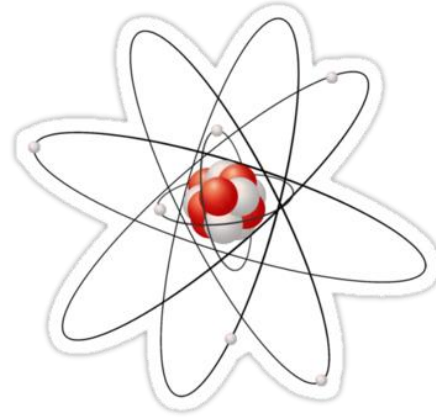


The place of chemosynthesis in marine food webs: towards a global perspective

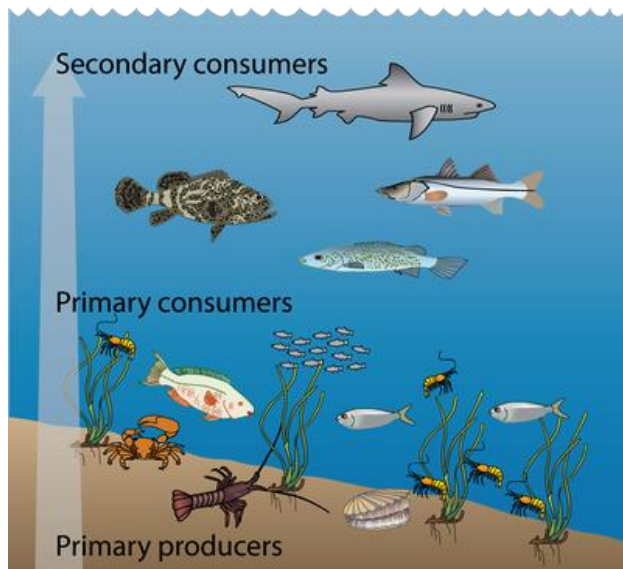


Loïc N. MICHEL

University of Liège, Belgium - Contact: loic.michel@uliege.be

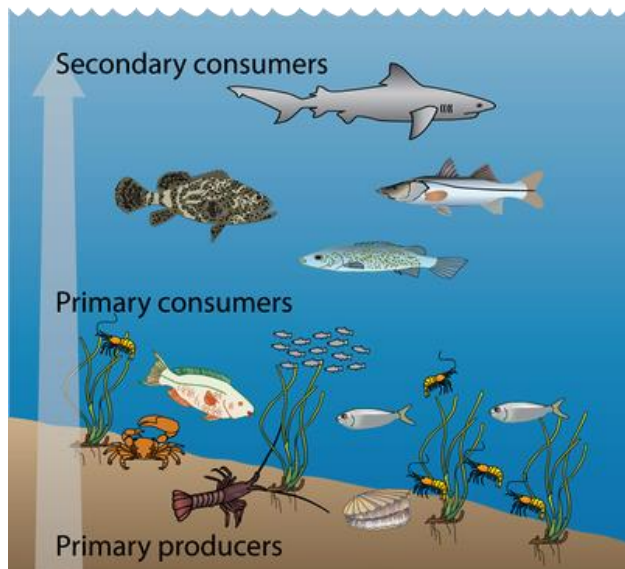
Food webs

Food webs: networks formed by entirety of trophic interactions found in a given ecosystem.



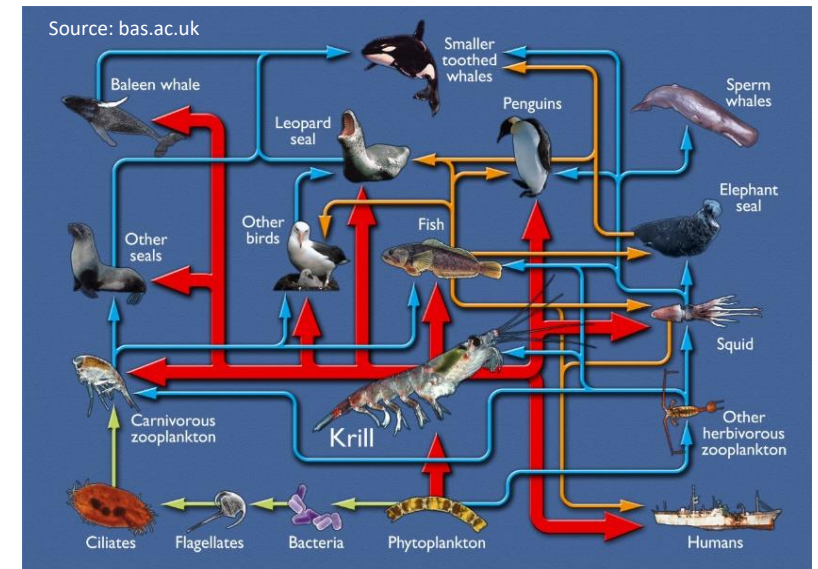
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◀ In theory

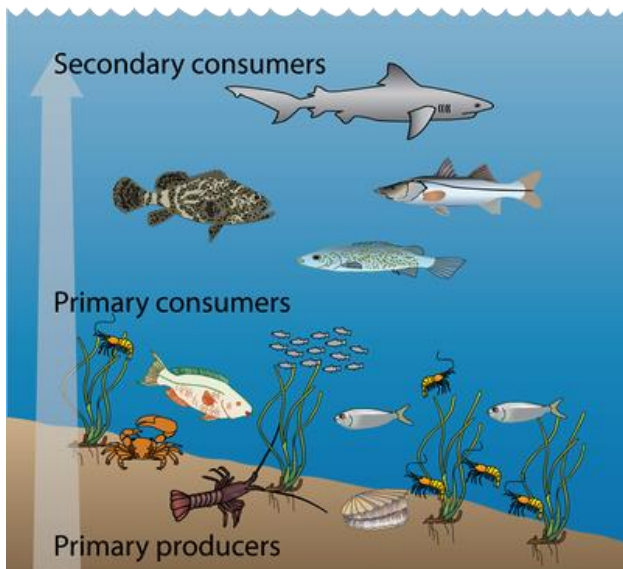
In the real world ▶



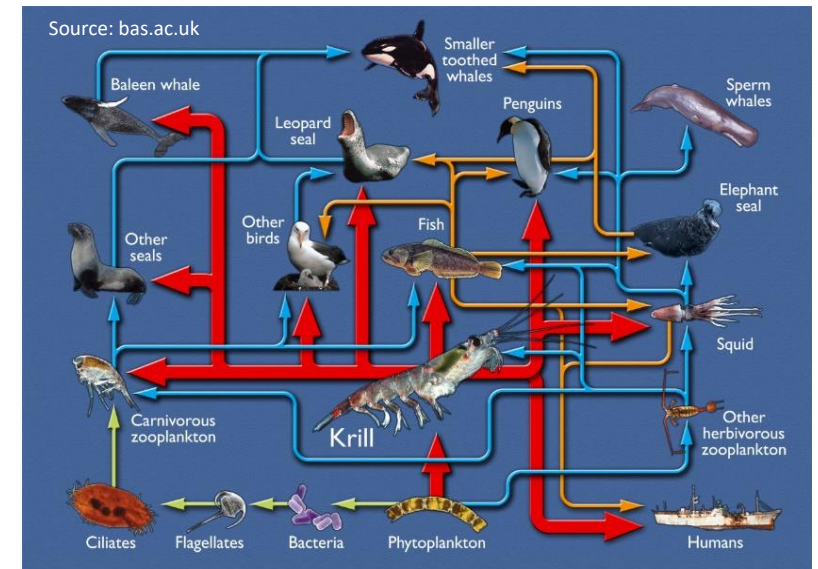
Trophic interactions are numerous and dynamic, leading to **complex ecological networks**

Food webs

Food webs: networks formed by entirety of trophic interactions found in a given ecosystem.



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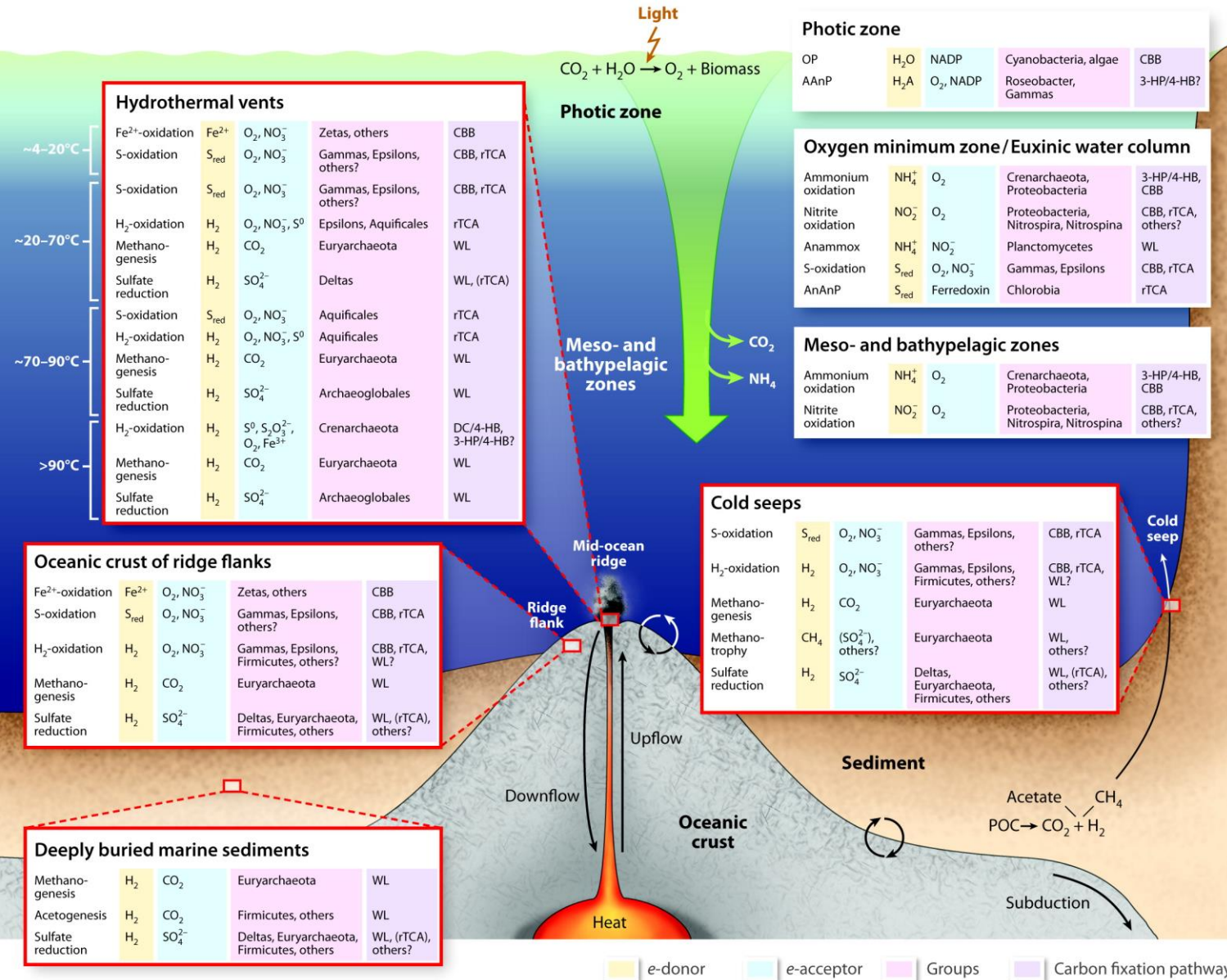
In the real world ▶

Trophic interactions are numerous and dynamic, leading to **complex ecological networks**

Since food webs link all organisms living in a given **ecosystem** together, their structure conditions system functioning and reaction to environmental fluctuations (natural or anthropogenic)

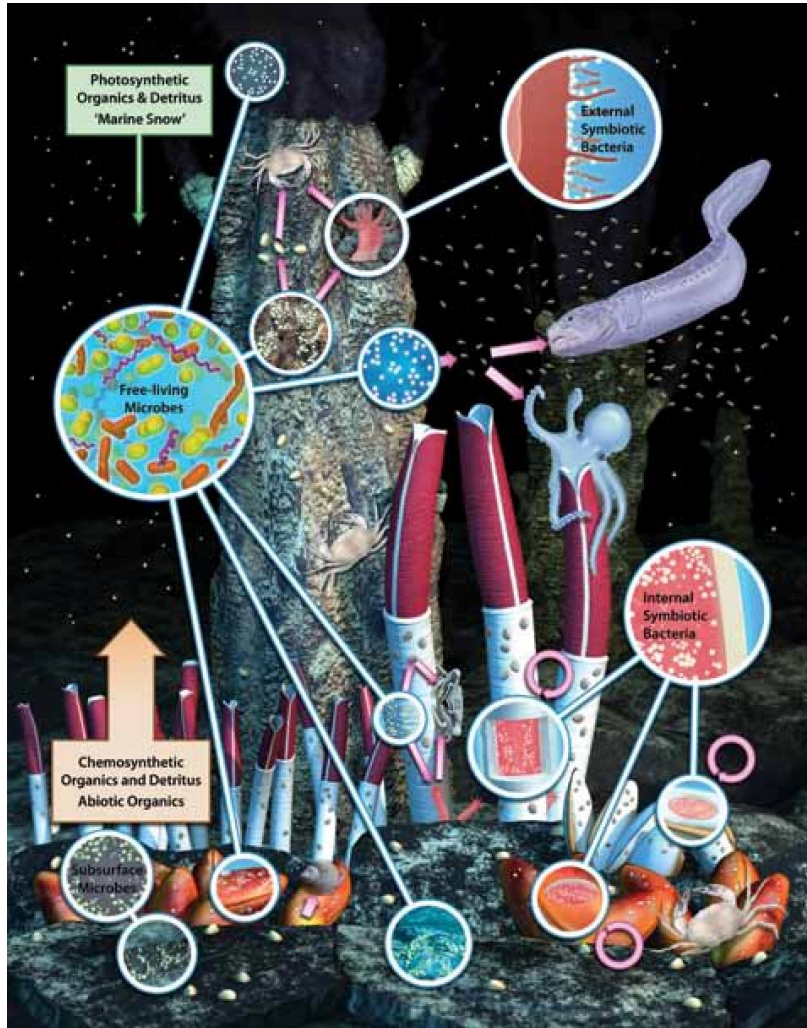
They can act as **vectors**, through which ecological **changes** can propagate across ecosystem compartments, or even across ecosystems

Chemosynthesis

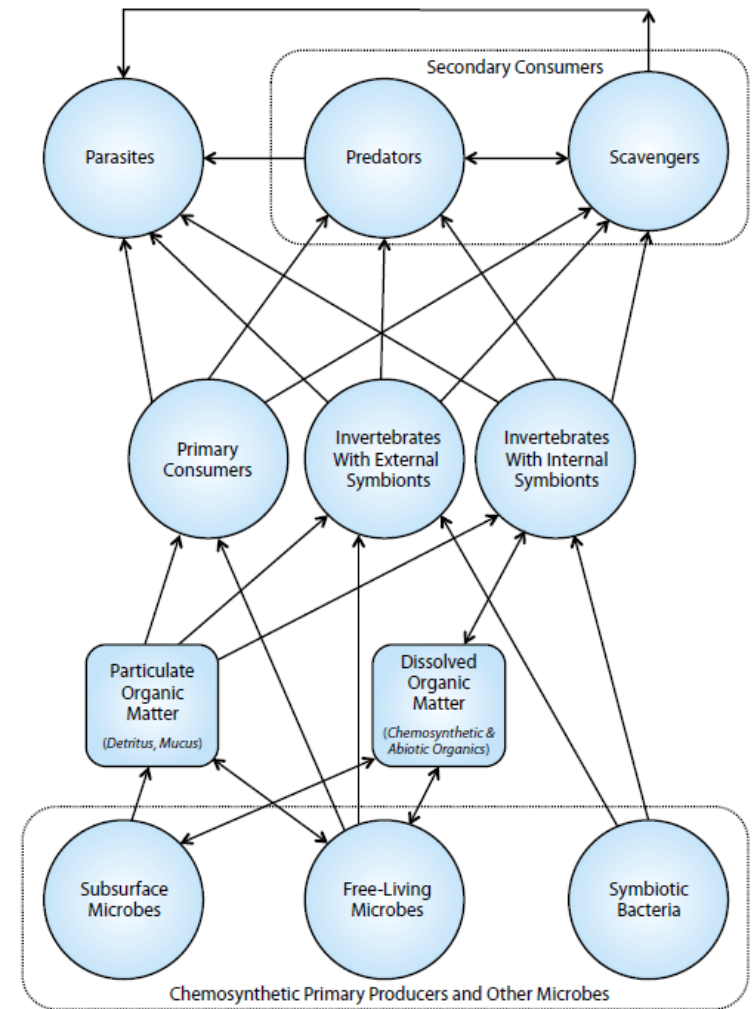


While **initially** depicted as a rather **anecdotic** carbon fixation pathway, chemosynthesis has proven to be a **major mechanism** supporting food webs in multiple marine ecosystems, including **hydrothermal vents**

Hydrothermal vent food webs

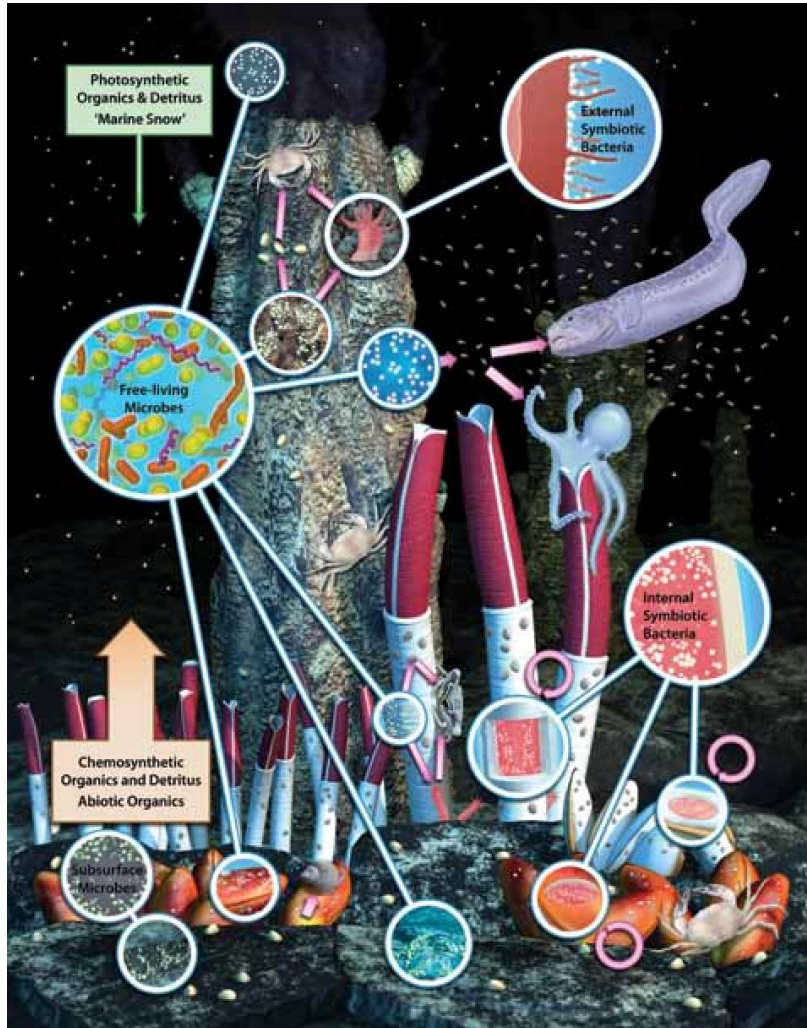


Decades of intensive research led to many discoveries regarding hydrothermal vent food webs...

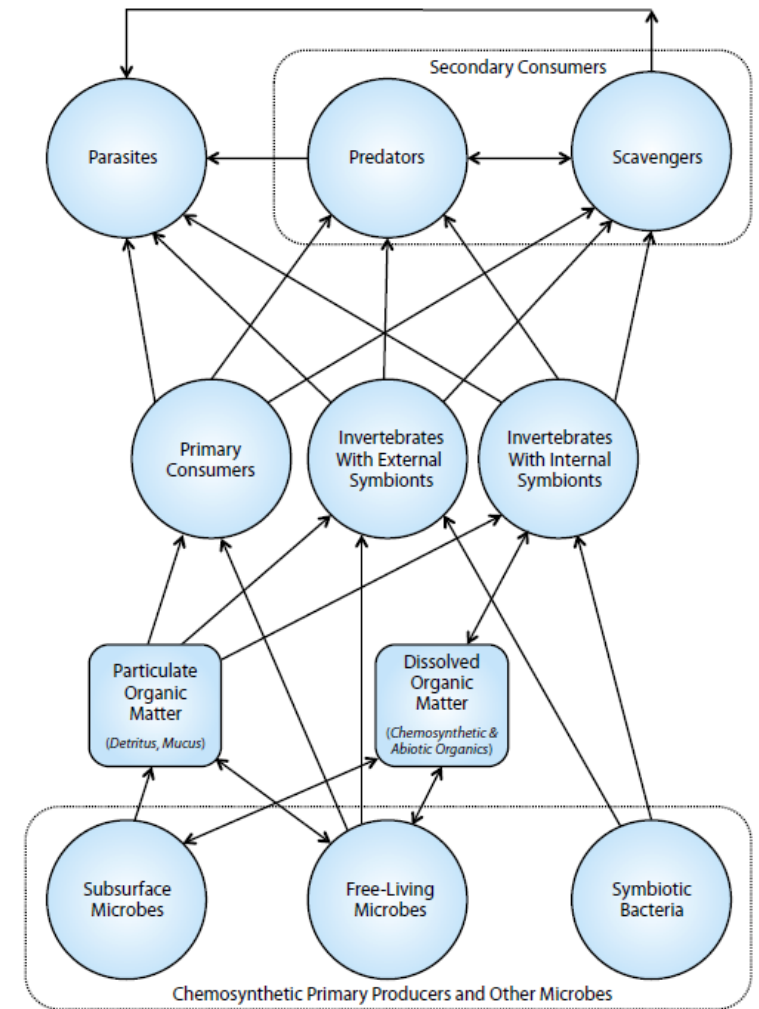


Diagrams from Govenar 2012

Hydrothermal vent food webs



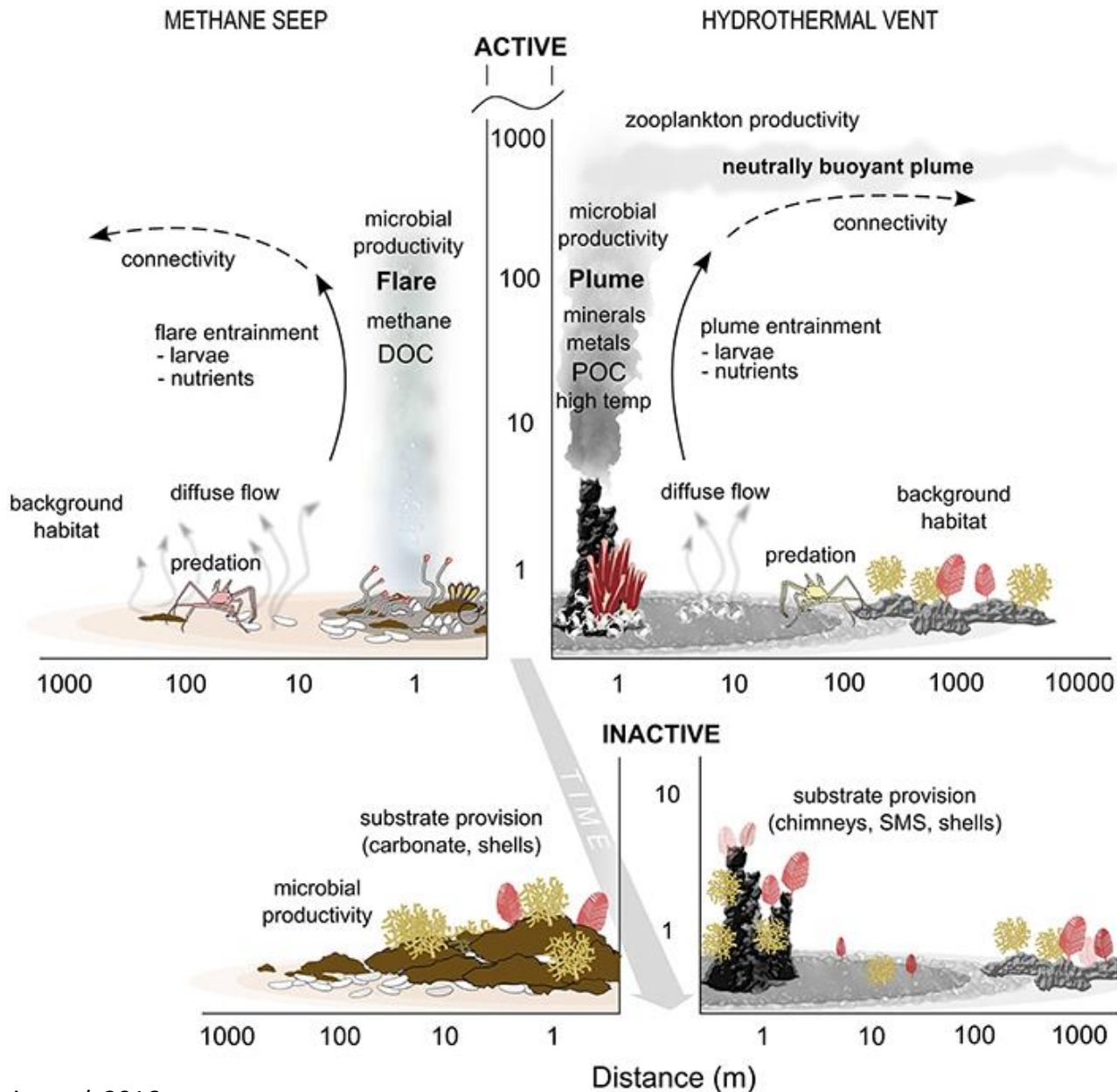
Decades of intensive research led to many discoveries regarding hydrothermal vent food webs...



Diagrams from Govenar 2012

... and yet, trophic ecology of deep-sea vents remain, by many aspects, in its infancy when compared with other systems. **Many questions** about food web structure, trophic interactions and how they condition vent ecosystem functioning remain **open**, and new ones keep **arising**!

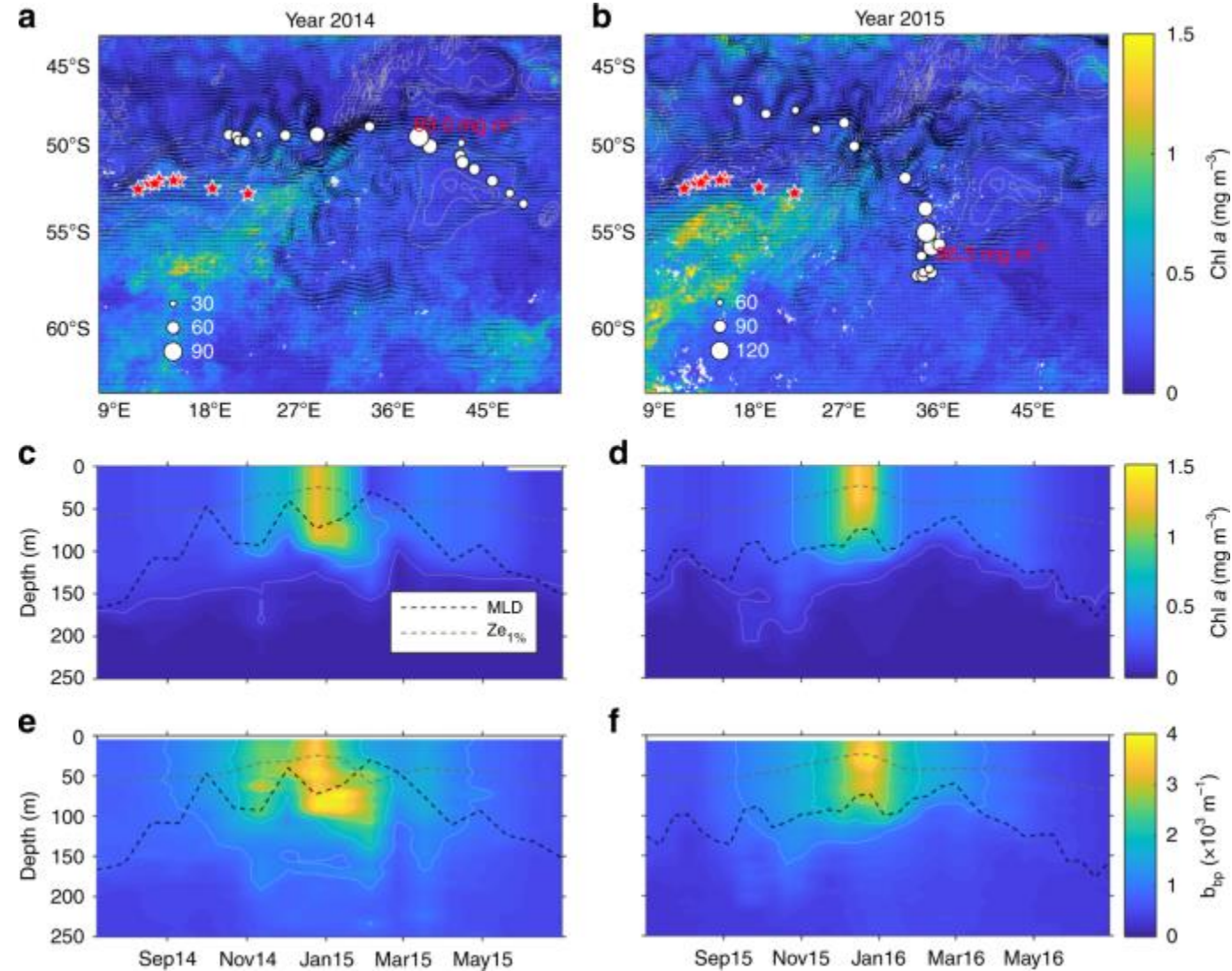
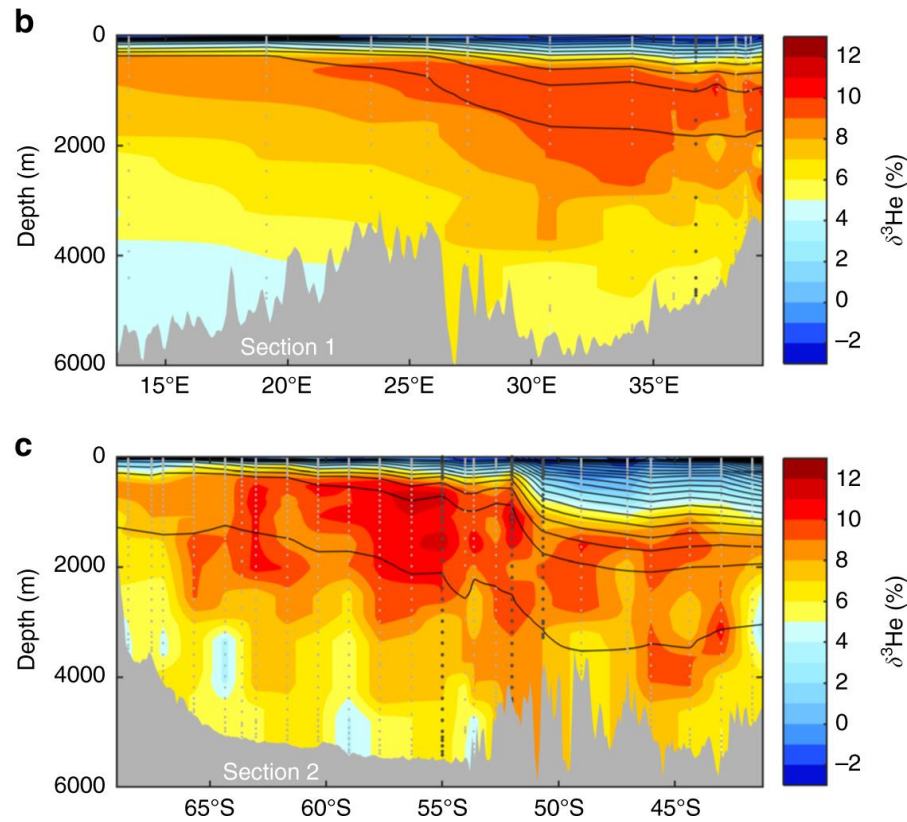
Deep-sea chemosynthetic subsidies



Chemosynthetic habitats are not only, as initially thought, "oases within a barren deep ocean"

There is increasing evidence that they are strongly **connected** to **surrounding ecosystems**

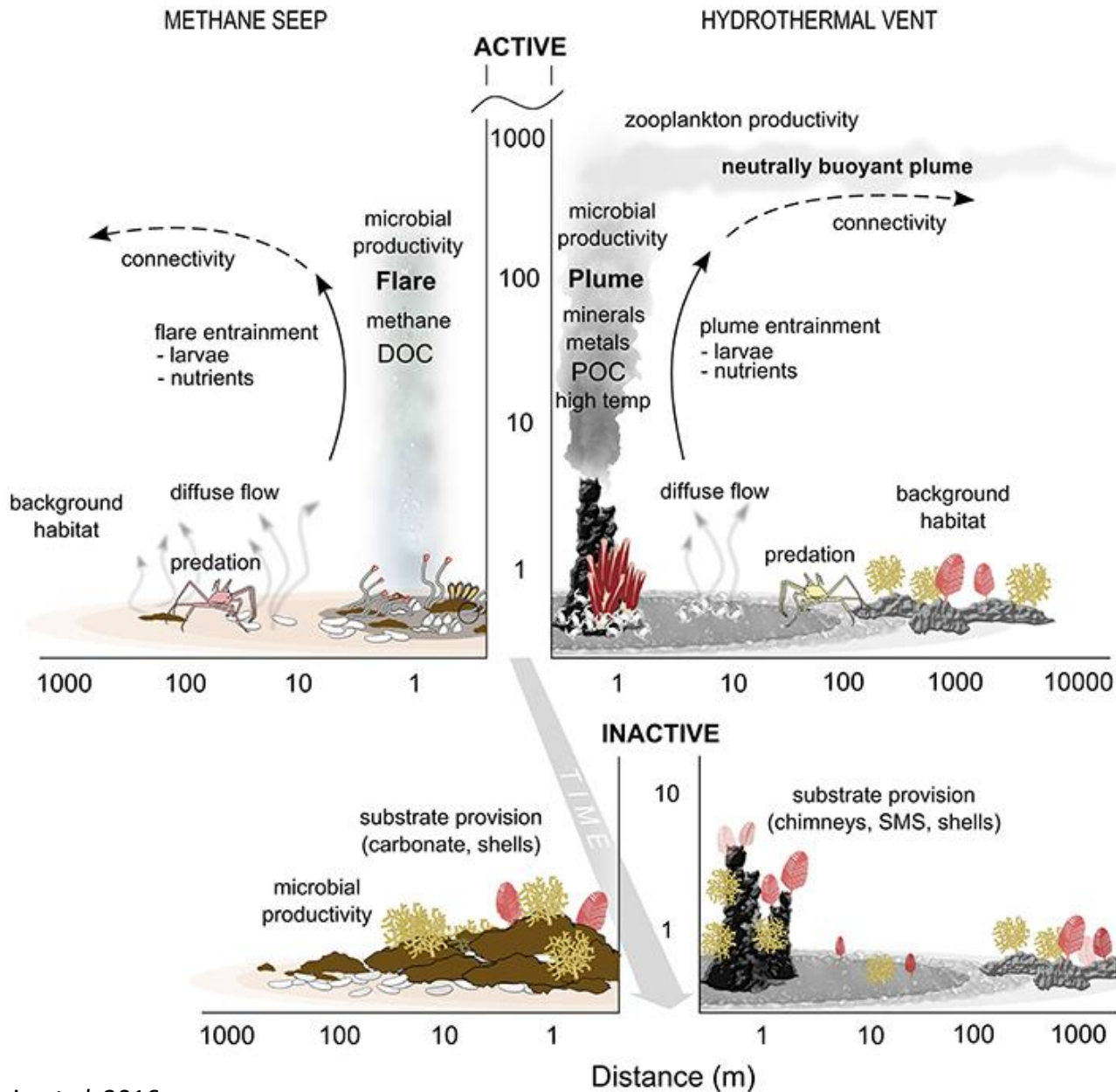
Deep-sea chemosynthetic subsidies



Ardyna et al. 2019

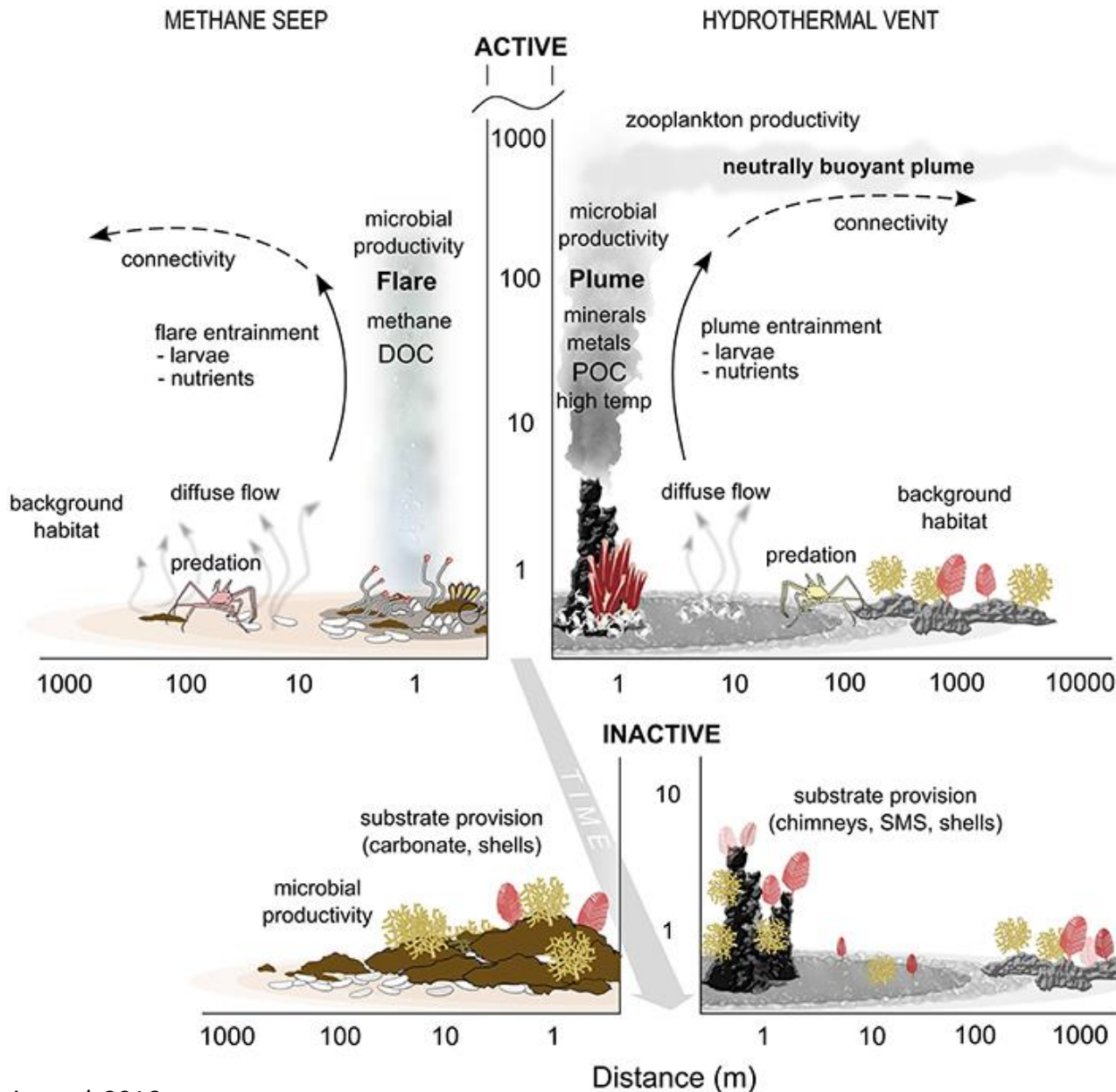
Hydrothermally-sourced **iron** triggers massive **phytoplankton blooms** in shallower layers of the Southern Ocean
Influence extending to **hundreds of km**

Deep-sea chemosynthetic subsidies



Chemosynthetic OM can be **exported** through **particle advection** + **active movement** of predators and scavengers

Deep-sea chemosynthetic subsidies

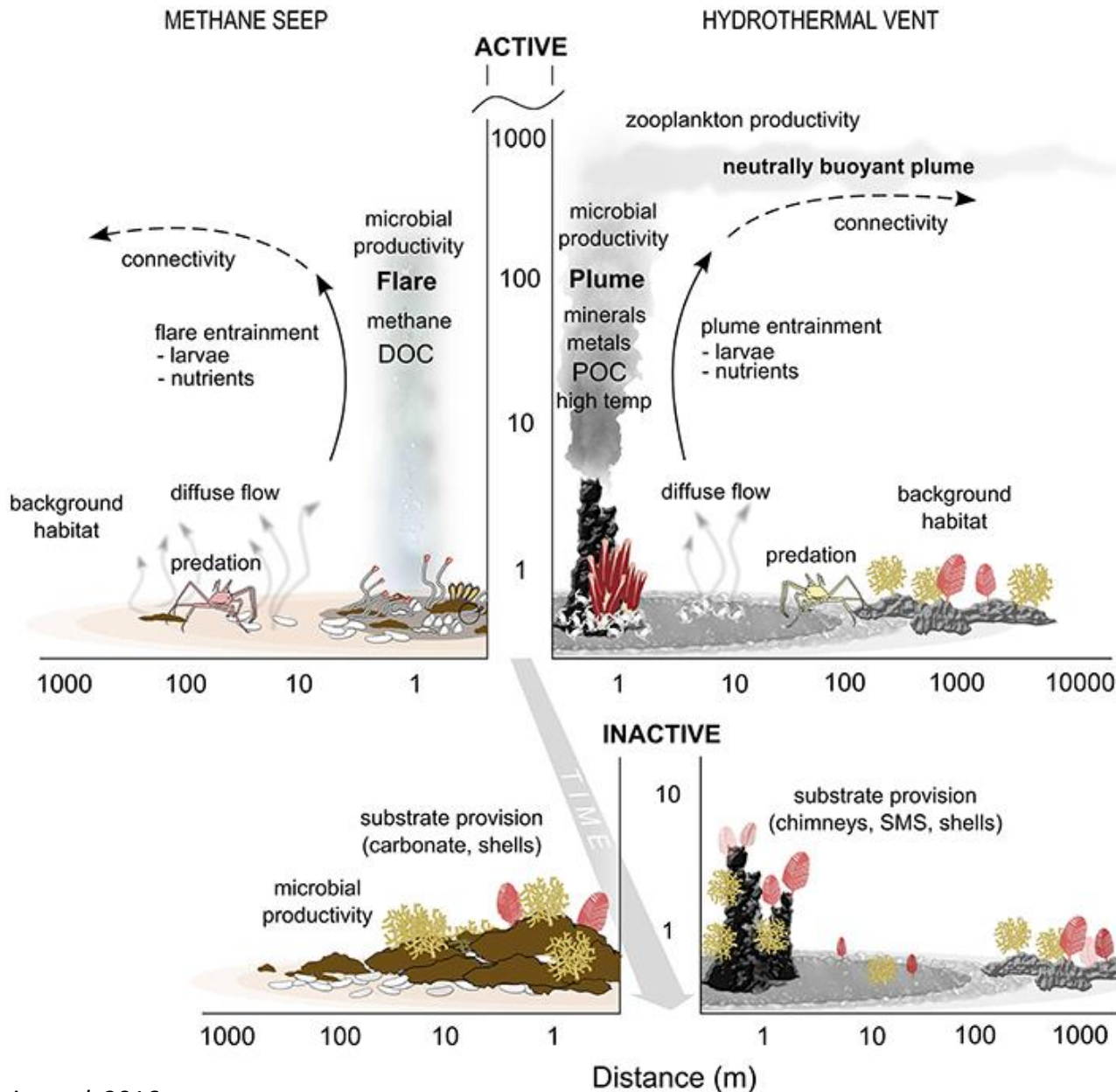


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Overall: **>10%** of deep-sea benthic carbon flux could be derived from chemosynthesis

Mostly **cold seeps** (less intense production than vents, but more widespread)

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Overall: **>10%** of deep-sea benthic carbon flux could be derived from chemosynthesis

Mostly **cold seeps** (less intense production than vents, but more widespread)

Many things about the nature, occurrence or intensity of those subsidies are **still unadequately understood...**

About me

2022 - Present: Assistant professor at [University of Liège](#), Belgium

2017 - 2022: Research scientist at [Ifremer](#) Brittany, Brest, France



About me

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Research interests:

- How do [food web](#) structure and [trophic interactions](#) influence marine ecosystem functioning and [biodiversity](#)?
- How do natural or anthropogenic [environmental variations](#) impact [animal feeding](#)?
- How does [ecological plasticity](#) mediate marine consumers' response to [change](#)?

I mostly tackle those issues by using [polar](#) and [deep-sea benthic invertebrates](#) as ecological models, and by developing approaches based on [trophic markers](#), notably [stable isotopes](#).



Stable isotopes & hydrothermal vents: a long-lasting love story

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by Robert D. Ballard

Oceanus Vol. 20, No. 3, Summer 1977

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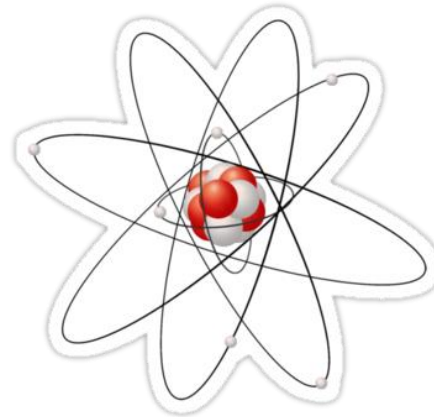
Sulphur isotopic compositions of deep-sea hydrothermal vent animals

Brian Fry, Howard Gest & J. M. Hayes

For 4 decades, stable isotopes have been **instrumental** to many findings about vent ecology... And still have much **potential** to offer!

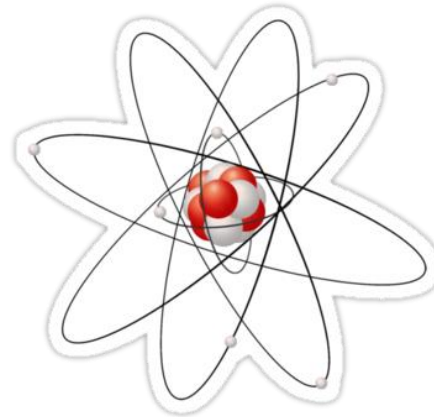
Stable isotopes: you are what you eat

Stable isotope ratios in animals can be used as integrative **trophic markers** (indirect info on animal diet)



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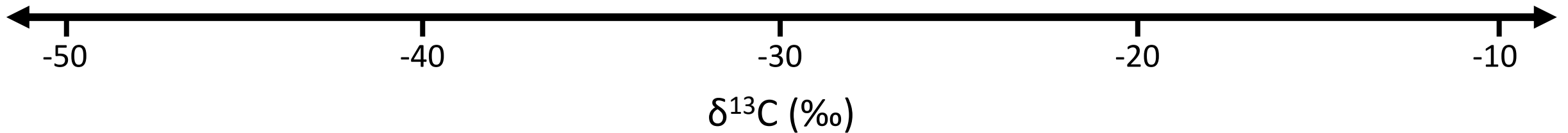


Mixing law: stable isotope composition of an **animal** is a **proportional mix** of its **food sources'** isotopic compositions



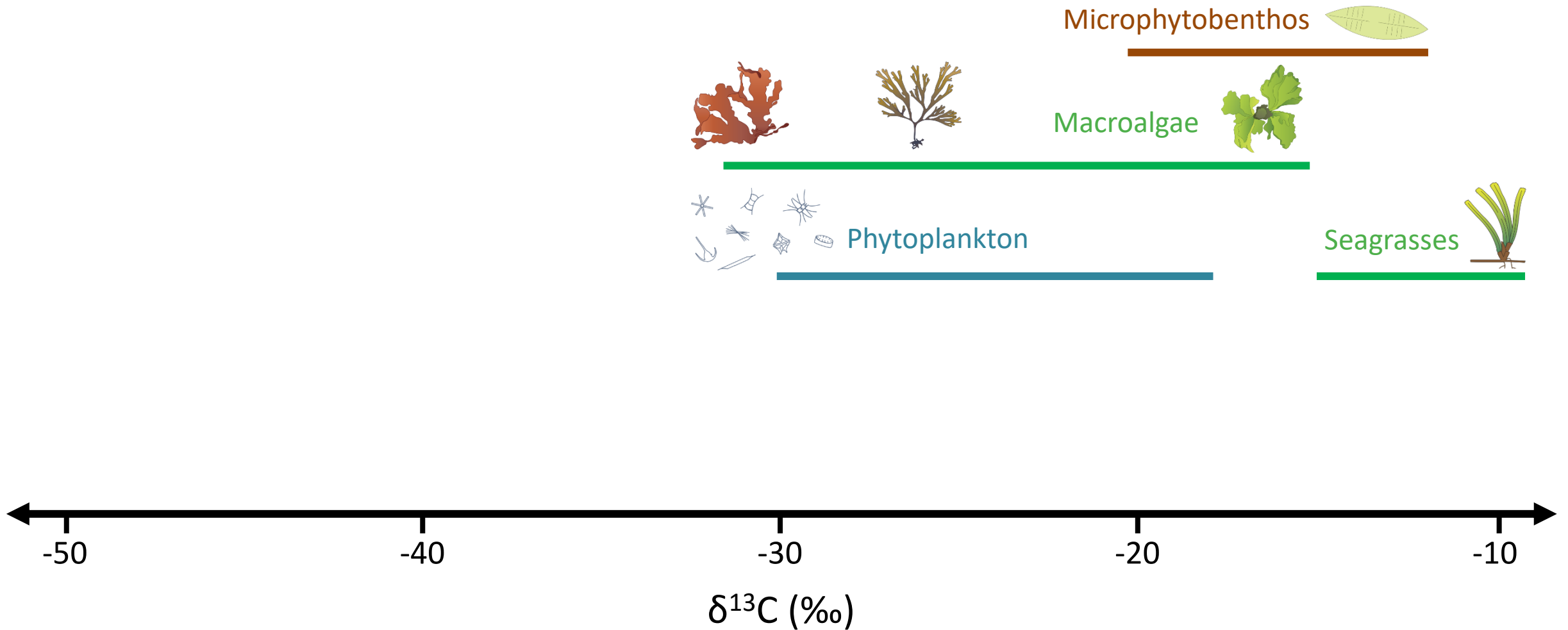
By measuring the **isotopic compositions** of an animal and those of its food sources, it is possible to estimate the **contribution** of each **food source** to the animal's diet

Carbon stable isotopes



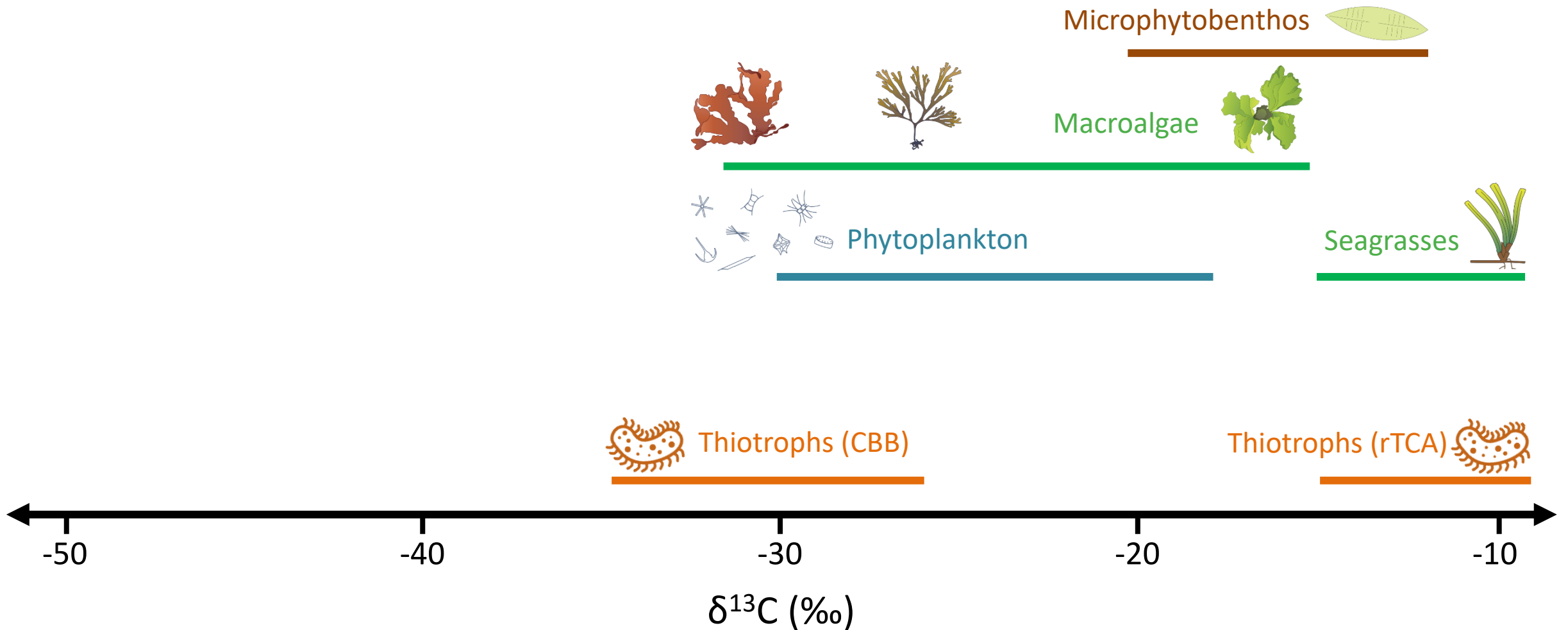
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of marine producers is **variable** and mostly **conserved** throughout the food web

