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**Marginal reefs under stress: physiological limits render Galápagos corals
susceptible to ocean acidification and thermal stress**

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1 **Marginal reefs under stress: physiological limits render**
2 **Galápagos corals susceptible to ocean acidification and thermal**
3 **stress;**

4 **Short title: Physiological limits to corals' buffering capacity**

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18 **Key Points:**

- 19 • Saturation of the internal growth medium is reduced in modern Galápagos *Porites* species corals,
20 particularly following warm extremes.
- 21 • Corals display similar capacity to regulate their growth medium among sites and time periods,
22 with limited adaptation to acidification.
- 23 • Taken together, these results suggest strict physiological limits to corals' ability to buffer against
24 changing ocean conditions.

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25 **Abstract**

26 Ocean acidification and thermal stress may undermine corals' ability to calcify and support diverse
27 reef communities, particularly in marginal environments. Coral calcification depends on aragonite su-
28 persaturation (Ω) of the calcifying fluid (cf) from which the skeleton precipitates. Corals actively up-
29 regulate pH_{cf} relative to seawater to buffer against changes in temperature and dissolved inorganic
30 carbon (DIC_{cf}), which together control Ω_{cf} . Here we assess the buffering capacity in modern and fos-
31 sil corals from the Galápagos that have been exposed to sub-optimal conditions, extreme thermal stress,
32 and accelerated rates of acidification. We demonstrate a significant decline in pH_{cf} and Ω_{cf} since the
33 pre-industrial era, trends which are exacerbated during extreme warm years. These results suggest
34 that there are likely physiological limits to corals' pH buffering capacity, and that these constraints
35 render marginal reefs particularly susceptible to ocean acidification.

36 **Plain Language Summary**

37 Reef-building corals buffer their internal environment to permit rapid growth, which is critical
38 for creating the structure and function of coral reefs. However, we demonstrate that there are finite
39 limits to the ability of to regulate their internal chemistry to optimize growth. This limitation will
40 leave corals susceptible to ocean warming and acidification, particularly in sub-optimal environments.
41 Galápagos corals already display signs of stress and their ability to maintain an optimal internal growth
42 environment from the 18th century to today.

43 **Introduction**

44 The carbonate structures of coral reef ecosystems provide critical defenses against storm surge
45 and sea-level rise, supporting billions of dollars of goods and services annually beyond their intrinsic
46 value (Spalding et al., 2017), highlighting the need to understand how changing ocean conditions im-
47 pact coral calcification. Thermal stress and ocean acidification (OA) diminish coral calcification, as
48 shown in both experimental systems and Free Ocean CO_2 Enrichment (FOCE) experiments on nat-
49 ural reefs (Gattuso et al., 2014). Analyses of coral density variations in cores of massive corals also
50 reveal trends in coral calcification through time (Lough, 2010). Collectively, these studies demonstrate
51 spatially and temporally varying rates of calcification, with significant declines under recent extreme

52 warming events and OA. Corals in the Galápagos Archipelago have been disproportionately impacted
53 (Glynn et al., 2018), due to both extreme El Niño-related warming (Glynn et al., 1988; Glynn, 2001)
54 and highly variable upwelling and pH/saturation state (Manzello et al., 2008; Manzello, 2010). These
55 "marginal" reefs exhibit low diversity and structural complexity (Darwin & Bonney, 1889; Cortés, 1997;
56 Glynn, 2001; Manzello et al., 2008; Glynn et al., 2017), and are experiencing acidification at rates of
57 around -0.0026 yr^{-1} (Sutton et al., 2014). Differential recovery rates along spatial pH gradients (Manzello
58 et al., 2014) further demonstrate the importance of carbonate chemistry and calcification processes
59 to reef health in this region. As CO_2 levels rise, changing patterns of OA and warming will increase
60 the pressure on eastern equatorial Pacific and other marginal reef environments.

61 Therefore, a critical question remains: do corals have the adaptive capacity to maintain sustain-
62 able calcification in the face of increasingly stressful environmental conditions? Here, we leverage ad-
63 vances in biomineralization and boron isotope systematics to assess how changes in energy availabil-
64 ity alter rates of calcification, the chemistry of the calcifying fluid, and the geochemistry of the car-
65 bonate skeleton (Box 1, Table S1). We use this understanding of coral biomineralization to elucidate
66 the susceptibility of coral calcification to OA and to assess the adaptive capacity of Galápagos (*Porites*
67 sp.) corals to changing ocean conditions.

68 In reef-building corals, calcification varies in response to internal (physiological) and external
69 (environmental) factors, and maintenance of aragonite supersaturation in their calcifying fluid (Ω_{cf}
70 $\gg 1$) is the ultimate factor that permits supercalcification and buffers against changes in seawater chem-
71 istry (McCulloch et al., 2012). This state is achieved via upregulation of DIC and pH in response to
72 changing environmental conditions. For example, during cooler seasons, corals upregulate pH_{cf} in re-
73 sponse to a drop in metabolic (i.e., from zooxanthellar photosynthesis and coral respiration) DIC, re-
74 sulting from reduced temperature and light (e.g., (D'Olivo & McCulloch, 2017; McCulloch et al., 2017;
75 Ross et al., 2017, 2019)). Cool temperatures also slow calcification kinetics and reduce the buffering
76 capacity of the coral calcifying fluid (hereafter "thermodynamic" factors, (Guo, 2019; Georgiou et al.,
77 2015)). By upregulating pH_{cf} , corals maintain a nearly constant aragonite saturation state, shifting
78 the carbonate reactions to favor carbonate ion during the winter months (Fig. 1) and preserving their
79 ability to calcify despite large seasonal changes in DIC availability and temperature. Box 1 illustrates

80 the major controls on the geochemistry of the calcifying fluid. If these processes operate across species
81 and reef environments, corals may be able to withstand changes in seawater pH.

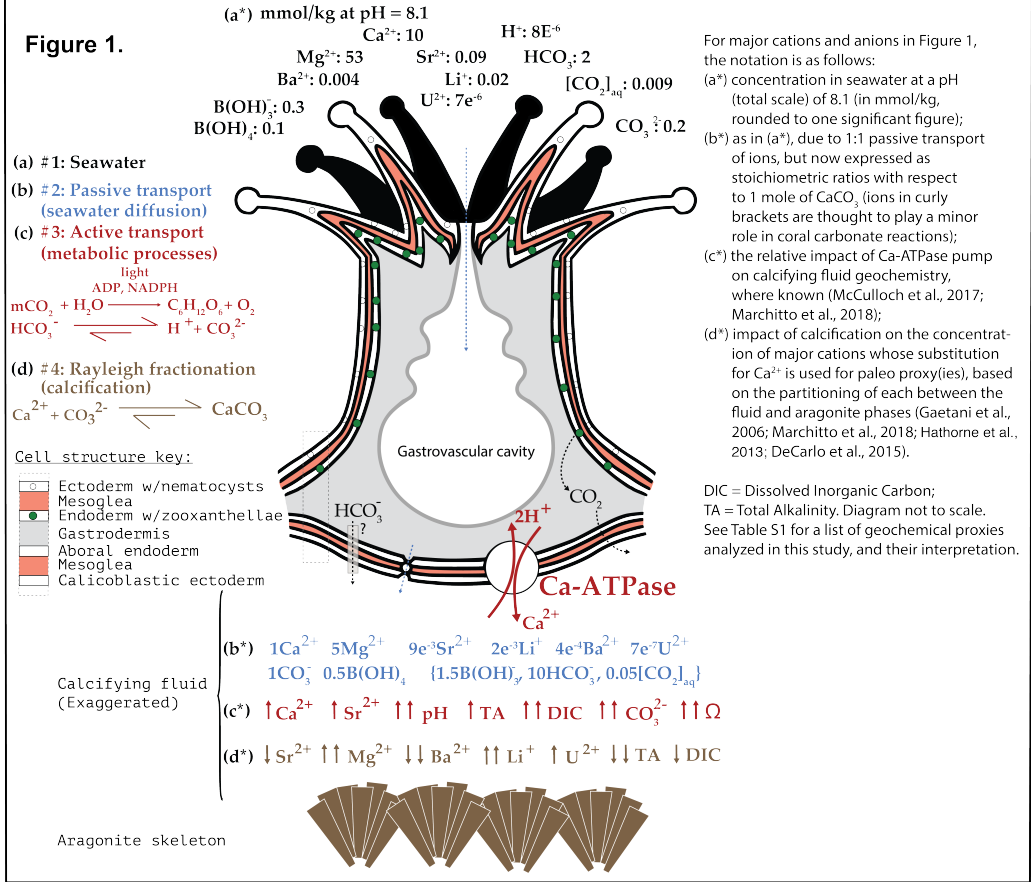
86 However, our understanding of coral biomineralization processes largely depends on studies of
87 modern massive corals from regions with relatively low seasonal and geochemical variability (Fig. 2a-
88 b). Although a few studies have leveraged natural CO₂ seeps to study coral biomineralization under
89 extreme conditions (Wall et al., 2016, 2019), corals likely respond differently to sharp spatial gradi-
90 ents compared to temporal variations. In many marginal reef environments, strong oceanographic vari-
91 ability and low aragonite saturation states make reef-building corals particularly susceptible to chang-
92 ing ocean conditions. Further, such marginal reefs provide a potential analogue of future reef patterns,
93 as OA broadens the coverage of sub-optimal to marginal conditions.

94 Here, we capitalize on the large natural gradients across the Pacific in SST variability (Fig. 2a)
95 and aragonite saturation state (Fig. 2b) to understand the range of coral responses to ongoing warm-
96 ing and acidification. We apply a multi-proxy, multi-site synthesis of coral geochemistry, backed by
97 a novel Earth system modelling framework, to reconstruct and contextualize the impact of environ-
98 mental stresses on calcification and resiliency in Galápagos corals. We leverage geochemical tracers
99 of coral biomineralization (Table S-1)—skeletal B/Ca ([CO₃⁻]), $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ (pH_{cf}), and U/Ca ([CO₃⁻)]—that
100 constrain the calcifying fluid chemistry, including the aragonite saturation that governs calcification
101 rate (DeCarlo et al., 2018, 2015). We combine these with paleo-environmental tracers that primar-
102 ily reflect factors external to the coral calcification environment (Table S-1): Sr/Ca (Beck et al., 1992;
103 Corrège et al., 2000), Li/Mg (Hathorne et al., 2013; Montagna et al., 2014), and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (Weber & Wood-
104 head, 1972) (all primarily controlled by SST); Ba/Ca (upwelling) (Shen et al., 1992); and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (up-
105 welling, metabolic carbon / photosynthetic health) (Shen et al., 1992). These new recent (1976-2010)
106 and fossil (1729-1733) Galápagos records (Wolf Island, 1°23.15'N, 91°49.90'W) significantly extend
107 the data coverage prior to the industrial era, which we leverage to assess the capacity of corals to buffer
108 against changing environmental conditions. We compare our new Galápagos results with published
109 data from the Great Barrier Reef (McCulloch et al., 2017) to contextualize results from the marginal
110 Galápagos reef environment—a comparatively cold, low-saturation, and highly variable environment.
111 Finally, we establish a comprehensive spatiotemporal framework for these results using simulations
112 of ocean biogeochemistry that extend from pre-industrial to modern (Fig. 2c), permitting the first cross-

Box 1. Overview of coral calcification and controls on calcifying fluid geochemistry.

Although we often think of corals as forming skeletons that directly reflect seawater chemistry, in fact corals produce their skeletons from a semi-isolated, geochemically modulated fluid, separated from seawater by a layered dermal structure. The tissue layer from which the skeleton is formed is termed the calciblastic ectoderm, which is bathed in the calcifying fluid (cf). Here we identify the processes that control the transport of skeletal "building blocks" into the calcifying fluid and the resulting fluid geochemistry. These processes are governed by both physiological and environmental factors, and they determine the geochemistry of the skeleton (Figure 1).

