

Dual carbonate clumped isotopes (Δ_{47} - Δ_{48}) constrains kinetic effects and timescales in peridotite-associated springs at The Cedars, Northern California

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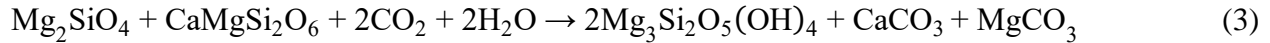
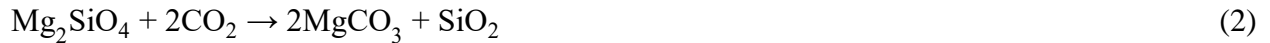
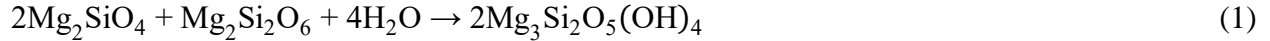
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Abstract

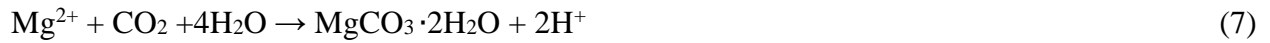
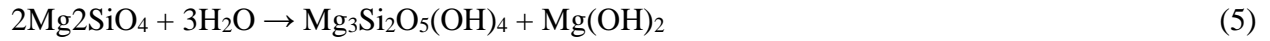
The Cedars is an area in Northern California with a chain of highly alkaline springs resulting from CO₂-charged meteorological water interacting with a peridotite body. Serpentinization resulting from this interaction at depth leads to the sequestration of various carbonate minerals into veins accompanied by a release of Ca²⁺ and OH⁻ enriched water to the surface, creating an environment which promotes rapid precipitation of CaCO₃ at surface springs. This environment enables us to apply the recently developed Δ_{47} - Δ_{48} dual clumped isotope analysis to probe kinetic isotope effects (KIEs) and timescales of CO₂ transformation in a region with the potential for geological CO₂ sequestration. We analyzed CaCO₃ recovered from various localities and identified significant kinetic fractionations associated with CO₂ absorption in a majority of samples, characterized by enrichment in Δ_{47} values and depletion in Δ_{48} values relative to equilibrium. Surface floes exhibited the largest KIEs ($\Delta\Delta_{47}$: 0.163‰, $\Delta\Delta_{48}$: -0.761‰). Surface floe samples begin to precipitate out of solution within the first hour of CO₂ absorption, and the dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) pool requires a residence time of >100 hours to achieve isotopic equilibria. The Δ_{48}/Δ_{47} slope of samples from the Cedars (-3.223±0.519; 1 SE) is within the range of published theoretical values designed to constrain CO₂ hydrolysis-related kinetic fractionation (-1.724 to -8.330). The $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{18}\text{O}$ slope (-0.009±0.001) and $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{13}\text{C}$ slope (0.009±0.001) are roughly consistent with literature values reported from a peridotite in Oman of -0.006±0.002 and -0.005±0.002, respectively. The consistency of slopes in the multi-isotope space suggests the Δ_{47} - Δ_{48} dual carbonate clumped isotope framework can be applied to study CO₂-absorption processes in applied systems, including sites of interest for geological sequestration.

1. Introduction

The rate and mechanism of CO₂ transformation into carbonate minerals in natural alkaline springs and peridotites is of interest because of the potential for permanent, non-toxic CO₂ sequestration. Carbon mineralization at peridotites that host alkaline springs exist worldwide. It is hypothesized that serpentinization, a process that involves the hydration of ultramafic minerals, facilitates the carbon mineralization process in peridotite bodies (Bruni et al., 2002; Falk et al., 2016; García del Real et al., 2016; Kelemen et al., 2017; Suzuki et al., 2017; de Obeso and Kelemen, 2018). Serpentinization can be generally described by reactions 1-3 listed below (Kelemen and Matter, 2008).



Olivine (Mg₂SiO₄) and pyroxene (Mg₂Si₂O₆; CaMgSi₂O₆) react with CO₂-charged water to form serpentine [Mg₃Si₂O₅(OH)₄], magnesite (MgCO₃), quartz (SiO₂), calcite (CaCO₃), and aragonite (CaCO₃). Relatively small amounts of hydromagnesite [Mg₅(CO₃)₄(OH)₂·4H₂O] (Zedef et al., 2000), brucite [(Mg(OH)₂] (Moody, 1976), nitromagnesite [Mg(NO₃)₂] (Schefer and Grube, 1995), and nesquehonite (MgCO₃·3H₂O) (Kastrinakis et al., 2021) may also form via reactions 4-7, respectively.



Ongoing serpentinization of mantle peridotite bodies by meteoric waters can be identified by highly alkaline water in proximate springs, stable isotope ratios of precipitated carbonate minerals, the formation of travertines, and carbonate veins in the hosting peridotite body (Bruni et al., 2002; Cipolli et al., 2004).

Early research on ultramafic formations undergoing serpentinization led to a conceptual model for this process (Barnes and O'Neil, 1969) (Figure 1). Meteoric groundwater charged with atmospheric CO₂ reacts with the peridotite body near the surface and forms water that is rich in Mg²⁺-HCO₃⁻, termed Type 1 waters (Barnes and O'Neil, 1969). As this water moves underground and encounters the peridotite body, the serpentinization process is catalyzed by CO₂-charged H₂O, leading to the precipitation of MgCO₃ and CaCO₃ into veins in the peridotite. A sharp elevation in pH accompanies the mineral precipitation due to the enrichment of the water solution with OH⁻ anions, termed Type 2 water. This Type 2 water also exhibits significant enrichment in Ca²⁺ and depletion in DIC. Type 2 water is brought up to the surface where it interacts with Type 1 water, instantly supersaturating the fluids with respect to carbonate and leading to the precipitation of calcite, aragonite, and travertine in surface springs.

A potential tool for probing carbon mineralization in these settings is carbonate clumped isotope geochemistry. The measurement of carbonate clumped isotopes in minerals precipitated from alkaline fluids can potentially constrain the mechanism(s) of kinetic isotope effects (KIEs) and rate of precipitation (Watkins and Hunt, 2015; Tripathi et al., 2015; Guo, 2020; Bajnai et al., 2020). Carbonate clumped isotope analysis measures the relative abundance of multiply (heavy isotope)-substituted CO₂ isotopologues produced from acid digestion of carbonate minerals. When carbonate minerals form at thermodynamic equilibrium, they have a temperature-dependent preference of aggregation based on relative zero-point energies (Ghosh et al., 2006; Schauble et al., 2006). The relative abundance of the most common multiply-substituted mass 47 (¹³C¹⁸O¹⁶O) and mass 48 (¹²C¹⁸O¹⁸O) isotopologues are given by equations 8 and 9,

$$\Delta_{47} = (R_{47\text{sample}}/R_{47\text{stochastic}} - 1) \quad (8)$$

$$\Delta_{48} = (R_{48\text{sample}}/R_{48\text{stochastic}} - 1) \quad (9)$$

where R_i is the ratio of the minor isotopologues (m/z 47 or m/z 48) relative to the most abundant isotopologue (m/z 44), and $R_{i\text{stochastic}}$ is calculated using the measured abundance of ¹³C/¹²C and ¹⁸O/¹⁶O (R^{18}) in the sample and the estimated abundance of ¹⁷O/¹⁶O (Eiler, 2007). The latter ratio is estimated from R^{18} assuming a mass-dependent relationship between ¹⁸O and ¹⁷O (Daëron et al., 2016). The Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values are given in parts per thousand (‰) (Eiler and Schauble, 2004; Ghosh et al., 2006; Eiler, 2007).

To date, most studies mechanistically exploring KIEs in carbonates using clumped isotopes have focused on isotopic disequilibria in paired Δ_{47} and oxygen isotope ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) signatures. Diffusion has been hypothesized to produce KIEs in Δ_{47} - $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in atmospheric CO₂ and corals (Eiler and Schauble, 2004; Thiagarajan et al., 2011). KIEs in biotic and abiotic systems associated with (de)hydration and (de)hydroxylation reactions can drive deviations from Δ_{47} equilibrium (Ghosh et al., 2006; Guo et al., 2009; Saenger et al., 2012; Falk et al., 2016; Spooner et al., 2016), as can CO₂ degassing, which has been used to explain Δ_{47} disequilibrium in speleothems (Hendy, 1971; Affek et al., 2008; McDermott et al., 2011; Guo and Zhou, 2019). Tang et al. (2014) hypothesized that kinetic fractionation observed in inorganic calcite precipitation experiments at $\text{pH} \geq 10$ occurred due to the DIC pool not having sufficient time to achieve isotopic equilibrium prior to mineral precipitation and DIC speciation favoring CO₃²⁻ at higher pH.

Previously, Δ_{47} values have been used to study CO₂ absorption-dominant disequilibrium processes. One paper reported data from carbonates in hyperalkaline springs at the Oman ophiolite and attributed disequilibrium to the increase in CO₂ absorption in water at elevated pH (Falk et al., 2016). This study showed that carbonates from these highly alkaline systems exhibit significant enrichments in Δ_{47} , accompanied by depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. The observed pattern was found to be consistent with CO₂ absorption-driven disequilibrium processes related to the CO₂ hydroxylation reaction being expressed (Falk et al., 2016).

Recent work has shown that the “dual” carbonate clumped isotope system, the paired measurement of Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} , has a characteristic relationship to equilibrium and can be used to study KIEs (Tripathi et al., 2015; Fiebig et al., 2019; Guo, 2020; Bajnai et al., 2020; Lucarelli et al., 2023). The equilibrium Δ_{47} - Δ_{48} dual clumped isotope relationship was constrained by theory (Hill et al., 2014; Tripathi et al., 2015; Guo, 2020; Hill et al., 2020) and more recently, by measurements from multiple studies (Fiebig et al., 2019, 2021; Bajnai et al., 2020; Lucarelli et al., 2023). However, the use of dual clumped isotope measurements for mechanistic identification of KIEs is

limited. The basis relies on theoretical modeling (Hill et al., 2014; Tripathi et al., 2015; Guo, 2020; Hill et al., 2020) that constrain KIEs in Δ_{47} , Δ_{48} , and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in HCO_3^- and CO_3^{2-} from DIC- H_2O exchange driven disequilibria pathways and (de)hydration and (de)hydroxylation reactions occurring during CO_2 absorption and CO_2 degassing. Applications to identify KIEs has been limited to a small number of measurements from biominerals including warm and cold-water coral, belemnite, and brachiopods, as well as speleothems (Bajnai et al., 2020; Lucarelli et al., 2023).

Here, we apply the novel dual carbonate clumped isotope approach, which combines the measurement of Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} , to minerals from alkaline springs at The Cedars, located in a coastal mountain range formed of peridotite in Northern California. The high alkalinity, elevated pH of 11.5, and low dissolved $[\text{CO}_2]$ facilitate the uptake of CO_2 (Lívanský, 1982; Devriendt et al., 2017), which participates in hydration or hydroxylation reactions leading to the formation of HCO_3^- (reactions 10-11). These two reactions are the most important in understanding $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ isotopic equilibration as they provide the only route for the direct exchange of O atoms between H_2O and DIC (Zeebe and Wolf-Gladrow, 2001). Reactions 12-14 show the pathway from HCO_3^- to CO_3^{2-} and splitting of water molecules, and reactions 15-16 result in carbonate mineral formation. Reactions 10-16 contribute to isotopic equilibration of DIC in an aqueous solution.



