Coccolithophore estimates of paleotemperature and paleoproductivity changes in the southeast Pacific over the past ∼27 kyr

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[1] We provide high-resolution sea surface temperature (SST) and paleoproductivity data focusing on Termination 1. We describe a new method for estimating SSTs based on multivariate statistical analyses performed on modern coccolithophore census data, and we present the first downcore reconstructions derived from coccolithophore assemblages at Ocean Drilling Project (ODP) Site 1233 located offshore Chile. We compare our coccolithophore SST record to alkenone-based SSTs as well as SST reconstructions based on dinoflagellates and radiolaria. All reconstructions generally show a remarkable concordance. As in the alkenone SST record, the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM, 19–23 kyr B.P.) is not clearly defined in our SST reconstruction. After the onset of deglaciation, three major warming steps are recorded: from 18.6 to 18 kyr B.P. (−2.6°C), from 15.7 to 15.3 kyr B.P. (−2.5°C), and from 13 to 11.4 kyr B.P. (−3.4°C). Consistent with the other records from Site 1233 and Antarctic ice core records, we observed a clear Holocene Climatic Optimum (HCO) from ∼8–12 kyr B.P. Combining the SST reconstruction with coccolith absolute abundances and accumulation rates, we show that colder temperatures during the LGM are linked to higher coccolithophore productivity offshore Chile and warmer SSTs during the HCO to lower coccolithophore productivity, with indications of weak coastal upwelling. We interpret our data in terms of latitudinal system over the deglaciation and the Holocene.


1. Introduction

[2] The Pacific Ocean plays an important role in modulating global climate at seasonal, interannual (El Niño–Southern Oscillation, ENSO), millennial and orbital time scales [Cane, 1998; Clement et al., 1999]. The ENSO cycle of alternating El Niño and La Niña events is a good example of instabilities originated in the tropical Pacific through interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere, which ultimately modify hydrographic conditions and alter the climate at a global scale [Cane, 1998; McPhaden et al., 2006]. However, little is known about past changes in SST and related paleoceanographic conditions in the Southeast (SE) Pacific. Various paleotemperature proxies were used, including faunal-based transfer functions (e.g., planktonic foraminifera), alkenones and Mg/Ca ratios in foraminiferal shells [e.g., Wefer et al., 1999; Lea, 2003; Kucera et al., 2005a]. Nevertheless, significant discrepancies have been observed when a SST multiapproach has been performed on the same marine sediment cores [e.g., Chapman et al., 1996; Mix, 2006; Koutavas and Sachs, 2008; Steinke et al., 2008; Leduc et al., 2010]. Here, we compare alkenone SSTs with the SST estimations derived from a new method proposed in this paper (transfer function–like) using coccolithophore assemblages in a marine sedimentary sequence off southern Chile.

[3] It has been reported that transfer functions based on diatom and radiolarian species offer a reliable tool for estimating paleoceanographic changes in the SE Pacific [Pisias et al., 1997, 2006; Abrantes et al., 2007], together with planktonic foraminifera [Mix et al., 1999; Feldberg and Mix, 2002; Kucera et al., 2005b; Morey et al., 2005]. However, no transfer function using coccolithophores has been done for the SE Pacific. Coccolithophores are a group that includes all haptophyte algae with highly characteristic calcified scales called coccoliths at some stage of their life cycle [Pienaar, 1994; Billard and Inouye, 2004]. This carbonate-producing algae group thrives under a broad spectrum of oceanic regimes. They predominate in the photic zones of stratified waters from the subtropical and tropical regions of the world [Brand, 1994], but they are also significant contributors to the total phytoplankton community in coastal upwelling domains [Mitchell-Innes and Winter, 1987; Giraudeau et al., 2000; Boeckel and Baumann, 2004].

[4] The new methodology proposed consists of a multivariate statistical analysis performed on modern census coccolithophore data from surface sediments covering the
equatorial and SE Pacific area affected by different environmental factors [Saavedra-Pellitero et al., 2010] and their application to Ocean Drilling Project (ODP) Site 1233 well-dated sediments [Lamy and Kaiser, 2009] to reconstruct past SSTs offshore Chile during the past ~27 kyr with high temporal resolution. Similar results to those of independent alkenone-based SST reconstructions from the same site were obtained, suggesting that our coccolith-based reconstruction is a reliable tool, at least in the realm of the SE Pacific.

2. Oceanographic and Atmospheric Setting of the Southeastern Pacific Ocean

The oceanographic features of the study area are described in detail by Strub et al. [1998] and Shaffer et al. [1995]. The large-scale circulation is revealed by fields of surface temperature and salinity [Strub et al., 1998]. The circulation pattern is dominated by the equatorward flowing Peru-Chile Current (PCC), starting between 40 and 45°S, where the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) approaches the South American continent (Figure 1a). The steepest SST gradient within the ACC is strongly related to the main atmospheric circulation member of the Southern Hemisphere (SH), i.e., the westerly wind belt [Streten and Zillmann, 1984]. The ACC splits at ~43°S into the northward flowing PCC and the southward flowing Cape Horn Current (CHC) [Strub et al., 1998]. The PCC flows northward along the western South American coast before it turns westward close to the equator to form the South Equatorial Current (SEC). Beneath the SEC lies the Equatorial Undercurrent (EUC), which flows eastward. Both the EUC and the SEC contribute to the equatorial cold tongue that extends westward to 10°W longitude [Wyrtki, 1981] (Figure 1a). The offshore Ekman flow drives a perennial upwelling of cool, nutrient-rich waters, resulting in one of the biologically most productive regions of the world’s oceans [Berger et al., 1987].