1. Seawater chemistry, indicated in black, is the starting point from which the coral imports skeletal materials.
2. Passive transport (diffusion) or vacuole invagination bring seawater into the calcification environment (blue).
3. Active transport uses energy from respiration and zooxanthellar photosynthesis to drive a paracellular and trans-membrane active transport of ions. For example, alkalinity "pumps" (such as Ca-ATPase) enrich alkalinity of the fluid by transporting Ca^{2+} , 2Na^+ , or 2K^+ while removing 2H^+ (e.g., Cohen and McConnaughey 2003; Al-Horani et al., 2003; Zoccola et al., 2004; Tanaka et al., 2015). This pH increase drives the carbonate equilibrium towards CO_3^{2-} , increases alkalinity, and raises the aragonite supersaturation, enabling rapid calcification. The Ca-ATPase pump also increases the Sr^{2+} concentration of the calcifying fluid (Marchitto et al., 2018), due to strontium's similarity in size and charge to Ca^{2+} . Certain details of these active transport pathways remain obscure: although it is stimulated by light and most active during the day, it may not be energy limited (McCulloch et al. 2012), and the mechanistic links to metabolic DIC remain poorly understood (Furla et al., 2000; Zoccola et al., 2015). A strong inverse relationship between pH and DIC_{cf} (e.g., McCulloch et al., 2017) suggests that low DIC, rather than high energy, may trigger active pathways. Thus active transport can be important even when energy sources are reduced under cooler, low-light conditions. The interplay of metabolic energy supplies with external environmental stresses may vary among reef environments, and different factors may become limiting depending on these details.
4. Rayleigh fractionation alters the relative proportion of minor and trace cations to Ca in the calcifying fluid as calcification proceeds. The proxy-relevant cations Sr, Mg, Ba, Li, and U are incorporated into the coral skeleton at differing rates due to varying partitioning coefficients. Calcification preferentially incorporates Sr and Ba, and discriminates against Mg, Li, and U, relative to the proportion of these elements in the cf. The degree to which Rayleigh fractionation impacts the cf chemistry will depend on the balance between calcification rate, which increasingly fractionates cf chemistry, and replenishment of seawater, which brings cf chemistry back to environmental levels. The susceptibility of different elements to this process depends on the partitioning coefficient (K_D) between fluid and aragonite during calcification, with values <1 indicating exclusion from the skeleton and those >1 , preferential uptake: $K(\text{Sr}/\text{Ca}) \sim 1.1$ (Gaetani et al., 2006; Marchitto et al., 2018), $K(\text{Mg}/\text{Ca}) \sim 0.001$ (Gaetani et al., 2006), $K(\text{Ba}/\text{Ca}) \sim 2.3$ (Gaetani et al., 2006), $K(\text{Li}/\text{Ca}) \sim 0.0006$ (Hathorne et al., 2013), $K(\text{U}/\text{CO}_3) \sim 0.3$ (DeCarlo et al., 2015)].



82 **Figure 1.** Box 1. Overview of coral calcification and controls on calcifying fluid geochemistry (Furla et al.,
83 2000; Zoccola et al., 2015; Gaetani & Cohen, 2006; Marchitto et al., 2018; Hathorne et al., 2013; DeCarlo et
84 al., 2015; McCulloch et al., 2017; Cohen & McConnaughey, 2003; Al-Horani et al., 2003; Zoccola et al., 2004;
85 Tanaka et al., 2015). Figure 1 modified from Thompson (in review).

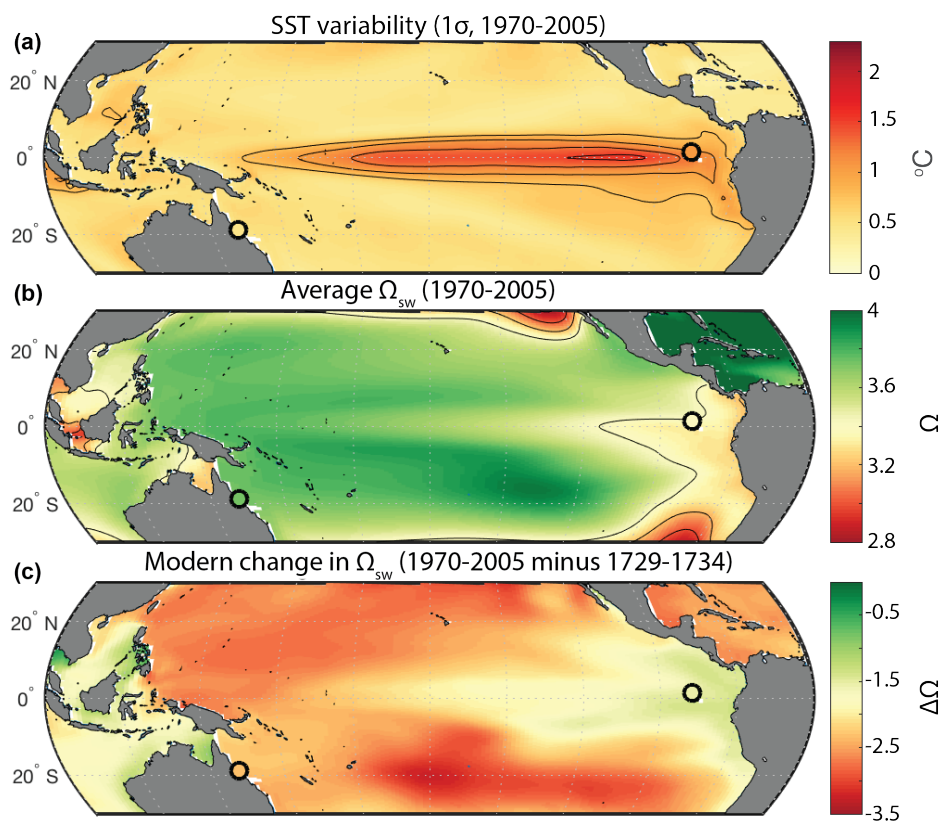
113 Pacific, multi-century synthesis of corals' ability to buffer calcifying fluid chemistry in response to chang-
 114 ing ocean conditions, including acidification, warming, and (internal and forced) variability.

122 Results and Discussion

123 Seasonal pH, DIC and Ω of coral calcifying fluid

124 Here we compare new reconstructions of SST and calcifying fluid geochemistry (Table S-1) from
 125 modern and subfossil Galápagos corals with published reconstructions from the GBR ((McCulloch et
 126 al., 2017; Ross et al., 2017; D'Olivo, Ellwood, et al., 2019)). Two 18th century cores collected at Wolf
 127 Island show that as SST increases, pH_{cf} decreases (pH reported on the total scale throughout). The
 128 slope of this relationship (WLF04: $m = -0.022$ pH units per $^{\circ}\text{C}$, $N = 33$, $r^2 = 0.52$; WLF05: $m = -$
 129 0.033 pH units per $^{\circ}\text{C}$, $N = 45$, $r^2 = 0.43$; Figure S1) is nearly identical to that found among repli-
 130 cate modern corals from the GBR (Davies-02: -0.035 pH units per $^{\circ}\text{C}$, $N = 50$, $r^2 = 0.82$; Davies-03:
 131 -0.020 pH units per $^{\circ}\text{C}$, $N = 54$, $r^2 = 0.80$). The seasonal pH_{cf} change is also similar among GBR mod-
 132 ern and the Wolf fossil coral, with a -0.03 to -0.06 unit change between the average warm and cold
 133 seasons (Table S2) and a range of 0.2 to 0.3 pH units at each site. However, the SST-pH relationship
 134 weakens in the two modern (20th century) Wolf corals, which display a reduced seasonal pH range (ΔpH
 135 $= -0.003$ to -0.02 , Table S2) and a weaker relationship with temperature (i.e., a shallower slope and
 136 lower r^2) compared to fossil Wolf cores (Fig. S1).

137 Comparing modern and fossil data from Wolf, we demonstrate that the pH_{cf} -SST relationship
 138 is significantly weaker in the modern corals than in the fossil corals. In contrast, the Wolf fossil and
 139 GBR modern corals are not significantly different from one another (Figure 3a). The greater SST range
 140 in modern cores (Fig. 3, x-axis) would by itself strengthen this relationship (as in (D'Olivo, Ellwood,
 141 et al., 2019)) and therefore cannot explain the observed patterns; we therefore infer that the weak-
 142 ening is likely driven by reduced pH upregulation, due to impacts of OA and/or thermal stress (rather
 143 than by temperature-induced changes in calcification or buffering capacity alone (Guo, 2019)). The
 144 difference in slope between the fossil and modern corals equates to 7-40% difference in H^+ ions in the
 145 calcifying fluid (with larger changes at lower temperatures). As a result, Ω_{cf} displays a significant pos-
 146 itive relationship with SST in modern Wolf corals, with up to 5% lower saturation during the cold sea-
 147 son (September-November; SON) relative to the warm season (Table S2). In contrast, there is no re-



115 **Figure 2.** Map of study sites across tropical Pacific Ocean testbed: (a) Interannual variability in sea-surface
 116 temperature (SST), calculated from standard deviation of CESM1 LME SST (see Fig. S2 for validation against IGOSS
 117 SSTs, (Reynolds et al., 2002)); (b) aragonite saturation state Ω_{sw} at 0m, calculated using CO2SYS (Lewis et al., 1998)
 118 from CESM1 LME temperature, salinity, pH_{sw} , and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) over the climatological period
 119 (1970-2005); and (c) difference in CESM1 LME Ω_{sw} between the modern and 18th century periods studied here. Values
 120 for the Great Barrier Reef (Davies Reef) and Galápagos (Wolf Island) study sites are indicated by filled circles; validation
 121 of CESM1 against observational values can be found in Table S3.

148 relationship between Ω_{cf} and temperature in the fossil coral (Fig. 3c) and $< 1.5\%$ change in Ω_{cf} season-
149 ally (Table S2). These results indicate that the fossil corals maintained a steady aragonite saturation
150 state in their calcifying fluid across seasonally varying environmental conditions, while the modern
151 corals did not. Put another way, modern Wolf corals appear to have partially lost their ability to buffer
152 calcifying fluid chemistry against changes in seawater pH and Ω . This result implies a loss of resilience
153 that is likely to lead to reduced calcification under continued environmental change.

154 Further, the mean and seasonal-interannual variance in calcifying fluid geochemistry were broadly
155 reproducible across cores from both periods (within and among colonies at a single site; Table S2, Fig-
156 ure 4, S1 & S10). However, an anomalously low $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ and B/Ca departure in core WLF05 co-occurring
157 with a low-density and high Sr/Ca-SST anomaly in 1731-1732 emphasizes the need for further work
158 to assess the impact of skeletal density, microstructure (Chalk et al., 2021), and transect quality (Reed
159 et al., 2019, 2021) on skeletal geochemistry within a single colony. Such within colony variations are
160 likely to be more severe at marginal reef sites like the Galápagos Islands, where corals are suscepti-
161 ble to boring bivalves and display lobate growth structure and complex microscale growth features,
162 such as convergent corallite fans, changes in growth direction, and corallites angled relative to the sam-
163 pling plane (Reed et al., 2021). Nevertheless, outside this short-lived anomaly, the geochemical rela-
164 tionships reported here were reproducible within replicate cores from a single Galápagos fossil coral
165 colony, with no significant differences in slope between the replicate fossil cores (Fig. S1). The only
166 exception was the relationship between $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and DIC_{cf} (Fig. S1c)—suggesting that proxies for metabolic
167 activity may be most susceptible to skeletal microstructures, overall transect quality, symbiont den-
168 sity and composition, and/or shading within colonies with complex 3D structures. Nevertheless, the
169 reproducibility of these relationships suggests that this technique can help expand our knowledge of
170 calcifying fluid geochemistry prior to the industrial era.

