateauing of the increase in D/L at these timescales. This therefore makes discrimination to an interglacial level difficult using this amino acid. However, the data from Apton Hall Farm and the Barling Gravel fall at lower values, with Bradwell Hall tending to yield higher ratios. The spread of data from Barling Gravel is quite high, with one sample (BaGBto4, NEaar 3822) falling at higher values than the rest of the cluster from that site.

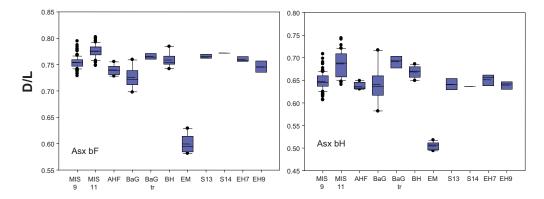


Figure 3: D/L values of Asx for the Free amino acid (FAA; bF; left) and Total Hydrolysable amino acid (THAA; bH*; right) fraction of bleached (intra-crystalline) *Bithynia* opercula from Apton Hall Farm (AHF), Barling Gravel (BaG), Bradwell Hall (BH), East Mersea Restaurant site (EM), Shoeburyness borehole 13.9m (S13),

Shoeburyness borehole 14.42 m (S14), East Hyde borehole, 7.55 m(EH7) and East Hyde borehole, 9.2m (EH9). The species of *Bithynia* analysed from all sites is *B. tentaculata*, but *B. troschelii* is also analysed from Barling Gravel (BaG tr). The data for other MIS 9 sites (including Purfleet, Cudmore Grove and Grays) and MIS 11 sites (including Swanscombe, Ebbsfleet, Woodston, Clacton, Elveden, Beeches Pit and Hoxne) have also been plotted for comparison. For each site, the base of the box indicates the 25th percentile. Within the box, the solid line plots the median and the dashed line shows the mean. The top of the box indicates the 75th percentile. Where more than 9 data points are available, the 10th and 90th percentiles can be calculated (shown by lines below and above the boxes respectively). The results of each duplicate analysis are included in order to provide a statistically significant sample size. Note different scales on the y-axes.

The plot of Free to Hyd data from each sample can also be used as a relative timescale, with younger samples falling towards the bottom left corner of the graph and older samples falling towards the upper right corner, along the line of expected decomposition. The data from the Medway samples have been plotted in this way (Fig. 4), along with data from two relevant sites (enclosed symbols), that of Clacton (MIS 11) and Cudmore Grove (MIS 9). It is clear from this plot that the natural variability within the data does not allow a clear distinction of any of the sites except the East Mersea Restaurant site.

The Free Asx values for EH9.2Bto1 (NEaar 3734) are similar to that from the other samples from this site. However, the values obtained from the Hyd fraction are much lower than expected. When the Free to Hyd graph is plotted (Fig. 4), this sample falls significantly off the expected line. This suggests that this operculum's closed system had been compromised.

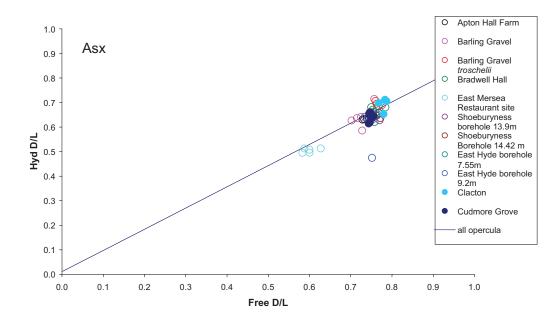


Figure 4: D/L Hyd vs D/L Free for Asx in Medway *Bithynia* opercula, compared to Clacton and Cudmore Grove samples and the trendline observed for fossil samples (in blue). Note the abnormal DL ratios for one of the East Hyde borehole 9.2m samples.

Glutamic Acid/Glutamine (Glx)

Glx is one of the slower racemizing amino acids discussed here and so the level of resolution from young sites is less than that seen with faster racemizing amino acids such as Asx. However, the low levels of racemization do help discriminate between material of MIS 9 and MIS 11 age. It is noteworthy that Glx has a slightly unusual pattern of racemization in the free form, due to the formation of a lactam (see Walton, 1998). This results in difficulties in measuring Glx in the Free form, as the lactam cannot be derivitized and is therefore unavailable for analysis.

The values of Glx D/L in the Hyd fraction for East Mersea Restaurant site are significantly lower than those observed for the other samples in this study, and are consistent with a correlation with the Ipswichian.

The 90% confidence limits of the data presented for the MIS 9 and MIS 11 sites in Fig. 5 do not overlap, therefore it should be possible to discriminate between sites of these ages with enough samples. However, for the Hyd fraction much of the Medway dataset falls between these two intervals, indicating that the samples fall either late within MIS 11, or early within MIS 9. The extremes of these interglacials can be demonstrated by comparison with two sites in particular, that of Clacton, which is believed to have been deposited early within MIS 11, and that of Cudmore Grove, which is proposed to represent sediments laid down late within MIS 9 (Fig. 6).

Bradwell Hall seems to have the highest values in both the Free and the Hyd fractions, and so is likely to correlate with MIS 11.

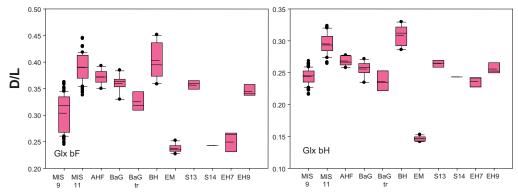
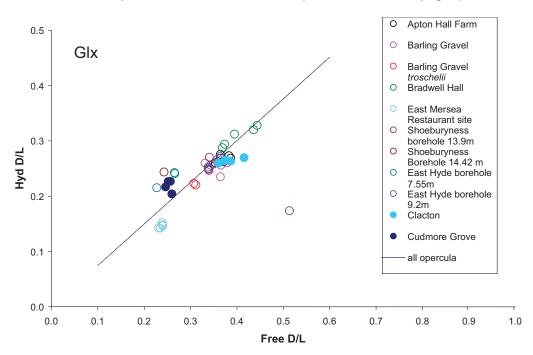


Figure 5: D/L values of Glx for the Free amino acid (FAA; bF; left) and Total Hydrolysable amino acid (THAA; bH*; right) fraction of bleached (intra-crystalline) *Bithynia* opercula from the Medway sites and for the database of MIS 9 and MIS 11 material. For a full description of this figure see the legend for Figure 3.



Both the Free and Hyd Glx values for sample EH9.2Bto1 are abnormally low and fall off the expected line, indicative of compromised material (Fig. 6).

Figure 6: D/L Hyd vs D/L Free for Glx in Medway *Bithynia* opercula, compared to Clacton and Cudmore Grove samples and the trendline observed for fossil samples (in blue). Note the abnormal DL ratios for one of the East Hyde borehole 9.2m samples.

Serine (Ser)

Serine is one of the most unstable amino acids, with fast rates of racemisation and decomposition. This results in highly variable data and limits its usefulness in discriminating between sites at the timescales in this study. However, whilst the degree of racemization observed in the samples from MIS 9 and MIS 11 sites is uninformative in separating them, they do tend to fall at higher values than that of the East Mersea Restaurant Site (Fig. 7). One of the Bradwell Hall samples (BHBto3, NEaar 3733) has very low values but variable replicates, so the Ser data from this sample needs to be treated with caution.

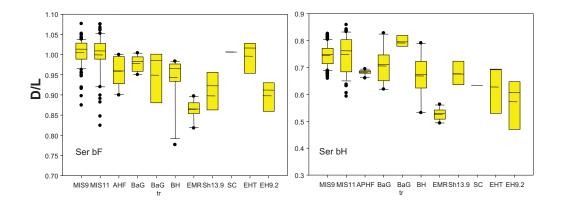


Figure 7: D/L values of Ser for the Free amino acid (FAA; bF; left) and Total Hydrolysable amino acid (THAA; bH*; right) fraction of bleached (intra-crystalline) *Bithynia* opercula from the Medway sites and for the database of MIS 9 and MIS 11 material. For a full description of this figure see the legend for Figure 3.

Alanine

Alanine (Ala) is a hydrophobic amino acid, whose concentration is partly contributed from the decomposition of other amino acids (notably Serine). Ala racemises at an intermediate rate, so is one of the amino acids that may help distinguish samples at these timescales.

Again, the East Mersea Restaurant Site is easily separable from all the other sites (Fig. 8), with ratios consistent with a MIS 5e correlation.

