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# Submarine Earthquake History of the Çınarcık Segment of the North Anatolian Fault in the Marmara Sea, Turkey

by Laureen Drab,\* Aurélie Hubert-Ferrari, Sabine Schmidt, Philippe Martinez, Julie Carlut, and Meriam El Ouahabi

**Abstract** The North Anatolian fault (NAF) in the Marmara Sea is a significant hazard for the city of Istanbul. The use of paleoseismological data to provide an accurate seismic risk assessment for the area is constrained by the fact that the NAF system is submarine; thus a history of paleoearthquakes can be inferred only by using marine sediment cores. Here, a record of turbidites was obtained in two cores and used to reconstruct the earthquake history along the Çınarcık segment, a main branch of the NAF. Klg04 was collected from a berm north of the fault, and Klg03 was positioned in the Çınarcık basin, south of the fault. The cores were correlated using long-term geochemical variations in the sediment, and turbidites deposited simultaneously at both sites were then identified. Radionuclide measurements suggest the most recent turbidite was triggered by the 1894 C.E.  $M_w$  7.3 earthquake. We conclude that the turbidites identified at both sites are earthquake generated, based on their particular sedimentological and geochemical signatures; the correlation of turbidites at berm and basin sites; and the match of the most recent turbidite with a nineteenth century historical earthquake. To date older turbidites, we used carbon-14 and paleomagnetic data to build an OxCal model with a local reservoir correction of  $400 \pm 50$  yr. The Çınarcık segment is found to have ruptured in 1509 C.E., sometime in the fourteenth century, in 989 C.E., and in 740 C.E., with a mean recurrence interval in the range of 256–321 years. Finally, we used the earthquake record obtained to review the rupture history of the adjacent segments over the past 1500 years.

## Introduction

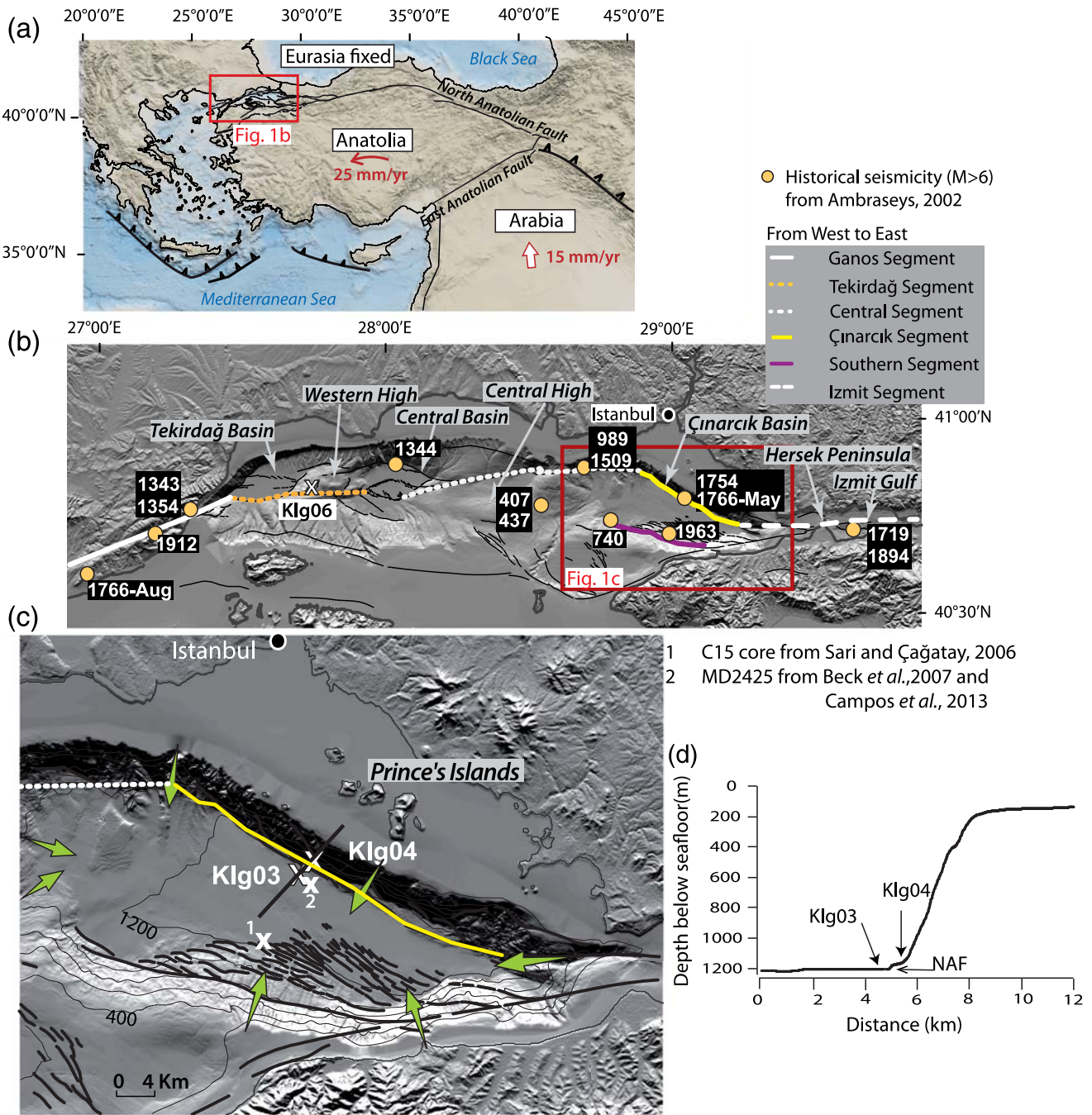
Constraining the recurrence rate of  $M_w > 7$  earthquakes that threaten the megacity of Istanbul is problematic because the late Holocene faults are submarine. Istanbul, with 12 million inhabitants, borders the Marmara Sea (Fig. 1a), a submarine pull-apart basin related to the North Anatolian fault (NAF), a major strike-slip fault that ruptures in large magnitude earthquakes. Since the 1999  $M_w$  7.4 Izmit earthquake, stresses have further increased in the eastern part of the Marmara Sea (Hubert-Ferrari *et al.*, 2000; Parsons *et al.*, 2000; Pondard *et al.*, 2007). Understanding past ruptures of the NAF in the Marmara Sea is thus a key issue in assessing seismic hazards for this area.

Subaqueous paleoseismology can reconstruct the history of large earthquakes on submarine faults (Goldfinger, 2011), as shaking associated with large offshore earthquakes triggers submarine landslides and turbidity currents. The resulting deposits can be sampled by sediment coring, characterized, and dated. Earthquake-generated turbidites have

generally been identified based on their synchronicity at different sites and their distinctive sedimentological or geochemical signatures (Gorsline *et al.*, 2000; Nakajima and Kanai, 2000; Shiki *et al.*, 2000; Beck *et al.*, 2007; Masson *et al.*, 2011; Drab *et al.*, 2012). In the case of the Marmara Sea, several studies (McHugh *et al.*, 2006; Sarı and Çağatay, 2006; Beck *et al.*, 2007; Drab *et al.*, 2012) revealed that its sediments contain a record of turbidites triggered by large earthquakes. These turbidites have been used to constrain the history of earthquakes rupturing across a given depocenter (McHugh *et al.*, 2006; Drab *et al.*, 2012). The present study shows that marine sediment cores can be used to constrain paleoruptures of the NAF segment located just south of Istanbul and to evaluate the recurrence rate of large magnitude earthquakes in this area.

Here, we apply subaqueous paleoseismology to two gravity cores located in the Çınarcık basin of the Marmara Sea (Fig. 1b). The Çınarcık basin is located ~20 km to the south of Istanbul and is north bounded by the Çınarcık fault, the main segment of the NAF. In the two cores, we identified and characterized turbidite deposits using their grain size and

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**Figure 1.** (a) Global geodynamic context of the Anatolian plate with Global Positioning System velocities from [Reilinger et al. \(2006\)](#). The location of the Marmara Sea (shown in [b]) is indicated with a box. (b) General tectonic map of the Marmara Sea, crossed by the North Anatolian fault (NAF). Basins, highs, and main segments of the fault are indicated from the west to the east with different lines, and their names are given in the gray box to the right. The study area (shown in [c]) is depicted with a box. Historical earthquakes located by [Ambraseys \(2002\)](#) are represented with rupture dates and dots. (c) The map of Çınarcık basin. Location of the two studied cores is represented with respect to the Çınarcık fault segment. Arrows show sediment paths for turbidite deposits ([Altınok et al., 2011](#)). The line crossing the two cores represents the topographic profile presented in (d). White crosses represent the location of other published cores discussed in the study. (d) Topographic profile of the northern part of the Çınarcık basin. The profile starts close to the center of the Çınarcık basin. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

geochemical characteristics. We also used east Mediterranean-scale changes in sedimentation to correlate the two records to a reference core located in a nonturbidite depositional environment. We then investigated the possible trig-

gering mechanisms of the turbidites. Radiogenic lead ( $^{210}\text{Pb}$ ) and cesium ( $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ) data allowed us to date and correlated the turbidites at the top of the sediment columns with recent historical earthquakes. Radiocarbon dating ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ) combined

with paleomagnetic data enabled us to construct an age model for the core Klg04 located in a berm in the Çınarcık fault scarp (Fig. 1c,d) and to date turbidites over the last 1500 years. Finally, the NAF rupture behavior in the Marmara Sea is discussed.

## Setting

### Tectonic and Paleoseismological Background

The NAF is a major dextral strike-slip fault extending over 1200 km in northern Turkey and in the Aegean Sea (Barka and Kadinsky-Cade, 1988; Sengör *et al.*, 2005) (Fig. 1a). In the Marmara Sea, the NAF accommodates a dextral horizontal motion of 18.5 mm/yr (Kurt *et al.*, 2013) spread over a width of 130 km (Barka and Kadinsky-Cade, 1988). Most of the deformation is localized on the northern branch of the NAF (Armijo *et al.*, 2002), which crosses the Marmara Sea. The Marmara Sea is 170 km long, has a maximum water depth of 1250 m, and is composed of three aligned pull-apart basins separated by two topographic ridges (Le Pichon *et al.*, 2001; Armijo *et al.*, 2002; Sari and Çağatay, 2006; Fig. 1b).