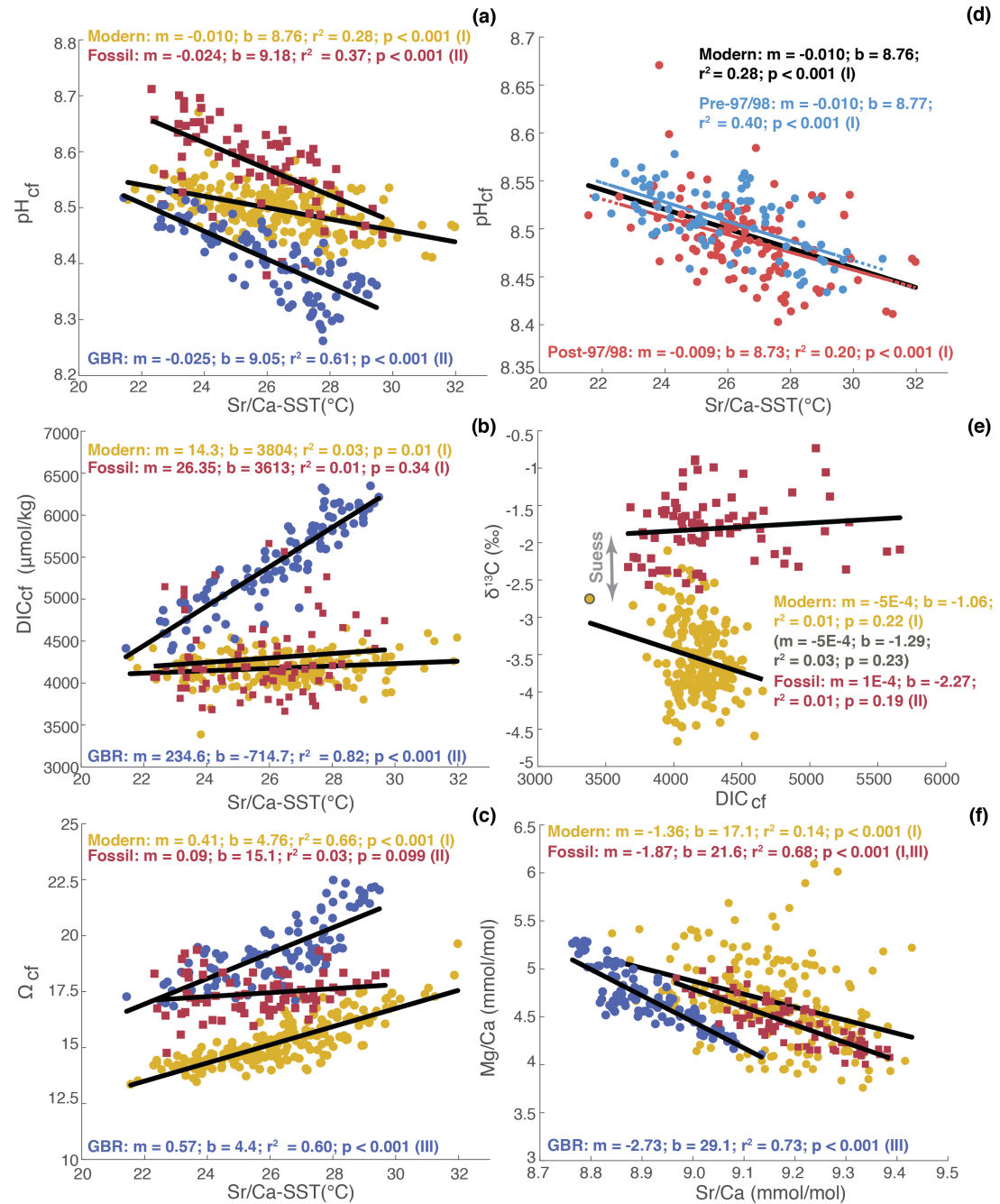
171 Although the absolute magnitude of DIC and Ω upregulation inferred from B/Ca is dependent
172 on the partitioning coefficient (K_D) formulation and the extent of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ enrichment in the cf, sen-
173 sitivity tests demonstrate that the differences in pH and Ω upregulation across sites and time peri-
174 ods are robust regardless of the choice of K_D and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{cf}$ (Figures S3-S5). Further, the values are
175 within the range of those obtained through independent micro-sensor measurements (Sevilgen et al.,

176 2019); recent work comparing $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ - and microelectrode-based pH_{cf} support the utility of $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ as a
 177 proxy for diurnally-averaged pH_{cf} (Guillermic et al., 2020).

186 Nevertheless, we note that the controls on pH upregulation and DIC_{cf} likely differ across sites.
 187 In Australia, seasonal upregulation of pH_{cf} occurs in response to seasonal variations in temperature
 188 (Guo, 2019; D’Olivo, Ellwood, et al., 2019), pH_{sw} (D’Olivo, Ellwood, et al., 2019), and metabolic DIC
 189 availability (McCulloch et al., 2017), with lower DIC during the winter months due to reduced light
 190 and cooler temperatures (McCulloch et al., 2017). This mechanism was proposed in the GBR and Ninga-
 191 loo Reef, Australia, where both DIC_{cf} and $\text{DIC}_{\text{cf}}/\text{DIC}_{\text{sw}}$ display a strong positive relationship with
 192 temperature (McCulloch et al., 2017). This pH seasonality is consistent amongst a wide range of reefs,
 193 including the GBR, Coral Sea, Western Australia, Caribbean, and Central Pacific (Knebel et al., 2021;
 194 Hemming et al., 1998; Pelejero et al., 2005; McCulloch et al., 2017; D’Olivo & McCulloch, 2017; Ross
 195 et al., 2019; D’Olivo, Ellwood, et al., 2019; Chalk et al., 2021). However, all of these sites have fun-
 196 damentally different dynamics than in the Galápagos, where the cool season experiences upwelling of
 197 DIC-rich waters (Kessler, 2006) that impacts the seasonality of CF chemistry. As a result, we find that
 198 DIC_{cf} in Wolf corals is independent of temperature in both modern and fossil corals (Fig. 3b). Fur-
 199 ther, DIC_{cf} is upregulated by a near-constant factor of ~ 2 relative to DIC_{sw} in modern Wolf corals,
 200 compared with a stronger, and seasonally varying DIC_{cf} enrichment in GBR corals ($\text{DIC}_{\text{cf}}/\text{DIC}_{\text{sw}} =$
 201 2.2-3.2, Table S2) and Galápagos fossil corals.

202 Dissolved Inorganic Carbon & $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ variability

203 Comparison of the carbon isotopic ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) variability among cores may explain why pH regula-
 204 tion is weaker in modern Wolf corals (Fig. 3e). First, the relationship between $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and the DIC_{cf}
 205 in Wolf modern and fossil corals is weak or absent, suggesting that metabolic processes and upwelling
 206 contribute approximately equally to the carbon pool at this site. During the cool season, DIC_{cf} is high
 207 as a result of both metabolic processes (which preferentially remove light carbon, enriching the car-
 208 bon pool and increasing skeletal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$; as reviewed by (Swart, 1983)) and upwelling (which contributes
 209 isotopically light carbon, decreasing skeletal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$); therefore the signals compensate, reducing $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
 210 variance relative to that of DIC_{cf} . Nevertheless, we note a weak negative relationship between $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
 211 and DIC_{cf} in modern corals (even with the outlier point removed), in addition to consistently more



178 **Figure 3. Comparison of the relationships among geochemical proxies (Box 1), Wolf 18th-century fossil**
 179 **(red squares) and modern (20th century, orange circles) versus Great Barrier Reef modern (blue circles): (a) Sr/Ca-SST**
 180 **vs. pH_{cf}, (b) Sr/Ca-SST vs. DIC_{cf}, (c) Sr/Ca-SST vs. Ω_{cf}, (e) DIC_{cf} vs. δ¹³C (with and without flier outlined in gray),**
 181 **and (f) Sr/Ca vs. Mg/Ca. Comparison of the pre- 1997/98 thermal stress (blue), and post- 1997/98 thermal stress (red)**
 182 **Sr/Ca-SSTs vs. pH_{cf} for all modern coral data (black) is shown in (d). In all panels, roman numerals (I-III) denote re-**
 183 **lationships that are significantly different from other groups, based on ANCOVA and multiple comparisons (where a**
 184 **significant difference among groups was identified). Groups with the same roman numeral are not significantly different**
 185 **from one another.**

212 negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values in the modern samples from the burning of fossil fuels (“Suess effect”). Although
 213 additional data is needed to assess the complex interplay of DIC variability at this site, these results
 214 suggest that the upwelling of isotopically light carbon is increasingly dominating the DIC_{cf} pool as
 215 the seawater DIC pool becomes isotopically lighter and the coral-algae symbiosis becomes increasingly
 216 stressed. Indeed, a significant relationship between $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and DIC_{cf} is only present in the post 97/98
 217 data (Figure S6), driven primarily by large isotopically heavy, low DIC anomalies during and follow-
 218 ing thermal stress and bleaching.

219 We also find a notable decrease in DIC_{cf} variability between fossil and modern corals. To assess
 220 the strength of DIC upregulation, we use simulated values for seawater carbonate parameters that are
 221 unavailable from coral proxies (see Methods), but that compare reasonably well to the limited avail-
 222 able direct seawater observations at nearby locations, collected over disparate time periods (Table S3).
 223 We find that Galápagos modern DIC_{cf} never reaches above 2.2 times that of DIC_{sw} (DIC_{cf} max = 4654
 224 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{kg}$ vs. DIC_{sw} max = 2091 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{kg}$ (Manzello, 2010)), whereas the fossil coral DIC_{cf} reaches
 225 as much as ~ 2.8 times that of seawater (5663 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{kg}$, which is within the range observed at the GBR,
 226 Fig. 3b). These results are consistent with a larger contribution of metabolic carbon to the DIC pool
 227 (values $\text{DIC}_{\text{cf}}/\text{DIC}_{\text{sw}} > 1$) in the fossil coral, with large seasonal (Table S2) and interannual variabil-
 228 ity (Fig. 4e) that reflects the relative strength of upwelling (DIC_{sw}) and photosynthetic carbon fix-
 229 ation (DIC_{cf}) in response to light and temperature. Further, the weak relationship between DIC_{cf} up-
 230 regulation and Ω_{sw} across all Wolf corals (Table S4) suggests that this decrease in DIC_{cf} variability
 231 from pre-industrial conditions is likely driven primarily by dysbiosis (i.e., bleaching or loss of healthy
 232 coral microbiome and thus a reduction in metabolic carbon) associated with thermal stress, rather
 233 than OA. This is consistent with $\text{DIC}_{\text{cf}}/\text{DIC}_{\text{sw}}$ departures of < 1 (i.e., loss of metabolic carbon) dur-
 234 ing the 1997/98 thermal stress in both modern cores (equating to a 14-34% reduction in DIC upreg-
 235 ulation, Fig. 4e). Similar reductions in DIC_{cf} upregulation are observed during other warm extremes
 236 in the modern record, whereas DIC upregulation is highest during warm periods in the fossil record.
 237 Our results therefore add to the growing body of work identifying adverse effects of thermal stress and
 238 bleaching on coral CF chemistry under ocean warming (D’Olivo & McCulloch, 2017; Schoepf et al.,
 239 2015, 2021; D’Olivo, Ellwood, et al., 2019; Dishon et al., 2015). The changes in DIC upregulation iden-
 240 tified here imply that extreme thermal stress undermines coral health via photosynthetic reductions

241 that deprive the colony of the energy needed to drive the Ca-ATPase pump and/or other active path-
 242 ways (e.g., other alkalinity pumps or paracellular transport) that upregulate pH_{cf} , leaving them more
 243 susceptible to regional changes in DIC_{sw} and pH_{sw} .

244 Taken together, these results suggest that DIC_{cf} variability in Wolf corals reflects a complex sea-
 245 sonal interplay between upwelling (cold, high DIC_{sw} , low $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{cf}}$; May-Nov cold season) and photo-
 246 synthetic / metabolic (warm, high DIC_{cf} , high $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{cf}}$; Dec-April warm season) processes, the latter
 247 of which contributes less to the carbon pool in modern Wolf corals. Regional upwelling elevates both
 248 concentrations and variability of DIC_{sw} ; these combine with the coral's metabolic variations to pro-
 249 duce fundamentally different DIC_{cf} dynamics at this site (e.g., relative to the GBR). In other words,
 250 in Galápagos corals, pH upregulation is partly driven by variations in the seawater carbon pool, rather
 251 than changes in metabolic pathways alone. We find that seasonal pH_{cf} variations at Wolf (Table S2)
 252 are driven primarily by seasonal temperature and pH_{sw} variability (e.g., 73% and 33%, respectively,
 253 in the longest core WLF10-10; after (D'Olivo, Ellwood, et al., 2019); see Methods). These results im-
 254 ply that Galápagos corals are more sensitive to environmental drivers, whereas metabolic processes
 255 can regulate cf chemistry more strongly in GBR corals.