Carbon stable isotopes



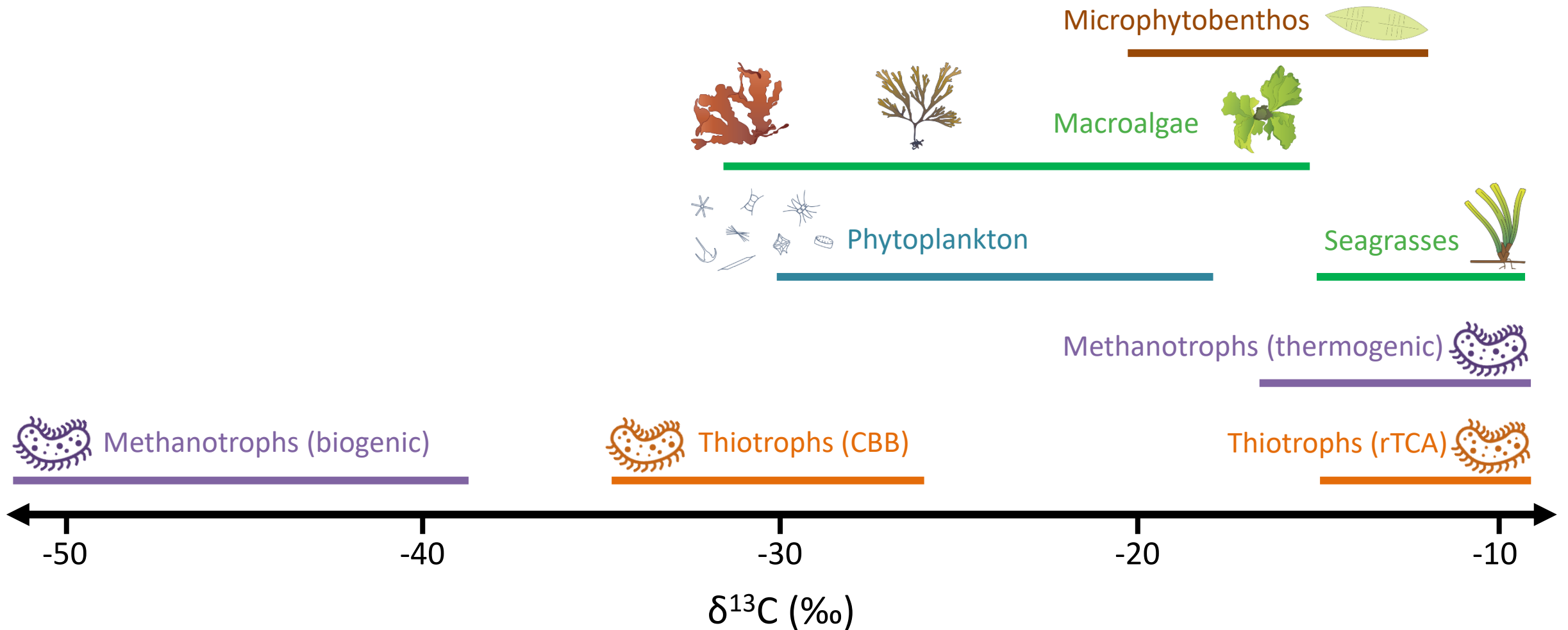
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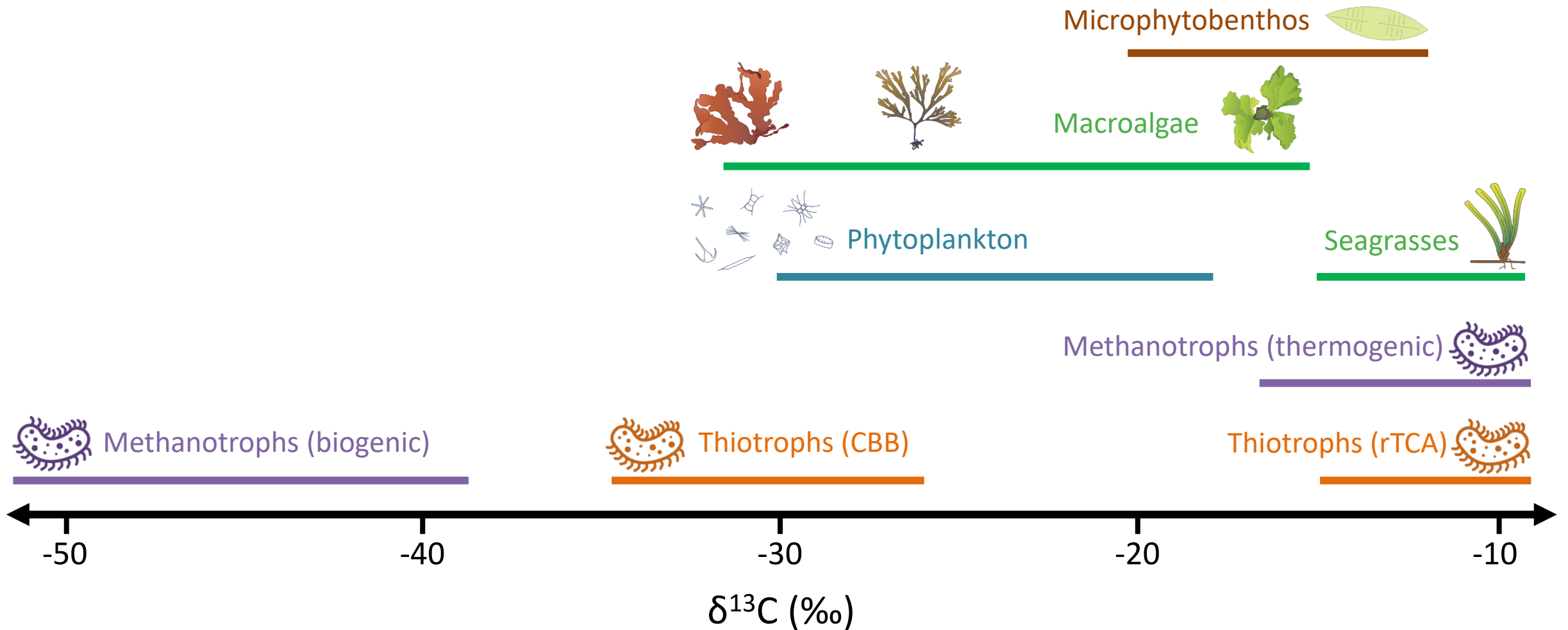
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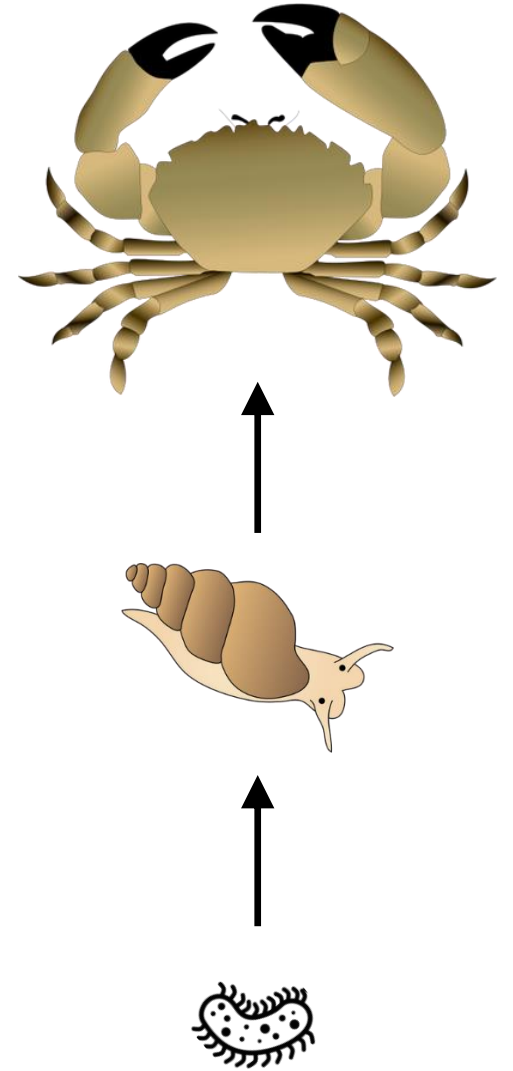
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ can be used to **identify** and **quantify** relative contributions of **production mechanisms** supporting animal populations in marine ecosystems

Nitrogen stable isotopes

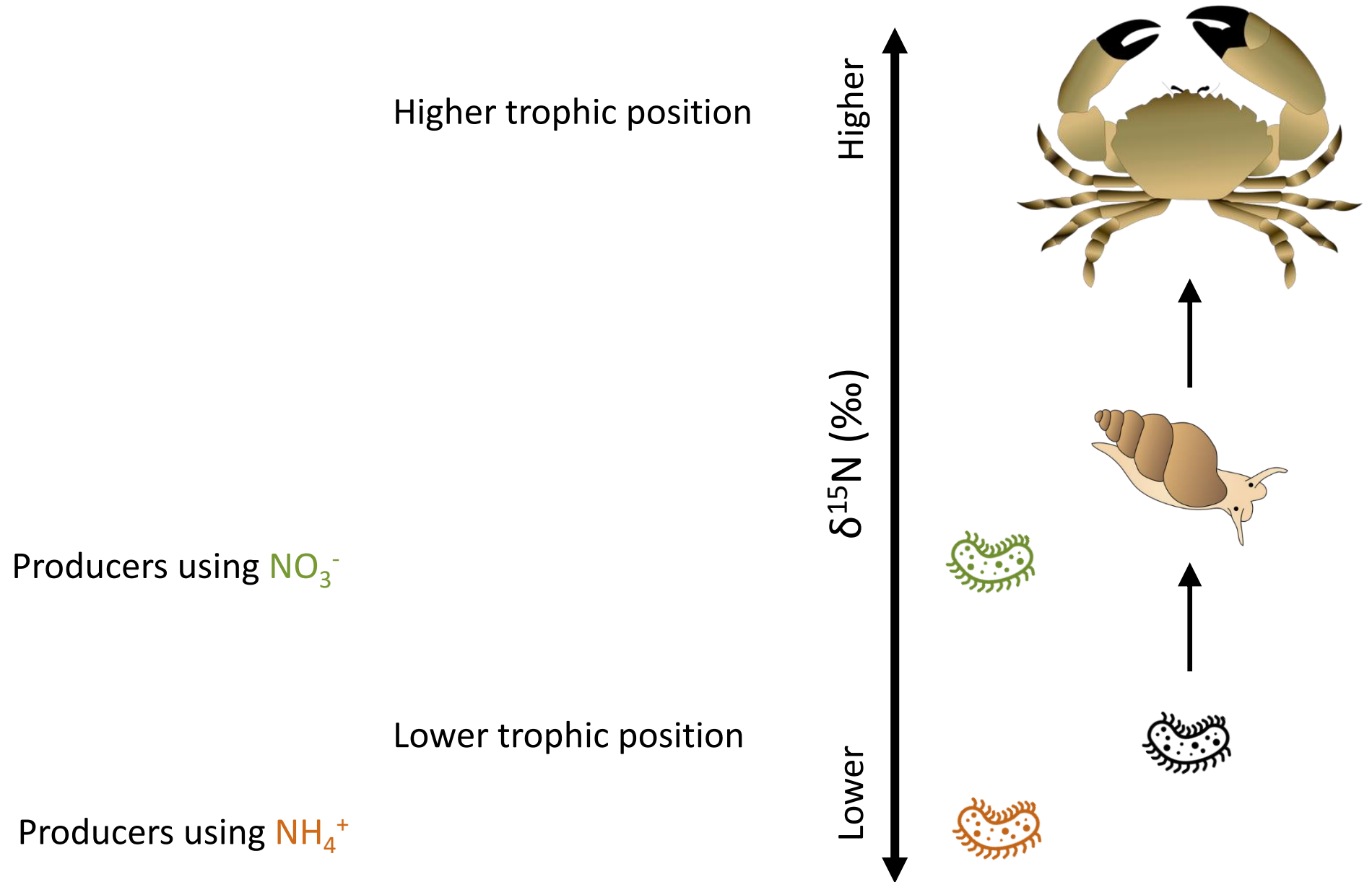
Higher trophic position



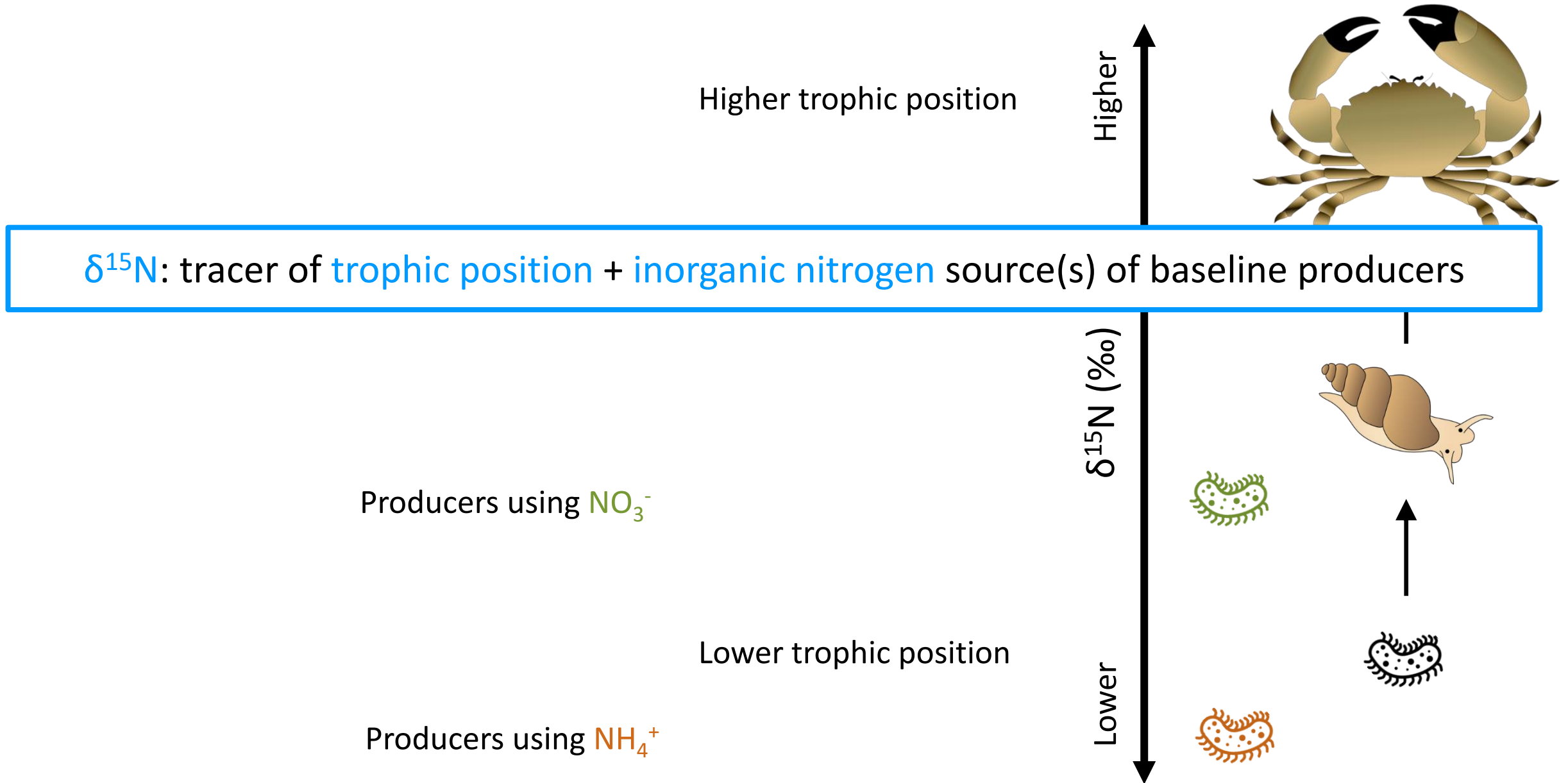
Lower trophic position



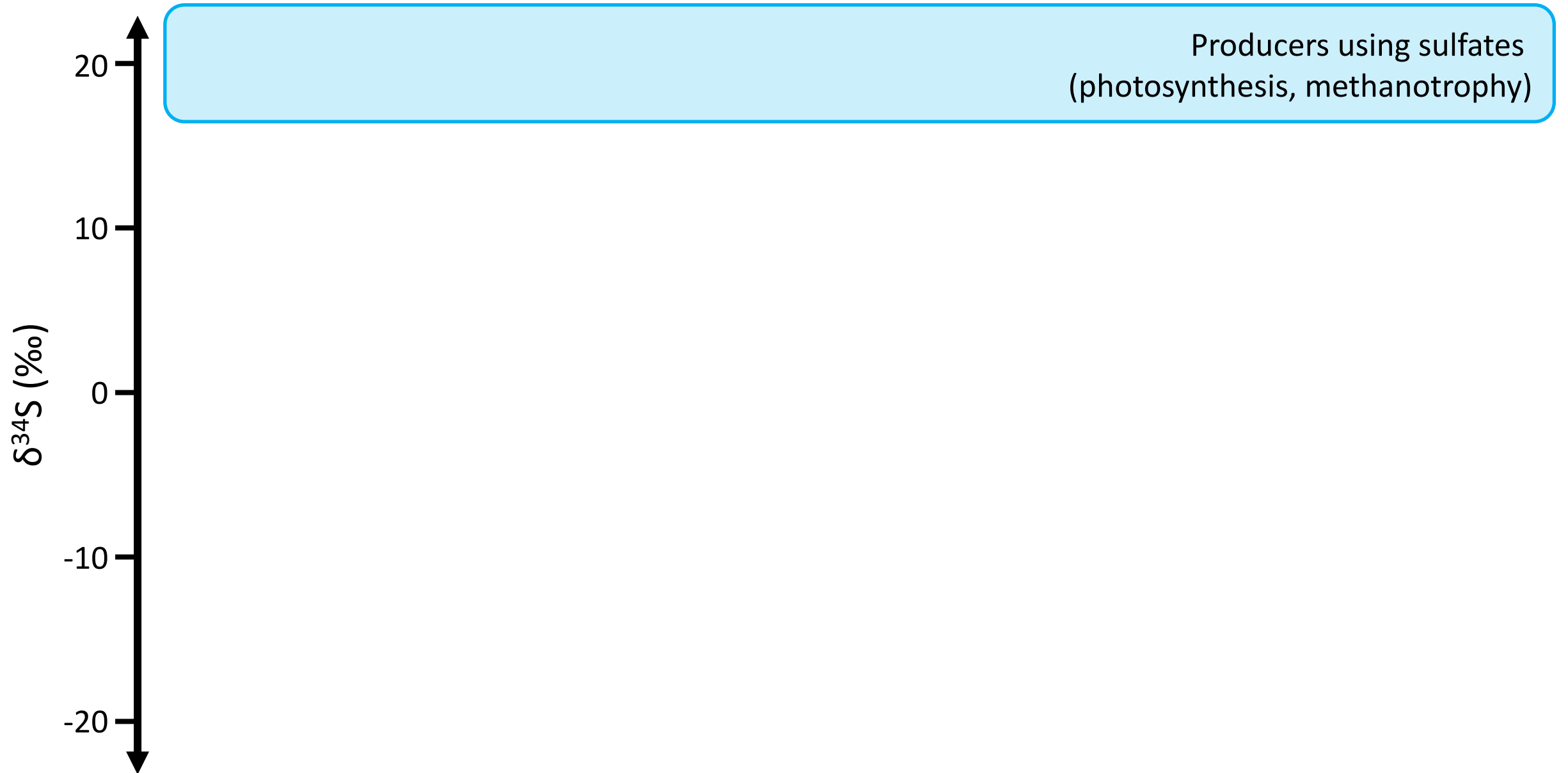
Nitrogen stable isotopes



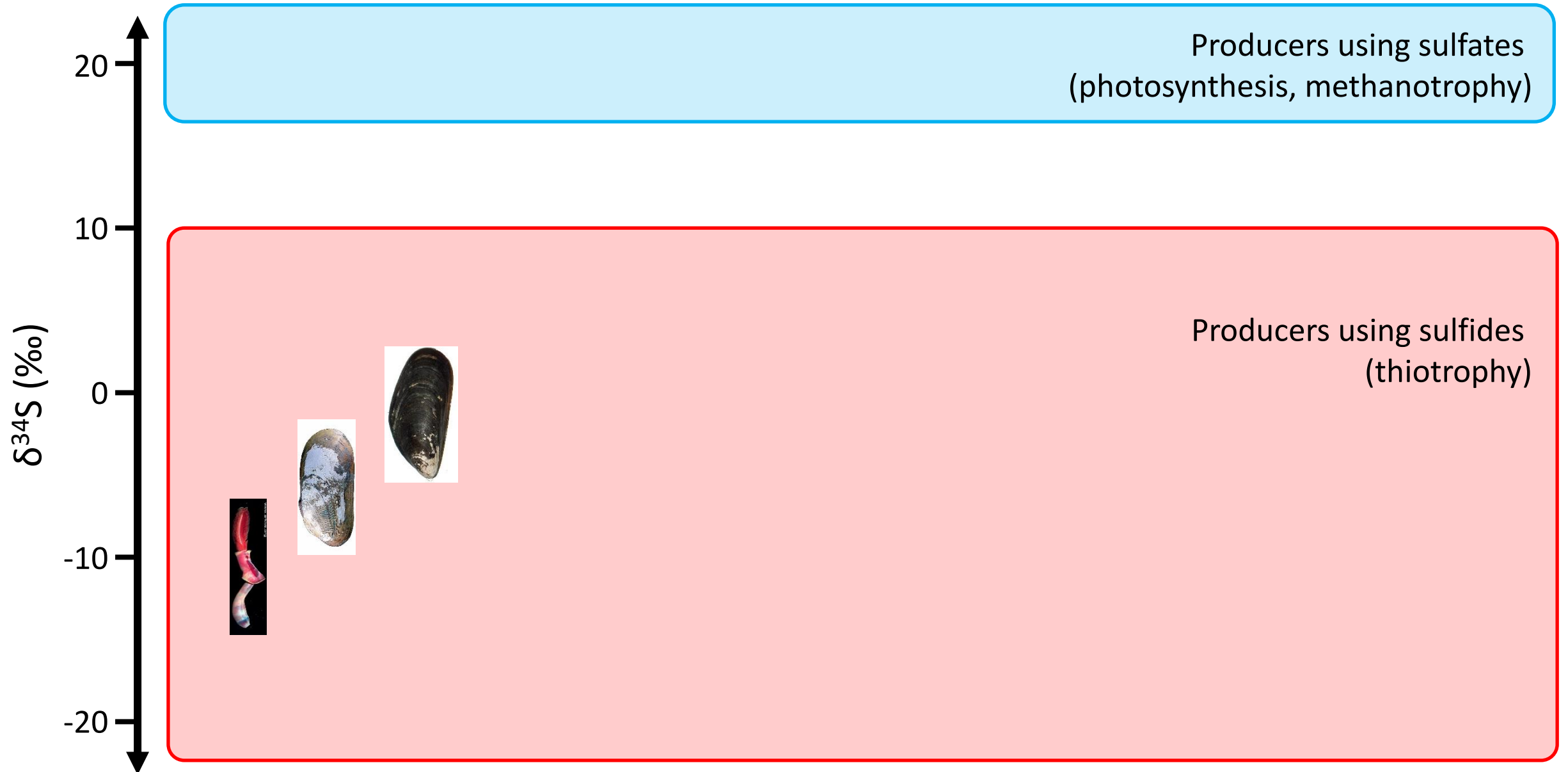
Nitrogen stable isotopes



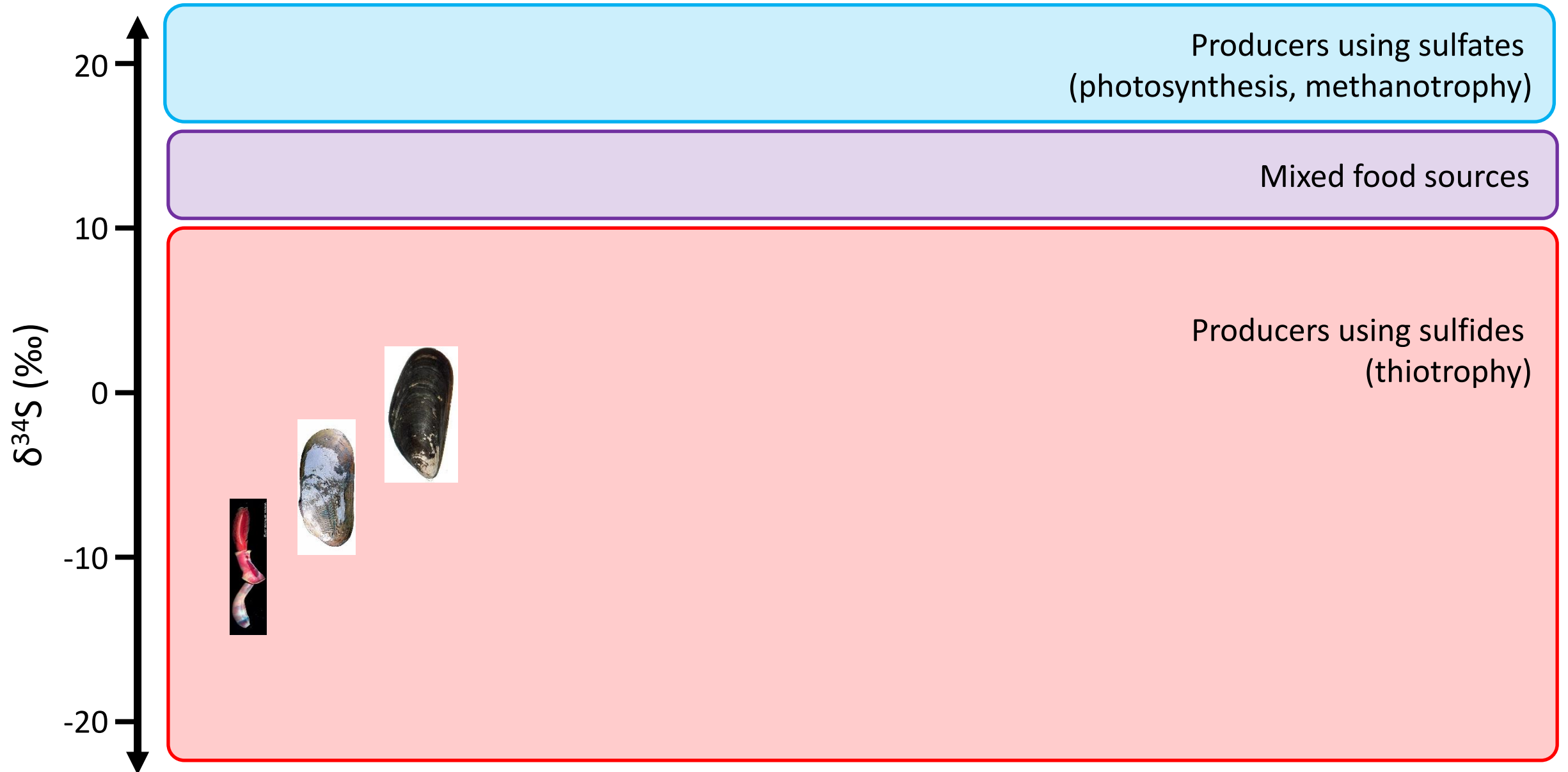
Sulfur stable isotopes



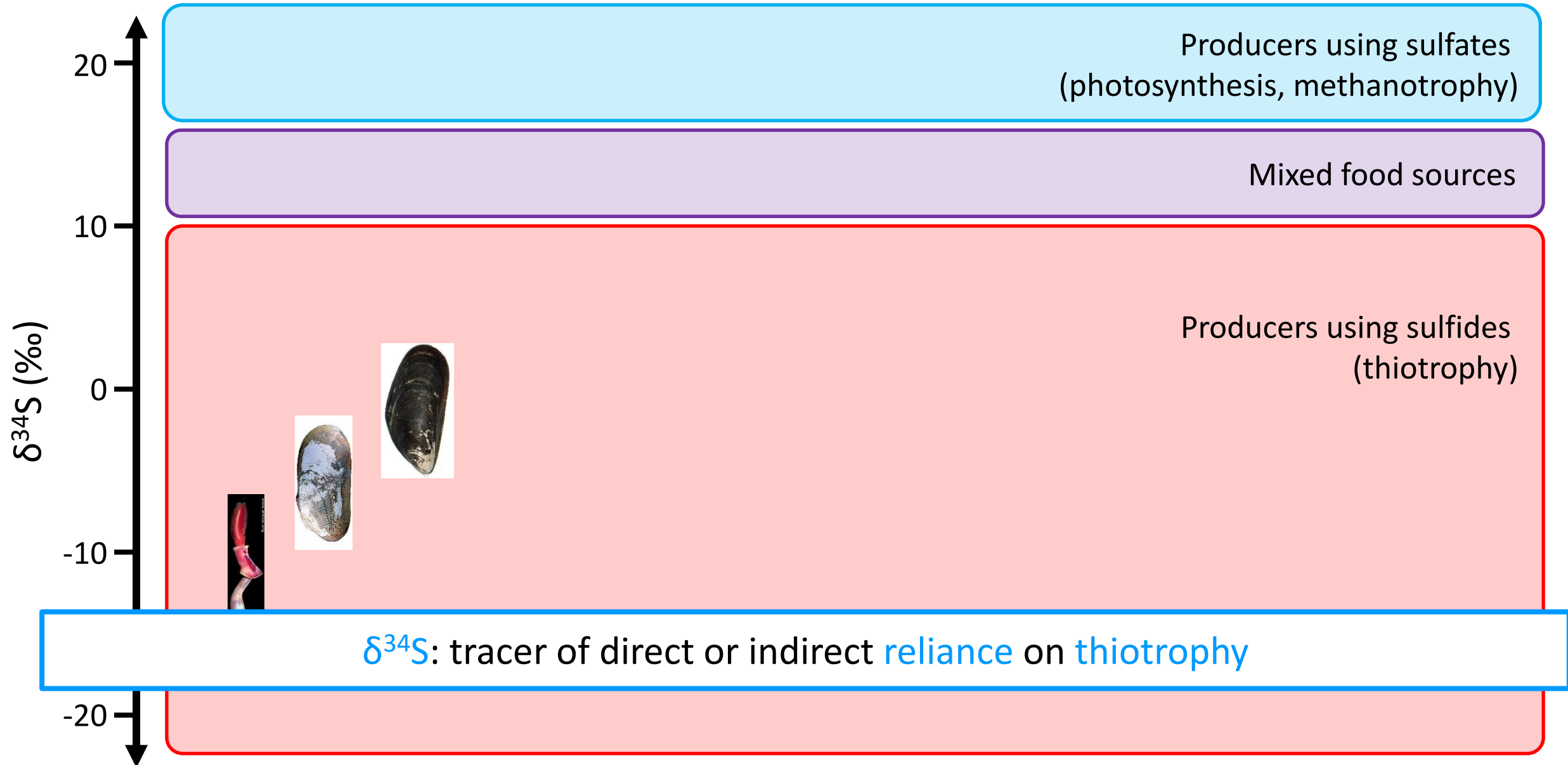
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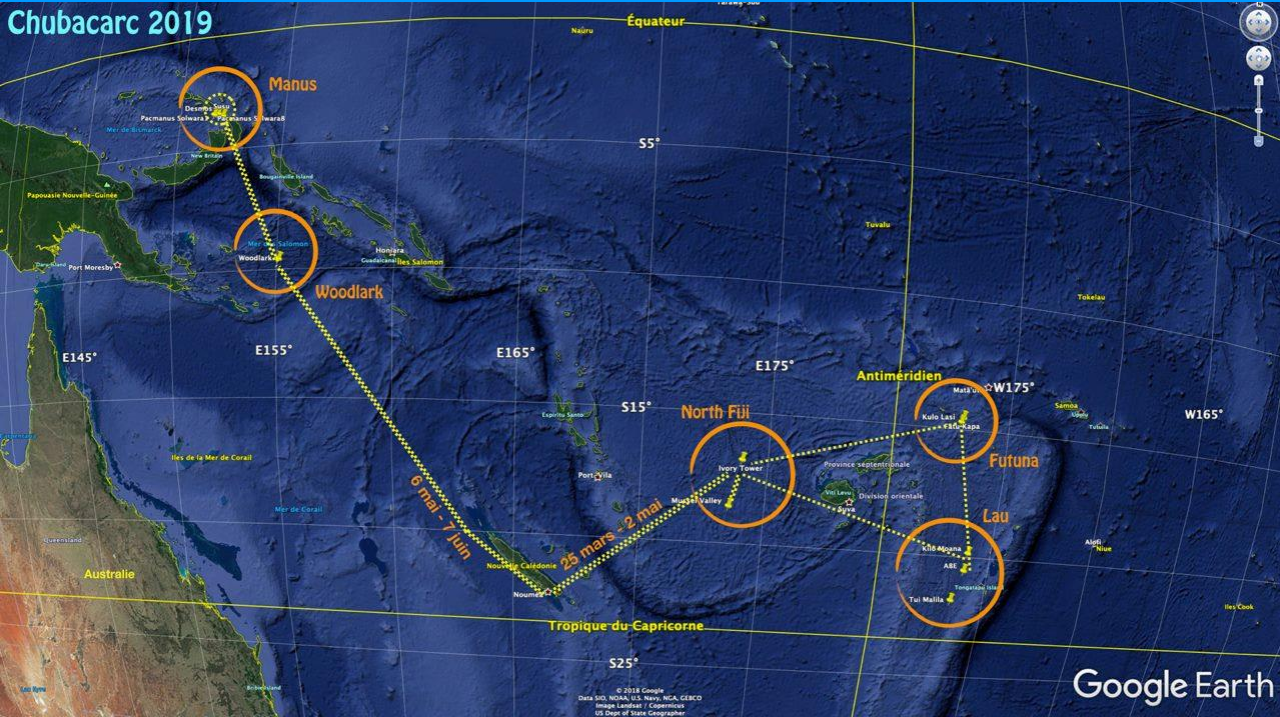
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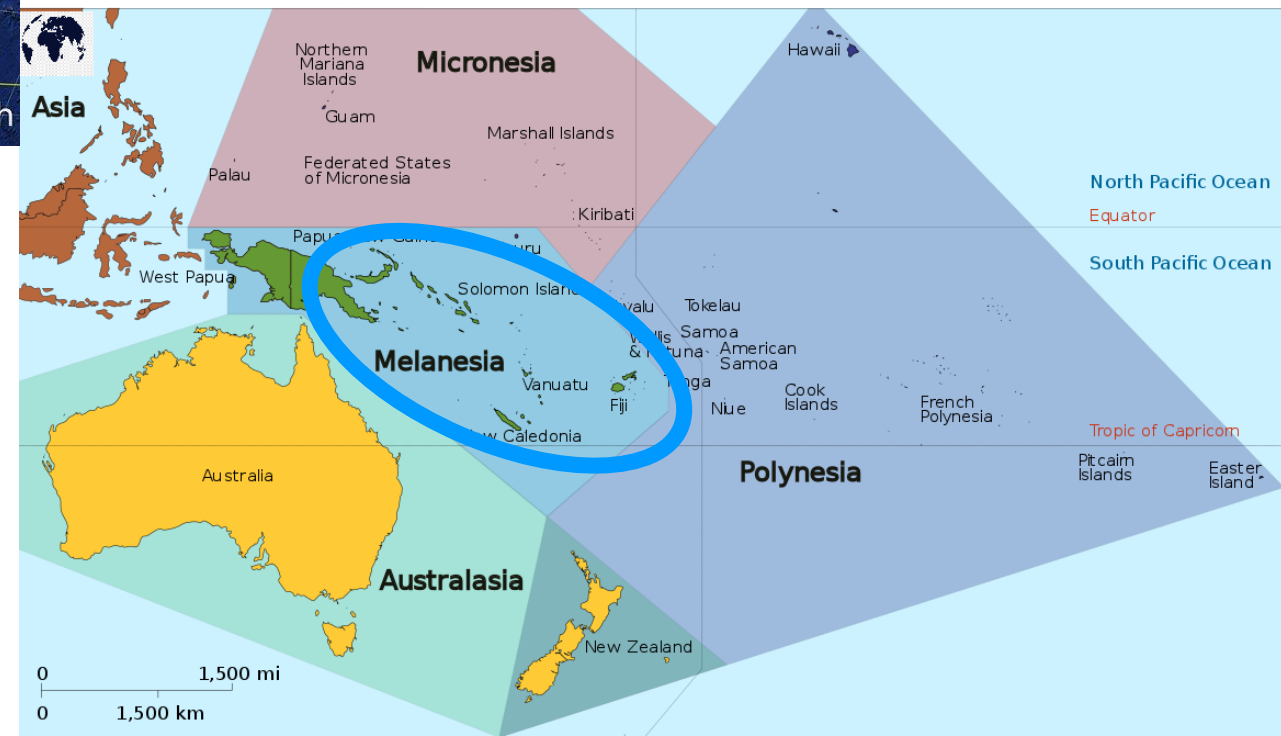


A food web example : Woodlark Basin

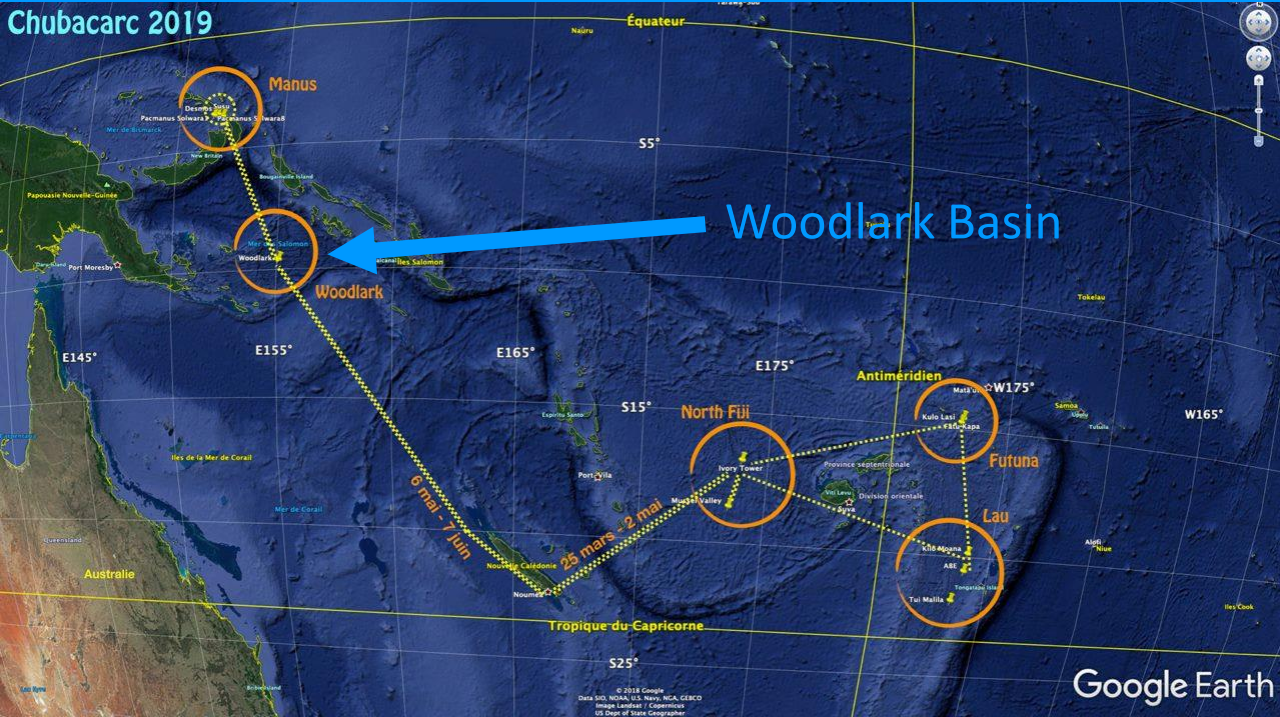


Chubacarc cruise: connectivity and regional patterns of biodiversity in back-arc basins of Western Pacific

Hourdez & Jollivet (2019): <https://doi.org/10.17600/18001111>

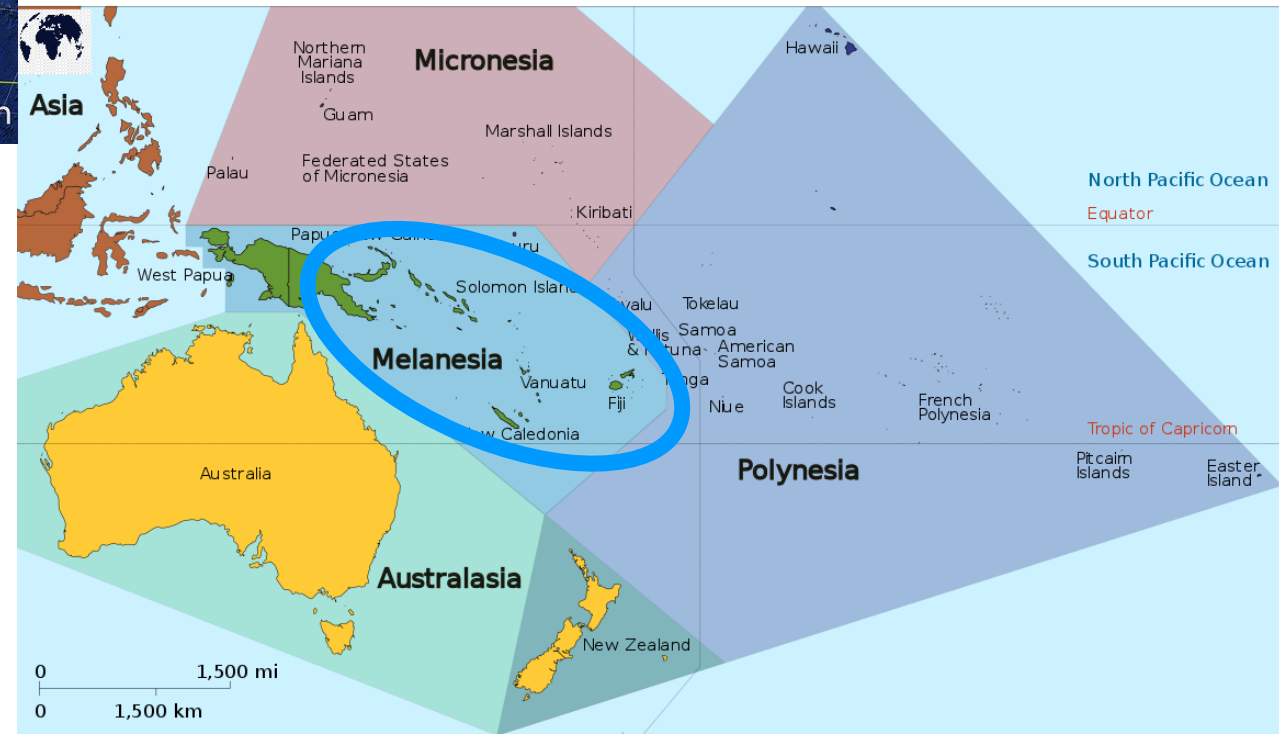


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<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-022-00387-9>

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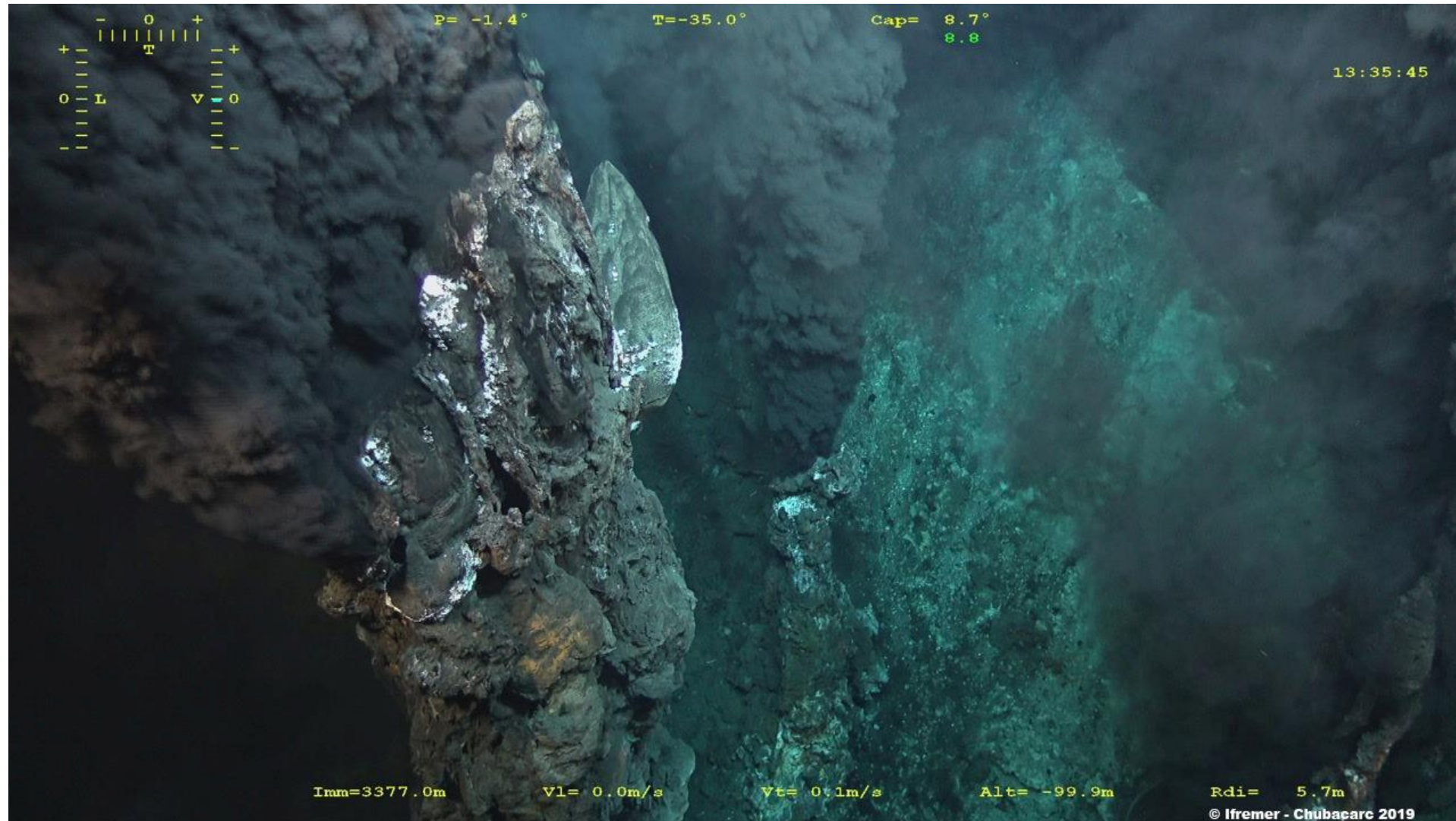
Active hydrothermal vents in the Woodlark Basin may act as dispersing centres for hydrothermal fauna

Cédric Boulart ¹✉, Olivier Rouxel ², Carla Scalabrin ², Pierre Le Meur³, Ewan Pelleter², Camille Poitrimol^{1,4}, Eric Thiébaud¹, Marjolaine Matabos ⁴, Jade Castel¹, Adrien Tran Lu Y^{5,6}, Loic N. Michel⁴, Cécile Cathalot², Sandrine Chéron², Audrey Boissier², Yoan Germain², Vivien Guyader², Sophie Arnaud-Haond⁷, François Bonhomme⁵, Thomas Broquet ¹, Valérie Cueff-Gauchard⁸, Victor Le Layec^{1,6}, Stéphane L'Haridon⁸, Jean Mary¹, Anne-Sophie Le Port¹, Aurélie Tasiemski⁹, Darren C. Kuama¹⁰, Stéphane Hourdez⁶ & Didier Jollivet¹

Open access paper: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-022-00387-9>

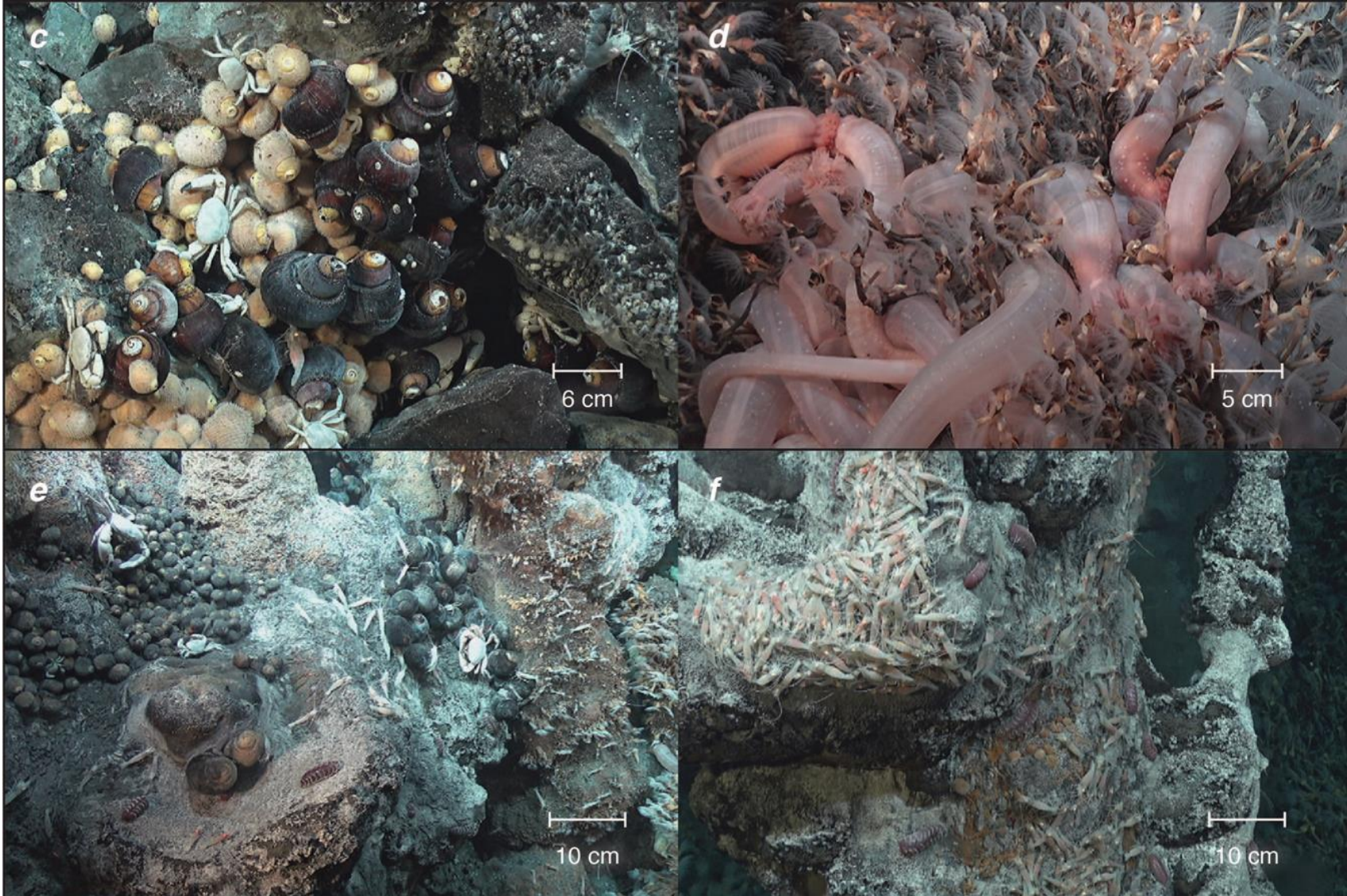
La Scala vent field, Woodlark Basin

Discovery of several active smokers, depth ≈ 3400 m

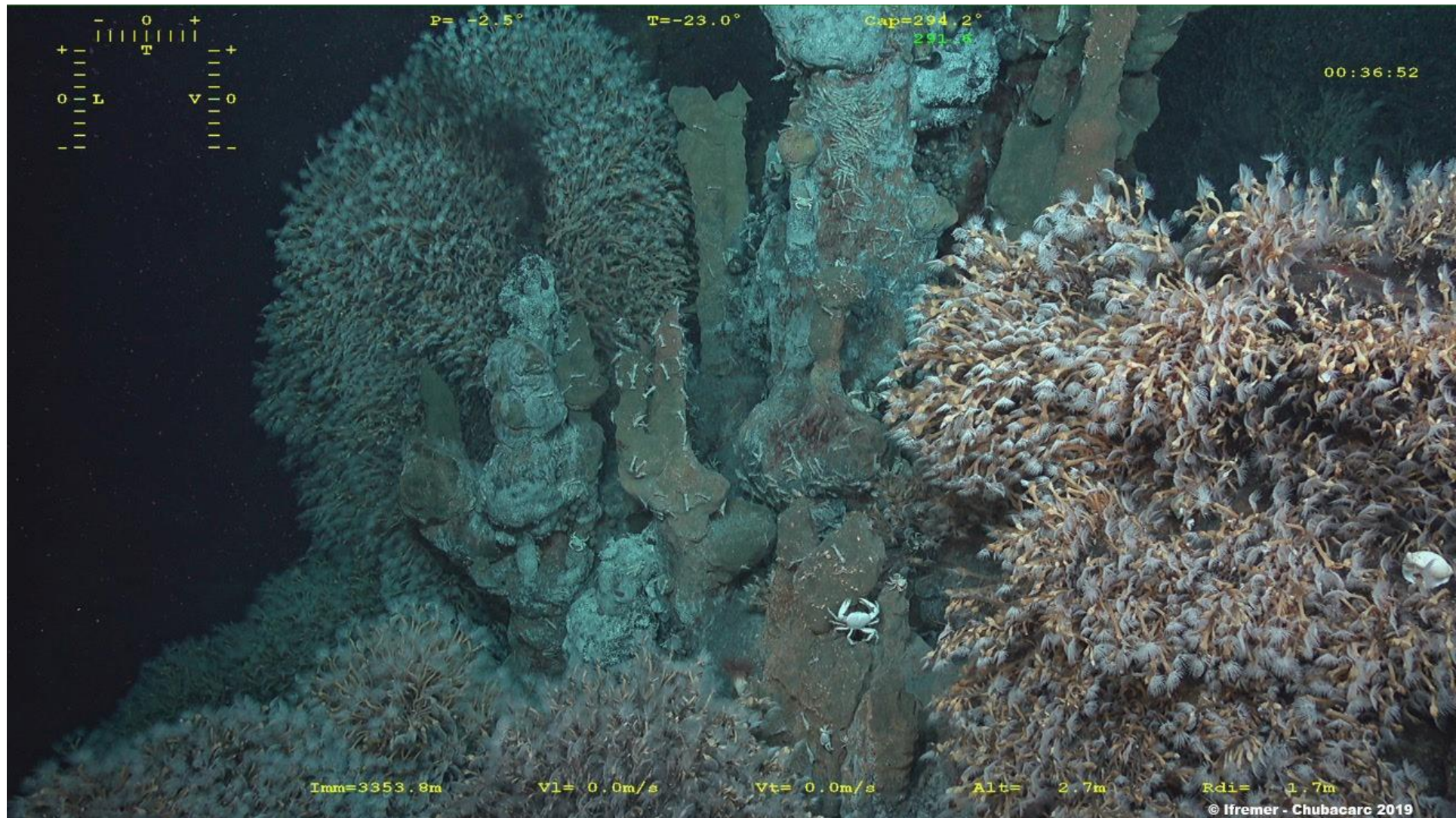


La Scala vent field, Woodlark Basin

Close to active chimneys: communities dominated by **symbiont-bearing gastropods** that act as **foundation species**



La Scala vent field, Woodlark Basin



On inactive chimneys and peripheral zones: dense [cirriped bushes](#)

Not typical of SW Pacific hydrothermal vents, but described in nearby oceanic trenches (e.g. Tonga)

La Scala vent field, Woodlark Basin

Document *functional ecology* of this newly discovered system



La Scala vent field, Woodlark Basin

Document **functional ecology** of this newly discovered system

Identify main **production pathways** supporting animal populations



La Scala vent field, Woodlark Basin

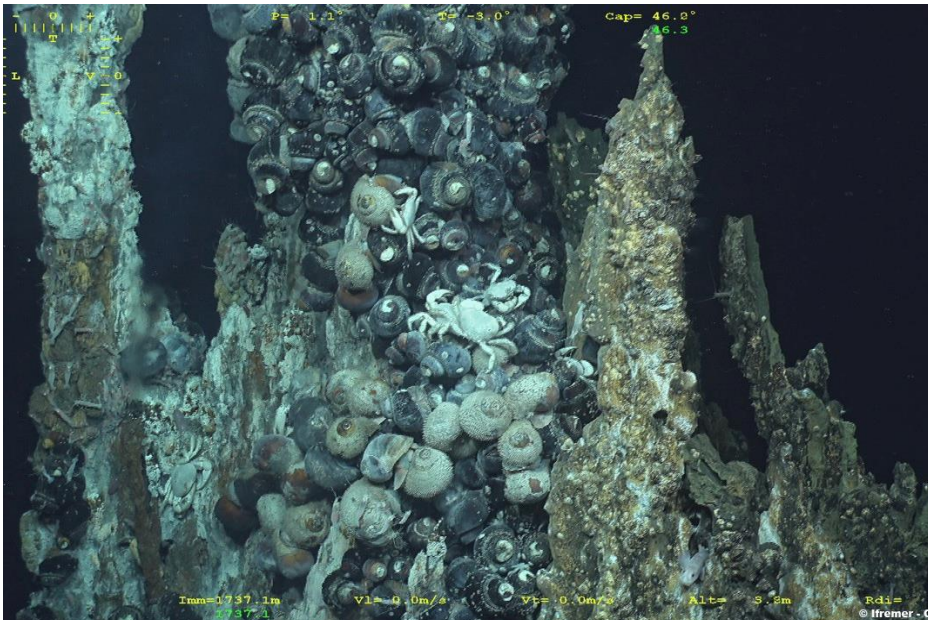
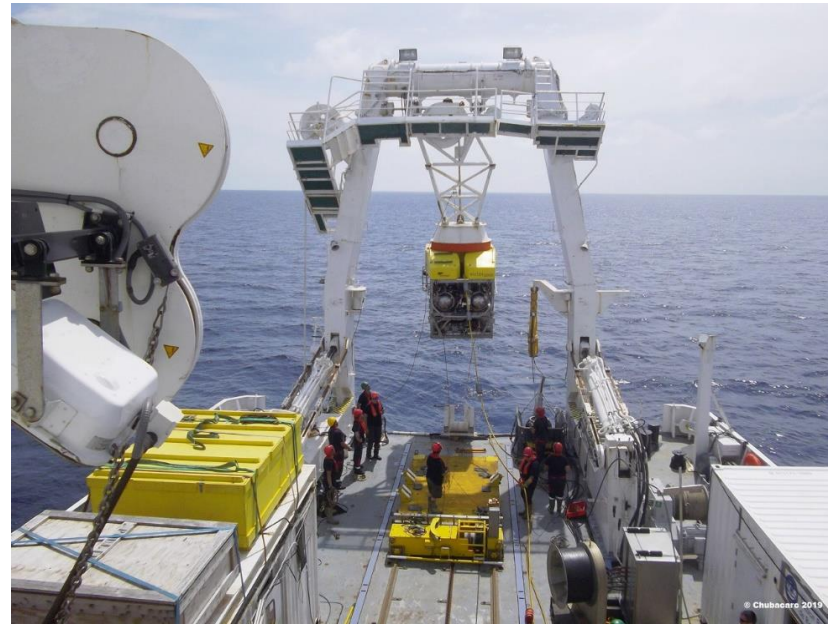
Document **functional ecology** of this newly discovered system

