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## ► To cite this version:

Anja B. Frank, Robert Frei, Ioanna Moutafi, Sofia Voutsaki, Raphaël Orgeolet, et al.. The geographic distribution of bioavailable strontium isotopes in Greece: a base for provenance studies in archaeology. *Science of the Total Environment*, 2021, 791, pp.148-156. 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.148156 . halshs-03406135

**HAL Id: halshs-03406135**

**<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-03406135>**

Submitted on 27 Oct 2021

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1 **The geographic distribution of bioavailable strontium isotopes in Greece – a base for provenance studies**  
2 **in archaeology**

3 Anja B. Frank<sup>1</sup>, Robert Frei<sup>2</sup>, Ioanna Moutafi<sup>3,4</sup>, Sofia Voutsaki<sup>5</sup>, Raphaël Orgeolet<sup>6</sup>, Kristian Kristiansen<sup>7</sup>, Karin  
4 M. Frei<sup>1</sup>

5 <sup>1</sup>Department of Research, Collections and Conservation, Environmental Archaeology and Materials Science,  
6 National Museum of Denmark, Kongens Lyngby DK-2800, Denmark

7 <sup>2</sup>Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen, DK-1350  
8 Copenhagen, Denmark

9 <sup>3</sup>McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, UK-CB2 3ER Cambridge, United  
10 Kingdom

11 <sup>4</sup>The M.H. Wiener Laboratory for Archaeological Science, American School of Classical Studies at Athens,  
12 Soudias 54, 10676 Athens, Greece

13 <sup>5</sup>Groningen Institute of Archaeology, University of Groningen, NL-9712 ER Groningen, Netherlands

14 <sup>6</sup>Aix Marseille Université, CNRS, Centre Camille Jullian, Aix-en-Provence, France

15 <sup>7</sup>Department of Historical Studies, University of Gothenburg, SE- 41255 Gothenburg, Sweden

16 **Abstract**

17 Sr isotopes are a powerful tool used to reconstruct human mobility in archaeology. This requires extensive  
18 bioavailable <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr baselines used as reference for deciphering potential areas of origin. We define the  
19 first extensive bioavailable Sr isotope baselines for the different geographical regions and surface  
20 lithologies of Greece by combining new Sr data with previously published bioavailable <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr data. We  
21 present 82 new Sr concentrations and <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr signatures of plants, soil leachates, surface waters and  
22 spring waters from Central Greece and combine these with published baseline values from all over Greece.  
23 We define individual baselines for ten of the thirteen geographical regions of Greece. We also provide soil  
24 leachate <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios from the two archaeological Bronze Age sites of Kirrha and Ayios Vasileios in  
25 Central and Southern Greece and demonstrate the validity and applicability of the new baselines for these  
26 sites. The bioavailable <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr compositions of Central Greece define a narrow range of <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr values  
27 between 0.70768 — 0.71021, with the widest range observed for the soil leachates. Sr derived from  
28 carbonate weathering appears to be the most important Sr source sampled by the proxies. There is an  
29 overall larger variability in baseline ranges of the different geographical regions, the narrowest is that for

30 West Greece and the widest that for West Macedonia. In addition, we computed statistical Sr isotope  
31 ranges for the five main surface lithological groups characterising the sampling sites of the various proxies.  
32 Narrowly ranged, unradiogenic bioavailable Sr isotope signatures are typical of areas characterised by  
33 igneous outcrops as well as by Cenozoic and Mesozoic sediments. Areas, where Palaeozoic and  
34 Precambrian bedrock outcrops dominate, produce significantly wider ranges. Our study promotes the  
35 usefulness of the multi-proxy baselines for geographical reference purposes and thus their promising  
36 applicability for future human mobility studies.

37 *Keywords: Strontium isotopes,  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baseline, Mobility studies, Archaeology, Multi-proxy comparison,*  
38 *Greece*

### 39 **1. Introduction**

40 Sr isotopes have been established in archaeology as a powerful tracing tool of past human mobility (e.g.  
41 Bentley, 2006; Frei et al., 2015; Montgomery, 2010). The radioactive decay of  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  to  $^{87}\text{Sr}$  results in a large  
42 range in the ratio of radiogenic strontium-87 ( $^{87}\text{Sr}$ ) and stable strontium-86 ( $^{86}\text{Sr}$ ) in Earth's surface  
43 environment (e.g. Capo et al., 1998; Tommasini et al., 2018). This range can be utilised as a base for  
44 provenancing human remains, by comparing their respective  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values with the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  background  
45 of the area they were unearthed from or are suspected to originate from.

46 Sr is released into the surface environment via weathering of bedrock and soils and is taken up by plants  
47 from pore waters, surface run-off and groundwater (Bentley, 2006; Price et al., 2002). Humans ingest Sr via  
48 their diet, sourcing most of their Sr from drinking water and plant-based foods (Coelho et al., 2017; Rose et  
49 al., 2010) and fix it within their skeleton where it replaces calcium (Bentley, 2006; Montgomery, 2010).  
50  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios do not fractionate significantly along that pathway (Flockhart et al., 2015), allowing a direct  
51 comparison between human  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values and the proportion of Sr accessible for uptake by flora and  
52 fauna (bioavailable Sr) in suspected areas of origin to trace individual mobility.

53 In recent years there has been an increase in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data across many parts of Europe, including Greece,  
54 defining the ranges in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  composition characteristic for these areas (Sr isotope baseline). However, to  
55 date no comprehensive bioavailable Sr isotope baselines exist for Greece as a whole, as most studies  
56 defining bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baselines focus on single sites or contexts. This results in a spotty  
57 geographical coverage, in particular in central and northern Greece. Further, no consensus exists on how to  
58 establish a reliable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotope baseline for human mobility studies (Grimstead et al., 2017).  
59 Bioavailable Sr in the surface environment of a given target area is sourced from a range of endogenous  
60 and exogenous sources. Endogenous Sr is generally sourced from the weathering of minerals within

61 bedrock and soils. The occurrence of a variety of minerals with drastically different Rb/Sr ratios and with  
62 variable formation ages, in combination with significantly different susceptibilities towards weathering,  
63 impart a complex release pattern of rock and soil hosted Sr to the mobile strontium fractions which are  
64 readily bioavailable (Bentley, 2006; Capo et al., 1998). Exogenous Sr sources include dry and wet  
65 atmospheric depositions as well as anthropogenic contamination, which can add a foreign Sr signal to a  
66 surface environment (Bentley, 2006; Frei and Frei, 2013). Hence, a wide range in proxies has been used to  
67 best mimic and characterise bioavailable Sr fractions and their respective isotopic compositions, to define  
68 bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  reference baselines in Greece. These include modern environmental samples (e.g.  
69 Frank et al., 2021; Vaiglova et al., 2018), faunal remains (e.g. Nafplioti, 2011; Whelton et al., 2018) and  
70 human archaeological bones (e.g. Nafplioti, 2011; Triantaphyllou et al., 2015). The choice of proxy is usually  
71 tailored to the aim of the study, and are often limited by the availability of respective proxy materials.

72 In the present study we present  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values and Sr concentrations for different modern environmental  
73 proxies (plants, soils, surface waters and spring waters) from Central Greece and for the cultural layers of  
74 two Bronze Age sites from central and southern Greece (Kirrha and Ayios Vasileios). The aim of the study is  
75 to contribute to our understanding of modern environmental proxies and their usefulness for  
76 characterising bioavailable Sr isotope signatures that can serve to constrain the distribution of bioavailable  
77  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  in Greece. We therefore address two issues: 1) We contribute to the discussion centred around  
78 proxy suitability by presenting  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values from different environmental proxies from Central Greece. In  
79 doing this, we also fill in the gap in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data in this region. 2) We define the first extensive  
80 bioavailable Sr isotope baselines for the different geographical regions and surface lithologies of Greece by  
81 combining our Sr data with previously published bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data and evaluate them through  
82 comparison with the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data from the cultural layers of Kirrha and Ayios Vasileios.

## 83 **2. Background**

### 84 2.1. Geology of Greece

85 As a result of strong tectono-metamorphic and orogenic activity, Greece is characterised by a complex  
86 relief and geology. Large parts of the country are mountainous with notable mountain ranges, such as the  
87 Rhodope mountain range, which forms the border between Greece and Bulgaria, and the Pindos mountain  
88 range, which stretches from the northwest of the country to the southeast extending across the  
89 Peloponnese and many Aegean islands, such as Crete. The geology of Greece is divided into distinct  
90 geotectonic units comprised of nine tectono-stratigraphic terranes (Papanikolaou, 2015, 2013). However, in  
91 many parts of the country these units are not always lithologically reflected by the respective outcrop

92 patterns of the rocks pertaining to these units as they are covered by post-Alpine, mainly Quaternary  
93 erosional sediment deposits.

94 **Figure 1** shows a simplified geological map of Greece, which assembles the different surface lithologies  
95 found in Greece into five groups: 1) The Cenozoic, Mesozoic and Palaeozoic volcanic rocks, ophiolites and  
96 Cenozoic intrusives (referred to as 'igneous outcrops' in the following); 2) the Cenozoic sediments; 3) the  
97 Palaeozoic sediments, Mesozoic and Palaeozoic metamorphic rocks and Palaeozoic and Precambrian  
98 intrusives (referred to as 'Palaeozoic outcrops' in the following); 4) the Mesozoic sediments; and 5) the  
99 Precambrian sediments and Precambrian metamorphic rocks groups (referred to as 'Precambrian outcrops'  
100 in the following). Most of Greece is covered by Cenozoic and Mesozoic sediments. The Cenozoic sediments  
101 are mainly clastic sediments, such as flysch and conglomerates, while the Mesozoic sediments are  
102 predominantly carbonates (BGR, 2020; EGDI, 2019). The northeast of Greece is characterised by extensive  
103 Palaeozoic and Precambrian rock outcrops, which also extend south east into to the Peloponnese and the  
104 Aegean islands. The most common outcrops found within these areas are dominated by phyllites, shists  
105 and gneisses (BGR, 2020; EGDI, 2019). Igneous outcrops are mainly found on the Aegean islands and in the  
106 north of Greece and are dominated by a range of plutonic and volcanic rocks (BGR, 2020).

107 The study area in Central Greece is dominated by Cenozoic and Mesozoic sediments (**Figure 1**). These are  
108 commonly flysch sediments and limestones, respectively (BGR, 2020). Small ophiolite complexes are further  
109 found within the north of the study area (BGR, 2020; EGDI, 2019).

## 110 2.2. Available $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ baseline data for Greece

111 Most studies utilising Sr isotopes in Greece focused on defining the local Sr isotope baseline of a limited  
112 target area, resulting in an uneven coverage with many parts of the country, in particular northern and  
113 central Greece, underrepresented (**Figure 2**). This study partially remedies this by adding 25 additional  
114 sample sites to the centre of mainland Greece. The methods used to procure  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baseline data varied  
115 significantly depending on the aim of the respective studies. Provenance studies of objects or building  
116 materials, such as glass or marble, generally use bulk rock  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values to characterise the signature  
117 range of a suspected area of origin. Human mobility studies on the other hand rely on the bioavailable  
118  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  fraction characterising a suspected target area, which can differ considerably from the areas bulk  
119  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature. The bioavailable signature can be determined using a range of materials, such as  
120 modern and archaeological animal remains, or modern environmental archives. In the following paragraphs  
121 we give an overview over the available  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data for Greece.

### 122 2.2.1. Archaeological mobility studies

123 Despite the long and rich history of Greece, only a handful of archaeological mobility studies utilising  
124 bioavailable Sr isotopes have been conducted for Greece thus far, with most of them focusing on a single  
125 context with a limited geographical range. The geographically most extensive archaeological study was  
126 conducted by Prevedorou (2015), who presented bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data for 42 different locations, most  
127 of which were located on the Aegean islands and the eastern mainland. The study used modern proxies  
128 (water, snail shells and faunal remains) reporting a total range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios of 0.70684 to 0.71068.  
129 Another geographically extensive study focused mainly on the Aegean, but also some parts of the Greek  
130 mainland and Crete was conducted by Nafplioti (2011; and references therein). The study determined the  
131 compositional range of bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios using archaeological and modern animal skeletal tissue  
132 (e.g. snail shells or pig teeth) and archaeological human bone and recorded for 26 sampling sites a total  
133 range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios from of 0.78154 to 0.71187. Additionally,  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data of  
134 archaeological human bone and dentine is available for two Bronze Age archaeological sites in western  
135 Crete (Kephala Petras and Livari-Skiadi), which suggest a narrow bioavailable range with  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values  
136 from 0.70878 to 0.70907 (Triantaphyllou et al., 2015). On the Peloponnese, a study on Neanderthal  
137 humanoid mobility returned  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values between 0.7086 and 0.7094 for animal dentine found in  
138 Lakonis Cave (Richards et al., 2008) and the range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values around the ancient city of  
139 Stymphalos was constrained as 0.7075 to 0.71012 using the teeth of archaeological sheep/goats and pigs  
140 (Leslie, 2012). For the prehistoric Sarakenos Cave in Central Greece, a range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values  
141 from 0.70820 to 0.70926 was determined using local plant samples (Wang et al., 2019). In a study on  
142 mobility during the Iron Age a range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  between 0.7078 and 0.7103 for three  
143 archaeological sites in south-eastern Thessaly based on modern snail shells and plant samples was reported  
144 (Panagiotopoulou et al., 2018). In another study on animal husbandry practices, measurements of modern  
145 animal remains and plants along the southern border of Thessaly returned  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values between  
146 0.70812 and 0.70938 (Bishop et al., 2020). Finally, Whelton et al. (2018) and Vaiglova et al. (2018)  
147 investigated seven archaeological settlements in south-western Macedonia constraining the range of  
148 bioavailable Sr isotope compositions of the area to values between 0.70822 - 0.71148 using faunal teeth  
149 and vegetation samples.

#### 150 2.2.2. Other published $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ data

151 Due to the versatile application of bioavailable Sr isotopes as a provenance tool in food authenticity  
152 studies, as well as in archaeological and forensic sciences, recent investigations have increasingly focussed  
153 on defining large scale regional baselines over case specific local baselines. These studies provide additional  
154 bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data, also for Greece. In a recent study, plant, water and soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data

155 from 52 sites across the Peloponnese peninsula were presented, and these data define a total range in  
156 bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values between 0.70779 and 0.72370 (Frank et al., 2021). Soil leachate data is also  
157 available from a Europe-wide study investigating grazing and agricultural soils conducted by Hoogewerff et  
158 al. (2019). These authors reported bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values between 0.70710 and 0.71992 for 46 soils  
159 across Greece. Finally, Voerkelius et al. (2010) analysed spring waters from across Europe, including 13  
160 from Greece. Data in this particular study define a  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value range from 0.70782 to 0.70946.

161 **Figure 2** also includes bulk rock  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data from geochemical and material provenance studies conducted  
162 in Greece. Bulk  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of the bedrock of an area are commonly inadequate to trace biological  
163 material (e.g. Bentley, 2006). However, as weathering of the bedrocks is generally a major source  
164 contributing to the bioavailable Sr composition of an area (e.g. Bentley, 2006; Montgomery, 2010), bulk  
165 rock  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data can give valuable insight into the regional source end-members. Therefore, we included  
166 such data sets herein. Most bulk rock  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures reported for Greece were conducted to constrain  
167 the provenance of building materials. To provenance gypsum, Gale et al. (1988) investigated gypsum  
168 deposits from Crete, the Peloponnese and western Greece, whose average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  composition ranges  
169 between 0.70752 and 0.70886. Marble quarries from the Aegean islands, the Peloponnese and Attica are  
170 characterised by average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  compositions between 0.70710 and 0.70822 (Brilli et al., 2005; Gärtner et  
171 al., 2011). For Eubeoa, a geochemical study further reported an average marble and limestone  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
172 composition of 0.70776 and 0.70734, respectively (Tremba et al., 1975). The average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures of  
173 calc-alkaline lavas on the islands of Santorini and Milos were determined as 0.70504 and 0.70600,  
174 respectively (Barton et al., 1983), and hydrothermally altered basaltic rocks of the Pindos ophiolites yielded  
175 an average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  composition of 0.70534 as determined by Valsami-Jones and Cann (1994).

### 176 2.3. Archaeological sites

177 The archaeological sites of Kirrha and Ayios Vasileios are two Bronze Age settlements in Greece (**Figure 1**).  
178 Both sites are of special significance to the understanding of social dynamics in the so called “transitional”  
179 period from Middle to Late Bronze Age on the Greek mainland. The changing burial customs observed in  
180 both sites reflect a vibrant discourse between the past, present and future, well in accordance with the  
181 changing social landscape of this seminal period at the dawn of the Mycenaean civilization (Lagia et al.,  
182 2016; Moutafi and Voutsaki, 2016). Hence, Kirrha and Ayiso Vasileios are ideal sites to investigate the  
183 connection between individual mobility and changing traditions and were thus included to evaluate the  
184 applicability of the baselines calculated for Greece herein for future mobility studies. A detailed description  
185 of both sites is given in Supplement S1.