256 **Temporal variability in pH_{cf} & impact of thermal stress**

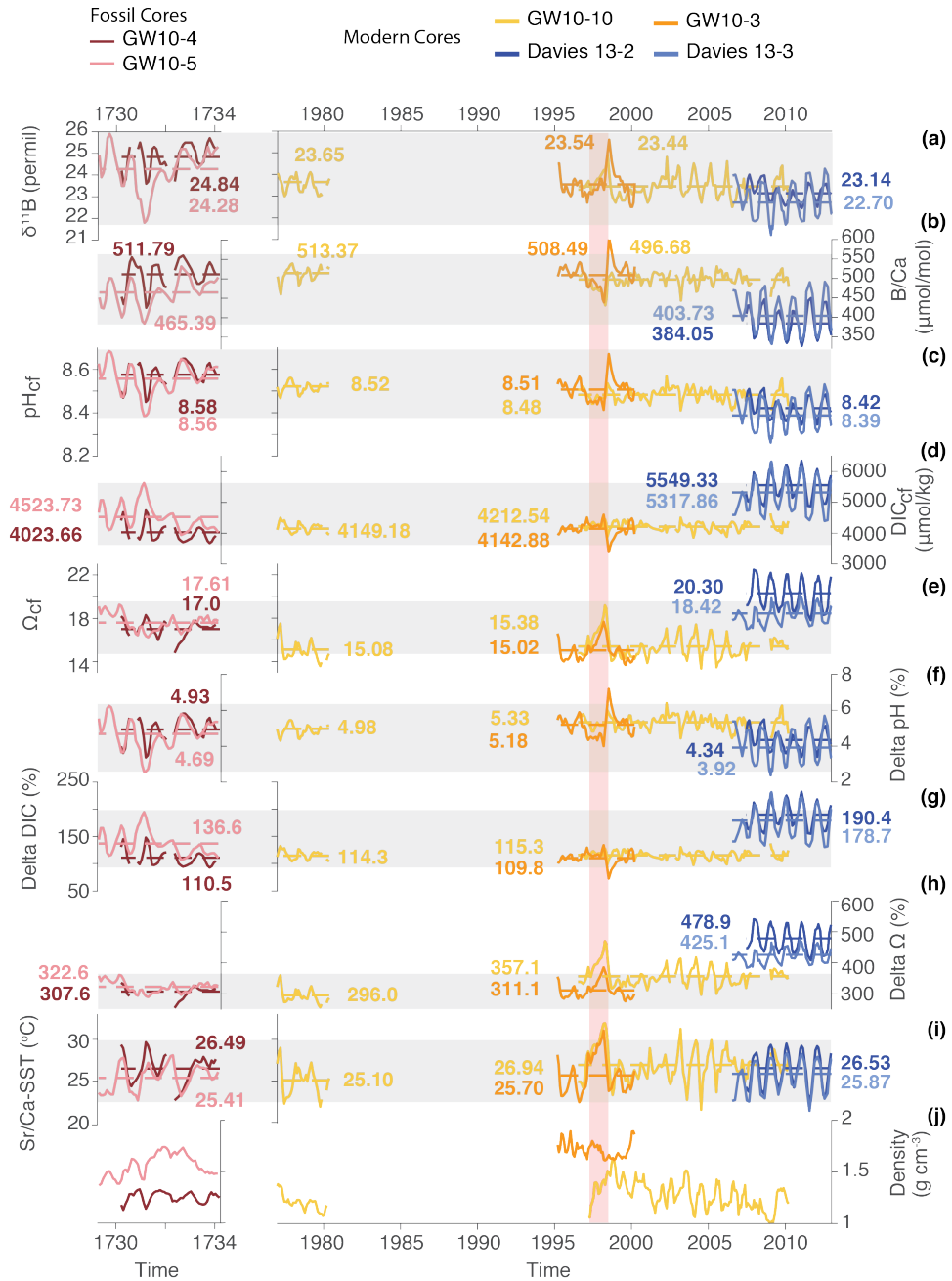
257 Comparing the temporal evolution of pH_{cf} among GBR and Wolf corals over the late 20th cen-
 258 tury supports our interpretation that corals experience difficulty upregulating pH_{cf} as seawater con-
 259 ditions become less favorable. First, modern Wolf corals display an abrupt drop and subsequent rise
 260 in pH_{cf} during and following the 1997/98 El Niño event (Fig. 4a), respectively; this event was char-
 261 acterized by extreme temperature anomalies (Jimenez et al., 2018) (Fig. 4g), stress and bleaching (Glynn,
 262 2001). The decrease in pH_{cf} (towards ambient values) likely resulted from a combination of the loss
 263 of metabolic DIC from symbiotic photosynthesis (weakening the ability of corals to regulate their in-
 264 ternal pH via the Ca-ATPase or other alkalinity pumps), the regional increase in pH_{sw} (due to reduced
 265 upwelling of cold, low pH waters), temperature-induced changes in buffering capacity, and the bleaching-
 266 related reduction in calcification rate. The latter is supported by the greater change in pH_{cf} in WLF-
 267 3, in which calcification rate declined by 26% in 1998 (Fig. S7). In turn, these changes impact Ω_{cf} reg-
 268 ulation (Fig. 3c and S6d), calcification, and thus the imprint of Rayleigh fractionation on the widely

269 utilized Sr/Ca-SST proxy (with less fractionation following bleaching, suggesting a slowdown in cal-
270 cification, Fig. S6h). Therefore, although our results are reproducible among proxy-based and obser-
271 vational SST data (Figure S8-9), the breakdown of pH upregulation in modern corals (particularly
272 post-thermal stress and bleaching) may be even greater than indicated by SST proxy records (see Sup-
273 plemental Text, Figure S8).

281 The full suite of geochemical tracers measured in modern Galápagos corals provides additional
282 support for the thermal sensitivity of active transport pathways (Ca-ATPase pump, other alkalinity
283 pumps, and/or paracellular transport), particularly following the 1997/98 El Niño event (see supple-
284 mentary text; Figs. S6 and S10). Departures in U/Ca, Mg/Ca, and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ suggest changes in $[\text{CO}_3^-]$,
285 Rayleigh fractionation, active transport, and photosynthetic activity following acute thermal stress
286 that are consistent with our interpretations from reconstructed Sr/Ca-SST, DIC_{sw} , and pH (see sup-
287 plemental text). For example, the relationship between Sr/Ca and both Mg/Ca and U/Ca weakens
288 significantly after 1997/98, implying weaker Rayleigh fractionation and/or reduced active transport.
289 A weakening of the pH-SST relationship after 1997/98 (Figs. 3d and S6a) also supports the hypoth-
290 esis that corals lose their ability to regulate pH_{cf} via the Ca-ATPase pump or other active pathways
291 post-stress. However, our results are based on relatively few data following this stress event, limiting
292 the significance of these changes (Figs. S6a); similar analyses of additional stress events would clar-
293 ify these patterns and improve interpretations of calcification and skeletal geochemistry following ther-
294 mal stress and bleaching. Nevertheless, these results are consistent with other recent studies demon-
295 strating acute impacts of thermal stress on pH_{cf} and skeletal geochemistry (McCulloch et al., 2017;
296 Ross et al., 2017; D’Olivo & McCulloch, 2017; D’Olivo, Ellwood, et al., 2019; Guillermic et al., 2020;
297 Clarke et al., 2017, 2019; Schoepf et al., 2021).

298 **Upregulation of pH, DIC, and Ω**

299 To understand how corals will respond to ongoing and future environmental changes, it is crit-
300 ical to assess the capacity of corals to regulate Ω_{cf} across sites and time periods with different base-
301 line seawater chemistry. Here, we demonstrate that despite large changes in seawater chemistry be-
302 tween the 18th century and modern periods inferred from model simulations (Fig. 2c), there is no re-
303 lationship between Ω_{sw} and the upregulation of Ω_{cf} in Galápagos corals (Table S4). In other words,



274 **Figure 4. Time series of boron-derived calcifying fluid geochemistry, Sr/Ca-SSTs, and skeletal density:**
 275 Wolf 18th-century fossil (red) and modern (20th century, orange) versus Great Barrier Reef (blue). (a) $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ (permil), (b)
 276 B/Ca ($\mu\text{mol/mol}$), (c) pH_{cf} (total scale), (d) DIC_{cf} ($\mu\text{mol/kg}$), (e) Ω_{cf} , (f) Percent upregulation of pH_{cf} with respect to
 277 pH_{sw} (%), (g) Percent upregulation of DIC_{cf} with respect to DIC_{sw} (%), (h) Percent upregulation of Ω_{cf} with respect to
 278 Ω_{sw} (%), (i) Sr/Ca-SSTs ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), and (j) skeletal density (g/cm^3). See Methods for how these parameters were derived from
 279 proxy and model data. Gray shading depicts the range of 18th-century fossil values; red shading depicts warm anomalies
 280 associated with the 1997/98 El Niño event; mean values are denoted by dotted lines on each series.

304 Ω_{sw} has not had a detectable influence on upregulation capacity, implying that Galápagos corals have
 305 not adapted their capacity to regulate Ω_{cf} in response to thermal extremes and OA since the pre-industrial
 306 era. Therefore, although they continue to regulate their internal growth environment at maximum ca-
 307 pacity, the resulting calcifying fluid saturation levels in are significantly lower in modern corals due
 308 to OA.

309 Our results contrast with the apparent pH “homeostasis” observed in extreme environments (near
 310 submarine seeps in Papua New Guinea (Wall et al., 2016) and Puerto Morelos, Mexico (Wall et al.,
 311 2019)) and in the Heron Island (GBR) FOCE (Georgiou et al., 2015). At these pCO_2 extremes, *Porites*
 312 spp. corals show a strong relationship between Ω_{cf} upregulation and seawater conditions (e.g., $\Delta\Omega_{cf}$
 313 of 214% and 270% per unit change in Ω_{sw} , respectively, Table S4). However, in both scenarios, Ω_{sw}
 314 was 19-82% lower than observed on any modern reefs studied here. Further, seep corals have persisted
 315 in these conditions for multiple generations and likely have acclimatized and/or adapted to low sea-
 316 water saturation over long time periods. Therefore, such sites are unlikely to be good analogues for
 317 adaptation potential to current rates of OA, which can occur over the lifetime of an individual coral
 318 (100+ years). Therefore, despite the potential for acclimation indicated by such studies of extreme
 319 conditions, under the real-world environmental change and multivariate stresses, Galápagos *Porites*
 320 spp. corals have not demonstrated an ability to adapt to changing pH via pH_{cf} upregulation.

321 Our synthesis of modern and fossil corals living under contrasting seawater conditions suggests
 322 that there may be a physiological limit to the capacity of corals to upregulate pH_{cf} in response to chang-
 323 ing ocean condition and fluctuations in DIC_{cf} . The capacity of corals to upregulate Ω_{cf} is therefore
 324 likely to be dictated (to the first order) by their capacity to upregulate DIC_{cf} , which we show is re-
 325 duced both at marginal sites and following bleaching. Galápagos corals, which have low DIC_{cf} *despite*
 326 high regional DIC_{sw} , therefore require greater pH_{cf} upregulation than modern GBR *Porites* spp. corals
 327 to maintain similar rates of calcification. Such a physiological limit, if it holds across future acidifi-
 328 cation (and across additional sites), is likely to leave corals in low-pH, high-DIC environments (i.e.,
 329 in marginal environments) particularly susceptible to changing ocean saturation.