The highest Ala D/Ls are obtained from the Bradwell Hall site, making this site again likely to be of MIS 11 age. The Barling Gravel samples yield some of the younger ratios within this group, which may be interpreted as likely to be of MIS 9 age. Apton Hall Farm also appears to have ratios consistent with MIS 9. The intermediate values of the other sites make it difficult to determine whether they fall late within MIS 11 or early within MIS 9.

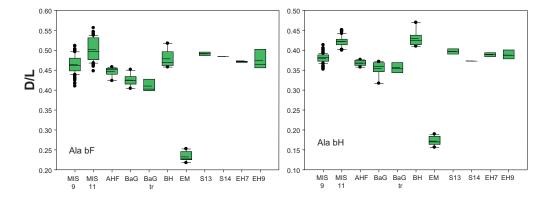


Figure 8: D/L values of Ala for the Free amino acid (FAA; bF; left) and Total Hydrolysable amino acid (THAA; bH*; right) fraction of bleached (intra-crystalline) *Bithynia* opercula from the Medway sites and for the database of MIS 9 and MIS 11 material. For a full description of this figure see the legend for Figure 3.

When the Free to Hyd graph is plotted (Fig. 9), the EH9.2Bto1 sample falls at lower values than expected. The Bradwell Hall samples have the highest values within the MIS 9/11 group, with the Barling Gravel samples falling lowest.

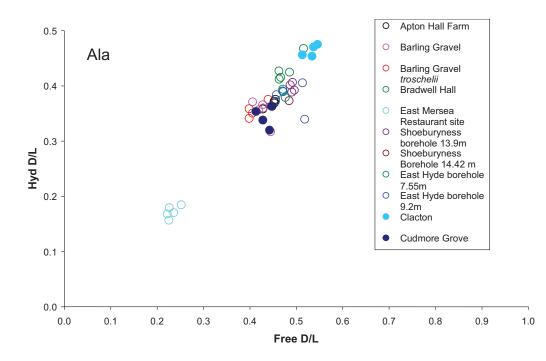


Figure 9: D/L Hyd vs D/L Free for Ala in Medway *Bithynia* opercula, compared to Clacton and Cudmore Grove samples.

Valine (Val)

Valine has extremely low rates of racemisation, and so is one of the more useful amino acids for age discrimination within material of this age. The East Mersea Restaurant site yields the lowest Val D/L values in both the Free and the Hyd fraction (Fig. 10), consistent with a correlation with MIS 5e. The other sites again fall within the range of MIS 9 and MIS 11 sites (Fig. 10). The Apton Hall Farm and Barling material have the lowest ratios, indicating a MIS 9 age. Bradwell Hall has the highest ratios, which make it more likely that these represent MIS 11 samples. The Shoeburyness and East Hyde samples again have intermediate ratios, at the lower end of the MIS 11 values

and the higher end of the range of MIS 9 values. This therefore indicates that they either fall towards the end of the MIS 11 interglacial or at the beginning of the MIS 9 interglacial.

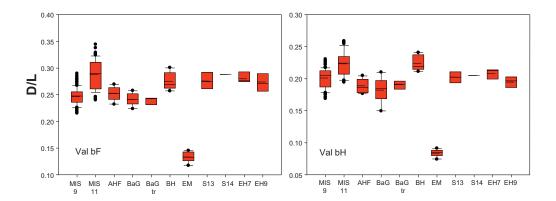


Figure 10: D/L values of Val for the Free amino acid (FAA; bF; left) and Total Hydrolysable amino acid (THAA; bH*; right) fraction of bleached (intra-crystalline) *Bithynia* opercula from the Medway sites and for the database of MIS 9 and MIS 11 material. For a full description of this figure see the legend for Figure 3.

The Free to Hyd plot of Val D/L separates out the sites of Clacton and Cudmore Grove distinctly (Fig. 11). Whilst the East Mersea restaurant site plots at significantly lower values, consistent with an Ipswichian age, the other Medway sites fall between Cudmore Grove (MIS 9) and Clacton (MIS 11). The Barling and Apton Hall Farm samples tend to fall closer to Cudmore Grove, indicating a MIS 9 age. The Bradwell Hall data has the highest values within the Medway dataset and fall closest to the Clacton data, indicating that this site is likely to be of MIS 11 age.

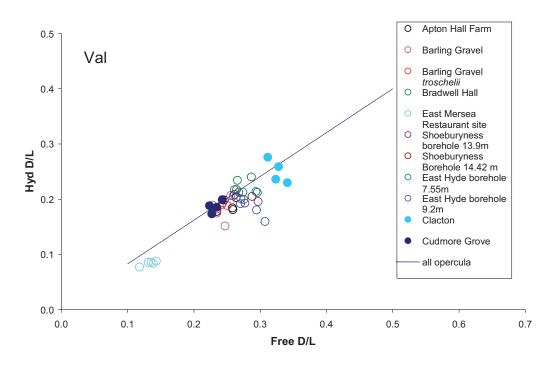


Figure 11: D/L Hyd vs D/L Free for Val in Medway *Bithynia* opercula, compared to Clacton and Cudmore Grove samples and the trendline observed for fossil samples (in blue).

The same problematic sample from East Hyde borehole 9.2m, identified for Asx, Glx and Ala, is also seen to a lesser extent with divergence in the DL ratios of Val, further confirming that this sample is compromised.

[Serine]/[Alanine]

The ratio of the concentrations of Serine and Alanine provides a useful tool for age estimation. Serine is a very unstable amino acid, and it can degrade via dehydration into alanine (Bada *et al.*, 1978). As the protein within a sample breaks down, the concentration of serine will decrease with an increase in the concentration of alanine, thus the [Ser]/[Ala] value will decrease with increasing time. In order to ease the interpretation, the y-axes in Fig. 12 are plotted in reverse, so that the direction of increase in protein degradation is the same as for the racemisation graphs.

The samples from the East Mersea Restaurant site fall at higher (and therefore less degraded) values than for the other sites. The second replicate analysis of one of the East Mersea Hyd samples (EMR3Bto5, NEaar 3821) has lower Ser concentrations than the first replicate, and therefore falls at lower values than the other samples; it is likely that this is due to an analytical problem and the first analysis is probably correct.

Interestingly the *B. troschelii* data from Barling falls at lower values, although this is likely to be due to the slight differences in protein composition between the two species analysed here.

On the basis of the [Ser]/[Ala], it is very difficult to separate these sites out on basis of age, other than to say that they are all likely to be of MIS 9 or MIS 11 age.

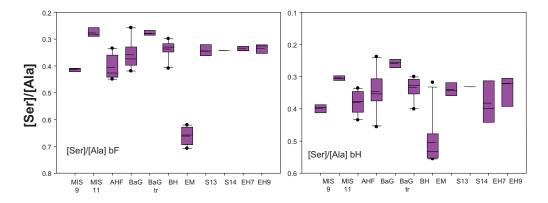


Figure 12: [Ser]/[Ala] for the Free amino acid (FAA; bF; left) and Total Hydrolysable amino acid (THAA; bH*; right) fraction of bleached (intra-crystalline) *Bithynia* opercula from the Medway sites and for the database of MIS 9 (represented by Cudmore Grove) and MIS 11 (represented by Clacton) material. For a full description

of this figure see the legend for Figure 3. The y-axes for the [Ser]/[Ala] data are plotted in reverse, so that the direction of increased protein degradation for each of the indicators remains the same.

In the Free vs Hyd plot (Fig. 13) the large spread of data in the Barling samples is evident – the two outliers being sample BaGBto2 (NEaar 3741) lying at younger values and BaGBto4 (NEaar 3828) lying at older values. The Apton Hall Farm samples plot close to the Cudmore Grove samples, indicating a MIS 9 age. The compromised sample EH9.2Bto1bF plots clearly away from the other samples at much higher [Ser]/[Ala] values than expected.

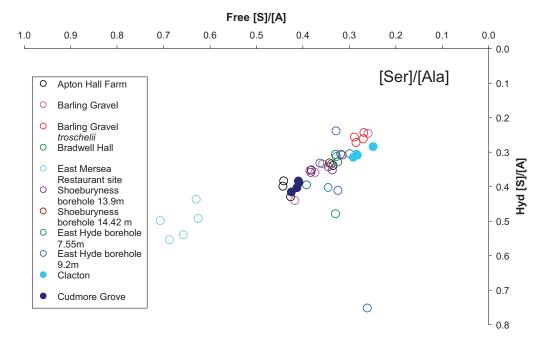


Figure 13: [Ser]/[Ala] Hyd vs D/L Free in Medway *Bithynia* opercula, compared to Clacton and Cudmore Grove samples. As the [Ser]/[Ala] value decreases with increasing protein decomposition, the axes of this plot has been reversed so that the direction of protein decomposition is the same as that for the D/L graphs, with younger samples falling to the bottom left corner and older samples falling to the top right corner of the graph.