## 186 3. Material and Methods

187 3.1. Material and sampling

188 A total of 82 environmental samples (water, plants and soils) were collected from 25 sites across Central  
189 Greece to constrain bioavailable Sr isotope ranges of an otherwise largely unexplored area of Greece's  
190 mainland (Table 1). The sites were distributed evenly between the Cenozoic (12 sites) and Mesozoic  
191 sediments (13 sites) encompassing the study areas' surface lithology. Wherever possible, pristine,  
192 unfarmed locations were preferred. Our site classification into 'natural' and 'agricultural' is based on the  
193 land use of the sites' immediate surroundings (Supplement S2). Natural sites refer to pristine, undisturbed  
194 locations, such as forests or national parks and were commonly found in mountainous terrane. The  
195 agricultural sites refer to orchards, pastures and grasslands, while crop fields were excluded due to the  
196 intense fertiliser use common for such fields. Agricultural areas usually dominated the flat terranes, plains  
197 and river valleys.

198 For logistical purposes, sites from which all three proxies (water, plants and soils) could be sampled within a  
199 ~250m radius were preferred. Water was preferably sampled from running surface water bodies (river and  
200 streams). In dry areas where no significant surface water was present, spring water was collected instead  
201 from local fountains located up to 7km from the sampling sites to supplement our dataset. To determine a  
202 site's average bioavailable Sr isotope composition, three soils and plants were sampled within a ~250m  
203 radius at each location. Soil samples correspond to topsoils taken 5-10cm below the soil surface. The depth  
204 was chosen to avoid the organic surface layer. For the plant samples, shrubs or small trees within close  
205 proximity of the soil locations were chosen. Plants of up to 3m in height were sampled to ensure a root  
206 system that samples large parts of the soil profile, but is minimal influenced by the organic surface layer or  
207 deep groundwater. The sampled species depended on the availability and included inter alia sage, maple  
208 and olive (Supplement S2). Leaves were taken from different heights of the shrubs to ensure a  
209 homogenised, representative sample.

210 Besides the modern environmental samples, soil samples were taken from the cultural layers of Kirrha and  
211 Ayios Vasileios. Care was taken to choose samples from different areas of the two cemeteries and from  
212 different types of graves. The samples were always taken rather deep in the grave, and collected at the  
213 stratigraphic level of the skeletons, around or inside bones. A more detailed description of the sampled  
214 graves is given in Supplement S3.

215 3.2. Sample preparation

216 To remove any particulate matter, the water samples were filtered using 0.45µm syringe filters. From each  
217 sample, 5ml were pipetted into pre-cleaned Teflon beakers. The aliquots were spiked with a <sup>84</sup>Sr enriched



218 tracer to determine the Sr concentration via isotope dilution (ID) and subsequently dried down on a hot  
219 plate at 100°C overnight

220 The sampled leaves were cleaned with moist KIMTECH wipes to remove any dust and were then air-dried.  
221 The air-dried samples were subsequently crushed using an agate mortar. For every sample site, a  
222 composite plant sample consisting of ~33mg plant material from each of its three subsamples (resulting in  
223 ~100mg combined plant material from the site) were weighed into pre-cleaned ceramic crucibles. The  
224 samples were placed in a laboratory muffle furnace and incinerated at 750°C for 5h. Once cooled, the  
225 samples were transferred with ~2ml ultra-clean (Milli-Q 18MΩ resistivity) water (MQ) into pre-cleaned  
226 Teflon beakers. Next, the samples were dried down on a hot plate at 100°C before being further digested  
227 using 1ml concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub>. After being dried down again, the samples were re-dissolved in 2ml 3M  
228 HNO<sub>3</sub> and placed into an ultrasonic bath for ~10min. Finally, 1ml aliquots were removed from the samples,  
229 spiked with an adequate amount of <sup>84</sup>Sr enriched tracer, and dried down again.

230 The air-dried modern soil samples were carefully ground using an agate mortar. For the preparation of  
231 composite leachates of modern soil samples, 0.33g of each of the three subsamples taken at one site were  
232 weighed into a 15ml test tube, which amounted to a total soil sample amount of ~1g. The archaeological  
233 soil samples were sieved and ground. For the leachates 1g of soil from each of the cultural layer samples  
234 was weighed into 15ml test tubes. The samples were then reacted with 5ml of a 1M ammonium nitrate  
235 (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>) solution in an overhead-shaker for 2h and left to settle for 1h. Next, the samples were  
236 centrifuged and 0.5ml aliquots were pipetted into pre-cleaned Teflon beakers. The aliquots were spiked  
237 with a <sup>84</sup>Sr enriched tracer and dried down on a hot plate at 100°C. This extraction procedure follows in  
238 large parts the methods applied in the Europe-wide soil-based bioavailable strontium isotope survey, which  
239 was performed as part of the Geochemical Mapping of Agricultural and Grazing Land Soil (GEMAS)  
240 framework program (Hoogewerff et al., 2019).

### 241 3.3. Sr separation and thermal ionisation mass spectrometry (TIMS)

242 The Sr separation procedure followed in large parts the method introduced by Frei and Frei, (2011). 1ml  
243 pipette tips were mounted with pressed-in filters that were pre-cleaned in 6M HCl to be used as disposable  
244 extraction columns. The columns were charged with 200 µl pre-cleaned SrSpec™ resin (50–100 mesh;  
245 Eichrome Inc./Tristchem) and conditioned with 3M HNO<sub>3</sub>. The dried down water, soil leachate and plant  
246 residues were re-dissolved in a few drops of 3M HNO<sub>3</sub> and loaded onto the columns. To separate Sr, the  
247 column matrices were rinsed with ~10ml 3M HNO<sub>3</sub> before Sr could be collected using ~2ml MQ. The  
248 collected solutions were dried down on a hot plate at 120°C overnight. Finally, the samples were loaded

249 onto previously outgassed 99.98% single Re filaments using 2.5µl of a Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-HF activator solution to  
250 prepare them for TIMS measurements.

251 The Sr isotopic compositions and concentrations were determined at the Department of Geoscience and  
252 Natural Resource Management (IGN) at the University of Copenhagen using a VG Sector 54 IT mass  
253 spectrometer equipped with eight Faraday detectors. The samples were analysed in dynamic multi-  
254 collector runs with analysing intensities  $\geq 1V$  for <sup>88</sup>Sr and analysing temperatures between 1300-1350 °C.  
255 Repeated analyses of loads of SRM 987 Sr standard yielded a <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratio of  $0.710238 \pm 0.000020$  ( $n = 7$ ,  
256  $2\sigma$ ), which is slightly lower than the published value for SRM 987 value of 0.710245 (Thirlwall, 1991). The  
257 measured sample <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr values were corrected accordingly for this offset. Recorded within-run precisions  
258 (2SE) of individual runs were consistently  $< 0.0025\%$  (Table 1+2). Procedural Sr blank amounts were  
259 generally  $< 60\text{pg}$  and blank <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr values varied between 0.7095 and 0.7122. These blank Sr contributions  
260 are insignificant when considering the large amounts of Sr processed in the samples (typically  $\geq 200\text{ng}$ ), so  
261 that no blank corrections were performed.

## 262 4. Results

### 263 4.1. Bioavailable Sr isotope composition and concentration range of Central Greece

264 The Sr concentrations and <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr values of the waters, plants and soil leachates are given in Table 1. The  
265 <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr values span a comparatively narrow range from 0.70768 to 0.71021, with the minimum and  
266 maximum value observed for two soil leachates, respectively. The soil leachates define an average  
267 bioavailable <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr composition of  $0.70855 \pm 0.00060$  ( $n = 25$ ,  $1\sigma$ ), with bioavailable Sr concentrations  
268 (relative to dry unleached bulk soil) between 3.5mg/kg and 34mg/kg. The plant samples record a similar  
269 range in bioavailable <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr values between 0.70770 and 0.71016 with an average <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr value of  
270  $0.70861 \pm 0.00055$  ( $n = 25$ ,  $1\sigma$ ). The plant Sr concentrations recorded values up to 110mg/kg, but range  
271 typically from 2.5mg/kg to 26mg/kg.

272 The analysed surface and spring water <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr values range from 0.70769 to 0.70995 with average values  
273 of  $0.70831 \pm 0.00053$  ( $n = 15$ ,  $1\sigma$ ) and  $0.70835 \pm 0.00031$  ( $n = 17$ ,  $1\sigma$ ), respectively. The surface water Sr  
274 concentrations vary between 0.06mg/l and 0.56mg/l and the spring water Sr concentrations between  
275 0.05mg/l and 0.64mg/l.

276 The <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr data reported here encompasses and slightly extends the range in previously published  
277 <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr values (0.70798 – 0.70916) for the study area (Hoogewerff et al., 2019; Voerkelius et al., 2010).

### 278 4.2. Distribution patterns and proxy variation

279 In order to study the inter- and intra-site specific proxy variation and to see whether the regional  
280 distribution in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  reflects the surface lithology of our study area, we plotted the Sr  
281 isotope compositions of the different environmental proxies sorted by sample site and surface lithology  
282 (Figure 3). The grouping of the different sample sites based on their surface lithology reveals similar  
283  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges for both Cenozoic and Mesozoic sediments with average bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of  
284  $0.70844 \pm 0.00051$  ( $n = 39$ ,  $1\sigma$ ) and  $0.70852 \pm 0.00052$  ( $n = 43$ ,  $1\sigma$ ), respectively. Using Tukey's outlier test,  
285 which defines outliers as values that exceed more than 1.5 times the interquartile range from the quartiles  
286 (Tukey, 1977), the surface water, plant and soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of site CG22 are identified as  
287 statistical outliers, suggesting that our data might overestimate the bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  range typical for  
288 Mesozoic sediments to some extent.

289 Samples from areas dominated by Mesozoic and Cenozoic sediments are both characterised by fairly  
290 homogeneous  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values with a maximum variation between  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of 0.0024 (Figure 3). This  
291 is in agreement with previously published multi-proxy  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data from the Peloponnese and Cyprus. In  
292 both locations inter-site proxy variation consistently  $<0.002$  between plants, soil leachates and waters were  
293 reported for areas characterised by sedimentary units (Frank et al., 2021; Ladegaard-Pedersen et al., 2019).  
294 In the current study, the surface and spring water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values vary generally by less than  $<0.0014$ , while  
295 the plants and soil leachates are characterised by maximum offsets of  $\sim 0.002$ . The different proxies from  
296 one site generally yielded  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values within 0.0015 of each other for both the data from sites within  
297 Mesozoic and Cenozoic sediment dominated areas. The lowest intra-proxy variations are observed  
298 between the plants and soil leachates ( $\leq 0.0005$ ) and the largest (0.002) between the soil leachate and  
299 spring water samples of site CG22, which is located near the village of Kyrtoni (Figure 1).

#### 300 4.3. Cultural layers of Kirrha and Ayos Vasileios

301 The Sr concentrations and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of the leached archaeological soils from the cultural layers of  
302 Kirrha and Ayos Vasileios are listed in Table 2. The cultural layers of Kirrha returned a very narrow range in  
303  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values from 0.70848 to 0.70856 with an average value of  $0.70854 \pm 0.00004$  ( $n = 7$ ,  $1\sigma$ ). The  
304 leached Sr concentrations (relative to dry unleached bulk soil) define a narrow range in bioavailable mobile  
305 Sr between 13.5mg/kg and 16.6mg/kg.

306 The cultural layers from Ayos Vasileios returned slightly higher and more variable bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
307 values (0.70864 – 0.70901) with an average value of  $0.70883 \pm 0.00015$  ( $n = 4$ ,  $1\sigma$ ) and leached Sr  
308 concentrations (relative to dry unleached bulk soil) between 2.3mg/kg and 4.3mg/kg.

### 309 5. Discussion

## 310 5.1. Sources of bioavailable Sr on Central Greece

311 Bioavailable Sr can be sourced from endogenous sources, such as rocks and soils reflecting local geological  
312 background, as well as exogenous inputs, like atmospheric deposition and anthropogenic activities (e.g.  
313 Bentley, 2006; Capo et al., 1998; Frei and Frei, 2013). The bioavailable Sr fraction of Central Greece is likely  
314 a result of mixed Sr from several sources. To safely include the water, plant and soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
315 signatures as baseline values for mobility studies, it is important to understand the processes and sources  
316 controlling their bioavailable Sr composition. Similarly, when investigating human mobility in archaeological  
317 studies, it is also essential to understand which bioavailable Sr sources are the ones that are most relevant  
318 to the human diet. Here, the concentrations of the different Sr sources play a significant role (e.g. Frei et  
319 al., 2020).

320 To determine the potential endmembers controlling the bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  composition of Central  
321 Greece we created mixing diagrams plotting the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of our investigated proxies against their  
322 respective Sr concentration (Figure 4). These diagrams reveal that the environmental proxies sampled from  
323 areas characterised by Cenozoic and Mesozoic sediments span a similar array, suggesting similar or even  
324 overlapping Sr sources for bedrock associations. Further, Figure 4 shows no clear correlation between the  
325 Sr concentrations and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of either proxy, which suggests that the bioavailable Sr signatures of  
326 Central Greece are determined by multiple (at least three) Sr sources. The Sr data of the different proxies  
327 appear to converge to a Sr-rich (low  $1/\text{Sr}$ ), unradiogenic Sr end-member. This Sr source is likely inherent in  
328 the local bedrock, which is dominated by typically unradiogenic, Sr-rich Mesozoic carbonates and Cenozoic  
329 sediments with clastic carbonate components (BGR, 2020; EGD, 2019). This is in good agreement with  
330 previously published studies that identified carbonates (e.g. limestones and dolomites) as a dominant  
331 endogenous source of bioavailable Sr in various parts of the world (Frei and Frei, 2011; Frei et al., 2020; Liu  
332 et al., 2016, 2013; Ryan et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2019), and also in Greece (Frank et al., 2021; Nafplioti,  
333 2011).

334 In some parts of Central Greece, rare outcrops of Mesozoic igneous rocks occur (BGR, 2020; EGD, 2019).  
335 These potentially constitute another endogenous source of Sr for these areas. Contribution of Sr from  
336 igneous (granitoid) rocks to the respective bioavailable fractions could hypothetically explain the  
337 anomalously high  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values measured for the soil leachate, plant and surface water sample of site  
338 CG22. However, the rocks present in areas that we categorize as 'igneous rocks' in Central Greece are  
339 mostly pertaining to ophiolitic sequences, which are expected to be characterised by unradiogenic  
340 bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures of  $\sim 0.704$ , values typical for oceanic basalts (Capo et al., 1998; Tommasini  
341 et al., 2018), rendering them an unlikely source for the anomalously high  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of CG22. Further,

342 analyses from sample site CG18, which is characterised by similar bedrocks as site CG22, diverge in Sr  
343 isotope compositions from the latter site. The proxies from this site returned  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values that are  
344 similar to those of Mesozoic carbonates, suggesting that the surrounding surface sediments contribute  
345 most of the bioavailable Sr to CG18, likely through localised atmospheric and riverine transport. This was  
346 also suggested by Frank et al. (2021), who found no significant Sr contributions from igneous rocks to the  
347 surface environment of the Peloponnese, but instead recorded  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values typical for the nearest  
348 surface outcrop at sites characterised by igneous outcrops. Depending on the composition and mass of  
349 such local additions they would result in distinctly different Sr signatures, which could explain the different  
350  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values measured at CG18 and CG22. However, they are unlikely to significantly alter the Sr isotope  
351 compositions of areas dominated by Sr-rich surface outcrops, such as the carbonates and carbonate-  
352 derived clastic sediments found on Central Greece.

353 While the observed scatter in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values in **Figure 4** is likely mainly due to variable contributions from  
354 Mesozoic and Cenozoic sediments, the large scatter in Sr concentrations suggests the presence of one or  
355 more additional endmembers of low Sr concentration. In some areas, seawater-derived Sr has been  
356 identified as an important source of bioavailable Sr to the surface environment of areas exposed to the sea  
357 (Evans et al., 2010; Frei and Frei, 2013; Ryan et al., 2018; Whipkey et al., 2000). Marine salts are  
358 characterised by the Sr isotope composition that modern seawater has today ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.7092$ ; Burke et  
359 al., 1982; McArthur et al., 2001) and these can be added to the surface environment directly through sea-  
360 spray and/or rain (Bentley, 2006; Evans et al., 2010; Montgomery, 2010). A rainwater sample taken on the  
361 Peloponnese recorded a  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value of 0.70892 (Frank et al., 2021). While this one value likely  
362 underestimates the regional and seasonal variance expected for rainwater, it was chosen as the best  
363 possible representative for our study area due to a lack of other data. The rainwater in this area has a  
364  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value very similar to that of modern seawater suggesting that marine salts likely dominate the Sr  
365 composition of rainwater with other aerosols, such as dust or biogenic material, playing a minor role. The  
366 addition of Sr via sea-spray and rainfall to the endogenous carbonate-sourced Sr likely accounts for the  
367 large scatter in Sr concentration observed in **Figure 4** as seawater and rain are characterised by  
368 comparatively low Sr concentrations (0.0001  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$  - 383 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ; Capo et al., 1998; Tommasini et al., 2018). Its  
369 effect, if there is one, would be a pure dilution of the endogenous bioavailable Sr with little or no effect on  
370 its isotope compositions.