The amount of time required for clumped and oxygen isotopic equilibrium to be achieved is governed by the temperature-dependent forward and reverse rate constants for the hydration and hydroxylation reactions, as well as DIC speciation (Zeebe and Wolf-Gladrow, 2001). DIC speciation is a function of temperature and pH (Uchikawa and Zeebe, 2012; Tripathi et al., 2015). At pH > 10, similar to what is observed in waters in peridotite bodies such as The Cedars, the time to reach equilibration is significantly increased due to DIC speciation being dominated by CO_3^{2-} , resulting in low concentrations of CO_2 remaining for isotopic exchange reactions 10 and 11 (Beck et al., 2005; Tripathi et al., 2015; Weise and Kluge, 2020). If the DIC pool does not have sufficient time to achieve isotopic equilibrium before precipitation begins, disequilibrium isotopic compositions may be recorded in the mineral during reactions 15-16.

In this study, we examine the measured departures from equilibrium of dual clumped and bulk ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$) isotope values in The Cedars alkaline springs. Our goal is to mechanistically evaluate disequilibria, examine the origin of KIEs in DIC and carbonate minerals, and study the timescales associated with mineral precipitation. Our measurements are combined with modeling

to study DIC and mineral isotopic evolution. Finally, we compare our results to published work from other peridotite bodies and evaluate our approach for its potential use in geological CO₂ sequestration applications.

2. Methods

2.1 The Cedars Samples

The Cedars is part of the Northern California Coastal Mountain Range and is located at N38°37'14.84"/W123°08'02.13 (Figure 2). The Cedars is inside of a 700 km long surrounding body of ultramafic rocks called the Coast Range Ophiolite (CRO). The broader Coastal Mountain Range consists of peridotites in contact with part of the Franciscan Subduction Complex (FSC). The FSC consists of primarily greywacke-type sandstone, greenstone, radiolarian chert, and minor foraminiferal limestone (Blake et al., 2012). The peridotite body has an approximate surface area of 22.4 km² (3.5 km width, 6.4 km length) and extends 1-2 km below the surface (Coleman, 2000). The peridotite body consists primarily of olivine, orthopyroxene, and clinopyroxene in varying proportions as harzburgite (75% olivine and 25% orthopyroxene/clinopyroxene) and dunite (100% olivine) (Coleman, 2000). Interactions between the peridotite body and groundwaters derived from multiple sources has resulted in serpentinization of 5-20% of the ultramafic body, particularly around the perimeter that is in contact with the FSC, where the perimeter is predominantly composed of sheared serpentine (Coleman, 2000; Blake et al., 2012).

Groundwater discharge from the ultramafic body is highly alkaline, enriched in Ca²⁺ and OH⁻, and is brought to the surface through various springs in the area (Coleman, 2004; Sleep et al., 2004) where it mixes with relatively neutral pH surface waters charged with atmospheric CO₂ at an elevation between ~275-335 m above sea level (Barnes and O'Neil, 1969; Morrill et al., 2013).

The samples used for this study are comprised of CaCO₃ and were collected from The Cedars by Christensen et al. (2021), spanning eight visits in 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018. Four major sites seen in Figure 2 were sampled: (1) NS1 “Wedding Cake” (samples: A, Q), The Barnes Spring Complex (BSC) (samples: AA, Alpha, C1, P, PA-C2, PB-C2, PE-C2, PE-C3, S, T1, T2, T3a, T3b, T4, T5, U, V, X), Grotto Pool Springs (GPS) (samples: J, K, L), and the “New Pool” (sample: B). The “Wedding Cake” is at the NS1 location above the Mineral Falls. The CaCO₃ samples were collected from several different localities adjacent to the springs seen in Figure 2: (1) partially consolidated materials from rims of pools; (2) precipitates from the surface of pools, also known as floes; (3) dendritic forms and encrustations from sites of creek-spring mixing; (4) unconsolidated material, also known as snow, from the bottom of the pools; and (5) solid, old travertine deposits, taken as a hand sample representing different layers, collected from the BSC. Any consolidated, or partially consolidated surface materials were skimmed from the surface or captured on screens based on the location they were collected from. Specific sample information, including composition and location of recovery, is listed in Table 1. The terminology used to describe samples in this paper is after Christensen et al. (2021).

Water samples from the high pH springs were taken using a 0.22 µm Millipore filter unit, acidified to a pH of 2 using HNO₃, and collected in high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bottles (Christensen et al., 2021). The pH of the water was measured on site using a Thermo-Scientific, Orion hand-held pH meter. Temperature measurements were taken of the water source at the time of carbonate sample recovery (Christensen et al., 2021).

2.2 Analysis and Instrumentation

All clumped isotopic measurements were made in the Eagle-Tripati laboratory using two Nu Instruments Perspective isotope ratio mass spectrometers (IRMS) with methods described in detail in prior publications (Upadhyay et al., 2021; Lucarelli et al., 2023). Here we will refer to the first IRMS as Nu Perspective-1, and the second as Nu Perspective-2a and Nu Perspective-2b, as measurements on the latter instrument used two configurations. Both instruments and all configurations have been shown to produce statistically indistinguishable Δ_{47} (Upadhyay et al., 2021; Lucarelli et al., 2023) and Δ_{48} values (Lucarelli et al., 2023), with standard values that agree with published values from other laboratories for Δ_{47} (Bernasconi et al., 2021) and Δ_{48} (Bajnai et al., 2020; Fiebig et al., 2021; Swart et al., 2021).

Briefly, we describe analysis and instrumentation here. For this work, measurements were made between September 2018 to November 2021. The general configuration used for clumped isotope measurements on these two instruments is (1) phosphoric acid digestion of 0.5 mg CaCO_3 , (2) evolved CO_2 gas purification, and (3) isotopic measurements via the mass spectrometer.

The Nu Perspective IRMS is optimized for clumped isotope analysis with secondary electron suppression, which increases the signal-to-noise ratio. Energy filters and quadratic lenses fitted in front of the Faraday collectors for m/z 47, 48, and 49 drives the suppression. The detectors for m/z 44, 45, and 46 are registered through 3×10^8 , 3×10^{10} , and $3 \times 10^{11} \Omega$ resistors, respectively. The detectors for m/z 47, 48, and 49 are registered with $3 \times 10^{12} \Omega$ resistors. A dual-inlet system allows for the input of the sample gas and a reference gas controlled by a bellows system that inputs both gasses through a changeover block, so the sample and reference gases can be compared in real-time. The reference gas and sample gas pressure is precisely matched with continuous pressure adjustments to achieve 24 V on mass 44 at the start of every acquisition block, and the pressure varying between 24-9 V during an acquisition block. Data were taken in 3 blocks of 20 cycles, for a total of 60 cycles of sample to standard comparison, with an 8-second changeover delay and 20 seconds of integration per cycle, for a total integration time of 1200 seconds.

Nu Perspective-1 and Nu Perspective-2a used an in-house built, automated system commonly referred to as the “Autoline,” similar to the system from Passey et al., (2010). The autoline consists of (1) a Costech Zero Blank autosampler made of stainless steel that is capable of pulling high vacuum, (2) a common acid bath (CAB) containing 105 wt% phosphoric acid where 0.5 mg of CaCO_3 is reacted at 90 °C, (3) cryogenic traps (dry ice and ethanol, and liquid nitrogen) for CO_2 purification through removal of water and other gases with low vapor pressures, and collection of CO_2 , (4) an in-line elemental-silver wool (Sigma-Aldrich) column to remove sulfur compounds from the gas mixture, (5) a gas chromatograph (GC) column (UHP Helium carrier gas, Porapak Type-Q TM 50/80 mesh column packing material) held at -20 °C during the gas transit to separate CO_2 from the remaining components of the produced gas mixture, and (6) a final cryogenic purification stage before transfer of CO_2 into the bellows of the mass spectrometer.

Nu Perspective-2b uses a Nu Carb Sample Digestion System instead of a CAB, where 0.5 mg of CaCO_3 is digested at 70°C in individual glass vials with 105 wt% phosphoric acid. The sample gas is cryogenically purified in liquid nitrogen-cooled tubes called coldfingers before passing through a relatively short GC column packed with Porapak Type-QTM 50/80 and silver wool. This instrument operates under vacuum pressure and does not use a carrier gas.

2.2.1 *Standardization and Data Processing*

Data was processed and corrected using Easotope 64-bit, release version 20201231 (John and Bowen, 2016) with IUPAC parameters (Brand et al., 2010; Daëron et al., 2016). The CO_2 reference gas used to establish real-time comparison to unknown sample compositions was

sourced from Oztech and has an isotopic composition as follows: $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VSMOW}} = 24.9 \text{ ‰}$; $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}} = -3.56 \text{ ‰}$. The Δ_{47} values are reported in the Intercarb-Carbon Dioxide Equilibrium Scale (I-CDES) reference frame, meaning they were normalized to nominal carbonate standard values for ETH-1, ETH-2, and ETH-3 determined in Bernasconi et al. (2021), and additional in-house standards with values also determined in the I-CDES reference frame (Upadhyay et al., 2021; Lucarelli et al., 2023). The Δ_{48} values are reported in the Carbon Dioxide Equilibrium Scale (CDES 90) reference frame and normalized to carbonate standards values digested at 90 °C reported in Lucarelli et al. (2023). The standards used in empirical transfer functions (ETFs) for data normalization, using methods detailed in Dennis et al. (2011), include Carmel Chalk, CM Tile (Carrara Marble Tile), ETH-1, ETH-2, ETH-3, ETH-4, and Veinstrom (Upadhyay et al., 2021; Lucarelli et al., 2023). International standards ETH-1 and ETH-2 (Bernasconi et al., 2018, 2021) were used for non-linearity corrections associated with both Δ_{47} versus δ^{47} and Δ_{48} versus δ^{48} raw data. Both the ETFs and nonlinearity corrections are calculated using a moving average of ± 10 standard replicates. The clumped isotope measurement errors are reported as ± 1 standard error (SE) and ± 1 standard deviation (SD), and the carbon and oxygen isotope measurement errors are given as ± 1 SD. All data regressions were determined in PRISM Version 9.5.0 for macOS using the function “simple linear regression”, where the slope and intercept error are reported as ± 1 SE. The reproducibility of standard Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values on each instrument configuration are given in Table S1, and all sample and standard replicate data are reported in Tables S2 and S3, respectively. Figures S1-S3 show the ETH-1 and ETH-2 values from each correction interval. Figure S4 shows the standard residual values (measured value – expected value), and Table S4 reports statistical tests (D’Agostino and Pearson test, performed in PRISM) which indicate standard residuals from each instrument configuration were normally distributed. Information on clumped isotope data quality assurance can be found at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7644586>.