Discussion

East Hyde borehole compromised sample

Sample EH9.2Bto1bF (NEaar 3734) from East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, has abnormally low levels of protein degradation in the Hyd fraction compared to that of the Free fraction, indicative of a compromised system. The data from this sample has therefore been rejected from the analyses. There are significant indications that the integrity of the closed system of intra-crystalline protein has been compromised in some way. Therefore no age estimation can be made from this sample.

If the sample had been contaminated by microbial action or undergone recrystallisation during its burial history, then the Free to Hyd values of one or more of the amino acids will not match. When the Hyd ratios are compared to the Free ratios from the same sample, they fall clearly well out of the range of any operculum or shell yet analysed (Figs. 4, 6 & 13). If the amino acids are contained within a closed system the relationship between the Free and the Hyd would be highly correlated, as evidenced by the tight clustering of Free to Hyd ratios observed for the other opercula (Penkman, 2005; Preece & Penkman, 2005). That these samples plot well away from these general trends is an indication that post-mortem protein contamination or leaching has occurred.

In the case of the single *Bithynia tentaculata* opercula from East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, the original amino acid composition has clearly been compromised and no age assignment is possible for these samples. The tight correlation of the Free to Hyd ratios allows this alteration to be recognised, and therefore data from the opercula to be rejected. Analysis of just one of these fractions could lead to an erroneous age assignment, without recognition of the composition discrepancies. It is therefore essential that any amino acid analysis is conducted on both the Free and the Hyd fractions from the same sample, and that age correlations using amino acids are not made on the basis of single samples.

The Free amino acid levels from this sample indicate far more protein decomposition than the Hyd amino acids from the SAME shell. One possible explanation for high *Free* and low *Hyd* values is corrosion. If dissolution was the cause then the Free values would be as high or higher than in a reliable sample, whilst the Hyd values would be depressed, as observed in this material.

Comparison with other sites

The analysis of the closed system of protein within shells allows a new concept of age estimation to be developed, which incorporates multiple amino acid data to give a single measure of the overall extent of protein breakdown within a sample. This measurement, the Intra-crystalline Protein Degradation value (IcPD, formerly DMK) simplifies the presentation of the data to two compound values for each sample, one for the Free and one for the Hydrolysed amino acids. As these should be highly correlated, they can be cross-plotted, giving an aminostratigraphic framework with younger samples lying at low values and older samples with higher values, given a similar temperature history for all the sites. A study has been undertaken of interglacial sites within the UK which has allowed the tentative correlation of the aminostratigraphic framework to the Marine oxygen Isotope stage (MIS) record (Penkman, 2005).

On the basis of the relative D/L values and concentrations (Appendix 4; Fig 14) the amino acid data from the opercula from East Mersea Restaurant site, when compared with unpublished values from Quaternary sites within the UK (Penkman, 2005) are consistent with an age assignment within MIS 5e. The amino acid data from the opercula from the other Medway sites are all consistent with an age assignment between MIS 9 and MIS 11. It is likely that the material from Barling and Apton Hall Farm is of MIS 9 age, and that Bradwell Hall is of MIS 11 age. The samples from Shoeburyness and East Hyde fall between the ranges of these two interglacials, and so are likey to correspond to either an early part of MIS 9 or a late part of MIS 11.

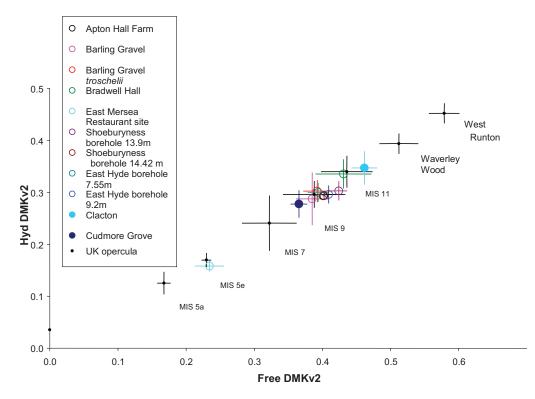


Figure 14: Hyd vs Free for DMKv2.0Glx in *Bithynia tentaculata* opercula from the Medway, along with data from Cudmore Grove and Clacton. The error bars represent the range of data observed in UK sites correlated with MIS 5a-11 and within the Cromerian.

Temperature effects on protein degradation

Using modelled protein degradation, it is possible to use estimates of temperature variation in the UK (based here on a combination of long marine and ice core data and terrestrial palaeoclimatic estimates) to produce a curve which illustrates the increase in the IcPD value (i.e. extent of intra-crystalline protein degradation) with time. For example, in Fig. 15, a temperature model for a particular site is estimated by interpreting the evidence from two global climate records, at different offset temperatures. Models of protein

decomposition, based upon those presented in Collins and Riley (2000), is run with this temperature estimation. A stepwise increase in the predicted IcPD is observed (Fig. 15): the rate plateaus in the glacials and rises rapidly in the interglacials, as the activation energies of all the key reactions are in the region of 100-130 kJ mol⁻¹. In the Quaternary it is predicted that during the cold stages little or no racemisation will have occurred in pleniglacial sediments as found in the UK, whereas in warm stages the increase in temperatures will have had a significant impact on the rate of racemisation.

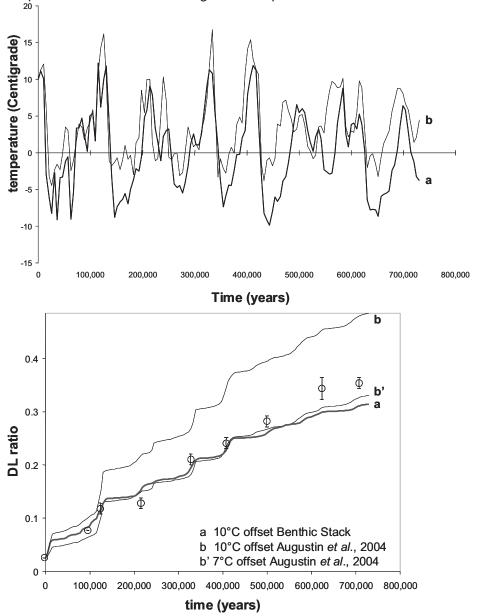


Figure 15: Example of the output from the ICPD model. The upper diagram shows two different temperature records: a benthic stack (a: Karner, 2001) and an Antarctic ice core (b: Augustin *et al.*, 2004). The lower diagram illustrates the effect of the two temperature records on the predicted ICPD. The stepped nature of the increase in racemisation with age is caused by the much faster rates of racemisation in warm than

in cold stages. Also observe that the ability to discriminate between isotope stages declines with time, because of the tendency for the reaction to slow (believed to be due to a restriction in available water for hydrolysis). As can be seen, the selection of both the temperature record and the offset temperature can have a significant effect on the extent of the IcPD, and hence any absolute age predictions. It is for this reason that the amino acid results presented are purely in an aminostratigraphic form.

Using the thermal models leads to a greater understanding of the sensitivity of the IcPD to subtle changes in temperature and also to the range of values that can plausibly be considered to belong to a single isotope stage. However, the determination of absolute dates is highly dependent on the accuracy of the temperature record, and at this stage is not good enough to be used to determine absolute age estimates from amino acid racemisation data. The models are presented here in order to demonstrate the difficulties of distinguishing samples from the end of one interglacial from the beginning of the following interglacial.

The mechanism of the protein breakdown reactions means that increased degradation occurs during warm stages and there is a slowing in the rates of degradation in cold stages. As so little decomposition occurs in the cold stages, and there is a degree of natural variability in biological samples, it can be difficult to discriminate the end of one warm stage from the beginning of the next. Additional information from these sites would be extremely useful in narrowing down the range of ages possible from the amino acid data alone. In several cases environmental or other data from sites have constrained the time period of a site to early or late within an interglacial, enabling the amino acid data to then pin it to a specific MIS.

Conclusions

Out of the 37 *Bithynia tentaculata* opercula samples analysed in this study, only 1 did not enable relative age estimations to be determined. The one operculum sample analysed from East Hyde borehole 9.2m (EH9.2Bto1, NEaar 3734) showed that the intra-crystalline fraction of protein had been compromised at some point during the burial history of the sample. This is an extremely unusual occurrence with this material, which has been found to be a particularly robust repository for the original protein, with a normal success rate of recovery of ~97%.

Age of the sites

In this study the amino acid data has been used as a relative dating technique to present an aminostratigraphy for the area in question. The conversion of relative sequences into absolute dates and accurate correlation between different areas is currently being undertaken, but preliminary correlations have been made to the MIS record.