South of ~38°S, the year-round onshore blowing winds (the Southern Westerlies, SW) generally prevent coastal upwelling [Miller, 1976; Strub et al., 1998; Kim et al., 2002]. The SW and associated storm tracks bring heavy rainfall, resulting in large fresh water fluxes to the coastal ocean, and they are the origin of the low-salinity tongue spreading northward along the southern and central Chilean margin [Dávila et al., 2002]. The increasing influence of storm tracks southward offshore Chile together with the steep Chilean topography result in a huge input of terrigenous material and a clear dominance of terrigenous sediments along the Chilean continental slope [Lamy et al., 1998]. In these coastal southern areas, the availability of iron increases strongly due to high river discharge, which results in a very high productivity [e.g., Iriarte et al., 2007] that is even more pronounced than in the upwelling-dominated parts offshore central and northern Chile [Hebbeln et al., 2000].

The study area is also characterized by a sequence of oceanic fronts (Figure 1a). The northern boundary of the ACC is limited by the Subtropical Front (STF) [Orsi et al., 1995]. The zone between the STF and the SAF (Subantarctic Front) is referred to as the SAZ (Subantarctic Zone)
3. Material and Methods

3.1. Surface Sediment Samples

[8] As the basis for the analysis, coccolith census counts from equatorial and SE Pacific core tops (15.71°N–50.65°S and 70.49°W–95.29°W) [Saavedra-Pellitero et al., 2010] were used (Figure 1a). The surface sediment data set consists of 96 surface sediment samples with a generally good degree of preservation, mostly located above the present Carbonate Compensation Depth (CCD) and the Carbonate Lysocline in the area (CL). Depths vary depending on the location; e.g., CL = −3500 m and CCD = −4100 m in the southern Pacific [Broecker and Broecker, 1974; Berger et al., 1976] and CL = 3800–4000 m in the equatorial Pacific [Thompson, 1976; Farrer and Prell, 1989]. For the coccolith analysis, the uppermost undisturbed centimeter was selected, assuming that surface sediment samples mostly represent present-day conditions. Mean annual values of the different physical, chemical and biological parameters variables were chosen in order to characterize the water conditions of the living coccolithophores corresponding to each station [Saavedra-Pellitero et al., 2010]: SST in °C, sea surface salinity (SSS in psu), nitrate (in μmol/l), phosphate (in μmol/l), silicate (in μmol/l) and chlorophyll concentrations (in μg/l).

3.2. Fossil Data Set: ODP Site 1233

[9] ODP Site 1233 is located off southern Chile (41°00′S, 74°27′W) at a water depth of 838 m, 38 km offshore (20 km off the continental shelf) in a small forearc basin on the upper continental slope. The sediments at this site are dominated by terrigenous components (clay and silty clay), with varying, but generally low, amounts of calcareous nannofossils and foraminifera [Mix et al., 2003]. This site is located outside the pathways of major turbidity currents [Mix et al., 2003] and shows a continuous and undisturbed sedimentary record. Furthermore, the subantarctic site is under the influence of the Southern Westerlies at the northern margin of the ACC, and the surrounding area is affected by a prominent low-salinity tongue originated from freshwater input in the Chilean fjord region [Lamy et al., 2004]. In the past, mean sedimentation rates at Site 1233 were extremely high (~100 cm/kyr in the Holocene and even higher during the last glacial [Lamy et al., 2001; Kaiser et al., 2005]), offering the possibility of studying climate and ocean variability at submillennial to millennial time scales [e.g., Kaiser et al., 2007].

[10] Five Advanced Piston Corer holes were drilled at Site 1233 to ensure a complete stratigraphic overlap between cores from different holes, and a composite section was constructed representing 135.65 mcd (meters of composite depth) [Mix et al., 2003]. The age model for the sedimentary sequence of site 1233 has been published previously by Lamy et al. [2004] and has been updated by Kaiser et al. [2005] and Lamy et al. [2007].

[11] Ninety-three samples for the interval, ranging from ~27 kyr B.P. to 10 kyr B.P., were chosen to record millennial-scale changes, mainly during the last deglaciation (also named Termination 1, with a temporal resolution of ~160 years on average, see the auxiliary material).1 Additionally, 21 samples were added as control points for younger than 10 kyr B.P. and the older part of the Site 1233 record back to ~70 kyr.

3.3. Techniques for the Preparation and Identification of Taxa

[12] For this study, we followed the Backman and Shackleton [1983] and Flores and Sierra [1997] techniques, which allowed us to obtain quantitative results: relative and absolute abundances (% and coccoliths/g of sediment) together with fluxes (nannofossil accumulation rate, NAR, coccoliths cm−2 kyr−1). The formula used to calculate fluxes followed Flores and Sierra [1997]: 

\[ \text{NAR} = \left( \frac{n}{d^*} \right)^2 \left( \frac{g}{v} \right) \]

where \( d \) is the volume of the water added to the dry sediment; \( r \) is the radius of the visual field used in the counting; \( g \) is the dry sediment weight; \( v \) is the volume of mixture withdrawn with the micropipette; \( d \) is the estimated dry density of the sediment, and \( S \) is the linear sedimentation rate. The NAR has been used as a reference for high paleoproductivity of coccolithophores and particle flux out of the mixed layer [e.g., Steinmetz, 1994; Baumann et al., 2004; López-Otávalo et al., 2009].