371 Besides the wet deposition of rain and sea-spray, the dry deposition of local and foreign dust may  
372 contribute to the composition of the Greek surface environment (Vasilatou et al., 2017). Foreign dust can  
373 originate from as far away as the Sahara Desert (e.g. Goudie and Middleton, 2001). Dust from this part of

374 the world is yet another potential exogenous source of Sr, and is characterised by variable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
375 signatures of 0.712 to 0.740 (Erel and Torrent, 2010; Grousset et al., 1998; Grousset and Biscaye, 2005).  
376 The Sr contribution from Saharan dust to the surface environment of Central Greece is likely highly variable  
377 and dependant on factors such as wind direction and relief. However, considering that the investigated  
378 proxies generally returned unradiogenic bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values herein ( $\leq 0.71$ ), the potential  
379 contribution of Sr derived from Saharan dust appears to play a minor role in determining the bioavailable  
380  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  composition of Central Greece.

381 Finally, when trying to reconstruct past human mobility using a  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baseline based on modern  
382 environmental samples, it is important to account for potential anthropogenic Sr contamination from  
383 agriculture and industry. Fertilisers, for example, have been shown to influence the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  composition of  
384 waters and soils in some cases (Bentley, 2006; and references therein) and different types of fertilisers can  
385 introduce a wide range of Sr isotope signatures (0.705 – 0.711; Hosono et al., 2007; Zieliński et al., 2016).  
386 The amounts and types of fertiliser used in Central Greece are not documented making it difficult to  
387 account for their potential contribution. Hence, we designed our sampling campaign to concentrate on  
388 sample locations on unfarmed, pristine land to limit fertiliser contamination. These sites appeared to be  
389 unaltered by human activity, however, a previous anthropogenic use and potential contamination cannot  
390 be completely excluded. Further, to achieve good geographical coverage, seven sites were sampled within  
391 agricultural areas (Supplement S2). Five of these are located within 10km of pristine, non-agricultural sites,  
392 enabling us to better assess the difference in Sr isotope signatures and Sr concentrations between natural  
393 and agricultural sites. (Table 3). The surface and spring water samples generally returned higher Sr  
394 concentrations for the agricultural sites, which might be due to the addition of anthropogenic Sr. However,  
395 the same trend could not be observed for the soil and samples. Further, the offset in water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values  
396 between natural and agricultural sites is generally  $\leq 0.00013$ , suggesting that any anthropogenic Sr added at  
397 the sampled agricultural sites did not significantly alter the pristine bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  composition. The  
398 plants and soil leachates record  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  offsets of up to  $\sim 0.001$  between natural and agricultural sites, with  
399 the largest offset recorded for the plant samples of site CG01 and CG02. The pristine location, CG01, is  
400 located right beside the coast and returned a plant  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value similar to modern seawater. This suggests  
401 that the offset between the plant and soil leachate values of CG01 and CG02 are more likely due to the  
402 addition of seawater-derived Sr to CG01 than to fertiliser use at CG02. The soil and plant leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
403 values of the remaining pristine-agricultural site pairs are characterised by offsets  $\leq 0.0006$ . While this might  
404 be partially due to anthropogenic contamination, it could also be due to differences in the sites natural  
405 setting. This is supported by the comparatively large offset in the plant and soil  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures of two  
406 pristine sites (CG17 and CG18) only 4km apart, which demonstrate that natural variations in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  of up

407 to 0.001 can occur in the study area over short distances. Differences in a sites setting that could contribute  
408 to these variations include but are not limited to local soil compositional differences, such as varying  
409 amounts of soil carbonates, differences in species-specific nutrient requirements as well as inhomogeneous  
410 contribution from exogenous Sr sources.

## 411 5.2. Differences in proxy $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ signatures

412 Modern environmental samples have been increasingly used to determine bioavailable Sr isotope baselines  
413 for archaeological mobility studies (e.g. Evans et al., 2010; Evans and Tatham, 2004; Frei and Frei, 2011,  
414 2013; Ladegaard-Pedersen et al., 2019, in press; Montgomery, 2010). Different environmental proxies  
415 characterise the Sr isotope composition of different parts of the surface environment. Surface and spring  
416 water samples reflect the average bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature of their catchment area, which can vary  
417 greatly depending on the geological background, hydrological properties and size of the catchment. Also,  
418 spring waters are likely dependent on the lithologies that predominate in their aquifers, as recently shown  
419 by a study of well drinking waters in Denmark (Frei et al., 2020). Plant and soil samples on the other hand  
420 are point samples, which represent the bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values at the immediate sample location.  
421 Further, water follows conservative mixing rules, while the Sr cycle within the soil-root system is rendered  
422 more complex by biological processes. Hence, the question about which environmental proxy is most  
423 suitable to create a reference baseline for bioavailable Sr for ancient mobility studies has been increasingly  
424 debated (Evans and Tatham, 2004; Frank et al., 2021; Frei and Frei, 2011, 2013; Ladegaard-Pedersen et al.,  
425 2019, in press; Maurer et al., 2012; Ryan et al., 2018). **Figure 5** shows the pairwise correlation of our  
426 investigated proxies (surface water, spring water, plants and soil leachates) to better understand and asses  
427 the differences in their respective  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values.

### 428 5.2.1. Plants vs soil leachates

429 Most of the investigated plant and soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values fall along the 1:1 line of **Figure 5a** revealing  
430 a strong positive correlation ( $R^2 = 0.768$ ). No clear divisive trend between the samples from Cenozoic and  
431 Mesozoic sediment-dominated areas can be observed. Both sets of samples are characterised by a largely  
432 overlapping range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values, by similar offsets in either direction compared to the 1:1 line, as well  
433 as by high positive inter-correlations ( $R^2 \geq 0.69$ ). The close relationship between plant and soil leachate  
434  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values is likely due to an isotopically homogeneous soil profile, considering that a wide variety of  
435 plant species with different rooting depth were sampled. This is supported by previous studies, which  
436 reported a similarly close relationship between soil leachates and different plant species in specific areas  
437 (Frank et al., 2021; Ladegaard-Pedersen et al., 2019; Nakano et al., 2001).

438 5.2.2. Plants/Soil leachates vs surface waters

439 The plant vs surface waters plot (Figure 5b) looks similar to the soil leachate vs surface water plot (Figure  
440 5d). However, while the plant  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values show a good correlation towards the surface water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
441 values ( $R^2 = 0.542$ ), the soil leachates  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values are only weakly correlated ( $R^2 = 0.253$ ). The plant and  
442 soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values are generally equal or greater compared to their respective surface water  
443  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values. This is particularly the case for the plant samples, where all but one location (CG09)  
444 recorded a plant  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value lower than the respective surface water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value. The generally lower  
445 surface water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values, compared to the plants and soil leachates suggest a higher influence of  
446 unradiogenic carbonate Sr on the surface waters than on the plants and soils. This can be explained by the  
447 fact that the plant and soil leachates are point samples, whereas the surface waters reflect the average Sr  
448 compositions of larger catchment areas. Considering the high abundance of Sr-rich carbonates in Central  
449 Greece, the sampled surface waters likely picked up carbonate-sourced Sr within their catchment areas and  
450 transported this averaged out Sr isotope signature to the respective sampling sites, resulting in the  
451 observed offsets between surface water and plant/soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values at the investigated sites.

452 When comparing the surface water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of samples from within areas dominated by Cenozoic-  
453 and Mesozoic sediments, they appear to be characterised by different trends compared to the plant and  
454 soil/leachate values (Figure 5b+d). While the surface water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values from areas characterised by  
455 Mesozoic sediments tend to increase with increasing plant  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures ( $R^2 = 0.819$ ) and soil leachate  
456  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values ( $R^2 = 0.568$ ), the surface water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values from areas with Cenozoic sediments define a  
457 cluster around  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} \sim 0.708$  with no apparent correlation with respective plant/soil leachate values. A  
458  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature of  $\sim 0.708$  is very similar to seawater values present during the Cenozoic, which was likely  
459 incorporated in limestones and other carbonate sediments deposited during this period (McArthur et al.,  
460 2001). Hence, the surface waters from areas dominated by Cenozoic sediments likely receive a more  
461 pronounced Sr isotope signal from the weathering of these respective carbonates, which is then  
462 transported by creeks and rivers to the sampling sites.

463 5.2.3. Surface waters vs spring waters

464 Due to the arid conditions in Central Greece, surface waters could not be sampled at all sites. As a recent  
465 study on the Peloponnese suggested that spring waters might serve as a substitute to surface waters in dry  
466 regions (Frank et al., 2021), we supplemented our water sample set with spring waters located within close  
467 proximity to sites without surface water. Further, additional spring water samples were taken close to  
468 seven sites with surface water in order to better assess the suitability of spring waters as a surface water  
469 substitute. While five of these sites fall on or close to the 1:1 line in the surface water vs spring water plot,



470 two sites (CG14 & CG22) yield values which are significantly offset from each other (Figure 5f). These  
471 explain the resulting poor correlation ( $R^2 = 0.101$ ) between surface and spring waters. The observed  
472 difference between the spring water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value and surface water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value for site CG22 could be  
473 purely geographic as the spring water location is located ~6km away from the surface water site. However,  
474 in case of site CG14 where a discrepancy between surface and spring water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature also exists,  
475 the respective spring water sample was taken less than 1km away from the surface water collection site.  
476 This suggests that significant differences in surface and spring water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures can occur over  
477 relatively short distances, which are likely caused by geological and hydrological differences between local  
478 aquifers and catchment areas.

#### 479 5.2.4. Plants/Soil leachates vs spring waters

480 Figure 5c+e reveals that the plant/soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values do not correlate with the spring water  
481  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values ( $R^2 \leq 0.015$ ). While the plants/soil leachate samples are characterised by a range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
482 values of 0.70768 to 0.71021, most of the spring water samples cluster around a  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value of ~0.7083.  
483 The rather homogeneous spring water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures are possibly also the result of Sr from carbonate  
484 dominated aquifers as discussed above for the surface water samples from areas characterized by Cenozoic  
485 sediments. This is further supported by the relatively elevated Sr concentrations that are  $\geq 0.2\text{mg/kg}$  for  
486 many of the spring and surface waters. It appears that local differences between sample sites, such as  
487 geological background and/or proximity to coastlines, are captured in the plant/soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
488 signatures, but not so much in the spring waters, where we expect an averaging out of local  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
489 signatures to happen in the respective aquifers at depth. Unlike the surface waters, this averaging effect is  
490 also seen for spring waters sampled from areas characterised by Mesozoic sediments.

#### 491 5.2.5. Proxy evaluation

492 The range in intra-site proxy variation and different degrees of correlation between our investigated  
493 proxies demonstrate the need for comprehensive multi-proxy investigation to properly assess the  
494 bioavailable Sr isotope composition of an area (Figure 3+5, Table 1). When trying to construct a suitable  
495 reference baseline for human mobility studies, it is paramount to understand the impact of potential local  
496 food and dietary sources. Humans derive Sr mainly through drinking water and plant-based foods as the Sr  
497 concentrations of animal-based foods are comparatively low (Coelho et al., 2017; Rose et al., 2010). Hence,  
498 plants and water samples are the obvious choice for constructing Sr isotope baselines to trace human  
499 mobility. Soil leachates on the other hand have been suggested to be less suitable as they were found to be  
500 quite variable on the regional scale and quite inconsistent with plant data on the local scale (Maurer et al.,  
501 2012). However, considering the close relationship between plant  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values and soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$

502 values observed in this and previous studies (Frank et al., 2021; Ladegaard-Pedersen et al., 2019), we  
503 nevertheless consider soil leachates as a suitable reference substitute for the Sr sourced from plant-based  
504 food.

505 The spring waters sampled in this study correlate poorly with the other investigated proxies including the  
506 surface waters. Hence, they are likely not a good substitute for surface waters in Central Greece as they  
507 commonly diverge from the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature of the surface environment. On the other hand, a study from  
508 Denmark reported a good agreement in Sr isotope signatures between major surface water archives and  
509 well drinking waters (Frei et al., 2020), emphasising that the applicability of spring waters as a surface  
510  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  proxy is dependent on the regional setting. While spring waters might not reflect bioavailable  
511  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values typical for the surface environment of Central Greece it is important to remember that in  
512 such an arid area surface water resources might have been a limited source for human drinking water due  
513 to their scarcity. Hence, spring water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data might still be relevant for inclusion in baseline  
514 characterisation as waters from springs were likely preferably consumed by ancient humans living in  
515 deserted areas, as they do today.

### 516 5.3. Defining bioavailable $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ baselines for Greece

517 In order to conduct meaningful investigations of ancient human mobility, it is imperative to define robust  
518 bioavailable Sr isotope baselines of suspected areas of origin. As discussed in [section 2.2](#), quite a bit of  
519 bioavailable Sr baseline data has been published for Greece over the last years (Bishop et al., 2020; Frank et  
520 al., 2021; Hoogewerff et al., 2019; Leslie, 2012; Nafplioti, 2011, 2008; Panagiotopoulou et al., 2018;  
521 Richards et al., 2008; Triantaphyllou et al., 2015; Vaiglova et al., 2018; Voerkelius et al., 2010; Wang et al.,  
522 2019; Whelton et al., 2018). However, no comprehensive bioavailable Sr baselines exist for Greece as a  
523 whole to this date. Further, most of the above cited studies focused strongly on the Sr isotope signatures of  
524 individuals, and are not dedicated to establishing robust baselines against which the human signatures can  
525 be compared to. In the following, we attempt to remedy this by combining our bioavailable Sr isotope data  
526 from Central Greece with the already published baseline data.

527 We provide Sr bioavailable baselines for the different administrative regions of Greece, suitable to enable  
528 respective regional provenance investigations. Further, we present bioavailable Sr baselines for the main  
529 surface lithologies found in Greece, as the modern administrative regions are likely not representative of  
530 ancient Greece and as bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures in Greece have been shown to heavily depend on  
531 the surface lithology (Frank et al., 2021; Nafplioti, 2011). The baselines were established using baseline data  
532 that are representative of bioavailable fractions only, excluding previously published bulk rock data. The  
533 proxies used include bones of archaeological humans, faunal remains, modern faunal samples as well as

534 modern environmental samples (Supplement S4). The different proxy types all have the possibility to be  
535 biased away from the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotope signature of the human diet. The modern environmental samples  
536 could be influenced by modern day human activity, while both archaeological and modern human and  
537 faunal remains could potentially reflect migration in themselves. However, as in this study, the cited  
538 publications took caution to account for potential biases in their baseline  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data, so that we consider  
539 the different proxy data reliable. In cases where one site is characterised by several  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values from  
540 one or several proxies (e.g. Frank et al., 2021; Panagiotopoulou et al., 2018; Vaiglova et al., 2018), their  
541 average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value was calculated to characterise the respective site. This was done to ensure that  
542 every site was equally weighed when calculating our bioavailable Sr isotope baselines. Finally, as many  
543 studies did not include GPS coordinates for their sampling sites (e.g. Nafplioti, 2011; Panagiotopoulou et al.,  
544 2018; Whelton et al., 2018), their coordinates had to be approximated based on the information provided  
545 by the respective studies. This introduces some degree of uncertainty to the grouping of the samples based  
546 on their respective region and surface geology.

547 When establishing reference baselines for a region for the purpose of mobility studies it is common to  
548 define the baselines as the average bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature of that region  $\pm$  its single ( $\bar{x} \pm \sigma$ ) or  
549 double standard deviation ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ). We calculated both, but will in the following focus on the baselines  
550 defined by their double standard deviations to ensure a broader, more conservative applicability of our  
551 baselines (Figure 6). For regions and surface lithologies, which are characterised by less than five sampling  
552 sites, no baselines were calculated. Finally, it is important to note, that our baselines are meant as a first  
553 attempt to better characterise the bioavailable Sr isotope composition of the Greek surface environment to  
554 provide future mobility studies with a better understanding of the range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values.  
555 They should be regarded as a starting point for futures sampling campaigns. Certainly, depending on the  
556 target area and goal of such studies, additional sampling is necessary to achieve a higher spatial resolution.

### 557 5.3.1. Geographical distribution of bioavailable $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ signatures

558 Of the 13 administrative regions of Greece (Central Macedonia and Athos were considered as one, due to  
559 the small size of the latter), bioavailable Sr isotope baselines could be defined for ten of them (Figure 6a).  
560 The resulting baselines show a wide range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values, with the narrowest baseline  
561 observed for West Greece and the highest variability observed for West Macedonia.

562 The bioavailable Sr isotope baseline of West Greece is tentatively calculated as  $0.70832 \pm 0.00049$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  
563  $n=17$ ) encompassing all published Sr data for West Greece but one soil sample (Hoogewerff et al., 2019).  
564 However, the offset between this soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value and the upper baseline range is  $<0.00003$ ,

565 rendering the baseline a decent fit for assessing the regional bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature of West  
566 Greece.