In order of youngest to oldest we would place the sites as follows:

East Mersea Restaurant site: has significantly lower protein decomposition that any of the other sites analysed in this study. The amino acid data from this site is similar to that obtained from other Ipswichian (MIS 5e) sites (including Bobbitshole, Trafalgar Square, Coston, Shropham, Tattershall Castle, Cropthorne New Inn, Eckington and Itteringham).

Data from all the other sites fall within the range of MIS 9 sites (such as Grays, Cudmore Grove, Hackney and Purfleet) and MIS 11 sites (including Hoxne, Swanscombe, Ebbsfleet, Elveden, Woodston, Barnham and Beeches Pit). The levels of natural variability within the samples and the low level of protein breakdown observed in cold stages limits the interpretation of the data. However, tentative conclusions can be drawn to attempt to separate out these sites.

It appears that **Apton Hall Farm** and **Barling** form the youngest samples of this group and are therefore likely to correlate with MIS 9. The pollen correlation of the Apton Hall site indicates that these sediments were deposited in an early phase of an interglacial, which makes a MIS 9 age far more likely than an early MIS 11 age.

It is noted that the Barling dataset had a greater variability than observed in the other sites.

The opercula from **Shoeburyness** and **East Hyde** have intermediate values, and therefore are likely to derive from interglacial sediments that were formed either late within MIS 11 or early within MIS 9. The opercula from Shoeburyness were taken from a pre-oak pollen zone, correlated with the beginning of an interglacial, with birch and pine pollen dominant (Roe, 1999). In conjunction with this, the amino acid results would therefore suggest a correlation with early MIS 9 rather than early MIS 11. However, the levels sampled at East Hyde contain pollen correlated with a later temperate zone 3 (Roe, 2001). The amino acid data would therefore support an age for this deposit late within MIS 11.

The samples from **Bradwell Hall** seem to have the greatest extent of protein degradation within the sample set. It is likely that these samples correlate with MIS 11, confirming the suggested geological correlation with the Tillingham Channel at East Hyde.

Further information on the sites under study may help resolve the amino acid age determinations further.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to David Keen and Richard Preece for supplying most of the samples for cross-comparison with the Medway dataset reported in this study. Funding from NERC, English Heritage and the Wellcome Trust enabled the master dataset of shell and opercula intra-crystalline protein degradation to be developed.

Appendix 1: Glossary

18M Ω water: The water has a resistivity of 18M Ω /cm, indicating a lack of ions.

HPLC grade water: In addition to low ion content, HPLC grade water has a low organic content (typically < 2 ppb).

Amino acids: the building blocks of proteins and consist of an alpha carbon atom (C_{α}) which has four different groups bonded to it: an amino group (-NH₂), a carboxyl group (-COOH), a hydrogen atom (-H), and a side chain, (often called an R group). About 20 amino acids normally occur in nature and some of these can undergo further modification (eg the hydroxylation of proline to hydroxyproline). The amino acids are commonly known by three letter codes (see Appendix 3: Abbreviations). They exist free in the cell, but are more commonly linked together by **peptide bonds** to form proteins, peptides, and sub-components of some other macromolecules (eg bacterial peptidoglycan).

Amino acid isomers: amino acids occur as two stereoisomers that are chemically identical, but optically different. These isomers are designated as either D (dextro-rotary) or L (laevo-rotary) depending upon whether they rotate plane polarised light to the right or left respectively (Fig 6). In living organisms the amino acids in protein are almost exclusively L and the D/L ratio approaches zero. Two amino acids, isoleucine and threonine, have two chiral carbon atoms and therefore have four stereoisomers each. As well as racemization, these two amino acids can undergo a process known as epimerization. The detection of the L-alloisoleucine epimer (derived from L-isoleucine) is possible by conventional ion-exchange chromatography, and was thus the most commonly used reaction pathway in geochronology.

Asx: Measurements of aspartic acid following hydrolysis also include asparagines, which decomposes to Asx. This combined signal of aspartic acid plus asparagine (Asp +Asn) is referred to as Asx (Hill, 1965).

D-amino acid: dextrorotary amino acid, formed following synthesis of the protein as it degrades over time (remember as "dead amino acid").

IcPD: Intra-crystalline Protein Degradation. This is the measure of the overall extent of protein breakdown in the closed system of the intra-crystalline fraction of a shell. Conventional racemization analysis tends to report an allosioleucine / isoleucine (A/I or D/L ratio). This amino acid ratio has the advantage of being relative easy to measure and also sufficiently slow to be used to "date" sediments in the European Quaternary.

Our IcPD approach utilises multiple amino acids. However we have avoided trying to give a whole series of D/L values for each amino acid in each sample. Instead we are using a theoretical model of protein degradation. The model outputs are then used to compare observed D/L values of any amino acid against the A/I value at the same stage of protein decomposition. The

relative rate of racemization of any amino acid (its DL ratio) is then reported as an A/I equivalent - which as a working title we have named the Intracrystalline Protein Degradation value (or IcPD) (Collins Penkman and Kaufman in prep).

Instead of getting a single A/I ratio we obtain a series of (IcPD) values, currently IcPD _{Asx}, IcPD _{Glu}, IcPD _{Phe}, IcPD _{Ala}, IcPD _{Val}. Other ratios, notably IcPD _{Ser}, are not currently of implemented in the model – ie we don't have a good degradation model for this amino acid yet.

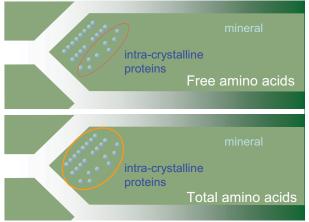
Because each amino acid has its own particular characteristics, only in a well behaved system will IcPD $_{Asx}$ = IcPD $_{Glu}$ = IcPD $_{Phe}$ = IcPD $_{Ala}$ = IcPD $_{Val}$. If an amino acid has an unusually low ratio (due to modern contamination) or unusually high racemization (due to inclusion of bacterial cell wall contaminants) either some or all of the amino acids will no longer fit to the idealized degradation model. Indeed we can use elevation of IcPD $_{Asx}$ = IcPD $_{Glu}$ and = IcPD $_{Ala}$ to provide a bacterial contamination index. We have not done so in this case as there was no evidence of contamination.

IcPD values: Intra-crystalline Protein Degradation value, a summary value obtained from multiple amino acid D/L values from a single sample all normalised to a common model of protein degradation and racemization.

Enantiomers / optical isomers: mirror image forms of the same compound that cannot be superimposed on one another.

Epimerisation: the inversion of the chiral α -carbon atom.

Free amino acid fraction: The fraction of amino acids directly amenable to racemization analysis. Only amino acids which have already been naturally hydrolysed (over time) are measured. These are the most highly racemized amino acids.



Hydrolysis: A chemical reaction involving water leading to the breaking apart of a compound (in this case the breaking of peptide bonds to release amino acids).

L-amino acid: laevorotary amino acid, the constituent form of proteins (remember as "living amino acid").

Peptide bond: an amide linkage between the carboxyl group of one amino acid and the amino group of another.

Racemization: the inversion of all chiral carbon atoms, leading to the decrease in specific optical rotation. When the optical rotation is reduced to zero, the mixture is said to be racemized.

Stereoisomers: molecules of the same compound that have their atoms arranged differently in space.

Total amino acid fraction: The extent of racemization of all amino acids in a sample, determined following aggressive high temperature hydrolysis with strong mineral acid, which has the effect of breaking apart all peptide bonds so that the total extent of racemization in all amino acids both free and peptide bound are measured.

Zwitterion: A dipolar ion containing ionic groups of opposite charge. At neutral pH the ionic form of amino acids which predominates is the zwitterions

What does the date estimated from IcPD mean?

The date is our best estimate based upon the temperature history of the site. If we wanted to constrain this further we would need reliable independent dates. There are considerable differences in racemization rates between different molluscs. This reflects differences in rates of decomposition of proteins within the shell – the so-called species effects (Lajoie *et al*, 1980).

Appendix 2

Past Use of Amino Acid Racemization Dating.