[13] Coccolith identification was carried out using a Leica DMRXE® and a Nikon Eclipse 80i® polarized microscopes at magnifications of 1000X and 1250X. All slides were analyzed with a uniform counting procedure, and a minimum of 400 coccoliths were counted per sample to ensure minimum error [Fatela and Taborda, 2002]. The 14 most common taxa or groups of coccoliths considered in this study were: Calcosolenia sp., Calcidiscus leptopus, Coccolithus pelagicus, Emiliana huxleyi, Florisphaera profunda, Gephyrocapsa muellerae, Gephyrocapsa oceanica, Helicosphaera carteri, Rhabdosphaera clavigera, “small” Gephyrocapsa (that include Gephyrocapsa < 3 μm), Syracosphaera spp., Umbellosphaera spp., Umbilicosphaera spp. and Oolithothus spp. Some taxa appeared infrequently (i.e., the nannolith Braarudosphaera bigelowii at ODP Site 1233) and were excluded from the statistical treatment. Our analysis included these 14 groups, accounting for 100%.

3.4. Species Diversity and CEX’ Index

[14] We calculated the Shannon index (\( H' \)) using the Palaeontological Statistics (PAST™) software with the following equation for the fossil samples:

\[ H' = - \sum_{i=1}^{S} \frac{n_i}{N} \ln \frac{n_i}{N} \]

where \( n_i \) is the number of individuals in species \( i \); \( S \) is the number of taxa, and \( N \) is the total number of all individuals.

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1Auxiliary material data sets are available at ftp://ftp.agu.org/apend/pa/2009pa001824. Other auxiliary material files are in the HTML.
$H'$ varies from 0 for communities with only a single taxon to high values for communities with many taxa, each with few individuals. High abundances and diversity values have been recorded in the Pacific Subtropical Front (STF, Figure 1a) and Subantarctic Front (SAF) [Findlay et al., 2005], but a general decrease takes place toward the south [Winter et al., 1994] until monospecific assemblages of *E. huxleyi* occur south of the Polar Front (PF) [Gravalosa et al., 2008]. Thus, a higher species diversity index can be related to higher SSTs.

[15] We also calculated a modification of the CEX' index [Dittert et al., 1999; Boeckel and Baumann, 2004], which was classically used to estimate the effect of carbonate dissolution on the coccolith assemblages: 

$$
\text{CEX'} = \frac{\% E. huxleyi + \% \text{"small" Gephyrocapsa}}{\% E. huxleyi + \% \text{"small" Gephyrocapsa} + \% C. leptoporus}
$$

This index was initially based on the differential dissolution of the small and delicate placoliths of *E. huxleyi* and “small” *Gephyrocapsa* and the strongly calcified coccoliths of *Calcidiscus leptoporus* assuming certain constancy in the
Table 1. Factor Scores Obtained in the PCA Factor Analysis Performed in the Present-Day Data Set (Surface Sediment Samples)†

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Factor 1 (Present)</th>
<th>Factor 2 (Present)</th>
<th>Factor 3 (Present)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F. profunda</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>−0.54</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. leptoporus</td>
<td>−0.46</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>1.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. carteri</td>
<td>−1.15</td>
<td>−0.85</td>
<td>2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. oceanica</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>−0.35</td>
<td>−0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. muellerae</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syracosphaera</td>
<td>−0.43</td>
<td>−0.59</td>
<td>−0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umbilicosphaera</td>
<td>−0.05</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umbellosphaera</td>
<td>−0.45</td>
<td>−0.72</td>
<td>−0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcosolenia</td>
<td>−0.47</td>
<td>−0.70</td>
<td>−0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. pelagicus</td>
<td>−1.00</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>−1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. clavigera</td>
<td>−0.51</td>
<td>−0.72</td>
<td>−0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oolithotus</td>
<td>−0.34</td>
<td>−0.18</td>
<td>−1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. huxleyi</td>
<td>−0.16</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Small” G</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

†Rotation, varimax normalized; extraction, principal components. Bold values indicate the species which define each factor.

4. Results

4.1. Nannofloral Factors

4.1.1. Surface Sediments

The Principal Component Analysis (PCA) performed on the present-day data set [Saavedra-Pellitero et al., 2010] indicated the existence of three main factors (Figure 2), characterized below.

Factor 1, in which the important species are F. profunda and G. oceanica (Table 1) and which explains 31.58% of the total variance, dominates from 15°N to 25°S and from ∼33° to 38°S (Figure 2a), this latter area being interpreted as one of carbonate dissolution. Saavedra-Pellitero et al. [2010] reported that this factor is highly correlated with the silicate content (0.73) and SST (0.67), and, to a lesser extent, with phosphate (0.53) and SSS (0.45 (Table 2)). Owing to the low factor 1 loadings at 41°S, in order to reconstruct SSTs at ODP Site 1233 this factor was discarded.