567 Crete is characterised by a similarly narrow bioavailable Sr baseline range of  $0.70888 \pm 0.00054$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  
568  $n=17$ ). One spring water from Crete yielded a  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value  $\sim 0.002$  lower than the lower baseline range  
569 (Voerkelius et al., 2010), suggesting that the calculated baseline underestimates the total range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
570 found on Crete. As also seen in this study, spring waters can record a distinctly different  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature  
571 than surface waters or other surface proxies as they might tap deeper aquifers that sit in lithologically  
572 different strata. Hence, additional sampling of spring water might be necessary for future mobility studies  
573 on Crete, if the archaeological context provides evidence of water usage from wells.

574 The  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baseline of Central Greece completely encompasses the baseline ranges of West Greece and  
575 Crete with a range in bioavailable Sr of  $0.70862 \pm 0.00092$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=42$ ). Despite the wider baseline range,  
576 four sites in Central Greece returned  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values up to 0.00016 higher than the upper baseline range.  
577 Two of these sites were soils sampled from Palaeozoic outcrops on the island Euboea (Hoogewerff et al.,  
578 2019), which are expected to be characterised by more radiogenic  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values. Hence, the elevated  
579  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of these sites are likely due to natural variation in the surface lithology. The other two sites  
580 are located both on Mesozoic sediments, suggesting that their elevated  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value compared to the  
581 calculated baseline might not be caused by the surface lithology of the site (This study; Prevedorou, 2015).  
582 One of these sites is CG22 from this study. As the anomalously high bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values measured  
583 at this site are likely the result of natural variations in Sr input, the calculated baseline for Western Greece  
584 might slightly underestimate the total range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  typical for Central Greece.

585 The region of Central Macedonia and Athos is characterised by a bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baseline of  $0.70960 \pm$   
586  $0.00122$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=12$ ). For one agricultural soil in Central Macedonia, a positive offset of  $\sim 0.0001$   
587 compared to the upper baseline range was reported (Hoogewerff et al., 2019). This could be due to  
588 anthropogenic contamination in the agricultural soil, but is more likely the result of the highly variable  
589 surface lithology in Central Macedonia, as the soil is developed on Precambrian outcrops.

590 The  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baselines of the Peloponnese and West Macedonia, which are calculated as  $0.70936 \pm 0.00617$   
591 ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=62$ ) and  $0.71033 \pm 0.00780$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=8$ ), respectively. On the Peloponnese four sites and in West  
592 Macedonia one site returned  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values significantly above their respective upper baseline range with  
593 offsets of up to  $\sim 0.008$  (Frank et al., 2021; Hoogewerff et al., 2019). These sites are all located within areas  
594 characterised by Palaeozoic or Precambrian outcrops, suggesting that these outlier-like values are due to  
595 natural variations within the surface lithology. Further, due to the high variability in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values  
596 observed in both regions, their calculated baselines are characterised by very wide ranges. These might

597 seem unsuitable for investigating mobility within Greece as they encompass the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotope signatures  
598 of all the other regions. Hence, when investigating mobility within the Peloponnese or West Macedonia it  
599 might be appropriate to redefine their respective baselines using only their single standard deviation or to  
600 define regionally smaller baselines within the Peloponnese or West Macedonia.

601 The  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data from Attica and the South Aegean define rather narrow Sr bioavailable baseline ranges of  
602  $0.70859 \pm 0.00066$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=10$ ) and  $0.70889 \pm 0.00083$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=28$ ), respectively. On the other hand,  
603 Thessaly and the North Aegean are characterised by a slightly wider baseline ranges in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
604 values of  $0.70870 \pm 0.00113$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=11$ ) and  $0.70925 \pm 0.00201$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=8$ ), respectively. All four  
605 baselines encompass all of the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data published for their respective regions to date, suggesting that  
606 the baselines are a good approximation of the range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values typical for Attica, the North and  
607 South Aegean and Thessaly.

608 Figure 2 reveals that the baseline sampling sites cover the different administrative regions of Greece  
609 unevenly. While the South Aegean and the Peloponnese are thoroughly explored with sampling densities of  
610 53 and 39 sites per 10000km<sup>2</sup>, northern Greece is underrepresented with sampling densities consistently  
611 below 10 sites per 10000km<sup>2</sup>. For the administrative regions East Macedonia and Thrace, Epirus and the  
612 Ionian Islands too few  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data is available to date to calculate statistically sound baselines. The data  
613 points published for these regions only give a first estimate of what the bioavailable Sr composition in these  
614 regions could be like (Supplement S4). The calculated baselines for Central Macedonia and Athos, West  
615 Macedonia and Thessaly are based on sampling densities between 6 and 8.5 sites per 10000 km<sup>2</sup>.  
616 Considering the complex surface lithology of northern Greece (Figure 1), such sampling site densities are  
617 likely insufficient to adequately capture the complete variability in Sr isotope compositions. Hence,  
618 additional sampling should be conducted in these regions in order to better characterise their bioavailable  
619 baseline  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  range. Future mobility studies without the means to conduct additional sampling in these  
620 areas could alternatively use the statistical, bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges based on the surface lithology of  
621 Greece, which will be discussed in the following.

### 622 5.3.2. Bioavailable $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ signatures and the geological background

623 Environmental proxy data grouped into the five main surface lithology groups found in Greece returned  
624 distinctly different statistical Sr isotopic signatures (Figure 6b). The areas characterised by Cenozoic and  
625 Mesozoic sediments are characterised by unradiogenic, narrowly defined bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges,  
626 which is in good agreement with previously reported Sr isotope baseline data from other Mediterranean  
627 regions (Cavazzuti et al., 2019; Frank et al., 2021; Ladegaard-Pedersen et al., 2019). Locations within  
628 igneous outcrops returned a bioavailable Sr isotope range similar to that of the Cenozoic and Mesozoic

629 sediments with a rather unradiogenic average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value and a narrow baseline range. The bioavailable  
630  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature ranges of the areas dominated by Palaeozoic and Precambrian rock outcrops on the  
631 other hand are defined by more radiogenic  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  averages and wide ranges in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values.

632 The sites located within Cenozoic sediment dominated areas define a bioavailable Sr isotope range of  
633  $0.70866 \pm 0.00082$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=92$ ) for all of Greece. This statistical range covers all of the bioavailable Sr data  
634 reported for samples from Cenozoic sediments, except for one soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value from West  
635 Macedonia and one animal teeth  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value from Central Macedonia (Hoogewerff et al., 2019; Whelton  
636 et al., 2018). These values are slightly more radiogenic than the calculated baseline range, suggesting that  
637 the latter underestimates the total range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  that can occur within areas characterised by Cenozoic  
638 sediments. However, both samples were taken within close proximity to Paleozoic- and/or Precambrian  
639 outcrops, which are commonly characterised by more radiogenic  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values (e.g. Capo et al., 1998;  
640 Tommasini et al., 2018). Hence, the positive offset of up to 0.001 between the baseline compositional  
641 range and the values from West and Central Macedonia is likely a result of mixing of Sr sources along the  
642 outcrop boundary.

643 Just as in Central Greece, sites in areas dominated by Mesozoic sediments across entire Greece are defined  
644 by a very similar range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  as those from areas dominated by Cenozoic sediments. The  
645 statistical range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures of samples from areas characterised by Mesozoic sediments is  
646 calculated as  $0.70853 \pm 0.00094$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=74$ ), which covers most of the reported bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
647 data from these areas. However, at four sites,  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values outside of the calculated baseline range were  
648 reported (This study; Frank et al., 2021; Hoogewerff et al., 2019; Prevedorou, 2015). An agricultural soil  
649 sample from the Peloponnese returned a  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value  $\sim 0.002$  lower than the lower range of the baseline  
650 (Hoogewerff et al., 2019). In the same study a soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value for a grazing land soil, which is  
651 located less than 1km away from the corresponding agricultural soil, is reported as being characterized by a  
652  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value of 0.70888. This falls within the herein defined Sr isotope range, suggesting that the low  
653  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value of the agricultural soil might be due to anthropogenic contamination. The other three sites  
654 that fall outside the calculated  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  range for areas with Mesozoic sediments returned positive upsets  
655 of up to 0.00023 for their environmental proxies. One of these sites is site CG22 from this study. As  
656 discussed above, the higher bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of CG22 are likely caused by local differences in Sr  
657 input, which again emphasises the need of spatially tight sampling campaigns when investigating local  
658 variabilities in bioavailable Sr.

659 The statistical range of bioavailable Sr isotope signatures for areas characterised by igneous outcrops in  
660 Greece is calculated as  $0.70865 \pm 0.00082$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=14$ ). This is surprisingly narrow as igneous rocks are

661 expected to be characterised by a wide range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values depending on their age and initial Rb/Sr  
662 value (e.g. Capo et al., 1998; Tommasini et al., 2018). Frank et al. (2021) as well as this study suggest that  
663 the contribution of bioavailable Sr to the surface environment from weathering of igneous rocks might be  
664 limited on the Peloponnese and Central Greece, where the bioavailable fractions seem to be more  
665 influenced by Sr released from neighbouring lithologies and/or are overprinted by exogenous Sr sources.  
666 This appears to apply for Greece as a whole as well, as most of the sites on igneous outcrops are located on  
667 the Aegean Islands, which generally yield bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values close to that of modern seawater  
668 (0.7092; Burke et al., 1982; McArthur et al., 2001). Further, the one site in the South Aegean that yielded a  
669  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value slightly above the upper  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  range calculated for areas characterised by igneous  
670 outcrops, is located in close proximity to Palaeozoic outcrops, suggesting mixing between unradiogenic  
671 seawater sourced Sr and more radiogenic Sr sourced from these older rock outcrops.

672 The sites located within Palaeozoic outcrops returned a broad-ranged bioavailable Sr isotope signature  
673 range of  $0.71092 \pm 0.00826$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=28$ ). Frank et al. (2021) reported  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values up to 0.0045 above  
674 the upper baseline range for two water samples from Palaeozoic outcrops on the Peloponnese, suggesting  
675 that the calculated baseline range underestimates the total range of  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  typical for these areas. The  
676 latter study generally found a trend towards more radiogenic water  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values compared to soil  
677 leachate and plant  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values when sampling within Palaeozoic outcrops, which emphasises the  
678 importance of multi-proxy sampling to capture the full range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures.

679 The sites dominated by Precambrian outcrops are also characterised by very heterogeneous bioavailable  
680  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures resulting in a broad-ranged statistical  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  range of  $0.71003 \pm 0.00582$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  
681  $n=14$ ). The lower average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value and statistical range observed for the Precambrian outcrops  
682 compared to the Palaeozoic outcrops is surprising as the first are expected to be more radiogenic due to  
683 their geological age. For example, a recent study constraining bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures for southern  
684 Sweden recorded  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values up to 0.73823 for plants sampled from Precambrian outcrops (Ladegaard-  
685 Pedersen et al., in press). One sample site in West Macedonia returned a soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value  
686 0.00408 higher than the upper statistical  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  range (Hoogewerff et al., 2019), further supporting that  
687 more radiogenic  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values can be expected for areas characterised by Precambrian outcrops in  
688 Greece. Hence, additional sampling within these areas might be necessary to fully capture their typical  
689 range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ .

690 As for the baselines of the Peloponnese and West Macedonia, our applied method of defining the average  
691 bioavailable Sr isotope signatures for the different surface lithology groups as the average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value of  
692 all sites from each group  $\pm$  their double standard deviation ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ), resulted in very wide  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges

693 for areas characterised by Palaeozoic and Precambrian outcrops. These completely encompasses the  
694  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  range of the igneous outcrops and Mesozoic and Cenozoic sediments. Hence, future studies on  
695 human mobility within or near Palaeozoic and Precambrian outcrops might want to redefine their  
696 respective baselines depending on the aims of the study. This could for example be done by using only  
697 specific proxies.

### 698 5.3.3. Evaluating the applicability of the defined baselines for ancient mobility studies

699 The Sr isotope composition of the cultural layers of two Bronze Age cemeteries, Kirrha and Ayios Vasileios,  
700 were compared to our calculated geographical and geological baselines (Figure 7). This was done to test the  
701 applicability of our defined baselines for tracing mobility at actual archaeological sites. As the baselines aim  
702 to constrain the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  fraction of the human diet a comparison to soil  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of Bronze Age farm  
703 land would be more ideal. However, the location of these are largely unknown rendering the cultural layers  
704 of the cemeteries the best possible approximation of bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values prevalent during the  
705 Bronze Age.

706 The cemetery of Kirrha is located on Mesozoic sediments in Central Greece (Figure 1). The soil leachates  
707 from the different graves returned a narrow range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature between 0.70848 and 0.70859,  
708 which fall within the calculated baseline for the Mesozoic sediments of Greece and the regional baseline for  
709 Central Greece. Ayios Vasileios, which is located on Cenozoic Sediments on the Peloponnese returned a  
710 slightly wider range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature (0.70864 – 0.70901). This range is covered by the wide Sr isotope  
711 baseline calculated for the Peloponnese, but also by the significantly narrower baseline of the Cenozoic  
712 sediments. As discussed above, the wide baseline range of the Peloponnese might seem unsuitable for  
713 mobility investigations and might need to be redefined based on the aims of future mobility studies. As in  
714 the above discussion, Figure 7 compares the soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature from Kirrha and Ayios Vasileios  
715 to the geographical and geological  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures based on the double standard deviation ( $2\sigma$ ).  
716 However, the geographical and geological ranges defined by their average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  value  $\pm$  their respective  
717 single standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) also encompass the complete variation in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values measured for the  
718 cultural layers from Kirrha and Ayios Vasileios, supporting the applicability of our calculated baselines for  
719 identifying (non-)locals to Greece.

720 The geographical baselines in this study were defined to identify 1) interregional mobility within Greece as  
721 well as 2) locals to Greece and. However, while the cultural layers of Kirrha and Ayios Vasileios returned  
722 distinctly different  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values, their respective geographical baselines are characterised by significant  
723 overlap as both are dominated by carbonate-like  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values (0.707 – 0.709, McArthur et al., 2001). The  
724 baselines defined for the other regions of Greece herein also show an overlap with carbonate-like values to



725 varying degrees. This reveals that the identification of mobility between the different regions of Greece  
726 with the geographical baselines is limited to individuals characterised by a  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature either below  
727 or above the overlapping range. When trying to investigate at a smaller, intraregional scale, the  
728 geographical baselines are not suitable, but, within geologically complex regions, such as the Peloponnese  
729 or West Macedonia, the statistically defined geological  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature can be used to determine  
730 mobility. As the geographical baselines, their applicability is limited by an overlap at carbonate-like values  
731 though. Future mobility studies investigating mobility studies at the intraregional scale within Greece might  
732 be able to reduce the overlap by re-defining geologically based Sr isotope baselines for the region they are  
733 investigating as was done by Frank et al. (2021) for the Peloponnese.

734 The applicability of the statistically defined geographical and geological bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges to  
735 identify locals to Greece is also limited, as they overlap with  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baselines reported for other  
736 Mediterranean areas, such as Cyprus and northern Italy (Cavazzuti et al., 2019; Ladegaard-Pedersen et al.,  
737 2019). Future mobility studies faced with this limitation should therefore consider additional data, such as  
738 other provenance proxies or the archaeological context, when investigating individual mobility in Greece.

## 739 **6. Conclusion**

740 In this study we present Sr isotope signatures and concentrations for plants, soil leachates and spring and  
741 surface waters from 82 samples from Central Greece and combine them with previously published  
742 bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data for all of Greece in order to define the first extensive bioavailable Sr isotope  
743 baseline for the different regions and surface lithologies of Greece. Our conclusions can be summarised as  
744 follows:

- 745 1) The Sr isotope compositions of the different investigated proxies from Central Greece are largely  
746 controlled by the weathering of surface lithologies, in particular of carbonates. The contribution of  
747 foreign Sr to the biosphere, such as from rain, sea-spray and dust, could not be assessed, however  
748 their potential contributions did not seem to have considerable effects on the Sr isotope  
749 compositions of the biosphere.
- 750 2) The surface and spring water samples generally returned quite narrowly ranged  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges  
751 that are compatible with a significant contribution from carbonate-derived Sr. This is also reflected  
752 by their relatively elevated Sr concentrations typically around 0.2 mg/kg. Small variations between  
753 Sr isotope signatures of surface and spring waters are likely due to differences in the characteristics  
754 of lithological sources present in respective catchments and aquifers, and their respective role in  
755 influencing the average Sr isotope signature of the sampled waters. The plants and soil leachates

756 are characterised by a slightly wider range in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values but generally reflect the compositional  
757 tenor of the surface and spring waters.

758 3) We present statistical, bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges for the different administrative regions and  
759 surface lithologies of Greece to better characterise the bioavailable Sr isotope composition of the  
760 Greek surface environment and to provide future mobility studies with a better understanding of  
761 the range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values. These were defined as the average bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
762 signature of the region/geology  $\pm$  its double standard deviation ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ) to ensure a broad  
763 applicability. The ranges defined herein should be considered as a starting point for future mobility  
764 studies and might need to be expanded or redefined based on the goal or target area of these  
765 studies.