The presence of proteins in archaeological remains has been known for some time. Nearly fifty years ago Abelson (1954) separated amino acids from subfossil shell. He suggested the possibility of using the kinetics of the degradation of amino acids as the basis for a dating method (Abelson, 1955). In 1967 Hare and Abelson measured the extent of racemization of amino acids extracted from modern and sub-fossil Mercenaria mercenaria shells (edible clam). They found that the total amount of amino acids present in shell decreased with the age of the shell. The amino acids in recent shell were all in the L configuration and over time the amount of D configuration amino acid increased (Hare and Abelson, 1967). However, even after 35 years this method of dating is still subject to vigorous debate, with the application of AAR to date bone being particularly controversial (Bada 1990; Marshall 1990). Major reviews of AAR include: Johnson and Miller (1997), Hare, von Endt, and Kokis (1997), Rutter and Blackwell (1995), Murray-Wallace (1993), Bada (1991) and Schroeder and Bada (1976). Racemization is a chemical reaction and a number of factors influence its rate (Rutter and Blackwell, 1995). These include: amino acid structure, the sequence of amino acids in peptides, pH, buffering effects, metallic cations, the presence of water and temperature. To establish a dating method the kinetics and mechanisms of the racemization (and epimerization) reaction of free and peptide bound amino acids need to be established. To this end various workers in the late 1960s and the 1970s studied free amino acids in solution and carried out laboratory simulations of post mortem changes in the amino acids in bone (Bada, 1972) and shell (Hare and Abelson, 1967; Hare and Mitterer, 1969). Attempts have also been made to relate the kinetics of free amino acids, with those in short polypeptides and the proteins in various archaeological samples (Bada, 1982; Smith and Evans, 1980).

The ability of this technique to be used as a geochronological and geothermometry tool has led to its use in many environmental studies, with research into AAR in terrestrial gastropods (Goodfriend, 1991; 1992), bivalves (Goodfriend and Stanley, 1996), foraminifera (Harada *et al*, 1996), ostrich egg shells (Miller *et al*, 1992; 1997) and speleothems (Lauritzen, 1994). Studies within UK deposits have been based on early methods of chemical separation, using lon-Exchange liquid chromatography, able to separate the enantiomers of one amino acid found in proteins, L-isoleucine (L-IIe, I), from its most stable diastereoisomer alloisoleucine (D-aile, A). By analysing the total protein content within marine (Bowen & Sykes, 1988) and non-marine mollusc shells (Bowen *et al.*, 1989) from UK interglacial sites, an amino acid geochronology was developed using the increase in A/I, correlating with the marine oxygen isotope warm stages.

Appendix 3

Abbreviations used in this report

Abbrev Ala	А	1	mber of chiral centres Alanine
Arg Acn	R	1	Arginine acetonitrile
AA			Amino acid(n)
Asn	Ν	1	Asparagine
Asp	D	1	Aspartic acid
Asx			Asparagine + Aspartic acid + succinimide
Asu	_		Succinimide
Cys	С	1	Cysteine
DCM			Dichlormethane
GABA Gln	0	4	γ-Aminobutyric acid
Glu	Q E	1 1	Glutamine Glutamic acid
Gly	G	0	Glycine
His	H	1	Histidine
HPLC		•	High-Performance Liquid Chromatography
Нур			Hydroxyproline
IBD(L)C			N-IsobutyryI-D(L)-Cysteine
lle	I	2	Isoleucine
Leu	L	1	Leucine
Lys	K	1	Lysine
MeOH			Methanol
Met	М	1	Methionine
NIe			Norleucine
OPA			ortho-Phthaldialdehyde
Orn Phe	F	1	Ornithine Phenylalanine
Pro	P	1	Proline
Ser	S	1	Serine
Thr	T	2	Threonine
Trp	Ŵ	1	Tryptophan
Tyr	Y	1	Tyrosine
Val	V	1	Valine

	Medway
	from
Appendix 4	Data sheets

Ala conc pmol/mg	1261	1291	1889	1891	1659	1657	2110	2303	1462	1489	2182	2782	1696	1684	1670	1801	1754	1657	2201	2200	1363	1373	1975	1800	1452	1424
Gly conc pmol/mg	\sim	1251	2472	2632	1607	1194	3054	2219	1538	1057	3280	2652	1627	1236	2361	2555	1495	1158	3211	2852	1301	1191	2479	1964	1363	1016
Ser conc pmol/mg	422	433	646	636	708	705	918	975	651	656	887	1089	671	619	595	625	789	718	887	802	534	520	708	626	603	597
Glx conc pmol/mg	219	219	1768	1727	294	295	2190	1881	272	256	2023	1677	268	247	1629	1814	288	256	2280	2289	239	234	1836	1546	262	247
Asx conc Type pmol/mg	1546	1563	2691	2649	2305	2316	3649	3603	2127	2139	3436	3461	2222	2134	2536	2755	2646	2422	3853	3846	1681	1677	2950	2594	1965	1918
Type	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* エ	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш
materials location	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	operculum Apton Hall Farm borehole, APHF 05 <3A>	 operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18) 	 operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18) 	 operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18) 	 operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18) 	 operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18) 	 operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18)
Genus Species	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata																				
Neaar File	3737bF G238-0406	3737bF G238-0415	3737bH* G238-2543	3737bH* G238-2553	3738bF G238-1428	3738bF G238-1464	3738bH* G239-0204	3738bH* G240-0203	3739bF G238-1529	3739bF G238-1565	3739bH* G239-0305	3739bH* G240-0304	3826bF G244-2455	3826bF G244-2463	3826bH* G244-3787	3826bH* G244-3795	3827bF G244-2556	3827bF G244-2564	3827bH* G244-3888	3827bH* G244-3896	3740bF G238-0508	3740bF G238-0517	3740bH* G238-2644	3740bH* G238-2654	3741bF G238-1630	3741bF G238-1666

Ala conc	pmol/mg	2178	2324	1479	1441	2181	2239	1154	1198	2304	2362	1381	1420	2246	2290	2313	2366	3112	3289	1354	1356	2847	2870	1092	1111	1591	1465	1570	1593	3160	3128
Gly conc	pmol/mg	3004	1970	1533	1079	3651	2920	1429	1464	4879	4711	1786	1399	4511	4147	2902	2219	5080	4702	1392	983	5367	4927	833	677	2005	1639	2036	1449	6637	5719
Ser conc	pmol/mg	993	986	555	537	784	803	340	340	587	610	395	405	613	623	630	628	763	793	354	349	721	683	397	390	547	475	434	420	868	777
Glx conc	pmol/mg	2063	1244	260	249	2001	1608	146	151	1686	1632	199	177	1891	1841	297	287	2368	2049	195	193	2138	2153	171	170	1569	1403	201	198	2498	2496
Asx conc	pmol/mg	3569	2764	1855	1821	3011	2758	808	867	2046	2045	1125	1115	2289	2304	1778	1774	2926	2751	1076	1117	2631	2577	1505	1498	2743	2344	1260	1275	3070	3006
	Type	*	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	*	* T	ш	ш	*	* T	ш	ш	*	*	ш	ш	*	*	ц	ш	*	*
	materials location	operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18)	05	operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18)	Gravel, 05	operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18)	operculum Barling Gravel, 05 <5> (18)																								
	Genus Species	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia troscheli	Bithynia troscheli	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia troscheli	Bithynia troscheli	Bithynia troscheli	Bithynia troscheli																						
	File	G239-0406	G240-0405	G238-1731	G238-1767	G239-0507	G240-0506	G238-0609	G238-0618	G238-2745	G238-2755	G238-1833	G238-1869	G239-0609	G240-0608	G238-1934	G238-1970	G239-0710	G240-0709	G244-2657	G244-2665	G244-3989	G244-3997	G244-2859	G244-2867	G244-4191	G244-4199	G244-2960		G244-4292	G244-42A0
	Neaar	3741bH*	3741bH*	3742bF	3742bF	3742bH*	3742bH*	3743bF	3743bF	3743bH*	3743bH*	3744bF	3744bF	3744bH*	3744bH*	3745bF	3745bF	3745bH*	3745bH*	3828bF	3828bF	3828bH*	3828bH*	3829bF	3829bF	3829bH*	3829bH*	3830bF	3830bF	3830bH*	3830bH*