330 At both sites, the degree of pH_{cf} , DIC_{cf} , and Ω_{cf} upregulation relative to seawater varied in con-
 331 cert with SST; warm seasons or years experience greater Ω_{cf} and DIC_{cf} upregulation, and weaker pH_{cf}
 332 upregulation (Table S2 & S5; Fig. 4d-g). These results agree with previous work showing a strong re-

333 relationship between pH_{cf} upregulation and temperature across a latitudinal gradient (Ross et al., 2019).
334 Physicochemical modeling of coral cf chemistry suggests the temperature dependence of pH upreg-
335 ulation is driven primarily by calcification kinetics, and secondarily by seawater buffering capacity (i.e.,
336 the sensitivity of the pH_{cf} to changes in total alkalinity) (Guo, 2019). This dependence is particularly
337 apparent during the 1997/98 El Niño in Wolf modern corals, with anomalously high pH_{cf} and high
338 Ω_{cf} relative to seawater during and immediately following peak warming (January 1998 to Septem-
339 ber 1998), potentially due to increased buffering capacity at higher temperatures. However, the in-
340 crease in pH_{cf} upregulation following peak warming (i.e., during the stress recovery period) implies
341 that other physiological mechanisms must also be at play, such as a change in the refresh rate of the
342 cf or a change in the balance of bicarbonate and carbonate that is transported to the site of calcifi-
343 cation (D’Oliveo & McCulloch, 2017). Although uncertainties in the fidelity of the Sr/Ca-SST proxy
344 across this thermal stress event may add uncertainty to the SST signal (D’Oliveo & McCulloch, 2017),
345 only $\sim 2\%$ of the pH_{cf} anomaly can be explained by SST alone, and the Ω upregulation anomaly (i.e.,
346 97/98 $\Delta\Omega$ relative to the colony mean $\Delta\Omega$, Fig. 4h) is robust between the replicate modern cores (23
347 and 31%) despite differences in calcification rate between colonies. Nevertheless, similar Ω upregu-
348 lation anomalies does not preclude differences in the relative roles of DIC_{cf} and pH_{cf} in this satura-
349 tion change (Fig. 4). Our results suggest that although the response of metabolic carbon production
350 and/or pH_{cf} to thermal stress varies from colony to colony, the relative change in Ω_{cf} with respect to
351 seawater does not vary significantly among colonies. Again, these results demonstrate strong phys-
352 iological limits to the corals’ ability to regulate their internal carbonate chemistry, and that this limit
353 is likely an emergent property resulting from the interplay of numerous physiological processes or path-
354 ways.

355 **Implications for calcification under warming & acidification**

356 Our results demonstrate that physiological limitations have already had a pronounced impact
357 on the geochemistry of the calcifying fluid in Galápagos *Porites* sp. corals. The pH_{cf} declined signif-
358 icantly between 18th century and modern Wolf corals ($Z = 24.3$, $N = 108,277$, $p < 0.001$), and from
359 1975 to 2010 in the long modern Wolf (GW10-10) record (with a trend of -0.18 pH units per decade).
360 Over 99.9% of this recent trend (between 1975 and 2010) can be attributed to pH_{sw} , with warming
361 contributing less than 0.3% (after (D’Oliveo, Ellwood, et al., 2019); see methods). The mean pH_{cf} was

362 8.57 in two 18th century fossil cores from one colony ($N = 78$) and 8.50 in the two modern corals (N
 363 $= 203$, Fig. 4, Table 1). This pre-industrial to modern mean pH_{cf} difference can be attributed some
 364 combination of pH_{sw} or SST changes. A large model ensemble of simulated changes between these pe-
 365 riods suggests that either pH_{sw} or SST could produce pH_{cf} changes of 0.06-0.07 (see methods). In con-
 366 trast, the temporal change in DIC_{cf} differs between cores, consistent with a varying role of photosyn-
 367 thesis (and thus metabolic carbon) among (and even within) colonies. The combined impact on sat-
 368 uration state was profound, with a significant decline of ~ 2.3 units between the 18th century and late-
 369 20th century corals ($Z = 24.2$, $N_{\text{fossil}} = 108$, $N_{\text{modern}} = 277$, $p < 0.001$). These results emphasize the
 370 importance of extending the existing boron reconstructions across time periods that experienced dif-
 371 ferent seawater chemistry from today. This initial study focused on replicate cores from one colony,
 372 and it will be critical to further replicate and extend these analyses to other fossil colonies to confirm
 373 these findings (given the potential for within and among colony differences in boron geochemistry, e.g.,
 374 (Chalk et al., 2021)). Nevertheless, the first such application of boron systematics to pre-industrial
 375 fossil coral samples, presented here, paints a potentially stark future under projected acidification, sug-
 376 gesting limited adaptive capacity in the upregulation of the coral calcifying fluid.

377 Despite this reduction in pH_{cf} between the 18th and 20th century Galápagos corals, there was
 378 no significant change in calcification or skeletal density among cores (or between modern and fossil
 379 colonies; see section "Coral densitometry and calcification" for description of methods). This is in con-
 380 trast to previous work that demonstrates a strong relationship between calcification and pH_{cf} (Ross
 381 et al., 2019; Guillermic et al., 2020), and suggests that the impact of warming on calcification kene-
 382 tics may at least partially compensate (albeit with the added risk of thermal stress and bleaching). Rather,
 383 we find large interannual changes in calcification rate within (15-27%) and among (24-27%) cores (Ta-
 384 ble S6; Fig S7). The predicted change in calcification between the 18th and 20th centuries (-10%, us-
 385 ing predicted Ω_{sw} from Fig. 2c, the Ω_{cf} Pchange from Table S4, and the model of (McCulloch et al.,
 386 2012), see methods) therefore falls within the range of interannual calcification variability at this site.
 387 Thus, despite large declines in Ω_{cf} , the impact on coral calcification is not yet detectable at Wolf Is-
 388 land, Galápagos given the high interannual calcification variability.

389 However, these results should not be interpreted as evidence that Galápagos corals are robust
 390 to changing ocean chemistry, for five reasons. First, monthly skeletal density data is strongly related

391 to both CF saturation state and temperature in both fossil and modern Galápagos corals (Fig. 4).
 392 Although the nature of these relationships vary across cores (see Table S7; e.g., as a function of colony-
 393 to-colony variations in bleaching susceptibility), the relationships indicate declining density with warm-
 394 ing and lower cf saturation (except in core WLF-3) and an increasing importance of warming in re-
 395 cent decades (becoming the dominant predictor in core WLF-10a, ending in 2010). Second, the corals
 396 studied here are likely to represent the “best-case-scenario”, as these long-lived corals targeted for pa-
 397 leoclimate reconstructions are the “winners” that were able to maintain rapid upward extension and
 398 calcification despite thermal stress (1997/98) and acidification (Fig. S7). In smaller *P. lobata* colonies
 399 at nearby Darwin Island (Manzello et al., 2014), calcification rates were less than half those measured
 400 in our longer Wolf cores, despite similar density values among colonies from both sites (Table S6). Fur-
 401 ther, the modern Wolf colonies regrew in 3.4 (WLF10-10) and 5 (WLF10-03) years following the very
 402 strong 1982/83 El Niño event that devastated reefs across the Galápagos (Glynn et al., 1988), sug-
 403 gesting they experienced only partial mortality during this extreme event. Both colonies also displayed
 404 only modest reductions in extension and calcification during or following the 1997/98 event (Figure
 405 S7). Because paleoclimate records are biased towards corals that survive, they likely yield a conser-
 406 vative (i.e., too-stable) estimate of past calcification change(s). Third, observed and simulated ocean
 407 pH at Galápagos remained above 8.0 over this period (mean CESM1 = 8.08-8.11 over intervals of coral
 408 coverage; Darwin = 8.07 (Humphreys et al., 2018)), a critical tipping point below which corals across
 409 the archipelago suffer reduced calcification and structural persistence (Manzello et al., 2014). High
 410 nutrients (Manzello et al., 2014) and variable seawater conditions exacerbate the stressful impacts of
 411 acidification in upwelling regions, resulting in tipping points at higher pH values (Manzello et al., 2014).
 412 Fourth, the temperature dependence of calcification kinetics does not appear to compensate for the
 413 impacts of saturation-state changes at Wolf (unlike in more optimal environments; (Burton & Wal-
 414 ter, 1987; Lough & Barnes, 2000)). Lastly, and critically, we demonstrate that as oceans acidify, Wolf
 415 corals have not intensified their upregulation of pH or Ω .

416 Finally, our results support the potential to reconstruct changes in paleo-pH from the geochem-
 417 istry of coral calcifying fluid. Consistent with recent studies (Guo, 2019; D’Olivo, Ellwood, et al., 2019),
 418 the narrow range in pH_{cf} upregulation of *Porites* spp. across sites and time periods (Table S4) sug-
 419 gests that within this paleo-relevant genus, long-term pH_{cf} trends are primarily driven by pH_{sw} and

420 not physiological controls (which regulate calcifying fluid chemistry on seasonal timescales, in response
421 to temperature-related changes in DIC, calcification and buffering capacity). Physiological limits in
422 this capacity to regulate pH_{cf} —identified here for the first time—suggest that as seawater saturation
423 shifts to lower values (as observed with ocean acidification, or across spatial gradients (Manzello et
424 al., 2014)), so will the distribution of carbonate saturation in the calcifying fluid (as observed between
425 18th and 20th corals). Corals’ capacity to buffer against ocean acidification may therefore be more lim-
426 ited than predicted from experimental manipulations and extreme environments (CO_2 seeps), with
427 particularly severe consequences for corals at marginal sites characterized by reduced metabolic car-
428 bon production, low seawater pH, and frequent or severe stress.

429 **Methods**

430 **Coral Core Collection**

431 We collected cores from modern (living) and underwater sub-fossil (i.e., deceased upon collec-
432 tion; hereafter “fossil”) *Porites lobata* colonies in Shark Bay, along the northeastern shore of Wolf Is-
433 land, Galápagos ($1^\circ 23.15' \text{N}$, $91^\circ 49.90' \text{W}$) in May-June 2010. Here, we analyze four cores from three
434 colonies (two modern, and one fossil): (1) GW10-3 (modern), collected from 10m depth; (2) GW10-
435 10 (modern), collected from 12m depth; and (3) GW10-4 and (4) GW10-5 collected from the same
436 fossil colony at 13m depth. We compare these geochemical records from Wolf to published data from
437 Davies Reef, Great Barrier Reef (cores 13-2 and 13-3 (McCulloch et al., 2017)).

438 **Sub-sampling & Age Determination**

439 All cores were milled at continuous 2 millimeter increments for geochemical analysis; based on
440 average modern extension rates (GW10-3 = 12.4 mm/year, GW10-10 = 20.3 mm/year), this sampling
441 increment resolves sub-seasonal (bimonthly or better) variability of coral skeletal geochemistry and
442 inferred environmental parameters. This resolution was selected based on the time- and sample-intensive
443 nature of the ion exchange chromatography required for boron isotopic analysis; given these constraints,
444 this work presents a significantly extends the network of long, high-resolution, multi-proxy data. Mod-
445 ern corals were re-sampled adjacent to the original sampling transects (Jimenez et al., 2018) across
446 intervals of known climatic extremes (e.g., large eastern Pacific El Niño events) and phases of Pacific

447 decadal variability, while fossil cores were sampled prior to and following the depths sampled for U/Th
448 age dating (to maximize precision of replicating and splicing these floating chronologies).