Factor 2, in which the important species are E. huxleyi, “small” Gephyrocapsa, C. pelagicus and G. muellerae (Table 1) and which explains 33.87% of the total variance, dominates from 38°S to 47°S offshore Chile (Figure 2b). Factor 2 is strongly anticorrelated with SST and SSS (−0.73

Table 2. Correlation Matrix Obtained Between the Factors From the Present Data Set and the Selected Environmental Variables*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Variables</th>
<th>Factor 1 (Present)</th>
<th>Factor 2 (Present)</th>
<th>Factor 3 (Present)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSS average</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>−0.71</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SST average</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>−0.73</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate average</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>−0.02</td>
<td>−0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphate average</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>−0.16</td>
<td>−0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silicate average</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>−0.50</td>
<td>−0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorophyll average</td>
<td>−0.05</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>−0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Bold values correspond to significant correlations at p < 0.05.

Brook, 2001] and the EPICA Dronning Maud Land ice core [EPICA Community Members, 2006].
and −0.71), and to a lesser extent with the silicate content (−0.50 (Table 2)). This factor is linked to fresh water fluxes to the coastal ocean and, broadly, to the above mentioned low-salinity cold tongue [Saavedra-Pellitero et al. 2010]. It is of potential use for estimating SSTs.

[21] Factor 3 explains ∼28% of the total variance and its major contributors are C. leptoporus and H. carteri (Table 1). It dominates from 25° to 33°S (Figure 2c) in the northern-most area of the Chilean upwelling system and at two stations south of the study area owing to the proximity of the SAF, where a strong increase in C. leptoporus has been observed [Gravalosa et al., 2008] and where the signal is probably influenced by dissolution. Saavedra-Pellitero et al. [2010] indicated that this factor is correlated with SSS, anticorrelated with phosphate (0.44 and −0.41) and, to a lesser extent, anticorrelated with nitrate contents (−0.37 (Table 2)).

4.1.2. Sedimentary Record and Paleoenvironmental Calibration

[22] Three factors are sufficient to describe the temporal downcore variability at ODP Site 1233 (Table 3). For paleoenvironmental calibration, comparison of the three factors from the present-day database (“present”) and the three from the sedimentary record (“past”) was performed by means of a correlation matrix made using the factor scores (Table 4). It revealed that two of the factors from the sedimentary record are equivalent to the modern factor 2 and factor 3 (r = 0.85 and r = 0.92 (Table 4 and Figure 3)), although there is a third factor that dominates during early marine isotope stage (MIS) 3 and MIS 4 (∼46 to 70 kyr B.P.) and has no representative in present-day conditions (“non-analog”) (Figure 4a). We infer that it most likely represents fertile water conditions because the dominant species is G. oceanica (<4 μm), which has classically been observed to respond to intermittent fertile waters by increasing its population size and which, under certain favorable conditions, might even reach bloom proportions [Kleijne et al., 1989; Brown and Yoder, 1994; Winter et al., 1994; Young, 1994; Giraudou and Bailey, 1995; Broerse et al., 2000].

[23] Accordingly we can only use factors 2 and 3 for our downcore reconstructions, because they are identical to the factors found in present-day conditions and can be linked directly to environmental parameters. Factor 2 dominates in the past, explaining ∼43% of the total variance (Table 3 and Figure 3a), with the score species “small” Gephyrocapsa, E. huxleyi, G. muellerae and C. pelagicus. Its predominance runs from late MIS 3 to the Holocene (∼40 kyr B.P. to the present time (Figure 4a)), except during the last deglaciation, where factor 3 stands out (specifically from ∼18.5 to ∼8.5 kyr B.P. (Figure 4a)), suggesting the onset of different oceanographic conditions during deglaciation. The score species for factor 3, which explains 33.37% of the variance, are C. leptoporus and H. carteri (Table 3 and Figure 3b).

4.2. SST Estimation at ODP Site 1233

[24] Alkenones, a series of long-chain (C_{37}, C_{38}, C_{39}) primarily diunsaturated and triunsaturated methyl or ethyl ketones, are produced by a specific class of phytoplankton...
broadly represented by the genus *Gephyrocapsa* [Marlowe et al., 1990] and specifically by *E. huxleyi* [Volkman et al., 1980]. Changes in environmental conditions affect the lipid composition of microscopic algae [Volkman et al., 1980] and SSTs can be estimated from the analysis of long-chain ketone compositions preserved in sediment cores [Prahl and Wakeham, 1987]. It is therefore of interest to compare SSTs derived from alkenones and SSTs obtained from the assemblages of their recognized sources: coccolithophores. In this study, a comparison of the alkenone SSTs record [Lamy et al., 2004, 2007] with our data validates our procedure for reconstructing oceanographic parameters.

Figure 4. (a) Distribution of the dominant factors for each sampling point at ODP Site 1233 for the last ~70 kyr (sedimentary record), indicated as follows: factor 2 with circles, factor 3 with squares, and “non-analog” factor with triangles. Detail of Figure 4a showing the (b) factor 3 factor loadings for the last ~30 kyr, (c) “nonanalog” factor loadings, (d) factor 2 loadings, and (e) SST estimates derived from alkenones [Lamy et al., 2004, 2007].

The correlation matrix generated using factor loadings from the coccolith assemblage that characterize the three factors at Site 1233 and SST values from alkenones indicates a high coefficient of correlation ($r = 0.74$ (Table 5)) between alkenones and factor 3. It was already shown that factor 3 is slightly correlated to SSS and anticorrelated to phosphate and nitrate contents (Table 2), but not to SST. Nevertheless, a relationship can be inferred between SST and factor 3 loadings only considering the samples located off-shore Chile. This fact would explain the correlation between the ODP Site 1233 factor 3 loadings and alkenones. However, further future work would be required to disentangle this discrepancy.