766 4) Bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotope baselines were defined for ten of the 13 administrative regions of  
767 Greece. The narrowest baselines are calculated for West Greece ( $0.70832 \pm 0.00049$ ;  $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=17$ )  
768 and Crete ( $0.70888 \pm 0.00054$ ;  $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=17$ ). Attica, the South Aegean, and Central Greece are  
769 characterised by slightly wider, but still unradiogenic baselines of  $0.70859 \pm 0.00066$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=10$ ),  
770  $0.70889 \pm 0.00083$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=28$ ) and  $0.70862 \pm 0.00092$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=42$ ), respectively. Thessaly,  
771 Central Macedonia and Athos and the North Aegean are characterised by slightly wider ranges in  
772 bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of the proxies, defining baselines of  $0.70870 \pm 0.00113$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=11$ ),  
773  $0.70960 \pm 0.00122$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=12$ ) and  $0.70925 \pm 0.00201$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=8$ ), respectively. The widest  
774 bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baseline ranges are defined for the Peloponnese and West Macedonia with  
775  $0.70936 \pm 0.00617$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=61$ ) and  $0.71033 \pm 0.00780$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=8$ ), respectively. This likely  
776 reflects the wide range of different geological ages represented in the rock outcrops exposed in  
777 these regions, which release highly variable Sr isotope fractions into the biosphere. In Central  
778 Greece, the Peloponnese, West Macedonia, Central Macedonia and Athos and West Greece, we  
779 measured some outlier-like values with  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values higher than their respective upper baseline  
780 ranges. These values are typically from samples taken from older, Palaeozoic or Precambrian rock  
781 outcrops, suggesting that additional sampling in these areas might be necessary to better constrain  
782 the range  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  typical for these regions. For the geographical regions of East Macedonia and  
783 Thrace, Epirus and the Ionian Islands not enough bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data is published to date to  
784 calculate statistically meaningful baselines.

785 5) The five main surface lithology groups of Greece are characterised by very different statistical,  
786 bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges. Areas with Mesozoic and Cenozoic sediments are characterised by an  
787 unradiogenic, narrow Sr isotope range of  $0.70853 \pm 0.00094$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=74$ ) and  $0.70866 \pm 0.00103$   
788 ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=92$ ), respectively. The statistical range in bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values for areas

789 characterised by abundant igneous rock outcrops is calculated as  $0.70865 \pm 0.00082$  ( $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=14$ ).  
790 However, it appears that the bioavailable Sr contributions to the surface environment from  
791 weathering of igneous rocks plays a minor role in determining the bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signatures  
792 of Greece. Should this be the case, then future studies should use the Sr isotope ranges typical for  
793 adjacent surface lithologies when investigating mobility in areas characterised by igneous outcrops.  
794 The calculated bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges for samples from areas with Palaeozoic ( $0.71092 \pm$   
795  $0.00826$ ;  $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=28$ ) and Precambrian ( $0.71003 \pm 0.00582$ ;  $\bar{x} \pm 2\sigma$ ;  $n=14$ ) outcrops are statistically  
796 wide. This is likely due to a heterogeneous  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  release, from the rocks and soils developed on  
797 these outcrops, which are expected to be characterised by more radiogenic  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values. These  
798 wide bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  signature ranges defined by samples collected in areas with Paleozoic  
799 and Precambrian rock outcrops render geographical provenancing more difficult as they completely  
800 overlap with the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges typical for samples from the other surface lithologies.

801 6) A comparison of the soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values from the cultural layers of Kirrha and Ayios  
802 Vasileios with our calculated baselines reveal that these fit well with their respective geographical  
803 and geological baselines. This is true when defining the baseline as the average of both  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
804 value  $\pm$  the single standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) and double standard deviation ( $2\sigma$ ), supporting the  
805 applicability of our calculated baselines for investigating past human mobility. However, the  
806 different  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  baselines show varying degrees of overlap in their respective  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ranges,  
807 which limits their applicability when investigating interregional movement within Greece.

## 808 **Acknowledgment**

809 The authors want to thank Christina Koureta for her help in the field, Christina Jensen for her assistance in  
810 the lab and Toby Leeper for the TIMS support. This research was made possible through the support of the  
811 Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences grant M16-0455:1 to KK and of the Carlsberg  
812 Foundation "Semper Ardens" research grant CF18-0005 to KMF, which we are very grateful for.

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## Figures

Figures and graphical abstract for manuscript 'The geographic distribution of bioavailable strontium isotopes in Greece – a base for provenance studies in archaeology' by Frank et al.

### Graphical Abstract

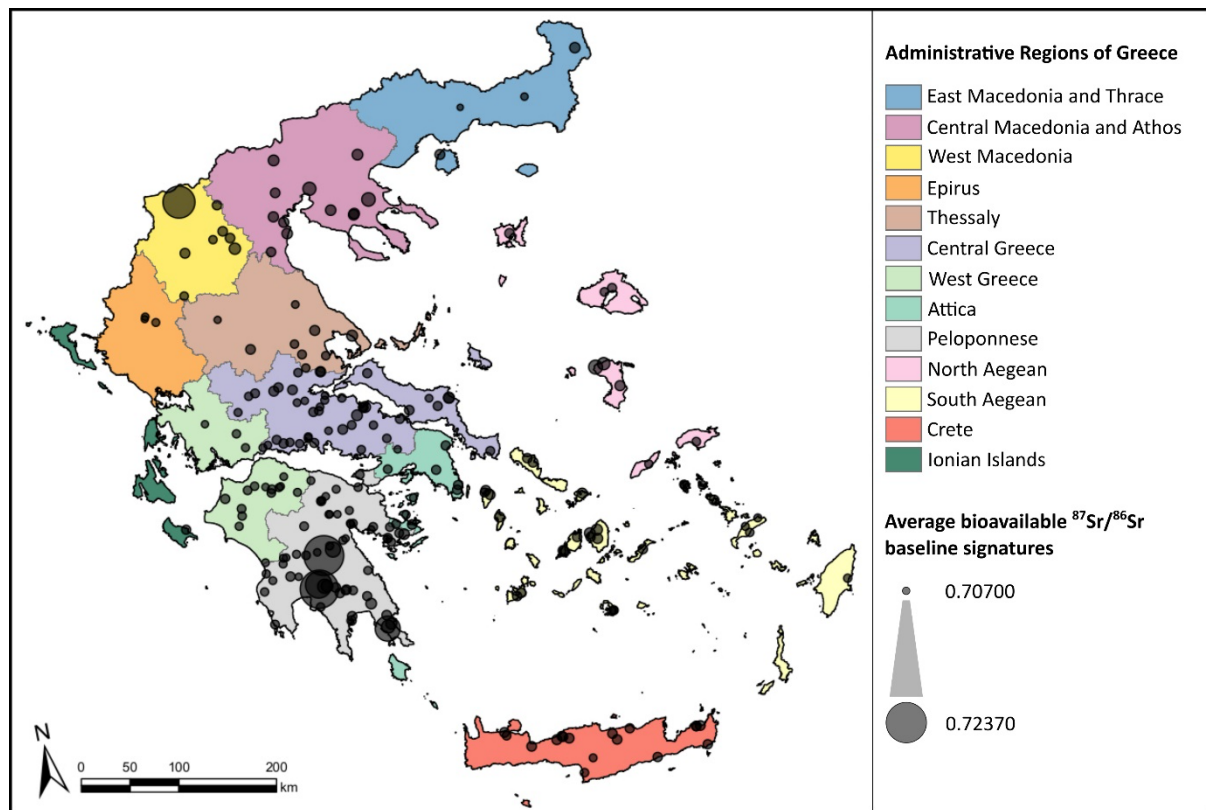


Figure 1: 2-column fitting

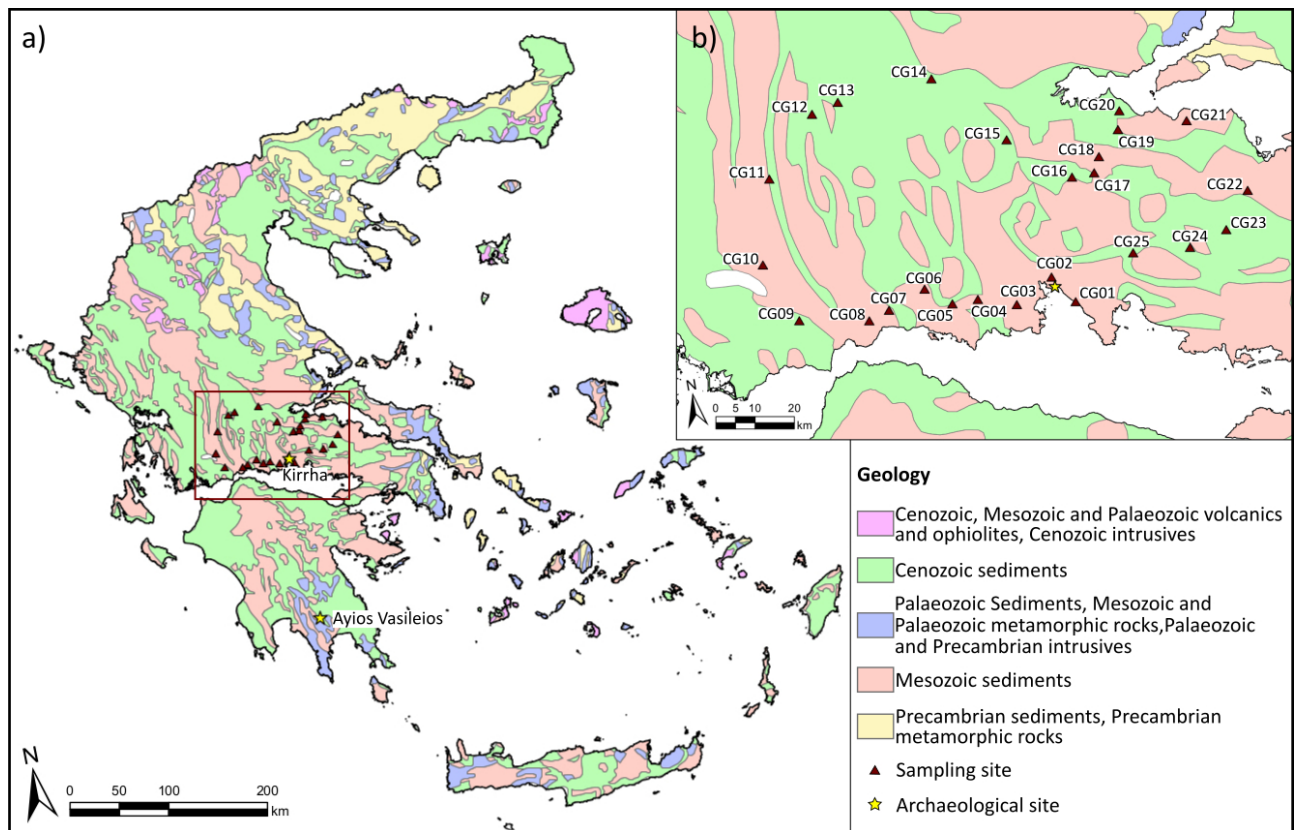


Figure 1 Locations of the sampling sites and archaeological sites investigated in this study over a simplified surface lithology map of Greece (a) and our study area (b). The surface lithology map was based on a simplified version of Pawlewicz et al. (1997) published by Voerkelius et al. (2010).

Figure 2: 2-column fitting

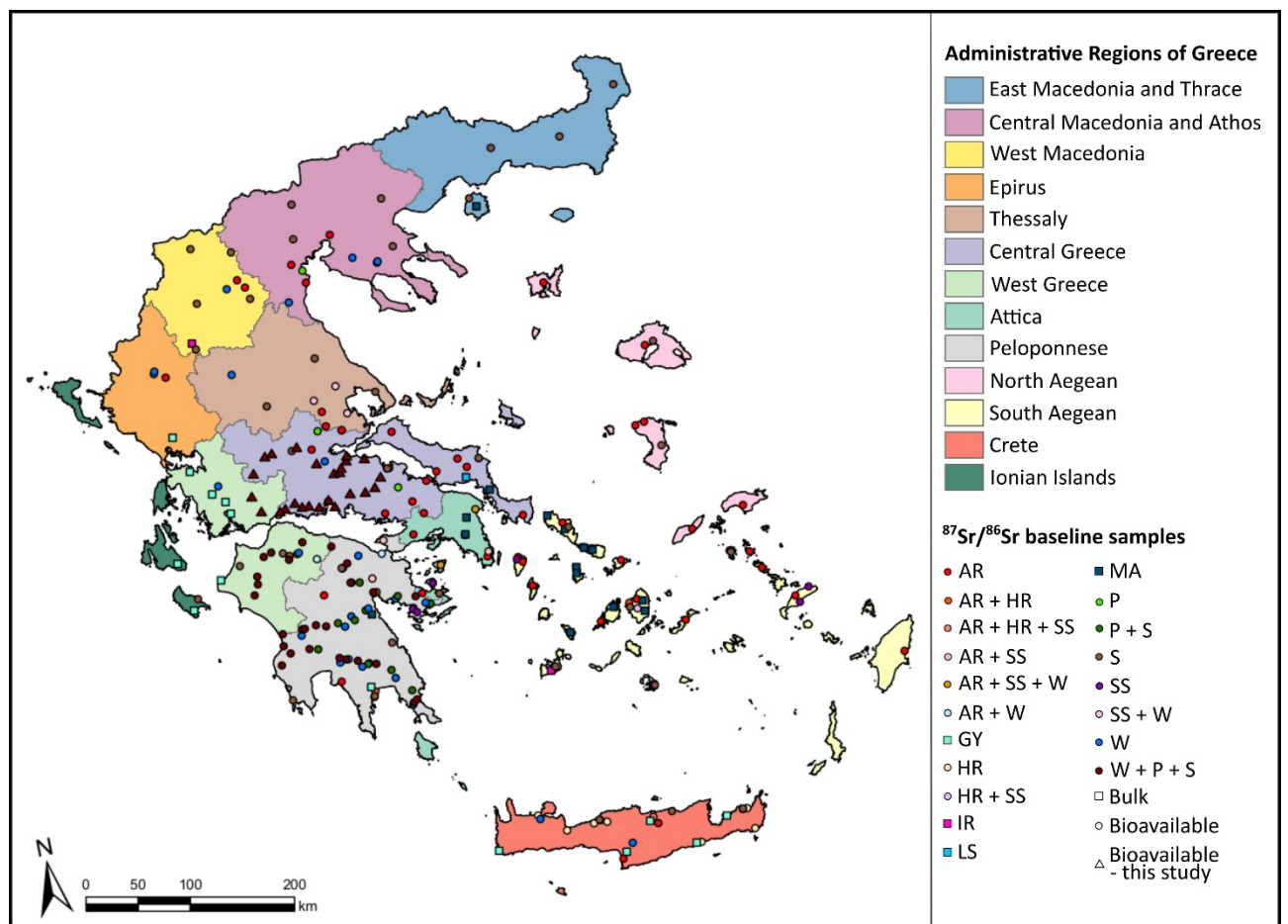


Figure 2 Map of published  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data for the different regions of Greece (Barton et al., 1983; Bishop et al., 2020; Brilli et al., 2005; Frank et al., 2021; Gale et al., 1988; Gärtner et al., 2011; Hoogewerff et al., 2019; Leslie, 2012; Nafplioti, 2011, 2008; Panagiotopoulou et al., 2018; Prevedorou, 2015; Tremba et al., 1975; Triantaphyllou et al., 2015; Vaiglova et al., 2018; Valsami-Jones and Cann, 1994; Voerkelius et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2019; Whelton et al., 2018). Bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data (circles and triangles) was determined using animal remains (AR), human remains (HR), plants (P), soils (S), snail shells (SS) and water (W). Bulk  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data (squares) was reported for gypsum (GY), igneous rocks (IR), limestone (LS) and marble (MA).