Identify main **production pathways** supporting animal populations

Assess potential **energy fluxes** between **active** sites and **inactive**, peripheral habitats



La Scala vent field, Woodlark Basin

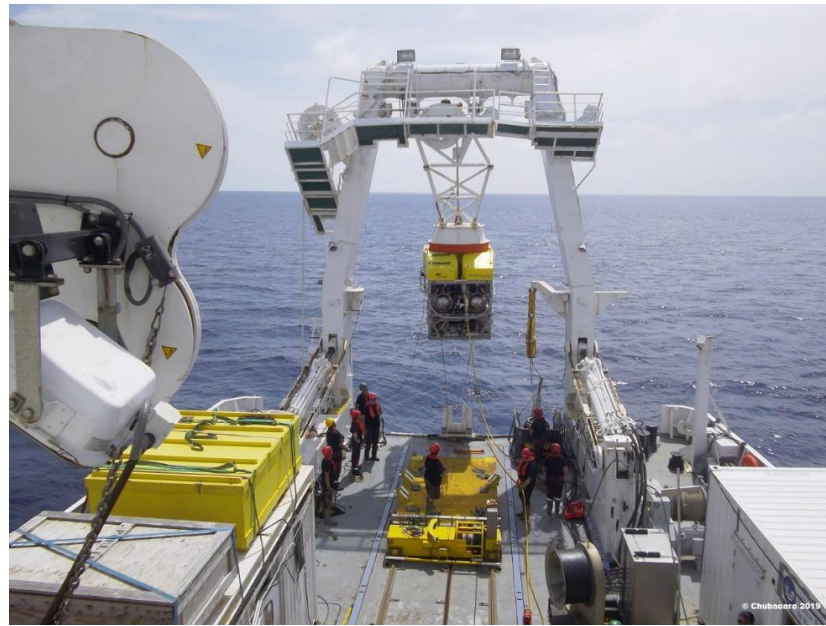


ROV sampling of biomass-dominant benthic fauna

Dissection and extraction of relevant tissues

Use of stable isotope ratios of C, N and S

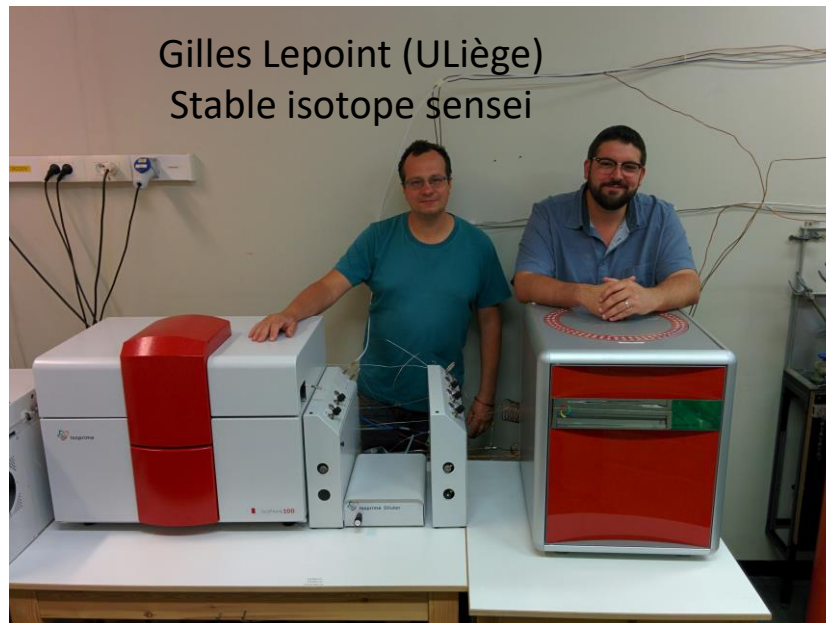
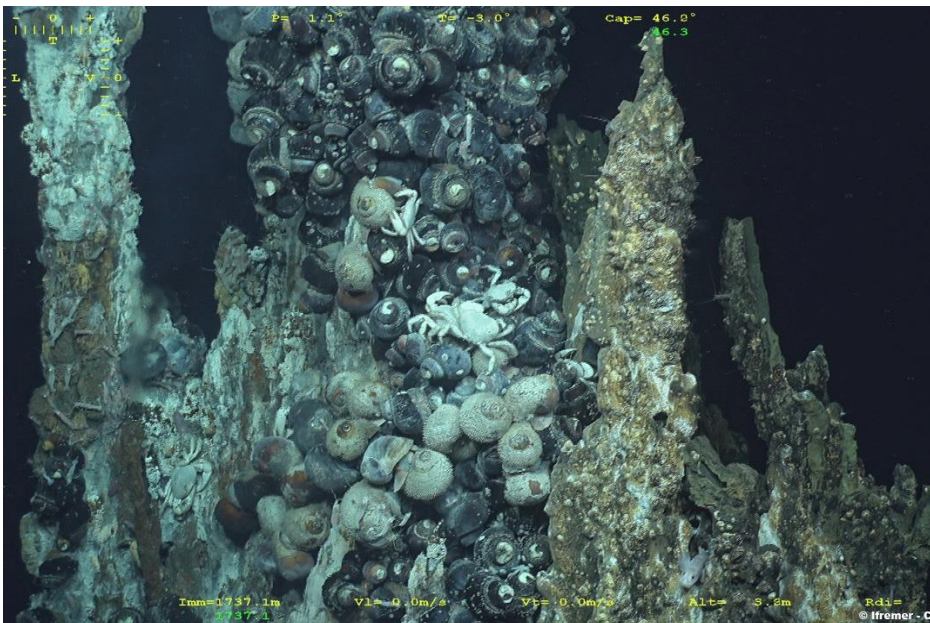
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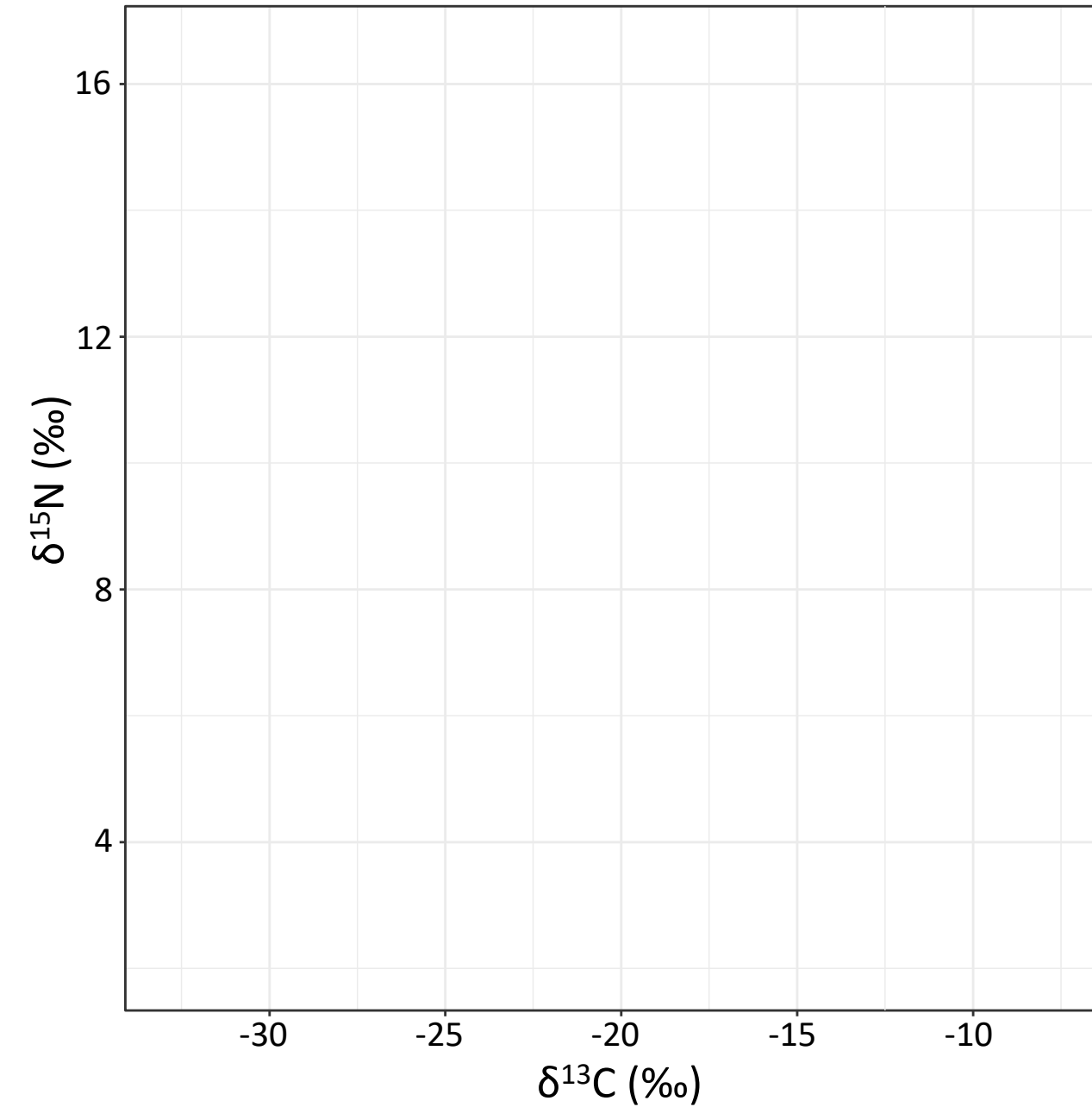
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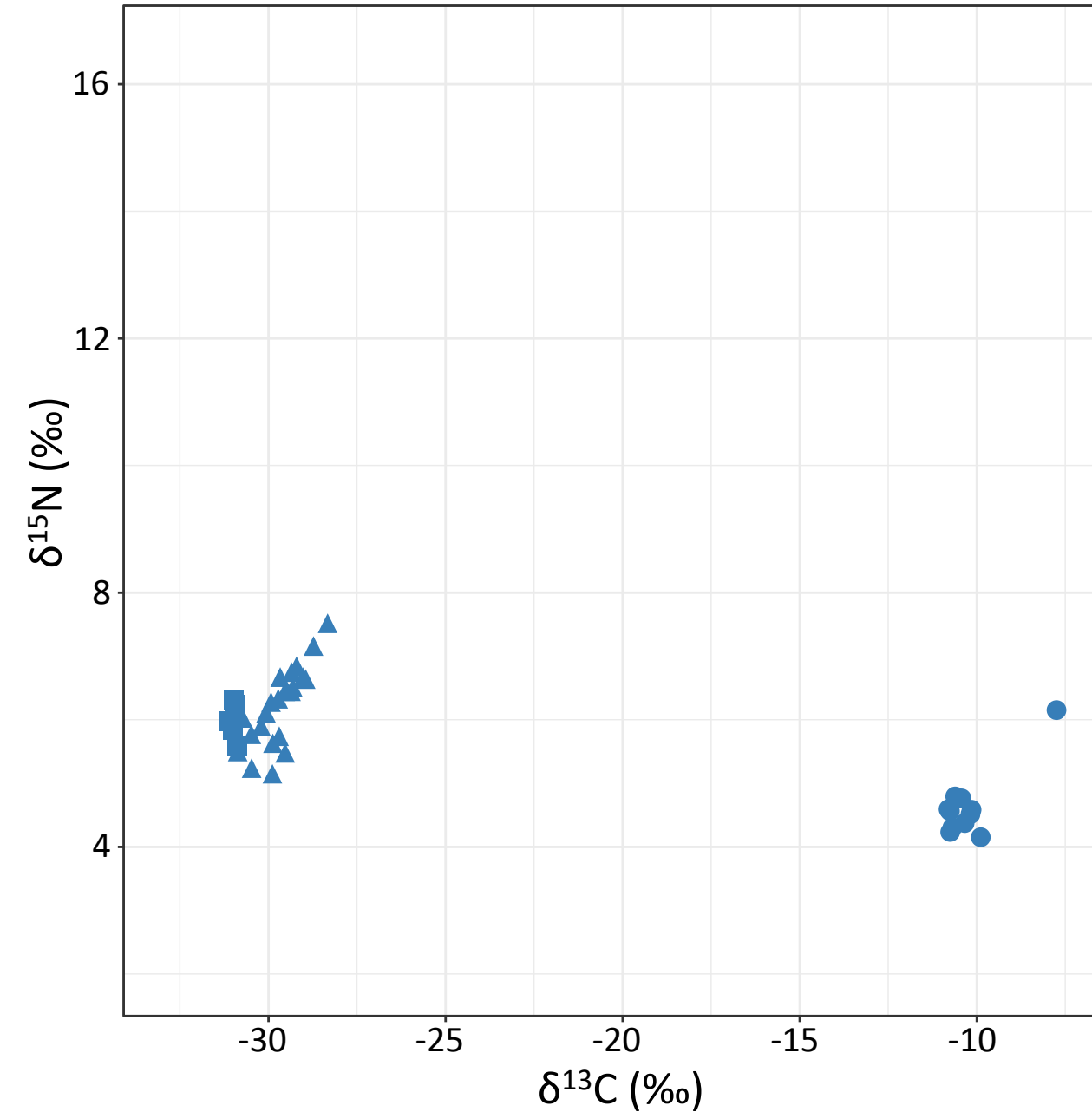
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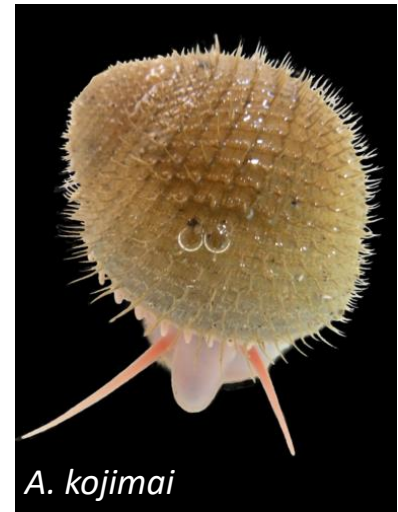
Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)



Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

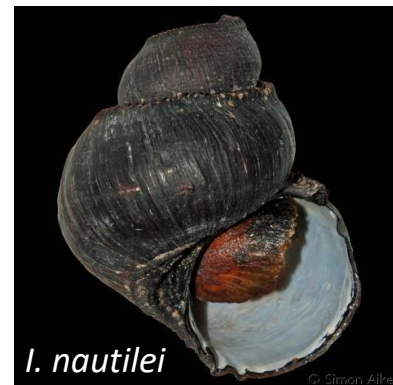
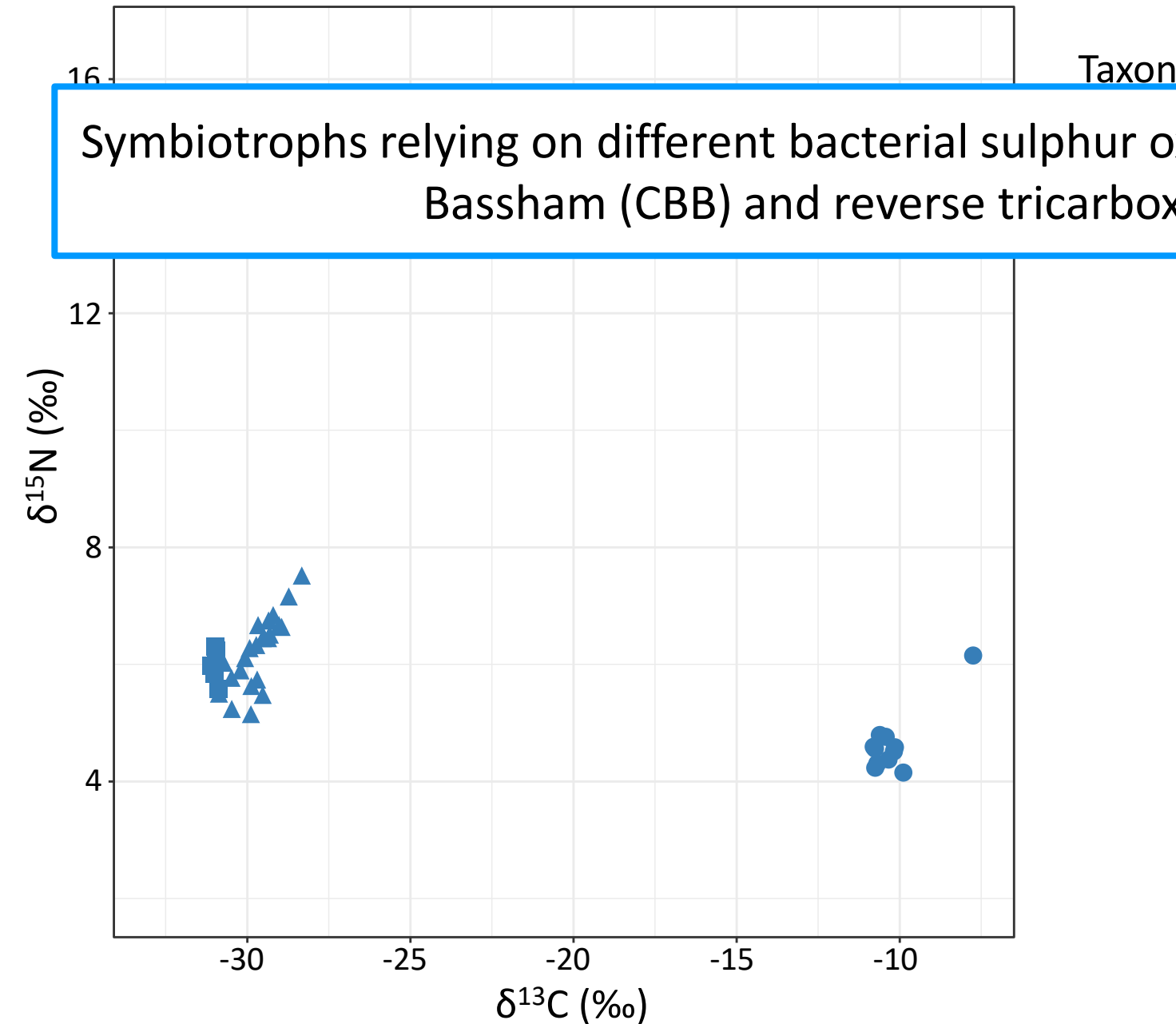


- Taxon
- *Alviniconcha boucheti*
 - ▲ *Alviniconcha kojimai*
 - *Ifremeria nautili*

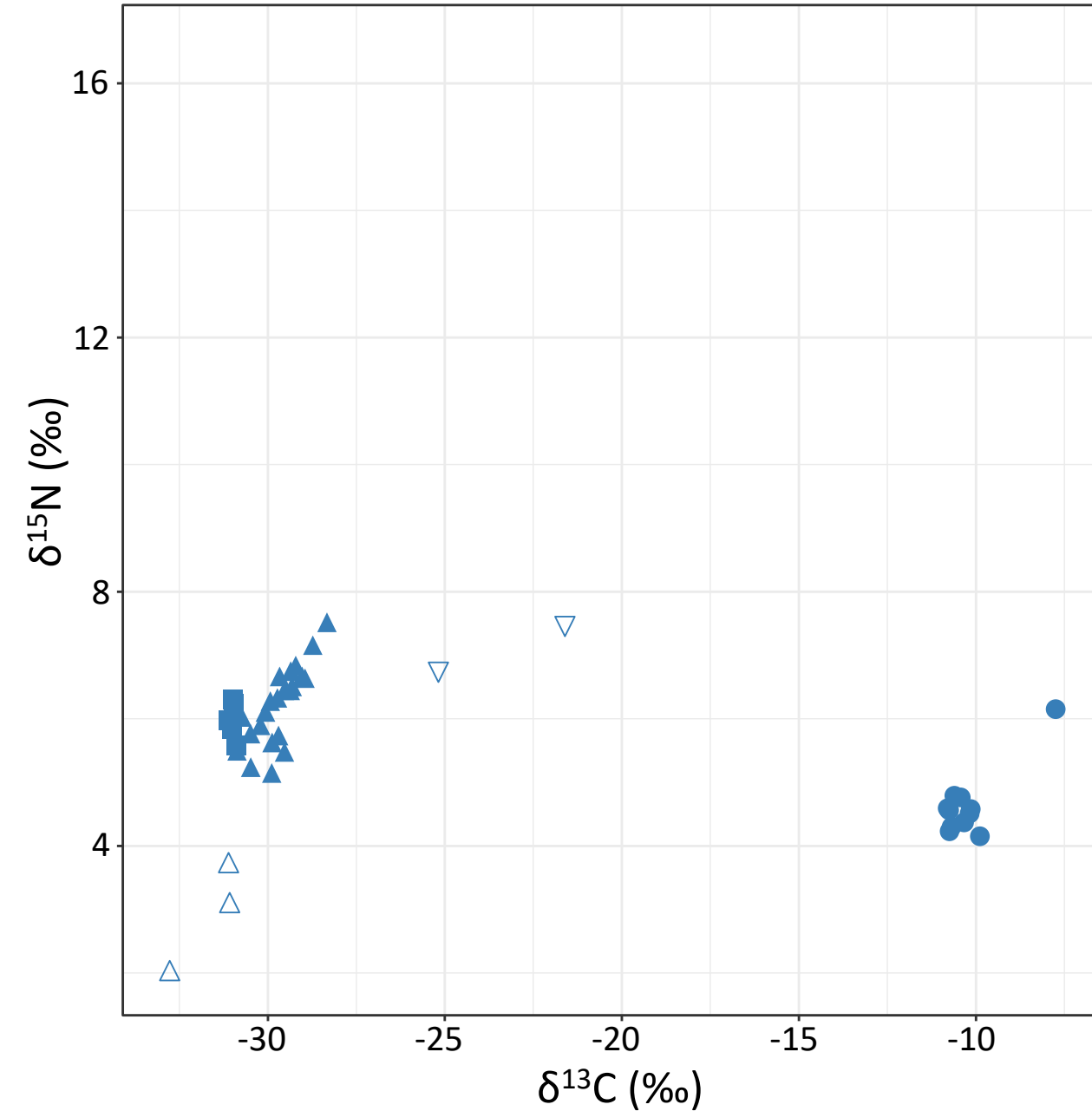


Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

Symbiotrophs relying on different bacterial sulphur oxydation metabolisms: Calvin-Benson-Bassham (CBB) and reverse tricarboxylic acid (rTCA) cycles



Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)



Taxon

- *Alviniconcha boucheti*
- ▲ *Alviniconcha kojimai*
- *Ifremeria nautili*
- △ *Provanna* sp.
- ▽ *Phymorhynchus* sp.



Provanna sp.

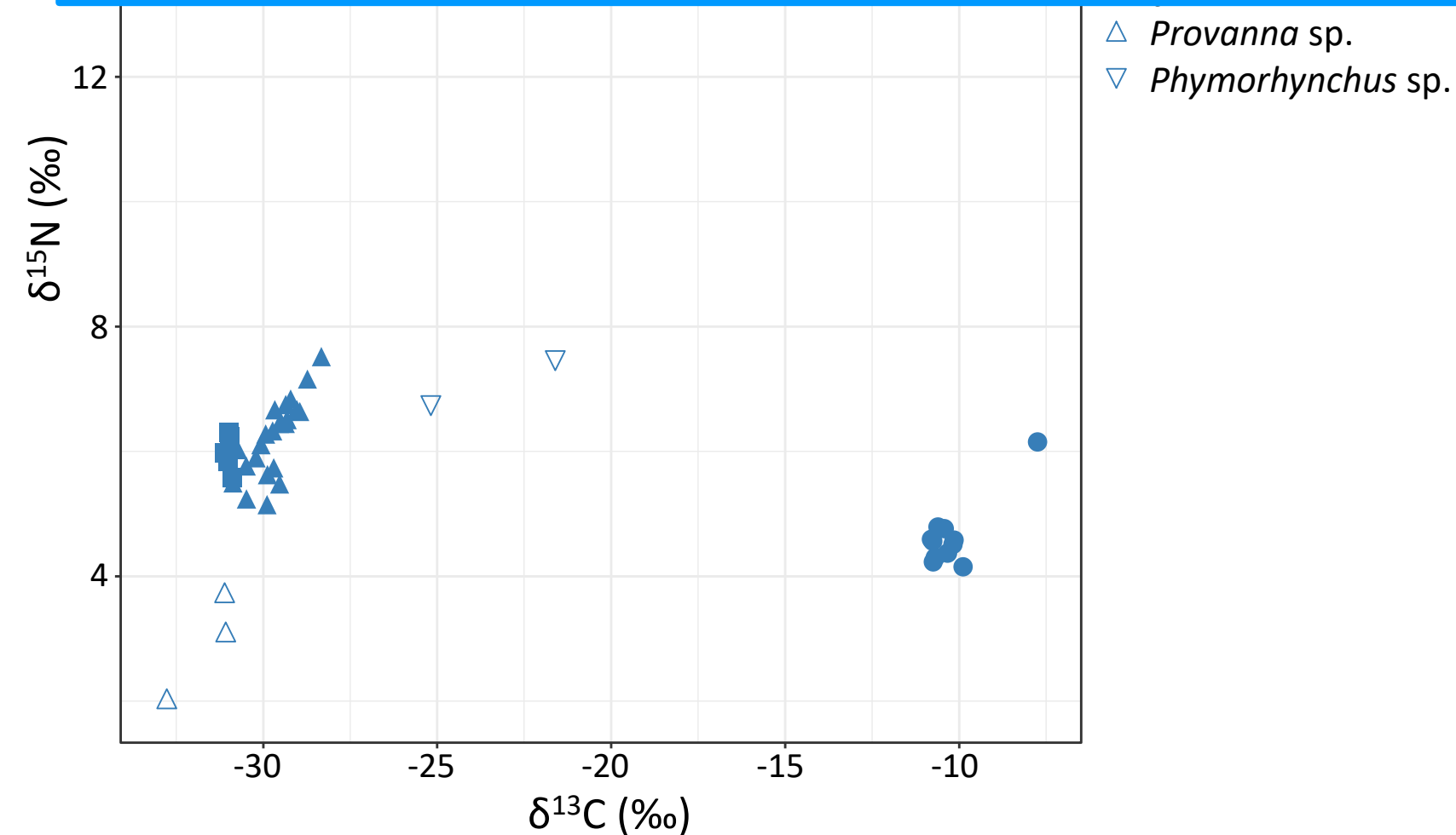


Phymorhynchus sp.

Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

Provanna sp.: Relatively low trophic position, most likely bacterial grazer

Phymorhynchus sp.: $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ higher than grazers but similar to symbiont feeders. Seems to feed at a lower trophic position than often assumed.

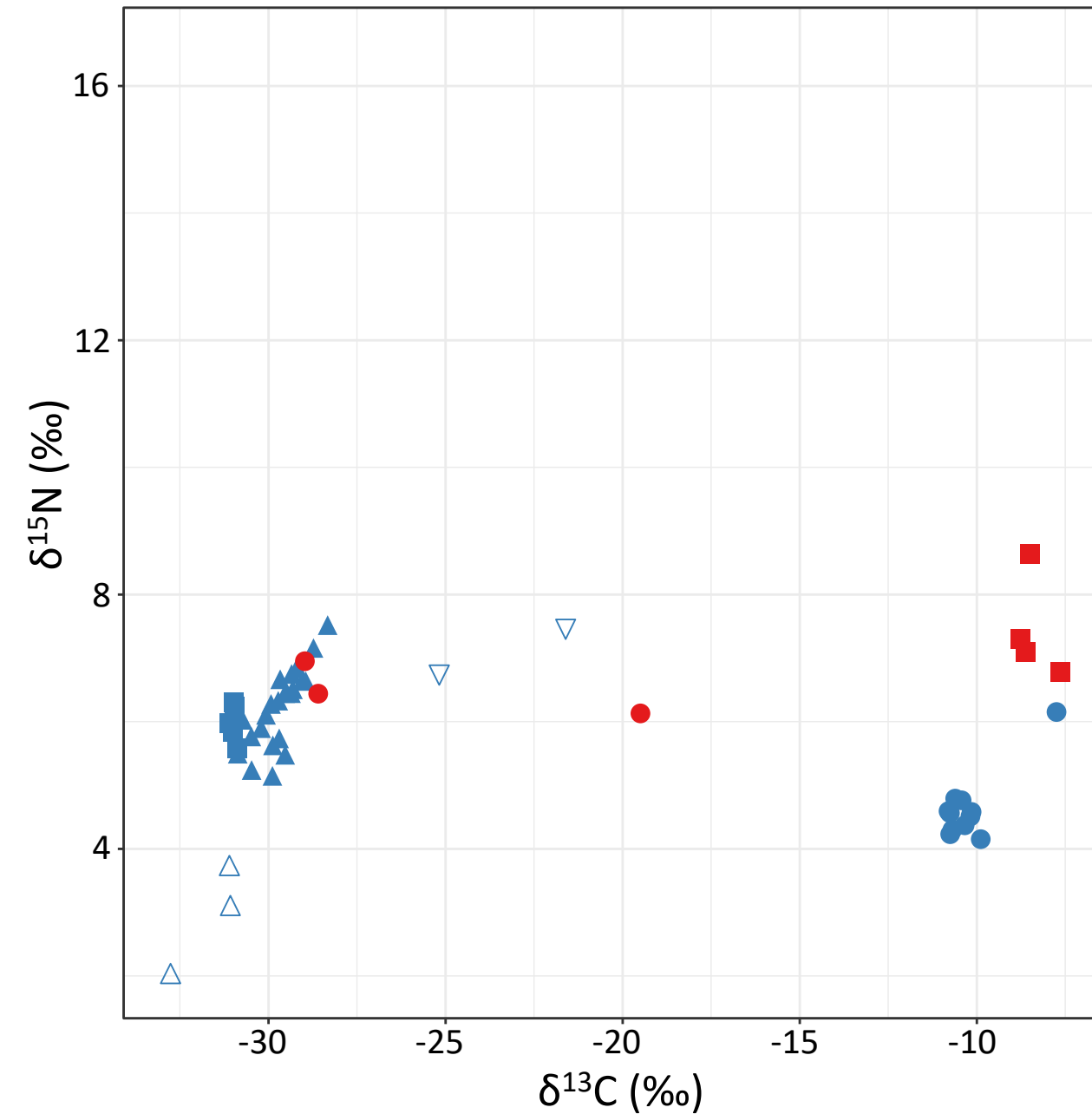


Provanna sp.



Phymorhynchus sp.

Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)



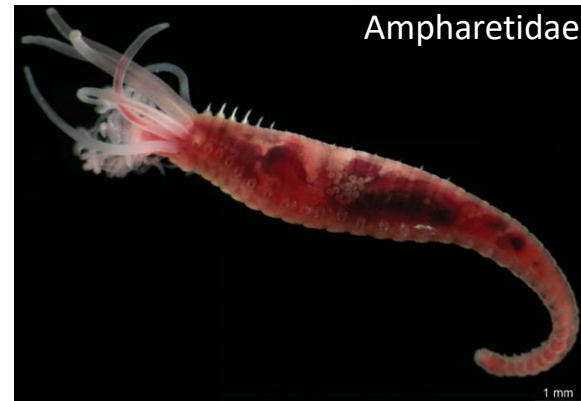
Taxon

- *Alviniconcha boucheti*
- ▲ *Alviniconcha kojimai*
- *Ifremeria nautiliei*
- △ *Provanna sp.*
- ▽ *Phymorhynchus sp.*
- Ampharetidae
- *Branchinotogluma segonzaci*

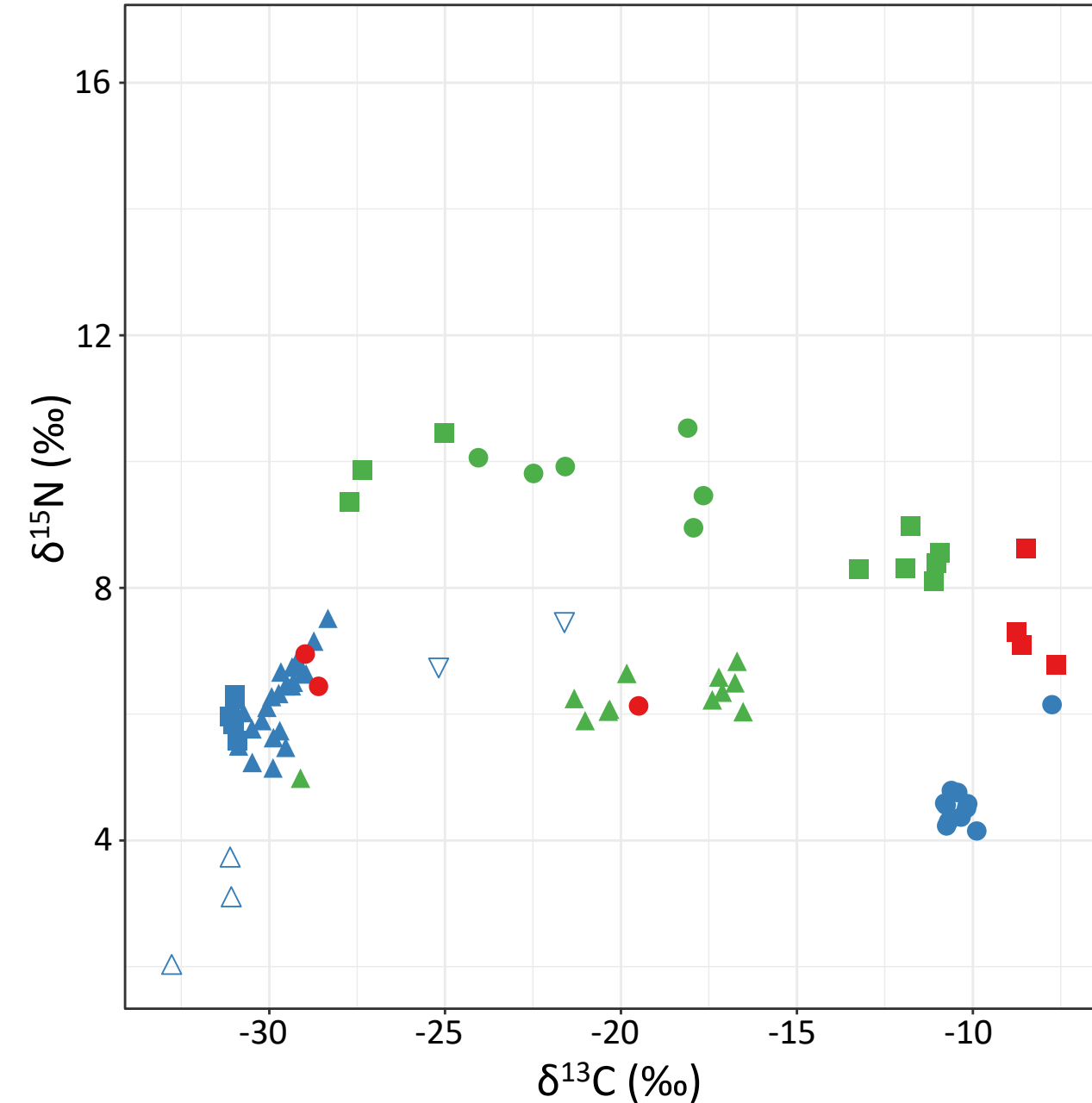
B. segonzaci



Ampharetidae



Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)



Taxon

- *Alviniconcha boucheti*
- ▲ *Alviniconcha kojimai*
- *Ifremeria nautili*
- △ *Provanna* sp.
- ▽ *Phymorhynchus* sp.
- Ampharetidae
- *Branchinotogluma segonzaci*
- *Austinogrea* sp.
- *Rimicaris variabilis*
- ▲ *Vulcanolepas* sp. nov.



Austinogrea sp.

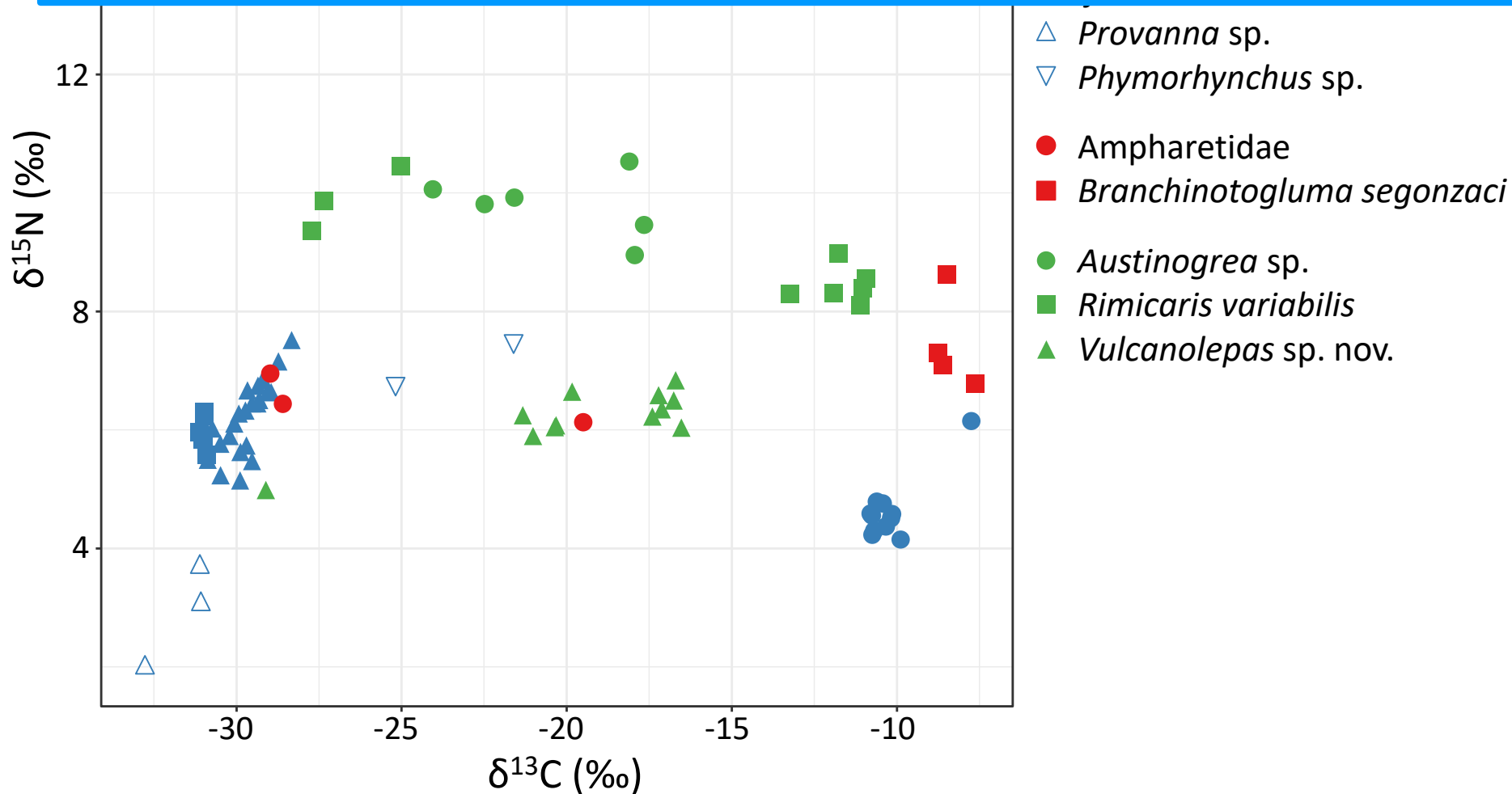
Vulcanolepas sp. nov.



Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ of crabs and shrimps higher, yet similar. Both omnivores? Differences in trophic position masked by baseline differences?

Marked $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ differences among shrimps: high intraspecific trophic diversity

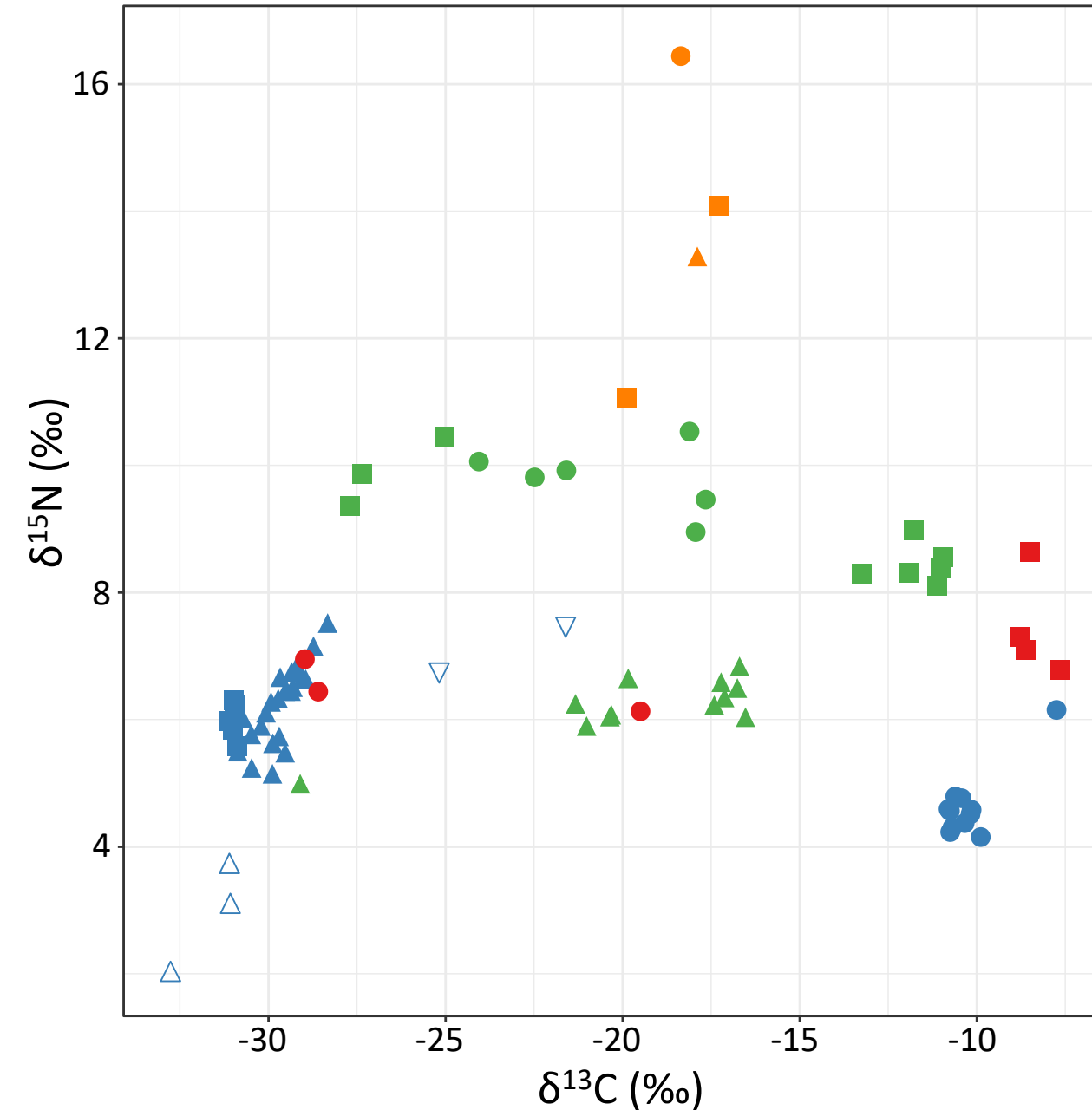


Austinogrea sp.

Vulcanolepas sp. nov.

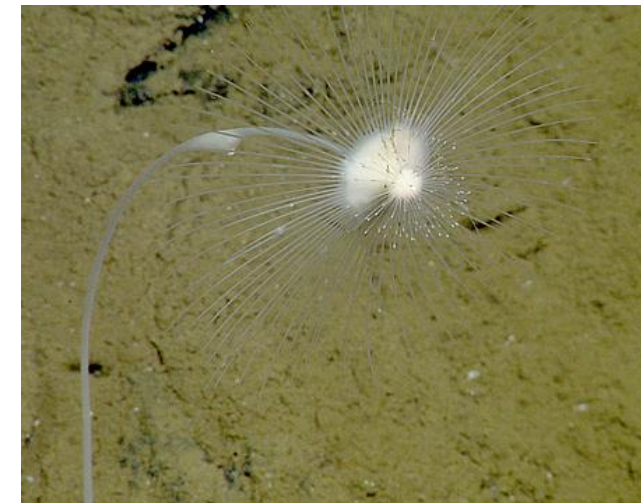


Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

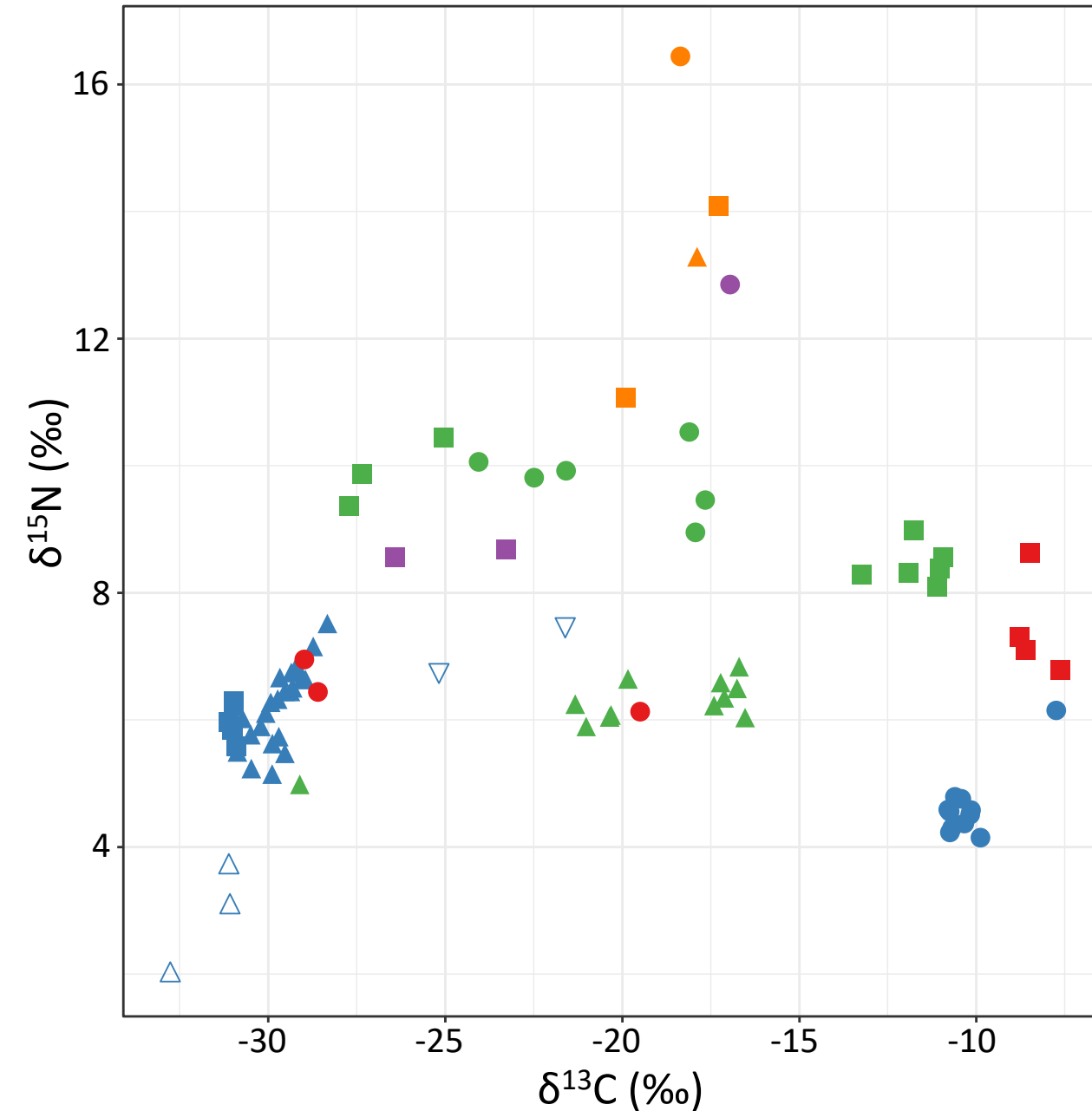


Taxon

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- Ampharetidae
- *Branchinotogluma segonzaci*
- *Austinogrea* sp.
- *Rimicaris variabilis*
- ▲ *Vulcanolepas* sp.
- Porifera (bottom)
- ▲ Isididae (top)
- Actiniaria (middle)

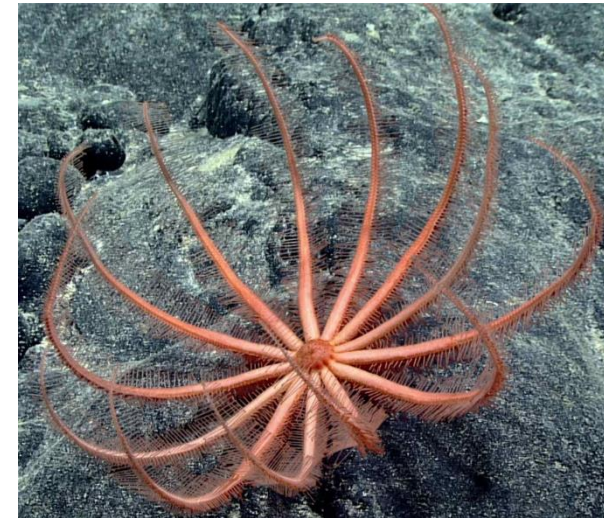


Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

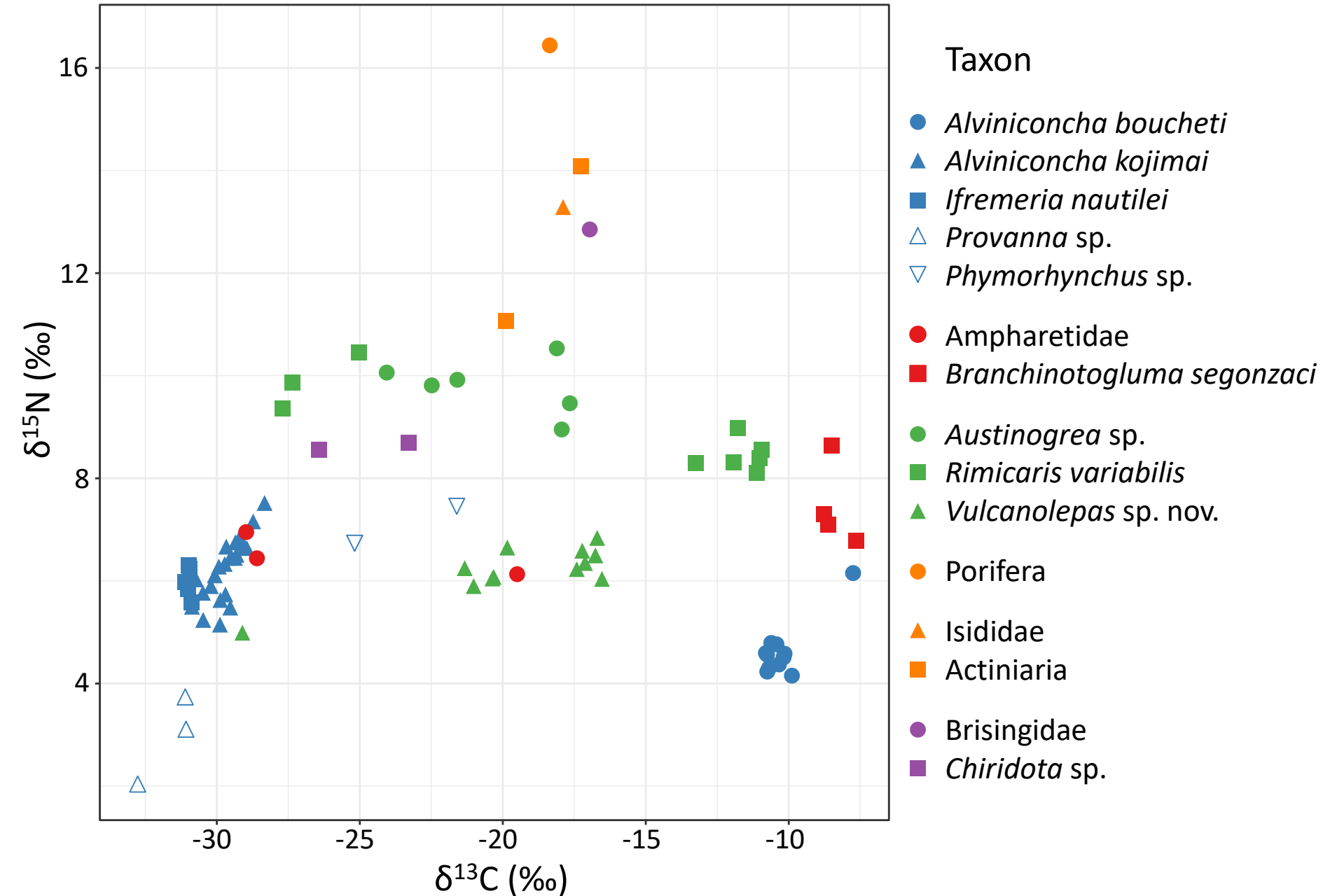


Taxon

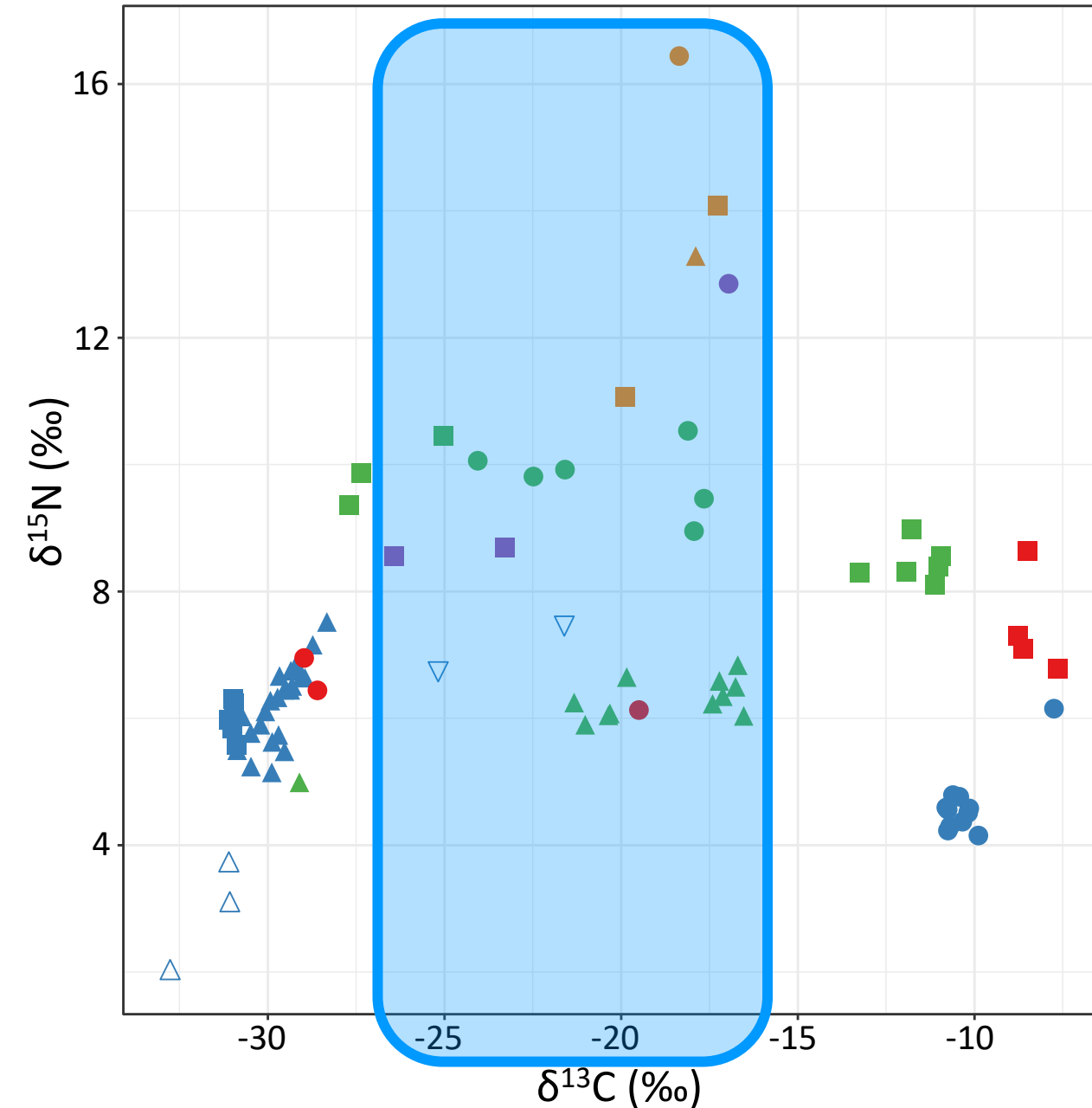
- *Alviniconcha boucheti*
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- *Austinogrea* sp.
- *Rimicaris variabilis*
- ▲ *Vulcanolepas* sp. nov.
- Porifera
- ▲ Isididae
- Actiniaria
- Brisingiidae (top)
- *Chiridota* sp. (bottom)



Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)



Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

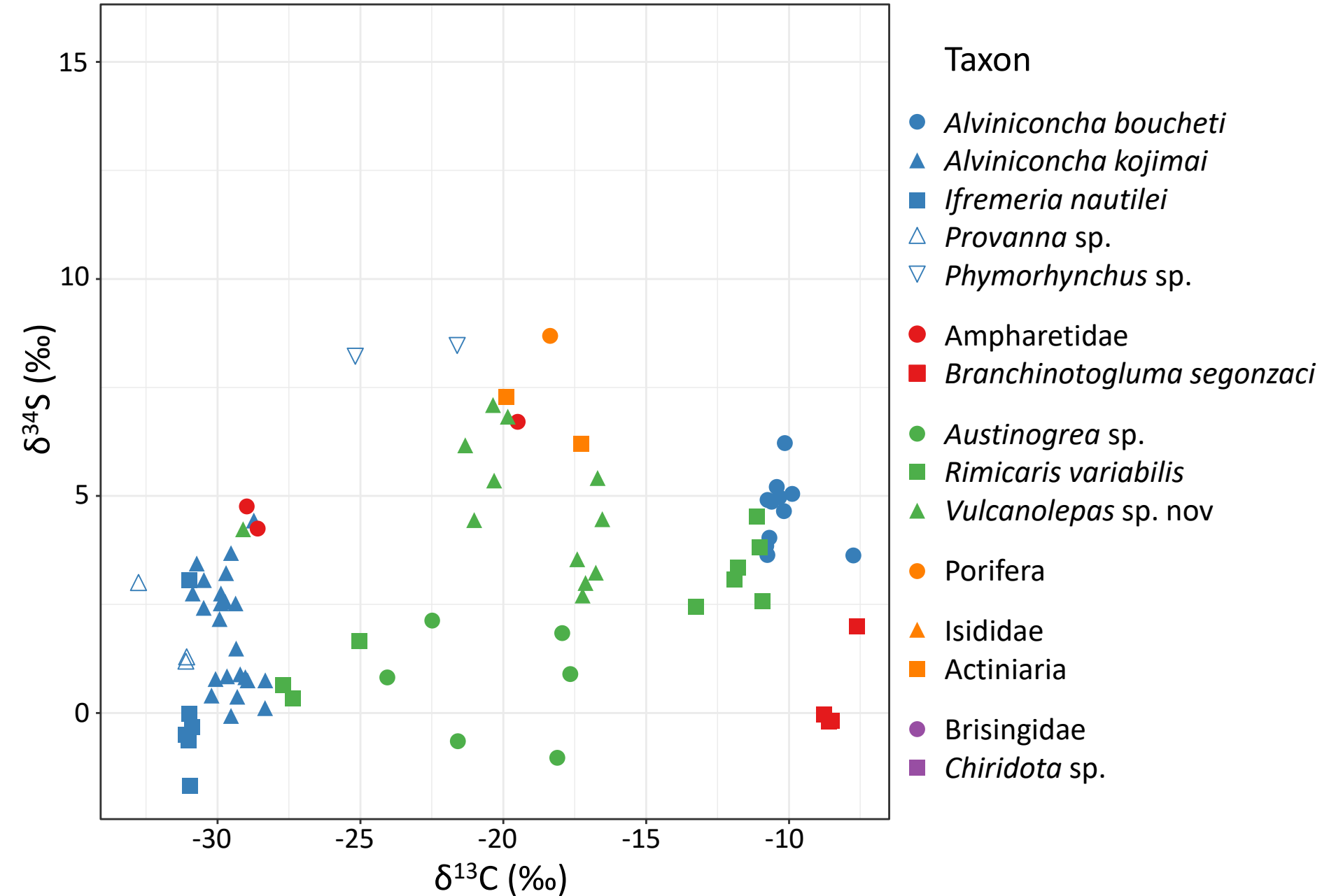


What do these animals with intermediate $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ feed on?