The study focuses on the Çınarcık basin, the easternmost transform basin of the Marmara Sea (Fig. 1c). The 50 km long  $\times$  18 km wide basin is bounded to the north by the main segment of the NAF and to the south by a secondary normal fault system (Smith *et al.*, 1995; Le Pichon *et al.*, 2001; Armijo *et al.*, 2002). The main northern segment, here called the Çınarcık segment, runs at the base of a steep escarpment, 1000 m high (from 200 to 1200 meters below sea level [m.b.s.l.]) and 40 km long. The fault is characterized by composite strike-slip and normal motions (Armijo *et al.*, 2002).

In the last 300 years, the Çınarcık basin has experienced several  $M_w > 6$  earthquakes (Ambraseys, 2002; Fig. 1a). The most recent 1963 C.E.  $M_w$  6.3 earthquake occurred on the southern fault bordering the Çınarcık basin (Bulut and Aktar, 2007; Fig. 1a). Presently, this is the only earthquake unambiguously attributed to a fault in the Çınarcık basin. The 1894 C.E.  $M_w$  7.3 earthquake has been located in the Çınarcık basin (Parsons, 2004; Hebert *et al.*, 2005; Pondard *et al.*, 2007) or in the Izmit Gulf (Hubert-Ferrari *et al.*, 2000; Ambraseys, 2002; McHugh *et al.*, 2006). The associated tsunami strongly affected the Prince Islands, south of Istanbul (Ambraseys, 2002; Altınok *et al.*, 2011). During the eighteenth century, there was a westward-propagating sequence of earthquakes in the Marmara Sea (1719 C.E., 1754 C.E., May and August 1766 C.E.), but the corresponding fault ruptures are poorly constrained. In 1509 C.E., a large earthquake destroyed Istanbul; its epicenter has been located near the city (Ambraseys, 2001, 2009), but it may have ruptured either the Çınarcık or the Central faults (Guidoboni and Comastri, 2005). Destruction associated with the 1343 C.E. earthquake was mostly on the western part of the Marmara Sea, but this earthquake was associated with a large burst of

seismicity during the end of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries in the Marmara area (Ambraseys and Finkel, 1991). The 989 C.E. earthquake principally affected the Istanbul region, with a tsunami reaching the city (Ambraseys and Finkel, 1991; Altınok *et al.*, 2011). Historical data predominantly locate the event in the Çınarcık basin (Ambraseys, 2002; Guidoboni and Comastri, 2005). Finally, the 740  $M_w$  7.1 C.E. earthquake was associated with a large tsunami (Altınok *et al.*, 2011). It has been generally located in the Çınarcık basin (Ambraseys, 2002; Guidoboni and Comastri, 2005), but some authors suggested an epicenter location in the Izmit Gulf or Central basin (McHugh *et al.*, 2006; Bertrand *et al.*, 2011; Çağatay *et al.*, 2012). Historical information for older ages is limited, but Ambraseys (2002) located the 407 C.E. and 437 C.E. earthquakes in the Çınarcık basin.

Based only on historical reports, it is difficult to unambiguously associate an offshore earthquake with a given submarine fault (Table 1). Even studies combining historical data with attenuation models (Parsons, 2004) or distribution of slip deficit and Coulomb stress interaction (Pondard *et al.*, 2007) propose different rupture scenarios across the Marmara Sea. Subaqueous paleoseismological studies provide additional constraints. Indeed, in the Marmara Sea, earthquake-triggered turbidites have been documented by McHugh *et al.* (2006), Sari and Çağatay (2006), Beck *et al.* (2007), and Drab *et al.* (2012). In addition McHugh *et al.* (2006) and Drab *et al.* (2012) found that large earthquakes rupturing the bounding or crossing fault of a given basin strongly affect its sedimentation but have minor or no effects on the nearby sedimentary basins. Thus, a series of individual seismoturbidites can be linked to a specific earthquake rupture associated with large historical earthquakes.

### Seismoturbidite Characteristics

In general, turbidites are often interpreted to have a seismic trigger because of their broad contemporaneous occurrence in a given setting (Goldfinger, 2011) and of their particular sedimentological imprint. In the Marmara Sea, the geographical extent of turbidite deposits has been deduced by correlating different sediment cores or by using high-resolution seismic subbottom profiles for imaging fine transparent layers related to turbidite deposits (McHugh *et al.*, 2006; Beck *et al.*, 2007).

Seismoturbidites are generally distinctive from non-earthquake-triggered slope failure turbidites because of their specific sedimentological and mineralogical imprints. They are characterized primarily by complex laminae (Shiki *et al.*, 2000; McHugh *et al.*, 2011); sharp basal layers (Shiki *et al.*, 2000); multiple coarse bases enriched with shells and detrital material, indicating multiple sources (Nakajima and Kanai, 2000; Bertrand *et al.*, 2008; Goldfinger *et al.*, 2008); variation in the composition of detrital material between each event (Nakajima and Kanai, 2000); and abrupt changes in sedimentary structures (Nakajima and Kanai, 2000; Shiki *et al.*, 2000).



Table 1  
Location of Historical Earthquakes in the Marmara Sea from the Literature

Historical Earthquake	1894	August 1766	May 1766	1754	1719	1509	1343	1344	1296	989	860	740
Ambroseys (2002)	Izmit Bay	Ganos fault	Çınarcık basin	Çınarcık basin	Izmit Bay	Çınarcık basin	Ganos fault	Central basin		Çınarcık basin	Çınarcık basin	South Çınarcık Izmit Bay
Bertrand <i>et al.</i> (2011)					Izmit Bay	Izmit Bay						
Çağatay <i>et al.</i> (2012)									Izmit Bay	Izmit Bay		Izmit Bay
Drab <i>et al.</i> (2012)			Central basin				Central basin					
Guidoboni and Comastri (2005)												
Herbert <i>et al.</i> (2005)	Çınarcık	West of Çınarcık	Fault extend to Çınarcık			Çınarcık fault						
Hubert-Ferrari <i>et al.</i> (2000)	East of Izmit basin	Ganos fault	Central–Tekirdağ		Izmit Bay							
McHugh <i>et al.</i> (2006)	Izmit Bay		Izmit fault/Çınarcık									
Parsons (2004)	Çınarcık (south or north)/Izmit overlap	Tekirdağ–Ganos fault	Central–Çınarcık fault		Izmit Bay	Çınarcık fault						
Pondard <i>et al.</i> (2007)	South Çınarcık	Tekirdağ–Ganos fault	Central	Çınarcık basin	Izmit Bay							Central/Izmit/Çınarcık

Seismoturbidites in the Marmara Sea have been distinguished from other turbidites based on their particular grain size and geochemical characteristics (Sarı and Çağatay, 2006; Beck *et al.*, 2007; Çağatay *et al.*, 2012). The seismoturbidites deposited in the Central and Tekirdağ basins have the following specific characteristics (Drab *et al.*, 2012): (1) they display nongradational changes in particles size and coarse basal pulse; (2) intermediate silt-rich layers show numerous thin parallel laminae and flaser-bed structures linked to oscillating currents (Beck *et al.*, 2007; Campos *et al.*, 2013); (3) sharp basal sand layers are characterized by a decrease in bromine (Br) content, a relative increase in titanium (Ti), a peak in zirconium (Zr), and magnetic susceptibility (Çağatay *et al.*, 2012; Campos *et al.*, 2013); and (4) the turbidite is capped by a clayey silt layer. Turbidites induced by earthquakes in the Izmit Gulf have the same characteristics and show a large peak in manganese below the base of the turbidite related to a transient reduction front following the turbidite deposit (Çağatay *et al.*, 2012). Finally, these seismoturbidites are synchronous with distal fine-grained deposits in the adjacent Western High that are related to a thick suspension cloud above the turbidite flow (McHugh *et al.*, 2011; Drab *et al.*, 2012).

In the Çınarcık basin, the record of turbidites has not been studied in detail yet, but Sarı and Çağatay (2006) identified reworked deposits in sediment cores and inferred a seismic trigger due to (1) the increase in different detrital material at the base of their events, (2) the occurrence of shallow benthic foraminifers, and (3) the exclusion of any other possible triggering mechanism.

#### Paleo-Environmental Changes Recorded in the Marmara Sea

Evidence for the simultaneous deposition of sediment can be established in the Marmara Sea cores because Holocene sedimentation displays distinct and important changes. For the last 4 ka, most of these changes have been related to anthropogenic disturbances (Mudie *et al.*, 2002; Kazancı *et al.*, 2004; Valsecchi *et al.*, 2012).

Pollen studies (Mudie *et al.*, 2002; Valsecchi *et al.*, 2012) documented two phases of forest clearance. The first phase occurred from 5 to 4 ky B.P. The second one started around 2.5 ka and marked the first appearance of sustained agriculture along the Marmara Sea coasts (Mudie *et al.*, 2002, 2007; Valsecchi *et al.*, 2012). Forest clearance was associated with significant land degradation in the Marmara Sea catchments (Kazancı *et al.*, 2004; Valsecchi *et al.*, 2012). These changes in vegetation and land use triggered an increase in sedimentary flux to the Marmara Sea (Walling, 2006) and resulted in a progressive increase in sedimentation rate on the Marmara southern shelf (Kazancı *et al.*, 2004). In addition, about 2 ka ago, a global increase in grain size synchronous with a step increase in lead and titanium was described in the Marmara Sea deep basins (Fig. 2; Drab *et al.*, 2012).