Figure 3: 1-column fitting

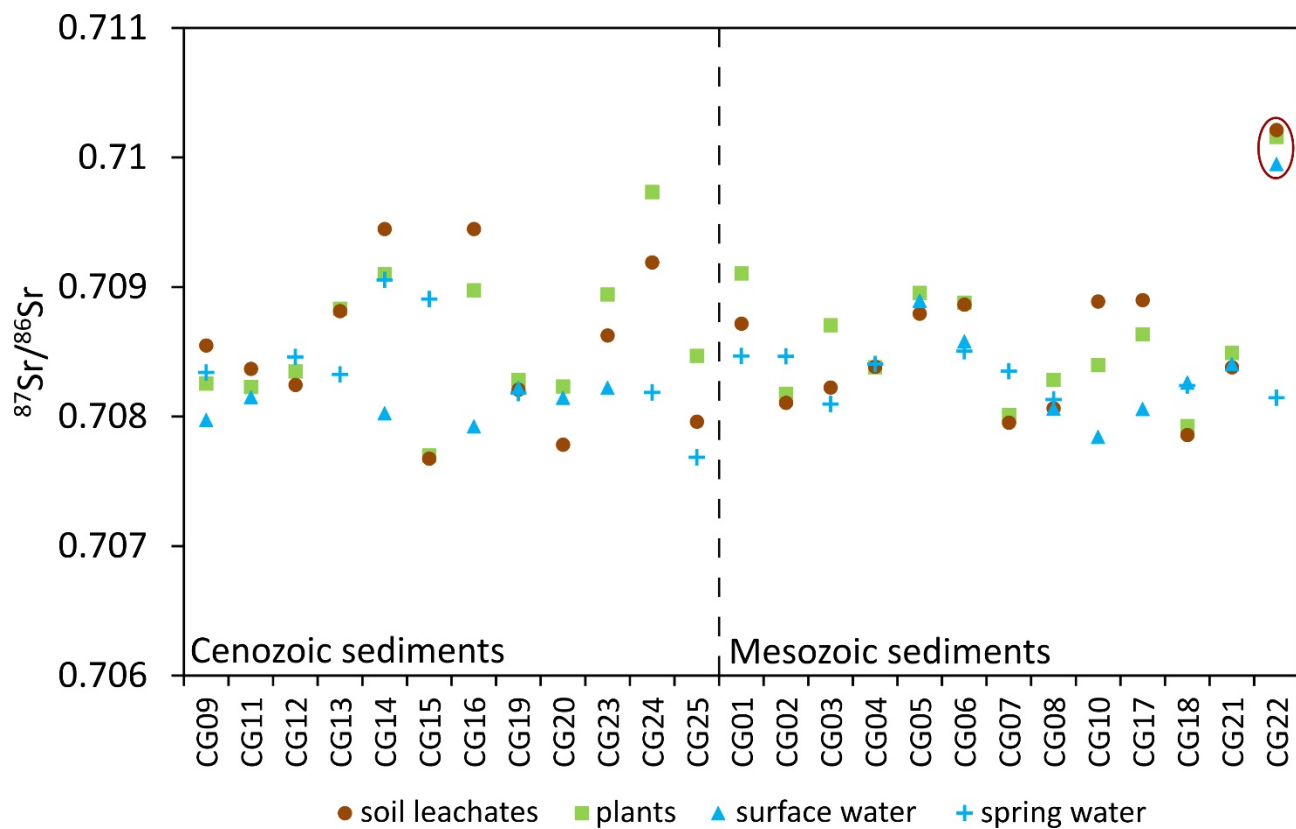


Figure 3  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values measured for surface waters, spring waters, plants and soil leachates of the different sites sampled in Central Greece grouped based on the surface lithology present at the site. Outliers within the groupings were determined using Tukey's outlier test and are marked with red circles.

Figure 4: 1.5-column fitting

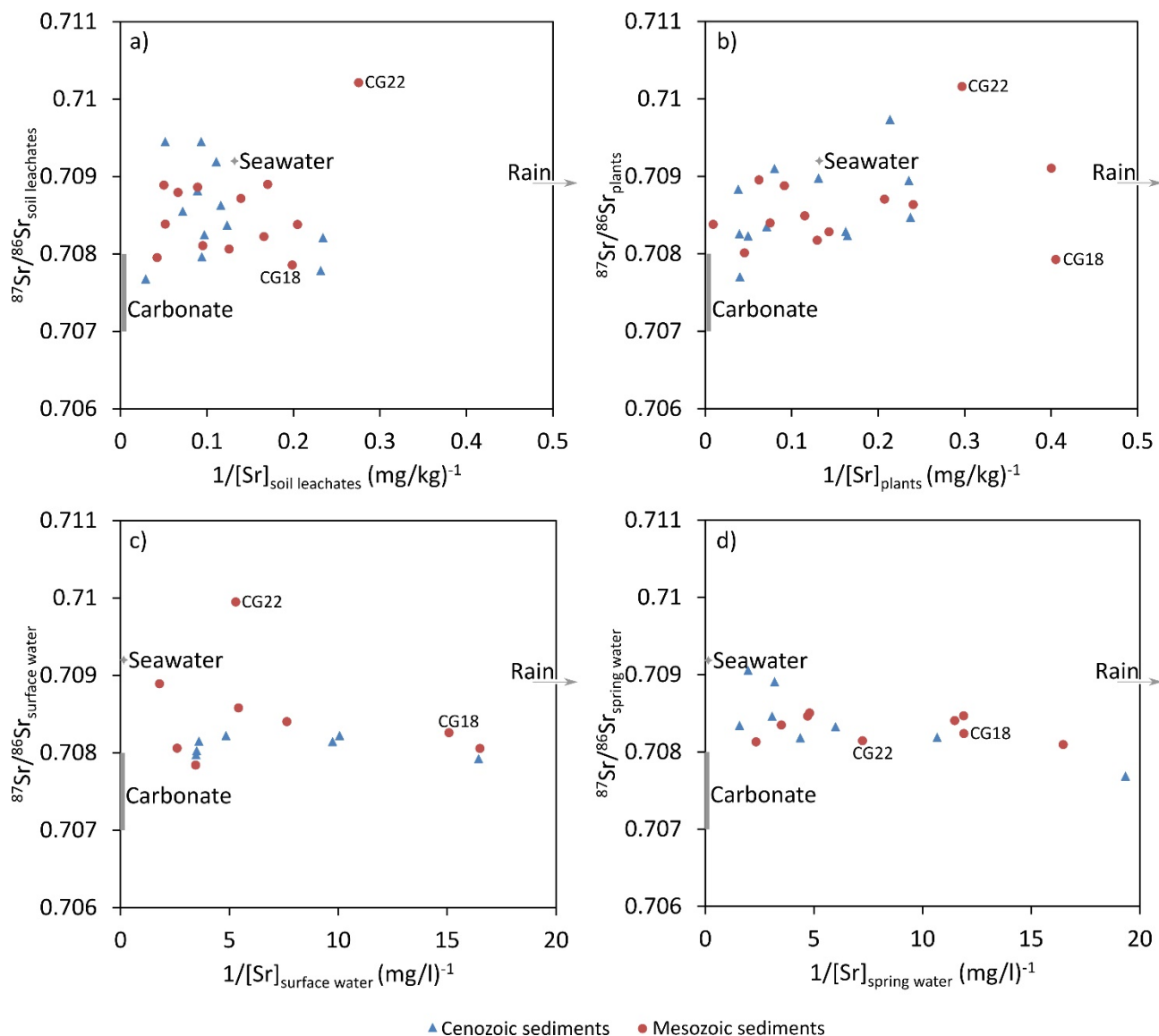


Figure 4  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values of the soil leachate (a), plant (b), surface water (c) and spring water (d) samples plotted against their respective inverse Sr concentrations ( $1/[\text{Sr}]$ ). The Sr concentration and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values for carbonate, seawater and rain were based on data provided by Frank et al. (2021), McArthur et al. (2001) and Tommasini et al. (2018).

Figure 5: 1.5-column fitting

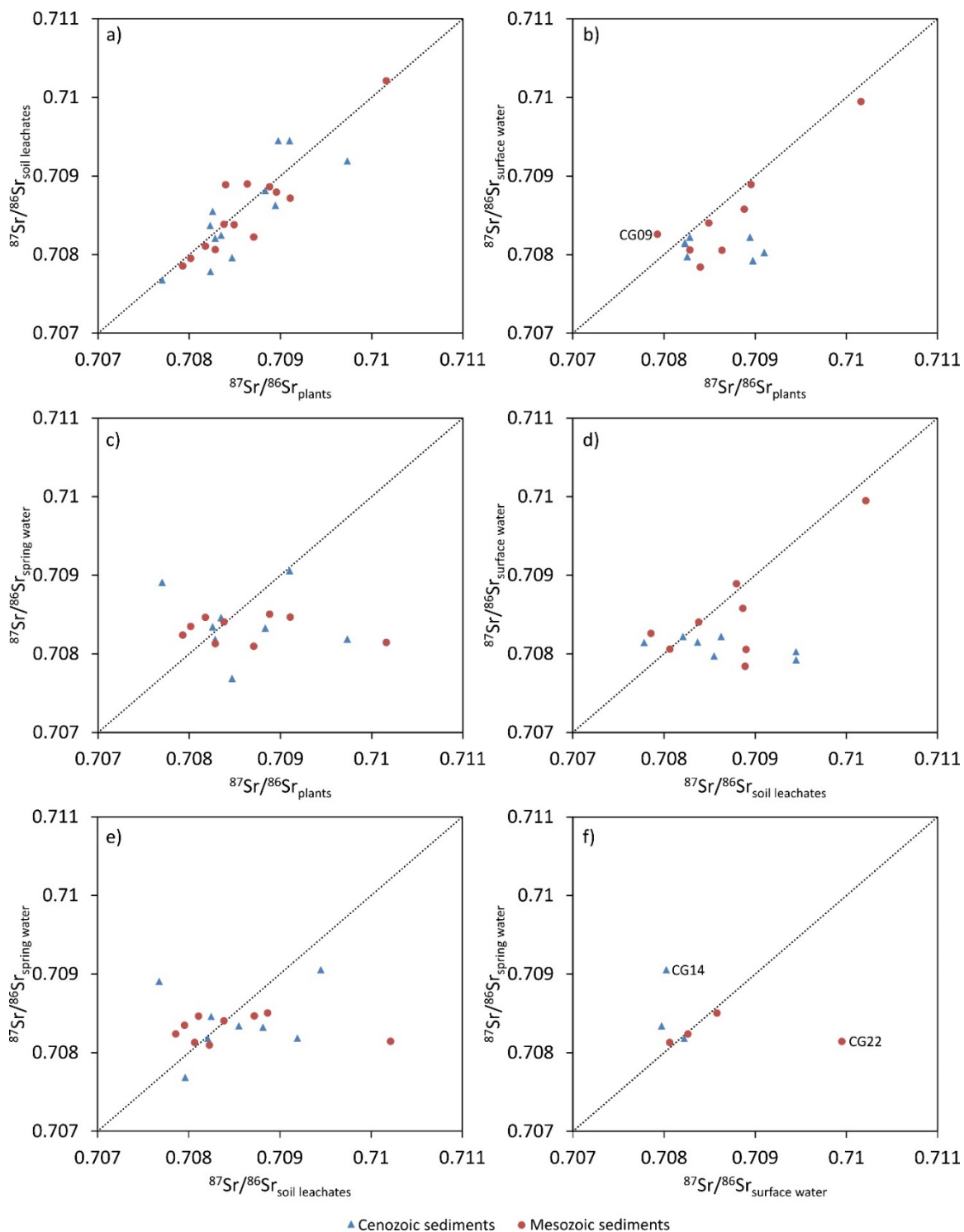


Figure 5 Pairwise correlations between  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios of plants and soil leachates (a), plants and surface water (b), plants and spring waters (c), soil leachates and surface waters (d), soil leachates and spring waters (e) and surface waters and spring waters (f) at individual sites. The dotted lines mark the 1:1 line of perfect correlation.



Figure 6: 1.5-column fitting

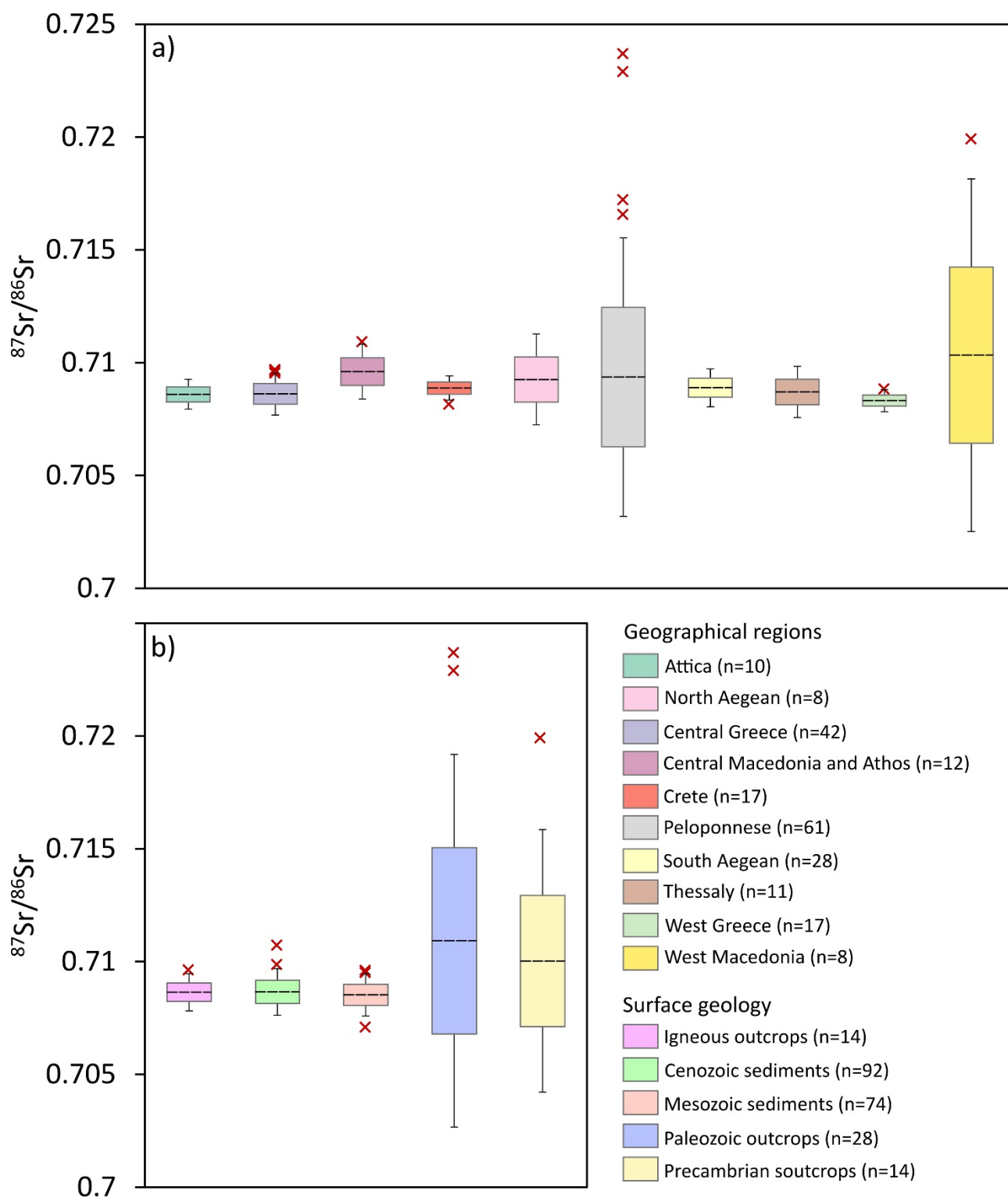


Figure 6 Bioavailable Sr isotope baselines for the different geographical regions (a) and surface lithologies (b) of Greece calculated as the average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  composition (dotted line) of their available bioavailable  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data  $\pm$  their respective single ( $\sigma$ ; boxes) and double standard deviation ( $2\sigma$ ; whiskers). Reported  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data that falls outside of their respective baseline range are given as red crosses.

Figure 7: 1.5-column fitting

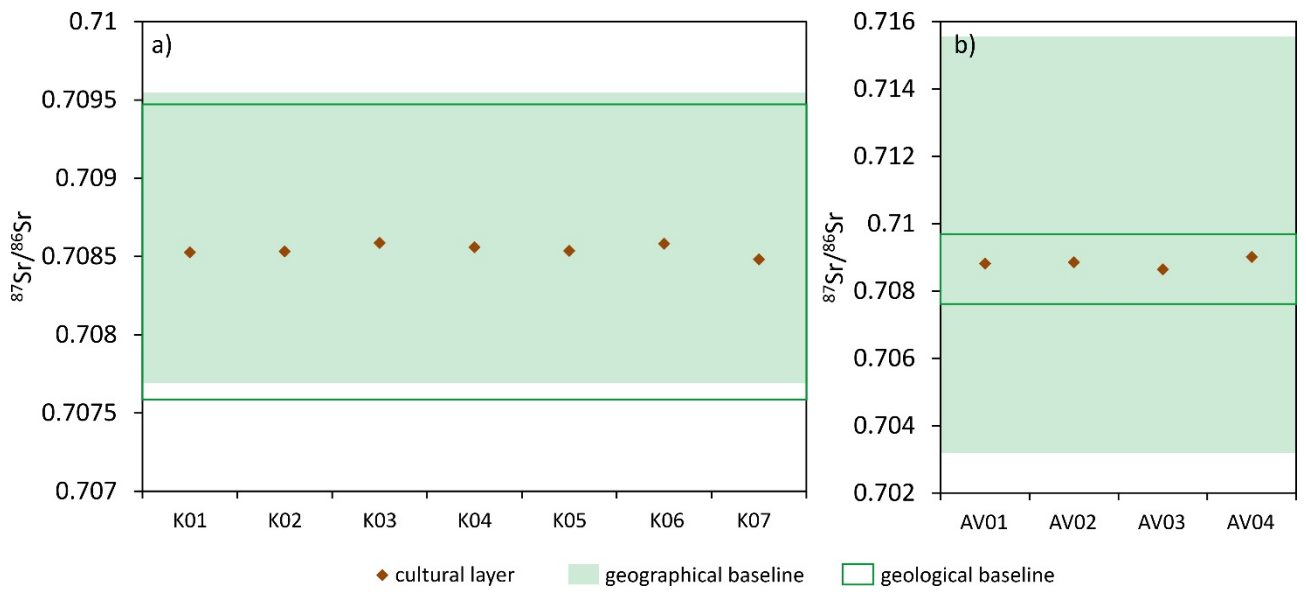


Figure 7 Soil leachate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  data from the cultural layers of Kirrha (a) and Ayios Vasileios (b) compared to their respective geographical and geological bioavailable Sr isotope baselines.