449 Pre-industrial Wolf fossil cores (WLF10-04 and WLF10-5) were U/Th dated at the University
450 of Minnesota following the procedures of (Cheng et al., 2013; Edwards et al., 1987; Shen et al., 2002).
451 Large samples along the same individual annual bands were cut using a Dremel tool from slab D (622
452 mm from core top; 827 mg) and slab E (46 mm from top of slab E; 869 mg) of cores WLF10-04 and
453 WLF10-5, respectively. These bands were selected from a pristine portion of each core, aiming to ob-
454 tain overlapping, replicate dates for this colony (using the estimated offset between core tops and band
455 counting). U/Th samples were cleaned thoroughly with DI water, first with a water pick and then with
456 repeated ultrasonic agitation (until loose powder no longer collected in the basin); finally, samples were
457 dried overnight at 30°C. Ages were corrected for initial, non-radiogenic Th using an initial $^{230}\text{Th}/^{232}\text{Th}$
458 atomic ratio of $4.4 \pm 2.2\text{E-}6$. This is the expected value for a material at secular equilibrium, with
459 a bulk earth $^{230}\text{Th}/^{232}\text{Th}$ of 3.8. Errors were conservatively assumed to be $\pm 50\%$. Wolf10-04 and WLF10-
460 05 sample ages were 1732 ± 7 and 1738 ± 5 C.E., respectively (see (Reed et al., 2021) for full U/Th
461 results).

462 These floating chronologies were tied to the complete Sr/Ca record from WLF10-4 (Reed et al.,
463 2021) to optimize correlation among the series within the uncertainty of the U/Th dates. However,
464 all Wolf fossil coral series are floating chronologies (i.e., they are not tied to overlapping modern records);
465 thus, we estimate an absolute age error as $\pm 5\text{-}7$ years (based on the precision of the U/Th dates). There-
466 fore, we restrict trend analysis to absolute differences between the modern and pre-industrial periods,
467 rather than on rates of change.

468 Age-depth models for all cores were developed using linear interpolation in MATLAB between
469 seasonal Sr/Ca-SST tie points. Due to high interannual variability in the timing of the cool season
470 minima (during winter) the age model relies only on summer tie points. Sr/Ca minima were tied to
471 March SST maxima; tie points for modern Wolf cores (WLF10-3 and WLF10-10) are identical to those
472 published in (Jimenez et al., 2018). Data were linearly interpolated to obtain monthly records for time-
473 series analysis. Although this approach may introduce sub-annual chronological errors, regressions among
474 geochemical proxies that form the core of this study were performed on the raw data (prior to age mod-
475 eling) and are not influenced by chronological errors or interpolation. Finally, we used Sr/Ca-SST re-

476 constructions from GW10-3 (2010-1987; 1983-1940) and GW10-10 (2010-1985; 1982-1975) published
477 by (Jimenez et al., 2018) for comparison.

478 Trace Elemental Geochemistry

479 All trace elemental analyses were performed on a Quadrupole-ICP-MS (X-series II Q-ICP-MS,
480 Thermo Fisher Scientific) at the University of Western Australia. First, sub-samples of 10 ± 0.2 mg
481 of coral powder were weighed, dissolved in 500 μL of 0.51N HNO_3 , agitated, and centrifuged for 1 minute
482 at 3500rpm. A 38 μL aliquot of dissolved powder was diluted in 3 mL of 2% HNO_3 (100 ppm Ca) for
483 trace elemental analysis; the remaining 400 μL of the dissolved powder was used for boron isotope anal-
484 ysis (see below). Analysis of ^7Li , ^{25}Mg , and ^{11}B by Q-ICP-MS was performed on the 100 ppm Ca di-
485 lution, while an additional 300 μL sub-aliquot of the 100 ppm Ca solution was diluted (to 10 ppm Ca)
486 in 2.7 mL of a 2% HNO_3 spike solution (containing ~ 19 ppb ^{45}Sc , 19 ppb ^{89}Y , 0.19 ppb ^{141}Pr , and
487 0.095 ppb ^{209}Bi) for analysis of ^{25}Mg , ^{43}Ca , ^{86}Sr , and ^{238}U . Reproducibility for the JCP-1 interlab-
488 oratory standard (2σ relative standard deviation, RSD; $n = 19$) was $\pm 0.830\%$ for Mg/Ca, $\pm 0.636\%$
489 for Sr/Ca, $\pm 1.341\%$ for U/Ca, $\pm 3.649\%$ for Li/Mg ($N = 17$), and $\pm 3.651\%$ for B/Mg ($N = 17$).

490 We used published TE/Ca-SST calibrations to reconstruct SST from the (local) Sr/Ca-SST (McCulloch
491 et al., 2017; Jimenez et al., 2018) and Li/Mg-SST (Montagna et al., 2014) relationships. For Wolf corals,
492 we applied the Sr/Ca-SST calibration ($m = -0.057 \pm 0.001$; $b = 10.658 \pm 0.025$) from weighted least
493 squares (WLS) regression of the WLF10-03 and WLF10-10 composite record against OISST between
494 May 1987-March 2010 (Jimenez et al., 2018). The composite calibration was utilized to standardize
495 the calibrations across cores; however, the same results were found when using core-specific calibra-
496 tions for the modern corals, as the calibration equations were similar between cores (Jimenez et al.,
497 2018). For the Davies Reef, GBR corals, we used the Sr/Ca-SST calibration ($m = -0.046$; $b = 10.12$)
498 obtained from local calibration with in-situ temperature data (McCulloch et al., 2017). For both sites,
499 the Li/Mg-SSTs were calculated using the calibration curve of (Montagna et al., 2014). All new trace
500 elemental geochemical data is shown in Figs. 4, S9-S10.

501 **Determination of calcifying fluid pH and carbonate chemistry from boron system-**
 502 **atics**

503 The boron in the remaining 400 μL aliquot of dissolved powder (after trace elemental analysis,
 504 above) was purified by ion exchange chromatography (after (McCulloch et al., 2014)), and the $\delta^{11}\text{B}$
 505 was measured by MC-ICP-MS using a NU Plasma II at the University of Western Australia. The mea-
 506 sured isotopic ratio of ^{11}B and ^{10}B of the carbonate samples were expressed relative to that of the NIST
 507 SRM 951 boric acid standard, in standard delta notation (in units of per mil or ‰):

$$508 \quad \delta^{11}B_{carb} = \left[\frac{^{11}\text{B}/^{10}\text{B}}{^{11}\text{B}/^{10}\text{B}_{standard}} \right] \times 1000. \quad (1)$$

509 Reproducibility for the JCP-1 interlaboratory standard (2σ ; $n = 29$) was ± 0.22 ‰.

510 We used paired boron isotope and B/Ca ratios to determine the pH and carbonate ion concen-
 511 tration, leveraging three key features of boron isotope systematics. First, boron speciation in seawa-
 512 ter depends strongly on pH, with borate ion ($\text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-$) dominating at higher pH and boric acid ($\text{B}(\text{OH})_3$)
 513 dominating at lower pH ($< \sim 8.5$). Second, boron isotopes are strongly fractionated between the two
 514 species, with a $+27$ ‰ offset between borate and boric acid. Taken together, as pH decreases, the frac-
 515 tion of boron as borate decreases and the $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ increases. Third, as corals calcify from a semi-isolated
 516 calcifying fluid, borate may substitute for the carbonate ion (CO_3^{2-}) (Sen et al., 1994). Although there
 517 are multiple pathways by which this could occur, recent inorganic precipitation studies (Holcomb et
 518 al., 2016) suggest that it likely occurs via de-protonation and co-precipitation with CO_3^{2-} ((Noireaux
 519 et al., 2015), rather than via bicarbonate or some mixture of the two, as previously proposed (Allison
 520 et al., 2014)).

521 The initial calcifying fluid $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ and total boron concentrations are thought to be the same as that
 522 of seawater, as seawater serves as the source of boron; further, the boron isotopic composition and con-
 523 centration remains relatively constant during calcification, due to low partitioning coefficient (K_D) of
 524 B/Ca between aragonite and seawater (i.e., B is strongly excluded from the skeleton during precip-
 525 itation) (Holcomb et al., 2016). We note that diffusion may violate these assumptions under certain
 526 conditions; for example, diffusion of isotopically distinct boric acid may alter the $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ relative to sea-
 527 water (Gagnon et al., 2021) or increase boron concentrations relative to seawater when pH is elevated.

528 However, there is no experimental evidence for these confounding factors within tropical, symbiont-
 529 bearing coral species; as symbionts provide an additional critical source of DIC to the calcifying fluid,
 530 biomineralization processes in symbiont-bearing corals are markedly different from that of the cold-
 531 water species for which these limitations have been identified. We therefore follow the approach of other
 532 recently published studies in this regard (Chalk et al., 2021; DeCarlo et al., 2018; D’Olivo, Ellwood,
 533 et al., 2019; Ross et al., 2019, 2017; McCulloch et al., 2017).

534 As a result of these processes, the skeletal $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ reflects the pH of the calcifying fluid (pH_{cf}), while
 535 the [B] reflects both pH and the $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ (Holcomb et al., 2016; DeCarlo et al., 2018). We calculate
 536 pH_{cf} from $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ of the carbonate skeleton (after (Zeebe & Wolf-Gladrow, 2001)):

$$537 \quad \text{pH}_{cf} = \text{pK}_B - \log \left[\frac{(\delta^{11}\text{B}_{sw} - \delta^{11}\text{B}_{carb})}{(\alpha_{(B3-B4)}\delta^{11}\text{B}_{carb} - \delta^{11}\text{B}_{sw} + 1000(\alpha_{(B3-B4)} - 1))} \right], \quad (2)$$

538 where the $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ of seawater ($\delta^{11}\text{B}_{sw}$) was defined as 39.61‰ (Foster et al., 2010), the boron iso-
 539 tope equilibrium constant ($\alpha_{(B3-B4)}$) was set to 1.0272 (Klochko et al., 2006), and the dissociation con-
 540 stant of boric acid (pK_B) was calculated from temperature, salinity and pressure (after (Dickson, 1990)).
 541 To standardize methods across cores (as *in situ* data is not available for all sites or time periods), we
 542 used Li/Mg-derived SSTs and SODA sea-surface salinity (SSS). We used mean climatological SODA
 543 SSS (33.5 PSU) for fossil analyses (prior to the industrial era).

544 Empirical constraints on the B/Ca partitioning coefficient between aragonite and seawater and
 545 its dependency on pH_{cf} (Holcomb et al., 2016) permit reconstruction of carbonate ion concentration
 546 in the calcifying fluid from paired $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ - pH_{cf} and B/Ca measurements (DeCarlo et al., 2018):

$$547 \quad K_D \equiv (\text{B/Ca})_{\text{CaCO}_3} \times \frac{[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{cf}}{[\text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-]_{cf}}, \quad (3a)$$

$$549 \quad K_D = 0.00297 \exp(-0.0202[\text{H}^+]_{cf}), \quad (3b)$$

551 and

$$552 \quad [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{cf} = \frac{K_D \times [\text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-]_{cf}}{(\text{B/Ca})_{\text{CaCO}_3}}, \quad (4)$$

553 where Eq. 3b follows the formulation of (McCulloch et al., 2017). Although there continues to
 554 be debate over the best K_D formulation (DeCarlo et al., 2018), Eq. 3b is likely to be most accurate
 555 for tropical reef-building corals as it does not include the (Mavromatis et al., 2015) experimental data,
 556 which was collected from NaCl solutions (rather than seawater) at very low $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ relative to that
 557 of coral CF.

558 As reviewed by (DeCarlo et al., 2018), uncertainties still remain with regards to the most ac-
 559 curate formulation for K_D and the degree to which Ca^{2+} is upregulated within the cf. We evaluated
 560 the sensitivity of our results (see Figure S6-7, S10, S14) to the K_D formulation, following the equa-
 561 tions of (Holcomb et al., 2016; McCulloch et al., 2017; DeCarlo et al., 2018) and the boron system-
 562 atics package of (DeCarlo et al., 2018), as well as using a constant K_D of 0.002 (after (Allison, 2017)).
 563 Our sensitivity tests show that these uncertainties only marginally impact the absolute magnitude of
 564 inferred DIC_{cf} and do not influence the relative changes across sites and time periods (the focus of
 565 this work). Further, the inferred DIC_{cf} upregulation is higher using the K_D formulation of (McCulloch
 566 et al., 2017) (Figure S6); therefore, our chosen approach produces the most conservative change in DIC_{cf}
 567 and Ω_{cf} under warming and acidification. We similarly test the impact of Ca^{2+} upregulation relative
 568 to seawater on resulting Ω_{cf} calculations. For this, we use the mean and ± 1 standard deviation from
 569 these independent micro-sensor measurements of ((Sevilgen et al., 2019), Table 1). These sensitivity
 570 analyses demonstrate that uncertainties Ca^{2+} impact the absolute magnitude of Ω_{cf} within colonies
 571 (Figure S8), but not the relative differences among colonies, sites, or time periods (the focus of this
 572 study). We therefore utilize the most conservative approach, and report results using a Ca^{2+} scaling
 573 factor of 1, which is the lower (-1σ) bound from from (Sevilgen et al., 2019). Inferred trends in Ω_{cf}
 574 and calcification would be greater if a constant K_D or higher Ca^{2+} are assumed (Figure S14). There-
 575 fore, the results reported here are the most conservative estimate of inferred Ω and calcification changes
 576 from preindustrial to modern conditions.