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Ala conc	pmol/mg	1195	1190	1459	1474	1519	1493	1602	1567	1740	1703	1966	2011	1399	1421	1890	1878	1379	1393	1129	1133	993	991	1664	1779	880	869	1526	1585	911	829
Gly conc	pmol/mg	1089	1046	1737	1879	1630	1184	2243	1861	1862	1484	3018	2506	1227	1082	2455	2064	1399	1275	1637	1264	1086	1007	2597	2727	666	918	2260	1802	924	640
Ser conc	pmol/mg	393	394	452	449	490	489	523	520	712	638	788	782	418	426	585	564	466	473	386	370	649	656	920	936	555	539	765	767	624	571
Glx conc	pmol/mg	156	156	696	779	242	238	1374	1393	306	291	1641	1434	167	163	752	783	223	220	973	858	181	180	1569	1326	165	158	1350	983	180	163
	pmol/mg	1231	1236	1394	1108	1800	1854	1909	1987	2200	2244	2402	2322	1582	1638	1438	1562	1867	1891	1529	1424	937	944	2424	2240	865	852	1844	1605	966	925
	Type	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш
	materials location	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk	Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk	Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk	Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	operculum Bradwell Hall, JCB bulk 13, MIS 11	East Mersea Restauran	operculum East Mersea Restaurant Site, Sample 3								
	Genus Species	04 Bithynia tentaculata	13 Bithynia tentaculata			23 Bithynia tentaculata						77 Bithynia tentaculata		40 Bithynia tentaculata		73 Bithynia tentaculata	81 Bithynia tentaculata		151 Bithynia tentaculata	.75 Bithynia tentaculata		03 Bithynia tentaculata	12 Bithynia tentaculata		49 Bithynia tentaculata	21 Bithynia tentaculata	38 Bithynia tentaculata	74 Bithynia tentaculata	80 Bithynia tentaculata	122 Bithynia tentaculata	158 Bithynia tentaculata
	r File	bF G238-0204	bF G238-0213	bH* G238-2340	bH* G238-2350		bF G238-1059	bH* G238-3276	bH* G238-3282	bF G238-1124	bF G238-1160	bH* G238-3377	bH* G238-3383	bF G244-1940	bF G244-1949	bH* G244-3373	bH* G244-3381	bF G244-2042	bF G244-2051	bH* G244-3475	bH* G244-3483	bF G238-0103	bF G238-0112	bH* G238-2239	bH* G238-2249	bF G238-0821	bF G238-0838	bH* G238-3074	bH* G238-3080	bF G238-0922	bF G238-0958
	Neaar	3731bF	3731bF	3731bH*	3731bH*	3732bF	3732bF	3732bH*	3732bH*	3733bF	3733bF	3733bH*	3733bH*	3822bF	3822bF	3822bH*	3822bH*	3823bF	3823bF	3823bH*	3823bH*	3728bF	3728bF	3728bH*	3728bH*	3729bF	3729bF	3729bH*	3729bH*	3730bF	3730bF

Ala conc	pmol/mg	1931	1877	1217	1240	1679	1644	885	895	1590	1545	1421	1475	1753	1800	1466	1430	2150	2241	2080	2095	2728	2840	2107	1917	2490	2466	1946	1958	2648	2783	1382
	pmol/mg	2891	2375	1342	1231	2662	1980	940	870	2521	1597	1548	1460	2430	2033	1670	1227	3396	2745	2184	1618	4080	3140	1749	1556	3662	3099	2140	2114	4442	3872	1409
Ser conc (pmol/mg p	1067	1042	860	878	904	754	565	556	883	492	493	506	603	615	584	526	773	803	651	666	848	870	069	662	006	845	668	671	901	897	475
	pmol/mg p	1998	1893	209	197	1731	1680	157	149	1628	1641	223	229	1532	1251	267	243	2104	1709	336	333	2449	2055	291	275	2435	2389	266	264	2290	1853	193
Asx conc G	d gm/lomd	3350	3261	1203	1212	2527	2556	830	818	2397	2491	1689	1756	2418	2184	1856	1830	3446	3192	2493	2518	3749	3529	2383	2342	3966	3789	2230	2232	3575	3167	1729
	Type p	*	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ц	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	LL	ш	*	* T	ш
	materials location	operculum East Mersea Restaurant Site, Sample 3	operculum Shoeburyness borehole, 13.9m	operculum Shoeburyness Channel	operculum Shoeburyness Channel	operculum Shoeburyness Channel	operculum Shoeburyness Channel	operculum East Hyde, 7.55																								
	Genus Species	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata	Bithynia tentaculata									
	File	3730bH* G238-3175 Bi	3730bH* G238-3181 Bi	3820bF G244-1738 Bi	3820bF G244-1746 Bi	3820bH* G244-3171 Bi	3820bH* G244-3179 Bi	G244-1839	3821bF G244-1847 Bi	G244-3272	3821bH* G244-3280 Bi	G238-0710	3746bF G238-0719 Bi	3746bH* G238-2846 Bi		G238-2035	3747bF G238-2071 Bi	3747bH* G239-0811 Bi	3747bH* G240-0810 Bi	3748bF G238-2136 Bi	G238-2172	3748bH* G239-0912 Bi		3831bF G244-3061 Bi	3831bF G244-3069 Bi	3831bH* G244-4393 Bi	* G244-43A1	G206-0608	3132bF G206-0615 Bi	G207-2118	* G207-2135	3101bF G205-0610 Bi

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Ala conc pmol/mg	1376	1252	1273	1349	1371	1617	1109	1174	1159	1372	1385	1619	1645	4833	4917	1503	1514	1876	1912	1087	1097	1505	1497	1486	1502	1627	1558	1477	1483	3047	3119
Gly conc / pmol/mg p	0	2072	1888	1572	1498	1142	2019	1193	1101	2632	2529	1307	1019	11980	10375	1423	1103	2177	2160	1286	1032	2495	2272	1707	1619	2353	1296	1620	1539	4715	2317
Ser conc (pmol/mg p	ົດ	508	508	462	471	490	531	383	382	433	429	432	421	3652	3676	475	486	573	585	355	353	615	620	482	500	527	238	533	542	1054	991
Glx conc 8	6	1197	1176	170	176	172	764	171	172	1229	1212	109	86	4986	4162	258	254	1746	1655	166	171	1318	1322	232	218	1523	1566	222	220	2075	1885
Asx conc (Type pmol/mg	N	2107	2131	1633	1680	1717	1157	1474	1480	1755	1783	672	597	5218	4933	1938	2006	2744	2709	1245	1273	2013	2151	1698	1738	2182	2463	1782	1798	2771	3123
Type p	۰ ۲	* T	* T	ш	ш	ш	* T	ц	ц	* T	* T	ш	ш	*	*	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	* T	ш	ц	* T	* T	ш	ш	* T	*
materials location	a operculum East Hyde, 7.55	a operculum East Hyde, 7.55	a operculum East Hyde, 7.55		a operculum East Hyde, 7.55	a operculum East Hyde, 7.55	a operculum East Hyde, 7.55	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11		a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11	a operculum East Hyde borehole, 9.2m, MIS 11				
Genus Species	G205-0625 Bithynia tentaculata	G207-1411 Bithynia tentaculata	G207-1427 Bithynia tentaculata	G205-2870 Bithynia tentaculata	G205-2881 Bithynia tentaculata		G209-0807 Bithynia tentaculata	G205-2971 Bithynia tentaculata	G205-2982 Bithynia tentaculata	G209-1614 Bithynia tentaculata	G209-1621 Bithynia tentaculata	G238-0305 Bithynia tentaculata	G238-0314 Bithynia tentaculata	G238-2441 Bithynia tentaculata	G238-2451 Bithynia tentaculata	G238-1225 Bithynia tentaculata		G238-3478 Bithynia tentaculata	G238-3484 Bithynia tentaculata	G238-1327 Bithynia tentaculata	G238-1363 Bithynia tentaculata		G239-0116 Bithynia tentaculata	G244-2243 Bithynia tentaculata	G244-2252 Bithynia tentaculata	G244-3576 Bithynia tentaculata	G244-3584 Bithynia tentaculata	G244-2344 Bithynia tentaculata	G244-2353 Bithynia tentaculata	G244-3677 Bithynia tentaculata	G244-3685 Bithynia tentaculata
Neaar File	3101bF G2	3101bH* G2	*	3102bF G2	3102bF G2	3102bF G2	3102bH* G2	3103bF G2	3103bF G2	3103bH* G2	*	3734bF G2	3734bF G2	3734bH* G2	3734bH* G2			3735bH* G2	3735bH* G2		3736bF G2	3736bH* G2	3736bH* G2	3824bF G2	3824bF G2	3824bH* G2	*	3825bF G2	3825bF G2	3825bH* G2	3825bH* G2