## Supplements S1

Supplementary material for manuscript 'The geographic distribution of bioavailable strontium isotopes in Greece – a base for provenance studies in archaeology' by Frank et al.

### Archaeological sites

#### *Kirra*

The prehistoric archaeological site of Kirra, in the south-east edge of the plain of Itea, Phokis, Greece, occupies a low mound, at ca. 230 m from the northern shore of the Corinthian Gulf. Two intense excavation campaigns were undertaken by the French School of Athens in the late 1930s. They uncovered extensive areas of a Middle Helladic (Middle Bronze Age, ca. 2100 – 1700 BC, hereafter MH) to Late Helladic (Late Bronze Age, ca 1700 – 1075 BC, hereafter LH) settlements and numerous graves of the same period. Deep stratigraphical soundings were dug down to the water table, revealing a long-lived tell, already established as early as the end of the Early Helladic period (2<sup>nd</sup> mill. BC, hereafter EH). Recent geoarchaeological investigations have shown that the foundation of the settlement took place earlier in the Neolithic times. With the publication of results from the pioneer excavations in 1960 (Dor et al., 1960), Kirra became a key site of the Aegean Prehistory, one of the most important for the MH period of Central Greece. After a long break, archaeological activity resumed in the 1960s, with a series of numerous rescue excavations (Orgeolet et al., 2017; and references therein). Eventually, a new research programme was set up in 2009, under the co-direction of the French School of Athens and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Delphi (Orgeolet et al., 2017). Among other goals, a better understanding of the funerary practices was considered as a significant issue, the tackling of which necessitated a close cooperation between archaeologists and anthropologists/bioarchaeologists.

The funerary remains of Kirra come from at least 40 different contexts, associated with various grave forms (stone cists, few shaft graves, pits, and few pot burials). In the MH period, the usual picture is that of single intramural simple graves, while in the transitional period (MH III – LH I/II) the burial grounds extend over abandoned MH houses and unveiled a variety of funerary forms. These include single and collective burials of both sexes and all ages, in various types of graves and disposals (Lagia et al., 2016). Large collective later Mycenaean shaft graves were also uncovered, whose relation to the settlement still needs clarification.

### *Ayios Vasileios*

Ayios Vasileios, which is located 12 km south of modern Sparta, is synonymous with the palace of Mycenaean (Late Bronze Age, 1700-1100 BC) Laconia, southern Greece, which was discovered in 2008. It is being excavated since 2010 under the direction of A. Vasilogamvrou and the auspices of the Archaeological Society in Athens. The site was occupied in the EH period, when a small village was built on top of the hill. It may have been abandoned during most of the MH period and resettled at the end of the period (around 1700 BC). It grew in significance during the early phases of the Late Bronze Age (LBA), during which period a cemetery consisting mostly of stone-built graves, the so-called North Cemetery, was in use. By the middle of the LBA (around 1400 BC), a monumental complex consisting of a central court and impressive, elaborately decorated buildings were standing on the site. While only a small part of the palatial complex has been excavated so far, all the functions usually associated with a Mycenaean palace (storage of valuables and agricultural resources, administration using clay tablets and labels, conspicuous consumption) are attested. Interestingly, however, Ayios Vasileios differs from other Mycenaean palatial sites in two important aspects: a) its development – it was destroyed around 1250 BC, some 50 years earlier than other mainland palaces, like Mycenae, Tiryns and Pylos, and b) its spatial organization – the town surrounding it is relatively small and unfortified. From a methodological point of view, the Ayios Vasileios excavation project is interesting, because it includes the excavation of the palatial complex and the earlier cemetery, as well as an extensive geophysical and pedestrian survey which has given invaluable information about the settlement surrounding the palace.

The North Cemetery is the extramural cemetery of the Ayios Vasileios settlement (Moutafi and Voutsaki, 2016; Voutsaki et al., 2021). It was in use just before the formation of the palatial centre, during the transition from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1700-1500 BC, MH III – LH I/II). The cemetery consists of a dense cluster of graves, comprising predominantly stone cists but also a few pits, with the latter mostly used for infant burials. In total, 25 burial contexts have been excavated, including single and collective burials, primary and secondary, of both sexes and all ages, either in graves (20 cases) or in concentrations of assembled bones outside the graves (5 cases). The burials are mostly unfurnished, with only few containing one or two modest offerings (usually small vases). The funerary treatment is variable, shifting between the older MH tradition of simple single burials and the introduction of collective burials and secondary funerary activities of various forms (Moutafi and Voutsaki, 2016).

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Location	Latitude	Longitude	Surface lithology	Setting	Samples shrubs	Plants			Soils leachat	
						<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	2SE (%)	Sr (mg/kg)	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	2SE (%)
CG01	38,389	22,4946	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Sage (3)	0,709106	0,0016	2,4991	0,70872	0,0021
CG02	38,4533	22,43837	Mesozoic sediments	Agricultural	Olive (3)	0,708176	0,0016	7,7283	0,70811	0,0019
CG03	38,4055	22,32651	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Sage (3)	0,708706	0,0016	4,825	0,70823	0,0019
CG04	38,4319	22,21854	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Pear (3)	0,70838	0,0008	110,429	0,70839	0,0023
CG05	38,4319	22,14425	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Judas tree (2), pear (1)	0,708955	0,0009	16,1171	0,7088	0,0018
CG06	38,4752	22,07241	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Oak (3)	0,70888	0,0021	10,9405	0,70886	0,0019
CG07	38,4415	21,96141	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Olive (3)	0,708014	0,0009	22,0891	0,70795	0,0019
CG08	38,4253	21,90035	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Fig (1), oleander (2)	0,708284	0,002	6,9933	0,70806	0,0021
CG09	38,4514	21,70175	Cenozoic sediments	Natural	Blackthorn (1), sumac (1), fig (1)	0,708255	0,0014	25,3337	0,70855	0,0018
CG10	38,589	21,62417	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Sage (3)	0,708398	0,0016	13,3463	0,70889	0,0019
CG11	38,7785	21,68245	Cenozoic sediments	Natural	Maple (2), dogwood (1)	0,708229	0,0021	20,2145	0,70837	0,0021
CG12	38,9074	21,83499	Cenozoic sediments	Agricultural	Maple (3)	0,708349	0,0018	14,0843	0,70825	0,002
CG13	38,9245	21,91444	Cenozoic sediments	Natural	Maple(2), beech (1)	0,708833	0,0017	26,2348	0,70881	0,0021
CG14	38,9415	22,19375	Cenozoic sediments	Natural	Maple(2), beech (1)	0,709099	0,002	12,494	0,70945	0,0016
CG15	38,7766	22,3786	Cenozoic sediments	Natural	Oak (3)	0,707702	0,0011	24,9334	0,70768	0,0017
CG16	38,6678	22,54629	Cenozoic sediments	Agricultural	Walnut (1), Maple (1), Oak (1)	0,708975	0,0011	7,6357	0,70945	0,0019
CG17	38,6688	22,61151	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Chastetree (3)	0,708636	0,002	4,1585	0,7089	0,0015
CG18	38,703	22,63315	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Maple (3)	0,707927	0,0021	2,4675	0,70786	0,002
CG19	38,7555	22,701	Cenozoic sediments	Agricultural	Judas tree (1), Chastetree (2)	0,708284	0,0017	6,1553	0,70821	0,0021
CG20	38,7969	22,71444	Cenozoic sediments	Agricultural	Olive (3)	0,708232	0,0019	6,0805	0,70778	0,002
CG21	38,7479	22,90105	Mesozoic sediments	Agricultural	Judas tree (1), Chastetree (2)	0,708491	0,0018	8,6934	0,70838	0,0022
CG22	38,5681	23,03856	Mesozoic sediments	Natural	Pear (1), Oleander (2)	0,71016	0,0017	3,3684	0,71021	0,0024
CG23	38,4894	22,95756	Cenozoic sediments	Agricultural	Chastetree (3)	0,708944	0,0019	4,2474	0,70863	0,0021
CG24	38,4644	22,84597	Cenozoic sediments	Natural	Arbute (2), pear (1)	0,709733	0,0013	4,6825	0,70919	0,0016
CG25	38,4752	22,6819	Cenozoic sediments	Natural	Chastetree (2), pear (1)	0,708468	0,0018	4,214	0,70796	0,0021

es		Surface waters			Spring waters			
Sr (mg/kg)	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	2SE (%)	Sr (mg/l)	Water Body	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	2SE (%)	Sr (mg/l)	Distance to location (km)
7,1901					0,70847	0,0018	0,0841	1,44
10,5177					0,70847	0,0016	0,2124	1,8
6,0345					0,7081	0,002	0,0607	3,24
19,3604					0,70841	0,002	0,0871	1,19
15,0635	0,708893	0,002	0,5593					
11,2283	0,70858	0,002	0,1847	Tributary of Mornos	0,70851	0,0021	0,2086	3,07
23,6721					0,70835	0,0017	0,2859	1,03
7,9732	0,708061	0,002	0,3853	Mornos	0,70813	0,0018	0,4278	3,64
13,906	0,707973	0,002	0,2885	Evinos	0,70834	0,0022	0,6353	2,04
19,9858	0,707842	0,002	0,2905					
8,1104	0,708148	0,002	0,2779	Rema Krikeliotis				
10,3195					0,70846	0,0017	0,325	6,98
11,2282					0,70833	0,0023	0,1668	0,51
19,3589	0,708025	0,002	0,2862	Sperchios Potamos	0,70906	0,002	0,5081	0,95
34,3551					0,70891	0,0022	0,313	3,19
10,7219	0,707923	0,002	0,0608	Tributary of Kifisos Potamos				
5,8757	0,708057	0,002	0,0606	Kifisos Potamos				
5,0382	0,708261	0,002	0,0663		0,70824	0,001	0,084	0
4,2708	0,708221	0,002	0,2066		0,70818	0,0014	0,2287	0
4,3178	0,708144	0,002	0,1027					
4,889	0,708404	0,002	0,131					
3,633	0,709949	0,001	0,1892		0,70815	0,0017	0,1382	6,33
8,6211	0,708221	0,002	0,0994	Kifisos Potamos				
9,0308					0,70819	0,0021	0,0937	5,6
10,6385					0,70769	0,0022	0,0517	6,42

## Supplements S3

Supplementary material for manuscript 'The geographic distribution of bioavailable strontium isotopes in Greece – a base for provenance studies in archaeology' by Frank et al.

### Archaeological soil samples

#### *Ayios Vasileios*

**AV01 - Grave 13:** This is a pit grave, aligned with stones, containing the single primary burial of a middle/old (>40 years) adult male. The soil sample comes from the area around (and partially inside) the skull.

**AV02 - Grave 17:** This is an unusual case in Ayios Vasileios. The tomb is a large pit of quadrangular (rather unusual) shape, containing the primary burial of two individuals, male (skeleton 17.1) and female (skeleton 17.2), both middle adults (around 40 years). The bodies were interred together and placed in very close proximity, almost embraced. The soil sample was collected around the pelvis of female skeleton 17.2.

**AV03 - Grave 23:** This is a cist grave, with collective burials of adults, both primary and secondary (MNI: 3, sex indeterminate). The skeletons are very poorly preserved. The soil sample comes from the burial level of the grave, collected from the middle area of the cist, close to vessel (2240) that accompanied the burials.

**AV04 - Grave 25:** This context is part of the large built tomb 21 (unique to AV), which contained around 30 burials, both primary and secondary. Burial 25 included collective secondary remains of at least 7 individuals, both adults and sub-adults, squeezed in a pit outside Grave 21, and certainly associated with it. The soil sample comes from deep in the pit, collected from soil infiltrating one of the bones (bone 168).

#### *Kirra*

**K01 - Locus 101:** Cist grave (in the west sector), containing the primary burial of a child (4-5 years old). The soil sample comes from the burial layer, collected around the bones.

**K02 - Locus 515:** Stone-lined pit (in the west sector), with the primary burial of a young adult female. The tomb is unique in Kirra in terms of richness of the grave goods. The soil sample comes from the burial layer, collected around the bones.



**K03 - Locus 567:** Cist grave (in the west sector), with one primary and two secondary burials (MNI: 3), all adults; sex indeterminate so far. The soil sample comes from the burial layer, collected around the bones.

**K04 - Locus 790:** Pit (in the east sector) with primary burial of a child (6-9 years). The soil sample comes from the burial layer, collected around the bones.

**K05 - Locus 802:** Pit (in the east sector) with primary burial of a neonate infant. The soil sample comes from the burial layer, collected around/inside the skull.

**K06 - Locus 777 (US 1269):** Inwall (or rough pit) deposit of an infant (east sector). The soil sample comes from the burial layer, collected around the bones.

**K07 - Locus 150 (US 3311):** Cist grave (in the west sector), with collective burials (MNI: 3). The grave included the primary burial of a young adult male (150.1), at the upper layer; below it, the secondary remains of an adolescent female (150.2) and a young adult male (150.3) were found separated in two different stone compartments. The soil sample comes from the upper burial layer (of the primary interment 150.1), collected around the bones.

<b>Reference site/ID</b>	<b>Geographical region</b>
Anavra	Thessaly
Melitaia	Central Greece
Mount Óthrys	Thessaly
Kastro Kallithea	Thessaly
Lakonis Cave	Peloponnese
Knossos, Crete	Crete
Mycenae, Argolid	Peloponnese
Myrtos Pyrgos, Crete	Crete
Ano Asites, Crete	Crete
Margarites, Crete	Crete
Maroulas, Crete	Crete
Kastelos, Crete	Crete
Chania, Crete	Crete
Tiryns, Argolid	Peloponnese
Franchthi Cave, Argolid	Peloponnese
Koilada, Argolid	Peloponnese
Kranidi, Argolid	Peloponnese
Perachora, Corinthia	Peloponnese
Manika, Euboea	Central Greece
Tharrounia, Euboea	Central Greece
Kitsos Cave, Attica	Attica
Kephala, Kea	South Aegean
Korissia, Kea	South Aegean
Maroulas, Kythnos	South Aegean
Cave of Antiparos, Antiparos	South Aegean
Chora, Naxos	South Aegean
Tsikniades, Naxos	South Aegean
Agio Galas, Chios	North Aegean
Chora, Kos	South Aegean
Kardamena-Antimacheia, Kos	South Aegean
Koumelo, Rhodes	South Aegean
Stymphalos	Peloponnese
Kephala Petras, Crete	Crete
Livari-Skiadi, Crete	Crete
Makriyalos	Central Macedonia and Aegean
Chloe, Thessaly	Thessaly
Pharsala, Thessaly	Thessaly
Voulokakliva Halos, Thessaly	Thessaly
Stavroupoli	Central Macedonia and Aegean
Paliambela	Central Macedonia and Aegean
Revenia	Central Macedonia and Aegean
Kleitos	West Macedonia
Toumba Kremastis Koiladas	West Macedonia
Sarakenos Cave	Central Greece
Mt. Helmos	West Greece
Aegina (Lazarides)	Attica
Corinth	Peloponnese
Marathon	Attica
Stymphalia	Peloponnese
Methana, Kammeni Hora	Attica
Santorini, Exomitis	South Aegean

Lafreotiki	Attica
SW Attica (Mt. Pateras & Mt. Geraneia)	Attica
NW Attica (Mt. Kithairon & Mt. Parnes)	Attica
Mt. Hymettus	Attica
E Boeotia	Central Greece
W Boeotia	Central Greece
Martino (Lokris)	Central Greece
Lamia (Ypati), Mt. Oiti	Central Greece
Volos (Mt. Othrys)	Thessaly
Giannena (Mt. Kourenton)	Epirus
Mt. Mainalon, Arcadia	Peloponnese
Northern Euboea	Central Greece
Central Euboea	Central Greece
Southern Euboea	Central Greece
Messeniki Mani	Peloponnese
Troizena (Mt. Ortholithi)	Attica
Keos	South Aegean
Andros	South Aegean
Mykonos	South Aegean
Antiparos	South Aegean
Paros	South Aegean
Naxos	South Aegean
Amorgos	South Aegean
Melos	South Aegean
Lemnos	North Aegean
Lesbos	North Aegean
Chios	North Aegean
Ikaria	North Aegean
Samos	North Aegean
Patmos	South Aegean
Lipsoi	South Aegean
Leros	South Aegean
Kos	South Aegean
Crete (Matala)	Crete
Mt. Ktypas (Ritsona)	Central Greece
Crete	Crete
Crete	Crete
Corinth	Peloponnese
Lepenou	West Greece
Irakleia	Central Greece
Vytoumas	Thessaly
Perivleptos	Epirus
Perivleptos	Epirus
Oikismus Petra	Central Macedonia and Ai
Sideras	West Macedonia
Monopigado	Central Macedonia and Ai
Stadio Polygyros	Central Macedonia and Ai
Stadio Polygyros	Central Macedonia and Ai
3157	Peloponnese
203	East Macedonia and Thrac
208	East Macedonia and Thrac
3129	Peloponnese