Figure 4.
The same matrix indicates that factor 2 at Site 1233 is strongly and negatively correlated with alkenone-derived SSTs (r = −0.64 (Table 5)). This is consistent with our results concerning the modern factor 2 correlation with SST (r = −0.73 (Table 2)). These high correlation coefficients provide the necessary confidence to explore the use of this relationship for estimating paleotemperatures from fossil assemblages.

To estimate SSTs, we compared the log-transformed average annual SST and factor 2 loadings and obtained a linear regression equation, with a significant correlation of $r^2 = 0.57$. The transfer function equation is $y = 1.3538 - 0.3515x$, where $y$ is the logarithm of SST and $x$ is the factor 2 loading (Figure 5a). To assess potential biases in the transfer function, which might yield inaccurate results, we calculated the correlation coefficient between the estimated mean annual SSTs and the observed (or measured) mean annual SSTs ($r = 0.75$ (Figure 5b)) and the temperature residuals (the difference between the estimated minus the observed SST).

A comparison of temperature residuals and the measured SSTs (Figure 5c) indicates that at stations where present-day SSTs are below 11°C, the SSTs using our function are overestimated, owing to the absence of data south of 45°–50°S. In contrast, the low negative values of SST residuals indicate an underestimation of SSTs at stations where factor 1 dominates (thus, factor 2 is not valid for reconstructing SST at these locations (Figure 5d)). However, SST estimations for the deglaciation performed in this study vary from 11 to 16°C, i.e., within the acceptable range.

Focusing exclusively on the results obtained for the last deglaciation, a simple linear correlation between SSTs estimated by coccolithophore assemblages and alkenones for the interval from ~27 kyr B.P. to 10 kyr B.P. (Figure 6) was performed, and the resulting high coefficient ($r = 0.81$) validated our SST reconstruction for this time frame. To improve the accuracy of the results, a confidence interval at the 95% level was considered (Figure 6a).

### 4.3. Paleoproductivity Estimates

Our coccolith-based SST results were completed with additional estimations of the number of coccoliths per gram of sediment and accumulation rates. Because productivity is much greater in eutrophic conditions, a very large proportion of total coccolith production occurs under such conditions [Baumann et al., 2005]. Hence, for this study we assume that higher NAR values in the absence of dissolution correspond to higher nutrient availability and coccolithophore productivity.

**Table 5. Correlation Matrix Between Past Factors and the SST Alkenones**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Factor 2 (Past)</th>
<th>Factor 3 (Past)</th>
<th>“Nonanalog” Factor (Past)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alkenones</td>
<td>−0.6425</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The bold value indicates which factor was used to estimate nannofloral SSTs at ODP Site 1233.*

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**Figure 5.** (a) Factor loadings from factor 2 (from the present-day data set) versus measured SSTs (in °C), (b) SSTs measured versus estimated SSTs, (c) observed SSTs versus SST residuals (estimated minus measured, in °C), and (d) SST residuals at core top locations in the equatorial and southeastern Pacific.
Figure 6
[31] Nitrate is essential for the growth and calcification of coccolithophores, and phosphate seems to act as a controlling agent of calcification [Baumann et al., 2005]. Under present-day conditions, and focusing on the area surrounding ODP Site 1233, there are two likely sources for nutrients: the ACC, and the continental hinterland of Chile. The ACC is a typical high nutrient/low chlorophyll water mass, where use of the available nutrients such as nitrate or phosphate is limited by the low availability of micronutrients. Close to coastal areas, the availability of micronutrients increases mainly due to fluvial and airborne input, allowing very high productivity. The combination of macronutrients supplied by the ACC and the micronutrients washed into the ocean by high precipitation in this part of Chile results in high regional productivity [Hebbeln et al., 2000].

[32] The absolute abundances of coccoliths (coccoliths/g) and the NAR (coccoliths cm⁻² kyr⁻¹) at ODP Site 1233 follow the same trend, reaching higher values during the last glacial period than during Holocene times (see Figures 6k and 6l). Maximum values are recorded between ~19 and 22 kyr B.P., coinciding with the LGM (~3 × 10⁹ coccoliths/g and NAR: ~1.2 × 10¹² coccoliths cm⁻² kyr⁻¹). The values decreased during the deglaciation, reaching minima between ~17–16.5 kyr B.P. and ~15.5–13.5 kyr B.P. Higher absolute abundances of coccoliths and higher NAR values are seen again at around 16 kyr B.P. and from ~13 to 10 kyr B.P. (~2.5 × 10⁹ coccoliths/g and ~5 × 10¹¹ coccoliths cm⁻² kyr⁻¹). The values are very low during the rest of the Holocene.

4.4. Diversity Index

[33] A Shannon index was calculated in order to evaluate the effect of the shifts of the oceanic fronts on coccolithophore diversity. For ODP Site 1233, this index varies between 1.05 (minimum reached at 18.6 kyr B.P.) and 2.04 (maximum at 15.4 kyr B.P.) for the last 27 kyr (Figure 6g). In general terms, a slight decreasing trend is seen from 27 kyr B.P. to 18.6 kyr B.P., together with a sudden increase from 18.6 kyr B.P. to 17.9 kyr B.P., followed by a less pronounced second increase from 17 kyr B.P. to 15.4 kyr B.P. A drop in diversity occurs from 15.3 kyr B.P. and to 13.3 kyr B.P., an increase from 13.3 kyr B.P. to 11.7 kyr B.P. and a decrease to the present.