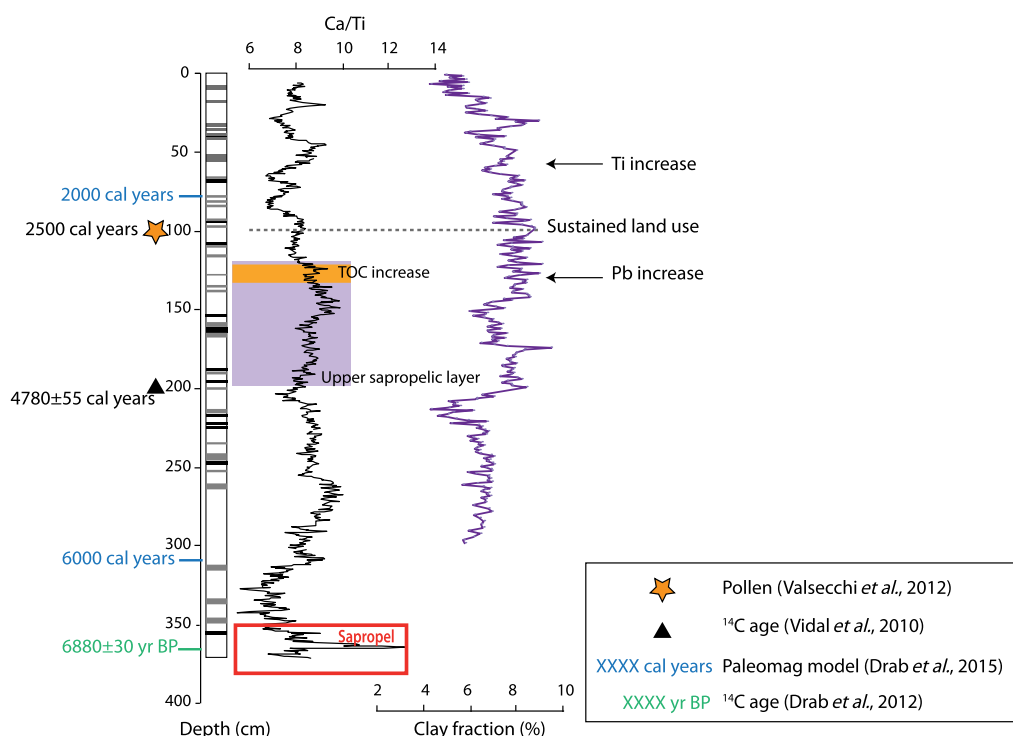
The sedimentary imprints of the different environmental changes are summarized in Figure 2, using data from the core KlG06 published in Drab *et al.* (2012) and the core MD01-2430 published in Vidal *et al.* (2010) and Valsecchi *et al.* (2012). The two cores are located on the Marmara Sea structural Western High, are devoid of any significant turbidites, and contain a continuous record of environmental changes. Drab *et al.* (2012) have shown that these global environmental changes are synchronous in the different basins of the Marmara Sea and can be tracked through x-ray fluorescence (XRF) measurements. As a consequence, common time horizons between sediment cores can be defined and used to match turbidites in a given depocenter.

#### Coring Site and Methods

Two Kullenberg sediment piston cores, KlG03 and KlG04, were collected in the Çınarcık basin during the Marmarascarps cruise in 2002 (Armijo *et al.*, 2005), shortly after the 1999  $M_w$  7.4 Izmit earthquake (Fig. 1a, Table 2). They are 3 km apart and lie along the Çınarcık fault segment bordering the northern edge of the basin. Core KlG03 is located in the deepest part of the main Holocene depocenter (1240 m.b.s.l.; Carton *et al.*, 2007), 1.6 km south of the main fault strand. The site is on the main path of turbidites coming from the northern shelf, but it can also be reached by turbidites generated on the Central High or on the southern slope (Fig. 1c). Core KlG04 is located in a topographic berm between two splays of the Çınarcık segment near the base of the 1000 m high northern slope in front of the Prince Islands (Fig. 1c). It lies 300 m north of the main fault segment and is 35 m higher than the KlG03 site (Fig. 1d). Because the KlG04 site is placed significantly above the basin floor, it can be reached only by turbidites originating from the northern shelf.

In this article, we also used data from core KlG06, located on the Western High, 100 km away from the Çınarcık basin (Fig. 1b). The core spans the last 7 ky and does not contain a record of coarse-grained turbidites like the ones deposited in the basins of the Marmara Sea (Drab *et al.*, 2012). Core KlG06 is thus used to highlight global environmental changes that occurred in the Marmara Sea and to provide common time horizons in-between the KlG03, KlG04, and KlG06 cores.

A number of sedimentological investigations were performed to describe and characterize turbidites in the cores. X-ray radiographs obtained on the scopix system at Environnements et Paléoenvironnements Océaniques et Continentaux (EPOC) research group in the University of Bordeaux were used to identify turbidites, similar to methods used by Beck *et al.* (2007) and Drab *et al.* (2012). Grain size measurements were performed on bulk sediment every centimeter on a Malvern Mastersizer 2000 to support the identification of turbidites (Folk, 1968; Sperazza *et al.*, 2004; Bertrand *et al.*, 2008). Magnetic susceptibility measurements were obtained on split cores using a Bartington MS2E every 5 mm at room



**Figure 2.** Summary of major Holocene sedimentation changes observed in core Klg06 with x-ray fluorescence (XRF), grain size, and total organic carbon content. Ages obtained from different studies (Vidal *et al.*, 2010; Drab *et al.*, 2012; Valsecchi *et al.*, 2012; Drab *et al.*, 2015) are indicated on the left side of the log. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

temperature and highlight beds enriched in magnetite, which accompanies coarse detrital material that can characterize the base of turbidites (Evans and Heller, 2003). XRF data were acquired using an Avaatech XRF core scanner and were used to describe geochemical and sedimentological processes associated with earthquake-related deposits by comparing elements considered as detrital with more local ones, like calcium. Measurements were taken every 5 mm with radiation energies of 10 and 30 keV to reach a large spectrum of elements comprising calcium (Ca), Ti, manganese (Mn), and Zr. Because the XRF data need to be compared through and between the sediment cores regardless of the absolute value of the concentrations, we standardized the data to have a zero mean and unit variance. We also used ratios of elements that provide the most easily interpretable signal of relative changes in chemical composition and minimize the risk of drawing erroneous conclusions by enhancing the signal-to-noise ratio (Palike *et al.*, 2001; Vlag *et al.*, 2004; Bahr *et al.*, 2005).

**Table 2**  
Location of Kullenberg Cores

Core	Latitude (° N)	Longitude (° E)	Water Depth (m)	Core Depth (cm)
Klg03	40°47.98	28°59.55	1241	374
Klg04	40°48.60	29°00.73	1206	419
Klg06	40°48.90	27°44.28	726	371

The chronology of the sediment cores is based on  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ ,  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ , and  $^{14}\text{C}$  analyses and paleomagnetic measurements. The  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  radionuclides were measured using a semiplanar  $\gamma$  detector (University of Bordeaux 1) at EPOC (Schmidt *et al.*, 2009). Paleomagnetic measurements (secular variation of the geomagnetic inclination and declination) provided independent time constraints. The natural remanent magnetization (NRM) was measured on 1.5 m long U-channel samples cut from cores using a horizontal cryogenic magnetometer 2G-enterprise at the paleomagnetic laboratory of the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris. Measurements were performed every 2 cm. The NRM was progressively demagnetized using an alternating field in 11 steps up to a maximum field peak of 90 mT on Klg04. The characteristic remanent magnetization (ChRM) was then isolated using Zijderveld diagrams and least-squares principal component analysis (Kirschvink, 1980; Cogné, 2003). (Zijderveld diagrams are presented in Fig. A1). Core Klg03 was also analyzed, but only two demagnetization steps were applied because of technical issues.

Accelerator mass spectrometry radiocarbon dating on 24 samples (benthic foraminifers, planktonic foraminifers, and mollusk shells) was carried out at Artemis LMC14 laboratory in Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, Orsay, and at the Aeon laboratory (Table 3). Both planktonic and benthic foraminifers were collected when possible in hemipelagic sediments just above the turbidites. Mollusk shells were mostly extracted at the base