Exported **photosynthetic** production?

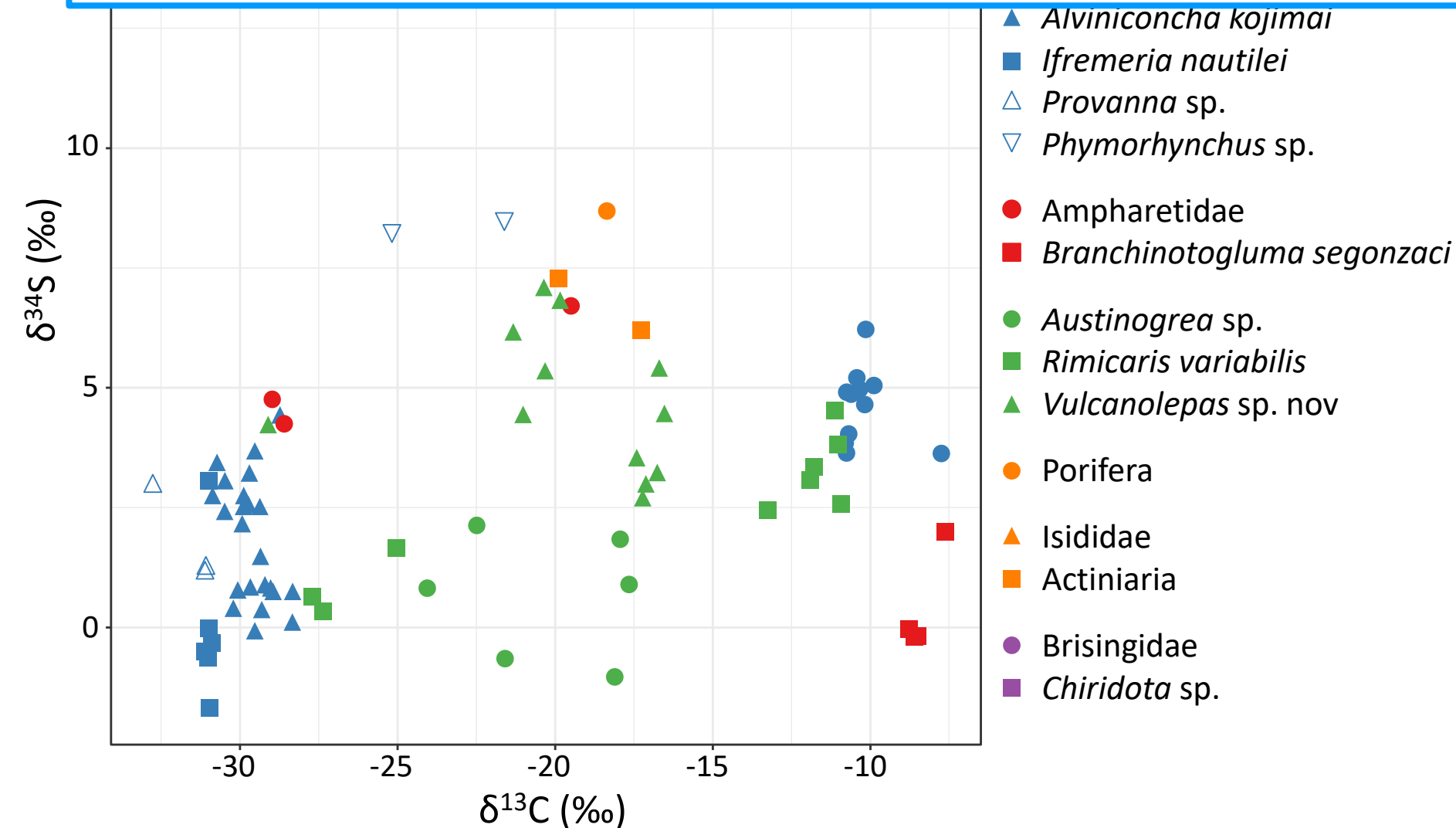
Mix of **chemosynthesis**-derived OM produced through multiple pathways?

Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

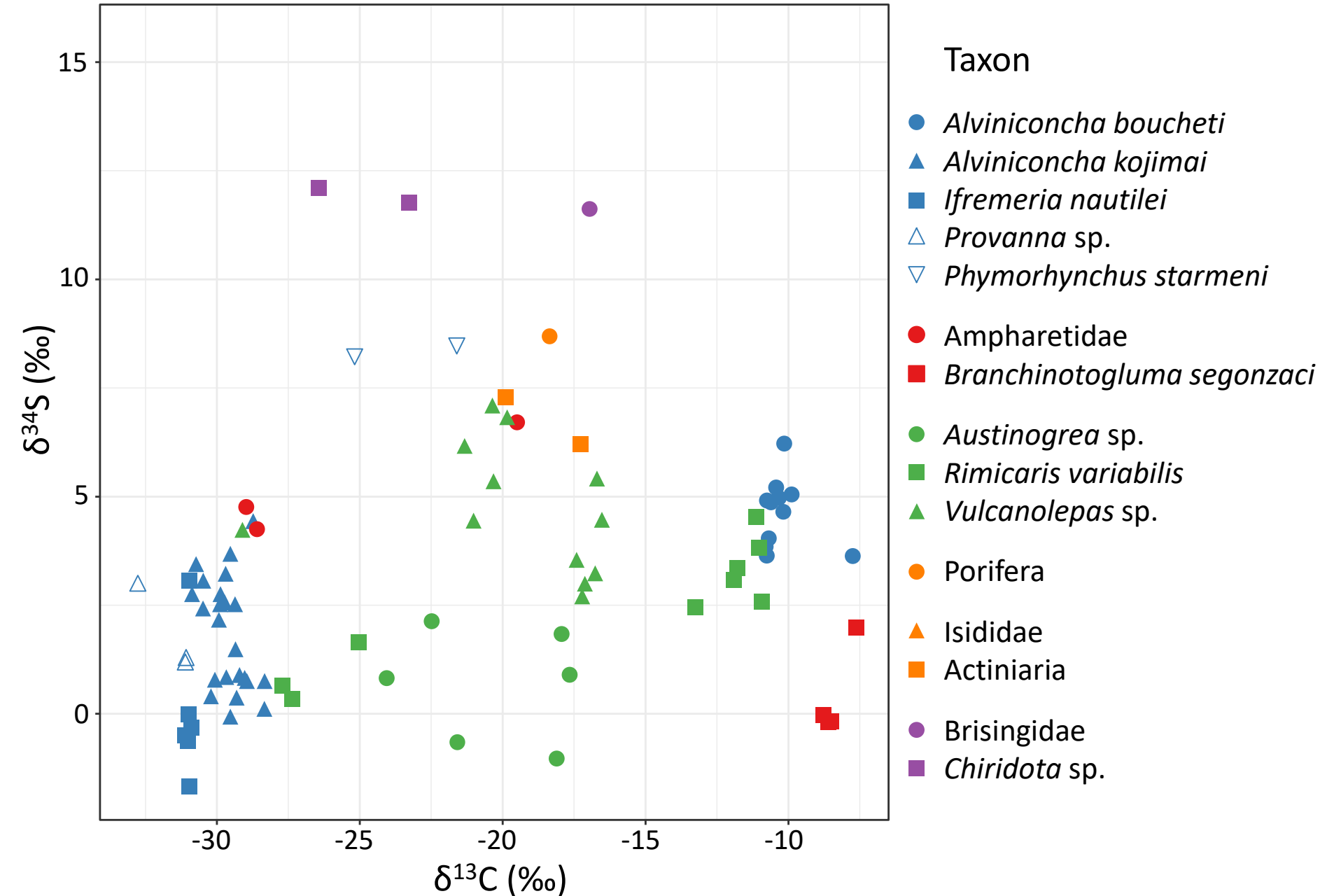


Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

Low $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in most fauna, from known symbiotrophs to facultative vent dwellers found in inactive or peripheral zones

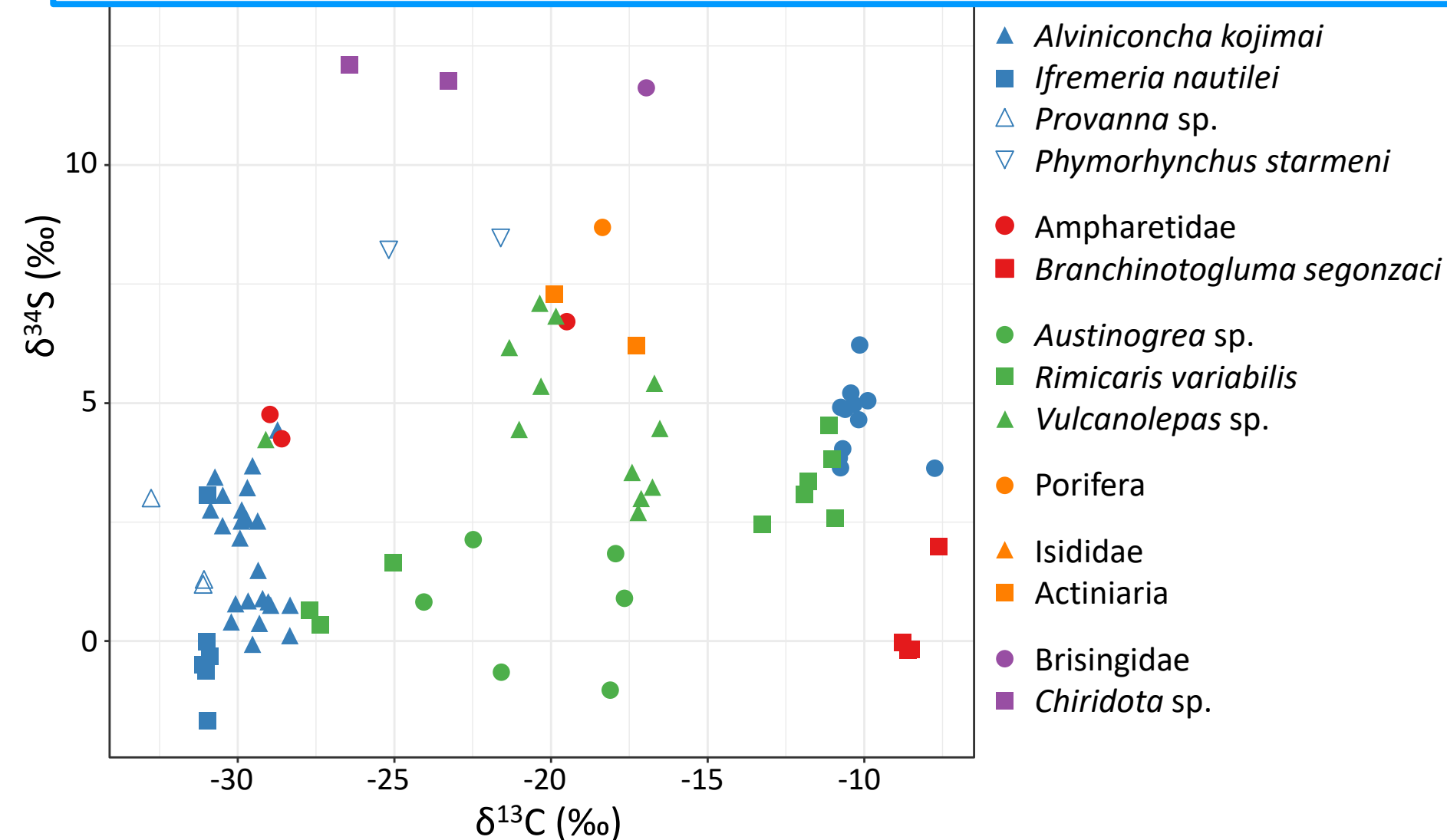


Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

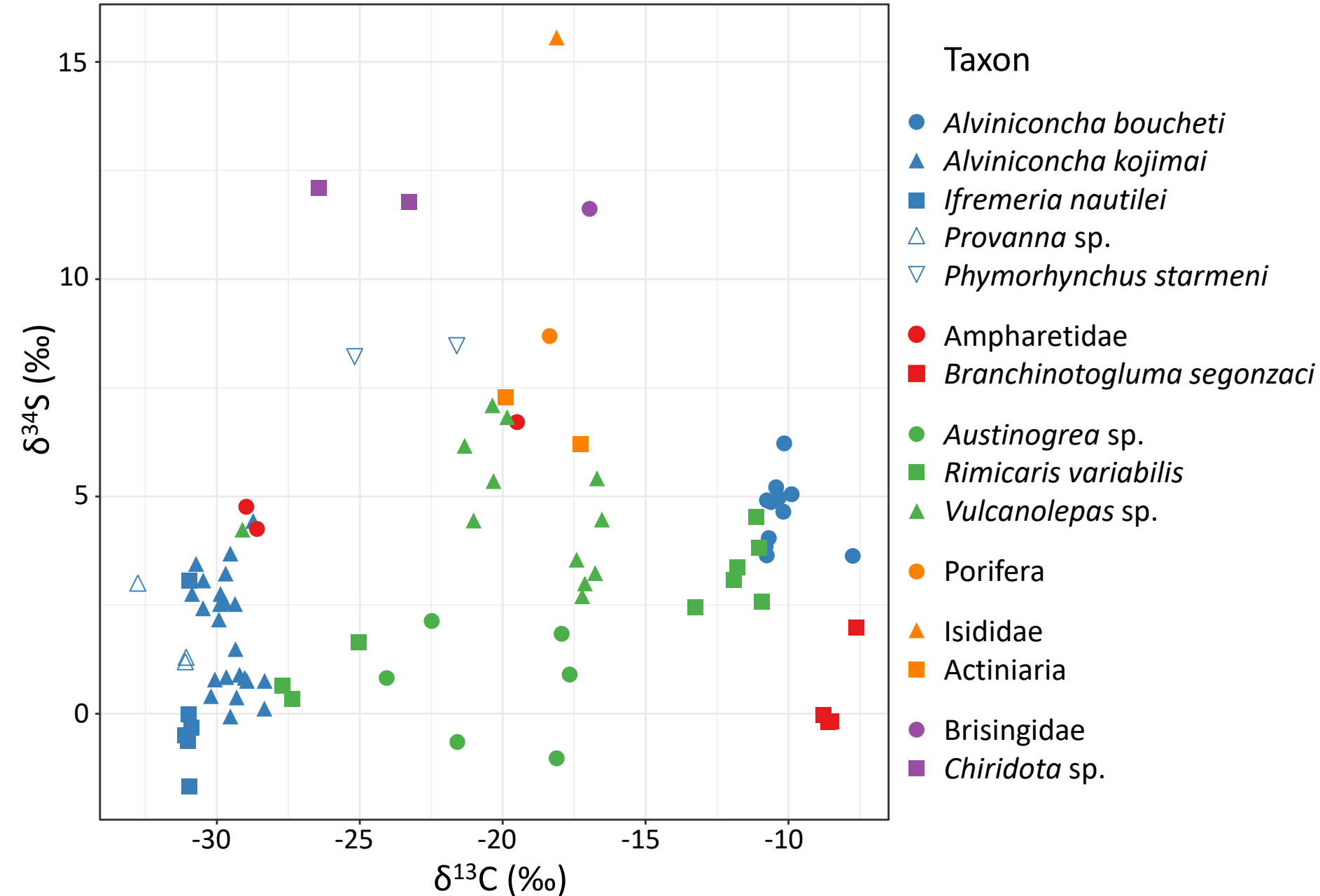


Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

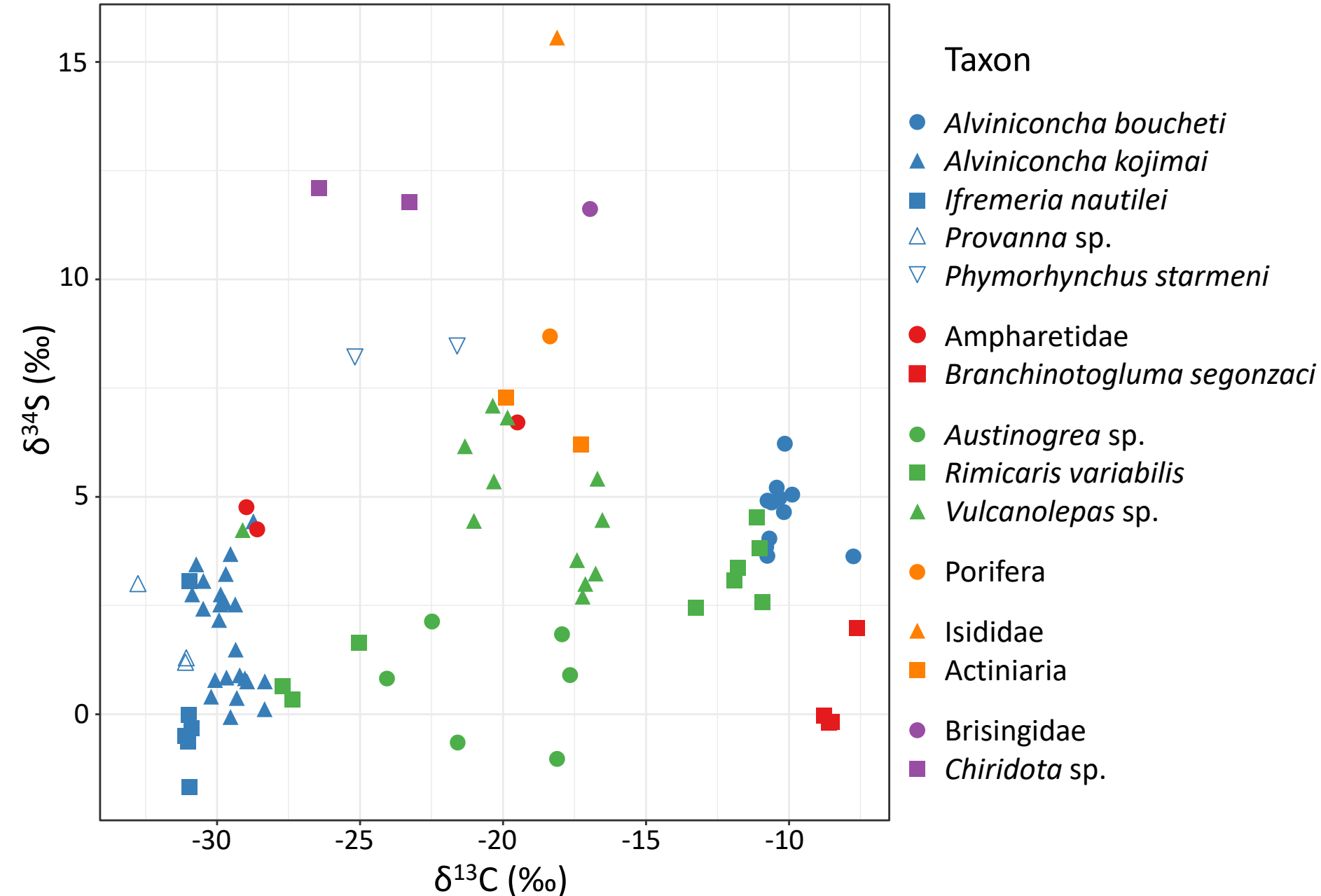
Intermediate $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in echinoderms: reliance on both chemosynthesis- and photosynthesis-derived organic matter



Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)



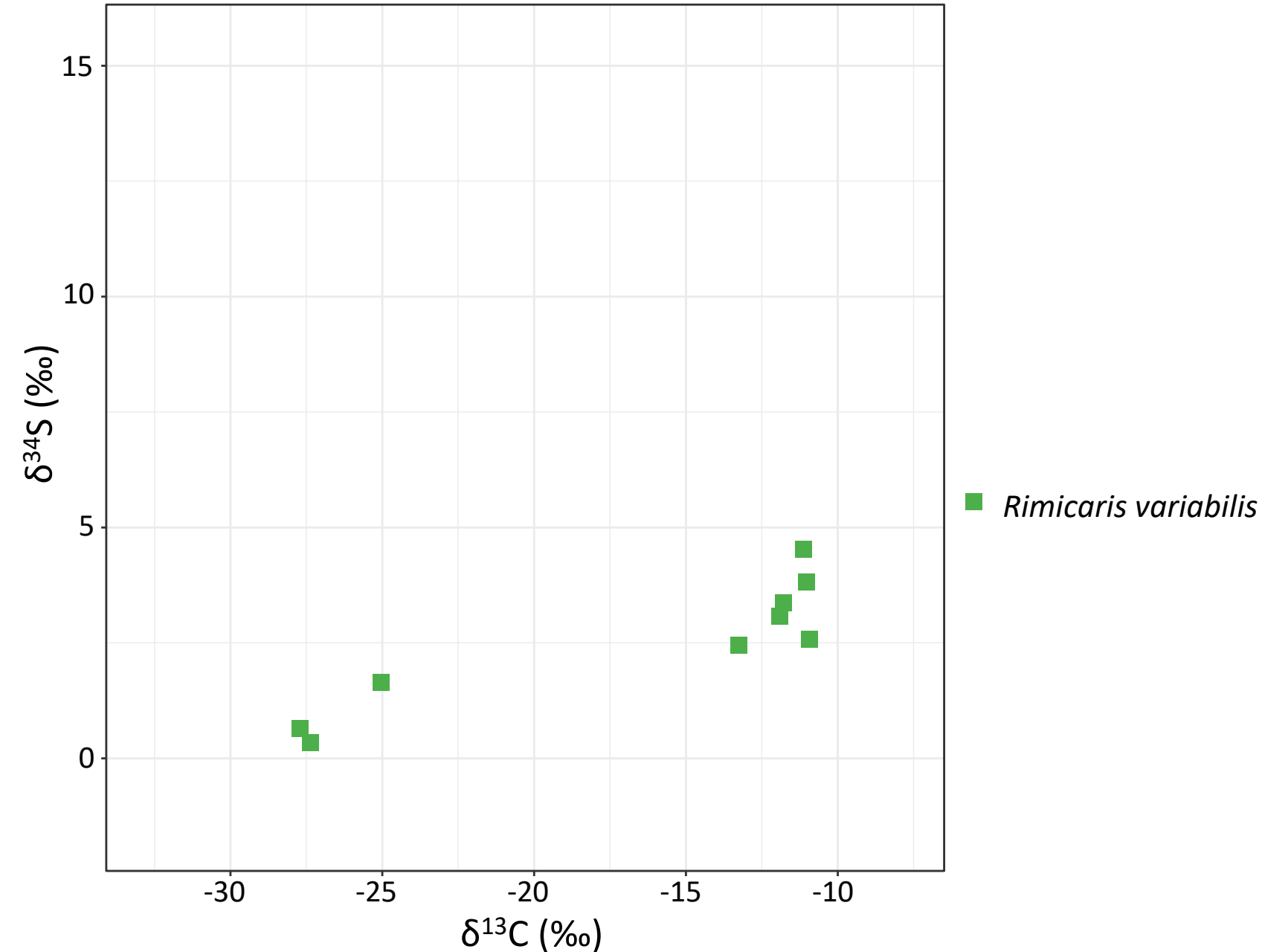
Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)



Community mostly fueled by **thiotrophy** in active emission zones, but also in peripheral habitats. Photosynthetic inputs limited.

Continuum of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values: **co-reliance** on **CBB** and **rTCA** cycles, with inter- and intraspecific differences in feeding habits

Food web structure: La Scala (Woodlark basin)

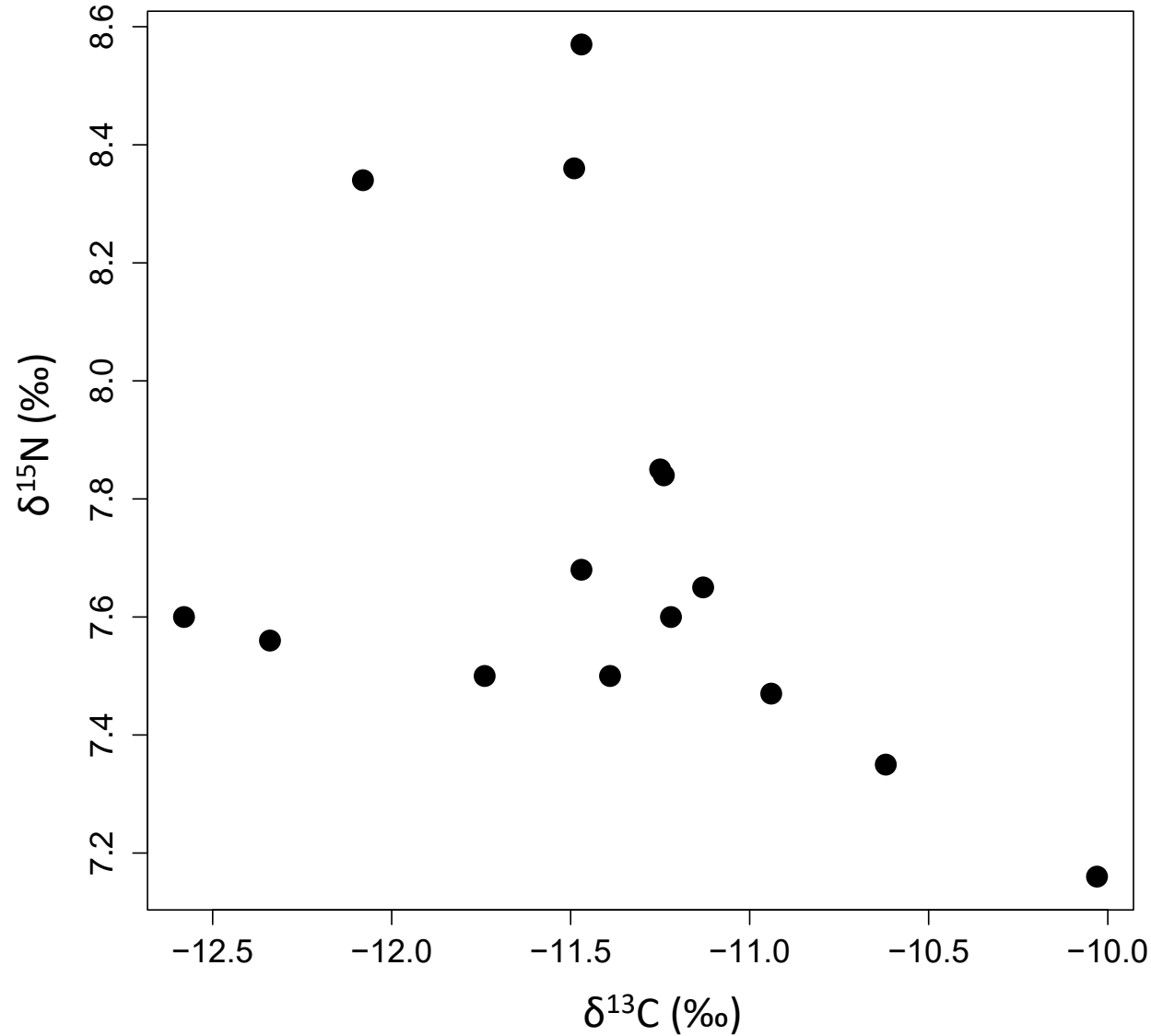


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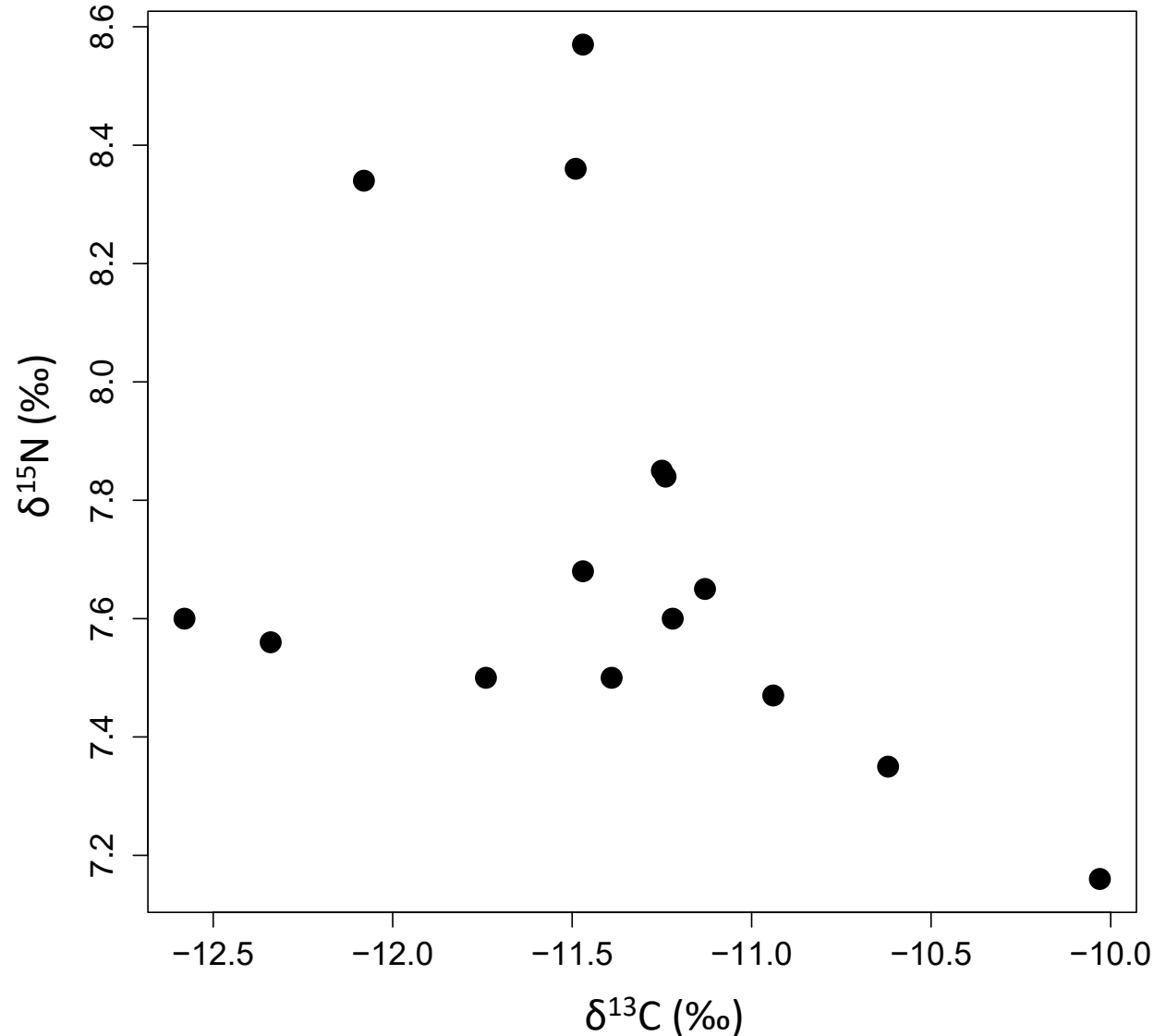
Isotopic variability: what ecological info does it hold?

Typical SI analysis output : points in "isospace"



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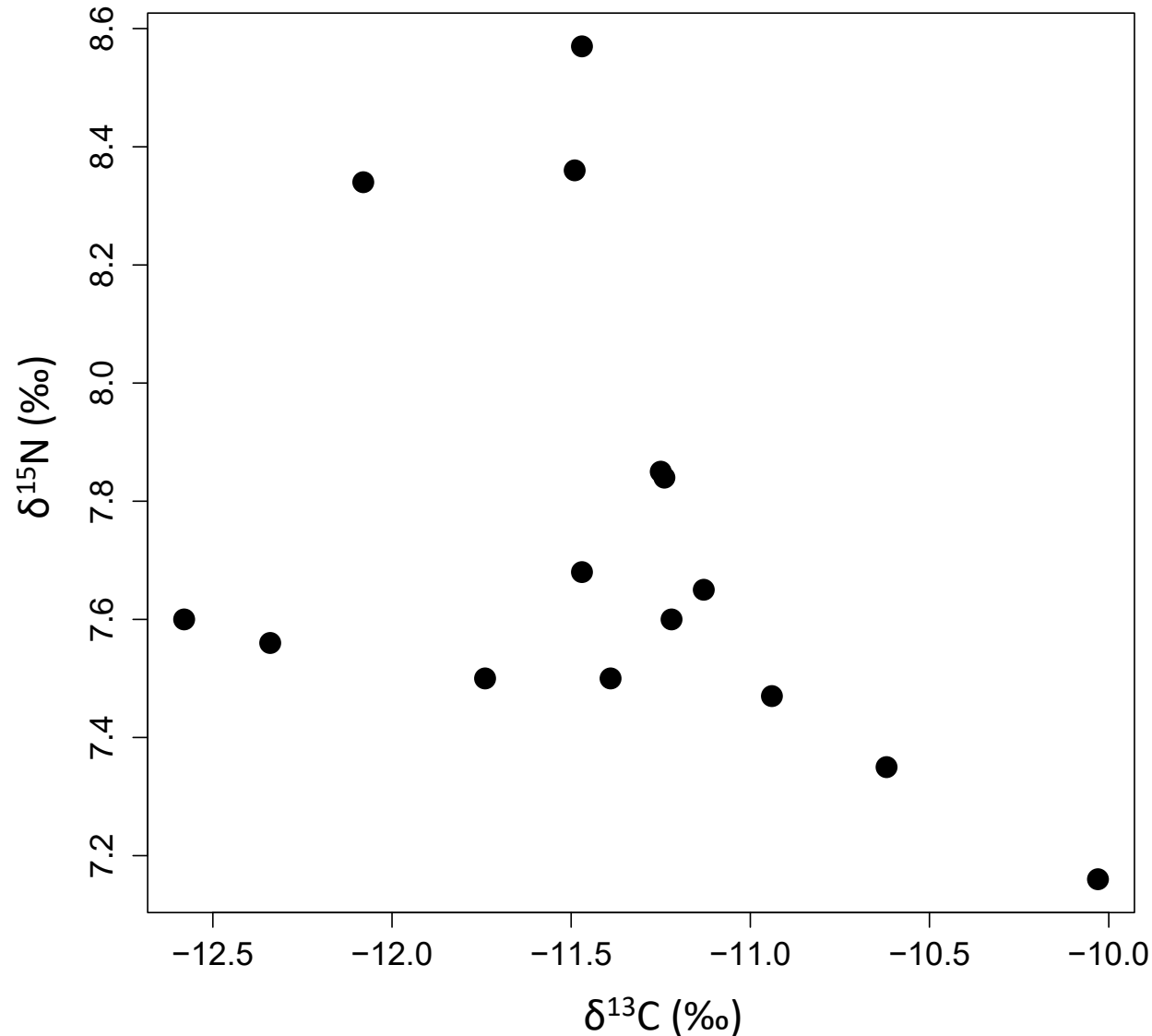


Position of consumers in the **isospace** is driven by

- 1) Differences in **consumed resources** (different preys can have different isotopic compositions)

Isotopic variability: what ecological info does it hold?

Typical SI analysis output : points in "isospace"

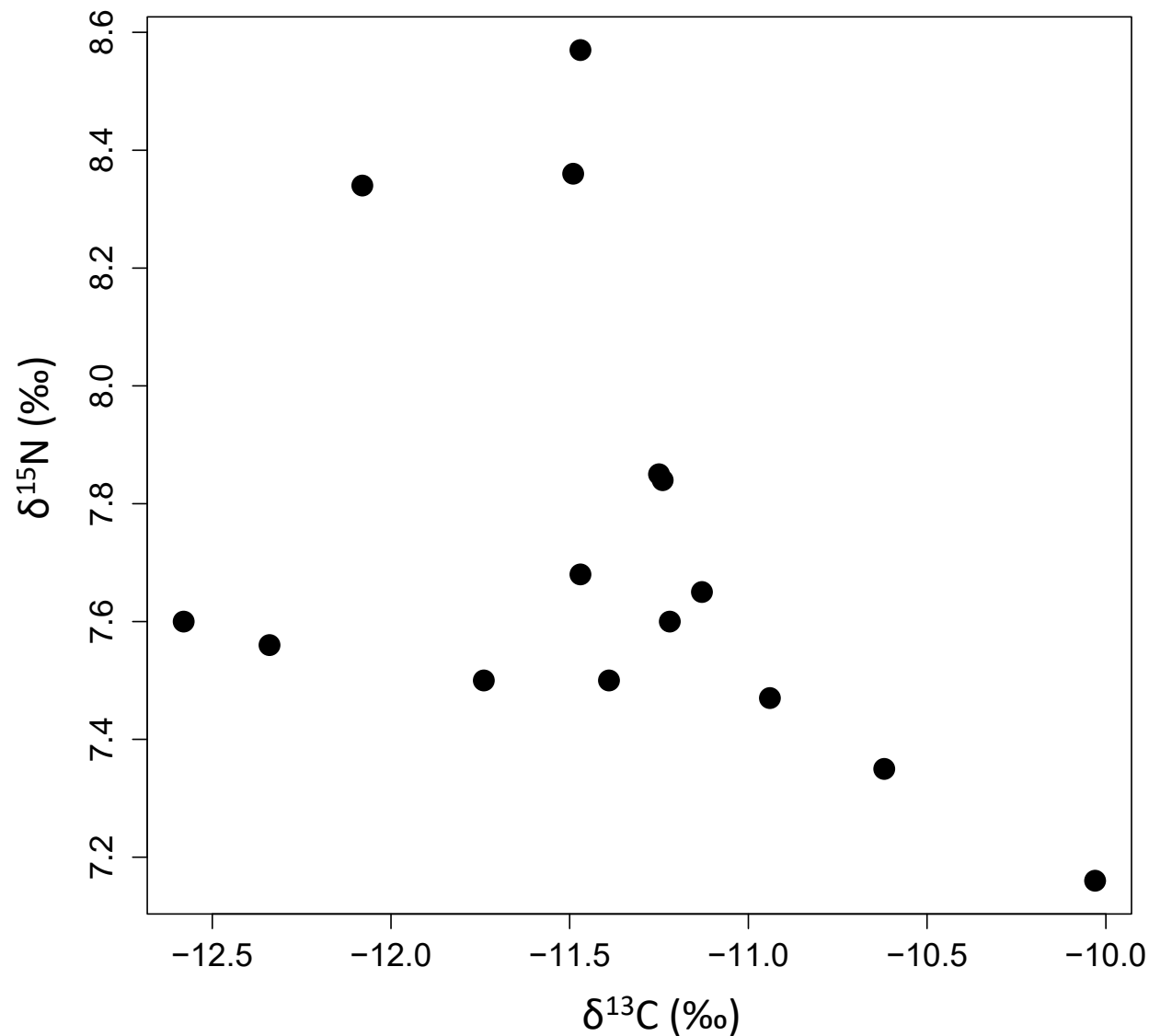


Position of consumers in the **isospace** is driven by

- 1) Differences in **consumed resources**
(different preys can have different isotopic compositions)
- 2) Differences in **foraging habitat**
(the same prey can have different isotopic compositions in different habitats)

Isotopic variability: what ecological info does it hold?

Geometric approach (Layman *et al.* 2007):



CAN STABLE ISOTOPE RATIOS PROVIDE FOR COMMUNITY-WIDE MEASURES OF TROPHIC STRUCTURE?

CRAIG A. LAYMAN,^{1,5} D. ALBREY ARRINGTON,² CARMEN G. MONTAÑA,³ AND DAVID M. POST⁴

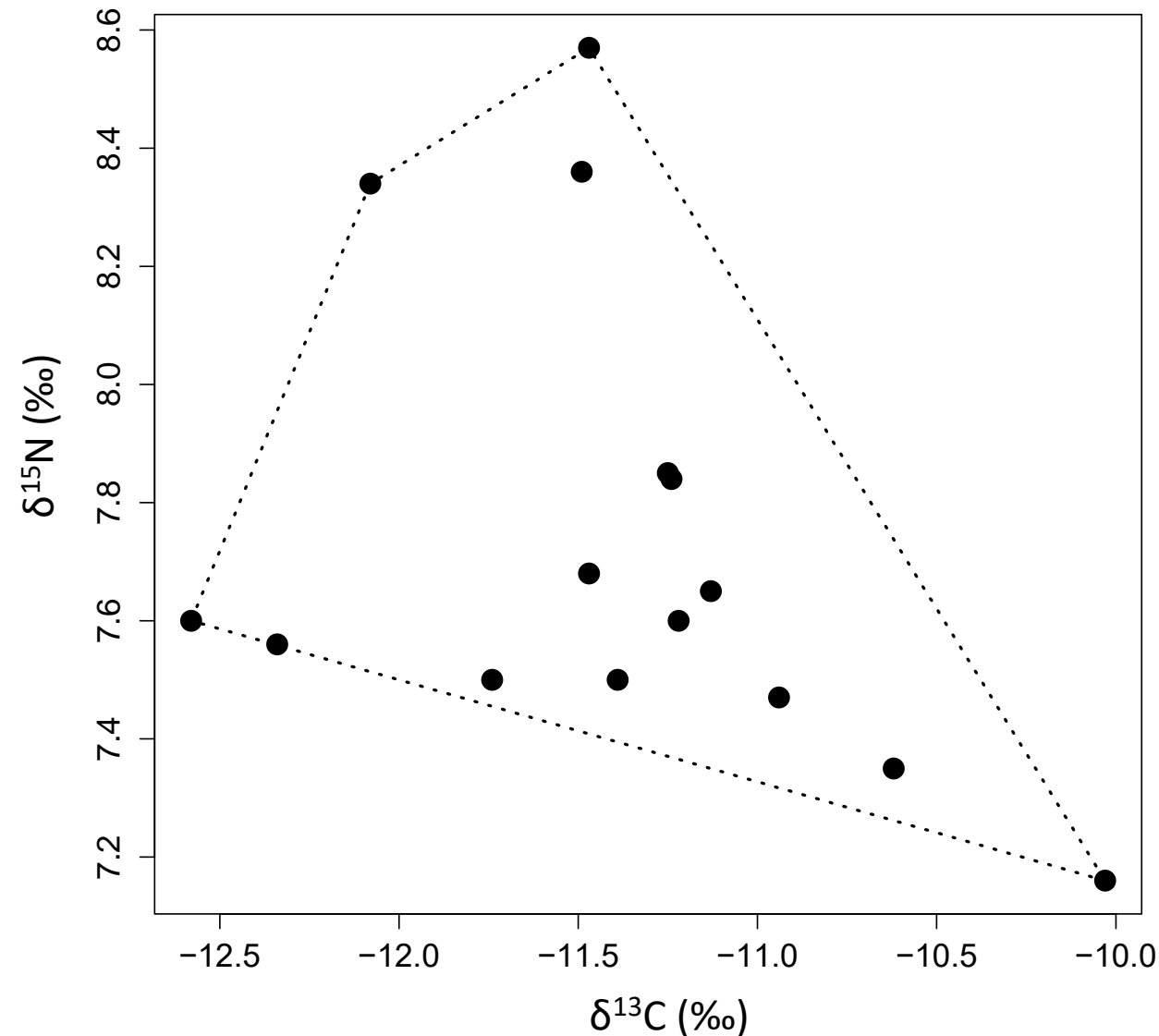
Ecology, 88(1), 2007, pp. 42–48

Isotopic variability: what ecological info does it hold?

Geometric approach (Layman *et al.* 2007):

Fit a **convex hull** (i.e., the smallest possible surface that encompasses all points) to the data

This convex hull represents the **isotopic niche** of the group of consumers (**proxy** for their **realized ecological niche**)



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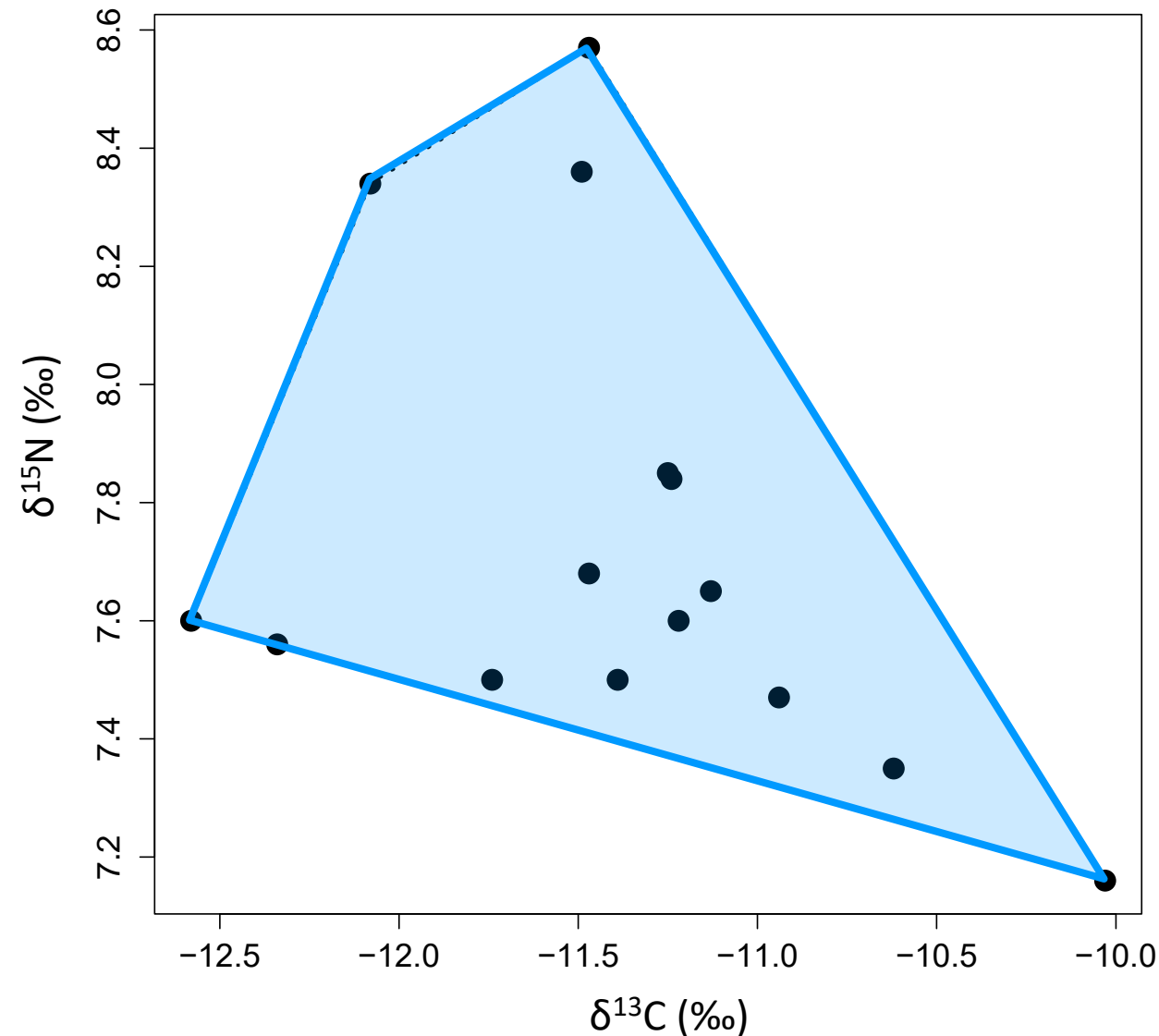
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Set of complementary metrics including **total area of the convex hull**: **proxy** of the **total resource diversity** used by the organisms



CAN STABLE ISOTOPE RATIOS PROVIDE FOR COMMUNITY-WIDE MEASURES OF TROPHIC STRUCTURE?