2.3 Modeling of DIC-H₂O-CO₂ System Using IsoDIC

To study the evolution of the HCO₃⁻ and CO₃²⁻ endmembers in a CO₂ absorption-driven pathway that simulated the conditions of springs at The Cedars, we used the IsoDIC modeling software developed by Guo and Zhou (2019) and Guo (2020). This modeling software simulates reactions 10-14, predicting kinetic isotope fractionation in oxygen and clumped isotopes in a DIC-H₂O-CO₂ system from (de)hydration and (de)hydroxylation reactions. The model tracks the isotopologue reactions involving all major isotopes of C and O, for a total of 155 reactions. The forward and reverse rate constants were estimated using equation 17 below,

$$k^* = a_{\text{KIE}} * k \quad (17)$$

where k is the rate constant of the isotopically unsubstituted reactions, and a_{KIE} is the kinetic fractionation factor (KFF) for the isotopically substituted reaction. The product of these variables yields k^* , the modified rate constant for the isotopically substituted reaction. (De)hydration and (de)hydroxylation reactions, reactions 10-11, are the only reactions that contribute to isotopic fractionation where reactions 12-14 are assumed to be at equilibrium due to their relatively fast reaction rates when compared to reactions 10 and 11 (Guo and Zhou, 2019; Guo, 2020).

Parameters measured *in-situ* for surface floe samples (Samples L, P, U, V, PE-C2, PB-C2, and X) from The Cedars were used to simulate conditions associated with The Cedars Springs (Morrill et al., 2013). The following parameters were input into the IsoDIC software to perform modeling in the CO₂ absorption regime: (1) solution temperature = 17.5 °C, (2) solution pH = 11.5,

(3) air $p\text{CO}_2 = 400$ ppm, (4) $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}}$ of air = -8.431 ‰, and (5) $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VPDB}}$ of water = -36.3 ± 0.6 ‰, taken as the average of measurements from the NS1, GSP1, and BSC locations (Morrill et al., 2013). The system evolution time parameter was set to 1, 10, 50, 100, and 1000 hours to simulate different timescales for the evolution of the HCO_3^- and CO_3^{2-} DIC species. We note that modern samples are collected from locations where surface creek (pH = 8.7) and spring waters (pH = 11.5) are mixing, resulting in a potential drop in pH to an intermediate value (pH = 8.7 to 11.5) that would reduce equilibration times from the longer values associated with highly alkaline solutions. The equations used by this model are described in the Supplementary Material-1.

The conversion of carbonate minerals into gaseous CO_2 is associated with a temperature-dependent preferential removal of O^{16} relative to O^{18} and is corrected by an acid fractionation factor (AFF), denoted by y in equations 18 and 19 (Guo et al., 2009).

$$\Delta_{47} = \Delta_{63} + y \quad (18)$$

$$\Delta_{48} = \Delta_{64} + y \quad (19)$$

An AFF is applied to measured Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values for comparison to modeled Δ_{63} and Δ_{64} values. The reference frame and temperature to which the value is being converted also dictates the value of y . An AFF of $y = 0.196$ ‰ was used in the conversion between Δ_{63} and Δ_{47} values, and an AFF of $y = 0.131$ ‰ was used in the conversion between Δ_{64} and Δ_{48} values (Lucarelli et al., 2023).

2.4 Modeling of the CaCO_3 -DIC- H_2O System Using COAD

To model the KIEs in the clumped and stable isotope data of the carbonate minerals with respect to the conditions at The Cedars, we used the COAD (Carbon, Oxygen, α , Δ) model (Watkins and Devriendt, 2021), adapted from the ExClump38 model (Chen et al., 2018; Uchikawa et al., 2021). The COAD model uses two MATLAB scripts to simulate KIEs associated with exchange reactions in the DIC- H_2O system and crystal growth reactions in the CaCO_3 -DIC system (Watkins and Devriendt, 2021). We used this model in addition to the IsoDIC model because it takes mineral growth rate into account, which has been hypothesized to influence the clumped isotope composition (Watkins and Hunt, 2015; Tripathi et al., 2015). The model was first developed by Chen et al. (2018) for calculations associated with C and O isotopes, and then expanded by Uchikawa et al. (2021) to include Δ_{47} and labeled ExClump38. It was further expanded to include calculation of Δ_{48} values by Watkins and Devriendt (2021).

The COAD model used the same KFFs (Guo, 2020) and input parameters for isotopic values, temperature, and pH as the IsoDIC model (see the previous section). The COAD model uses a total of 17 differential equations to model reactions 10-16, which track the evolution of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, Δ_{47} , and Δ_{48} values of DIC species in solution and the precipitating CaCO_3 (Watkins and Hunt, 2015; Watkins and Devriendt, 2021). The rate constants associated with precipitation reactions 15 and 16 are mass-dependent, and the flux of precipitated CaCO_3 is controlled by the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ and $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ (Watkins and Hunt, 2015). In contrast to the IsoDIC model, this model only describes the most abundant isotopologues for the respective masses, while IsoDIC describes all isotopologues in the DIC- H_2O system. The COAD model was also used to calculate the evolution in isotopic values from varying mineral precipitation rate (R_p). A description of the equations and parameters used are reported in Supplemental Material-1. The code used is available at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7644586>.

2.5 Estimation of CO₂ Sequestered at The Cedars

Due to the similarity in rock composition and water pH in the Samail Oman and The Cedars peridotite and associated springs (Kelemen and Matter, 2008; Morrill et al., 2013; Christensen et al., 2021), we estimated the rate and amount of CO₂ that could naturally be sequestered at The Cedars based on an approach used in previous work from Kelemen and Matter (2008) for a peridotite body in Oman. Kelemen and Matter (2008) estimated that in the Omani ophiolite, the travertines and carbonate veins comprised a volume of roughly $5.5 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^3$, or a minimum of $\approx 10^{11} \text{ kg}$ of CO₂. In addition, for the determination of rates of carbonation for the two different types of waters (Figure 1), they make two key assumptions. First, in Type 1 waters, they assume the complete consumption of DIC to precipitate carbonate minerals as Type 2 waters are formed. Second, they assume that differences in dissolved Ca between the two types of waters leads to calcite precipitation as Type 2 waters reach the surface. Using this approach, they calculate that carbonate mineralization in the region consumes $\sim 4 \times 10^7 \text{ kg}$ of atmospheric CO₂ per year, or $\approx 2 \text{ tons/km}^3/\text{year}$ of peridotite.

We also estimated the total sequestration potential at The Cedars. For this calculation, we summed the amount of CO₂ that would be consumed if the total amount of Mg, Ca, and Fe in relict olivine was consumed by carbonation. We assumed that The Cedars peridotite is composed of 70 % olivine (Blake et al., 2012; Morrill et al., 2013), has a volume of 44.8 km^3 (Coleman, 2000), a density of partially serpentinized peridotite of 2800 kg/m^3 (Carnevale, 2013), total mass of $1.25 \times 10^{14} \text{ kg}$ (calculated from the volume and density), and a carbonation rate of 1 % (Kelemen and Matter, 2008). Below, we show how this calculation was performed for Mg.

$$(1.25 \times 10^{14} \text{ kg}) \times 0.70 \times 0.4382 \times 0.01 \times \frac{\text{CO}_2 \text{ 44 g/mol}}{\text{Mg 24.3 g/mol}} = 7.0 \times 10^{11} \text{ kg CO}_2 \text{ sequestered}$$

We used the conservative estimate of calcite growth rate in The Cedars springs of $4.8 \times 10^7 \text{ mol/m}^2/\text{s}$ (Christensen et al., 2021) to estimate the rate of CO₂ sequestered in the springs per year.

For comparison, we report a set of calculations for the CRO from Carnevale (2013) that also utilize the methods of Kelemen and Matter (2008). To estimate the amount of CO₂ sequestered in the CRO per year, we used the CO₂ sequestration potential reported in Carnavale (2013) and the natural carbonation rate for peridotite determined in Kelemen and Matter (2008).

Additionally, Kelemen and Matter (2008) assumed the natural rates of CO₂ uptake could be enhanced by $\sim 10^6$ times by drilling and hydraulic fracturing of the rock to increase the reactive surface area, initial heating of the rock to 185 °C using hot fluids, followed by the injection of CO₂ (pressure = 300 bars, temperature = 25 °C, flow rate = 0.040 m/s) (Kelemen and Matter, 2008). They estimate this would result in a sequestration rate of $\sim 2 \times 10^9 \text{ tons}$ of CO₂ sequestered per km^3 . This rate was used to estimate the time elapsed before all peridotite would be converted into carbonate minerals from enhanced in situ carbonation at The Cedars, CRO, and Oman ophiolite. The parameters used in all calculations are reported in Table S5.

3. Results

3.1 Dual Clumped Isotope Analysis

Dual clumped isotope values (Δ_{47} , Δ_{48}) are reported for samples from The Cedars in Figure 3 and Table 2. The Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values range from 0.595‰ to 0.791‰ and -0.506‰ to 0.282‰,

respectively. The samples that are within error (± 1 SE) of an equilibrium regression (Lucarelli et al., 2023) are A, AA, B, and J. All other samples exhibit apparent KIEs, with the greatest departure from equilibrium in sample V ($\Delta_{47} = 0.779\text{‰}$; $\Delta_{48} = -0.506\text{‰}$ (Figure 3). The sampling location of each sample can be seen in Figure 1. A linear regression of the Δ_{48} - Δ_{47} values from The Cedars yields a slope of -3.223 ± 0.519 .

3.2 Clumped and Stable Isotopes

The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values for The Cedars calcites range from -19.3‰ to -0.1‰ and -27.3‰ to -9.2‰ , respectively (Table 2). The Δ_{47} of modern and Holocene calcite samples from The Cedars are plotted versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and compared to calcite samples from alkaline springs in the Oman ophiolite (Falk et al., 2016) (Figure 4A, C). The measured values from The Cedars and Oman are also compared to calculated equilibrium values. The calculated equilibrium $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{CaCO}_3}$ range was determined to be -8.2‰ to -6.6‰ for calcite and aragonite (Kim and O'Neil, 1997; Kim et al., 2007; Dietzel et al., 2009), given The Cedars $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{water}}$ value of $-36.3 \pm 0.6\text{‰}$, taken as the average of measurements from the NS1, GSP1, and BSC locations (Morrill et al., 2013). The equilibrium Δ_{47} value (Lucarelli et al., 2023) for the average water temperature of 17.5 ± 1 °C (Christensen et al., 2021; Morrill et al., 2013) was determined to be $0.616 \pm 0.003\text{‰}$. All samples show departures from equilibrium oxygen isotope values.

Linear regressions through The Cedars and Oman datasets are in strong agreement. The $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data regressions for The Cedars samples both exhibit slopes of -0.009 ± 0.001 (Figure 4A, C). The $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data regressions for the Oman samples (Falk et al., 2016) exhibit slopes of -0.006 ± 0.002 and -0.005 ± 0.002 , respectively. When The Cedars and Oman datasets are combined, the slopes of the $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data regressions are -0.007 ± 0.001 and -0.006 ± 0.001 , respectively.

The Δ_{48} versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values for The Cedars are also reported (Figure 4B, D; Table 2), and compared to equilibrium. The equilibrium Δ_{48} value (Lucarelli et al., 2023) for the average water temperature of 17.5 ± 1 °C (Morrill et al., 2013; Christensen et al., 2021) was determined to be $0.255 \pm 0.00\text{‰}$. The $\Delta_{48}/\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\Delta_{48}/\delta^{13}\text{C}$ regression slopes are 0.041 ± 0.003 and 0.038 ± 0.005 , respectively.