**Table 3**  
Summary of  $^{14}\text{C}$  Results Constraining Events E2–E8 in the Klg04 Core

Sample Name	Sample Depth in Klg04 (cm)	Depth in a Turbidite-Free Scale (cm)	Sample Type	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Mass C (mg)	Radiocarbon Age (yr) <sup>†</sup>	Calibrated Ages with Reservoir Correction of $400 \pm 50$ yr (B.C.E./B.C.) <sup>*</sup>	
							Unmodeled	Modeled
<b>Event E1</b>	<b>10–14</b>	<b>14</b>						<b>1894</b>
Klg04-17 cm	17	17	Benthic foraminifer <sup>‡</sup>	-519	0.267	1060 ± 30	1509 C.E.–1805 C.E.	1769 C.E.–1888 C.E.
Klg04-28 cm	28	28	Shell <sup>§</sup>	-0.6	0.91	1140 ± 30	1468 C.E.–1672 C.E.	1550 C.E.–1713 C.E.
<b>Event E2</b>	<b>40–46</b>	<b>40</b>					N/A	<b>1364 C.E.–1511 C.E.</b>
Klg04-38 cm	38	41	Benthic foraminifer <sup>‡</sup>	-6.7	0.831	1480 ± 30	1210 C.E.–1417 C.E.	1342 C.E.–1449 C.E.
Klg04-45.5 cm	45.5		Shell <sup>§</sup>	-8.3	0.89	1580 ± 30		
Klg03-88 cm	88		Benthic foraminifer <sup>‡</sup>	0.3	1.26	1885 ± 30		
<b>Event E3</b>	<b>54–60</b>	<b>48</b>					N/A	<b>1268 C.E.–1360 C.E.</b>
Klg03-100 cm	100	48.5	Benthic foraminifer <sup>‡</sup>	0.6	1.26	1515 ± 30	1170 C.E.–1397 C.E.	1263 C.E.–1352 C.E.
Klg03-98 cm	98	49	Shell <sup>§</sup>	-1.6	0.69	1585 ± 30	1076 C.E.–1309 C.E.	1251 C.E.–1339 C.E.
Klg04-59 cm	59	49.5	Shell <sup>§</sup>	-0.6	0.96	1595 ± 30	1070 C.E.–1302 C.E.	1245 C.E.–1334 C.E.
Klg03-114/plc cm	114		Planktonic foraminifer <sup>¶</sup>	-8.3	0.259	2380 ± 15		
Klg03-114 cm	114	52	Benthic foraminifer <sup>‡</sup>	0.4	0.71	1630 ± 30	1052 C.E.–1283 C.E.	1185 C.E.–1302 C.E.
Klg04-68.5 cm	68.5	56.5	Benthic foraminifer <sup>‡</sup>	-10.6	0.23	1740 ± 35	929 C.E.–1213 C.E.	1058 C.E.–1226 C.E.
<b>Event E4</b>	<b>77–82</b>	<b>65</b>					N/A	<b>779 C.E.–1041 C.E.</b>
<b>Event E5</b>	<b>88.5–92</b>	<b>71</b>					N/A	<b>607 C.E.–867 C.E.</b>
Klg04-91 cm	91		Shell <sup>§</sup>	-1.7	0.69	4535 ± 30		
Klg03-158 cm	158	78	Shell <sup>§</sup>	-1	0.86	2370 ± 30	269 C.E.–570 C.E.	429 C.E.–610 C.E.
Klg03-161 cm	158	78.5	Planktonic foraminifer <sup>¶</sup>	N/A <sup>#</sup>	0.061	2370 ± 60	237 C.E.–612 C.E.	410 C.E.–600 C.E.
<b>Event E6</b>	<b>104–108.5</b>	<b>83</b>					N/A	<b>136 C.E.–481 C.E.</b>
Klg03-203.5 cm	203.5	97	Shell <sup>§</sup>	-3.6	0.56	3045 ± 30	560 B.C.E.–197 B.C.E.	383 B.C.E.–188 B.C.E.
<b>Event E7</b>	<b>130–138.5</b>	<b>105</b>					N/A	<b>771 B.C.E.–522 B.C.E.</b>
Klg04-130 cm	130	106	Shell <sup>§</sup>	-2.3	0.9	3355 ± 30	920 B.C.E.–612 B.C.E.	791 B.C.E.–590 B.C.E.
Klg03-245 cm	245	110	Shell <sup>§</sup>	-4.2	0.43	3750 ± 30	1408 B.C.E.–1087 B.C.E.	1039 B.C.E.–848 B.C.E.
<b>Event E8</b>	<b>148–152</b>	<b>114</b>					N/A	<b>1090 B.C.E.–890 B.C.E.</b>
Top of sapropelic layer	150	115	Sapropel			4125 ± 625	3490 B.C.E.–338 B.C.E.	1103 B.C.E.–902 B.C.E.
Klg04-162	162		Shell <sup>§</sup>	3.1	0.9	17360 ± 60		
Klg04-184 cm	184		Shell <sup>§</sup>	-5.8	1.1	4380 ± 30		
Klg04-197 cm	197		Shell <sup>§</sup>	-1.8	0.71	15100 ± 45		
Klg04-214 cm	214		Shell <sup>§</sup>	2	0.7	4910 ± 30		
Klg03-351 cm	351	154	Shell <sup>§</sup>	-1	0.77	3975 ± 30	1665 B.C.E.–1387 B.C.E.	1552 B.C.E.–1362 B.C.E.
Klg03-362 cm	362	165	Planktonic foraminifer <sup>¶</sup>	N/A <sup>#</sup>	0.068	4000 ± 60	1749 B.C.E.–1370 B.C.E.	1720 B.C.E.–1493 B.C.E.

(continued)



Table 3 (Continued)

Sample Name	Sample Depth in Klg04 (cm)	Depth in a Turbidite-Free Scale (cm)	Sample Type	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Mass C (mg)	Radiocarbon Age (yr) <sup>†</sup>	Calibrated Ages with Reservoir Correction of $400 \pm 50$ yr (B.C.E./B.C.) <sup>*</sup>	
							Unmodeled	Modeled
Klg04-268 cm	260	194	Shell <sup>§  </sup>	-2.7	0.45	$4655 \pm 30$	2569 B.C.E.–2228 B.C.E.	2431 B.C.E.–2165 B.C.E.

Samples are in stratigraphic order, and the rows labeled “Turbidites” in bold show the stratigraphic location of the turbidite horizon. Samples written in italics are reworked samples and have not been included in the model.

<sup>\*</sup>Unmodeled and modeled calibrated ages are determined using Oxcal (see [Data and Resources](#)), given at the 95.4% confidence level (minimum and maximum bounds), calibrated with the Marine13 curve that includes a global reservoir age of 400 years without the local correction (called the reservoir correction).

<sup>†</sup>Uncertainties for conventional radiocarbon age are given at the  $1\sigma$  (68.3%) confidence level.

<sup>‡</sup>Dated benthic foraminifers are *Bullimina marginata*, *Uvigerina peregrina*, and *Melonis barleeanum*.

<sup>§</sup>Dated mollusc shells are from the molluscan class Monoplacophora.

<sup>||</sup>Dated planktonic foraminifers are *Globigerina bulloides*.

<sup>#</sup> $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  not measured due to sample size.

of turbidites. Samples were selected in the first 150 cm of the two sediment cores to be able to relate recorded turbidites with historical earthquakes for which the segment ruptures may not be well constrained. Ages were calibrated using OxCal with the Marine13 calibration curve (Reimer *et al.*, 2013). Because two different samples types (mollusk shells and *Globigerina bulloides* planktonic foraminifers) collected at the same depths (160 and 350 cm) gave the same  $^{14}\text{C}$  age (Table 3), we assumed that the reservoir effect is the same for shells, planktonic, and benthic foraminifers up to 2000 yr B.P.

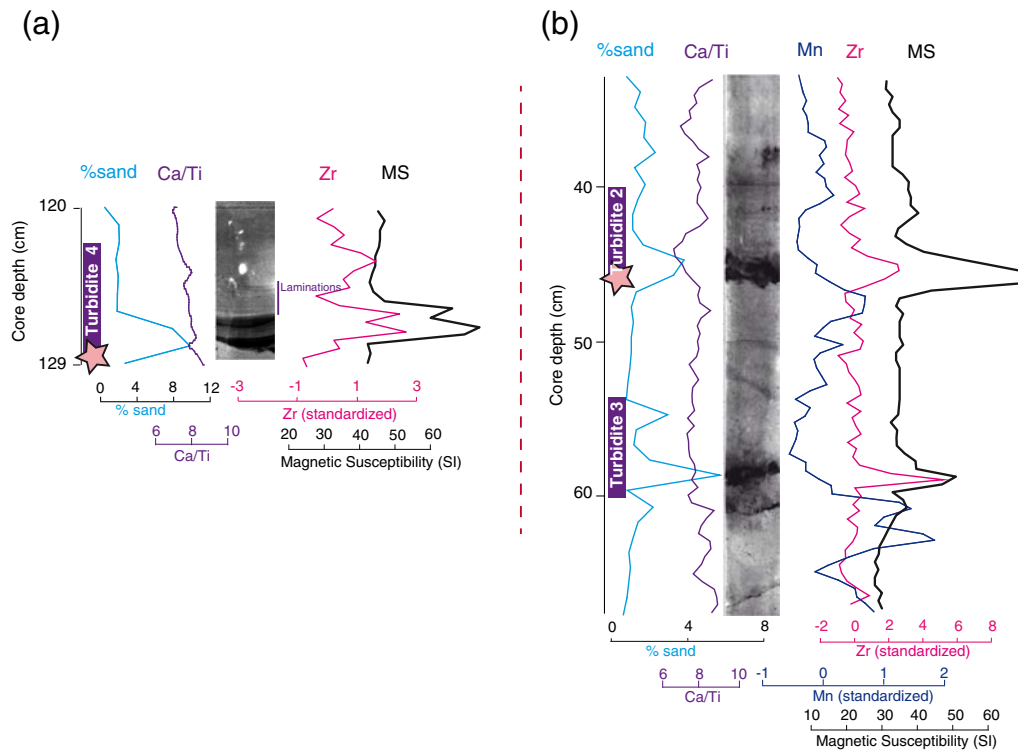
## Results

### Sedimentology, Physical and Chemical Properties of Turbidites

Visual inspection shows that all sediment cores have mostly uniform silty-clay lithology with few sandy laminae containing shell fragments (indicated by a star in Fig. 3 and arrows on the logs in Figs. 4 and 5). However, x-ray imagery combined with grain size measurements indicate that sediments are composed of a succession of rapidly deposited layers (i.e., turbidites). Turbidite deposits are usually characterized by a basal dark gray sandy layer and are followed by a grayer silt layer. The sand layer displays collocated high magnetic susceptibility and zirconium values, as well as a peak of manganese below the basal layer (Figs. 3, 4, and 5; Çağatay *et al.*, 2012). All of the sandy bases in Klg04, and most of those in Klg03, display a sharp lower boundary, some of which are irregular, indicating erosion associated with strong disturbances in the sediment structure (see rectangles on the right side of the logs in Figs. 4 and 5, showing major disturbances seen on x-ray images). This sandy base also appears in 50% of the turbidites in Klg04 and 30% in Klg03 multiple coarse pulses (Figs. 3b, 4, and 5). The overlying silt layers in Klg03 frequently show numerous thin parallel laminae, greater in concentration near their base. Beck *et al.* (2007) linked these laminae to the to-and-from bottom displacement induced by oscillating earthquake-triggered currents. In Klg04, overlying silt layers exhibit mostly turbulent deposition. In both cores, the silt layers reach a maximum in grain size just above the basal layer and can be capped by a thin light-gray clayey layer that is not easily distinguishable from hemipelagic sediments.