453	West Greece
3401	Thessaly
3489	Peloponnese
3616	South Aegean
3178	Central Greece
79	Peloponnese
3513	West Macedonia
3362	Central Greece
394	Peloponnese
3528	West Greece
3281	Crete
571	South Aegean
164	North Aegean
733	Ionian Islands
77	Crete
3175	South Aegean
662	South Aegean
550	West Greece
250	Peloponnese
3047	West Macedonia
42	Attica
3674	South Aegean
3736	Central Macedonia and Ai
68	Crete
3694	Thessaly
694	Crete
54	Central Greece
3768	Crete
3138	West Macedonia
3213	South Aegean
283	Central Greece
69	East Macedonia and Thrac
3084	North Aegean
144	East Macedonia and Thrac
3022	Central Greece
3243	Central Macedonia and Ai
481	Central Macedonia and Ai
241	Central Greece
3553	Thessaly
3587	West Macedonia
3059	Central Macedonia and Ai
549	West Macedonia
PP01	Peloponnese
PP02	Peloponnese
PP03	Peloponnese
PP04	Peloponnese
PP05	Peloponnese
PP06	Peloponnese
PP07	Peloponnese
PP08	Peloponnese
PP09	Peloponnese
PP10	Peloponnese

PP11	Peloponnese
PP12	Peloponnese
PP13	Peloponnese
PP14	Peloponnese
PP15	Peloponnese
PP16	Peloponnese
PP17	Peloponnese
PP18	Peloponnese
PP19	Peloponnese
PP20	Peloponnese
PP21	West Greece
PP22	Peloponnese
PP23	Peloponnese
PP24	Peloponnese
PP25	Peloponnese
PP26	Peloponnese
PP27	Peloponnese
PP28	Peloponnese
PP29	Peloponnese
PP30	Peloponnese
PP31	Peloponnese
PP32	Peloponnese
PP33	Peloponnese
PP34	Peloponnese
PP35	Peloponnese
PP36	Peloponnese
PP37	Peloponnese
PP38	Peloponnese
PP39	Peloponnese
PP40	Peloponnese
PP41	Peloponnese
PP42	Peloponnese
PP43	Peloponnese
PP44	West Greece
PP45	West Greece
PP46	West Greece
PP47	West Greece
PP48	West Greece
PP49	West Greece
PP50	West Greece
PP51	West Greece
PP52	West Greece
CG01	Central Greece
CG02	Central Greece
CG03	Central Greece
CG04	Central Greece
CG05	Central Greece
CG06	Central Greece
CG07	Central Greece
CG08	Central Greece
CG09	West Greece
CG10	West Greece

CG11	Central Greece
CG12	Central Greece
CG13	Central Greece
CG14	Central Greece
CG15	Central Greece
CG16	Central Greece
CG17	Central Greece
CG18	Central Greece
CG19	Central Greece
CG20	Central Greece
CG21	Central Greece
CG22	Central Greece
CG23	Central Greece
CG24	Central Greece
CG25	Central Greece

Surface lithology	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ average	$2\sigma$	n	Material
Mesozoic sediments	0,70836	0,00025	1	AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70844		1	P
Mesozoic sediments	0,70938		1	P
Mesozoic sediments	0,70863	0,00040	6	AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70893	0,00080	3	AR + HR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70895	0,00029	15	AR + HR + SS
Cenozoic sediments	0,70823	0,00018	5	AR + SS
Cenozoic sediments	0,70886	0,00001	2	HR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70896		1	AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70908		1	HR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70915		1	HR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70905		1	HR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70908	0,00015	2	HR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70826		4	SS
Cenozoic sediments	0,70882	0,00074	3	AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70815		3	SS
Cenozoic sediments	0,70845		3	SS
Mesozoic sediments	0,70867	0,00004	3	AR + SS
Mesozoic sediments	0,70897	0,00042	5	AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70876	0,00008	2	AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70894	0,00095	3	AR
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,70911	0,00045	2	AR
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,70870	0,00031	3	SS
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,70915	0,00007	5	AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70932		1	AR
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,70964	0,00049	5	AR + HR
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,70934	0,00025	3	HR + SS
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,71116	0,00134	3	AR
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic	0,70822	0,00003	2	SS
Cenozoic sediments	0,70847		1	SS
Cenozoic sediments	0,70837		1	AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70881	0,00131	5	AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70905	0,00003	6	HR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70883	0,00014	2	HR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70929	0,00041	20	P
Cenozoic sediments	0,70922	0,00138	5	SS + W
Mesozoic sediments	0,70843	0,00075	8	SS + W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70846	0,00111	7	SS + W
Cenozoic sediments	0,71073	0,00074		AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70930	0,00012		AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70947	0,00020		AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70898	0,00076		AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70900	0,00056		AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70836	0,00045	5	P
Mesozoic sediments	0,708216667	0,0008	3	AR + W
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,708128182	0,00152	11	AR + SS + W
Cenozoic sediments	0,708418	0,00044	5	AR + W
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,708847778	0,00058	9	AR + SS + W
Mesozoic sediments	0,707853333	0,00048	3	AR + W
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,7083	0,00011	3	SS
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,708501429	0,00046	7	AR + SS

Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70872	0,00064	6 AR + SS
Mesozoic sediments	0,708563333	0,00077	6 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,7080575	0,00052	4 AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,708796667	0,00022	3 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,7084	0,0006	5 AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,708465	-0,00054	8 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,7097		1 AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,7090425	0,0007	4 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70861		1 AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70819		1 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,708585	0,00038	2 AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,708786667	0,0002	3 AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70812	0,00041	3 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70867	0,0005	3 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,708466667	0,0011	3 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70859		1 AR
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,709125	0,00027	2 AR
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,7089725	0,00059	4 AR
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,709256667	0,00011	3 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,709355	0,0001	4 AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,708914	0,00068	5 AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,709683333	0,00154	6 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,708934	0,00047	5 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,708856667	0,00029	3 AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,709015	7,1E-05	2 AR
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,70855		1 AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,710375	0,00033	2 AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70832		AR
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70854	0,00061	3 AR
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,708475	0,00013	2 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70844	0,0004	2 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70914	0,00062	2 AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,7082275	0,0007	4 AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70851		1 AR
Mesozoic sediments	0,70869		1 AR
Cenozoic sediments	0,70816		W
Mesozoic sediments	0,70853		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70822		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70791		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70798		W
Mesozoic sediments	0,70786		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70782		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70804		W
Mesozoic sediments	0,70894		W
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,70838		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70946		W
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,70946		W
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,70945		W
Mesozoic sediments	0,70710		S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70746		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70797		S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70801		S



Mesozoic sediments	0,70804		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70805		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70817		S
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,70819		S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70832		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70834		S
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,70847		S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70851		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70857		S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70860		S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70865		S
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,70872		S
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,70876		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70879		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70882		S
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,70883		S
Cenozoic / Mesozoic / Paleozoic volcanics and ophiolites, Cenozoic intrusives	0,70883		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70884		S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70888		S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70889		S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70899		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70900		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70903		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70903		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70904		S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70907		S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70908		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70909		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70914		S
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,70915		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70916		S
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,70920		S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70928		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70942		S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70954		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70957		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70960		S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70968		S
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,70969		S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70988		S
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,71093		S
Precambrian sediments, Precambrian metamorphic rocks	0,71992		S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,71658		W
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,71077	0,00133	3 W + P + S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,70974	0,00081	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70902	0,00024	2 P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70955		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70876	0,00021	2 P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70860	0,00047	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70904		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70859	0,00001	2 P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70892		W

Cenozoic sediments	0,70899	0,00049	3 W + P + S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,71009		W
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,71127	0,00605	3 W + P + S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,72291		W
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,71723	0,01104	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70790	0,00017	P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70884	0,00078	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70816	0,00016	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70837	0,00016	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70828	0,00038	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70811	0,00024	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70821		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70820	0,00040	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70801	0,00016	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70827	0,00051	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70850	0,00021	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70799	0,00017	P + S
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,72370		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70824		W
Paleozoic sediments, Mesozoic to Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic / Precambrian intrusives	0,71170	0,00072	2 P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70826	0,00031	2 P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70795		W
Cenozoic sediments	0,70814	0,00023	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70952	0,00002	2 P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70864		W
Mesozoic sediments	0,70850	0,00104	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70805		W
Mesozoic sediments	0,70859	0,00046	2 P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70795	0,00017	2 P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70779		W
Mesozoic sediments	0,70818	0,00066	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70799	0,00024	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70818	0,00022	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70807	0,00036	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70821	0,00021	2 P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70804		W
Mesozoic sediments	0,70847	0,00052	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70844	0,00054	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70857	0,00013	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70858	0,00034	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70842	0,00006	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70829	0,00027	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70876	0,00064	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70825	0,00038	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70834	0,00064	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70839	0,00003	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70888	0,00016	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70871	0,00039	4 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70811	0,00043	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70814	0,00021	4 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70828	0,00048	4 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70838	0,00105	3 W + P + S

Cenozoic sediments	0,70825	0,00022	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70835	0,00022	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70866	0,00058	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70891	0,00123	4 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70809	0,00141	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70878	0,00156	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70853	0,00086	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70807	0,00042	4 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70822	0,00009	4 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70805	0,00048	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70843	0,00012	3 W + P + S
Mesozoic sediments	0,70962	0,00198	4 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70860	0,00072	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70904	0,00157	3 W + P + S
Cenozoic sediments	0,70804	0,00079	3 W + P + S

<b>Material - detailed</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>GPS</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Animal teeth (M)	Bishop et al. (2020)	Approximated	measured at 5 distances from crown-root junction
Plants	Bishop et al. (2020)	Approximated	
Plants	Bishop et al. (2020)	Approximated	
Animal teeth (M)	Bishop et al. (2020)	Approximated	
Animal and human dentine (A)	Richards et al. (2008)	Provided	
Human bone (3; A), animal enamel (8; A) and snail shells (4)	Nafplioti (2008 & 2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (1; A) and snail shells (4)	Nafplioti (2008)	Approximated	
Human bone (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (M)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Human bone (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Human bone (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Human bone (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Human bone (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Snail shells	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	measured as homogenised powder
Animal enamel (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Snail shells	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	measured as homogenised powder
Snail shells	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	measured as homogenised powder
Animal enamel (1; A) and snail shells (2)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Snail shells	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (1; A) and bone (4; A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Human bone (3; A) and animal enamel (2; A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Human bone (1; A) and snail shells (2)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Snail shells	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Snail shells	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal enamel (A)	Nafplioti (2011)	Approximated	
Animal teeth (A)	Leslie (2012)	Provided	
Human dentine (5; A) and bone (1; A)	Triantaphyllou et al. (2012)	Approximated	
Human dentine (A)	Triantaphyllou et al. (2012)	Approximated	
Plants	Vaiglova et al. (2018)	Provided	
Snail shells (4) and water (1)	Panagiotopoulou et al. (2018)	Approximated	
Snail shells (3) and water (5)	Panagiotopoulou et al. (2018)	Approximated	
Snail shells (4) and water (3; 1 seawater)	Panagiotopoulou et al. (2018)	Approximated	
Animal teeth	Whelton et al. (2018)	Approximated	
Animal teeth	Whelton et al. (2018)	Approximated	
Animal teeth	Whelton et al. (2018)	Approximated	
Animal teeth	Whelton et al. (2018)	Approximated	
Animal teeth	Whelton et al. (2018)	Approximated	
Plants	Wang et al. (2019)	Provided	
Animal remains (2; M) and water (1)	Prevedorou (2015)	Approximated	
Animal remains (7; M), snail shells (2) and water (2)	Prevedorou (2015)	Approximated	
Animal remains (1; M) and water (4)	Prevedorou (2015)	Approximated	
Animal remains(2; M), Snail shells (5) and water (2)	Prevedorou (2015)	Approximated	
Animal remains (2; M) and water (1)	Prevedorou (2015)	Approximated	
Snail shells	Prevedorou (2015)	Approximated	
Animal remains (3; M) and snail shells (4)	Prevedorou (2015)	Approximated	











<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
A	Archeological
Ap	Agricultural pasture
AR	Animal remains
Gr	Grazing land
HR	Human remains
M	Modern
P	Plants
S	Soil
SS	Snail shells
W	Water

1 **Tables**

2 Tables for manuscript ‘The geographic distribution of bioavailable strontium isotopes in Greece – a base for provenance studies in archaeology’ by  
 3 Frank et al.

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5 *Table 1 <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr value, its double standard error (2SE) and Sr concentration measured for plant, soil leachate, surface water and spring water samples at 25 locations in Central Greece*  
 6 *with Mesozoic- or Cenozoic-aged sediments.*

Location	Surface lithology	Plants			Soils leachates			Surface waters			Spring waters			
		<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	2SE (%)	Sr (mg/kg)	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	2SE (%)	Sr (mg/kg)	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	2SE (%)	Sr (mg/l)	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	2SE (%)	Sr (mg/l)	Distance to location (km)
CG01	Mesozoic sediments	0.70911	0.0016	2.50	0.70872	0.0021	7.19				0.70847	0.0018	0.08	1.44
CG02	Mesozoic sediments	0.70818	0.0016	7.73	0.70811	0.0019	10.52				0.70847	0.0016	0.21	1.8
CG03	Mesozoic sediments	0.70871	0.0016	4.83	0.70823	0.0019	6.03				0.70810	0.002	0.06	3.24
CG04	Mesozoic sediments	0.70838	0.0008	110.43	0.70839	0.0023	19.36				0.70841	0.002	0.09	1.19
CG05	Mesozoic sediments	0.70896	0.0009	16.12	0.70880	0.0018	15.06	0.70889	0.002	0.56				
CG06	Mesozoic sediments	0.70888	0.0021	10.94	0.70886	0.0019	11.23	0.70858	0.002	0.18	0.70851	0.0021	0.21	3.07
CG07	Mesozoic sediments	0.70801	0.0009	22.09	0.70795	0.0019	23.67				0.70835	0.0017	0.29	1.03
CG08	Mesozoic sediments	0.70828	0.002	6.99	0.70806	0.0021	7.97	0.70806	0.0018	0.39	0.70813	0.0018	0.43	3.64

CG09	Cenozoic sediments	0.70826	0.0014	25.33	0.70855	0.0018	13.91	0.70797	0.0019	0.29	0.70834	0.0022	0.64	2.04
CG10	Mesozoic sediments	0.70840	0.0016	13.35	0.70889	0.0019	19.99	0.70784	0.0019	0.29				
CG11	Cenozoic sediments	0.70823	0.0021	20.21	0.70837	0.0021	8.11	0.70815	0.0015	0.28				
CG12	Cenozoic sediments	0.70835	0.0018	14.08	0.70825	0.002	10.32				0.70846	0.0017	0.33	6.98
CG13	Cenozoic sediments	0.70883	0.0017	26.23	0.70881	0.0021	11.23				0.70833	0.0023	0.17	0.51
CG14	Cenozoic sediments	0.70910	0.002	12.49	0.70945	0.0016	19.36	0.70803	0.0016	0.29	0.70906	0.002	0.51	0.95
CG15	Cenozoic sediments	0.70770	0.0011	24.93	0.70768	0.0017	34.36				0.70891	0.0022	0.31	3.19
CG16	Cenozoic sediments	0.70898	0.0011	7.64	0.70945	0.0019	10.72	0.70792	0.0021	0.06				
CG17	Mesozoic sediments	0.70864	0.002	4.16	0.70890	0.0015	5.88	0.70806	0.0015	0.06				
CG18	Mesozoic sediments	0.70793	0.0021	2.47	0.70786	0.002	5.04	0.70826	0.0018	0.07	0.70824	0.001	0.08	0
CG19	Cenozoic sediments	0.70828	0.0017	6.16	0.70821	0.0021	4.27	0.70822	0.0018	0.21	0.70818	0.0014	0.23	0
CG20	Cenozoic sediments	0.70823	0.0019	6.08	0.70778	0.002	4.32	0.70814	0.0021	0.10				
CG21	Mesozoic sediments	0.70849	0.0018	8.69	0.70838	0.0022	4.89	0.70840	0.0015	0.13				
CG22	Mesozoic sediments	0.71016	0.0017	3.37	0.71021	0.0024	3.63	0.70995	0.0013	0.19	0.70815	0.0017	0.14	6.33

CG23	Cenozoic sediments	0.70894	0.0019	4.25	0.70863	0.0021	8.62	0.70822	0.0016	0.10				
CG24	Cenozoic sediments	0.70973	0.0013	4.68	0.70919	0.0016	9.03				0.70819	0.0021	0.09	5.6
CG25	Cenozoic sediments	0.70847	0.0018	4.21	0.70796	0.0021	10.64				0.70769	0.0022	0.05	6.42

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