577 DIC_{cf} is calculated from the pH_{cf} (Eq. 2) and $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{cf}}$ using CO2SYS software (Lewis et al.,
 578 1998) and the following constants: carbonate species dissociation from (Dickson & Millero, 1987; Mehrbach
 579 et al., 1973), borate and sulfate dissociation (Dickson, 1990), and aragonite solubility (Mucci, 1983).
 580 Finally, we explore the relationship between pH, DIC and Ω of the coral calcifying fluid and Sr/Ca-
 581 SST (note: we utilize Sr/Ca-SST as a quasi-independent SST estimate rather than Li/Mg-SST, as the

582 latter was used in Eq. 2). Our findings are robust to the paleo-thermometer used to assess the im-
583 pact of temperature on coral carbonate chemistry (e.g., Fig. S8; see supplemental information).

584 **Stable Isotope Geochemistry**

585 Stable oxygen and carbon isotope ratios ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$) were analyzed on a Thermo Delta V
586 Plus mass spectrometer, coupled to a Kiel IV carbonate preparation system in the PACE lab, at the
587 University of Michigan' Earth and Environmental Sciences department. Analyses were performed on
588 splits of the same powders analyzed for TE chemistry and paired $\delta^{11}\text{B-B/Ca}$ boron systematics. Long-
589 term analytical precision (1 sd) of Luxor internal carbonate standard was 0.08‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and 0.05‰
590 for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. All new stable isotope data are shown in Figs. 4 and S10.

591 **Statistical analysis**

592 Ordinary least squares regressions (OLS) were used to assess relationships among geochemical
593 parameters within and among coral colonies, and in upregulation with respect to seawater conditions.
594 First, OLS regressions were performed among reconstructed calcifying fluid and skeletal geochemi-
595 cal parameters (Figs. 3, S1, S3-S6). ANCOVA and multiple comparisons were then utilized to assess
596 differences in the relationship among groups (i.e., among individual cores, or among fossil Wolf, mod-
597 ern Wolf, and GBR corals). Finally, OLS was utilized to assess the relationship between average up-
598 regulation of pH_{cf} , DIC_{cf} , and Ω_{cf} and seawater chemistry and temperature. Confidence intervals (95%
599 CI) were determined from the 5th and 95th percentiles of 1000 random draws of the distribution of
600 upregulation estimates (based on the standard deviation and mean of each record).

601 **Coral densitometry and calcification**

602 Skeletal density was measured using a quantitative X-ray scanning method developed at the Aus-
603 tralian Institute of Marine Science ((Anderson et al., 2017) supplementary methods) alongside six com-
604 pressed *Porites* sp. powder standards. These standards were used to calibrate X-ray grayscale val-
605 ues to known density, by applying a linear fit between known density (multiplied by thickness) and
606 the natural log of each standard's mean grayscale value. Grayscale values were measured from the background-
607 corrected X-ray positives using Fiji software. Analytical precision of these X-ray density measurements

608 was estimated using an additional standard with a known density (2.3977 g cm^{-2}) and thickness (6.86
 609 mm) with values within the typical range of massive *Porites* spp. coral slabs. The average density of
 610 this quality control standard across all five X-rays used in this study was 2.3655 g cm^{-2} ; thus, we re-
 611 port an uncertainty of 0.043 g cm^{-2} or 1.8%.

612 For each core, grayscale values were measured along 4 mm-wide transects on either side of the
 613 geochemical transect. We report density values from each transect, as well as the average across both
 614 transects (to account for micro-scale variations in density associated with skeletal architecture). For
 615 each transect, density was calculated using the standard calibration curve, normalized by slab thick-
 616 ness. Thickness was measured at 0.125 cm increments along two transects, and the average thickness
 617 was interpolated to 0.005 cm (the sampling resolution of the X-ray density measurements).

618 Annual growth metrics (density, extension, and calcification) were calculated from warm sea-
 619 son to warm season using annual tie points (Sr/Ca minima, SST maxima). This approach was uti-
 620 lized as the seasonal cycle was more clearly identifiable in the Sr/Ca series (relative to that of the growth
 621 series). Extension was calculated as the distance between successive Sr/Ca minima, and calcification
 622 as the product of extension and annual average skeletal density.

623 Seawater Carbonate System

624 Seawater carbonate chemistry (TCO_2 , Total Alkalinity [TA], pCO_2 , pH, and Ω_{arag}) were obtained
 625 from (Manzello, 2010; Manzello et al., 2014; Humphreys et al., 2018). Briefly, seawater samples were
 626 collected during the cool ($n = 24$) and warm ($n = 21$) seasons over multiple years in 500 mL borosil-
 627 icate glass bottles from 7 study sites throughout the archipelago: (1) Bartolomé, Santiago Island; (2)
 628 Santa Fe Island; (3) Punta Bassa, San Cristóbal Island; (4) Punta Pitt, San Cristóbal Island; (5) Devil's
 629 Crown, Floreana Island; (6) Gardner Bay, Española Island; and (7) Darwin Island ($N=7$; summary
 630 statistics obtained from (Humphreys et al., 2018)). Here, we utilize the mean (\pm standard error of
 631 the mean, SEM) values to assess the relationship between pH_{cf} and DIC_{cf} (calculated from paired coral
 632 $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ and B/Ca) and regional changes in the seawater CO_2 system. However, available measurements
 633 are discrete, disjointed snapshots, and therefore lack temporal information with which to identify vari-
 634 ability on interannual and longer timescales. Further, it is important to note that Ω_{arag} at Wolf Is-
 635 land is expected to display higher mean values and lower seasonal variability (see Fig. 1 of (Manzello,

2009)) than the seawater collection sites of (Manzello, 2010), as upwelling and equatorial undercurrent (EUC) strength and variability is weaker at Wolf Island. As values from Wolf Island are not publicly available, analyses were performed using both the in situ data from Darwin Island (Manzello et al., 2014; Humphreys et al., 2018) and Community Earth System Model version 1 (CESM1).

Community Earth System Model Biogeochemistry

Given the sparse network of seawater inorganic carbon measurements (i.e., DIC, pH, alkalinity) with which to calculate seawater aragonite saturation state, we use the CESM1 Last Millennium Ensemble (LME, (Otto-Bliesner et al., 2016)) and Large Ensemble (LE, (Kay et al., 2015)) to compare the chemistry of the coral calcifying fluid to that of local seawater. This approach facilitates comparison across sites, as well as among 18th century (LME), 20th century (LME and LE), and end of 21st century (LE) conditions. The CESM1 marine ecosystem-biogeochemical module (Hurrell et al., 2013) permits analysis of the entire carbonate systems across space and time, permitting the first multi-site, multi-century synthesis of coral calcifying fluid chemistry in response to changing ocean conditions.

The CESM1 LME simulation was validated against OISST SSTs ((Reynolds et al., 2007), Fig. S2), Simple Ocean Data Assimilation (SODA) SSS (Carton & Giese, 2008) (not shown), buoy data (Sutton et al., 2019), seawater samples described above (Table S3), and the spatially interpolated climatology (1972-2013) from GLODAP version 2 (Lauvset et al., 2016) (Table S3). CESM1 simulated pH and calculated Ω_{sw} compare well with the observations across the tropical Pacific, with differences of less than 0.05 and < 0.5 (RSDs of < 0.6 and 8%), respectively (Table S3). Further, these discrepancies may be at least partially attributed to the comparison of discrete in-situ snapshots of ocean pH with the climatological value over different baseline periods (over which there is a decreasing trend across the tropical Indo-Pacific).

We calculate Ω_{sw} from CESM1 LME (full forcing scenario) and LE (Representative Concentration Pathway; RCP8.5) simulated SST, SSS, pH, and DIC using CO2SYS (as described above). Combining the simulated seawater pH, DIC, and Ω with boron-derived estimates of coral calcifying fluid pH, DIC, and Ω , we estimate the percentage upregulation of calcifying fluid geochemistry. For example, the percent change (henceforth “Pchange”) in aragonite saturation is calculated as:

$$\text{Pchange}_\Omega = \frac{\Omega_{cf} - \Omega_{sw}}{\Omega_{sw}} \times 100, \quad (5)$$

where Ω_{sw} represents the average over the time period overlapping each coral record from CESM1 LME and/or LE.

We perform sensitivity tests at the GBR site, where an *in-situ* seawater timeseries is available, to show that CESM1 LME and LE reproduce the observed Pchange_Ω (i.e., relative to seawater observations) to within $\pm 26\%$ (LME) and $\pm 0.5\%$ (LE), respectively (Table S8). Much of the discrepancy between LME and observed Pchange can be attributed to differences in the time periods of coverage. Therefore, two sensitivity tests were used to assess: (i) the impact of using the annual average, seasonal average (cold vs. warm season), or monthly seawater value, and (ii) the impact of using the LME projected values versus using the LE values over the post-2005 interval (i.e., after the final year of the LME). Because the Pchange seasonal variability is dominated by the variability in the coral calcifying fluid (which is \gg seawater variability), these sensitivity tests demonstrate that there is no difference in the mean Pchange if the average seawater value is used in place of the observed temporal evolution of *in situ* Ω_{sw} (McCulloch et al., 2017). Further, this approach generates the most conservative estimate of the Pchange variability at each site (i.e., $1 \sigma = 23 \ \& \ 32\%$; Table S8). The second sensitivity test demonstrated that LE-simulated seawater values displayed the best match with the *in situ* data over the post-2005 period ($\Delta \text{Pchange}_\Omega < 0.5\%$). Although there are no contemporaneous seawater samples collected near Wolf Island, Ω Pchange values using seawater data from nearby Darwin (collected in June 2012) are within the 1σ range ($\pm 29\%$) of the CESM1-based estimates for WLF10-10a (ending in 2010, Table S9). We therefore conservatively reported an uncertainty of $\sim \pm 30\%$ for all Pchange_Ω estimates.

We also apply the method of (D’Olivo, Ellwood, et al., 2019) to deconvolve the relative contribution of thermodynamics (SST-driven changes in calcification and/or buffering capacity, (Guo, 2019)) and pH_{sw} in the observed pH_{cf} trends and seasonal variability. Briefly, we performed a multivariate linear regression between CESM1 simulated temperature and pH_{sw} (independent predictors) and pH_{cf} (dependent predictand). The sensitivity of Wolf coral pH_{cf} to SST and pH_{sw} can be expressed as:

$$\text{pH}_{cf} = 0.26 \times \text{pH}_{sw} - 0.0019 \times SST + 6.34, \quad (6)$$

Similar results were obtained when Sr/Ca-SSTs we used in place of CESM1 simulated SSTs. To quantify the role of SST and pH_{sw} in the observed trends (WLF10-10 and fossil vs. modern) and seasonal variability, we model pH_{cf} from Eq. 6 using either (1) the average pH_{sw} and simulated SST, or (2) the average SST and simulated pH_{sw} , respectively.

Predicted changes in coral calcification

Finally, we use the IpHRAC model from (McCulloch et al., 2012) to predict the changes in calcification rate (G) from Ω_{cf} between time periods (i.e., 18th and 20th):

$$G = k \times (\Omega_{cf} - 1)^n, \quad (7)$$

where

$$k = -0.0177 \times SST^2 \quad (8)$$

and

$$n = 0.0628 \times SST + 0.0985. \quad (9)$$

Ω_{cf} is calculated from simulated pH, Ω_{sw} , SST, and SSS and the Pchange (%) upregulation, as described above. Calcification rates are reported as percent changes relative to the baseline period (1970-2005, unless otherwise noted).