In core Klg03, we also identify a few sandy layers that do not show an erosive base (named tA, tB, tC, and tD in Fig. 4); these turbidites only contain laminae that are 2–5 cm thick. In addition, very thin sand laminae (~2 cm thick) that may correspond to minor turbidites are observed in the sediments. They typically have less than half of the thickness of the smallest major turbidite (~5 cm) identified in the same core.

Turbidite deposits comprise about 40% of the sediment record of Klg03 and Klg04 cores. The 370 cm long Klg03 core shows 14 erosive-base turbidites, with thicknesses ranging from 4 to 8 cm, and four nonerosive base turbidites



**Figure 3.** Typical examples of turbidites: grain size and geochemical (Ca/Ti, Mn, Zr, and magnetic susceptibility) signatures. Turbidites are composed of a basal sand layer, an upper silt layer with frequent laminations, and an upper light-gray clayey layer. (a) X-ray imagery, grain size, and geochemical profiles of turbidite e4 at 120 cm depth in Klg03. (b) X-ray imagery, grain size, and geochemical profiles of turbidite e2 at 45 cm depth in Klg04. Manganese typically shows a peak just below turbidites. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

(Fig. 4). Twenty-three turbidites are recorded in Klg04, with thicknesses ranging from 3 to 8 cm (Fig. 5).

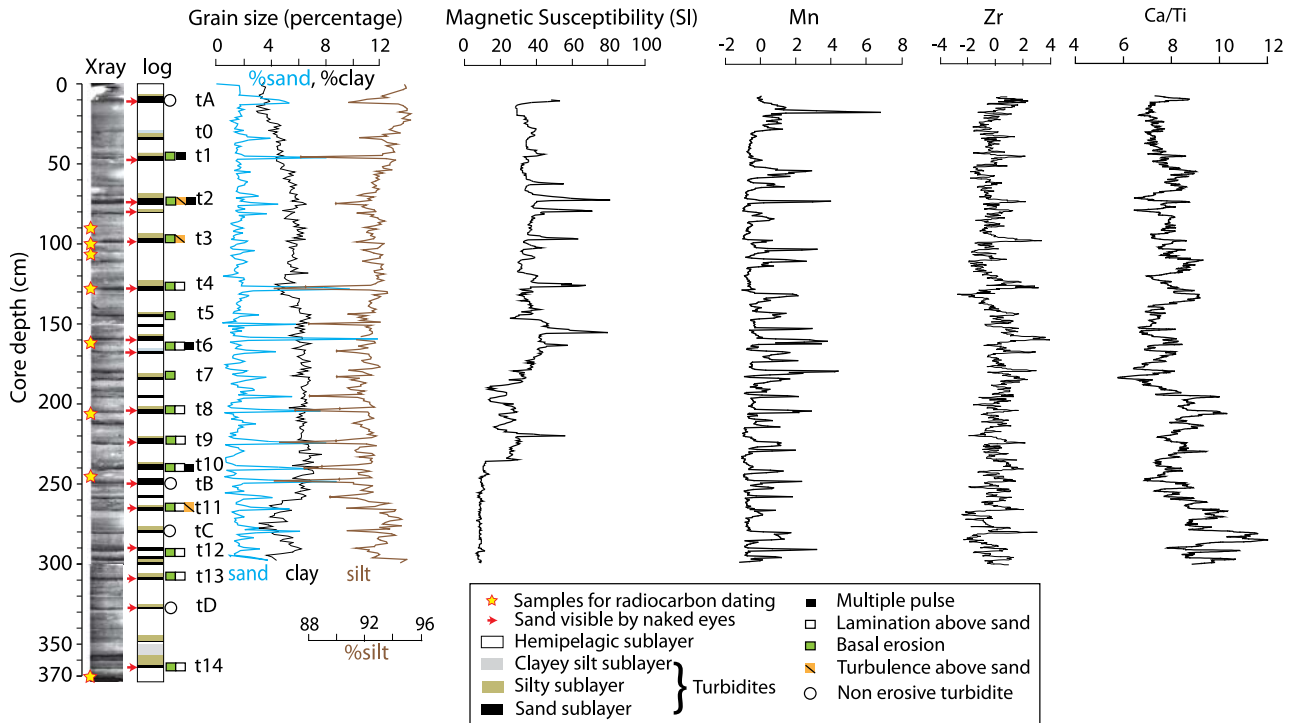
#### Correlation of Cores and Turbidites

The cores Klg03 and Klg04 were correlated with the Klg06 reference core based on the occurrence of synchronous global changes in the sedimentation (Fig. 6). Among these changes, a sapropelic layer is clearly identified in Klg04 and Klg03 cores. Sapropelic layers are organic-rich layers commonly found in the Mediterranean area (Rohling and Hilgen, 1991; Cramp and O’Sullivan, 1999; Larrasoana *et al.*, 2003) and in the Marmara Sea (Çağatay *et al.*, 2000; Tolun *et al.*, 2002; Vidal *et al.*, 2010). The last referenced sapropelic layer was identified by Çağatay *et al.* (2000) and occurred between 4.7 and 3.2 ky in the Marmara Sea. We identified the last sapropelic layer in the cores by an increase in total organic carbon content (Drab, 2012; Drab *et al.*, 2015). The layer is mapped in Figure 6 and can be used as an independent time constraint for the core chronology.

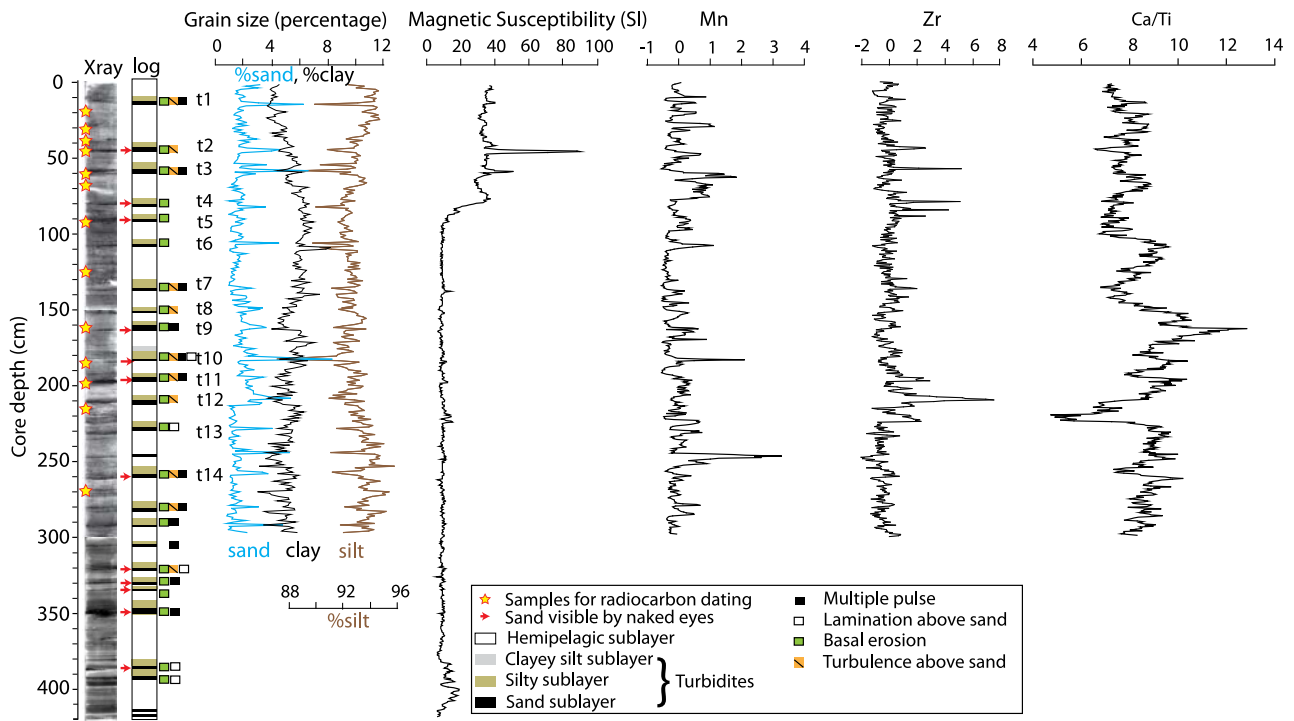
Paleomagnetic measurements obtained on the Klg03 and Klg04 cores also display important variations in the magnetic properties. A drop of magnetization in the NRM data is observed at 250 cm in Klg03 and at 80 cm in Klg04 (Fig. 6) and corresponds to the dissolution of magnetite grains through the process of diagenesis in the sediment.

The origin of the magnetic drop has been extensively studied by Drab (2012) and Drab *et al.* (2015). The occurrence of the very low magnetization is linked to the deposition of organic-rich material forming a sapropelic layer (Cramp and O’Sullivan, 1999; Larrasoana *et al.*, 2003).