[Ser]/	[Ala] DMKv2			0.34 0.30			0.43	0.43 0.30	0.42	0.45	0.44	0.41		0.40	0.37	0.36	0.35	0.45	0.43	0.40	0.36	0.39	0.38	0.36	0.35	0.42	
	L Val D/L							37 0.20																			
	D/L Ala D/I							0.68 0.37																			
	GIX D/L Ser D/L							0.27 0																0.24 0		0.36 1	
	Asx D/L GIx	0.74	0.74	0.65	0.63	0.73	0.73	0.63	0.63	0.73	0.73	0.63	0.63	0.75	0.76	0.65	0.65	0.74	0.74	0.63	0.63	0.73	0.73	0.59	0.58	0.72	
lle conc	pmol/mg	245	231	441	455	211	239	372	406	208	229	434	547	327	337	401	432	261	276	484	483	207	205	607	564	220	
Leu conc lle	pmol/mg pi		580	1187	1214	650	699	1131	1132	607	633	1249	1516	839	809	1096	1191	753	715	1355	1344	631	620	1530	1372	591	
Phe conc L	pmol/mg pi	184	174	425	416	208	200	271	367	190	170	432	457	248	234	358	395	214	198	446	454	218	203	536	461	206	
Val conc Pl	pmol/mg pr		559	1090	1091	663	662	1078	1189	607	635	1179	1538	677	660	926	1021	694	666	1241	1258	558	556	1324	1191	625	
	shortened location	Apton Hall Farm	Barling Gravel																								
	material	B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op																				
	File	G238-0406	G238-0415	G238-2543	G238-2553	G238-1428	G238-1464	G239-0204	G240-0203	G238-1529	G238-1565	G239-0305	G240-0304	G244-2455	G244-2463	G244-3787	G244-3795	G244-2556	G244-2564	G244-3888	G244-3896	G238-0508	G238-0517	G238-2644	G238-2654	G238-1630	
	Neaar	3737bF	3737bF	3737bH*	3737bH*	3738bF	3738bF	3738bH*	3738bH*	3739bF	3739bF	3739bH*	3739bH*	3826bF	3826bF	3826bH*	3826bH*	3827bF	3827bF	3827bH*	3827bH*	3740bF	3740bF	3740bH*	3740bH*	3741bF	

	DMKv2	0.29	0.29	0.38	0.37	0.29	0.29	0.40	0.39	0.31	0.31	0.39	0.38	0.29	0.29	0.41	0.40	0.31	0.31	0.40	0.40	0.33	0.32	0.38	0.37	0.28	0.28	0.39	0.39	0.30	0.30
[Ser]/		0.46	0.42	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	0.29	0.28	0.25	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.24	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.24	0.36	0.35	0.34	0.32	0.28	0.26	0.27	0.25
	Val D/L	0.20	0.18	0.23	0.22	0.19	0.19	0.28	0.22	0.19	0.19	0.24	0.23	0.18	0.18	0.24	0.24	0.20	0.20	0.25	0.26	0.21	0.20	0.24	0.23	0.17	0.18	0.24	0.24	0.19	0.19
	Ala D/L V	0.36	0.36	0.42	0.42	0.36	0.36	0.40	0.40	0.36	0.36	0.40	0.40	0.34	0.34	0.44	0.44	0.37	0.38	0.40	0.41	0.37	0.37	0.43	0.42	0.36	0.37	0.41	0.41	0.35	0.35
	Ser D/L	0.73	0.72	1.00	0.99	0.71	0.72	0.85	0.80	0.80	0.82	0.99	0.97	0.82	0.82	1.01	0.99	0.77	0.71	0.99	0.95	0.83	0.79	0.96	0.96	0.66	0.66	1.00	0.98	0.79	0.79
	GIX D/L S	0.27	0.27	0.33	0.33	0.26	0.26	0.33	0.35	0.25	0.25	0.31	0.31	0.22	0.22	0.35	0.34	0.25	0.26	0.36	0.37	0.26	0.26	0.37	0.38	0.26	0.26	0.31	0.31	0.22	0.22
	Asx D/L 0	0.63	0.64	0.73	0.72	0.64	0.64	0.76	0.76	0.71	0.71	0.77	0.76	0.67	0.67	0.78	0.77	0.69	0.69	0.75	0.76	0.72	0.71	0.71	0.70	0.63	0.63	0.77	0.76	0.69	0.70
lle conc	pmol/mg	415	429	222	242	438	452	229	213	407	433	226	231	519	529	311	330	543	562	307	319	529	518	205	227	409	380	327	363	604	613
Leu conc lle	pmol/mg pn	m	1170	638	646	1191	1185	377	384	1071	1129	651	652	1404	1427	895	913	1524	1583	754	702	1414	1431	560	592	1074	962	775	829	1724	1708
Phe conc Ler	md gm/lomd	9	350	230	217	469	442	215	163	491	475	248	227	559	535	382	364	725	675	237	232	635	633	146	146	321	283	269	270	730	718
Val conc Phe	pmol/mg pme		1273	626	619	1142	1184	470	467	1117	1149	605	626	1228	1268	865	887	1466	1539	646	670	1469	1452	506	518	1032	957	695	725	1630	1621
	shortened location	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel	Barling Gravel				
	material	G239-0406 B. tent op	G240-0405 B. tent op	G238-1731 B. tent op	G238-1767 B. tent op	G239-0507 B. tent op		G238-0609 B. tros op	G238-0618 B. tros op	G238-2745 B. tros op	G238-2755 B. tros op	G238-1833 B. tros op	G238-1869 B. tros op	G239-0609 B. tros op	G240-0608 B. tros op		G238-1970 B. tros op	G239-0710 B. tros op	G240-0709 B. tros op	G244-2657 B. tent op	G244-2665 B. tent op	G244-3989 B. tent op	G244-3997 B. tent op	G244-2859 B. tent op	G244-2867 B. tent op	G244-4191 B. tent op	G244-4199 B. tent op	G244-2960 B. tros op	G244-2968 B. tros op	G244-4292 B. tros op	G244-42A0 B. tros op
	Neaar File	3741bH* G239	3741bH* G240	3742bF G238	3742bF G238	3742bH* G239	3742bH* G240	3743bF G238	3743bF G238	3743bH* G238	3743bH* G238		3744bF G238	3744bH* G239	3744bH* G240		3745bF G238	3745bH* G239	*	3828bF G244	3828bF G244	3828bH* G244	*			3829bH* G244	*	3830bF G244			3830bH* G244

/[] DMKv2	33 0.43		31 0.35	30 0.34	32 0.41	33 0.42			_																					
[Ser]/							7 0.33					2 0.40																		0.6	0
	Val D/L	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	
	Ala D/L	0.46	0.46	0.43	0.43	0.47	0.46	0.42	0.41	0.46	0.47	0.41	0.41	0.52	0.51	0.47	0.47	0.48	0.49	0.43	0.42	0.23	0.23	0.17	0.19	0.25	0.25	0.19	0.18	0.22	000
	Ser D/L	0.98	0.98	0.79	0.77	0.96	0.97	0.65	0.67	0.78	0.93	0.53	0.54	0.98	0.97	0.71	0.70	0.93	0.96	0.65	0.67	0.86	0.86	0.54	0.52	06.0	0.88	0.51	0.50	0.86	
	GIX D/L	0.44	0.43	0.32	0.32	0.37	0.37	0.29	0.29	0.36	0.38	0.29	0.29	0.44	0.45	0.33	0.33	0.39	0.40	0.31	0.31	0.23	0.23	0.14	0.14	0.24	0.24	0.15	0.15	0.24	00 0
	Asx D/L	0.75	0.75	0.69	0.68	0.75	0.75	0.66	0.68	0.74	0.75	0.65	0.65	0.78	0.78	0.68	0.68	0.76	0.76	0.66	0.66	0.60	0.60	0.50	0.49	0.63	0.63	0.51	0.52	0.58	(
lle conc	pmol/mg	203	208	300	320	246	275	376	384	285	283	436	430	252	273	361	373	352	408	314	299	140	149	431	450	125	123	443	461	125	00.
Leu conc Il	d gm/lomq	583	583	834	868	679	700	932	929	760	767	1149	1116	741	752	1101	1117	743	872	741	742	405	408	1105	1156	382	371	1082	1059	388	000
Phe conc Le	pmol/mg pm	4	184	293	292	248	242	341	343	263	238	393	382	192	197	369	377	217	209	246	242	161	155	412	415	139	130	452	410	117	
Val conc Phe	pmol/mg pmc		542	761	772	649	673	880	877	753	754	1062	1091	588	619	928	964	611	593	667	695	400	406	1024	1052	354	350	944	1004	391	100
	shortened location	Bradwell Hall	Bradwell Hall	East Mersea RS																											
	ile material	G238-0204 B. tent op	G238-0213 B. tent op	G238-2340 B. tent op	G238-2350 B. tent op	G238-1023 B. tent op	G238-1059 B. tent op	G238-3276 B. tent op	G238-3282 B. tent op	G238-1124 B. tent op	G238-1160 B. tent op	G238-3377 B. tent op	G238-3383 B. tent op	G244-1940 B. tent op	G244-1949 B. tent op	G244-3373 B. tent op	G244-3381 B. tent op	G244-2042 B. tent op	G244-2051 B. tent op	G244-3475 B. tent op		G238-0103 B. tent op	G238-0112 B. tent op	G238-2239 B. tent op	G238-2249 B. tent op	G238-0821 B. tent op	G238-0838 B. tent op	G238-3074 B. tent op	G238-3080 B. tent op	G238-0922 B. tent op	
	Neaar F	3731bF C	3731bF C	3731bH* G	3731bH* G	3732bF (3732bF (3732bH* G	3732bH* G	3733bF (3733bF (3733bH* G	*		3822bF 0	3822bH* G	*		3823bF (3823bH* G	3823bH* G	3728bF 0	3728bF 0	3728bH* G	*	3729bF 0	3729bF 0	3729bH* G	*	3730bF 0	