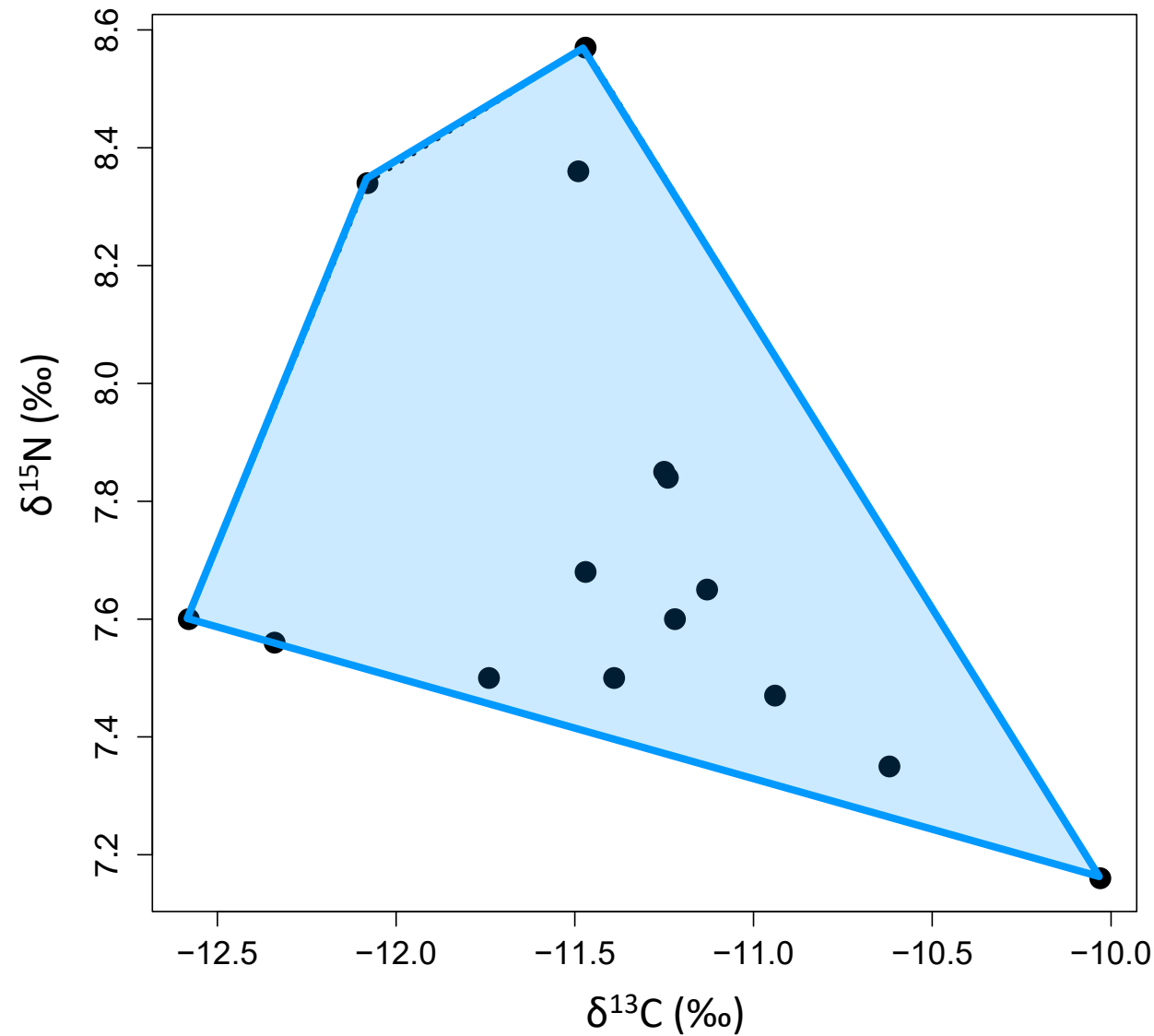
CRAIG A. LAYMAN,^{1,5} D. ALBREY ARRINGTON,² CARMEN G. MONTAÑA,³ AND DAVID M. POST⁴

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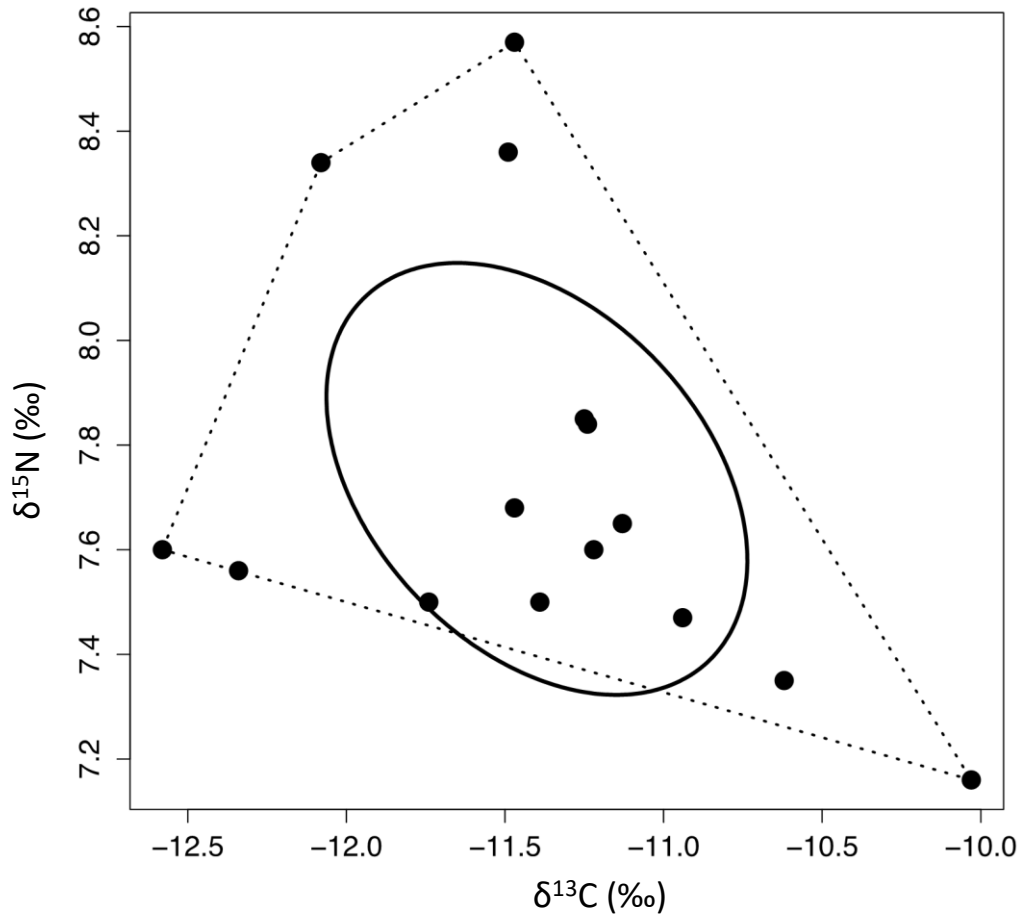
Isotopic variability: what ecological info does it hold?

Some hull-based metrics (including its total area) are highly **sensitive** to the presence of **extreme points**

According to your **research question**, it can be a good or a bad thing...



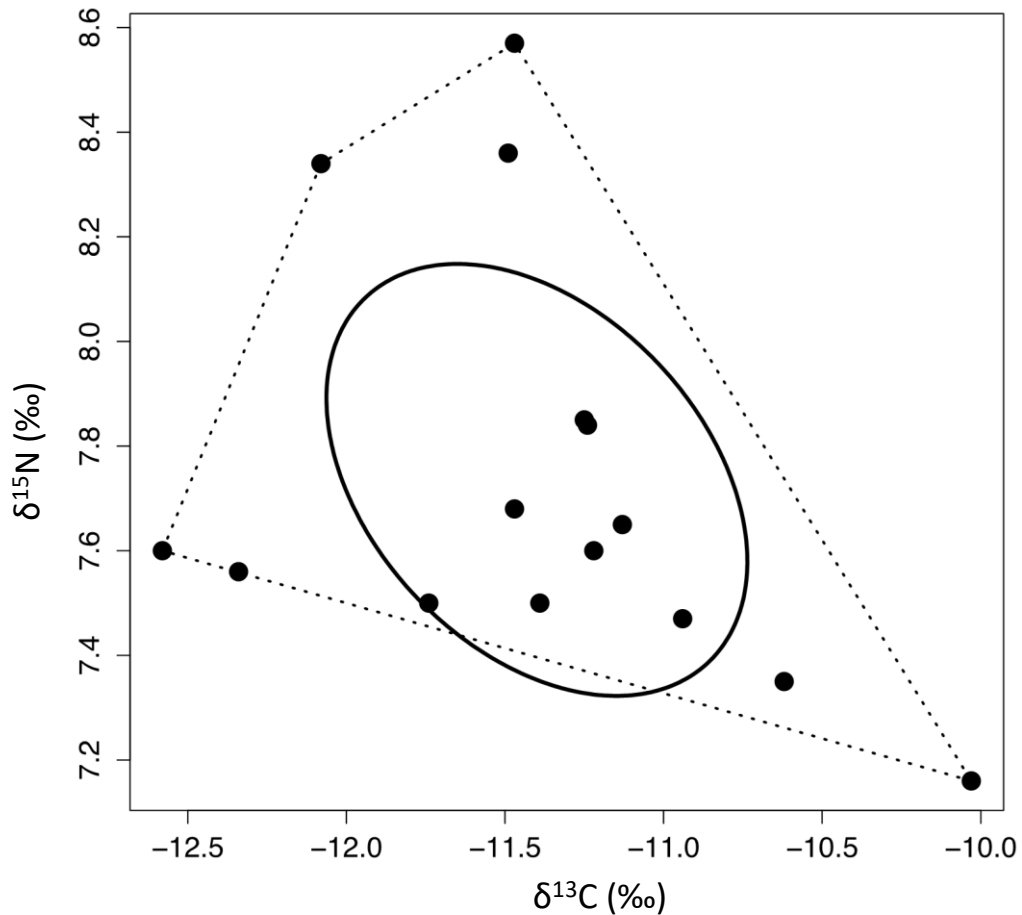
Isotopic variability: what ecological info does it hold?



Standard ellipse vs. convex hull
(SD vs. full range)

Represents "core isotopic niche" of the group of consumers

Isotopic variability: what ecological info does it hold?



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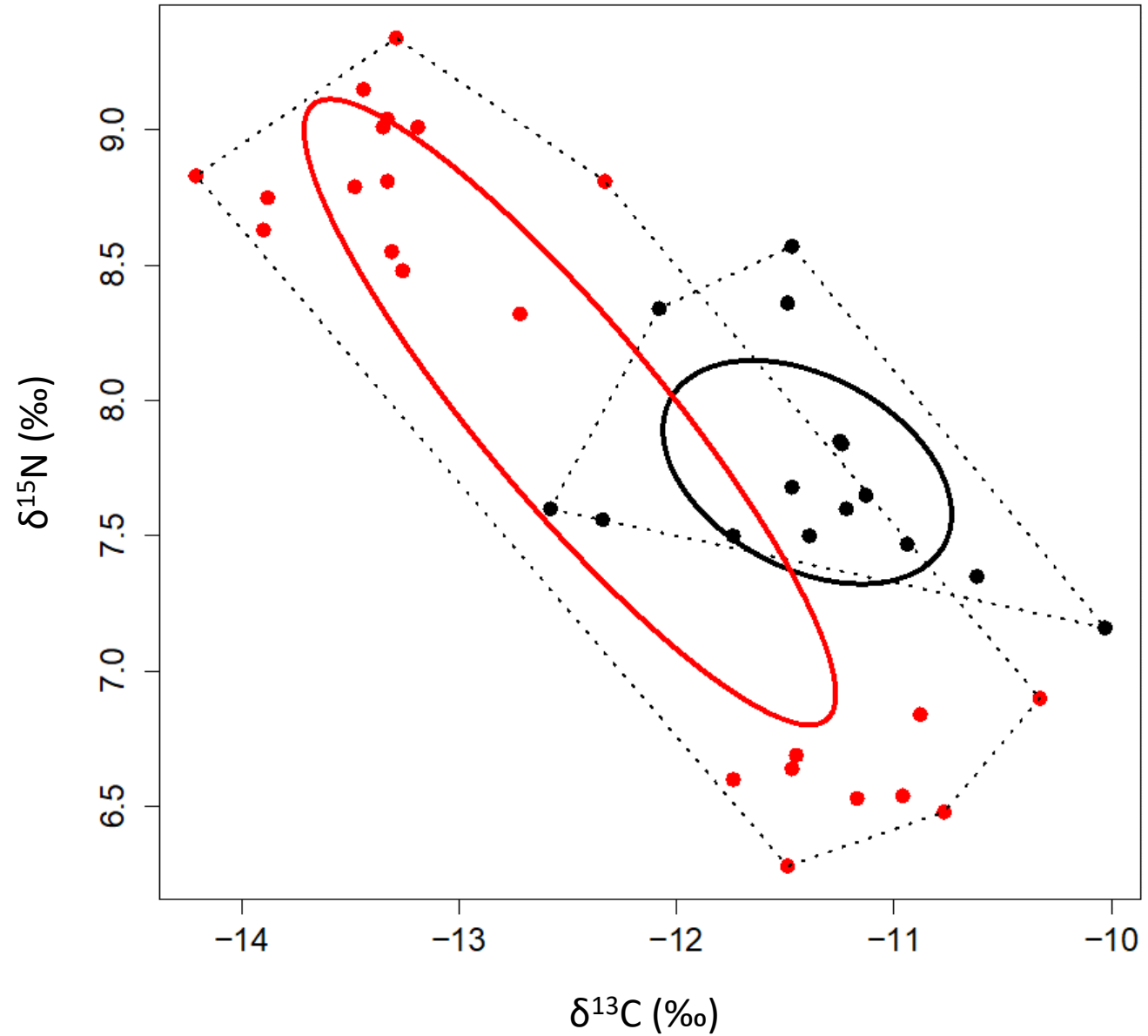
Main metric: **standard ellipse area** (SEA), proxy for the diversity of most commonly used ecological resources

More **robust** and less sensitive to extreme values and small sample size

Ellipses and hulls can be **complementary**

Stable isotopes as niche proxies

Comparison of groups :
Hull or ellipse [size](#)

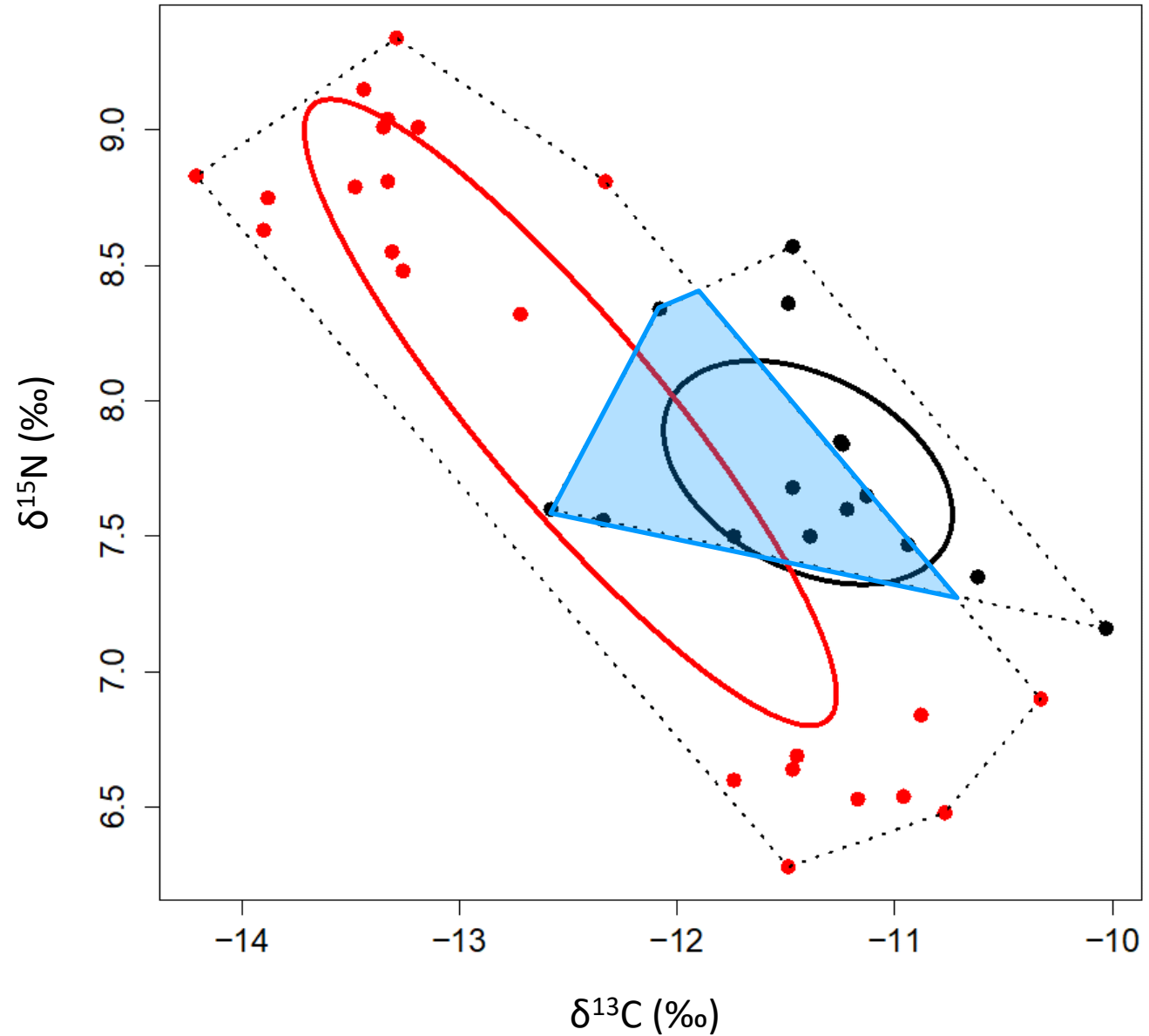


Stable isotopes as niche proxies

Comparison of groups :

Hull or ellipse **size**

Hull or ellipse **overlap**: the greater the overlap, the more the organism groups are likely to rely on **shared resources**

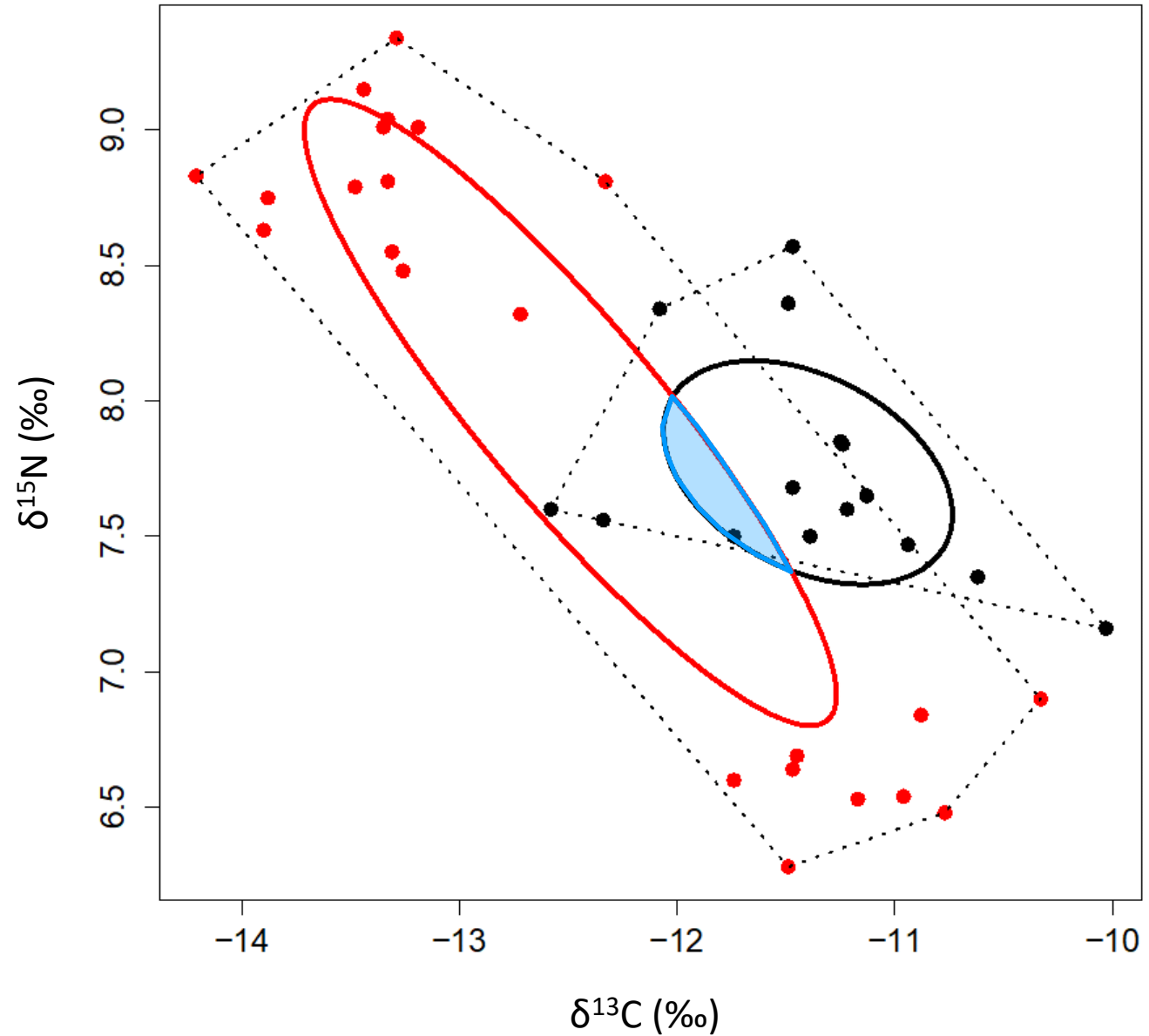


Stable isotopes as niche proxies

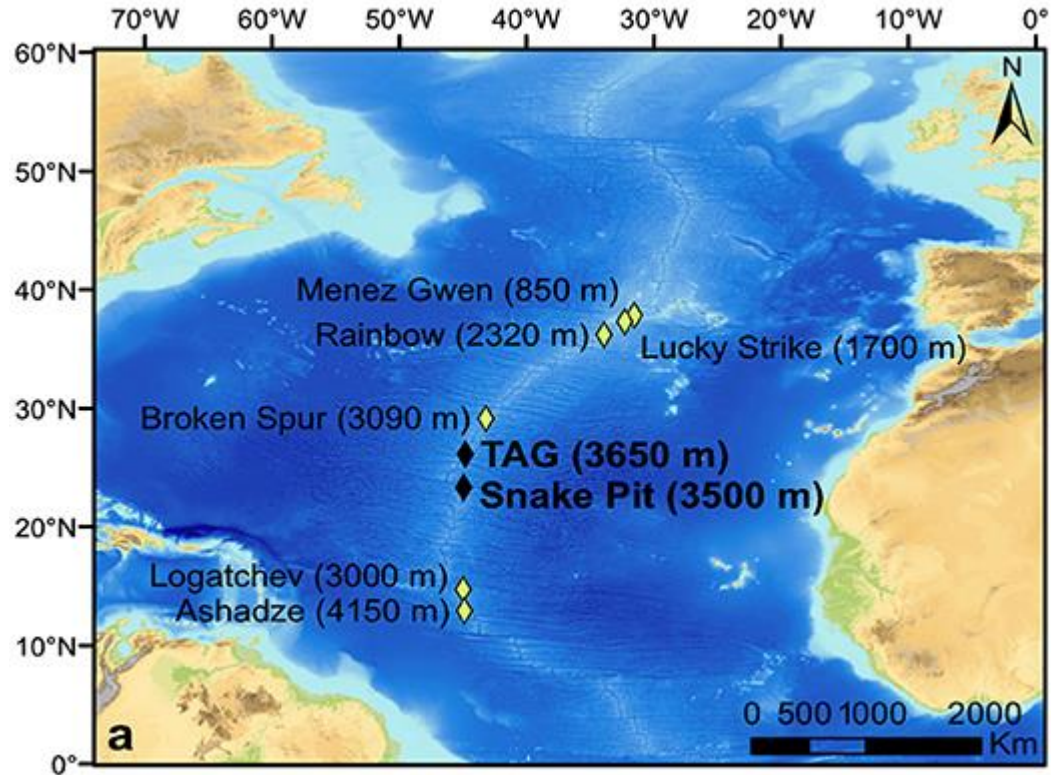
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Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps



Spedicato *et al.* 2020

Snake Pit hydrothermal field (Mid-Atlantic Ridge)



Pierre Methou
(Then Ifremer, now JAMSTEC)

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Research



Cite this article: Methou P, Michel LN, Segonzac M, Cambon-Bonavita M-A, Pradillon F. 2020 Integrative taxonomy revisits the ontogeny and trophic niches of *Rimicaris* vent shrimps. *R. Soc. Open Sci.* **7**: 200837. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsos.200837>

Integrative taxonomy revisits the ontogeny and trophic niches of *Rimicaris* vent shrimps

Pierre Methou^{1,2}, Loïc N. Michel², Michel Segonzac³, Marie-Anne Cambon-Bonavita¹ and Florence Pradillon²

Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps

Shrimp swarms notably containing two congeneric species in variable densities and proportions



Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps

Shrimp swarms notably containing two congeneric species in variable densities and proportions

Rimicaris exoculata: enlarged cephalothoracic cavity hosting abundant **episymbiotic** communities on which they depend for their nutrition



Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps

Shrimp swarms notably containing two congeneric species in variable densities and proportions

Rimicaris exoculata: enlarged cephalothoracic cavity hosting abundant **episymbiotic** communities on which they depend for their nutrition

Rimicaris chacei: smaller, no obvious morphological adaptations to symbiosis, **mixotrophic** species (depend both on symbiotic associations and "classical" feeding)



Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps

Not only adults, but also juveniles / immature individuals



R. exoculata

Juvenile stade A

Juvenile stade B

Juvenile stade C
(Subadult)

R. chacei

Juvenile stade A

Juvenile stade B
(Subadult)



Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps

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R. exoculata

Juvenile stade A

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R. chacei

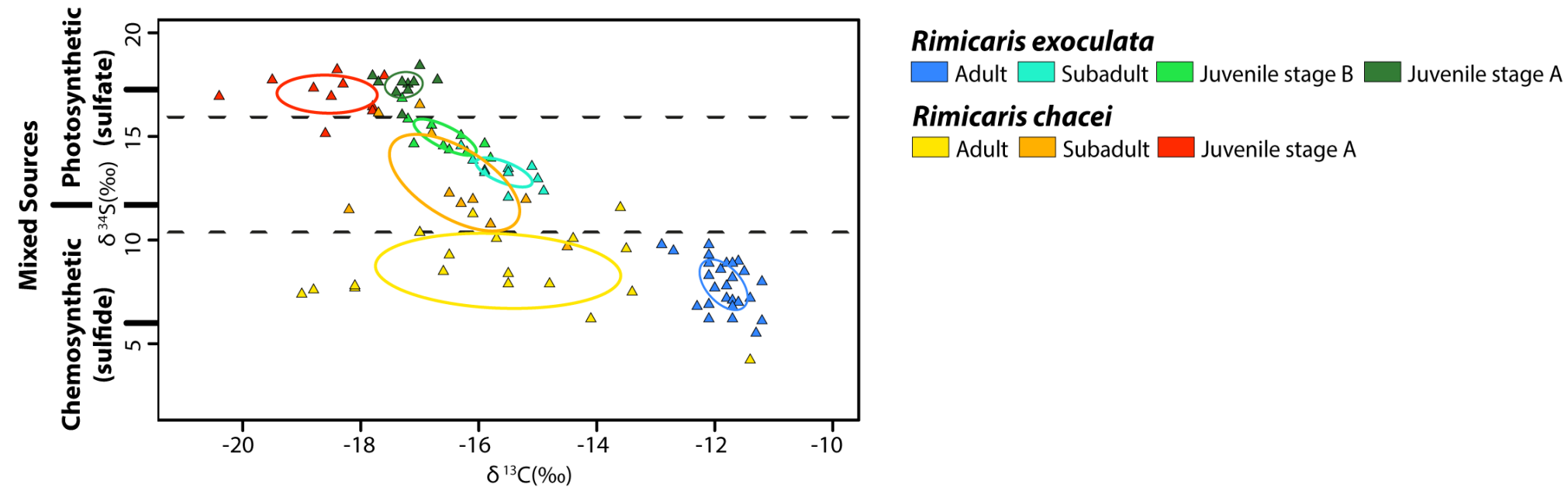
Juvenile stade A

Juvenile stade B
(Subadult)

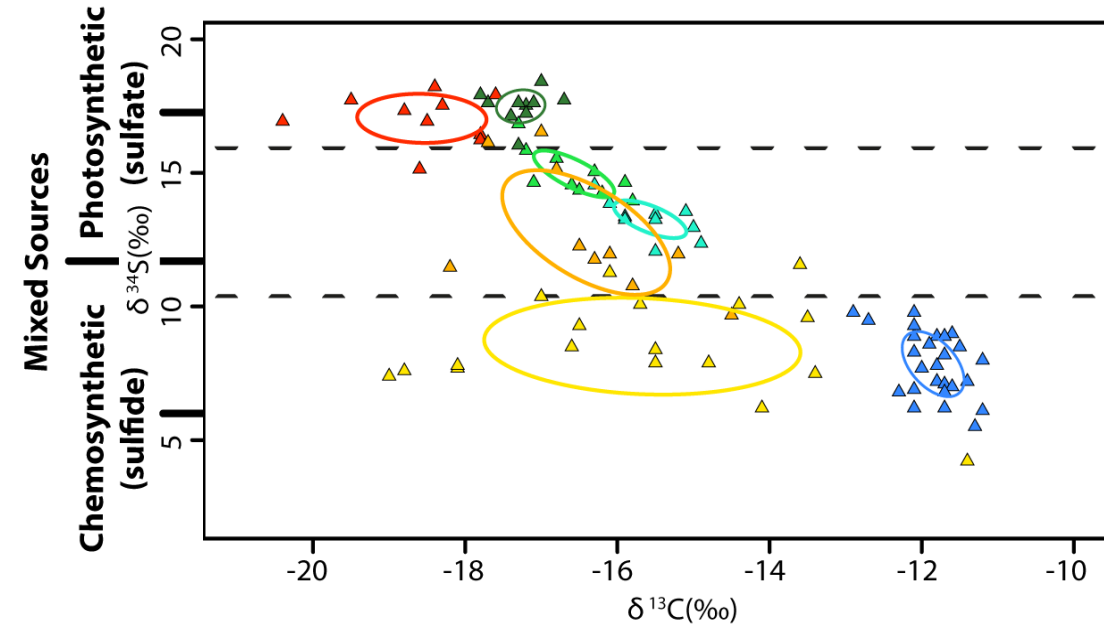


What do these species rely on throughout their life cycle stages occurring in vent ecosystems? Are there **ontogenetic niche shifts**?

Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps



Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps



Rimicaris exoculata

Adult Subadult Juvenile stage B Juvenile stage A

Rimicaris chacei

Adult Subadult Juvenile stage A

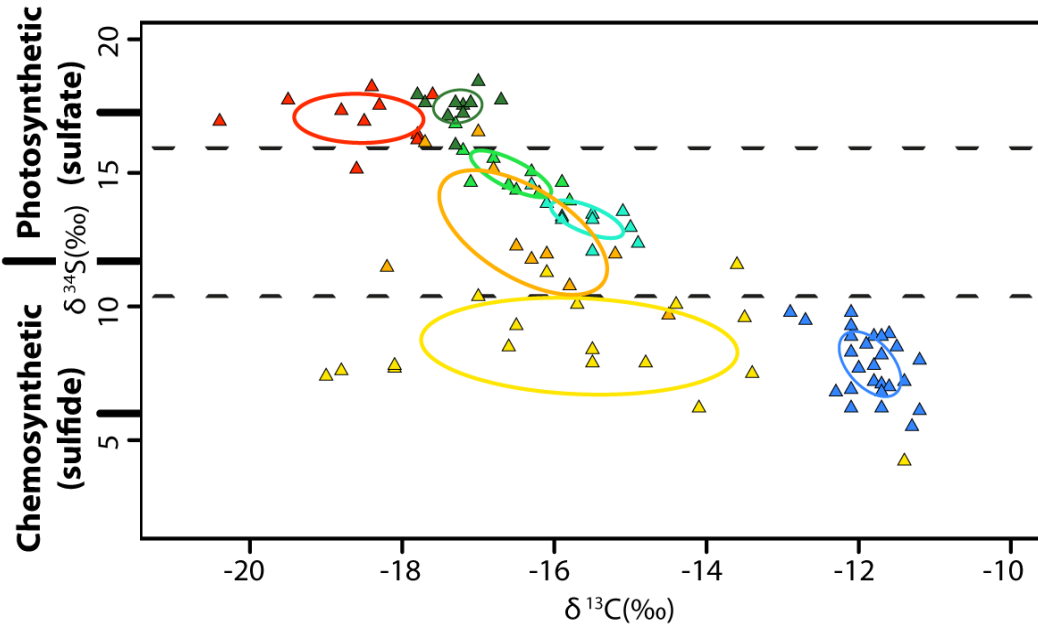
Early stages (A):

Mostly photosynthetic nutrition reflecting larval stages in the water column

No overlap between the two species: larval niche segregation (trophic, habitat, or both)? Maternal carry-over effect?

Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps

Mixed Sources



Rimicaris exoculata

Adult Subadult Juvenile stage B Juvenile stage A

Rimicaris chacei

Adult Subadult Juvenile stage A

Early stages (A):

Mostly photosynthetic nutrition

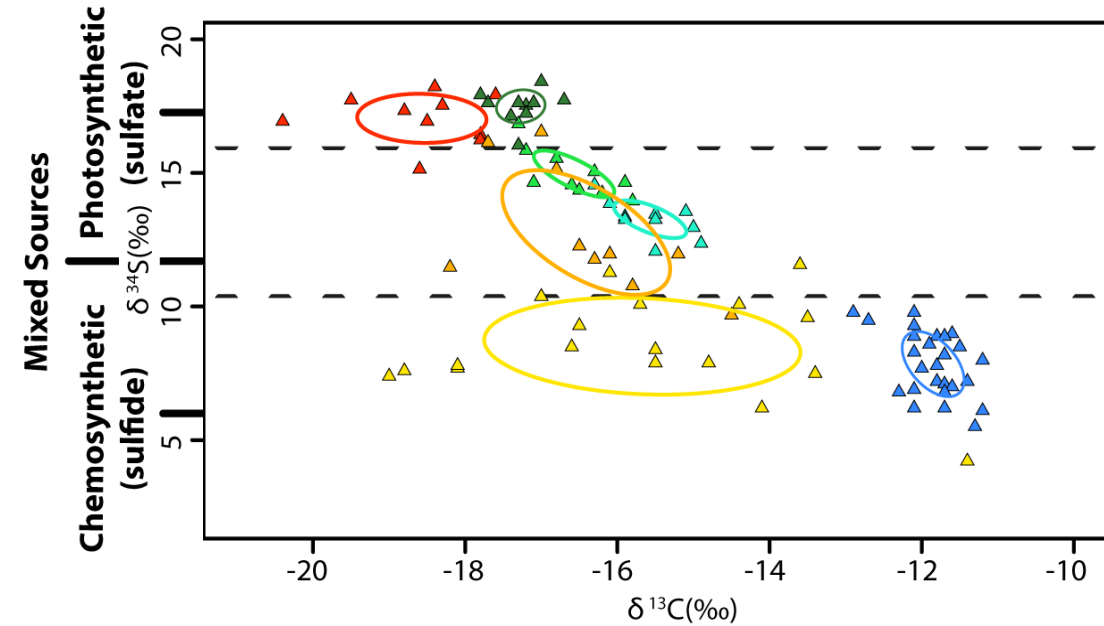
No overlap between the two species

Intermediate stages (B and/or C)

Transition towards reliance on chemosynthesis

Some overlap between the species, but no overlap between successive stages in *R. exoculata*

Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps



Rimicaris exoculata

Adult Subadult Juvenile stage B Juvenile stage A

Rimicaris chacei

Adult Subadult Juvenile stage A

Early stages (A):

Mostly photosynthetic nutrition

No overlap between the two species

Intermediate stages (B and/or C)

Transition towards reliance on chemosynthesis

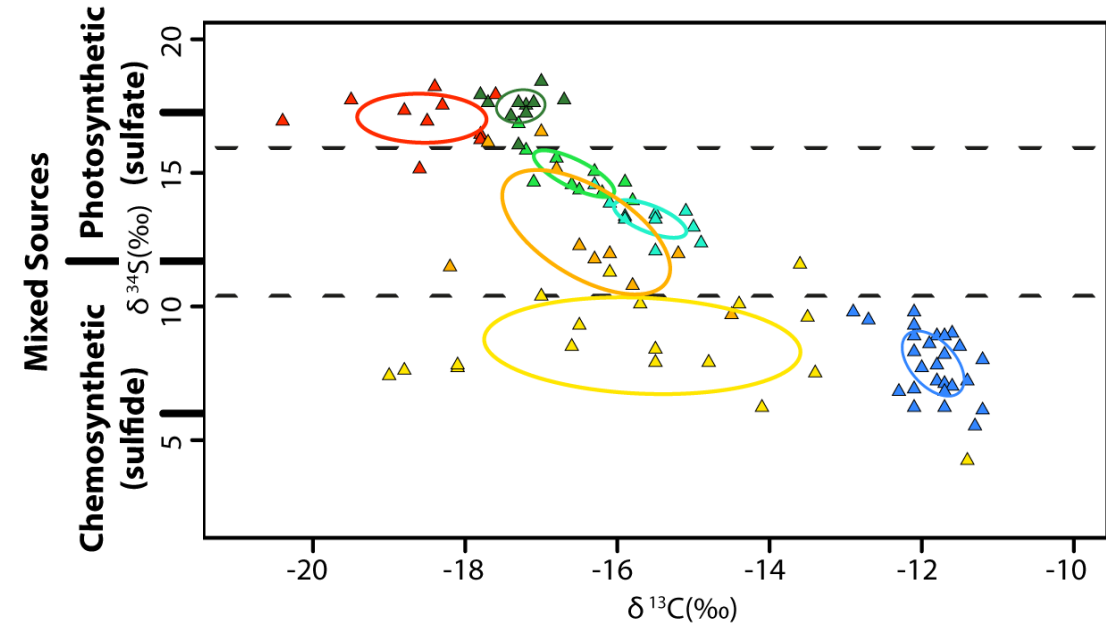
Adult stages

Chemosynthetic nutrition and marked niche separation

R. exoculata: narrow niche consistent with sole reliance on their symbionts. Big gap between subadults and adults linked with strong ecological and morphological changes

R. chacei: much wider niche (greater trophic diversity): mixotrophy and/or reliance on multiple symbiotic partners

Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps

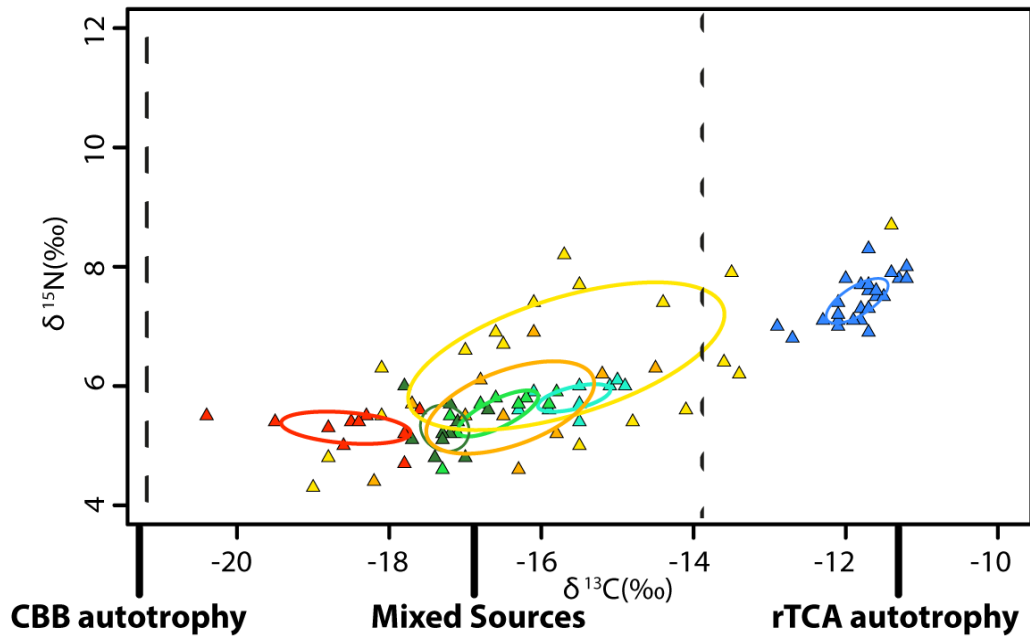


Rimicaris exoculata

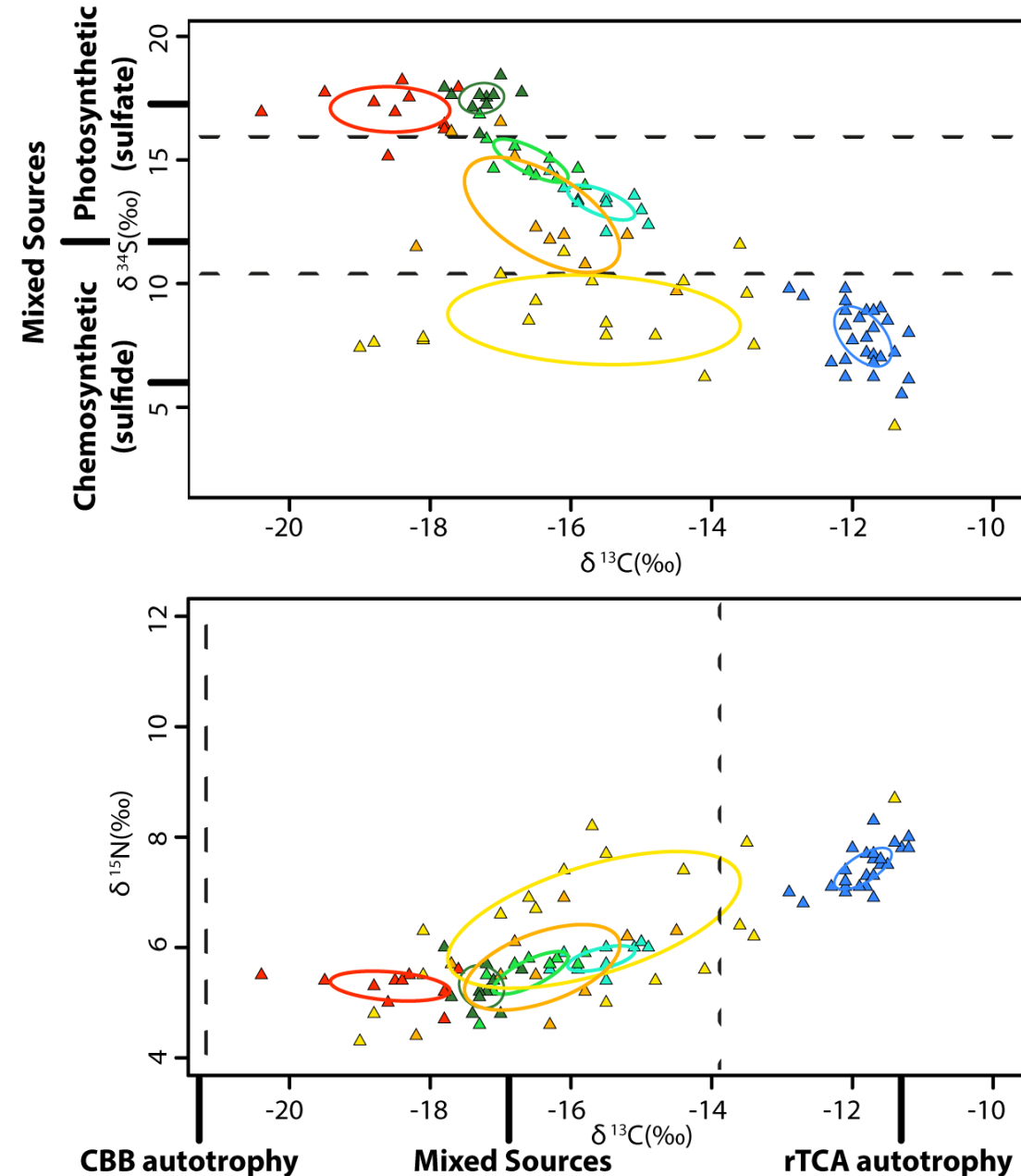
Adult Subadult Juvenile stage B Juvenile stage A

Rimicaris chacei

Adult Subadult Juvenile stage A



Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps



Rimicaris exoculata

Adult Subadult Juvenile stage B Juvenile stage A

Rimicaris chacei

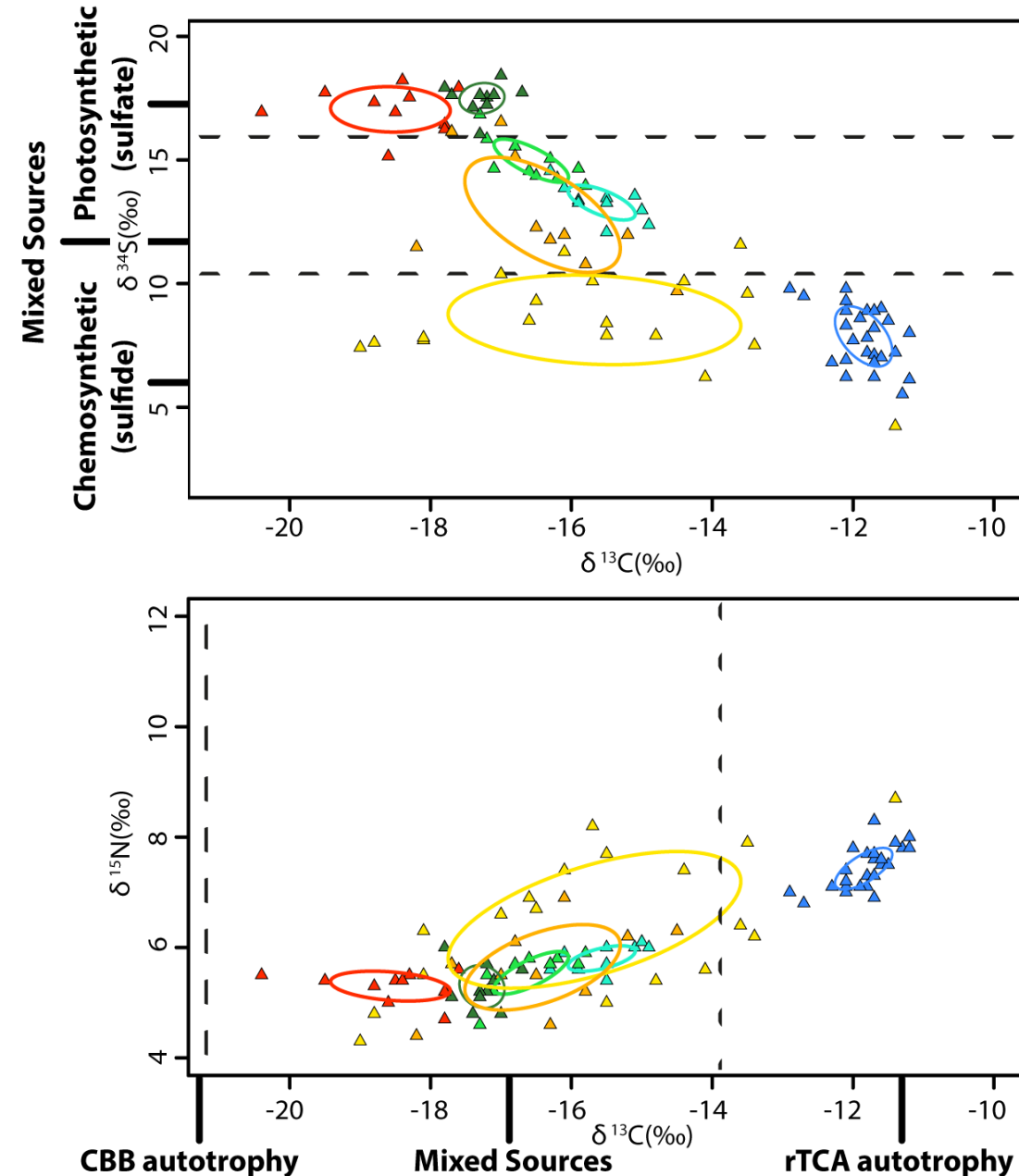
Adult Subadult Juvenile stage A

R. exoculata

Mostly rely on Campylobacterota (Epsilonproteobacteria) that dominate their symbiotic communities and use the rTCA cycle to oxidize sulfides

$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ increase in adults unlikely to be linked with trophic position increase, but rather preferential assimilation of nitrates by those symbionts

Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps



R. exoculata

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R. chacei

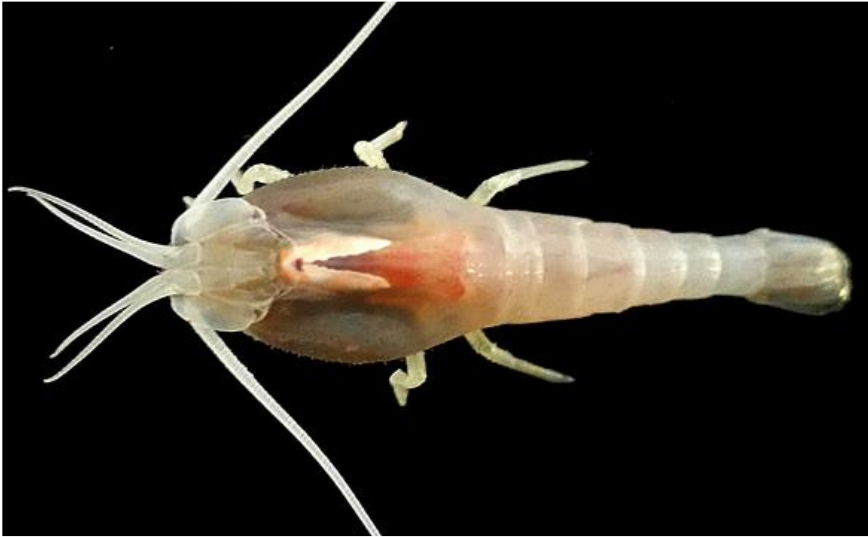
Rely on multiple pathways of carbon fixation, with large inter-individual differences (not opportunistic feeding!)

Stable isotopes alone cannot settle the relative importance of reliance on a diverse symbiont pool (CBB-using Gammaproteobacteria + rTCA-using Campylobacterota) vs. grazing on diverse bacterial mats along the vent gradient

Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps

Symbiotrophic

Rimicaris exoculata



Mixotrophic

Rimicaris chacei

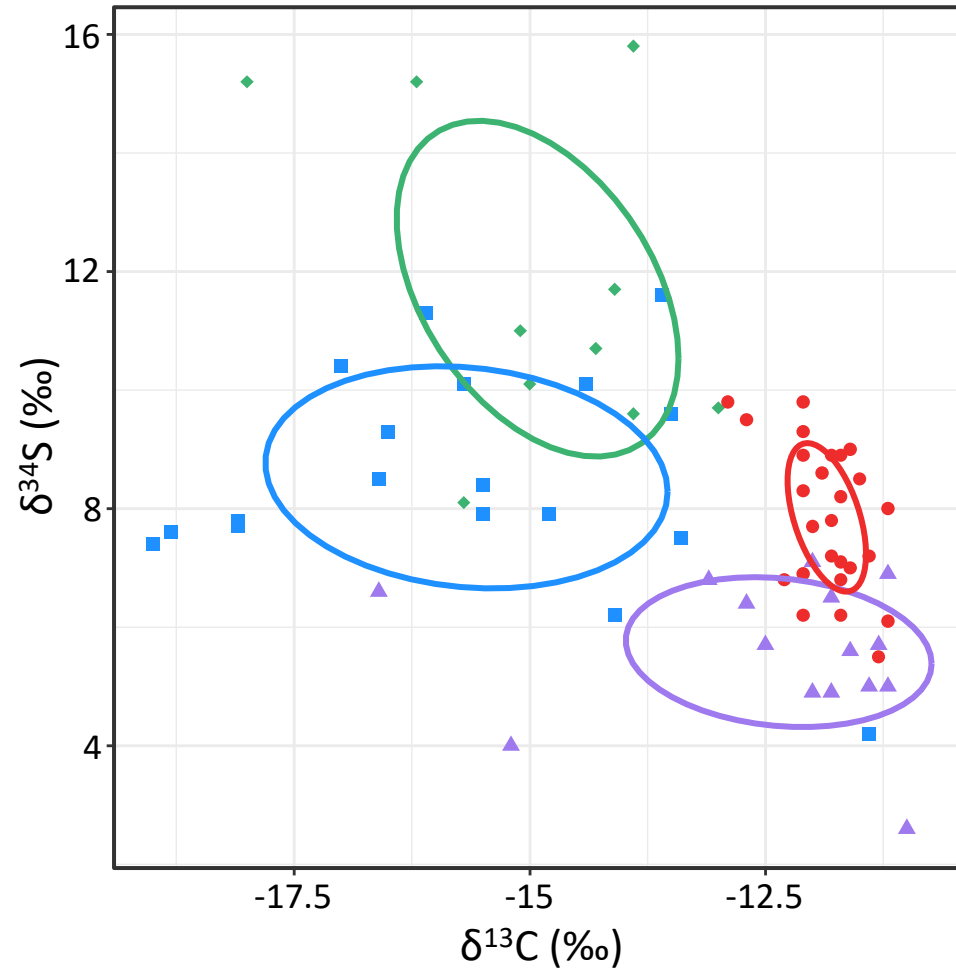
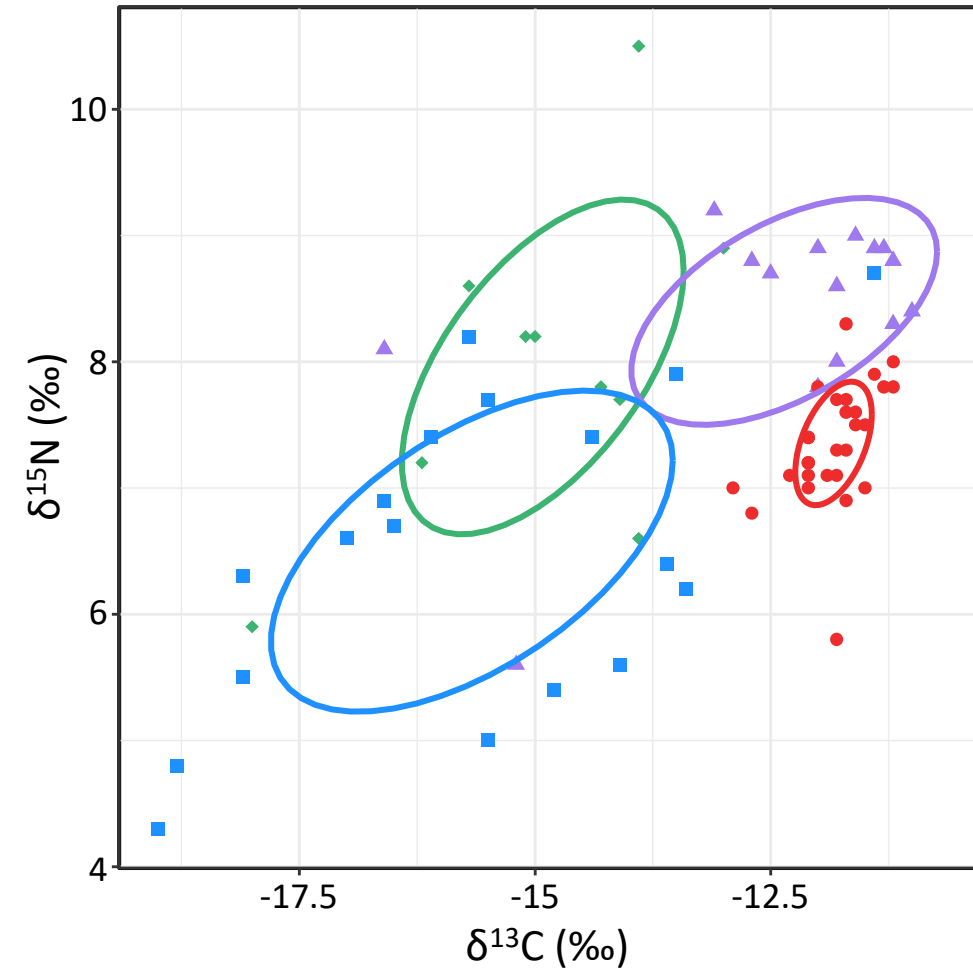


Phagotrophic

Mirocaris fortunata
Alvinocaris markensis

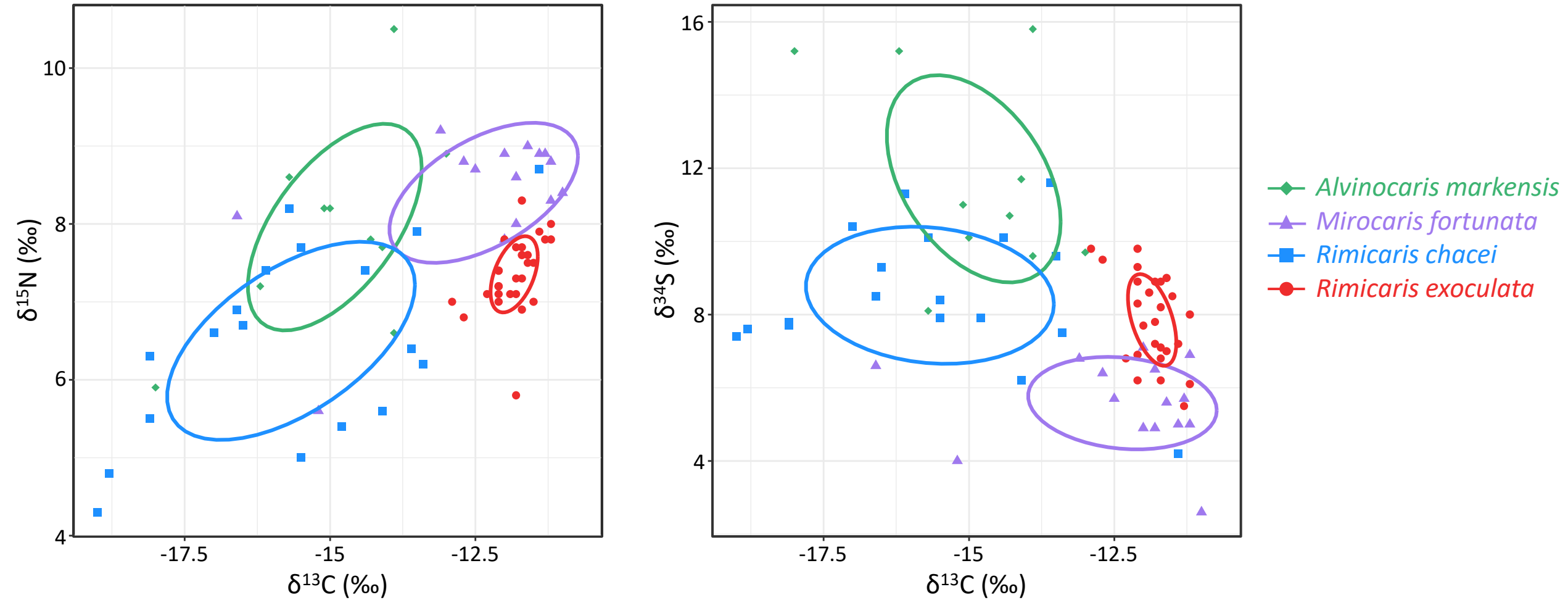


Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps



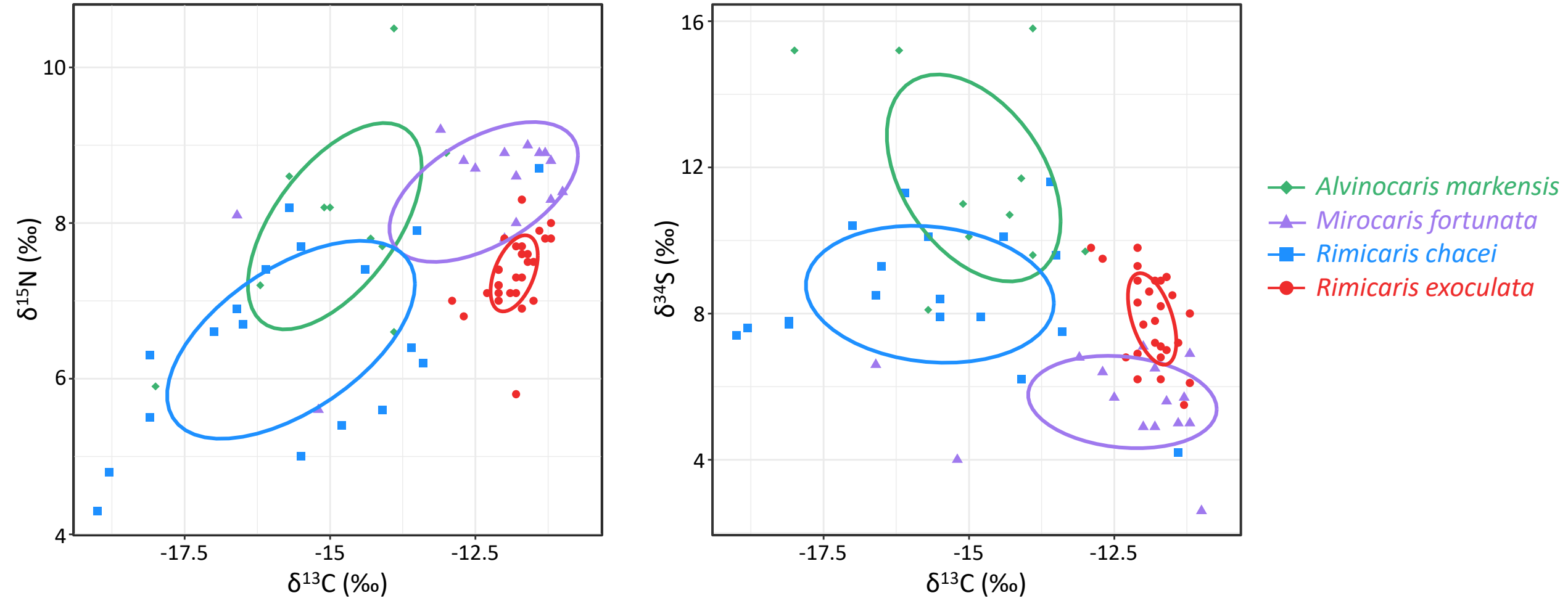
- ◆ *Alvinocaris markensis*
- ▲ *Mirocaris fortunata*
- *Rimicaris chacei*
- *Rimicaris exoculata*

Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps



Both phagotrophic species have higher $\delta^{15}\text{N}$: omnivory?