5. Discussion

5.1. SST Reconstruction

[34] In general, our new SST record shares many features with the alkenone SST data set, in particular regarding the timing of the deglacial warming, the early Holocene peak between 13.5 kyr B.P. and 11.7 kyr B.P., together with a sudden increase from 13.5 kyr B.P. and 11 kyr B.P. to 10 kyr B.P. A drop in diversity occurs from 15.3 kyr B.P. and to 13.3 kyr B.P., an increase from 13.3 kyr B.P. to 11.7 kyr B.P. and a decrease to the present.
warming, and some millennial-scale fluctuations. The Last Glacial Maximum (LGM: 19–23 kyr B.P.) is not clearly
defined, but the millennial-scale fluctuations observed in
our SST reconstruction between 19 and 25 kyr B.P. broadly
parallel the fluctuations in the alkenone SST record and
Byrd ice core data (Figures 6b and 6d). Deglacial warming
in our coccolithophore SST reconstruction starts after a
final cold event at ∼18.6 kyr B.P., with a SST of ∼11.3°C. This
is consistent with the alkenone SST obtained by Lamy et al.
[2007], who documented the onset of deglaciation at 18.8
kyr B.P. and that reported by Verleye and Louwye [2010],
who set it at 18.6 kyr B.P. using dinoflagellate cysts. The
first deglacial warming phase also broadly coincides with
the ice core records at Byrd located in the Pacific sector of
Antarctica [Blunier and Brook, 2001] or Dronning Maud
Land, EDML [EPICA Community Members, 2006] in the
Atlantic sector, where deglacial warming began shortly after
18 kyr B.P. (Figures 6b and 6c).

[35] The maximum amplitude of reconstructed SST (the
maximum SST minus minimum SST calculated) variations
from ∼27 kyr B.P. to 10 kyr B.P. is about 7.35°C, although
the warming reconstructed over the last deglaciation is
∼5°C, and hence slightly lower than the ∼6–7°C revealed
by the alkenone SST record. However, considering the
intrinsic limitations of the method, the 95% lower limit of
confidence interval traced for SST reconstruction (Figure 6a)
suggests that the warming amplitude during deglaciation
would be closer to 7°C.

[36] Because there is a correlation between SST and SSS
(Figure 7), with a well marked latitudinal character (except
for the Panama basin and in the southernmost offshore
Chilean samples), factor 2 appears highly correlated with
both variables (Table 2). Owing to the latitudinal pattern of
this factor, we consider SST as the dominant oceanographic
control parameter. Were this SSS, under present-day con-
ditions we would have found higher values of factor 2 in
low-salinity areas, such as the Panama basin, or would have
noted the presence of few of the score species that charac-
terize this factor in these regions.

5.2. LGM

[37] Our proxies indicate lower SSTs and higher NAR
values during the LGM than today, interpreted in terms of
higher coccolithophore productivity. The LGM assemblages
are dominated by cold water species (e.g., G. muellerae or
C. pelagicus). C. pelagicus is the dominant species in the
subarctic sector of the North Atlantic, but it is not found at
high latitudes in the Southern Ocean [Winter et al., 1999].
We confirmed the presence of the larger subspecies C. pelagicus
spp. braarudii, although in low relative abundance (mean
average of 1.2%, reaching maxima of 8.41%). This subsp-
cies prefers temperate and cold waters and has been observed
at low abundances in upwelling regimes [Baumann et al.,
2000; Cachão and Moita, 2000; Geisen et al., 2002;
Parente et al., 2004]. Because C. pelagicus is not a species
found at high abundances in the SH at high latitudes (e.g.,
close to the Subantarctic Zone [Gravalosa et al., 2008]), our
data suggest that the maximum NAR of this species during
the LGM could have been linked to a high-fertility, cold, and
relatively mixed environment, in which high coccolithophore
productivity occurred (Figure 6m). The radiolarian assem-
blages at Site 1233 [Pisias et al., 2006] also support this
conclusion (Figure 6h).

[38] Below we discuss two possible mechanisms for the
enhanced glacial productivity at Site 1233:

[39] 1. One possible mechanism is an increase in the
supply of macronutrients (such as nitrate or phosphate) due
to an equatorward displacement of the northern margin of
the ACC. This northward displacement or extension of the
oceanographic system has been suggested previously in a
number of studies and has been related to an equatorward
shift of the Westerlies concomitant with a northward expan-
sion of Antarctic sea ice [e.g., Kim et al., 2002; Lamy et al.,
2004; Mohtadi and Hebbeln, 2004; Kaiser et al., 2005],
which would have influenced the whole oceanographic
system along the Chilean slope and, likewise, continental
depositions. Verleye and Louwye [2010] suggested a ∼7–
10° northward shift of the system and even positioned the
LGM Polar Front Zone (PFZ) at the latitude of ODP Site
1233. Our results point to a much more limited northward
displacement. Classically it has often been considered that
coccolithophore diversity decreases toward the South and
becomes E. huxleyi–monospecific in Antarctic waters south
of the Polar Front [McIntyre and Bé, 1967; Gravalosa et al.,
2008], suggesting a positive relationship of coccolith-
ophore species diversity with SST and a negative rela-
tionship of the CEX' index with SST (Figure 6f). Therefore,
SST changes offshore SE Chile can also be inferred from
the Shannon index and CEX' values. If the PFZ had affected
the study area during the LGM, the Shannon index values
should have been closer to 0, indicating low diversity
recorded at our site for this period of time. However, the
Shannon indices (Figure 6g) are higher and indicate coc-
colithophore diversity values of 1.4, except for a marked
drop at the onset of the deglaciation, suggesting that the
PFZ remained south of our ODP Site 1233. A more limited
northward movement of the Southern Ocean Fronts is
consistent with a relatively small LGM sea ice expansion in
the Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean [Gersonde et al.,
2005].