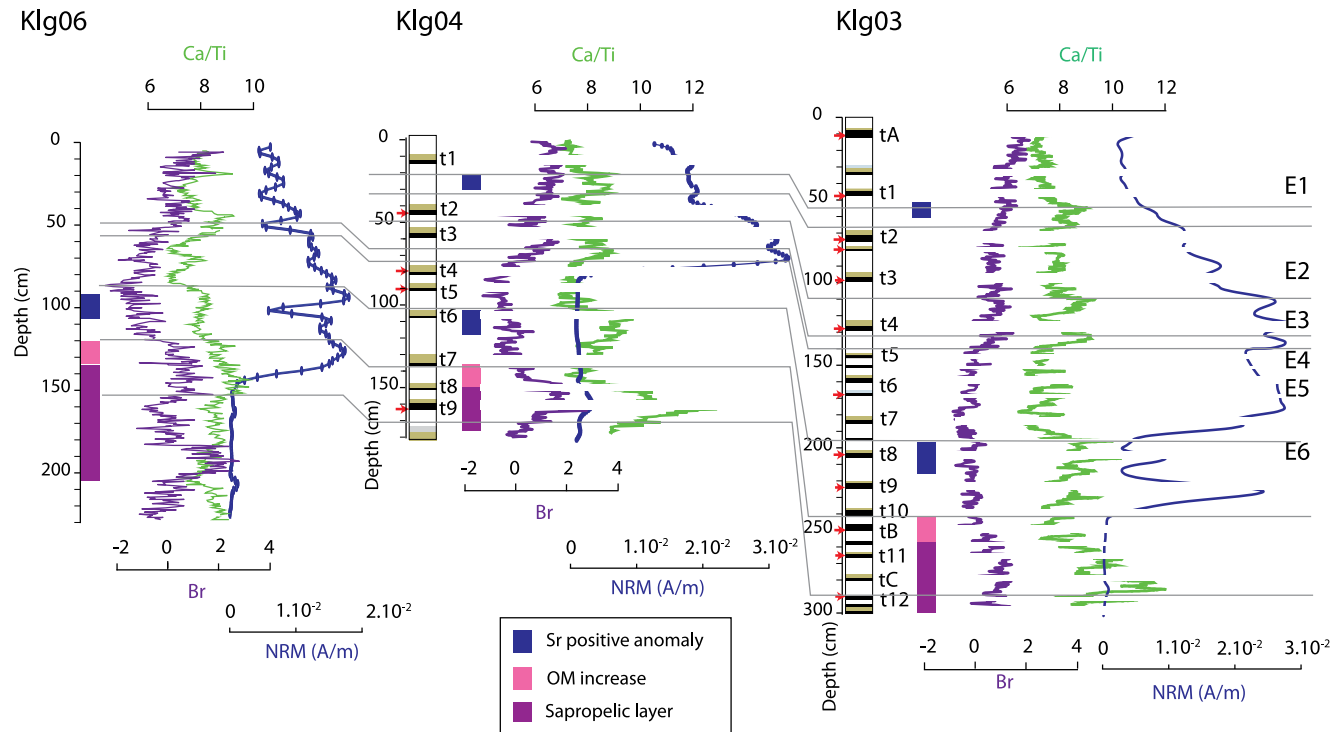
In addition, a global increase in grain size is identified in the cores and is linked with the deforestation and growth in sediment flux observed for the last 2 ka (Kazanci *et al.*, 2004; Walling, 2006; Valsecchi *et al.*, 2012). Finally, we used XRF data to identify other correlative changes in the Klg04 and Klg03 cores (Fig. 6). First, the upper part of the cores shows an increase in Br, representing an increase in organic matter (Ziegler *et al.*, 2008; Drab *et al.*, 2012). Second, both cores show a wide peak in Sr above the upper sapropelic layer. Third, the two cores were correlated based on the variation of Ca/Ti ratio and Br content (Bahr *et al.*, 2005; Gracia *et al.*, 2010). In the Marmara Sea, long-term regional variations in the Ca/Ti ratio are related to environmental changes, and Drab *et al.* (2012) have shown that the record for the Klg04 core can be linked to the Klg06 core in the Western High. The Ca/Ti curve in Klg04 is very spiky compared with the Klg06 one, which could be linked to basal erosion during turbidite emplacement. Figure 6 shows the correlation of Klg03 and Klg04 cores, excluding the coarse turbidites from the record. The XRF variations in Klg06 core are also displayed as a reference.



**Figure 4.** Stratigraphic interpretation of core Klg03 obtained combining x-ray imagery, particle size, magnetic susceptibility data, Ca/Ti, Mn, and Zr standardized intensities. Major turbidites are labeled, beginning with 1 at the top of the core, whereas turbidites without erosive base are labeled with a capital letter. Sand layer names are given when the percentage of sand is greater than the background percentage. Descriptions of the turbidites seen in the x-ray radiographs are also given with different symbols on the right side of the core log. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.



**Figure 5.** Stratigraphic interpretation of core Klg04 obtained combining x-ray imagery, particle size, magnetic susceptibility data, Ca/Ti, Mn, and Zr standardized intensities. Major turbidites are labeled, beginning with 1 at the top of the core. Sand layer names are given when the percentage of sand is greater than the background percentage. Descriptions of the turbidites seen in the x-ray radiographs are also given with different symbols on the right side of the core log. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.



**Figure 6.** Correlation of cores Klg03, Klg04, and Klg06 according to XRF and natural remanent magnetization (NRM) measurements. NRM values decrease under the values of  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  A/m at 80 cm for Klg04, at 200 cm for Klg03, and 150 cm in Klg06 and are not considered reliable below these depths. The turbidite thicknesses have been deleted to solely correlate long-term environmental variations between the cores. Gray lines represent main correlation lines between the three cores. Following the correlation, turbidites that appear to occur at the same time are labeled with a capital E. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

The different proxies are used here to define similar time horizons between the cores Klg03 and Klg04. To assess the validity of our correlation, we additionally used NRM data as a different and independent proxy for core correlation. It represents changes in magnetic carrier and in the intensity of the magnetic field. The correlation between Klg03 and Klg04 based on geochemical proxies is in agreement with the magnetic data. Also, it allows for the comparison and correlation of turbidites recorded in Klg03 and Klg04 independently of the age model derived using radiocarbon data. The correlation highlights that (1) Klg04 and Klg06 span a similar time frame (6.5 ky, according to radiocarbon data), whereas Klg03 records only the last 4 ky; (2) all turbidites recorded in Klg04 extend to Klg03 and are recorded at the Klg03 site; and (3) Klg03 displays more turbidites than Klg04 during the same time interval. The turbidites common to Klg04 and Klg03 are addressed as events marked with a capital E (Fig. 6).

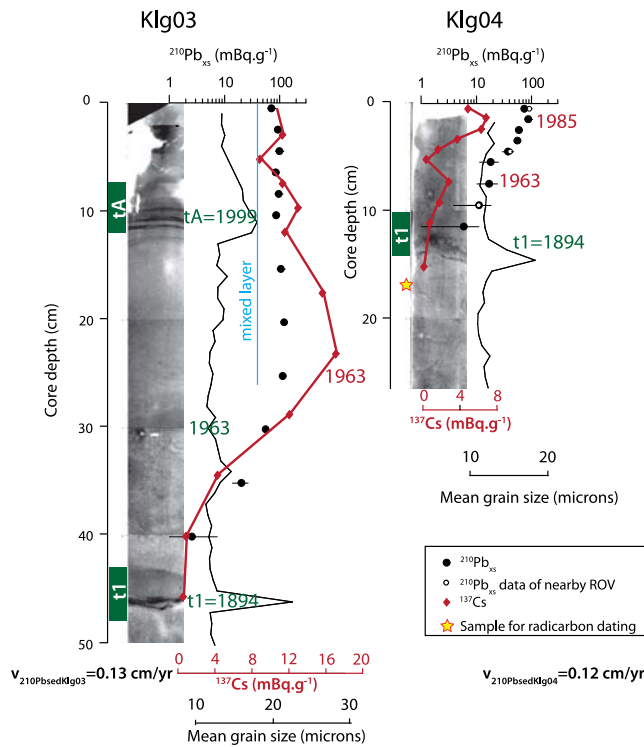
Within core Klg03, we observed that the turbidites linked with turbidites in Klg04 always displayed sand visible to the naked eye (Fig. 6). This suggests the synchronous turbidite deposits in Klg03 have a proximal origin, while the others may have a distal origin. The nearest slope-failure sources are the northern slope and the shelf of the Çınarcık basin (Fig. 1c). This reasoning further leads us to identify the source of the events deposited simultaneously at the Klg04 and Klg03 sites. The Klg04 sediment core (1206 m.b.s.l.) is located

in a berm, 35 m higher than the Klg03 site (1241 m.b.s.l.), near the base of the 1000 m high northern slope (Fig. 1d). Because of its particular geomorphologic location, only mass-wasting events coming from the north would be recorded at this site. On the contrary, the Klg03 core is located on the basin bottom in the area where the sedimentary infill is the thickest (Carton *et al.*, 2007). Turbidite events triggered by slope destabilization from the different sides of the basin (see arrows showing mass-wasting paths in Fig. 1c; Altnok *et al.*, 2011) would reach the Klg03 site more easily. The nonsandy Klg03 turbidites disconnected from the Klg04 ones are, in the present context, interpreted to have a far-field source located on a distal slope of the Çınarcık basin. Our study will thus focus mostly on the turbidites recorded in Klg04.

### Chronology

*Chronology of Recent Events Based on  $^{210}\text{Pb}_{\text{xs}}$  and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  Activities.* The age of the turbidites in the upper 50 cm of Klg03 and 25 cm of Klg04 can be constrained using unsupported  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ , a daughter product of radon ( $^{222}\text{Rn}$ ) that diffuses as gas through the atmosphere, and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  data. In Klg04, the basal layer of turbidite t1 is identified at 14 cm (Fig. 7). The turbidite has an erosive base and shows a sharp and strong increase in grain size. In Klg03, a turbidite with an erosive base is identified between 43 and 48 cm (labeled t1 in Fig. 7). Turbidite tA shows strong laminae and no erosive





**Figure 7.** Excess  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  activities (dots),  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  activities (diamond), and computed sedimentation rates of the cores Klg03 and Klg04. White dots along Klg04 are from a nearby remotely operated vehicle core and show that no significant loss of sediments occurs in the cores during coring. The extent of the mixed layer is depicted with a line in Klg03. X-ray imagery associated to the mean grain size shows the location of the turbidite likely induced by the 1894 earthquake. The turbidite is characterized by an increase in mean grain size with an erosive base for both cores. In Klg03, two other disturbances are also visible in the x-ray and are related with an increase in mean grain size. Turbidite tA, at 12 cm depth, is characterized by nonerosive laminae. Another small disturbance is observed at 30 cm depth without erosion. The occurrence of the peak in  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  concentration would indicate that this turbidite is related to the 1963  $M_w$  6.3 earthquake. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

base, along with a minor broad rise in mean grain size, a high magnetic susceptibility peak, and an increase in zirconium content (Fig. 4). Turbidite t1 in Klg03 has similar characteristics to t1 in Klg04. A third minor disturbance, 6 cm thick (from 29 to 35 cm), is also visible in the x-ray at 30 cm in Klg03 (Fig. 7). It is marked by sand and small Zr peaks and is mainly characterized by a disturbed clayey-silt layer.