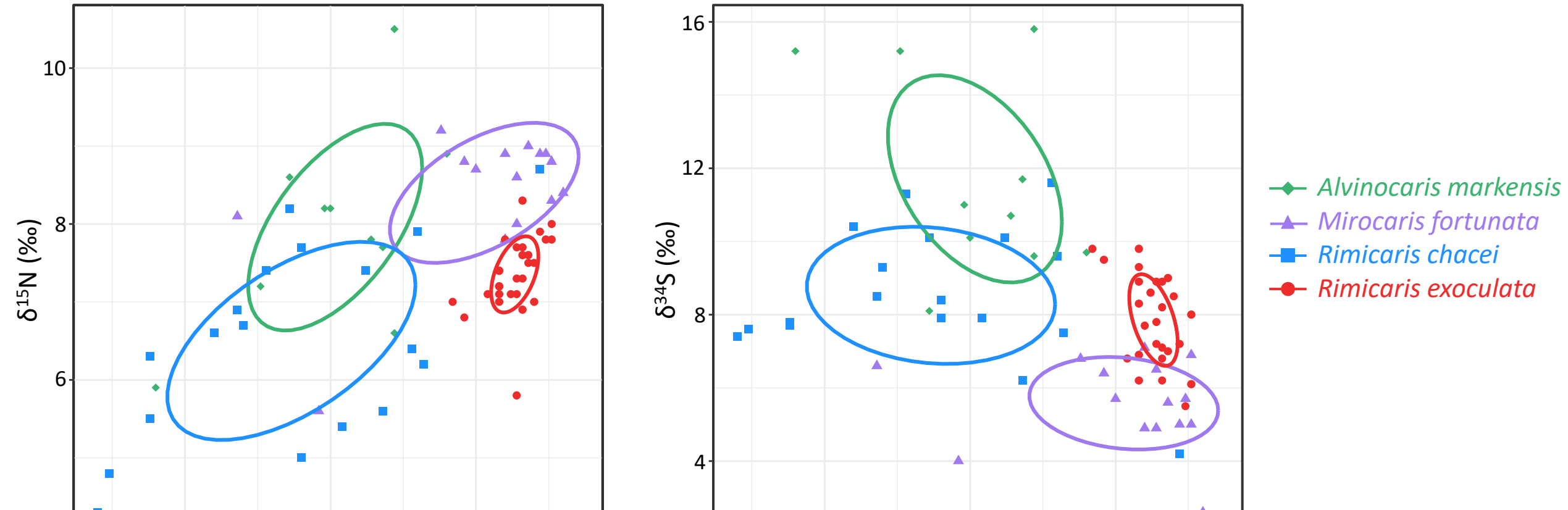
Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps



Both phagotrophic species have higher $\delta^{15}\text{N}$: omnivory?

M. fortunata only relies on endogenous vent production, but *A. markensis*' niche is very wide and this species apparently feeds on a mix of photosynthesis- and chemosynthesis-derived items

Isotopic niches – Snake Pit shrimps

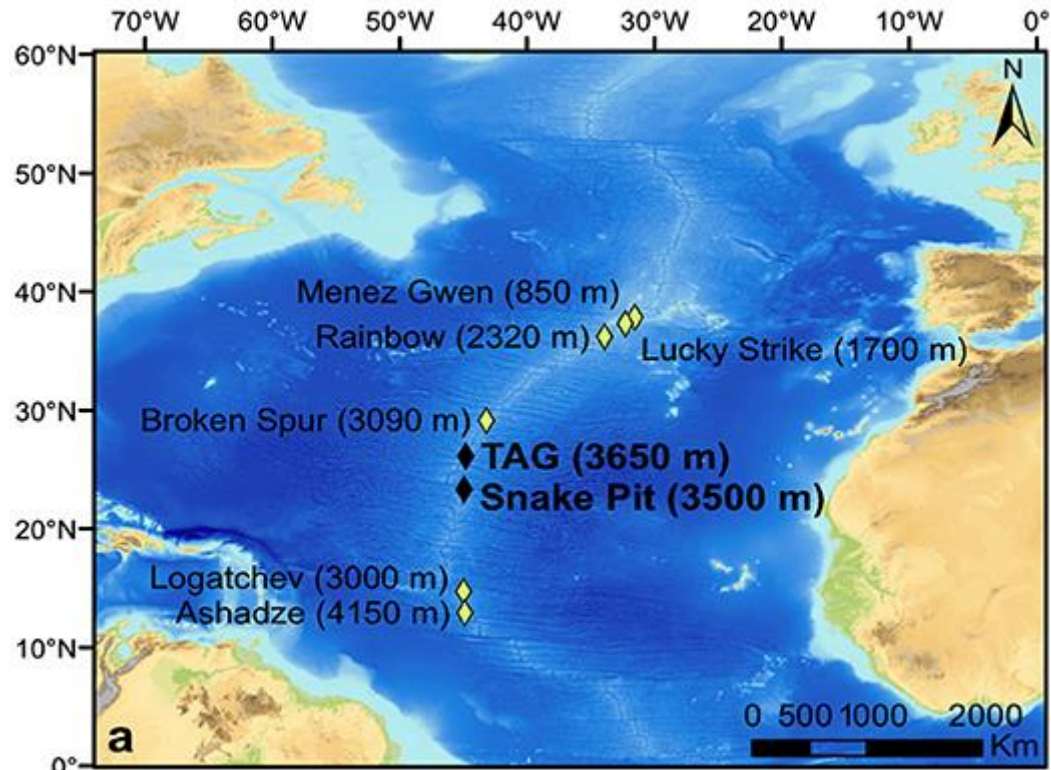


Stable isotopes allow tracing organic matter **fluxes between ecosystems**... Both ways!

Both phagotrophic species have **higher $\delta^{15}\text{N}$** : omnivory?

M. fortunata only relies on **endogenous vent production**, but *A. markensis*' niche is very wide and this species apparently feeds on a **mix of photosynthesis-** and **chemosynthesis-**derived items

Links between vents and peripheral habitats









Spedicato *et al.* 2020



Joan Alfaro-Lucas
(Then Ifremer, now U Victoria)

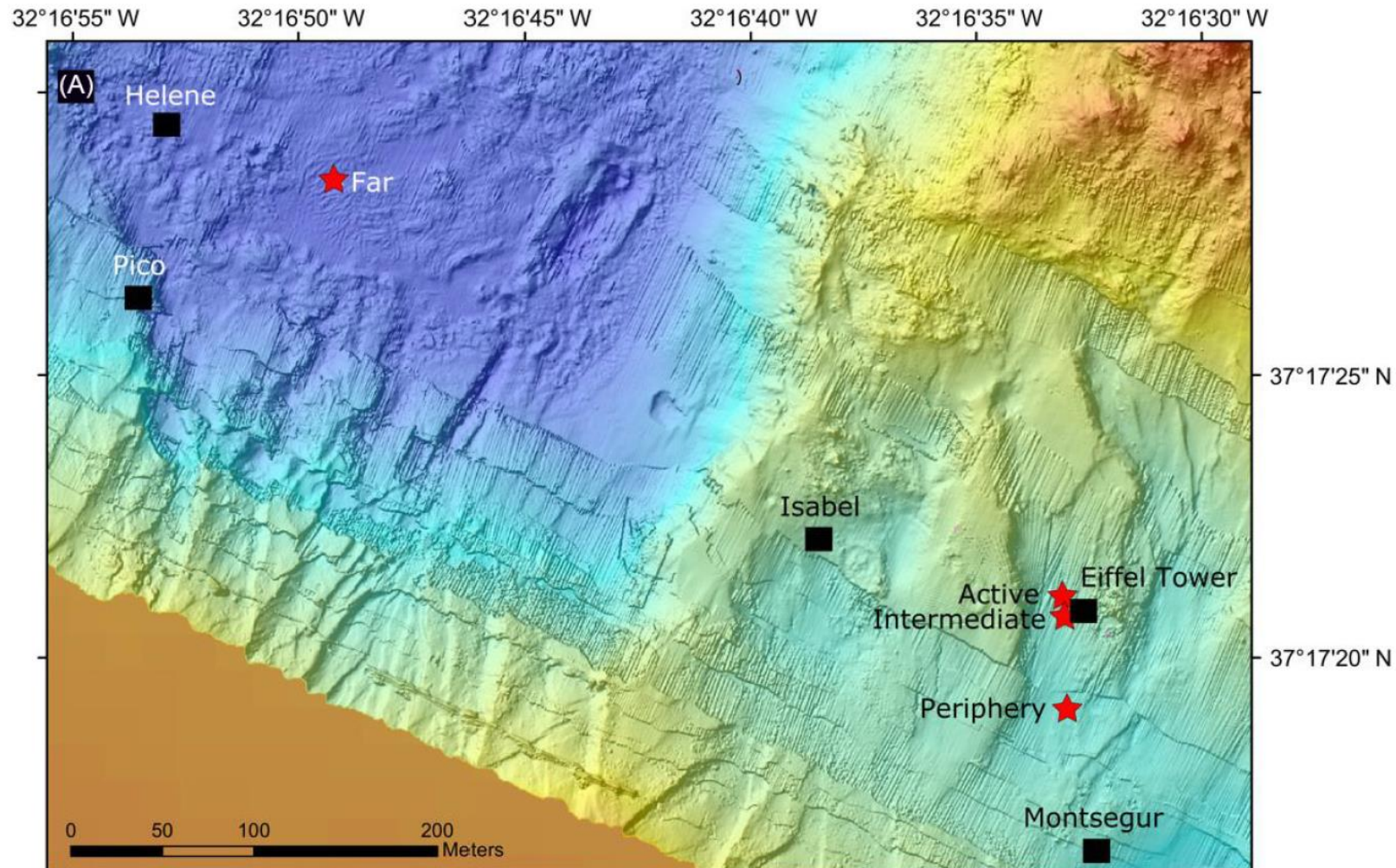
High environmental stress and productivity increase functional diversity along a deep-sea hydrothermal vent gradient

J. M. ALFARO-LUCAS ^{1,4} F. PRADILLON ¹ D. ZEPELLI ¹ L. N. MICHEL ¹ P. MARTINEZ-ARBIZU ²
H. TANAKA ³ M. FOVIAUX,¹ AND J. SARRAZIN¹

Ecology, 101(11), 2020, e03144

Lucky Strike hydrothermal field (Mid-Atlantic Ridge)

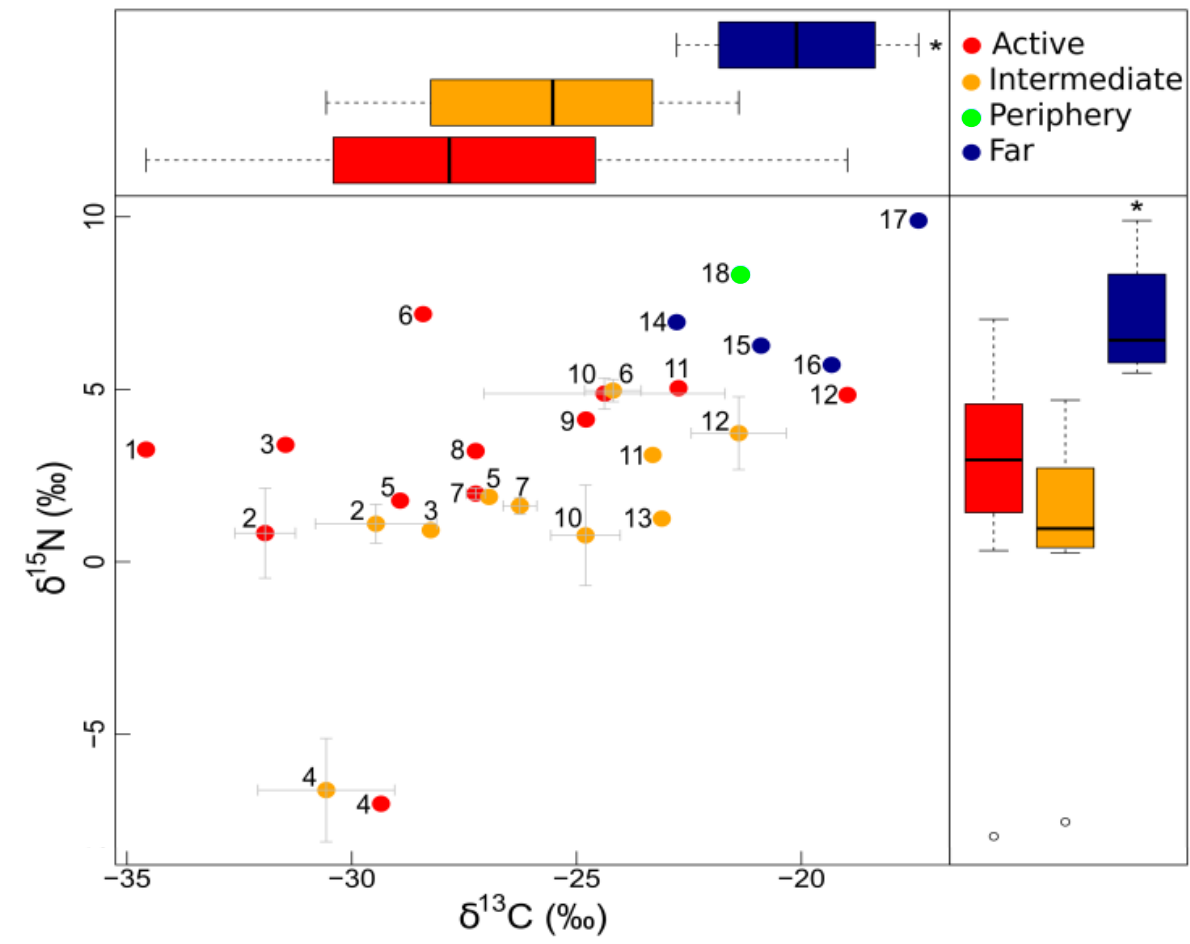
Links between vents and peripheral habitats



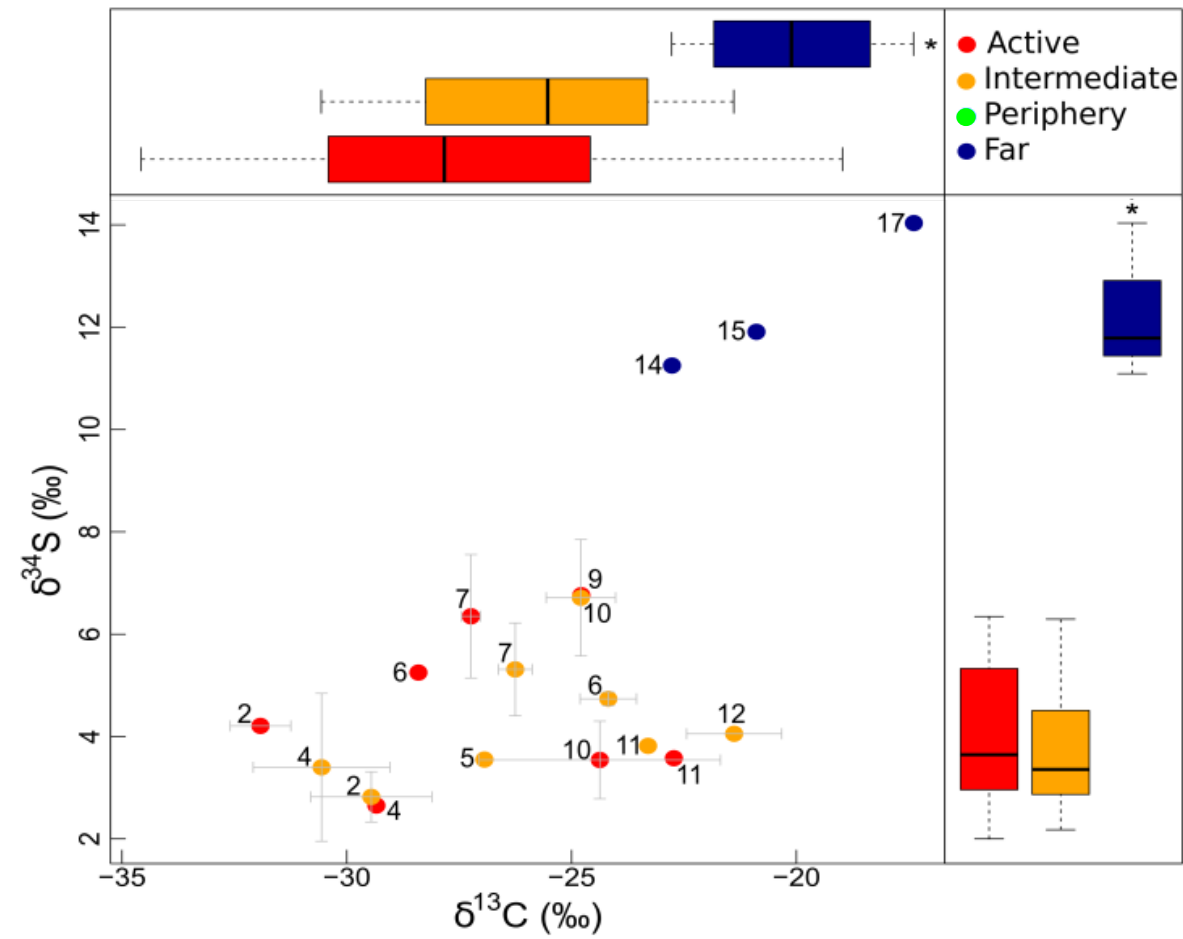
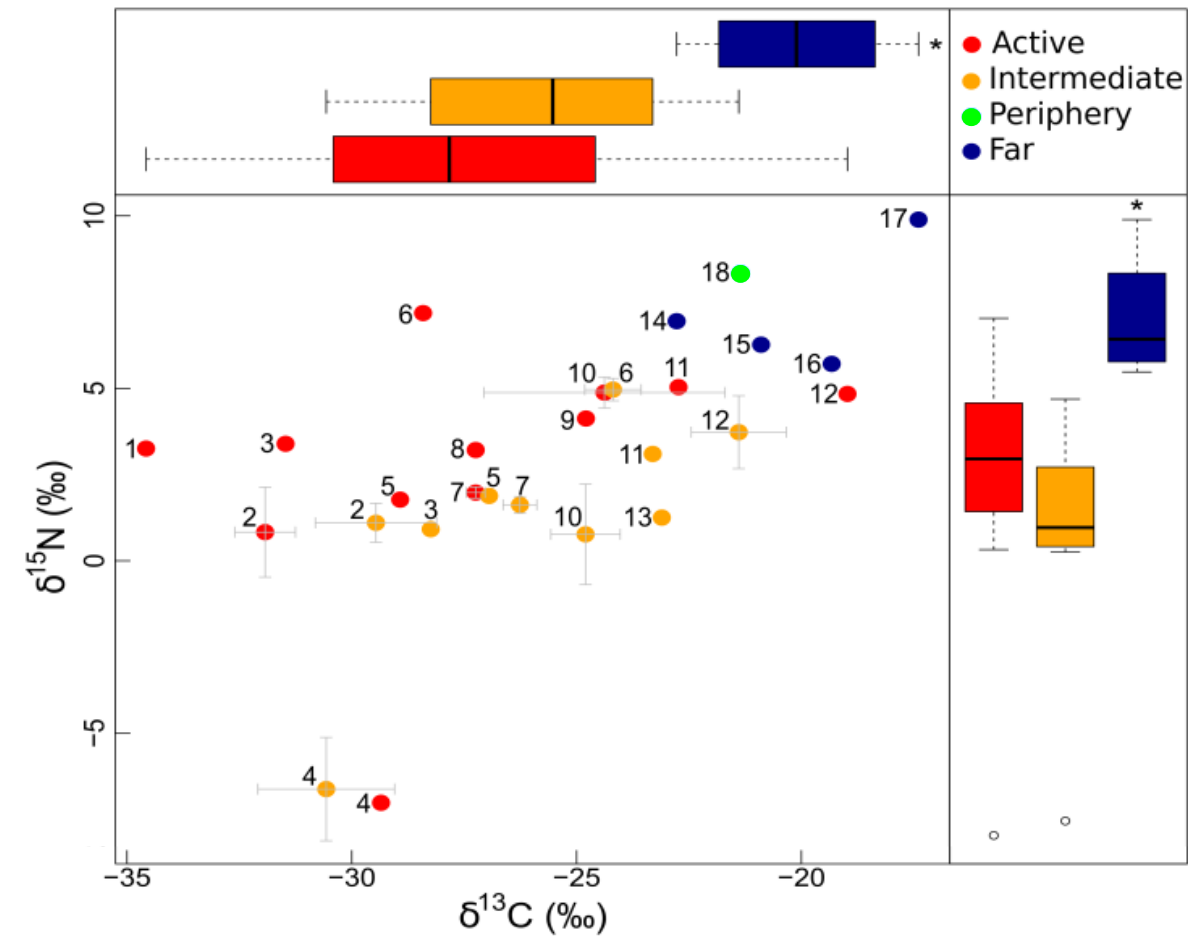
Deployment of **artificial substrates** along a vent proximity gradient for 2 years

Analysis of settled **communities** in terms of taxonomic, functional and **isotopic diversity**

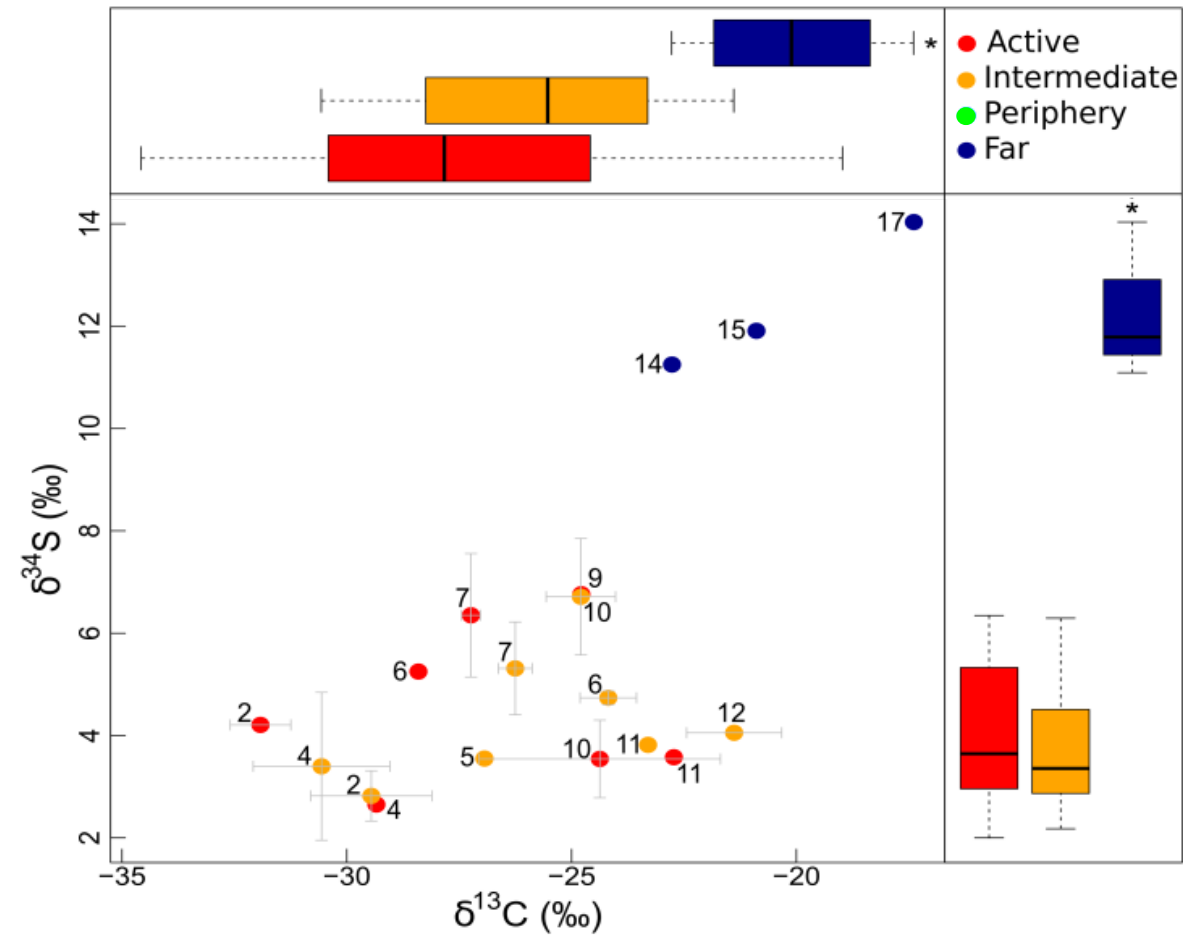
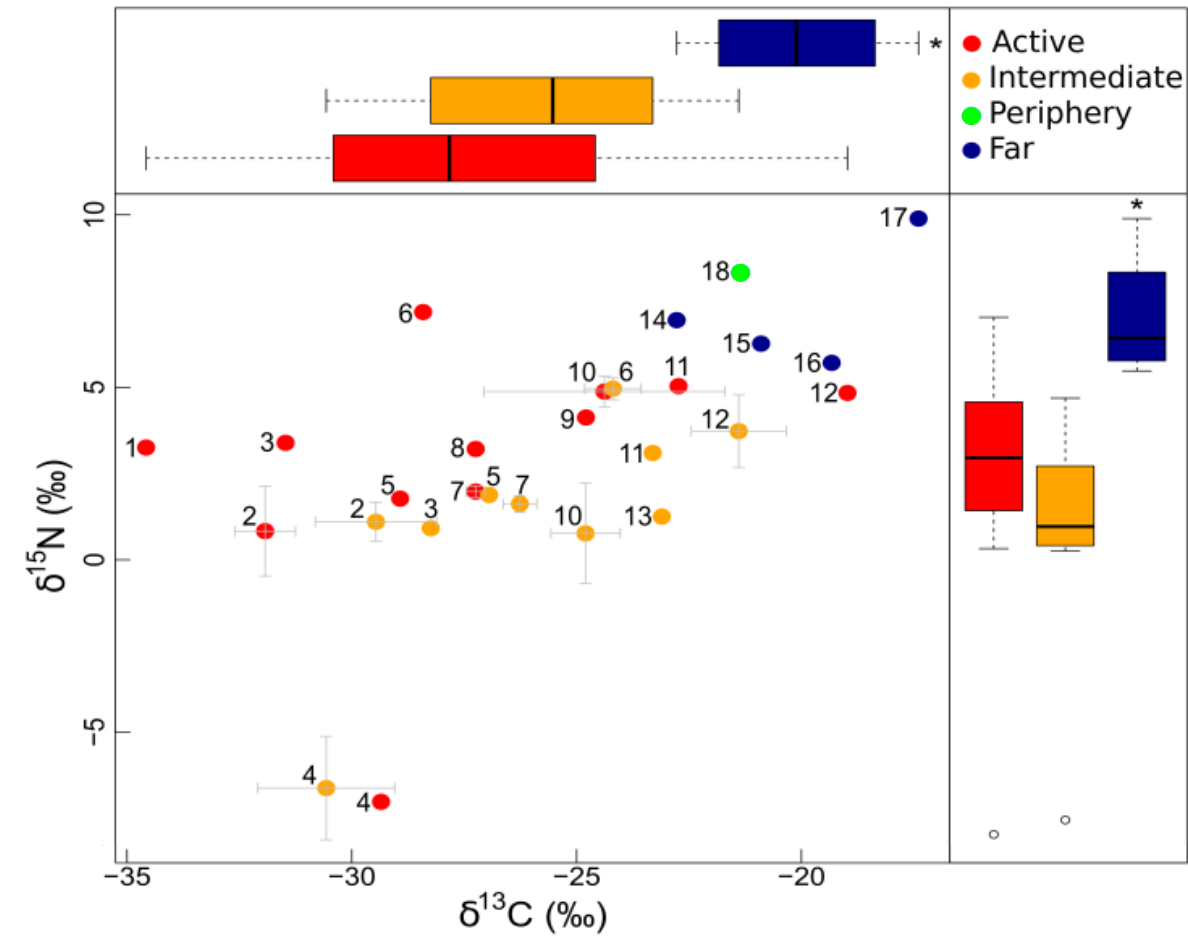
Links between vents and peripheral habitats



Links between vents and peripheral habitats

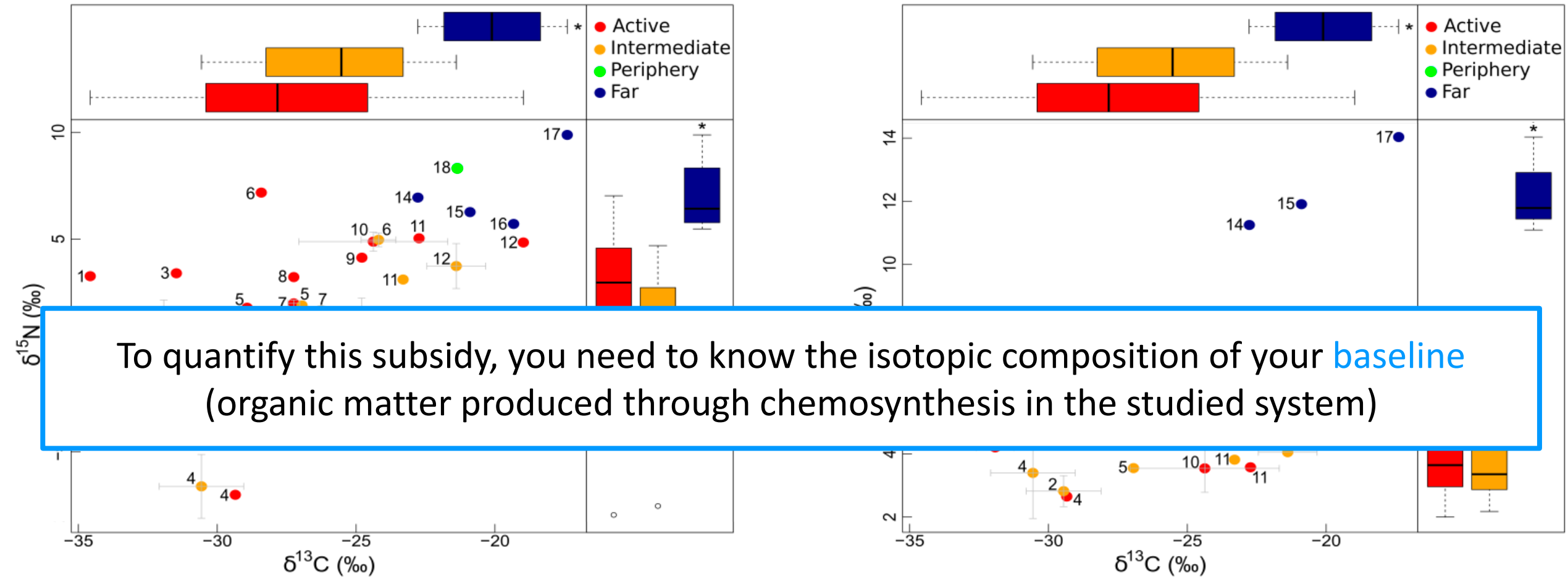


Links between vents and peripheral habitats



Partial reliance on chemosynthesis at the **far site** (100 m from any active vent): **spatial subsidy** extends way beyond areas under direct venting influence

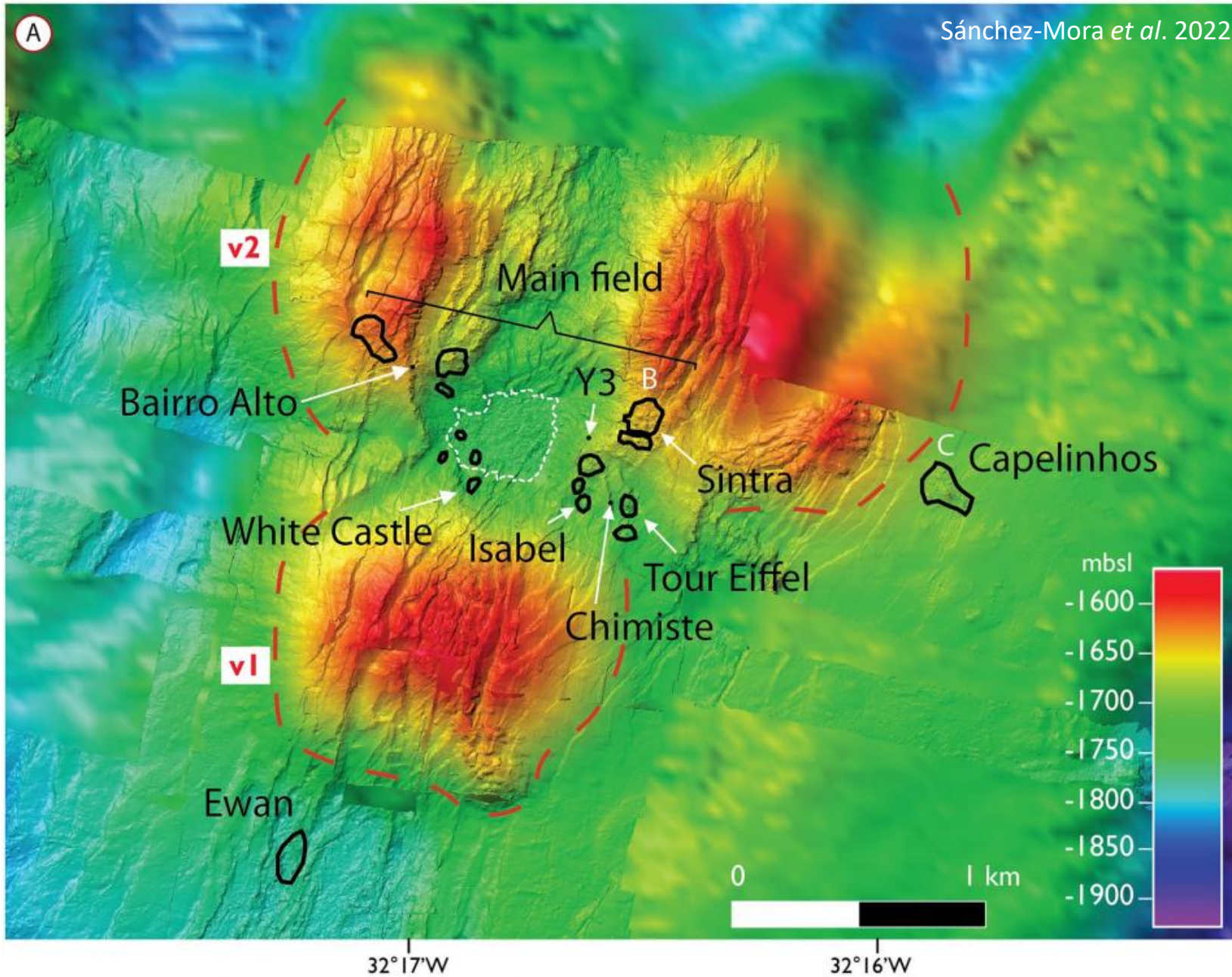
Links between vents and peripheral habitats



To quantify this subsidy, you need to know the isotopic composition of your **baseline** (organic matter produced through chemosynthesis in the studied system)

Partial reliance on chemosynthesis at the **far site** (100 m from any active vent): **spatial subsidy** extends way beyond areas under direct venting influence

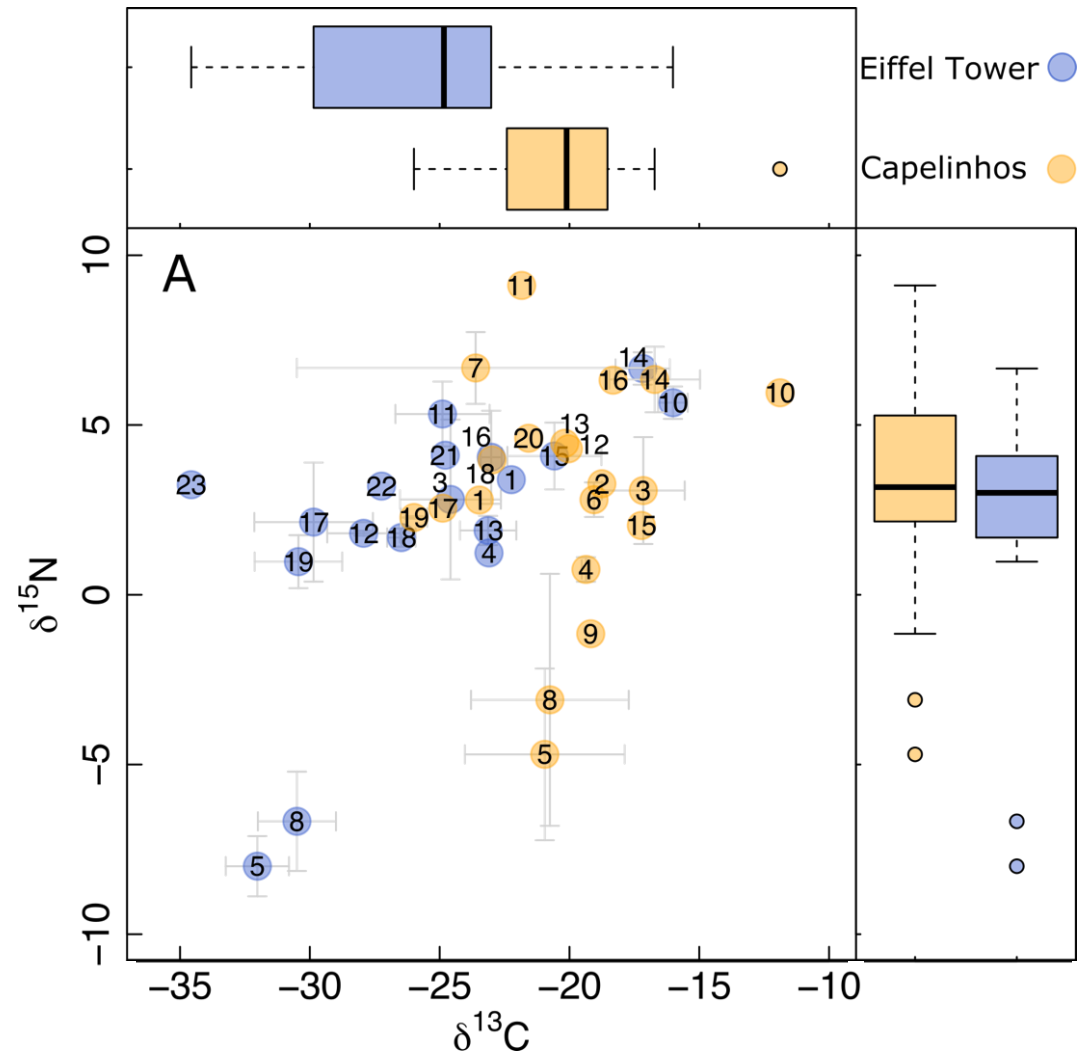
Baseline variability inside a vent field



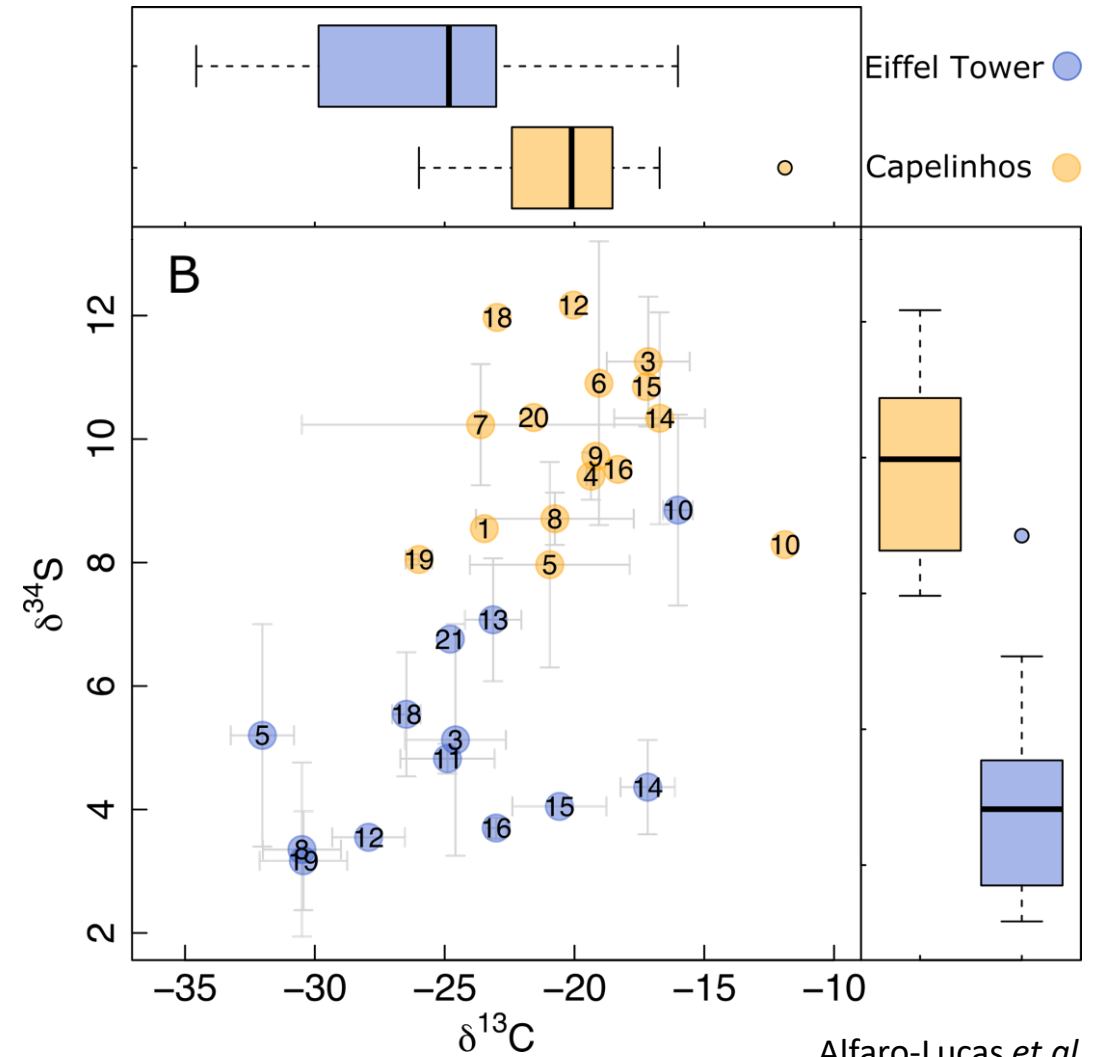
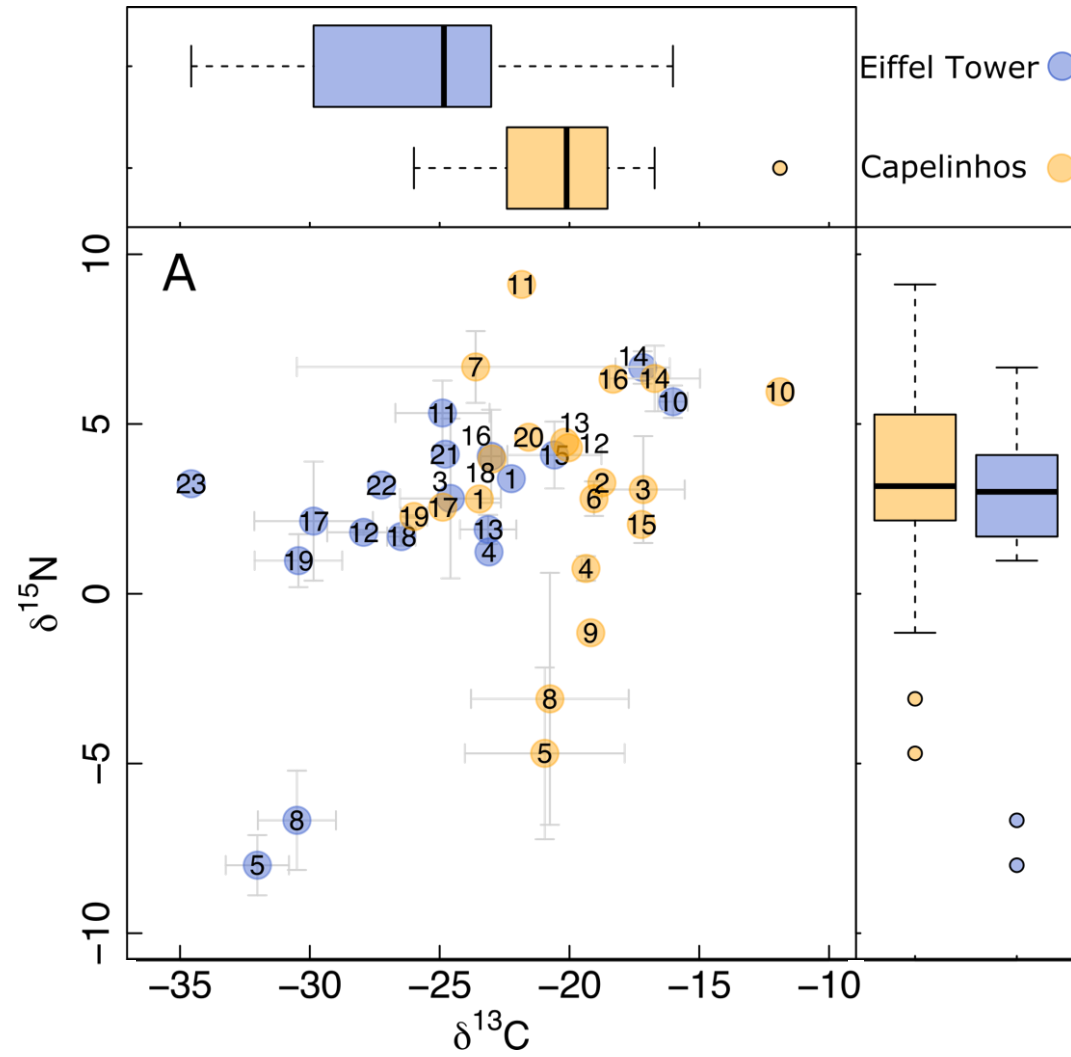
Lucky Strike vent field

Eiffel Tower & Capelinhos (~ 1.5 km apart)

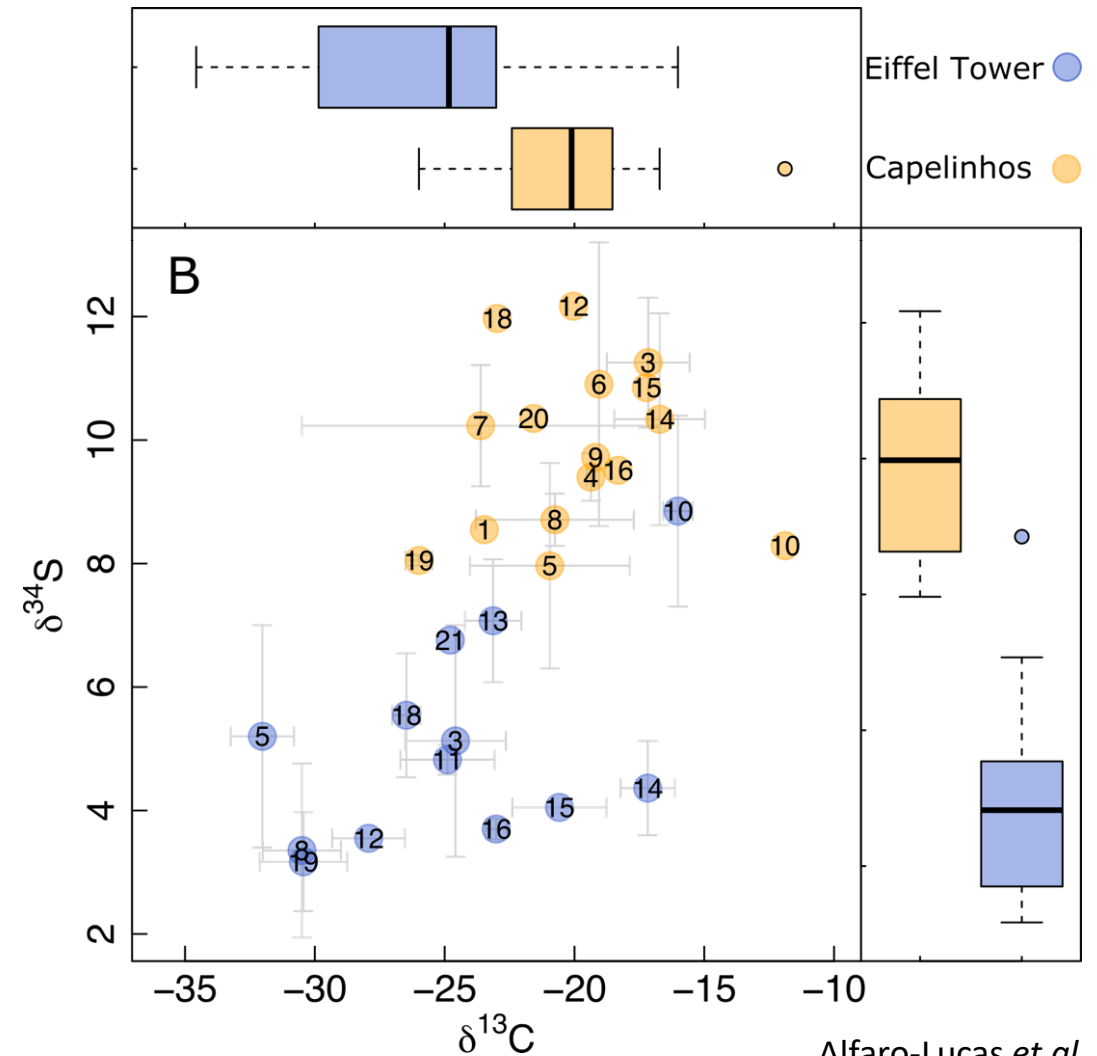
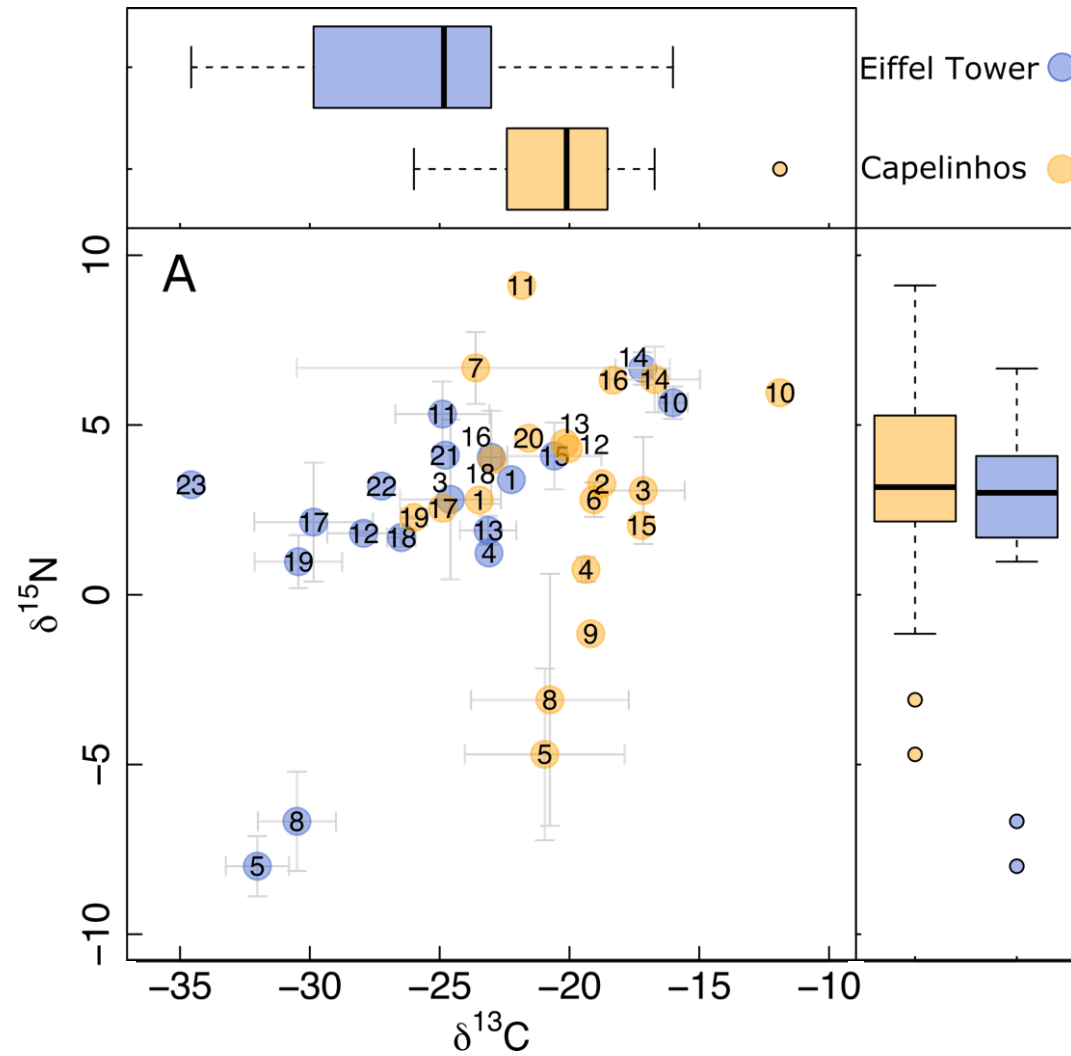
Baseline variability inside a vent field