[40] 2. A higher micronutrient input (essentially iron)
would have also contributed to stimulating marine produc-
divity during the LGM. Owing to the significant expansion
of the Patagonian Ice Sheet (PIS), reaching the island of
Chiloé (41° 40'S at LGM and 45° 45'S today), glacial erosion
processes would have strongly enhanced the glacioluvial
sediment flux from Fe–rich basaltic volcanics in the Andes
[Lamy et al., 2004]. Nevertheless, coccolithophores are better
able to utilize Fe at low concentrations [Martin et al., 1989;
Gregg and Casey, 2007] and iron fertilization would have
merely affected the large-celled phytoplankton: specifically
diatoms [e.g., Kolber et al., 1994; Martin et al., 1994;
Harrison et al., 1999]. Therefore, we suggest that iron input
did not play a major role in coccolithophore productivity
enhancement, in close agreement with Kaiser [2005], who
observed that alkenone production was not directly influ-
enced by the iron concentrations at the same site.
Our results are consistent with previous paleoproductivity estimates off Chile [e.g., Mohtadi and Hebbeln, 2004] suggesting an increase in the advection of cold water and nutrients in the ACC/PCC, which might even have reached subtropical latitudes [Feldberg and Mix, 2002, 2003; Martínez et al., 2003; Mohtadi and Hebbeln, 2004].

5.3. Deglaciation

Our SST record shows that after the start of deglaciation (at ∼18.6 kyr B.P.), three major warming steps are registered: from 18.6 to 18 kyr B.P.; 15.7 to 15.3 kyr B.P., and from 13 to 11.4 kyr B.P., broadly coinciding with increments in species diversity (Figures 6 and 8). These SST steps suggest that deglaciation is not recorded as a gradual continuous warming in South America, as stated by some authors [e.g., Ashworth and Hoganson, 1993]. The first and third warming steps are similar to the alkenone SST warmings.

The first major step (18.6 to 18 kyr B.P.) would be characterized by a SST increase of ∼2.6°C (although the maximum SST minus minimum SST calculated for this time interval is 3.3°C), also coinciding with a decrease in the NAR, caused by a slight drop in the availability of nutrients, as shown by an increase of factor 3 loadings (Figure 4) due to the anticorrelation of this factor with phosphate and nitrate. This rise in factor 3 loadings can be also linked to higher SSS, in agreement with Lamy et al. [2004].

The second major step (15.7–15.3 kyr B.P.) would correspond to a warming period of ∼2.5°C (although the maximum SST minus minimum SST calculated for this time interval is 4.5°C). The difference with the alkenone SSTs could be due to changes in the coccolithophore assemblage. During this period, the relative abundance of E. huxleyi, G. oceanica and C. leptoporus increased while "small" Gephyrocapsa decreased. This is coincident with the sudden increase in the NAR, a slight decrease in the loadings of factor 3 (Figure 4) and an increase in the loadings of the “nonanalog” factor.

The cooling (of ∼2.4°C, although the maximum SST minus minimum SST calculated for this time interval is 3.3°C) that followed the second warming step (between 15.3 and 13 kyr B.P.) is not seen from the alkenone record, in which the two warming steps are separated by a “plateau” [Lamy et al., 2007] (Figure 6d). The cooling broadly coincides with the Antarctic Cold Reversal (ACR: 14–12.5 kyr B.P.) [Jouzel et al., 1995] found in other SH proxy records. Some examples include the oxygen isotope record (δ18O) from the Byrd ice core in Antarctica [Blunier and Brook, 2001] or the SST estimates derived from radiolarians (specifically, the first canonical variate extracted from the radiolarian record at ODP Site 1233) [Pisias et al., 2006], in phase with respect to marine pollen assemblages (first canonical variate extracted from the pollen record at ODP Site 1233) [Pisias et al., 2006]. As in the alkenone SST record from ODP Site 1233, the ACR cooling does not appear in the EDML δ18O record [EPICA Community Members, 2006]. Even though an apparent cooling phase during this period coincident with a decrease in species diversity and an increase in the CEX’ index can be seen (Figure 6f), other authors [e.g., Markgraf et al., 2007; Verleye...
and Louwye, 2010] have interpreted it as an unstable period of intense seasonality. These differences regarding the ACR indicate that this event is not as clearly documented as the millennial fluctuations during MIS 3, and indeed the ACR appears to vary among proxy records and locations (Figure 6).