3.3 Clumped and Oxygen Isotope Disequilibrium

The extent of clumped and oxygen isotope disequilibrium ($\Delta\Delta_{47}$, $\Delta\Delta_{48}$, and $\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}$) in The Cedars was calculated by taking the difference between the measured values and calculated equilibrium values (Kim and O'Neil, 1997; Kim et al., 2007; Dietzel et al., 2009; Lucarelli et al., 2023) (Table 2). The $\Delta\Delta_{47}$, $\Delta\Delta_{48}$, and $\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values are compared to theoretical slopes determined by Guo (2020) for various kinetic processes (Figure 5). The $\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values range from -12.7‰ to 7.2‰ , while $\Delta\Delta_{47}$ and $\Delta\Delta_{48}$ values range from -0.021‰ to 0.175‰ and -0.761‰ to 0.027‰ , respectively. The slopes of the $\Delta\Delta_{47}/\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\Delta\Delta_{48}/\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and $\Delta\Delta_{48}/\Delta\Delta_{47}$ are -0.009 ± 0.001 , 0.040 ± 0.003 , and -3.223 ± 0.519 , respectively.

3.4 Modeled Clumped Isotope Evolution

Measured Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values for The Cedars samples were compared to IsoDIC (Guo, 2020) model predictions for the time-dependent isotopic evolution of HCO_3^- and CO_3^{2-} (Figure 6A). The measured values are consistent with the range of Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values predicted by the model for HCO_3^- and CO_3^{2-} . The measured Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values were also compared to model predictions for CaCO_3 , HCO_3^- , CO_3^{2-} , and equilibrated inorganic carbon (EIC) using the COAD model (Watkins

and Devriendt, 2021) (Figure 6B-D). Measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and Δ_{47} values are largely consistent with model predicted values, however, the Δ_{48} values for the ancient travertine samples and snow samples collected from the bottom of the pool (Table 1) were offset from the COAD model predicted values for CaCO_3 by up to 0.1 ‰ (Figure 6D).

The average Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values and growth rate for samples with relatively large KIEs that were collected at the BSC springs location (samples U, V, X; Figure 2) were compared to COAD model predictions for the evolution of clumped isotope values of calcite from varying precipitation rate (Figure 6E-F). The model accurately predicted the measured Δ_{47} value of $0.744 \pm 0.010\text{‰}$ within 1 SE, while the measured Δ_{48} value of $-0.407 \pm 0.037\text{‰}$ was offset from the model predicted value of -0.264‰ by 0.143‰ .

3.5 CO₂ Sequestration

We estimate the peridotite body at The Cedars could sequester a maximum of $\sim 7.39 \times 10^8$ tons of CO₂ at a natural rate of ~ 63 tons/year. It would take $\sim 1 \times 10^7$ years to reach the maximum amount of sequestration (Figure 7). The Cedars springs could sequester an additional ~ 4 tons/year. If we utilize estimates of the volume and total sequestration potential of the CRO (Carnevale, 2013), we estimate that $\sim 1.2 \times 10^4$ tons of CO₂ could be naturally sequestered per year at the CRO, with the maximum CO₂ sequestration potential achieved after $\sim 8.3 \times 10^6$ years. If the enhanced *in situ* carbonation rate of $\sim 2 \times 10^9$ tons CO₂/km³/year described in Kelemen and Matter (2008) were used, all olivine in the CRO could be converted into carbonate minerals in less than 1 year.

4. Discussion

4.1 Broad Patterns in Multi-Isotope Space: Comparison of Sample Sets

The similarity in $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{13}\text{C}$ regression slopes for The Cedars data and data from surface springs and veins in the Samail ophiolite of Oman (Falk et al., 2016) (Figure 4A, C) suggest the same processes are driving disequilibrium in both systems. However, regional, and possible local and temporal, variations in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of waters, and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of DIC, also are reflected in these data. For example, the Oman dataset (Falk et al., 2016) may have larger fluctuations in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ due to the amount and type of samples analyzed, and greater fluctuations in DIC $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and meteoric water $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ due to the significantly larger area, 200 km x 50 km, of the Oman site (Christensen et al., 2021). In contrast, the Δ_{47} - Δ_{48} dual clumped isotope approach allows for mechanistic fingerprinting of the processes associated with disequilibria, and a rough estimation of timescales for equilibration. This represents a major advancement in the clumped isotope field as data from different localities, natural and synthetic, can be directly compared for potential sources of disequilibrium. An additional benefit of clumped isotopes is the method can be used without knowledge of additional parameters such as the isotopic composition of the parent fluid or DIC source.

The majority of Cedars samples exhibit an enrichment in Δ_{47} accompanied by a depletion in Δ_{48} , with a $\Delta\Delta_{48}/\Delta\Delta_{47}$ slope of -3.223 ± 0.519 . Our observed slope is intermediate between the theoretically calculated slopes for KIEs from CO₂ hydration and hydroxylation reactions during CO₂ absorption (25 °C; pH 9) and in high pH travertine (28 °C; pH 11.5), which have slopes of -1.72 and -8.33, respectively (Guo, 2020) (Figure 5). Thus, the disequilibria at The Cedars and Oman are occurring through a similar pathway that is largely associated with CO₂ hydroxylation. We note a similar trend was also reported by Bajnai et al. (2020) in their dual-clumped investigation of cold-water coral, warm-water coral, and brachiopods, and in a cold-water coral

sample reported by Lucarelli et al. (2023). Both studies concluded hydration/hydroxylation during CO₂ absorption drove kinetic biases in the dual clumped isotope values.

4.2 (Dis)Equilibrium Within The Cedars Depends on Sample Location

Sample location within The Cedars was a major factor influencing whether bulk and clumped isotopic data exhibited departures from equilibria, likely linked to variations in DIC sources (i.e., Type 1 and Type 2 waters) and equilibration time. Modern samples L, P, U, V, PB-C2, and PE-C2 collected from surface pool floes located at the BSC and GPS locations (Figure 2) exhibited the greatest KIEs (Figures 3-6). At these two localities, KIEs could be related to the rapid uptake of CO₂ at the surface, leading to similarly rapid carbonate mineral precipitation at the air and water interface. These results would be consistent with the interpretations of bulk stable isotopic data by Christensen et al. (2021), who investigated the dynamics associated with CaCO₃ precipitation and stable isotope fractionation in surface floes, and argued that at The Cedars, KIEs may be the largest when CaCO₃ precipitates at the surface of the springs. The BSC location had a high saturation state (Ω) value of ~ 13 , while the GPS location had an Ω value of ~ 5 . The [CO₂] at the surface layer at the BSC location was calculated to be 1.6×10^{-5} mol/kg-solution, several orders of magnitude higher than the concentration of the bulk pool. The rate of Ca²⁺ replenishment from the springs at the BSC was determined to be 1.5×10^{-6} mol/s, which is comparable to the DIC flux from the atmosphere. The CO₂ from the atmosphere is converted to HCO₃⁻ via hydroxylation (reaction 11), with rapid and near-quantitative conversion to CO₃²⁻ (Tripathi et al., 2015). With this higher influx of CO₂ and precipitation of CaCO₃, the surface pH is reduced slightly from 11.5 in the bulk pool springs to 11.0 at the surface (Christensen et al., 2021). However, the pH is still high enough to favor CO₃²⁻ DIC speciation (Uchikawa and Zeebe, 2012; Tripathi et al., 2015) preventing isotopic equilibrium through exchange reactions associated with the other DIC species. In addition, because the concentration of DIC is so high at the surface due to the large CO₂ gradient between the water and atmosphere, the supersaturation state of CaCO₃ is also considerably high, further promoting rapid precipitation of CaCO₃ outside of isotopic equilibrium (Christensen et al., 2021).

The modern “snow” samples C1, K, PA-C2, PE-C3 and PB-C1 exhibited KIEs that were intermediate between equilibrium and pool floe samples (Figure 3). The term snow is used to describe the physical appearance of fine particulates of CaCO₃ aggregating at the bottom of the pools, however, their texture is similar to surface floe samples (Christensen et al., 2021). The thin-film model (Christensen et al., 2021) for surface dynamics suggests that as the surface floes thicken or are perturbed by falling debris, CaCO₃ aggregates detach and sink deeper into the springs. The floes would carry some surface waters with the particles (Christensen et al., 2021), and thus could mix in a pool of DIC that is not in isotopic equilibrium, driving KIEs in the clumped and bulk isotope signatures. Even though these detached layers, composed of a mixture of particle aggregates and solution, have moved away from the surface where the majority of rapid precipitation is occurring, isotopic equilibration of DIC within the detached layer is still hindered by the high pH of 11.5 (Beck et al., 2005), which favors hydroxylation and CO₃²⁻ as the most abundant DIC species (Tripathi et al., 2015). Given water temperatures, DIC in this fragmented layer can retain its kinetic signature for tens of days at a pH of 11.5 (Usdowski et al., 1991; Beck et al., 2005) which can contribute to the KIEs in dual clumped and bulk isotopes. DIC mixing can also drive deviations from equilibrium in Δ_{47} values (Defliese and Lohmann, 2015).

Modern samples A, AA, B, and J fell within 1 SE of clumped isotope equilibrium (Figure 3). They were collected where fresh creek water mixed with spring water at the New Pool and BSC localities, where the pH and the influx of Ca²⁺ are reduced, leading to potentially more

favorable conditions for isotopic equilibration in the DIC-H₂O-CO₂ system. These samples reflect the composition of isotopically equilibrated DIC from the creek or surface water (pH 7.8-8.7) that occasionally mixes with the high-pH springs (Christensen et al., 2021). The Δ_{47} -reconstructed temperature considering the near equilibrium samples is 13.9 ± 3.8 °C and 14.2 ± 3.5 °C, using calibrations from Lucarelli et al. (2023) and Andersen et al. (2021), respectively. These reconstructed temperatures are within error (1 SD) of the average yearly temperature at The Cedars of 17.5 ± 1 °C (Morrill et al., 2013; Christensen et al., 2021).

Ancient travertine samples collected from rim formations at the NS1 locality (Alpha, T1, T2, T3a, T3b, T4, and T5) display a range of disequilibrium values (Figures 3-6). This range could be due to post-depositional events such as recrystallization in the presence of surface and groundwater mixing, which could have shifted disequilibrium isotopic values towards equilibrium in samples T1, T4, and T5. This would be analogous to what Falk et al. (2016) hypothesized occurred in Oman, where the absence of aragonite in travertine samples may have indicated post-depositional events had taken place, thereby influencing isotopic values.

4.3 Overall Conditions at The Cedars Result in Isotopic Disequilibrium

Several factors control the expression of KIEs in carbonate minerals from The Cedars. These include the hydroxylation favored pathway, DIC speciation, increased rate of CO₂ uptake into the system, and mineral precipitation prior to isotopic equilibria. Because Type 1 and 2 waters are readily mixing at the surface, a hyperalkaline environment (pH > 11) is created due to excess OH⁻ anions present in Type 2 fluids. At a pH > 10, the hydroxylation pathway represents >95% of reactions transforming CO₂ to HCO₃⁻ (McConnaughey, 1989). This high pH also creates an environment that facilitates rapid uptake of CO₂ into the aqueous media (Lerman and Stumm, 1989) due to the concentration gradient created by the DIC speciation preference of CO₃²⁻ at pH > 10 (Hill et al., 2014; Tripathi et al., 2015). This condition, coupled with the rapid precipitation of CaCO₃ due to the high saturation state (Christensen et al., 2021), creates an even stronger gradient, further increasing the uptake of CO₂ from the atmosphere. The forward reaction rate associated with CO₂ hydroxylation is >1000 times the reverse reaction (Christensen et al., 2021), creating a pathway that is approximately unidirectional. We hypothesize this is preventing backwards conversion which is essential for O isotope exchange that would facilitate $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, Δ_{47} , and Δ_{48} equilibrium. The high pH results in a much greater equilibration time (>40 days) being required for the DIC pool to achieve clumped and oxygen isotopic equilibria prior to mineral precipitation (Beck et al., 2005; Tripathi et al., 2015; Guo, 2020; Uchikawa et al., 2021). As the system moves into the deeper parts of the spring pool (below 100 μm), there are additional fluxes including advection and diffusion of Type 2 waters, CaCO₃ precipitation, and EIC contribution from the surface.