In Klg04, the  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  chronology shows a first peak at 2 cm depth and a second at 8 cm. The first peak can be related to the 1986 Chernobyl event and the second to the 1963 peak in atmosphere nuclear testing (Lima *et al.*, 2005; van Welden *et al.*, 2008). Unsupported  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  is consistent with the cesium trend and exhibits, in the first 10 cm, an exponential decay with increasing depth (black circles in Fig. 7). Radionuclide activities are also consistent with those of the nearby remotely operated vehicle short cores collected during the same cruise (UÇarkuş, 2010; white circles in Fig. 7).

We calculated the background sedimentation rate using the constant flux–constant sedimentation model (Robbins, 1978). This model assumes that the excess  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in the atmosphere and in its sedimentation rate are constant through time. When these assumptions are satisfied, the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  varies exponentially with depth, and a sedimentation rate can be calculated. For Klg04, the deduced background sedimentation rate is  $0.12 \pm 0.01$  cm/yr. By extrapolation, turbidite t1, between 10 and 14 cm in depth, is inferred to have occurred between 1919 C.E. and 1885 C.E., as the top of the core corresponds to 2002, the year of sampling.

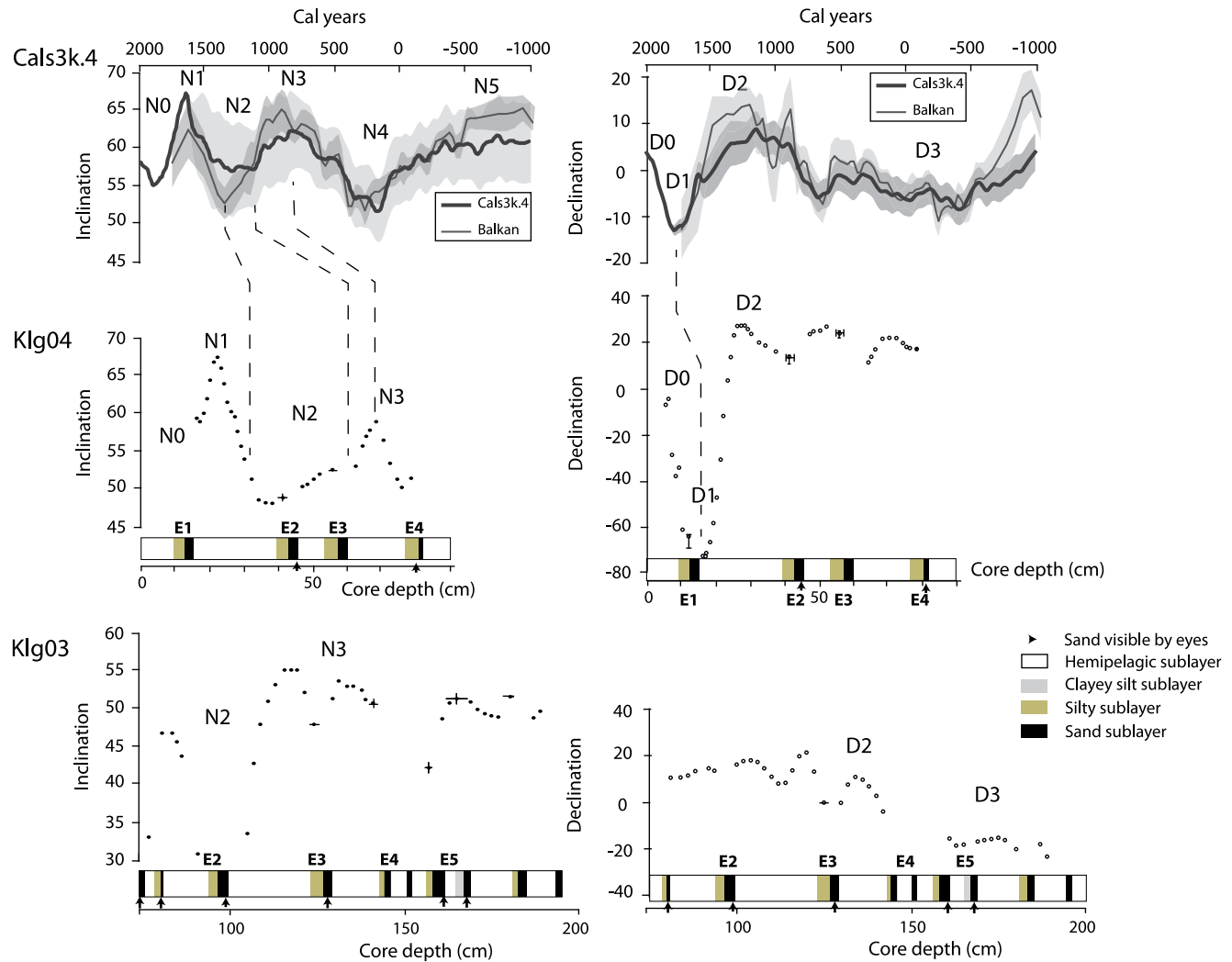
In core Klg03, the  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  profile shows a peak between 18 and 25 cm, possibly related to the 1963 peak in aerial nuclear testing (Fig. 7). The uppermost 25 cm also displays a constant and high  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  activity in an inferred reworked layer.  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  data imply that turbidite tA occurred very recently and may be related to the 1999 Izmit earthquake. The small disturbance detected at 30 cm might have been triggered by the 1963 Çınarcık earthquake. Below 25 cm,  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  activity displays a rapid exponential decay until 40 cm, and we deduced a background sedimentation rate of  $0.13 \pm 0.01$  cm/yr using the constant flux–constant sedimentation model. Low values in  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  that would occur before aerial nuclear testing around 1954 are reached at 36 cm. The age of turbidite t1 (43–48 cm) was calculated using the mean sedimentation rate of  $0.13 \pm 0.01$  cm/yr obtained with  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  from the depth of 36 cm, corresponding approximately to the year 1954. Turbidite t1 would have been deposited between 1900 C.E. and 1862 C.E.

Radionuclide data imply that turbidite t1, recorded between 10 and 14 cm depth in Klg04 and between 43 and 48 cm in Klg03, has an age of around 1919 C.E.–1862 C.E., and thus probably has the same trigger (event E1 in Fig. 6). The 1894 C.E.  $M_w$  7.3 Prince Islands earthquake occurred at that time in the Çınarcık basin. We thus infer that this large historical earthquake triggered the event E1 in both cores.

**Chronology Based on Paleomagnetic Data.** Paleoinclination and paleodeclination data were obtained on both cores to provide independent age constraints. Data were only analyzed when the NRM intensities presented values greater than  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  A/m, indicating a good preservation of the magnetic strength. This corresponded to the first 80 cm in Klg04 and to the interval 80–190 cm in Klg03 (Fig. 8). The presence of turbidites implies that our record is discontinuous and affects the magnetic signal. We thus removed data from all the sandy bases of the turbidites considered to be unreliable due to strong grain size variation. We then calculated a mean value for the silt and clay layers. These average values were interpreted to represent paleoinclination and paleodeclination at the time of, and just after, turbidite deposition, respectively. Finally, all of the data were kept for the hemipelagic sedimentation.

The paleoinclination and paleodeclination data were compared with the reference curve of secular variation in inclination and declination computed at the latitude of the coring





**Figure 8.** Cals3k.4 (see [Data and Resources](#)) and Balkan reference curves for paleoinclination and paleodeclination are compared with the paleoinclination and paleodeclination records of Klg04 and Klg03. All sand bases of the turbidites have been removed. The means of paleoinclination and paleodeclination data were obtained for the silt layer, whereas all data were kept for hemipelagic sediments. The models show characteristic trends with periods of low and high inclination. The same trends are observed for cores Klg04 and Klg03. Black lines represent standard deviation calculated for silt and hemipelagic layers. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

site for the last 2000 years ([Korte and Constable, 2011](#)) and with a local curve obtained in the Balkans ([Tema and Kondopoulou, 2011](#)) (Fig. 8). We focused mostly on core Klg04, which has a more robust data set than Klg03. The Klg03 record is also included as it shows a secular variation of geomagnetic field similar to Klg04 and because the dataset covers a longer time frame than Klg04. Therefore, it provides additional time constraints. The fact that the Klg04 record and the reference curves present correlatable patterns in inclination and declination supports the reliability of the record.

The Klg04 mean inclination is close to expected values ( $54^\circ$ ), and magnetic inclination minima and maxima can be identified. The Klg04 mean inclination presents similar variations to the reference models for the last 2000 years, with corresponding periods of low and high inclination. A direct comparison of the relative ChRM inclination of core Klg04 and the computed inclination from the model allows for the deter-

mination of four common paleomagnetic inclination features (N0, N1, N2, and N3 in Fig. 8). Events E2 and E3 occurred during the low inclination period N2 (between about 1600 and 1100 cal years), and event E4 occurred at the end of the high inclination values of the N3 period (about 500 cal years).

Declination in Klg04 exhibits the same trends as the reference curve, and three periods with identical trends can be identified (D0, D1, and D2). Events E2 and E3 were deposited during the period D2, between 1600 and 1000 cal years, whereas event E4 occurred before the large decrease in declination around 800 cal years, suggesting that this turbidite may have been deposited between 1000 and 800 cal years. Four turbidites are thus recorded in about 1000 cal years. This result was used as a chronological marker to derive the reservoir age for the Çınarcık basin.