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714 **Competing Interests**

715 The authors declare that they have no competing financial interests.

716 **Data Availability**

717 All geochemical data will be publicly available on the National Center for Environmental Infor-
718 mation (formerly the National Climatic Data Center) paleoclimatology database (on or before pub-
719 lication).

720 **Correspondence**

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722 **Author contributions**

723 J.E.C. & A.T. conceived of and funded the large coral paleoclimate effort in the Galápagos Archipelago,
724 which motivated this work, and D.M.T., J.E.C. and M.M. conceived of this experiment. D.M.T., J.E.C.,
725 and A.T. collected the coral cores utilized in this study; D.M.T. prepared coral powders for paired
726 boron–trace elemental analyses, including column chemistry; D.M.T., J.P.D. and K.D. conducted the
727 geochemical analysis; D.M.T., E.V.R., A.H.C., and L.V. analyzed and compiled the longer GW10-10
728 modern and GW10-4 fossil records used here for comparison; D.M.T. and M.L. extracted, analyzed,
729 and interpreted the CESM model output; D.M.T., E.V.R., J.L. and N.C collected the X-ray density
730 measurements; D.M.T. analyzed and interpreted the data, and wrote the manuscript; and all authors
731 provided input and contributed to finalizing and revising the manuscript.

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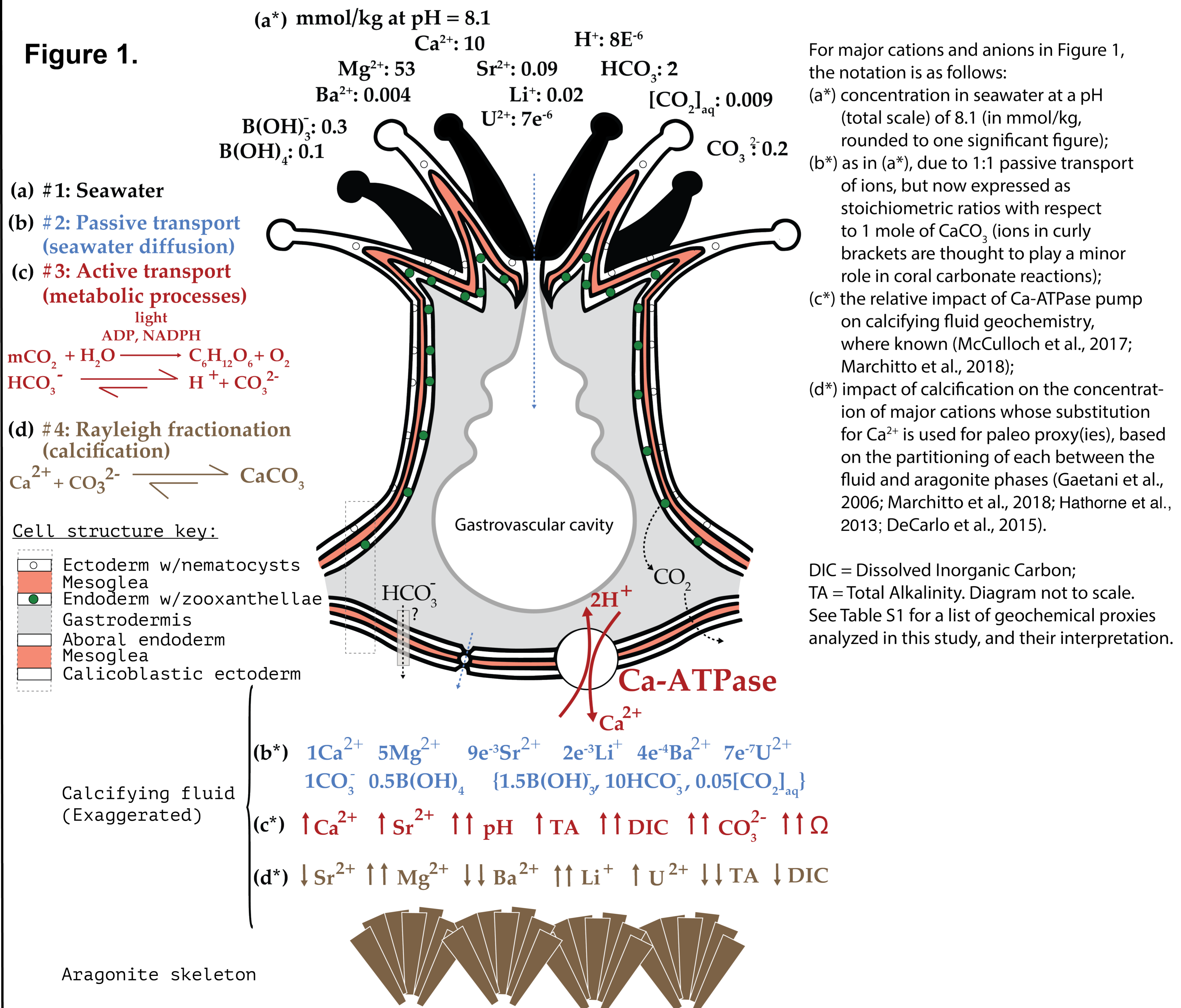
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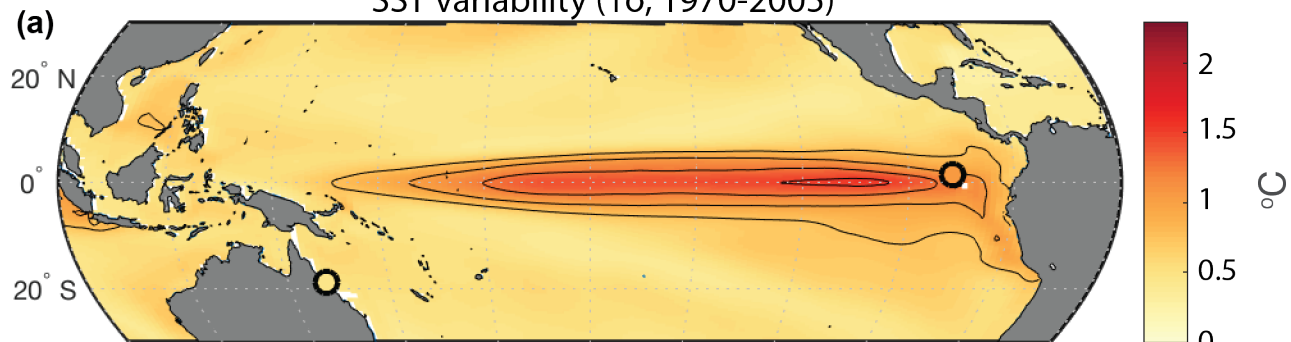
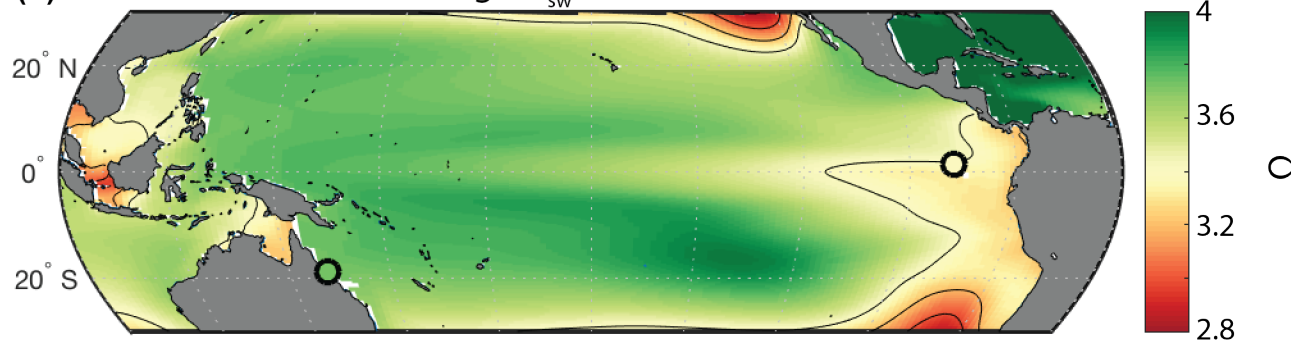
Box 1. Overview of coral calcification and controls on calcifying fluid geochemistry.

Although we often think of corals as forming skeletons that directly reflect seawater chemistry, in fact corals produce their skeletons from a semi-isolated, geochemically modulated fluid, separated from seawater by a layered dermal structure. The tissue layer from which the skeleton is formed is termed the calciblastic ectoderm, which is bathed in the calcifying fluid (cf). Here we identify the processes that control the transport of skeletal "building blocks" into the calcifying fluid and the resulting fluid geochemistry. These processes are governed by both physiological and environmental factors, and they determine the geochemistry of the skeleton (Figure 1).

1. Seawater chemistry, indicated in black, is the starting point from which the coral imports skeletal materials.
2. Passive transport (diffusion) or vacuole invagination bring seawater into the calcification environment (blue).
3. Active transport uses energy from respiration and zooxanthellar photosynthesis to drive a paracellular and trans-membrane active transport of ions. For example, alkalinity "pumps" (such as Ca-ATPase) enrich alkalinity of the fluid by transporting Ca^{2+} , 2Na^+ , or 2K^+ while removing 2H^+ (e.g., Cohen and McConnaughey 2003; Al-Horani et al., 2003; Zoccola et al., 2004; Tanaka et al., 2015). This pH increase drives the carbonate equilibrium towards CO_3^{2-} , increases alkalinity, and raises the aragonite supersaturation, enabling rapid calcification. The Ca-ATPase pump also increases the Sr^{2+} concentration of the calcifying fluid (Marchitto et al., 2018), due to strontium's similarity in size and charge to Ca^{2+} . Certain details of these active transport pathways remain obscure: although it is stimulated by light and most active during the day, it may not be energy limited (McCulloch et al. 2012), and the mechanistic links to metabolic DIC remain poorly understood (Furla et al., 2000; Zoccola et al., 2015). A strong inverse relationship between pH and DIC_{cf} (e.g., McCulloch et al., 2017) suggests that low DIC, rather than high energy, may trigger active pathways. Thus active transport can be important even when energy sources are reduced under cooler, low-light conditions. The interplay of metabolic energy supplies with external environmental stresses may vary among reef environments, and different factors may become limiting depending on these details.
4. Rayleigh fractionation alters the relative proportion of minor and trace cations to Ca in the calcifying fluid as calcification proceeds. The proxy-relevant cations Sr, Mg, Ba, Li, and U are incorporated into the coral skeleton at differing rates due to varying partitioning coefficients. Calcification preferentially incorporates Sr and Ba, and discriminates against Mg, Li, and U, relative to the proportion of these elements in the cf. The degree to which Rayleigh fractionation impacts the cf chemistry will depend on the balance between calcification rate, which increasingly fractionates cf chemistry, and replenishment of seawater, which brings cf chemistry back to environmental levels. The susceptibility of different elements to this process depends on the partitioning coefficient (K_D) between fluid and aragonite during calcification, with values <1 indicating exclusion from the skeleton and those >1 , preferential uptake: $K(\text{Sr}/\text{Ca}) \sim 1.1$ (Gaetani et al., 2006; Marchitto et al., 2018), $K(\text{Mg}/\text{Ca}) \sim 0.001$ (Gaetani et al., 2006), $K(\text{Ba}/\text{Ca}) \sim 2.3$ (Gaetani et al., 2006), $K(\text{Li}/\text{Ca}) \sim 0.0006$ (Hathorne et al., 2013), $K(\text{U}/\text{CO}_3) \sim 0.3$ (DeCarlo et al., 2015)].

Figure 1.



SST variability (1σ , 1970-2005)Average Ω_{sw} (1970-2005)Modern change in Ω_{sw} (1970-2005 minus 1729-1734)