4.4 Examination of Kinetic Isotope Effects Using Modeling

IsoDIC (Guo, 2020) modeling of disequilibria in the DIC pool used input parameters taken from the surface floe conditions of The Cedars and accurately predicted the measured range of Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values (Figure 6A). The model was used to predict the evolution of disequilibria associated with HCO₃⁻ and CO₃²⁻ with respect to residence time in the system. The model indicated a rapid departure away from equilibria with maximum disequilibria achieved at ~1 hour of DIC residence time. This initial departure rebounds back to equilibrium as the system has more time equilibrate, where equilibrium is eventually achieved after ~1000 hours. Due to the low [CO₂] from DIC speciation favoring CO₃²⁻ at high pH (Beck et al., 2005; Tripathi et al., 2015), the migration back to

equilibria at these conditions is very slow. The IsoDIC (Guo, 2020) model can be used to predict the approximate timeframe associated with precipitation at the surface, which we hypothesize to be ≤ 1 hour from when CO_2 is introduced into the surface spring system (Figure 6A). A caveat is that this model only considers the KIEs associated with the DIC pool and does not factor those associated with mineral precipitation.

Since the IsoDIC model did not consider KIEs associated with mineral precipitation, isotopic evolution was also predicted with the COAD model (Watkins and Devriendt, 2021), which does predict KIEs from precipitation, using the same input parameters as for the IsoDIC model. This model predicted a similar trend for Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} (Figure 6B) when compared to the IsoDIC model, in terms of migration from equilibrium to disequilibrium. However, while the models starting values for CO_3^{2-} and HCO_3^- are very similar, as modeled precipitation starts in the COAD model, the associated KIEs from precipitation result in a maximum difference of $\sim 0.10\text{‰}$ between the simulated CO_3^{2-} and HCO_3^- values from the two models. Additionally, the measured Δ_{47} values and COAD predictions are in good agreement (Figure 6C), while some measured Δ_{48} values for travertine samples and snow samples collected from the bottom of the pool (Table 1) deviate from model predicted Δ_{48} values by up to 0.1‰ (Figure 6D). The ancient travertine samples (T1, T2, T3a, T3b, T4, T5) contained multiple layers, and therefore mixing may impact clumped isotopes (Eiler and Schauble, 2004; Defliese and Lohmann, 2015), and there is no current knowledge of possible differences in travertine versus typical calcite Δ_{48} values. Mixing may also bias clumped isotope values in the snow samples, which may experience temporal variations in DIC isotopic composition. Further, some of the snow samples have mixed mineralogy (aragonite, calcite, brucite), such as samples PB-C1, PE-C2, and PE-C2 (Table 1). The brucite $[\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2]$ composition ranges from 4-7 %, which has unknown effects on acid digestion and potentially the clumped isotope values.

COAD (Watkins and Devriendt, 2021) modeling enables us to determine and predict the rates of mineral precipitation associated with the respective system, which is constrained by measured dual clumped isotope values. The COAD model was also used to predict the dependence of Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values from The Cedars samples on the precipitation rate (Figure 6E-F). The model accurately predicted the average Δ_{47} value at the BSC springs, given the measured precipitation rate (Christensen et al., 2021). Comparison of dual clumped data to model results supports a natural rate of carbonate precipitation of $\sim 4.8 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol/m}^2/\text{s}$ (Figure 6E). However, the model underpredicted the average Δ_{48} value (Figure 6F). This may be due to greater measurement uncertainty for Δ_{48} , which is an order of magnitude greater than for Δ_{47} (1 SE for $\Delta_{47} \approx 0.001$; 1 SE for $\Delta_{48} \approx 0.01$), and no previous experimental constraints on how Δ_{48} values change from increased precipitation rates.

We find the two models provide a slightly different set of tools. The IsoDIC model provides greater insights into the timescales associated with achieving (dis)equilibrium within a DIC pool, while the COAD model may more accurately predict mineral isotopic compositions and for when mineral growth is moderately rapid. For the IsoDIC model, accurately measured Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values can be compared to model predictions, which depend on DIC residence time, to predict the elapsed time before the start of mineral growth. For the COAD model, accurately measured Δ_{47} values (and possibly Δ_{48} values) can be compared to model predicted values which depend on precipitation rate to predict mineral precipitation rate.

Field measurements and modeling may be useful for application to other peridotite bodies to help determine the natural mineral precipitation rates and DIC residence time. Our work here shows this approach is useful for predicting the natural rates of CO_2 uptake. If the rate of CO_2

uptake was enhanced using a feed of high-pressure CO₂ and hydraulic fracturing, dual clumped isotope measurements could be interpreted within a modeling framework to evaluate the enhanced rates of DIC equilibration and mineral formation.

4.5 Potential CO₂ Sequestration Application

Assuming the natural carbonation rate of peridotite consumes ~2 tons of CO₂/km³/year (Kelemen and Matter, 2008), then the peridotite at The Cedars, surrounding ophiolite in the Coast Range, and ophiolite in Oman consume ~90, $\sim 1.1 \times 10^4$, and $\sim 4.2 \times 10^4$ tons of CO₂ per year, respectively (Figure 7). At the natural rate, the peridotite at The Cedars would take $>10^6$ years to achieve the maximum CO₂ sequestration potential of $\sim 7.4 \times 10^8$ tons. The peridotite at the CRO and Oman would take $>10^6$ and $>10^9$ years to reach their CO₂ sequestrations potentials of $\sim 9.7 \times 10^{10}$ (Carnavale, 2013) and $\sim 7.7 \times 10^{13}$ (Kelemen and Matter, 2008) tons, respectively. While these ultramafic formations provide an important natural CO₂ sink, the total yearly sequestration represents $\ll 1\%$ of current global CO₂ emissions of 34.9×10^9 tons (Liu et al., 2022).

Previous work by Kelemen and Matter (2008) proposed a method for enhanced *in situ* carbonation of peridotite for the Samail Ophiolite in Oman. This method greatly enhances the natural carbonation reaction (reaction 10) rate by up to 1×10^6 times by drilling and hydraulic fracturing of the rock to increase the reactive surface area, initial heating of the rock to 185 °C using hot fluids, followed by the injection of CO₂ (pressure = 300 bars, temperature = 25 °C, flow rate = 0.040 m/s) (Kelemen and Matter, 2008). After the initial heating, the exothermic carbonation reaction maintains the system temperature at 185 °C (Kelemen and Matter, 2008). As the reactive surface becomes depleted, the rock may require additional fracturing, although some cracking may occur from the temperature changes and increases in solid volume from mineral hydration and carbonation (Kelemen and Matter, 2008). If we assume the fully catalyzed reaction rate of $\sim 2 \times 10^9$ tons of CO₂ sequestered per year, all Mg, Ca, and Fe in the CRO and Oman peridotite could be converted into carbonate minerals in less than 2 years (Figure 7). This would consume an enormous amount of CO₂, totaling $\sim 7.7 \times 10^{13}$ tons, which is equivalent to >2000 years of CO₂ emissions if we were to continue emitting the same amount as we are at present.

A hurdle to employing mineral carbonation technology in peridotite formations is that ~1 million drill holes (Kelemen et al., 2011) may be required to offset 34.9×10^9 tons (Liu et al., 2022) of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions per year. Further, these operations could result in deforestation (Drohan and Brittingham, 2012), loss of animal habitats (Kiviat, 2013), and contaminated wells (Holzman, 2011), as has been observed with fracking. However, it is notable that the in-situ CO₂ sequestration potential in peridotite bodies is high when compared to other potential technologies. High-temperature mineral carbonation reactors, which would use mineral feedstock from mines and direct CO₂ injection, could rapidly convert serpentine and olivine to magnesite and quartz, resulting in $\sim 8.8 \times 10^5$ to $\sim 8.8 \times 10^6$ tons of CO₂ sequestered per year (Power et al., 2013). The injection of CO₂ into ponds containing serpentinite mine tailings could sequester up to $\sim 1 \times 10^6$ tons of CO₂ per year (Power et al., 2013). This may be enhanced if the ponds utilize photoautotrophic microbes, such as algae and cyanobacteria, which use CO₂ as an energy source (Power et al., 2011). It is likely that multiple strategies will need to be used in parallel to reach global carbon dioxide reduction goals, which are 10 Gt/yr by 2050 and 20 Gt/yr by 2100 (UNEP, 2019).

5. Conclusions

We analyzed carbonate mineral samples collected from springs at The Cedars, a peridotite body in Northern California, for dual clumped isotopes. We combined measured Δ_{47} , Δ_{48} , $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and model calculations to study kinetic isotope effects associated with CO_2 absorption and transformation of DIC. Our work suggests kinetic biases in dual clumped and bulk isotope values arise due to carbonate mineral precipitation from highly alkaline waters through a CO_2 absorption-driven pathway. Our analysis indicates that the largest KIEs are from samples recovered from surface floes where there is sufficient contact with the spring waters and the atmosphere where CO_2 absorption and rapid precipitation conditions are favored. Modern samples with isotopic values within error of equilibrium occur in locations where there is significant mixing of surface and spring waters. Other samples with kinetically biased isotopic values include “snow” samples recovered from the bottom of springs and ancient travertine samples. We report slopes (Δ_{48}/Δ_{47} , $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\Delta_{48}/\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\Delta_{48}/\delta^{13}\text{C}$) for CO_2 (de)hydration and (de)hydroxylation disequilibria processes from The Cedars samples. The slopes are consistent with $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\Delta_{47}/\delta^{13}\text{C}$ slopes from a peridotite body in Oman, as well modeling predictions for KIEs from CO_2 (de)hydration and (de)hydroxylation.

This work sets up the potential use of the Δ_{47} - Δ_{48} dual clumped isotope method, combined with modeling, to examine potential sites of interest for geological CO_2 sequestration, including in the Coast Ranges and other peridotite bodies. This relatively non-invasive method can be used to determine the natural rate of CO_2 uptake, mineral precipitation rate, and for determining evolution time and (dis)equilibria in DIC. We recommend expansion of dual clumped isotope research into carbonate minerals precipitating from peridotite veins to compare surface and subsurface processes, and better understand the feasibility of sites for CO_2 sequestration.

Declaration of Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Author Contributions

AT initiated and supported the work. AT and JC designed the research. ZP and JL wrote the manuscript with guidance from AT and RE and input from all coauthors. JC provided samples. JL, ZP, IM, JR, KM, BE, RF performed the isotope analyses and calculations with input from AT. ZP performed the IsoDIC and COAD model calculations. JL performed the CO₂ sequestration calculations. JW provided access to the COAD model. ZP, JL, RU, RE contributed insights to data analyses and interpretations. AT and RE advised ZP, IM, JR, KM, RF, JL, and RU.

Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary Material-1 contains equations and parameters used for modeling. Supplementary Material-2 contains figures demonstrating instrument performance and standard values used in data corrections. Supplementary Material-3 contains raw data for samples and standards, statistical analyses of standards, and parameters used in CO₂ sequestration calculations.

Figures

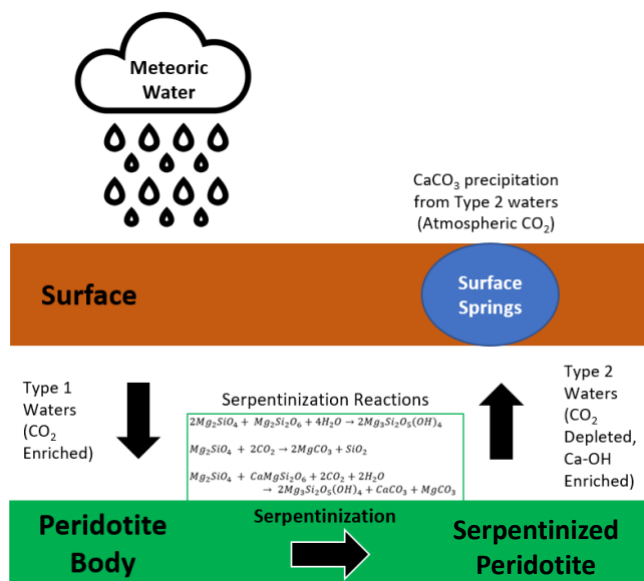


Figure 1. Processes associated with CO₂ absorption and transformation at The Cedars. Surface waters from meteoric sources are enriched with CO₂ from the atmosphere (“Type 1” waters) and then seep into the ground and interact with ultramafic peridotite. Through a series of serpentinization reactions (reactions 1-3), various carbonate minerals precipitate and are sequestered in pores and fractures resulting in veins in the peridotite body. Reaction by-products are ejected into pore waters, creating waters which are enriched in Ca²⁺ and OH⁻ ions, and depleted in CO₂ (“Type 2” waters), which are then shuttled to the surface. Type 1 and Type 2 waters interact at the surface in the presence of atmospheric CO₂, resulting in rapid precipitation of CaCO₃. Terminology from Barnes and O’Neil (1969).

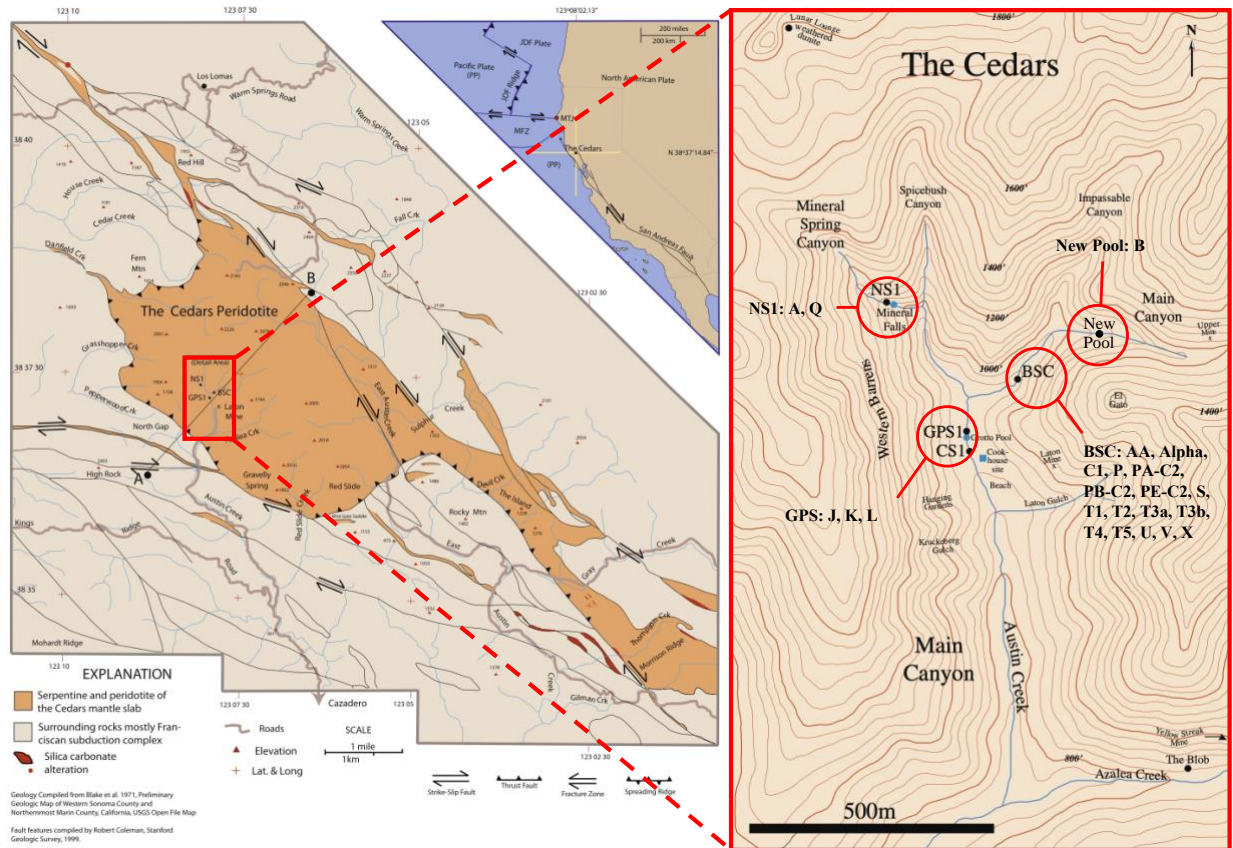


Figure 2. Map of The Cedars site showing the location of samples. Sample locations indicated in the right panel include NS1 (samples: A, Q), Grotto Pool Springs (GPS) (samples: J, K, L), Barnes Spring Complex (BSC) (samples: AA, Alpha, C1, P, PA-C2, PB-C2, PE-C2, PE-C3, S, T1, T2, T3a, T3b, T4, T5, U, V, X), and New Pool (sample: B). The “Wedding Cake” is located at the NS1 location above the Mineral Falls. Modified from Morrill et al. (2013) and Christensen et al. (2021).

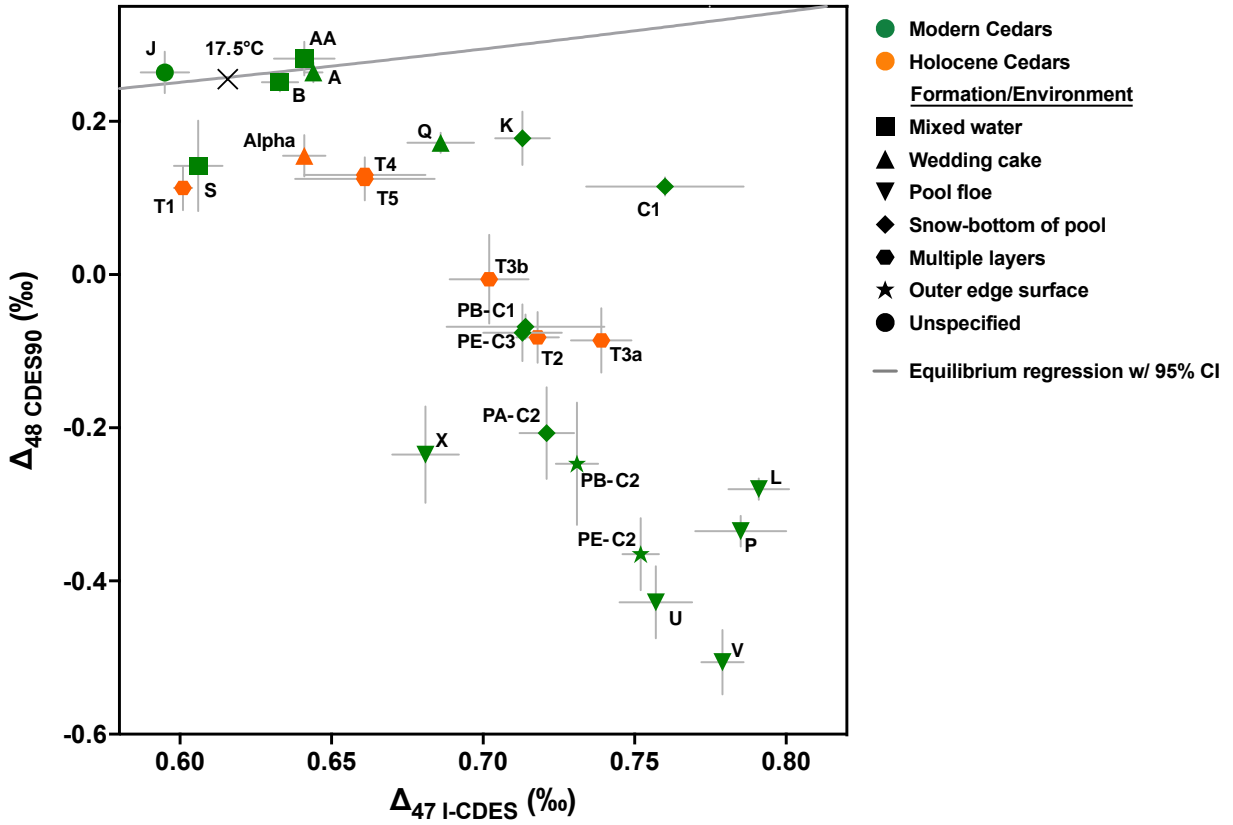


Figure 3. The Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values for modern (green symbols) and Holocene (orange symbols) carbonate mineral samples at The Cedars. Results are compared to equilibrium values (gray line) (Lucarelli et al., 2023), with the average water temperature at The Cedars of 17.5 ± 1 °C (Morill et al., 2013; Christensen et al., 2021) indicated (X symbol). The samples that exhibit the largest KIEs were primarily recovered from surface floes (pool floe, downward triangles). The samples that are within error (± 1 SE) of equilibrium are from areas where surface and spring waters mix (squares), 1 wedding cake sample (triangle), and 1 sample from the GPS location from an unspecified formation (circle). A linear regression through all samples indicates a slope of -3.223 ± 0.519 . Error bars indicate ± 1 SE.