	DMKv2	0.15	0.15	0.23	0.25	0.16	0.16	0.23	0.24	0.16	0.16	0.43	0.44	0.29	0.29	0.42	0.42	0.31	0.31	0.42	0.42	0.31	0.31	0.42	0.43	0.29	0.30	0.40	0.40	0.29	0.30	0.40
[Ser]/	[Ala]	0.55	0.56	0.71	0.71	0.54	0.46	0.64	0.62	0.56	0.32	0.35	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.40	0.37	0.36	0.36	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.33	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.34
	Val D/L	0.07	0.08	0.14	0.14	0.09	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.09	0.08	0.28	0.27	0.19	0.19	0.28	0.26	0.21	0.21	0.26	0.26	0.21	0.21	0.30	0.30	0.19	0.20	0.29	0.29	0.20	0.21	0.28
	Ala D/L	0.16	0.16	0.23	0.24	0.17	0.17	0.22	0.23	0.17	0.17	0.50	0.50	0.39	0.39	0.49	0.50	0.40	0.41	0.49	0.49	0.40	0.40	0.50	0.48	0.39	0.39	0.49	0.48	0.38	0.37	0.47
	Ser D/L	0.53	0.53	0.87	0.89	0.53	0.54	0.84	0.82	0.49	0.56	0.89	06.0	0.63	0.61	0.72	0.85	0.69	0.69	0.96	0.94	0.74	0.73	0.95	0.96	0.66	0.65	1.00	1.01	0.65	0.62	1.02
	GIX D/L S	0.14	0.14	0.23	0.25	0.15	0.15	0.23	0.25	0.15	0.15	0.36	0.38	0.26	0.26	0.32	0.36	0.27	0.27	0.37	0.36	0.27	0.27	0.35	0.35	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.27
	Asx D/L G	0.50	0.49	0.59	0.61	0.51	0.51	0.58	0.59	0.52	0.51	0.77	0.77	0.63	0.63	0.76	0.76	0.65	0.65	0.77	0.77	0.66	0.66	0.75	0.76	0.63	0.64	0.77	0.77	0.63	0.64	0.77
le conc	amol/mg	578	569	240	243	531	525	276	287	509	552	212	230	403	419	210	229	446	471	291	327	537	561	432	429	538	540	270	268	613	699	238
Leu conc II	-	1443	1408	519	515	1260	1231	479	572	1215	1264	598	613	1133	1171	691	691	1405	1408	870	901	1592	1596	996	919	1629	1625	096	945	1825	1976	716
Phe conc Le		480	452	202	195	451	447	140	134	439	464	211	215	421	379	226	211	488	458	314	300	581	360	280	264	549	546	296	293	581	576	207
Val conc Ph	-	1311	1296	457	460	1159	1162	394	387	1087	1166	530	545	980	1039	574	575	1151	1211	792	810	1383	1459	669	705	1352	1369	754	750	1524	1647	641
	shortened location	East Mersea RS	Shoeburyness borehole	Shoeburyness Channel	Shoeburyness Channel	Shoeburyness Channel	Shoeburyness Channel	East Hyde, 7.55																								
	material	B. tent op			B. tent op		B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op		B. tent op		B. tent op			B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op												
	File	G238-3175	G238-3181	G244-1738	G244-1746	G244-3171	G244-3179	G244-1839	G244-1847	G244-3272	G244-3280	G238-0710	G238-0719		G238-2856	G238-2035	G238-2071		G240-0810	G238-2136	G238-2172	G239-0912		G244-3061	G244-3069	G244-4393	G244-43A1	G206-0608				G205-0610
	Neaar	3730bH*	3730bH*	3820bF	3820bF	3820bH*	3820bH*	3821bF	3821bF	3821bH*	3821bH*	3746bF	3746bF	3746bH*	3746bH*	3747bF	3747bF	3747bH*	3747bH*	3748bF	3748bF	3748bH*	3748bH*	3831bF	3831bF	3831bH*	3831bH*	3132bF	3132bF	3132bH*	3132bH*	3101bF

	DMKv2	0.40	0.30	0.30	0.39	0.38	0.39	0.28	0.40	0.40	0.31	0.31	0.46	0.48	0.21	0.21	0.41	0.41	0.30	0.30	0.41	0.42	0.31	0.31	0.41	0.41	0.29	0.28	0.41	0.39	0.29	0.29
[Ser]/	[Ala]	0.35	0.41	0.40	0.34	0.34	0.30	0.48	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.31	0.27	0.26	0.76	0.75	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.33	0.32	0.41	0.41	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.15	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.32
	Val D/L	0.27	0.20	0.20	0.28	0.27	0.28	0.21	0.29	0.29	0.21	0.21	0.32	0.30	0.16	0.16	0.27	0.27	0.20	0.20	0.25	0.27	0.21	0.20	0.31	0.28	0.18	0.18	0.29	0.25	0.19	0.19
	VIA D/L	0.47	0.39	0.39	0.47	0.46	0.50	0.38	0.47	0.47	0.40	0.39	0.52	0.52	0.34	0.34	0.51	0.51	0.41	0.40	0.47	0.47	0.39	0.39	0.45	0.46	0.38	0.37	0.46	0.46	0.39	0.38
	Ser D/L	1.02	0.69	0.68	0.95	0.98	0.94	0.38	1.03	1.03	0.69	0.69	06.0	06.0	0.13	0.13	0.89	0.91	0.63	0.65	0.94	0.93	0.45	0.45	0.85	0.83	0.59	0.54	0.92	0.91	0.66	0.62
	GIX D/L S	0.27	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	0.26	0.27	0.24	0.24	0.49	0.54	0.17	0.17	0.35	0.33	0.25	0.25	0.37	0.36	0.27	0.27	0.34	0.34	0.25	0.24	0.34	0.34	0.25	0.25
	Asx D/L G	0.77	0.66	0.66	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.62	0.75	0.76	0.66	0.66	0.74	0.77	0.47	0.48	0.73	0.75	0.63	0.63	0.76	0.76	0.65	0.65	0.74	0.75	0.65	0.63	0.74	0.73	0.64	0.64
le conc		244	295	310	201	207	233	255	201	206	315	298	350	340	1692	1788	209	224	497	499	174	213	357	379	752	725	504	544	537	499	761	951
Leu conc II	_	757	863	833	602	741	618	664	617	651	931	917	920	903	4143	4251	625	648	1387	1318	529	557	987	984	933	941	1253	1311	1031	1043	2193	2501
Phe conc Le		209	256	251	209	214	219	242	159	160	354	313	291	249	1776	1718	213	206	433	423	174	187	346	343	351	301	430	460	282	249	795	905
Val conc Ph	_	m	762	777	546	559	601	570	541	543	694	692	069	724	2723	2788	584	594	1155	1163	449	473	851	862	679	689	1028	1176	629	620	1647	2153
	shortened location	East Hyde, 7.55	\sim	East Hyde, 7.55	East Hyde, 7.55	East Hyde, 7.55	East Hyde BH, 9.2m																									
	material	B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op	B. tent op		B. tent op		B. tent op		B. tent op		B. tent op																		
	File	G205-0625	G207-1411	G207-1427	G205-2870	G205-2881	G205-2887	G209-0807	G205-2971	G205-2982	G209-1614	G209-1621	G238-0305	G238-0314		G238-2451	G238-1225	G238-1261	G238-3478	G238-3484	G238-1327	G238-1363	G239-0103	G239-0116	G244-2243	G244-2252	G244-3576	G244-3584	G244-2344	G244-2353	G244-3677	G244-3685
	Neaar	3101bF	3101bH*	3101bH*	3102bF	3102bF	3102bF	3102bH*	3103bF	3103bF	3103bH*	3103bH*	3734bF	3734bF	3734bH*	3734bH*	3735bF	3735bF	3735bH*	3735bH*	3736bF	3736bF	3736bH*	3736bH*	3824bF	3824bF	3824bH*	3824bH*	3825bF	3825bF	3825bH*	3825bH*

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