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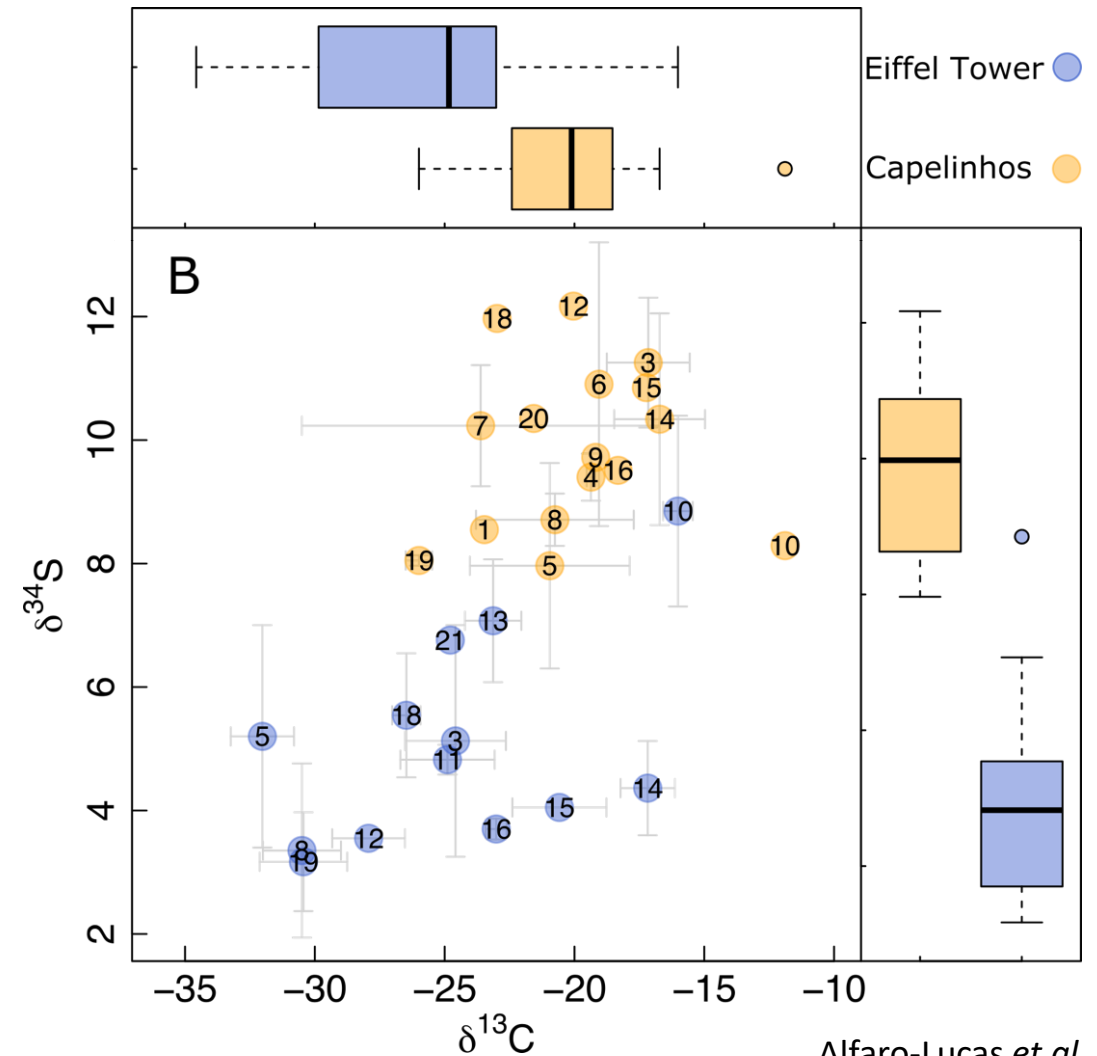
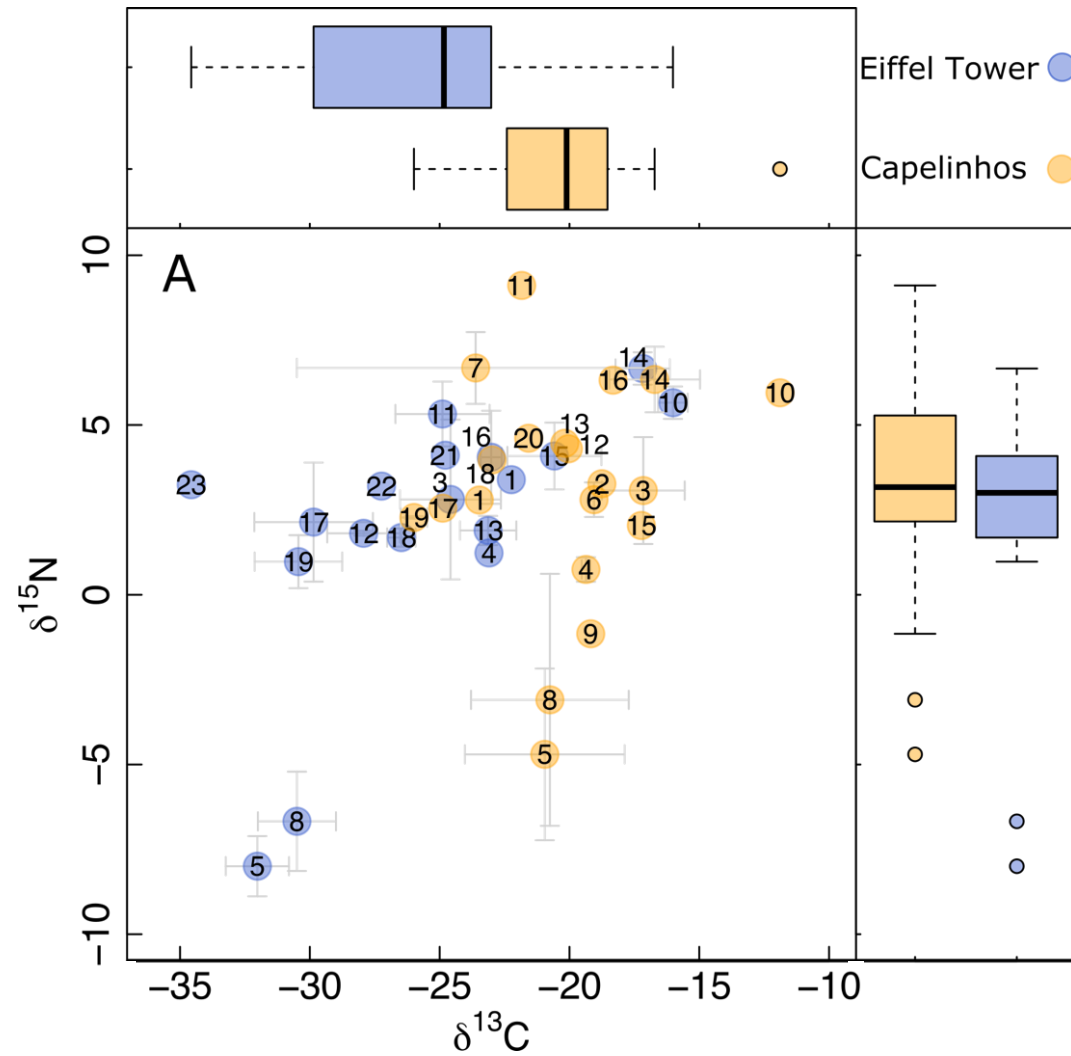


Alfaro-Lucas *et al.*, In review

General shift towards **more positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$** , particularly marked in the foundation species *Bathymodiolus azoricus* (5)

Strong shift of the whole community towards **higher $\delta^{34}\text{S}$**

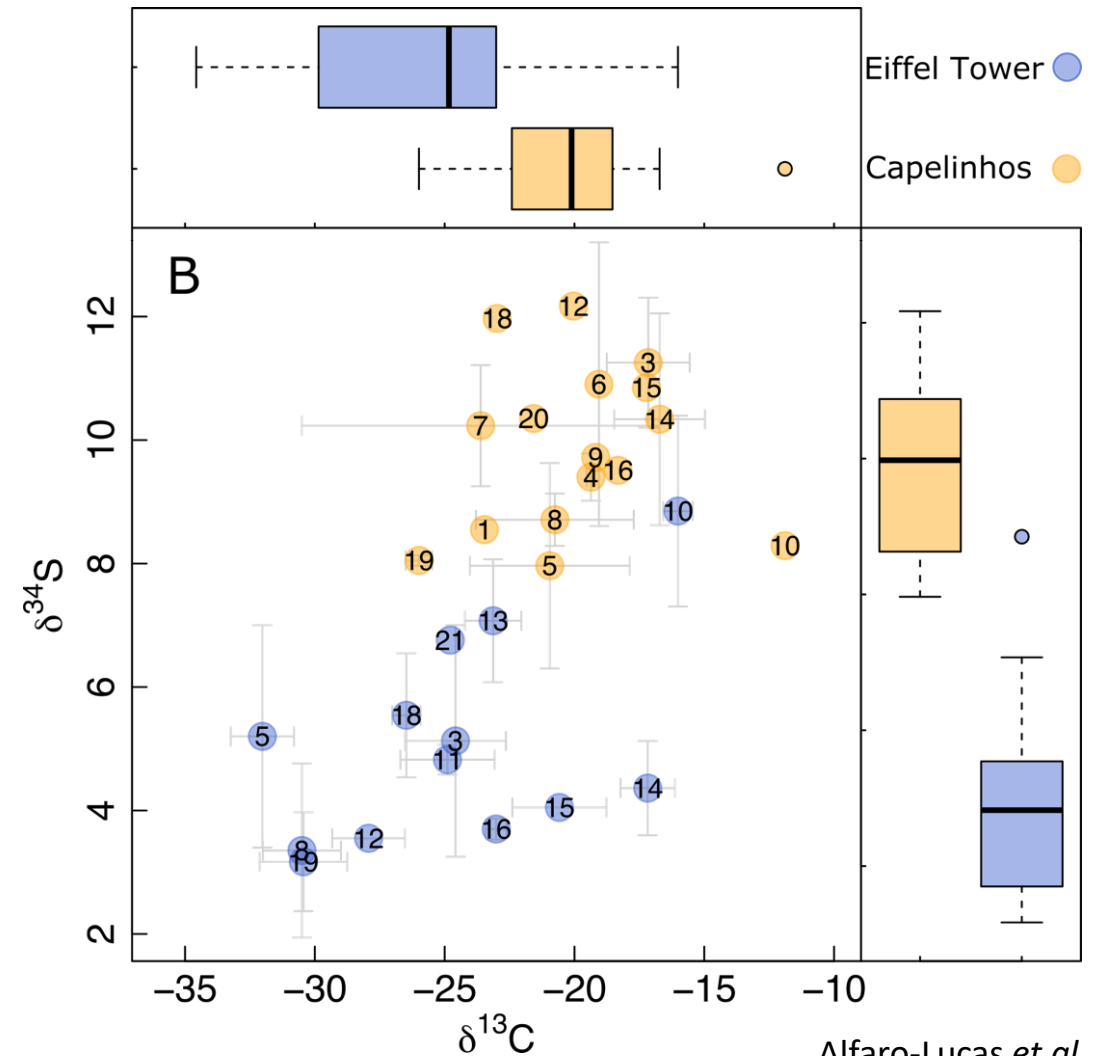
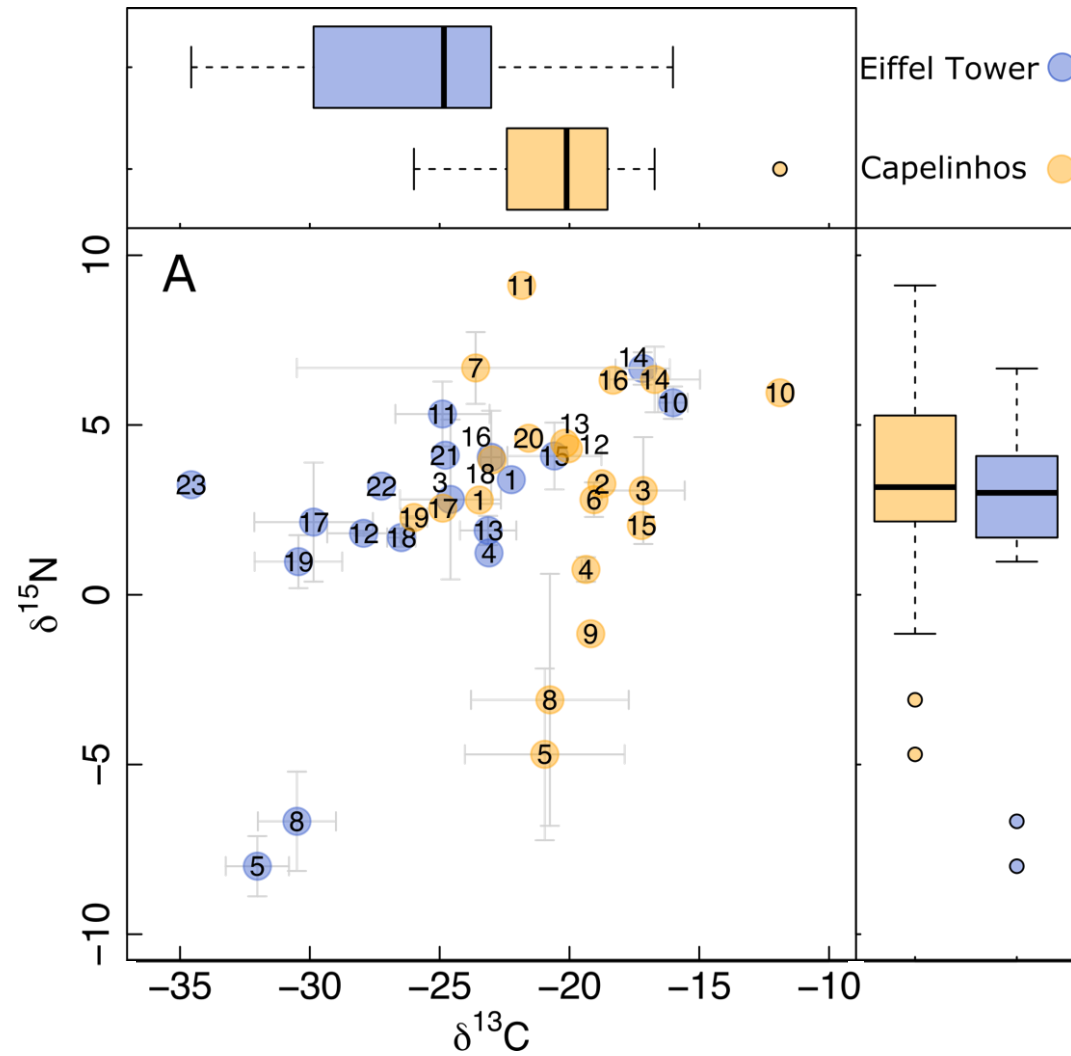
Baseline variability inside a vent field



Alfaro-Lucas *et al.*, In review

Higher contribution of **photosynthetic** OM? **Unlikely**: overall low $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ + similar depth and oceanographic features as other LS vents where export of photosynthetic OM is considered low to negligible

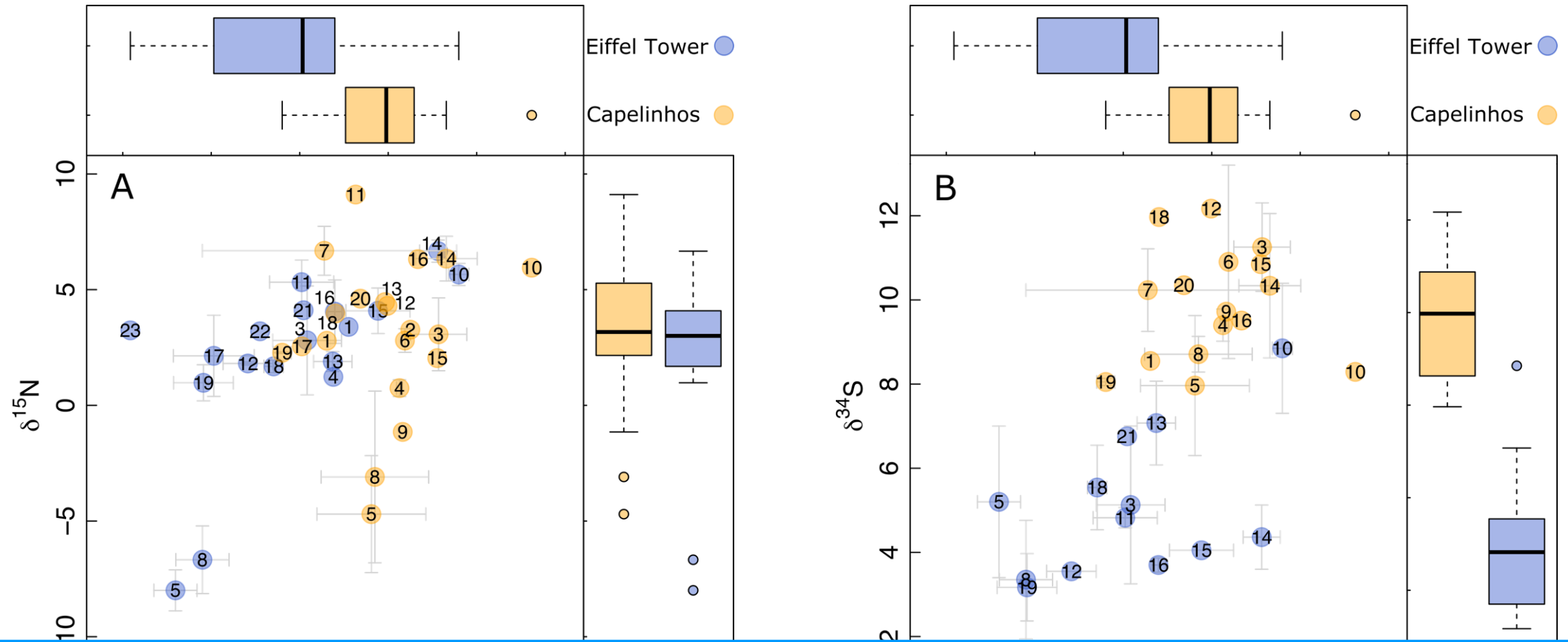
Baseline variability inside a vent field



Alfaro-Lucas *et al.*, In review

Local differences in **geochemistry**: different **rock/fluid interactions** leading to isotopically heavy sulfides and/or **co-reliance** of the vent community on CBB thiotrophy and **methanotrophy** (seen in other MAR vents like Rainbow)

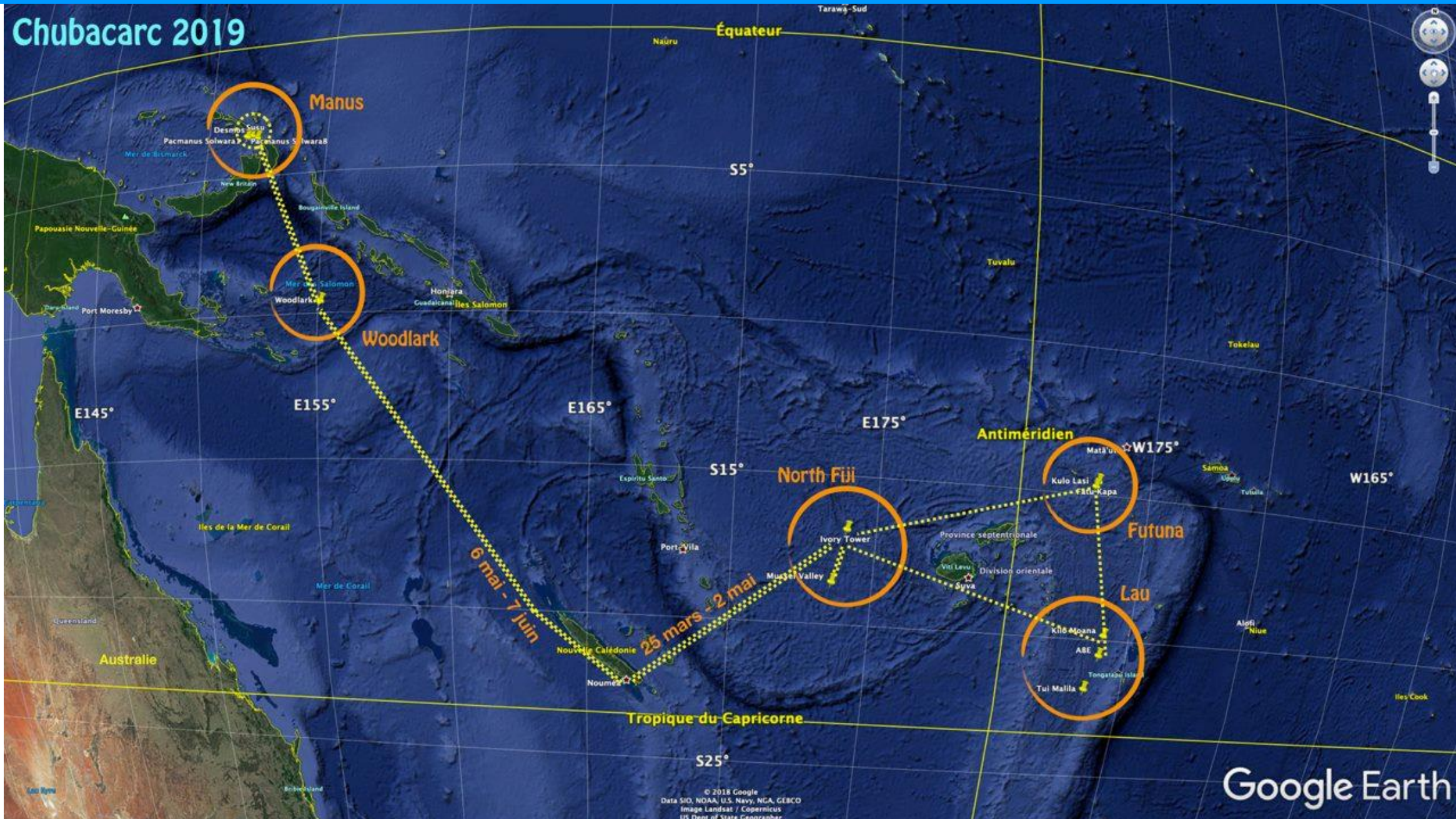
Baseline variability inside a vent field



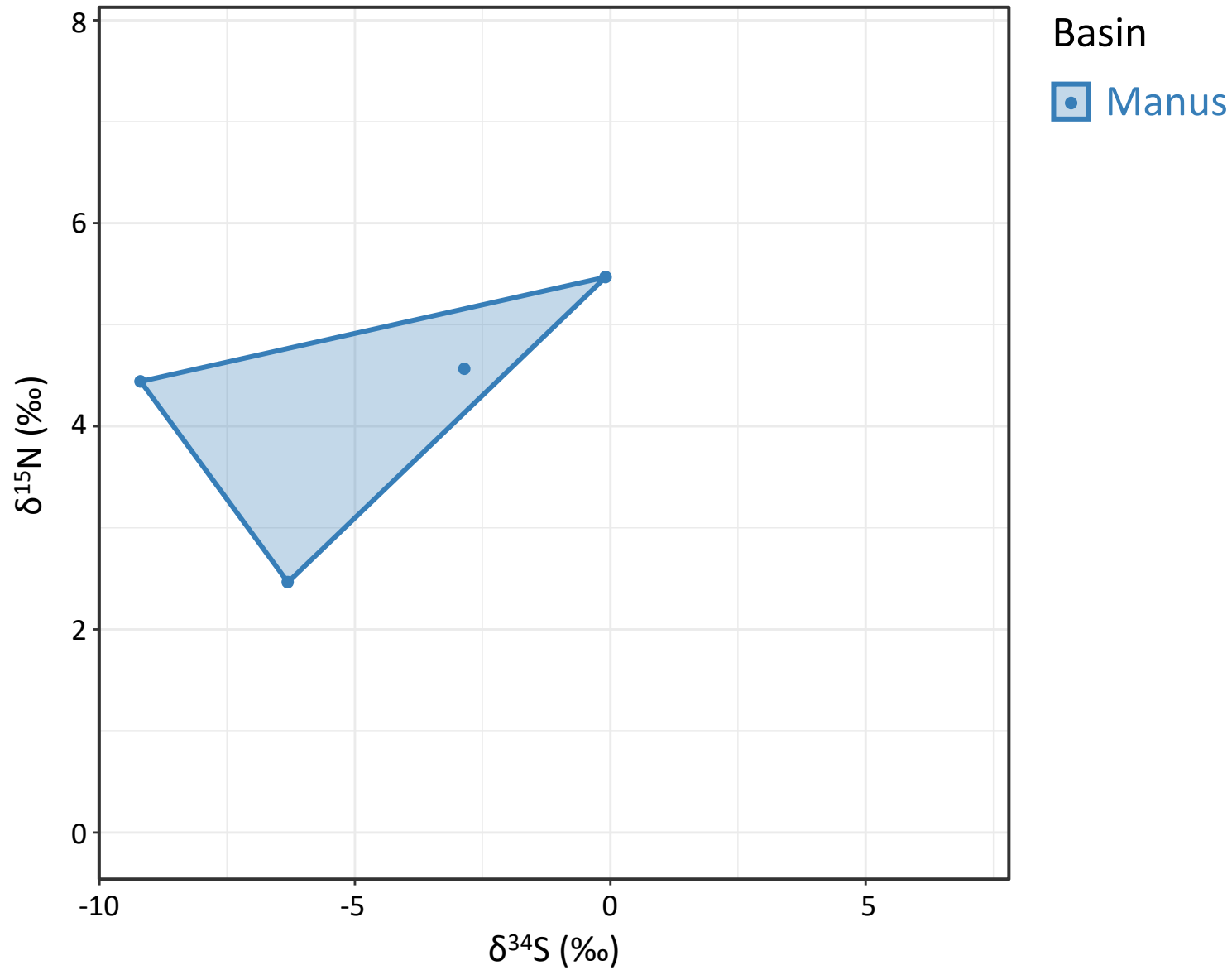
The absence of **baseline** data complicates the **interpretation** of trophic interactions inside a system or across systems

Baseline variation exists at multiple **spatial** scales

Baseline variation at large spatial scale

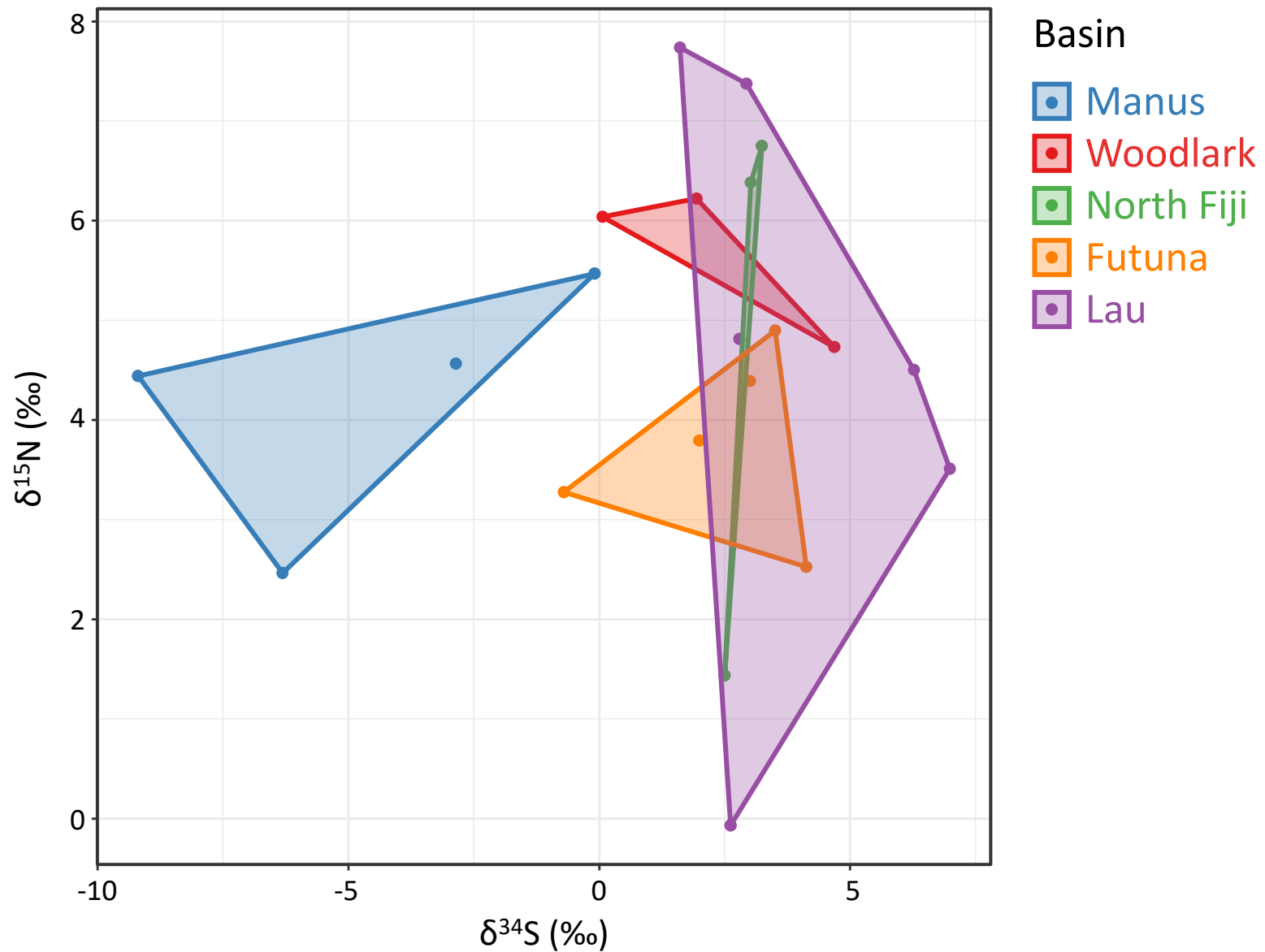


Baseline variation at large spatial scale



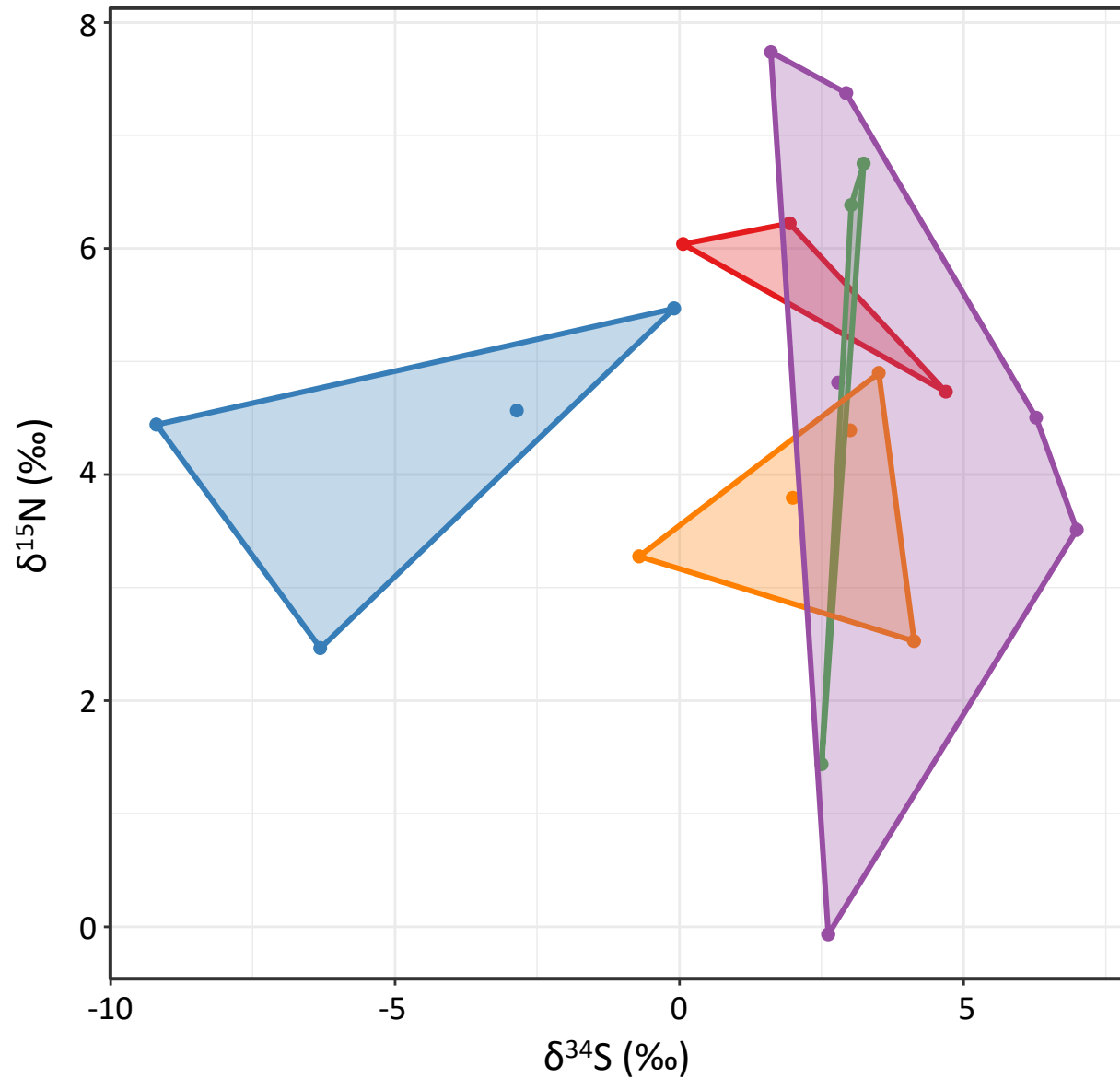
Hulls built using isotopic compositions of symbiotrophic foundation species (*Alviniconcha* spp., *Ifremeria nautilei*, *Bathymodiolus* spp.)

Baseline variation at large spatial scale



Hulls built using isotopic compositions of symbiotrophic foundation species (*Alviniconcha* spp., *Ifremeria nautilei*, *Bathymodiolus* spp.)

Baseline variation at large spatial scale



Basin

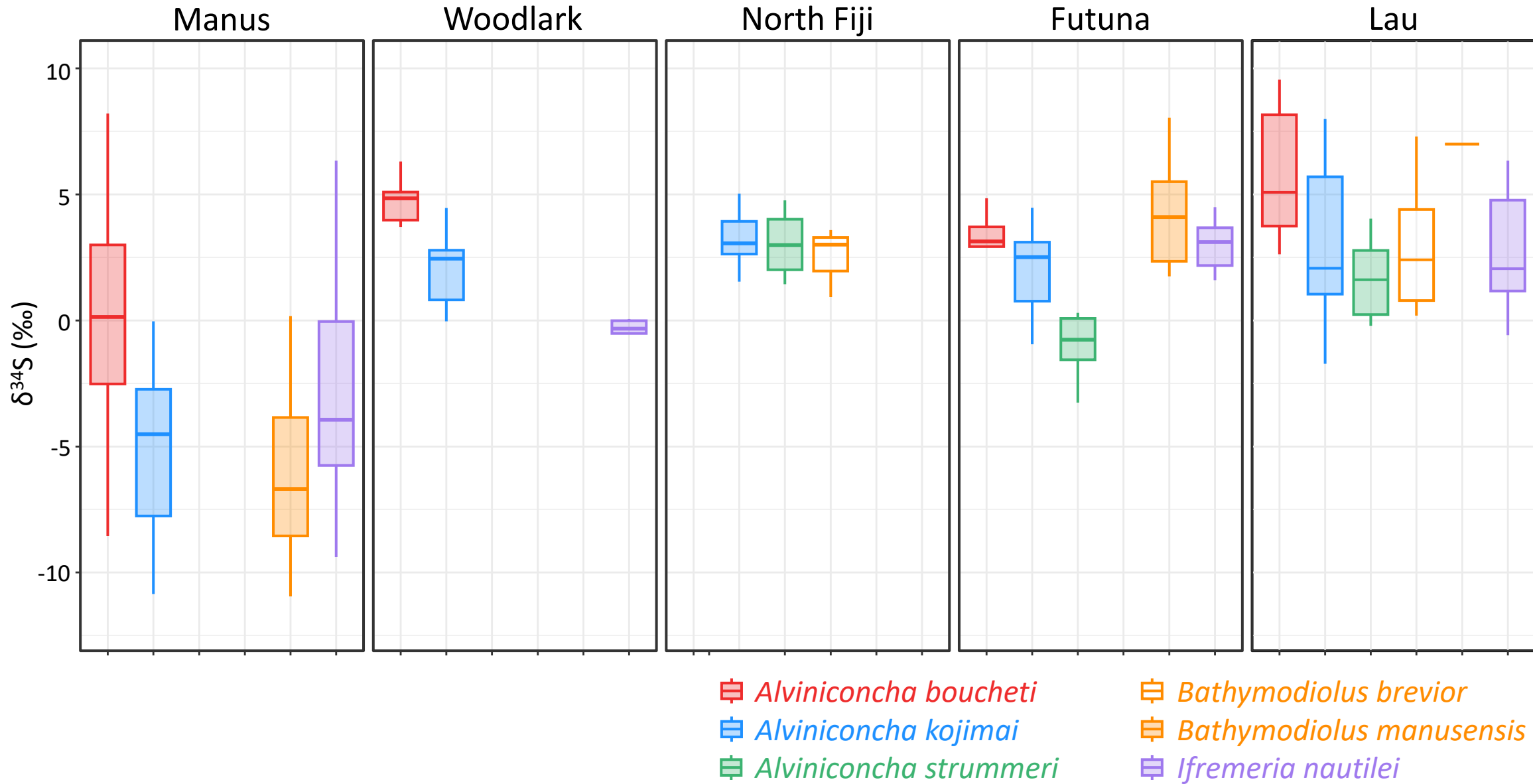
- Manus
- Woodlark
- North Fiji
- Futuna
- Lau

Strong inter-basin differences in hull shape and size

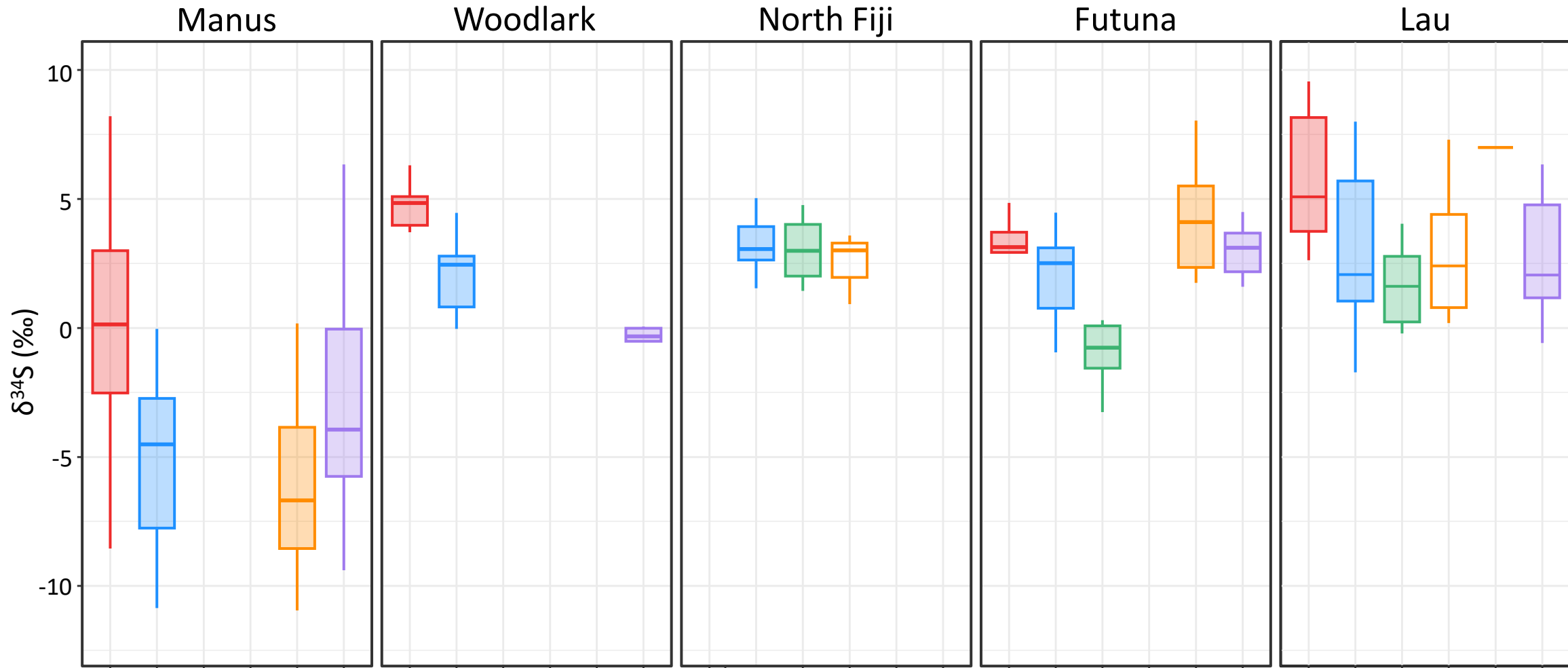
No clear longitudinal effect...

Hulls built using isotopic compositions of symbiotrophic foundation species (*Alviniconcha* spp., *Ifremeria nautilei*, *Bathymodiolus* spp.)

Baseline variations: $\delta^{34}\text{S}$



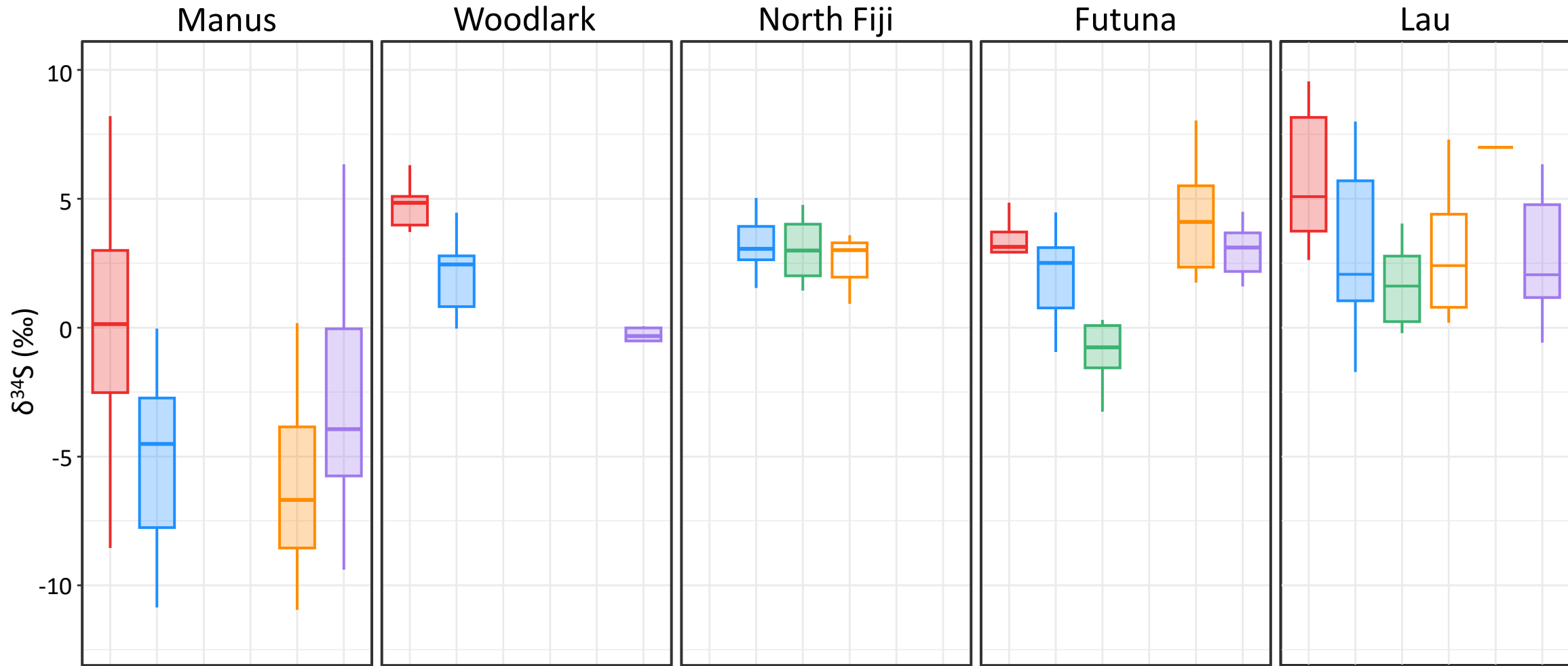
Baseline variations: $\delta^{34}\text{S}$



Presence of global shifts, e.g. lower and more variable $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in Manus

- ▣ *Alviniconcha boucheti*
- ▣ *Alviniconcha kojimai*
- ▣ *Alviniconcha strummeri*
- ▣ *Bathymodiolus brevior*
- ▣ *Bathymodiolus manusensis*
- ▣ *Ifremeria nautilei*

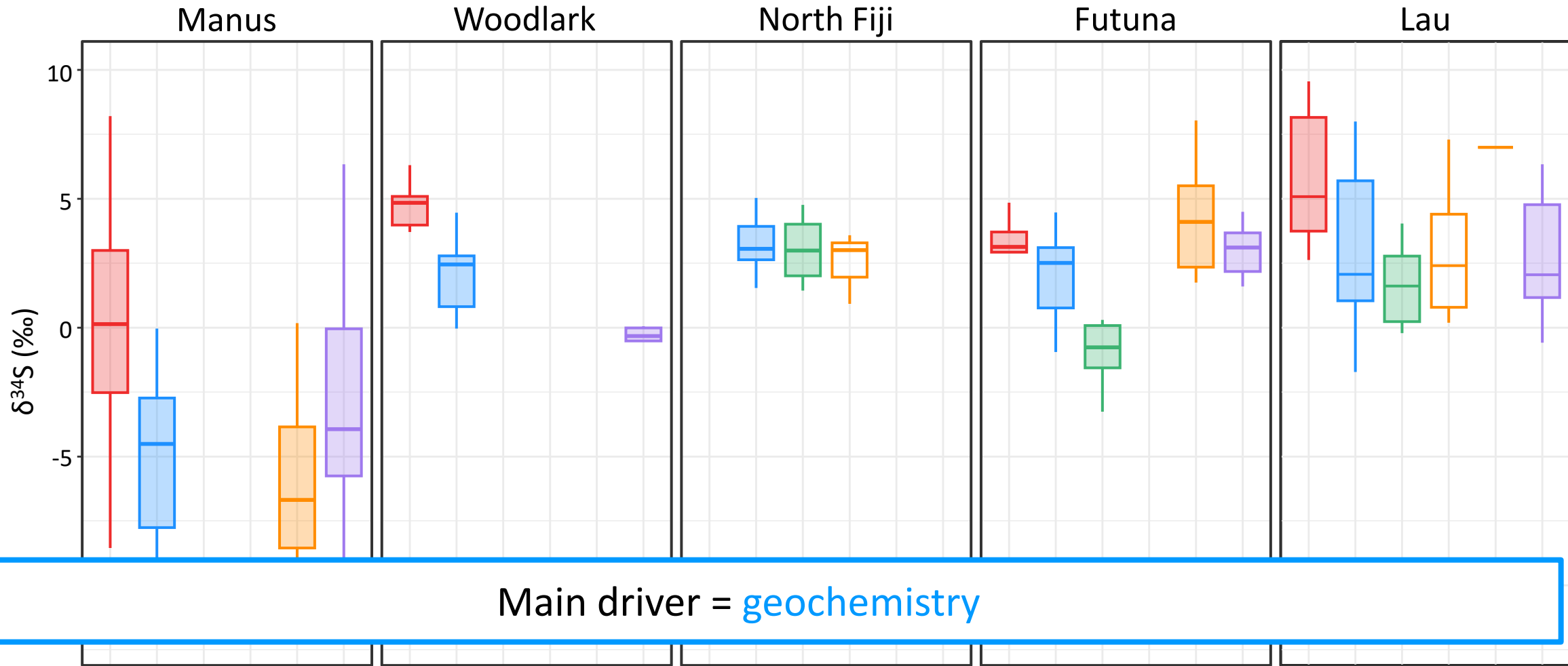
Baseline variations: $\delta^{34}\text{S}$



Some conserved relative positions, e.g. *A. boucheti* > *A. kojimai* : species-specific patterns in isotope fractionation during sulfide uptake by symbionts?