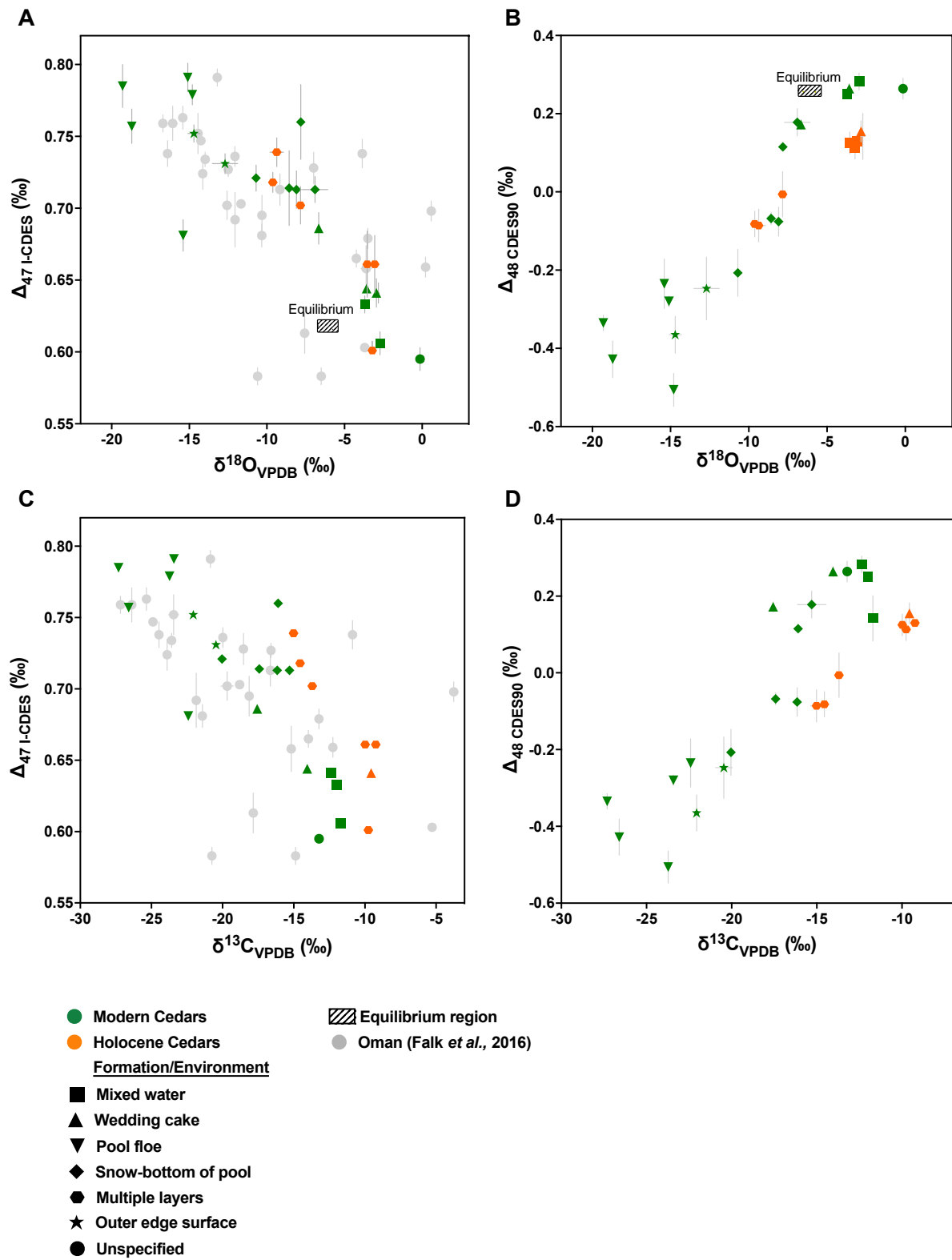


Figure 4. Clumped isotope (Δ_{47} , Δ_{48}) versus bulk isotope ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$) results of modern (green symbols) and Holocene (orange symbols) surface spring carbonate samples at The Cedars.

Results are compared to calculated equilibrium values (striped rectangle) (Kim and O’Neil, 1997; Kim et al., 2007; Dietzel et al., 2009; Lucarelli et al., 2023). Panels A and C include data from carbonate veins precipitated from a peridotite body in Oman (gray circles) (Falk et al., 2016). **A)** Δ_{47} versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for The Cedars and Oman (Falk et al., 2016). A linear regression fit to The Cedars values yields a slope of -0.009 ± 0.001 , and a linear regression for the Cedars and Oman values yields a slope of -0.007 ± 0.001 . **B)** Δ_{48} versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for The Cedars. A linear regression fit to The Cedars values yields a slope of 0.041 ± 0.003 . **C)** Δ_{47} versus $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values for The Cedars and Oman (Falk et al., 2016). A linear regression fit to The Cedars values yields a slope of -0.009 ± 0.001 , and a linear regression for to The Cedars and Oman values yields a slope of -0.006 ± 0.001 . **D)** The Δ_{48} versus $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values for The Cedars. A linear regression yields a slope of 0.038 ± 0.005 . The Oman Δ_{47} values were published in the CDES 25 reference frame and converted to the CDES 90 reference frame (which is comparable to the I-CDES reference frame used here) using an acid fractionation factor of 0.092‰ (Henkes et al., 2013). Equilibrium values were calculated using the average water temperature at The Cedars of 17.5 °C (Morrill et al., 2013; Christiansen et al., 2021). Error bars indicate ± 1 SE for clumped isotope values and ± 1 SD for bulk isotope values.

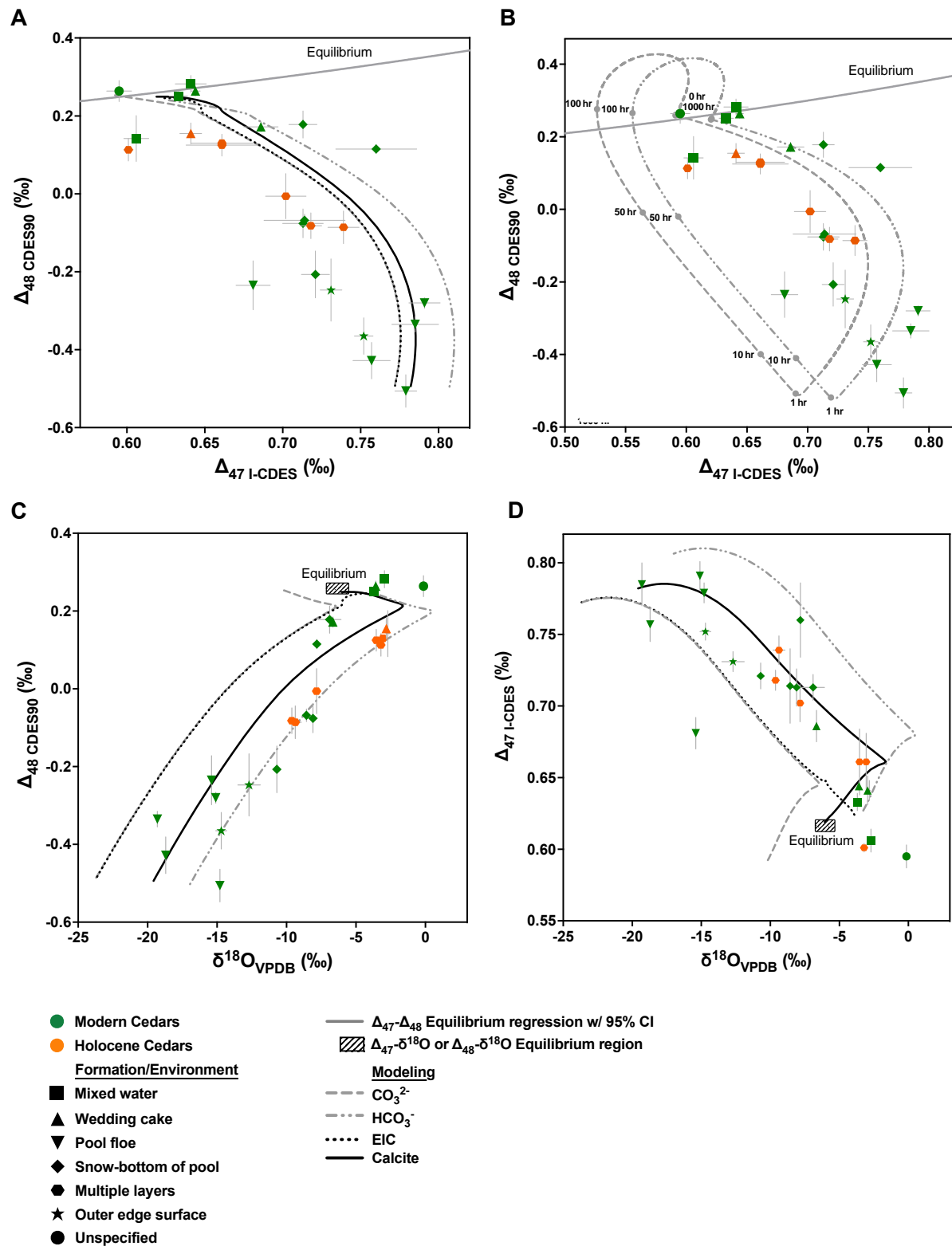


Figure 6. The top four panels report measured Δ_{47} , Δ_{48} , and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values from the modern (green symbols) and Holocene (orange symbols) Cedars samples compared to model predictions (gray

and black curves) which were determined using code for the IsoDIC (Guo, 2020) and COAD models (Watkins and Devriendt, 2021). Also shown are the calculated equilibrium values based on the average water temperature at The Cedars of 17.5 °C (gray line in panels A and B; striped rectangle in panels C and D) (Kim and O'Neil, 1997; Kim et al., 2007; Morrill et al., 2013; Christensen et al., 2021; Lucarelli et al., 2023). Panels E and F show the combined average Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values (red circles) from samples collected at the BSC locality (samples X, U, V), with an apparent growth rate (R_p) of 4.8×10^{-7} to 8.0×10^{-7} mol m⁻² s⁻¹ (Christensen et al., 2021), compared to COAD model predicted values (black curves). **A)** Measured Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values compared to IsoDIC model predicted values for HCO₃⁻ and CO₃⁻² with the evolution time indicated. **B)** Measured Δ_{47} and Δ_{48} values with COAD model predicted values for calcite, HCO₃⁻, CO₃⁻², and EIC. **C)** Measured Δ_{47} and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values with COAD model predicted values for calcite, HCO₃⁻, CO₃⁻², and EIC. **D)** Measured Δ_{48} and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values with COAD model predicted values for calcite, HCO₃⁻, CO₃⁻², and EIC. **E)** The measured and modeled Δ_{47} and Log₁₀(R_p) values. The BSC average Δ_{47} value was determined to be $0.744 \pm 0.010\text{‰}$. **F)** Measured and modeled Δ_{48} and Log₁₀(R_p) values. The BSC average Δ_{48} value was determined to be $-0.407 \pm 0.037\text{‰}$. The IsoDIC and COAD models were based on the modern Cedars surface floe conditions with the following input parameters: solution temperature of 17.5 °C, solution pH 11.5, air pCO₂ of 400 ppm, air $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}}$ of -8.431‰ , water $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VPDB}}$ of $36.3 \pm 0.6\text{‰}$, taken as the average of measurements from the NS1, GSP1, and BSC locations (Morrill et al., 2013). Error bars indicate ± 1 SE for clumped isotope values and ± 1 SD for bulk isotope values.