[46] In general, our results indicate a decrease in coccolithophore productivity from the LGM to the Holocene. We relate the changes in the NAR and in floral assemblages to variations in the dynamics of the surface water masses offshore Chile and to the two main potential sources of macronutrients and micronutrients: the ACC in first place and the PIS to a lesser extent. The decreasing trend of the NAR during deglaciation can be linked to the freshwater input from PIS melting and the subsequent stratification of the upper water column. The drop in nutrient content indicated by the predominance of factor 3 can be related to a reduction in the influence of the ACC and a general poleward displacement of the whole system.

[47] We consider a temporary return to glacial conditions during the climate reversal, when colder temperatures and an increasing trend of absolute abundances are recorded, probably linked to a slight northward movement of the atmospheric and oceanic systems, in agreement with Pisias et al. [2006]. The sudden higher availability of phosphate and nitrate would have been associated with the ACC nutrient supply.

[48] The change from high coccolithophore productivity during the LGM to lower productivity in the Holocene has also been recorded in other cores such as GeoB-3302 (32°S) offshore Chile with planktonic foraminifera [Mohtadi and Hebbeln, 2004]. However, SST patterns off central-south Chile reveal that warming during deglaciation was not uniform regionally and they imply different local responses [Mohtadi et al., 2008].

5.4. Toward the Holocene

[49] Our record shows a third warming step of ∼3.4°C (although the maximum SST minus minimum SST calculated for this time interval is 5.7°C) from ∼13 to 11.4 kyr B.P., just after the ACR. This interval is also characterized by an increase in the NAR and in the “nonanalog” factor loadings, which point to a higher availability of nutrients and to the presence of more fertile waters. This time interval corresponds to the Northern Hemisphere Younger Dryas (YD: 13–11.5 kyr B.P.) suggesting a warming during this NH cold phase, as also observed in the alkenone record. The following warm interval from ∼11.5 to the top of our high-resolution coccolith-derived SST record most likely represents the early part of the HCO in the region, as suggested by the alkenone SST record [Kaiser et al., 2005]. The nannofossil SST reaches 18.5°C, but this value is overestimated since factor 2 is not appropriate for the reconstruction of warmer temperatures (see residuals in Figure 5). A more realistic value is indicated by the SST three-point moving average indicated in Figures 6 and 8 of ∼16.8°C.

[50] During the HCO a general lowering in the NAR occurred, except for a slight increase from ∼9.5 kyr B.P. to ∼11.5 kyr B.P. in the NAR and in the “nonanalog” factor loadings. The inferred reduction in the nutrient supply would mainly correspond to the maximum poleward shift of the atmospheric and oceanic systems.

[51] Locally, weak coastal upwelling conditions would have influenced the coccolithophore assemblages in the early HCO, as suggested by the increase in G. oceanica, a species typically found in fertile water conditions [Giraudeau and Bailey, 1995], and also in the “nonanalog” factor loadings, coincident with the slight drop in factor 3 loadings (Figure 4). We propose a temporary enrichment in nutrients when the ACC reached its southernmost position for the time frame studied. This is in agreement with Verleye and Louwye [2010], who recorded the lowest concentrations of dinoflagellate cysts (see Figure 8g) for the HCO and an increase in the abundance of upwelling-related species and cysts.

6. Conclusions

[52] Nannofloral high-resolution SST estimates show good concordance with alkenone SST values for the last deglaciation [Lamy et al., 2004, 2007] obtained at ODP Site 1233 (41°S off southern Chile). This promising method has a great potential for the reconstruction of accurate paleotemperatures, comparable to those obtained using independent proxies (e.g., alkenone-based SSTs). However, further refinements (i.e., development of more sophisticated statistical models, dealing with some of the nonlinearities ascertained in the presented calibrations) would be helpful for a better understanding of the minor discrepancies observed between independent proxies such as alkenone-derived SSTs and our nannofloral SST estimates.

[53] The Last Glacial Maximum (LGM: 19–23 kyr B.P.) is not clearly defined, but deglacial warming in our nannofloral SSTs reconstruction starts after a final cold event at ∼18.6 kyr B.P., with a SST of ∼11.3°C. Our SST record shows that after the starting of deglaciation (at 18.6 kyr B.P.), three major warming steps are recorded: from 18.6 to 18 kyr B.P. (∼2.6°C), 15.7 to 15.3 kyr (∼2.5°C) B.P., and from 13 to 11.4 kyr B.P. (∼3.4°C). Between 15.3 and 13 kyr B.P. a cooling of ∼2.4°C is also recorded, coincident with the ACR, which has also been recorded by radiolarian and pollen records [Pisias et al., 2006] at ODP Site 1233.

[54] Combining the SST reconstruction with absolute coccolith abundances and accumulation rates, we show that the colder temperatures during the LGM are linked to higher coccolithophore productivity offshore Chile and to a northward displacement of the Southern Westerlies and the ACC. During the HCO, warmer SSTs and lower coccolithophore productivity with indications of weak coastal upwelling suggest a poleward shift of the whole system, i.e., to a more southward location than today.

Appendix A: Taxonomic Appendix

[55] Braarudosphaera bigelowii (Gran and Braarud, 1935) Deflandre 1947

[56] Calcidiscus leptoporus (Murray and Blackman, 1898) Loeblich and Tappan, 1978

[57] Calcosolenia Gran, 1912, emend. Young et al., 2003

[58] Coccolithus pelagicus (Wallich, 1877) Schiller, 1930
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