- Alviniconcha boucheti*
- Alviniconcha kojimai*
- Alviniconcha strummeri*
- Bathymodiolus brevior*
- Bathymodiolus manusensis*
- Ifremeria nautilei*

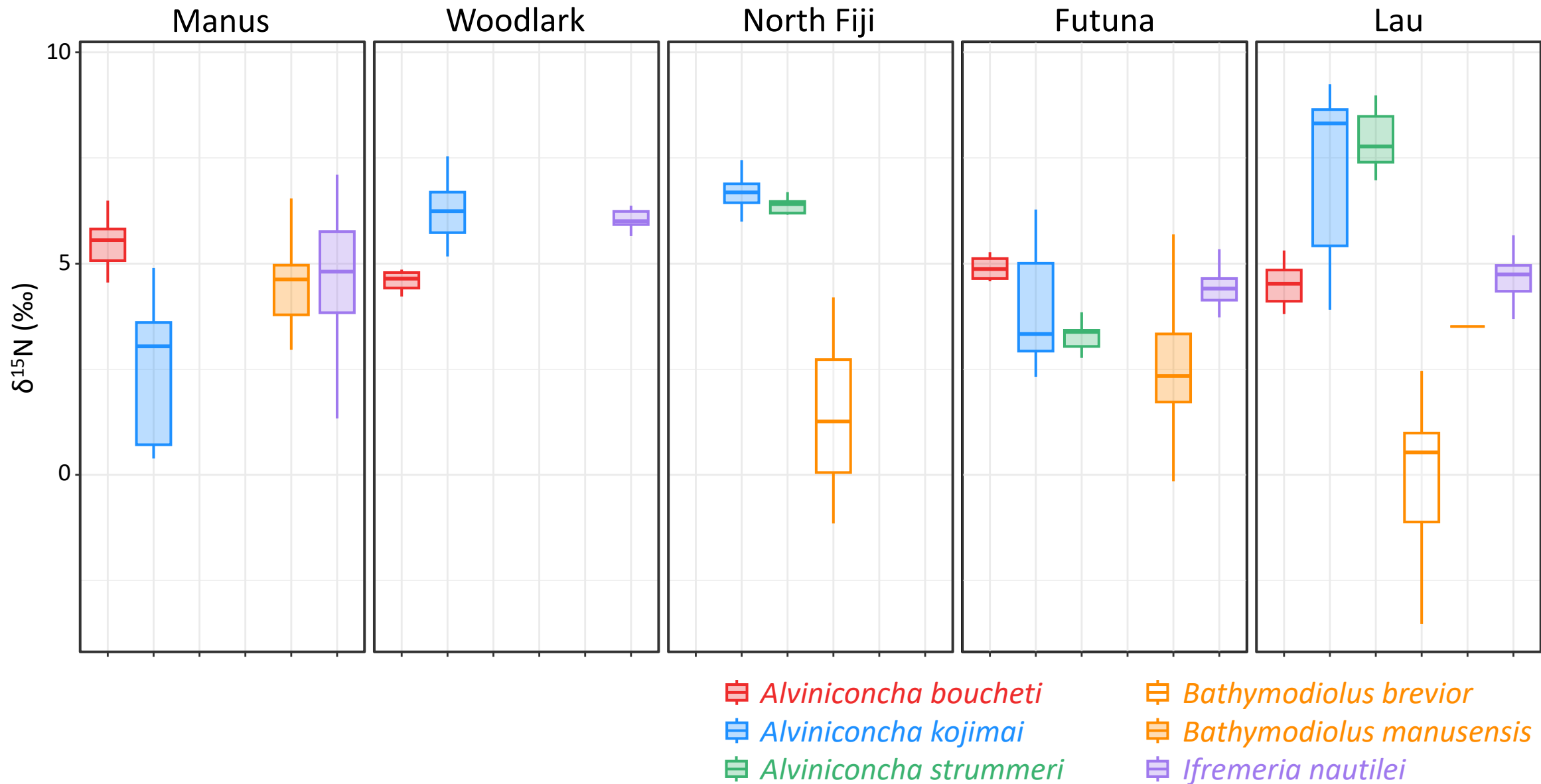
Baseline variations: $\delta^{34}\text{S}$



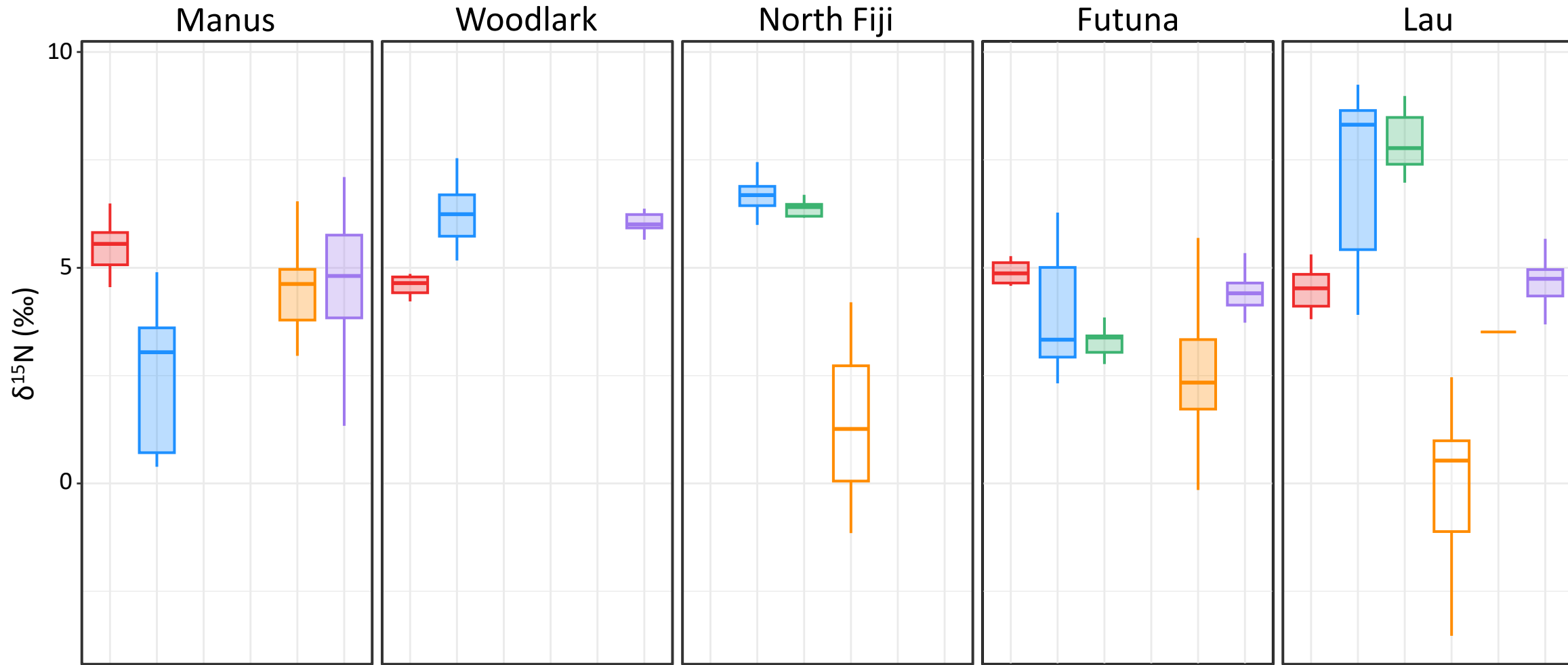
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- Bathymodiolus manusensis*
- Ifremeria nautilei*

Baseline variations: $\delta^{15}\text{N}$



Baseline variations: $\delta^{15}\text{N}$



No consistent trends from one basin to another

Strong changes in relative positions (e.g. *A. boucheti*,
A. kojimai and *I. nautilei*)

Alviniconcha boucheti

Alviniconcha kojimai

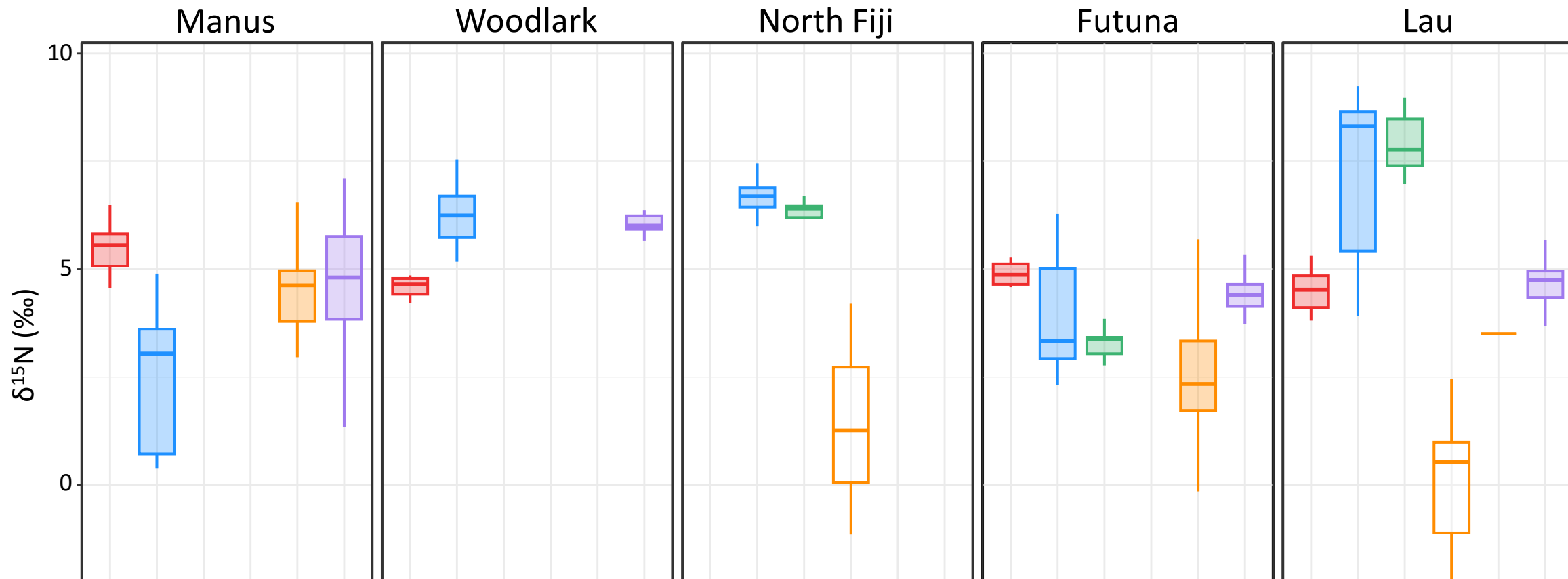
Alviniconcha strummeri

Bathymodiolus breviar

Bathymodiolus manusensis

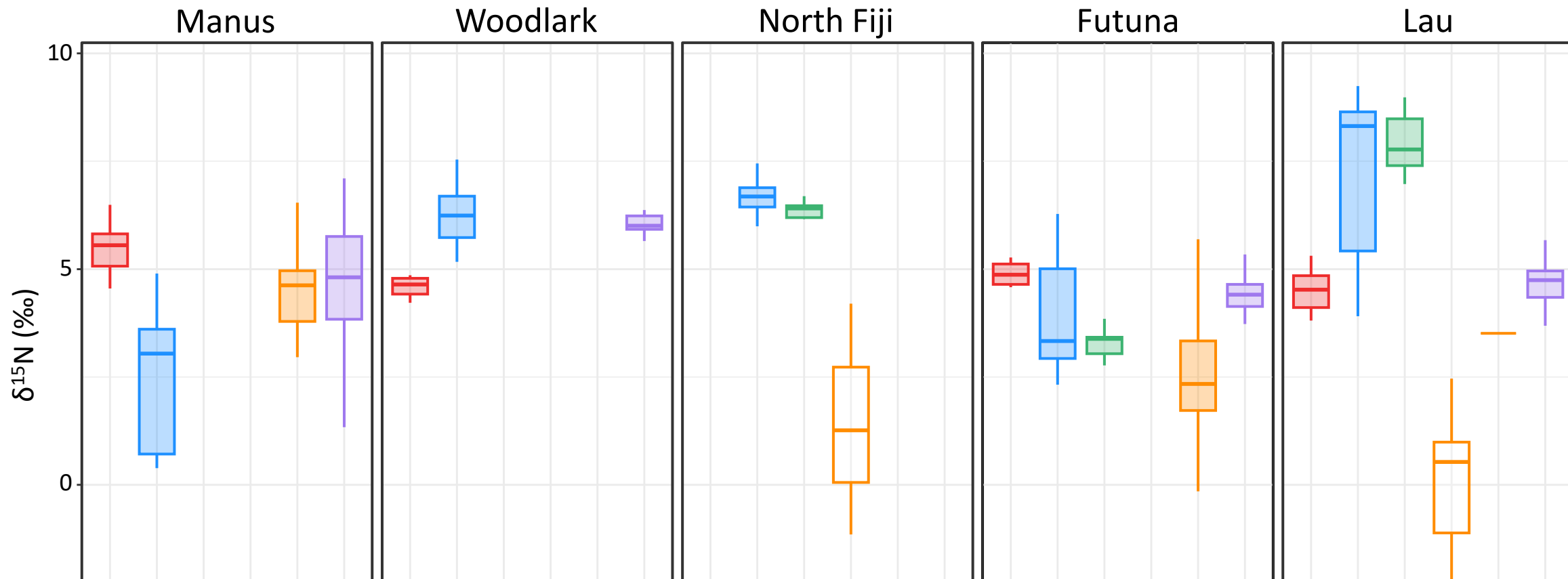
Ifremeria nautilei

Baseline variations: $\delta^{15}\text{N}$



Main driver ? Not only geochemistry or availability of NO_3^- and NH_4^+ ...

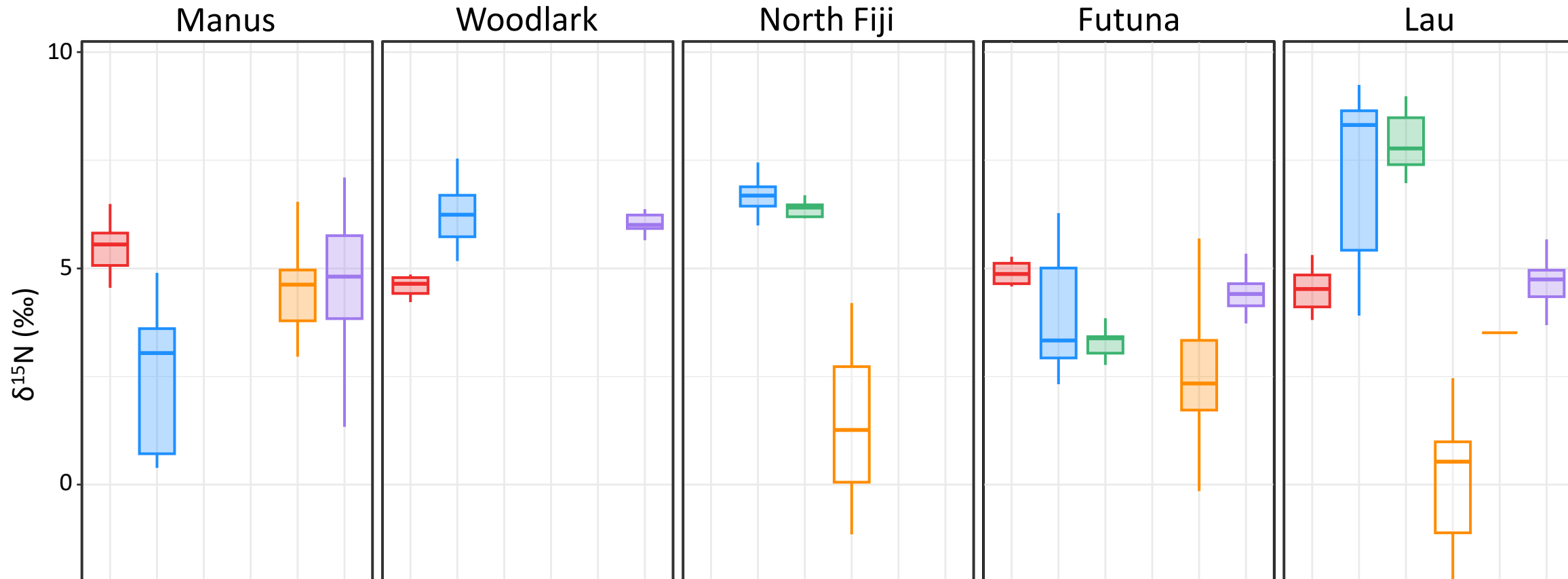
Baseline variations: $\delta^{15}\text{N}$



Main driver ? Not only geochemistry or availability of NO_3^- and NH_4^+ ...

Variable habitat niche segregation?

Baseline variations: $\delta^{15}\text{N}$

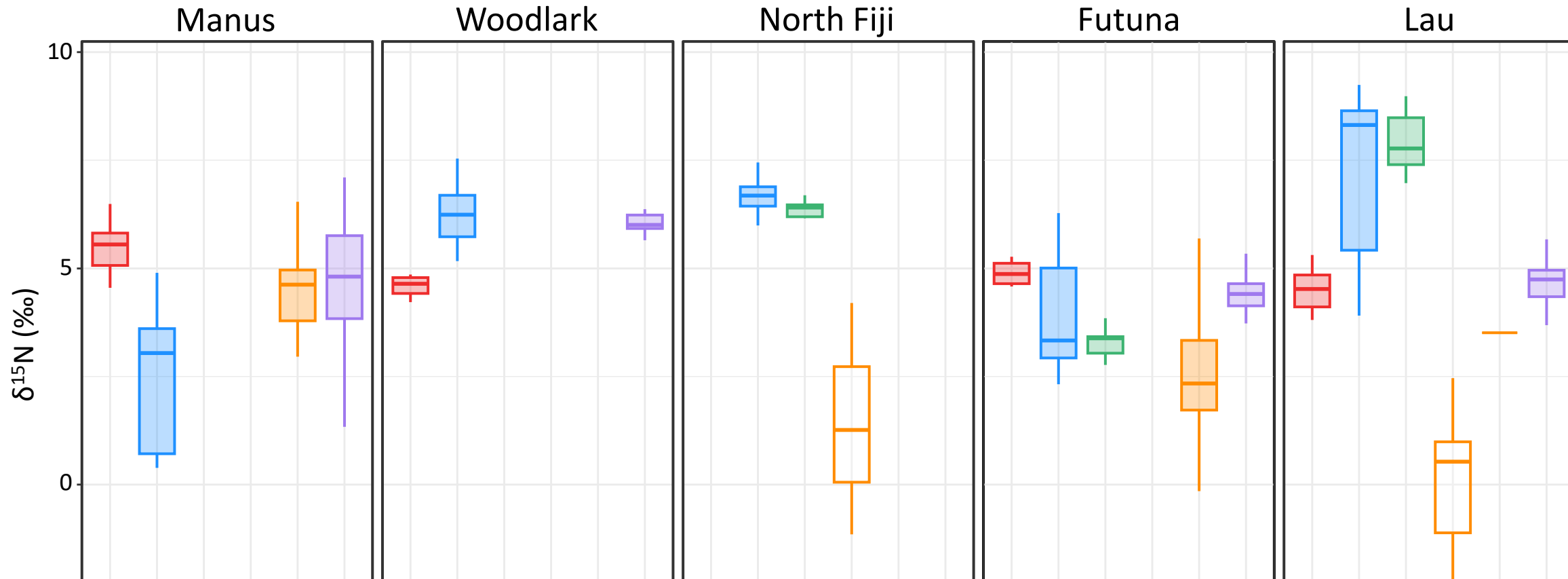


Main driver ? Not only geochemistry or availability of NO_3^- and NH_4^+ ...

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Changes in identity or metabolism of symbiotic partners, resulting in different isotopic composition of the holobionts?

Baseline variations: $\delta^{15}\text{N}$



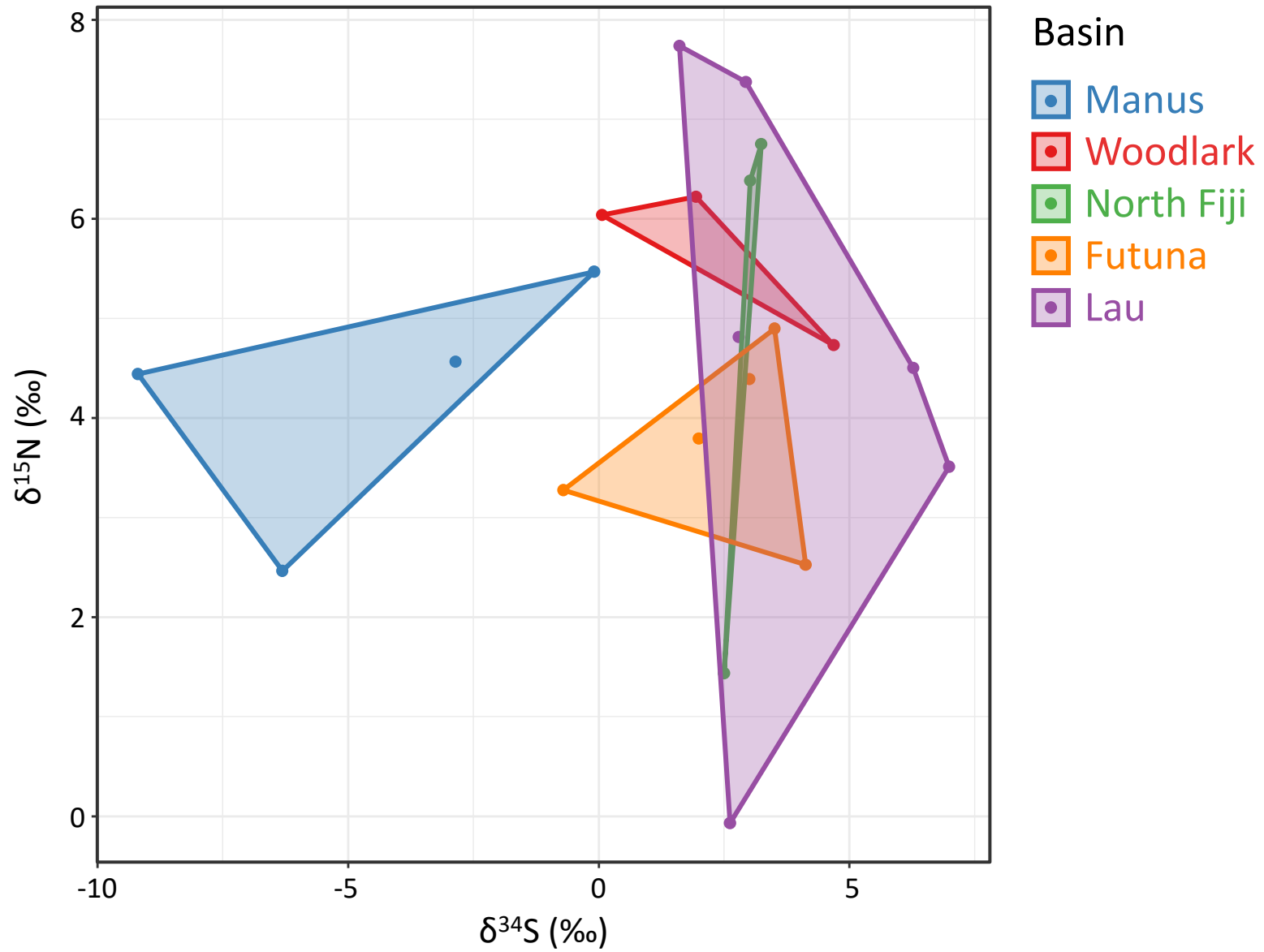
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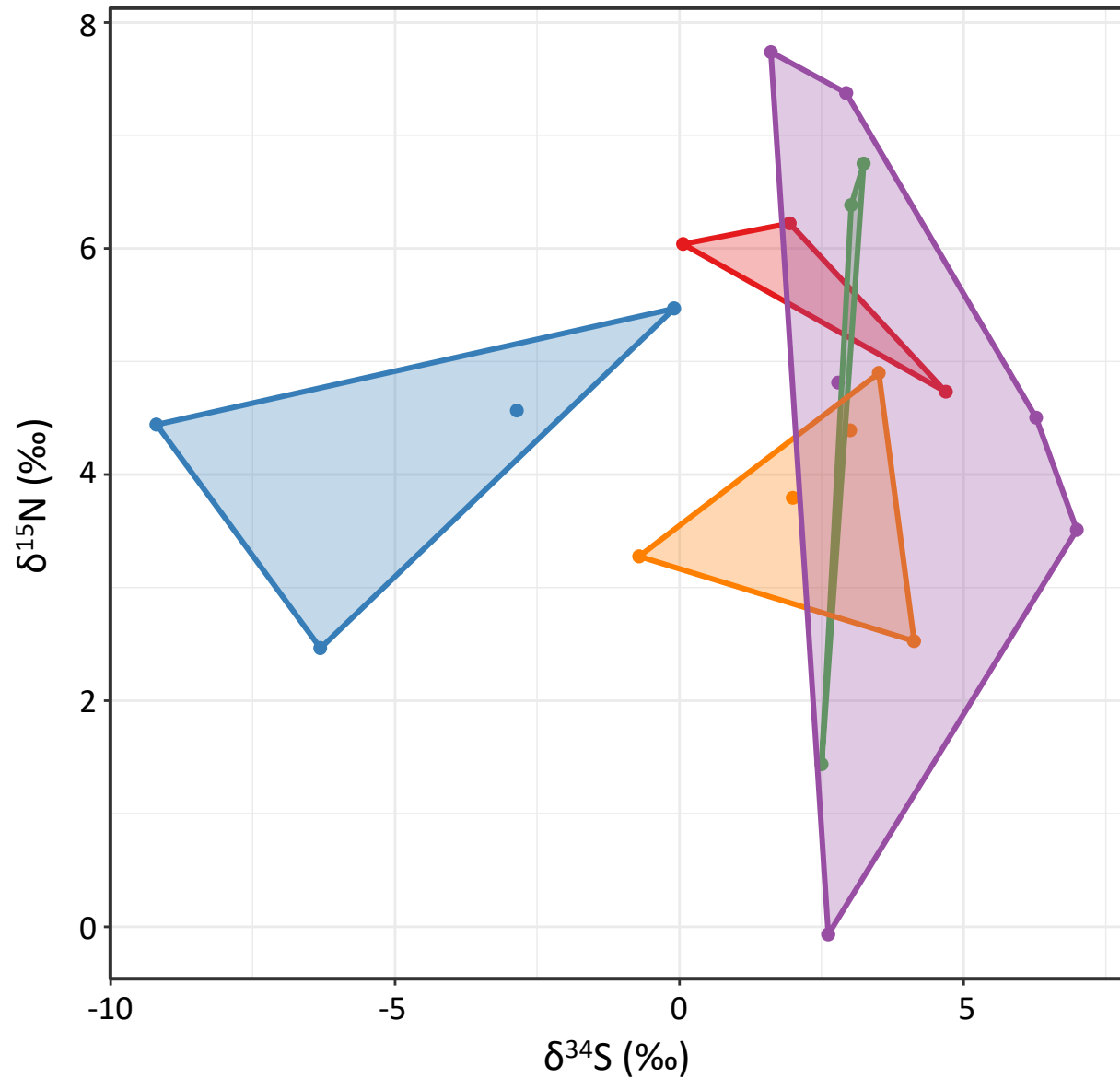
Changes in identity or metabolism of symbiotic partners, resulting in different isotopic composition of the holobionts?

Changes in trophic position: unlikely as symbiotrophic species...

Baseline variation at large spatial scale



Baseline variation at large spatial scale

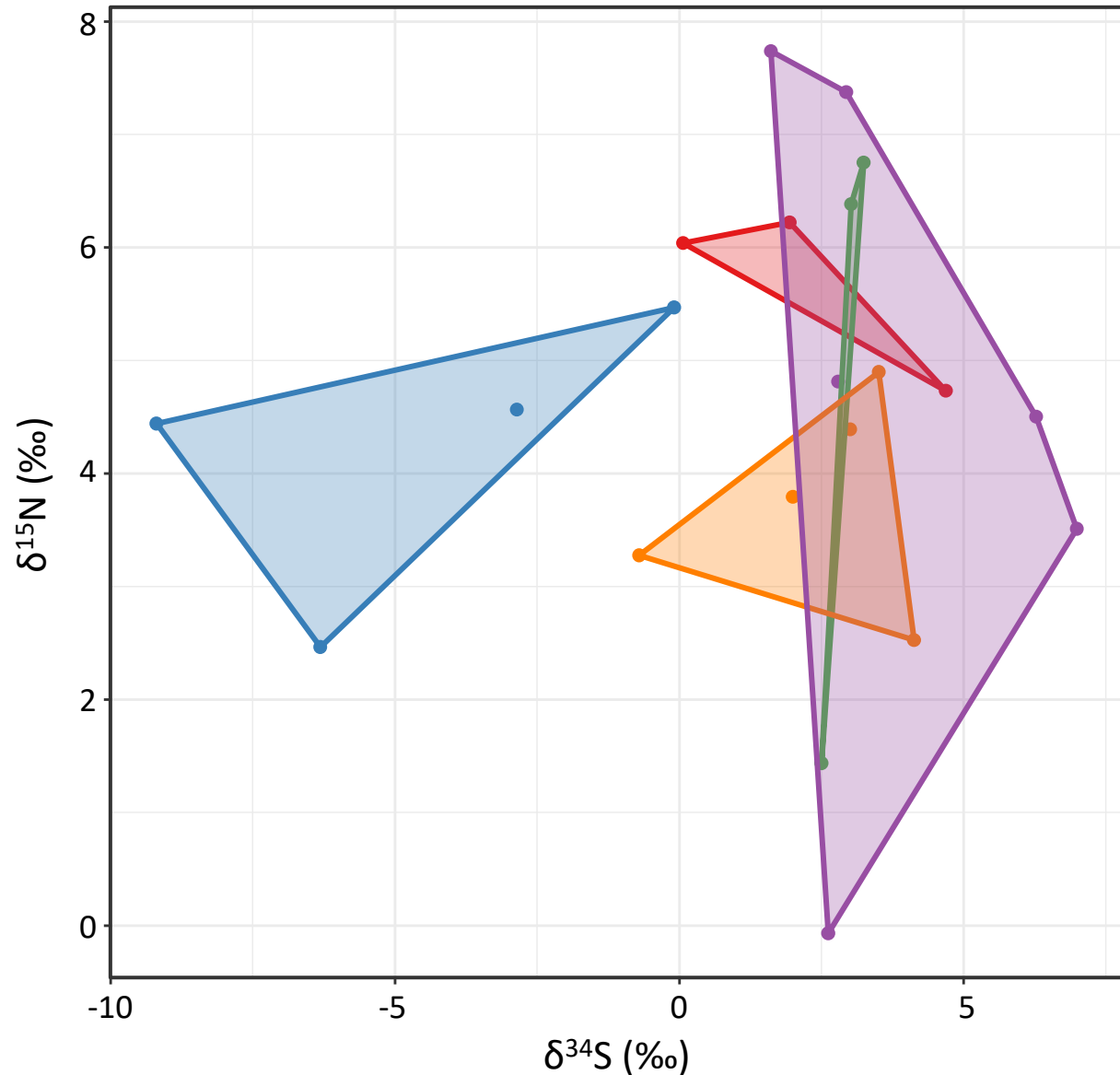


Basin

- Manus
- Woodlark
- North Fiji
- Futuna
- Lau

To understand the trophic ecology of a species, info about its "**isotopic landscape**" (isotopic composition of baseline items, of other species, of previous sampling events, of its place in other comparable systems, etc...) **highly desirable...**

Baseline variation at large spatial scale



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To understand the trophic ecology of a species, info about its "**isotopic landscape**" (isotopic composition of baseline items, of other species, of previous sampling events, of its place in other comparable systems, etc...) **highly desirable**...

...Yet often **hard to obtain** due to constraining sampling logistics, analytical limitations, etc.

DeepIso

SEANOE Sea scientific open data edition

















SEANOE

DeepIso - a global open database of stable isotope ratios and elemental contents for deep-sea ecosystems

Date 2021-08-17

Temporal extent 1985 -2018

Author(s) Michel Loïc N. ¹, Bell James B. ², Dubois Stanislas F. ³, Le Pans Mathilde¹, Lepoint Gilles ⁴, Olu Karine ¹, Reid William D. K. ⁵, Sarrazin Jozee ¹, Schaal Gauthier ⁶, Hayden Brian ⁷

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4 : Laboratory of Oceanology, Freshwater and Oceanic Sciences Unit of reSearch (FOCUS), University of Liège, Liège, Belgium

Click to download the data

 DATA



Example of targeted taxa: tubeworms *Escarpia southwardae* and mussels *Bathymodiolus* aff. boomerang from cold seeps. Picture: Ifremer, WACS cruise, 2011 (depth: 3160 m).



Freely available at <https://doi.org/10.17882/76595> under CC-BY licence

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Click to download the data

DATA



Example of targeted taxa:

Goals:

Produce a global, easily **discoverable**, **available** and **reusable** compilation of stable isotope ratios and elemental contents in organisms from deep-sea ecosystems

Provide the deep-sea community with an **open data analysis tool** that can be used in the context of future ecological research, and to help deep-sea researchers to use **stable isotope markers** at their **full efficiency**.

Freely available at <https://doi.org/10.17882/76595> under CC-BY licence

DeepIso: core working group



James B. [Bell](#)
CEFAS (UK)



Stanislas F. [Dubois](#)
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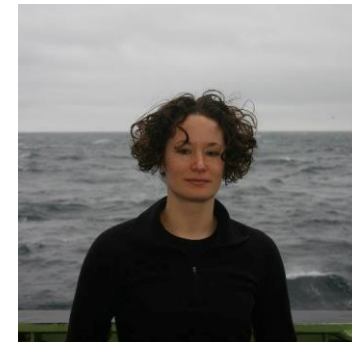
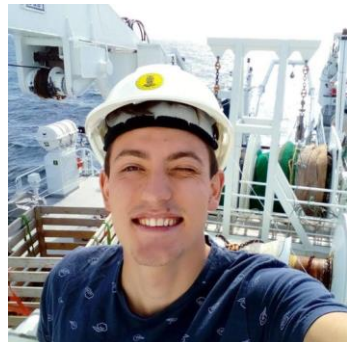


Gauthier [Schaal](#)
UBO (FR)

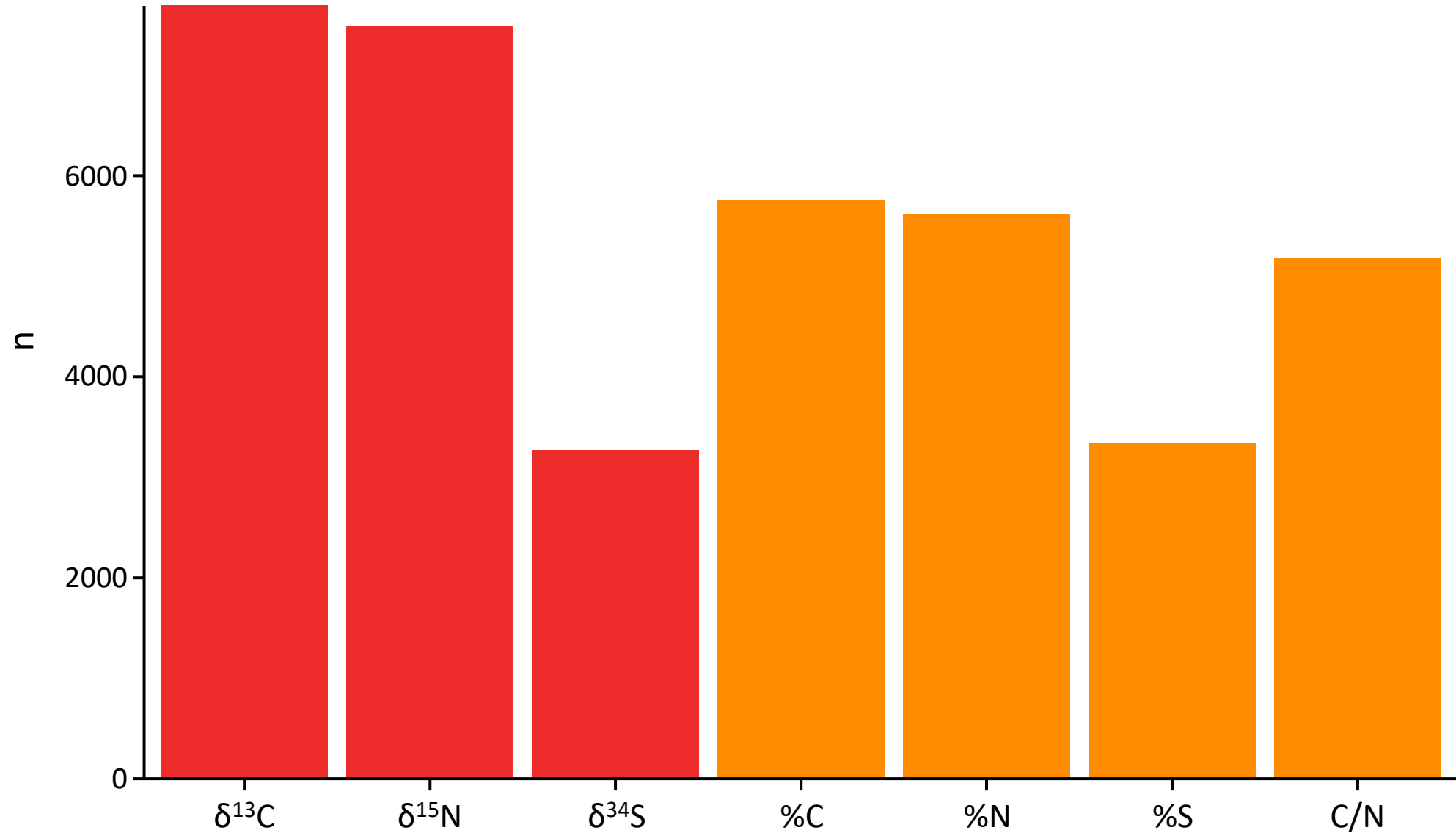


Brian [Hayden](#)
UNB (CA)

DeepIso: data contributors

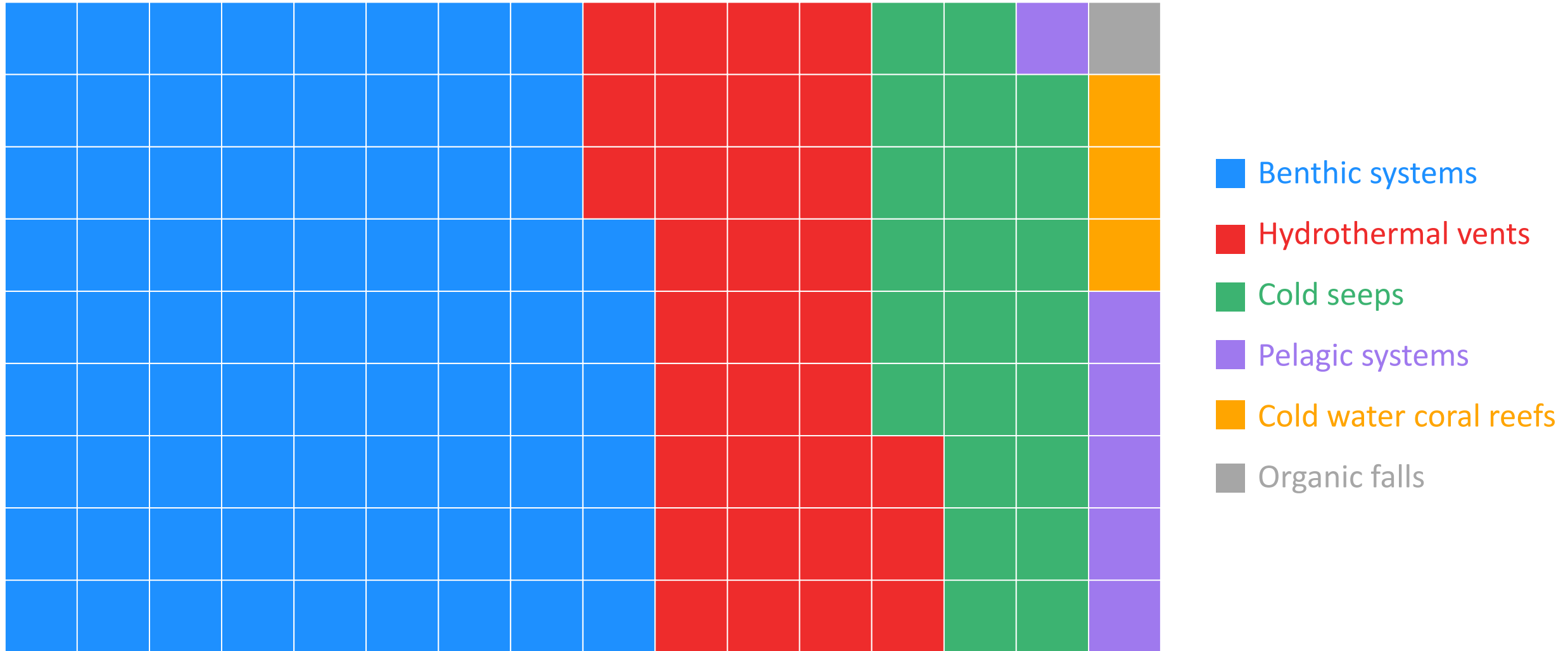


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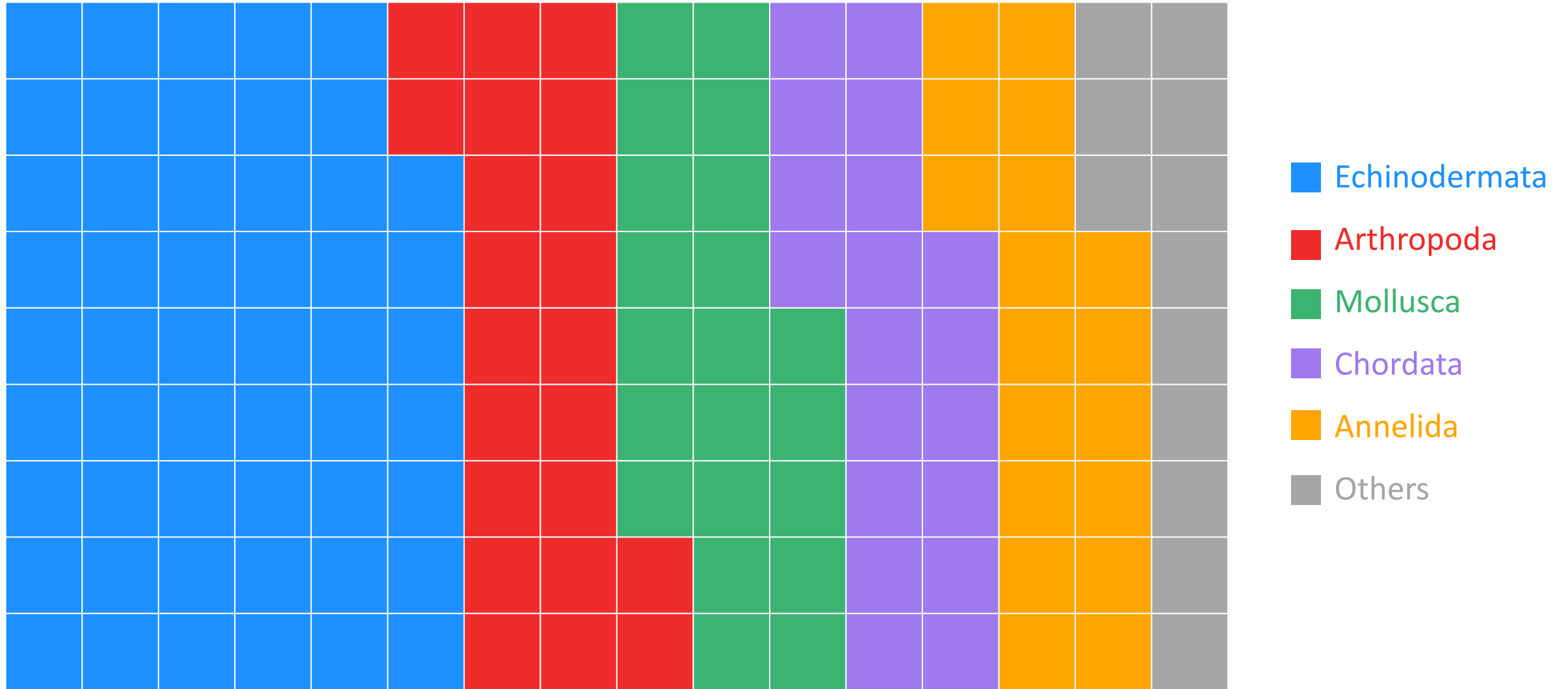
38335 measurements of 7 parameters

DeepIso



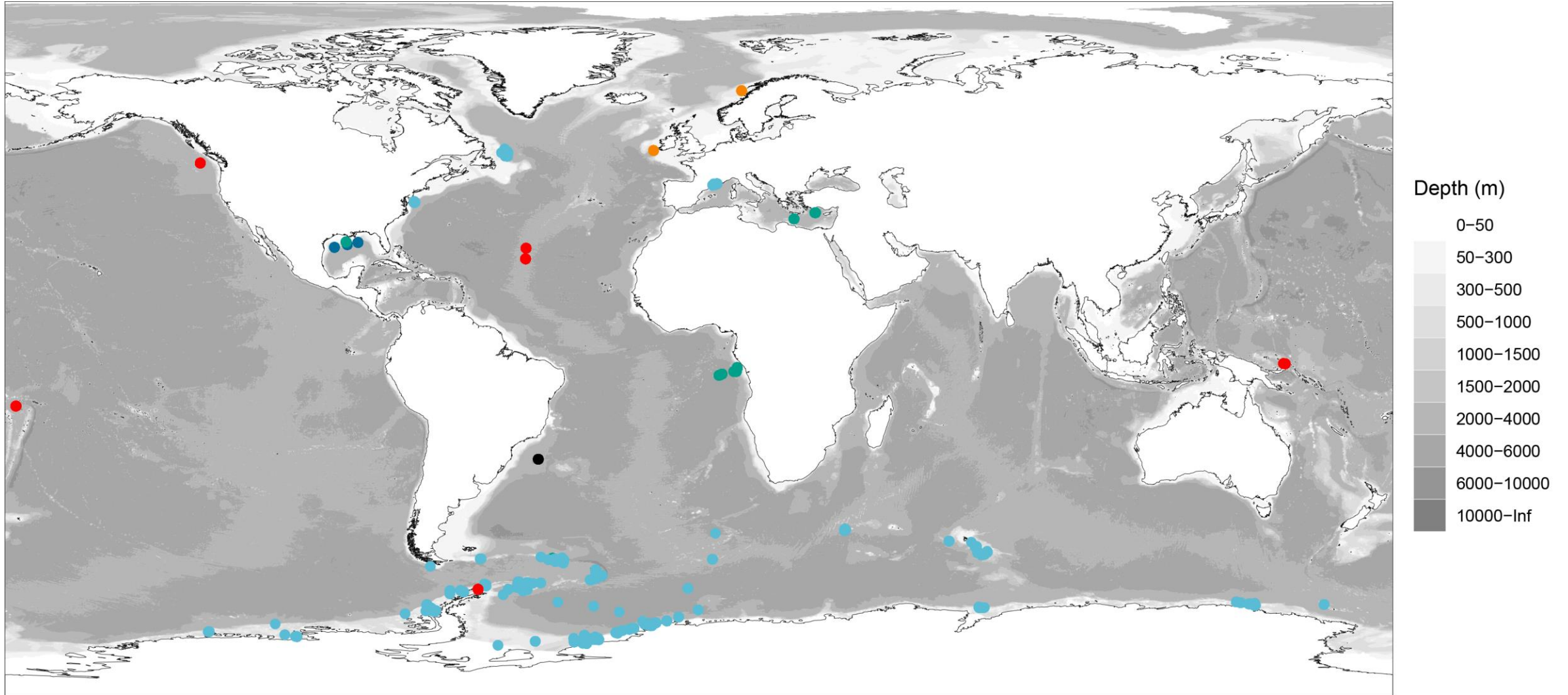
7248 distinct samples from multiple ecosystems, including 3164 (44%) from chemosynthesis-based ecosystems

DeepIso



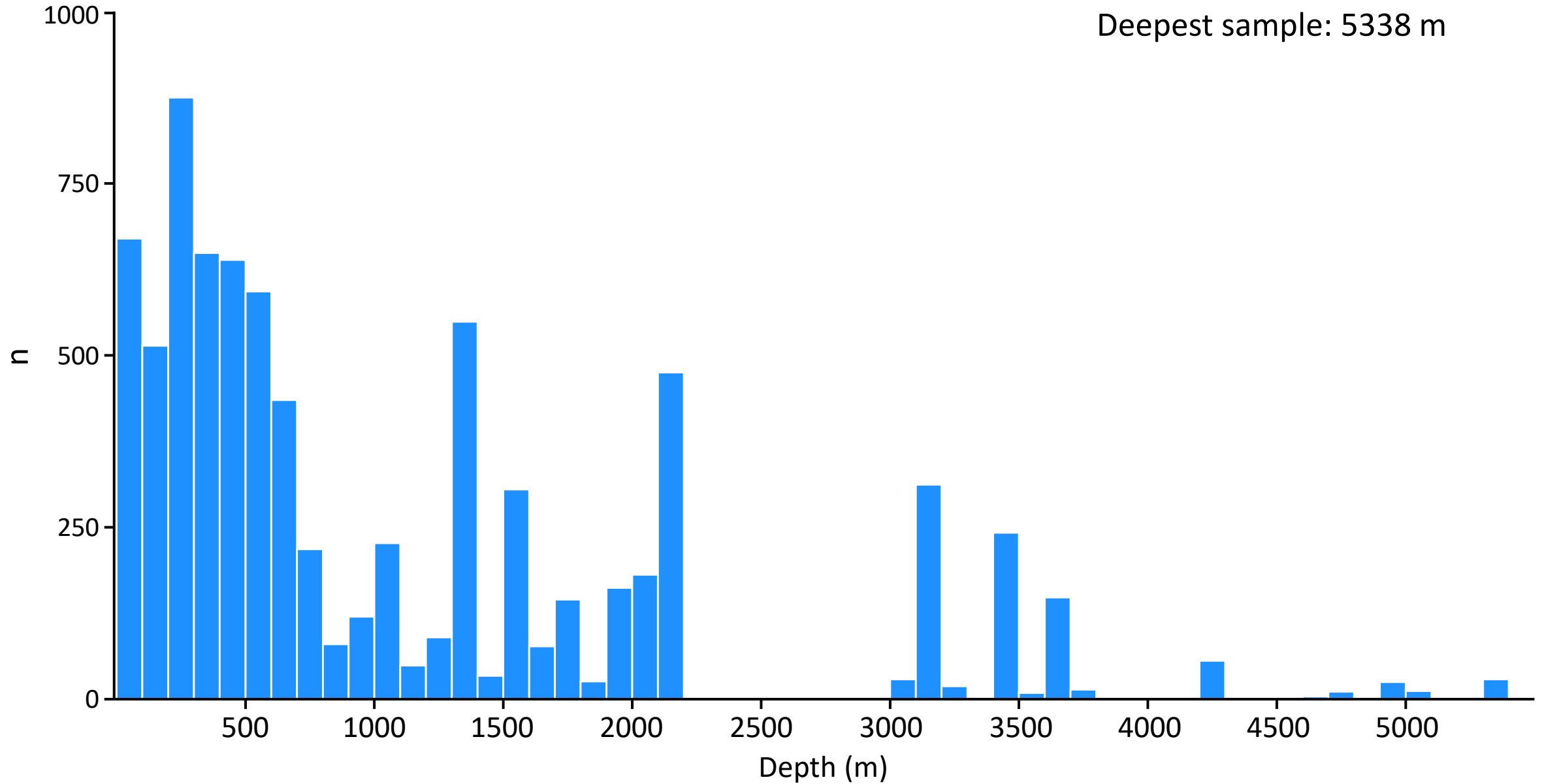
881 distinct taxa (+ sediment, detritus, suspended particulate organic matter, bulk plancton, etc.)

DeepIso

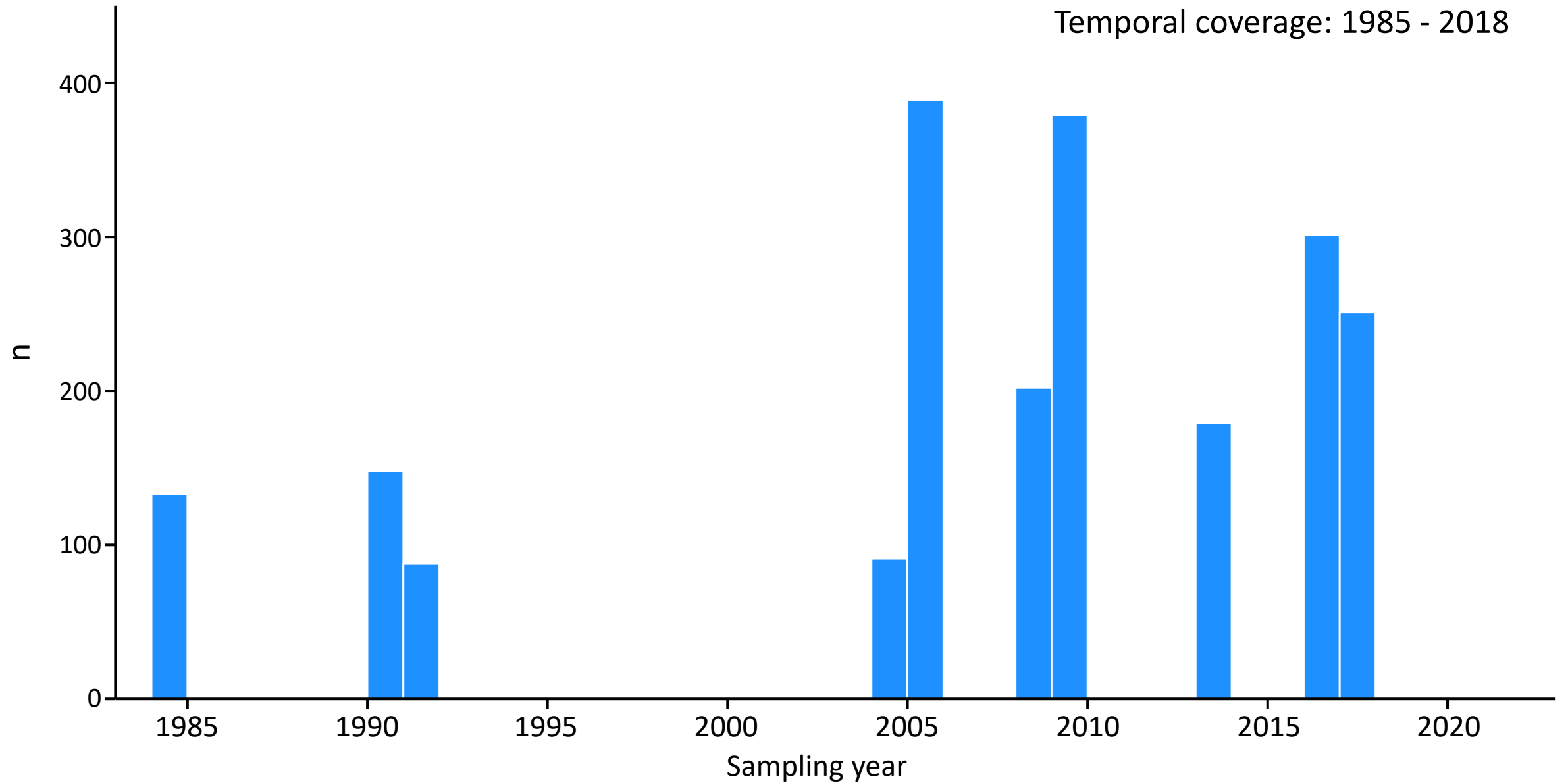


Worldwide spatial coverage

DeepIso



DeepIso



DeepIso: what's next?

- Integrate DeepIso with larger scale initiatives such as IsoBank



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Feeling like contributing? Questions? Feedback?
Get in touch!

Take home message

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- Consider **archiving** your **data openly** – you'll likely benefit from it and so will the rest of the scientific community

Acknowledgements



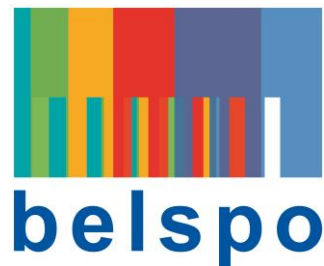
Many [friends](#) and [colleagues](#) that helped me, directly or indirectly, to perform this research



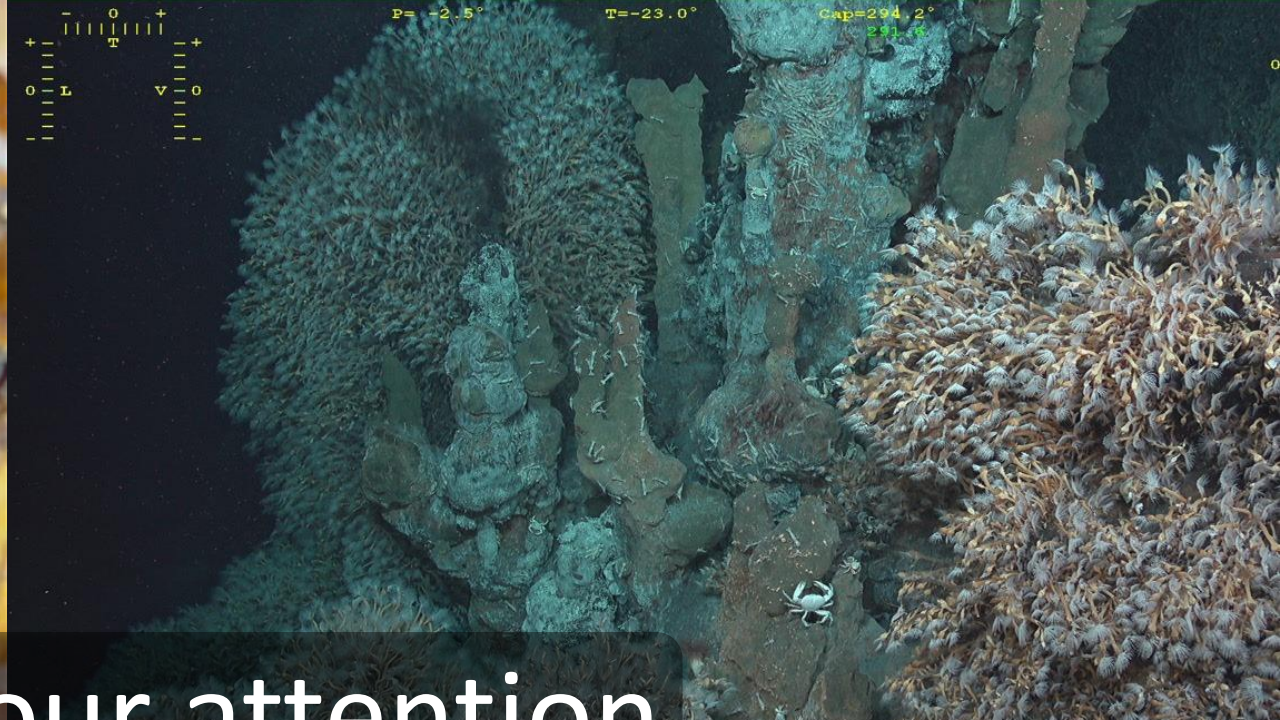
[Ifremer](#) and the [French Oceanographic Fleet](#) for providing sampling and research infrastructure



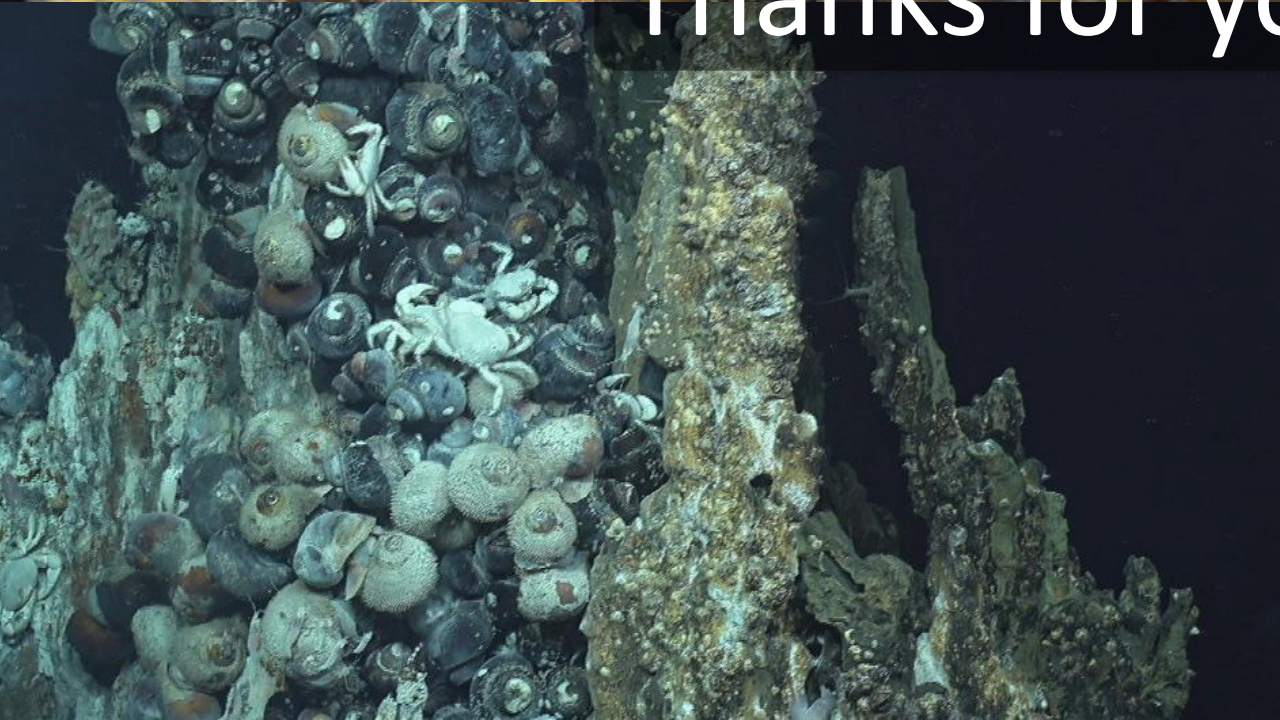
[Funding sources](#) in [France](#) (ANR - French National Research Agency, ISblue – Interdisciplinary graduate school for the blue planet)



And [Belgium](#) (FNRS – Belgian Fund for Scientific Research, BELSPO - Belgian Science Policy Office, University of Liège)



Thanks for your attention



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