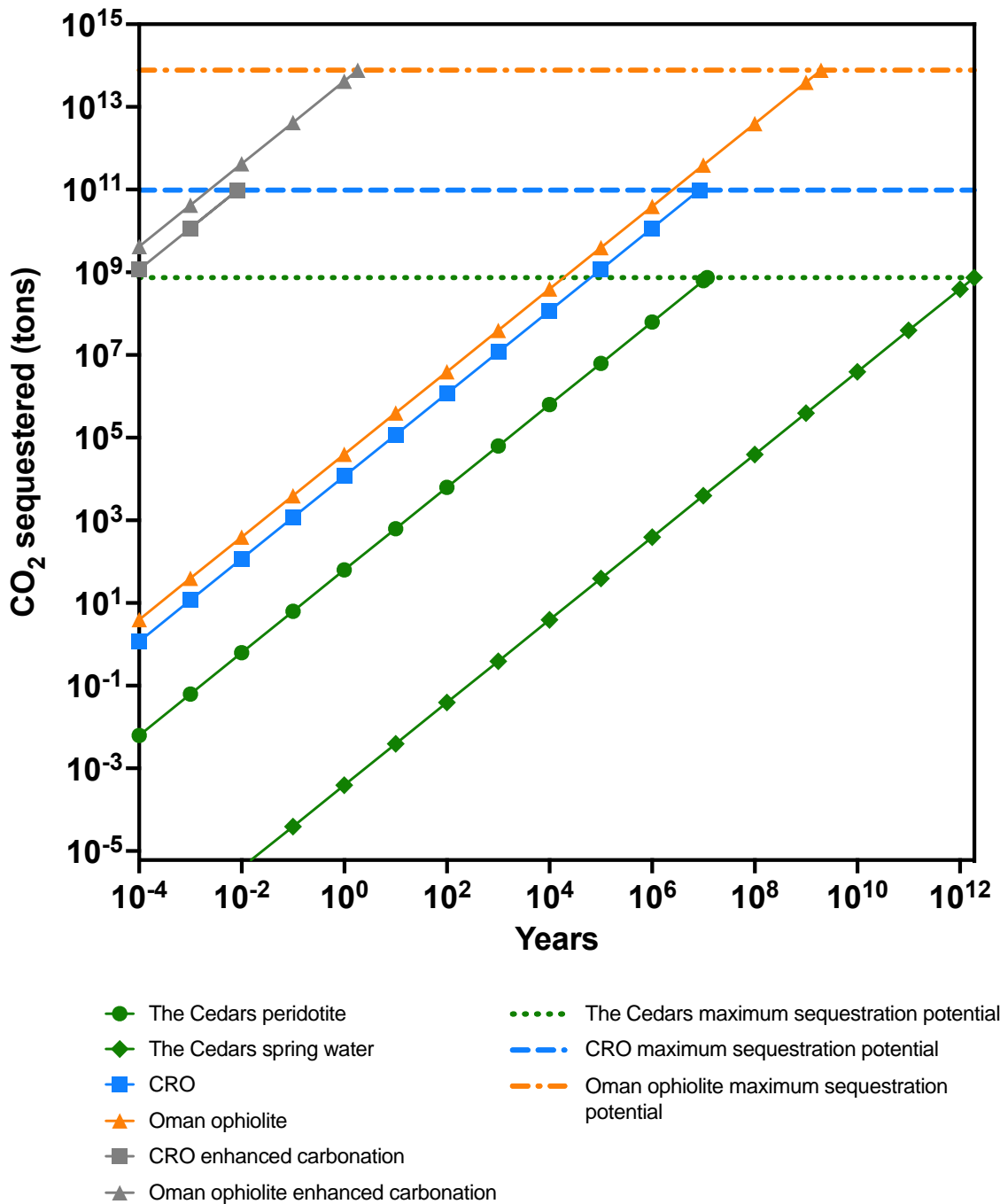


Figure 7. Calculations of natural rates of CO₂ sequestration in The Cedars peridotite (green circles), spring water at the site (green diamonds), the Coastal Range Ophiolite (CRO; blue squares), and the Oman ophiolite (orange triangles). The estimated maximum CO₂ sequestration potential was calculated to be $\sim 7.4 \times 10^8$ tons for The Cedars (green dotted line), $\sim 9.7 \times 10^{10}$ tons for the CRO (Carnevale, 2013; blue dashed line), and $\sim 7.7 \times 10^{13}$ tons for the Oman ophiolite (Kelemen and Matter, 2008; orange dash-dot line). The rate of mineral formation in The Cedars springs was measured by Christensen et al. (2021) and constrained here with our dual clumped

isotope measurements and modeled carbonate mineralization rates. In addition, the CO₂ sequestered from enhanced *in situ* sequestration is shown for the CRO (gray squares) and the Oman ophiolite (gray triangles), following methods from Kelemen and Matter (2008) for enhanced geologic CO₂ sequestration in the Oman ophiolite of $\sim 2 \times 10^9$ tons of CO₂ sequestered per year. For natural carbonation, we estimate that the sequestration potentials at The Cedars, CRO, and Oman ophiolite would be reached after $\sim 8.2 \times 10^6$ years, $\sim 8.3 \times 10^6$ years, and $\sim 1.9 \times 10^9$ years, respectively. For enhanced *in situ* carbonation, the maximum sequestration potential at the CRO and Oman Ophiolite could be reached in <1 year. All calculated rates assume complete consumption of Mg, Ca, and Fe in the respective formations (Kelemen and Matter, 2008; Matter and Kelemen, 2009; Carnevale, 2013), and consider the ophiolite in Oman and the CRO to be ~ 30 % relict olivine (Kelemen and Matter, 2008; Carnevale, 2013). The peridotite in The Cedars is ~ 70 % relict olivine (Coleman, 2000; Blake et al., 2012; Morrill et al., 2013).

Tables

Sample Name	Sample Composition	Location	Notes
A	Travertine	NS1	Wedding Cake - Rim Formation
AA	Aragonite 91%; Calcite 1%; Brucite 8%	BSC	Mixed Water (BSC + Creek)
Alpha	Travertine	BSC	Wedding Cake - Rim Formation
B	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	New Pool	Mixed Water (New Pool Spring + Creek)
C1	Aragonite 86%; Calcite 7%; Brucite 7%	BSC	Snow - Bottom of Pool
J	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	GPS	Unspecified
K	Aragonite 25%; Calcite 20%; Hydromagnesite 50%; Nitromagnesite 2%; Nesquehonite 3%	GPS	Snow - Bottom of Pool
L	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	GPS	Pool Floe
P	Aragonite 78%; Calcite 18%; Brucite 4%	BSC	Pool Floe
PA-C2	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	BSC	Snow - Bottom of Pool
PB-C1	Aragonite 86%; Calcite 7%; Brucite 7%	BSC	Snow - Bottom of Pool
PB-C2	Aragonite 46%; Calcite 49%; Brucite 5%	BSC	Outer Edge Surface
PE-C2	Aragonite 78%; Calcite 18%; Brucite 4%	BSC	Outer Edge Surface
PE-C3	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	BSC	Snow - Bottom of Pool
Q	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	NS1	Wedding Cake - Floe
S	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	BSC	Mixed Water (BSC + Creek)
T1	Travertine	BSC	Hand Sample - Multiple Layers
T2	Travertine	BSC	Hand Sample - Multiple Layers
T3a	Travertine	BSC	Hand Sample - Multiple Layers
T3b	Travertine	BSC	Hand Sample - Multiple Layers
T4	Travertine	BSC	Hand Sample - Multiple Layers
T5	Travertine	BSC	Hand Sample - Multiple Layers
U	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	BSC	Pool Floe
V	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	BSC	Pool Floe
X	Unspecified (Non-Travertine)	BSC	Pool Floe

Table 1: Sample information provided by Christensen et al. (2021).

Sample Name	Number of Replicates	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ VPDB (‰)	1 S.D.	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ VPDB (‰)	1 S.D.	$\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (‰)	$\Delta_{47}\text{I-}$ CDES (‰)	1 S.D.	1 S.E.	$\Delta\Delta_{47}$ (‰)	Δ_{48} CDES90 (‰)	1 S.D.	1 S.E.	$\Delta\Delta_{48}$ (‰)
A	3	-14.1	0.0	-3.6	0.1	3.8	0.644	0.005	0.003	0.028	0.264	0.022	0.013	0.009
AA	6	-12.4	0.1	-3.0	0.1	3.6	0.641	0.024	0.010	0.025	0.282	0.054	0.022	0.027
Alpha	6	-9.6	0.1	-2.8	0.1	4.5	0.641	0.016	0.007	0.025	0.155	0.066	0.027	-0.100
B	3	-12.0	0.0	-3.7	0.0	3.6	0.633	0.010	0.006	0.017	0.251	0.021	0.012	-0.004
C1	4	-16.1	0.1	-7.8	0.2	-1.2	0.760	0.051	0.026	0.144	0.115	0.025	0.012	-0.140
J	4	-13.2	0.0	-0.1	0.2	7.2	0.595	0.015	0.008	-0.021	0.264	0.054	0.027	0.009
K	9	-15.3	0.8	-6.9	0.8	0.4	0.713	0.027	0.009	0.097	0.178	0.104	0.035	-0.077
L	4	-23.4	0.1	-15.1	0.1	-7.8	0.791	0.020	0.010	0.175	-0.280	0.027	0.014	-0.535
P	5	-27.3	0.0	-19.3	0.0	-12.7	0.785	0.033	0.015	0.169	-0.335	0.045	0.020	-0.590
PA-C2	5	-20.0	0.1	-10.7	0.2	-3.4	0.721	0.020	0.009	0.105	-0.207	0.134	0.060	-0.462
PB-C1	3	-17.4	0.0	-8.6	0.1	-2.0	0.714	0.045	0.026	0.098	-0.068	0.028	0.016	-0.323
PB-C2	5	-20.5	0.5	-12.7	0.8	-5.4	0.731	0.016	0.007	0.115	-0.247	0.180	0.080	-0.502
PE-C2	11	-22.1	0.2	-14.7	0.4	-8.1	0.752	0.021	0.006	0.136	-0.365	0.157	0.047	-0.620
PE-C3	8	-16.2	0.2	-8.1	0.3	-0.8	0.713	0.035	0.013	0.097	-0.076	0.105	0.037	-0.331
Q	5	-17.6	0.1	-6.7	0.1	0.7	0.686	0.025	0.011	0.070	0.172	0.029	0.013	-0.083
S	3	-11.7	0.0	-2.7	0.1	4.6	0.606	0.014	0.008	-0.010	0.142	0.102	0.059	-0.113
T1	6	-9.8	0.1	-3.2	0.2	4.1	0.601	0.007	0.003	-0.015	0.113	0.072	0.029	-0.142
T2	13	-14.6	0.2	-9.6	0.3	-2.3	0.718	0.024	0.007	0.102	-0.082	0.119	0.033	-0.337
T3a	13	-15.0	0.4	-9.4	0.4	-2.0	0.739	0.036	0.010	0.123	-0.086	0.153	0.042	-0.341
T3b	3	-13.7	0.2	-7.8	0.1	-0.5	0.702	0.023	0.013	0.086	-0.006	0.100	0.058	-0.261
T4	3	-10.0	0.1	-3.5	0.1	3.8	0.661	0.039	0.023	0.045	0.125	0.049	0.028	-0.130
T5	3	-9.2	0.0	-3.1	0.0	4.3	0.661	0.035	0.020	0.045	0.130	0.013	0.007	-0.125
U	5	-26.6	0.0	-18.7	0.1	-11.4	0.757	0.028	0.012	0.141	-0.428	0.104	0.047	-0.683
V	11	-23.7	0.1	-14.8	0.1	-7.5	0.779	0.023	0.007	0.163	-0.506	0.139	0.042	-0.761
X	7	-22.4	0.1	-15.4	0.1	-8.1	0.681	0.029	0.011	0.065	-0.235	0.167	0.063	-0.490

Table 2: Clumped and bulk isotopic values for all samples measured in this study. The calculations to determine $\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\Delta\Delta_{47}$, and $\Delta\Delta_{48}$ values were performed assuming equilibrium values for the average temperature at The Cedars of 17.5 °C (Kim et al., 2007; Dietzel et al., 2009; Morrill et al., 2013; Christensen et al., 2021; Lucarelli et al., 2023).

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