The Klg03 and Klg04 records present a similar pattern in inclination and declination, even if the inclination in

Klg03 is shallower, indicating a possible tectonic disturbance or a mechanism of inclination shallowing (Tauxe and Kent, 1984). The comparison with the reference models allows for the match of paleomagnetic changes between core Klg03 and the reference curves, as we have done for Klg04. Klg03 records inclination periods N2 and N3, but the record is not reliable enough to interpret inclination data further. In addition, Klg03 records declination periods D2 and D3 (Fig. 8). Event E4 occurred during the high inclination period N3 (1100–500 cal years); event E5 occurred at the top of the low declination period D3 (between 500 and –500 cal years). This suggests that E5 was deposited before 500 C.E.

*Chronology of Seismoturbidites Based on Radiocarbon Data.* Obtaining an age model is complicated in marine environments because of the presence of a radiocarbon-depleted signal within the oceans (Siani *et al.*, 2001; Reimer and McCormac, 2002). Indeed, the ocean is a large carbon reservoir and has a longer residence time for  $^{14}\text{C}$  than the atmosphere. Radiocarbon ages obtained from marine shells thus have an apparent age older than atmospheric samples. The marine reservoir age is defined as the difference between  $^{14}\text{C}$  samples from marine and terrestrial material of the same age (Stuiver *et al.*, 1986) and is composed of a global reservoir correction  $R$  (about 400 years) and a local deviation ( $\Delta R$ ) that can be as large as 1000 years (Stuiver *et al.*, 1986). To obtain an accurate chronology in a marine environment, the key issue is thus to assess the right reservoir age. The only data pertaining to the Marmara Sea were obtained by McHugh *et al.* (2006). The authors constrained the  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages of modern prebomb marine mollusk shells of the Marmara Sea and calculated a total average age reservoir of  $460 \pm 40$  yr ( $\Delta R = 71$  yr) and  $340 \pm 40$  yr ( $\Delta R = 91$  yr), following Siani *et al.* (2000).

The combination of radionuclide and paleomagnetic data with radiocarbon ages suggests that a much larger marine reservoir correction is needed. Indeed, radionuclide dating suggests that the turbidite E1 was deposited between 1919 C.E. and 1862 C.E. The radiocarbon age of the foraminifera sample ( $1060 \pm 30$  yr B.P. at 17 cm in Klg04) just below event E1 implies a large reservoir age of about 900 years (Table 3). Moreover, the variations in declination and inclination imply that the first 70 cm of the core Klg04 spans about 1000 years (Fig. 8), while the uncalibrated radiocarbon age at 68.5 cm in Klg04 is  $1740 \pm 35$  years. Therefore, we estimated a total reservoir age of 800–900 years for the Marmara Sea and applied a local reservoir deviation ( $\Delta R$ ) of  $400 \pm 50$  year to the marine calibration curves in OxCal. Possible variations in reservoir age overtime were ignored because of lack of data to address this problem (Goldfinger *et al.*, 2012).

To determine the age of turbidite deposits, we used an OxCal model with nonrounded ages (Reimer *et al.*, 2013). The software derives modeled probability density functions of the samples and sedimentary events (Fig. 9). The modeled ages were based on the P\_Sequence depositional model,

which allows random variation from an approximately constant sedimentation rate (Bronk Ramsey, 2007). Boundaries were applied as in Kagan *et al.* (2010) when a major change in sedimentation was suspected. The top boundary of the model is constrained by the age of the 1894 earthquake, which radionuclide measurements imply corresponds to event E1. Time constraints were also applied using the top of the upper sapropelic layer and the secular variation of the magnetic field (as a C\_Date). Finally, the age-depth model is presented based on the 95% confidence interval of the modeled ages (the gray polygons downcore in Fig. 9).

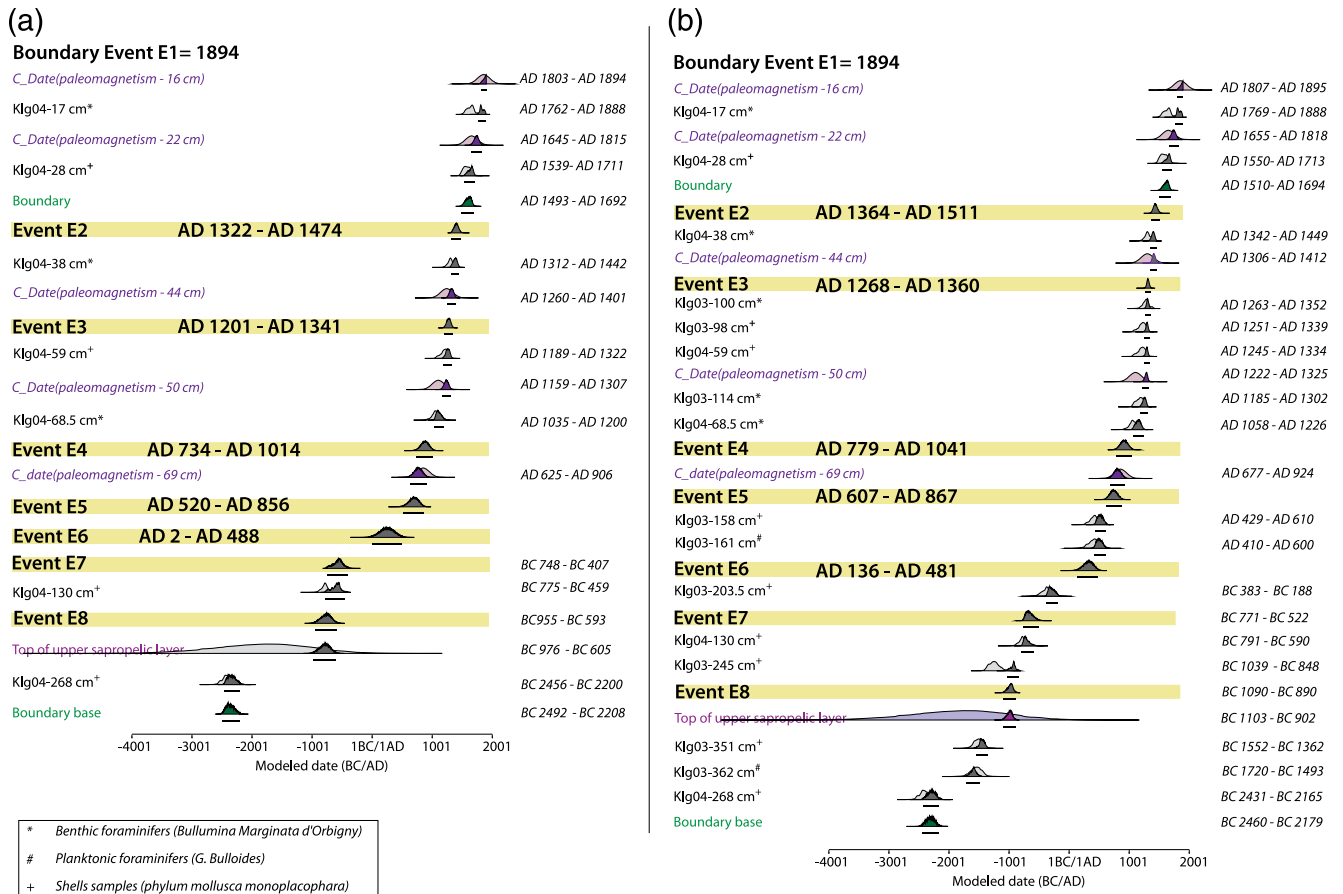
A first  $^{14}\text{C}$ -based age model was constructed using only constraints from core Klg04 (Fig. 9a). A second model was then obtained by applying radiocarbon and paleomagnetic data from core Klg03 to core Klg04 based on the correlation presented in Figure 6. Eight samples (Klg04, 45.5 cm; Klg04, 91 cm; Klg04, 162 cm; Klg04, 184 cm; Klg04, 197; Klg04, 214 cm; Klg03, 88 cm; and Klg03-plc-114 cm) largely overestimated the expected age of the host sediment. These samples were regarded as being reworked and were not used in the model (indicated in italics in Table 2). Samples extracted from the sandy base of the turbidites (Klg04, 38 cm; Klg04, 59 cm; Klg03, 98 cm; Klg03, 203.5 cm; and Klg03, 245 cm) were assumed to be reworked material incorporated into the mass flow. They are considered to predate the turbidite deposit and were incorporated below the turbidites in the model. Finally, 16 radiocarbon samples were used to make an order-constrained Bayesian model using the OxCal software (Reimer *et al.*, 2013).

The results are presented with 95% age probability in Figure 9. In the first model, events E2, E3, and E4 have calendar age ranges of 1322–1474 C.E., 1201–1341 C.E., and 734–1014 C.E., respectively. The OxCal model also constrains the age range of the four other events at 520–856 C.E. (E5), 2–488 C.E. (E6), 748–407 B.C.E. (E7), and 955–593 B.C.E. (E8). In the model comprising data from Klg03, events have similar age ranges. Events E2, E3, and E4 have 95% confidence interval calendar age ranges of 1364–1511 C.E., 1268–1360 C.E., and 779–1041 C.E., respectively. The OxCal model also constrains the age range of the four other events at 607–867 C.E. (E5), 136–481 C.E. (E6), 771–522 B.C.E. (E7), and 1090–890 B.C.E. (E8). The order-constrained Bayesian model was also used to determine an average recurrence interval of 256–321 years for turbidites synchronous at both sites. This average recurrence interval is in agreement with the recurrence interval that can be calculated from inclination data (250 years).

## Discussion

### Timing and Causes of Changes in Sedimentation Rates

Comparing turbidite-free sediment accumulation through time at the two sites provides some insights about major changes in sedimentation rates in the Çınarcık basin over



**Figure 9.** A chronological model built using OxCal software (Bronk Ramsey, 2007) for a  $\Delta R$  of  $400 \pm 50$  years with event E1 (1894 earthquake) put as the initial boundary for the calibration. Data are arranged in stratigraphic order and turbidites age-modeled distributions are highlighted. Corresponding sample numbers are adjacent to each distribution (probability density functions) in which black lines correspond to the 95% confidence interval. The model on the left side of (a) considers radiocarbon data only coming from the Klg04, whereas the model on the right of (b) uses the radiocarbon constraints from core Klg03. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

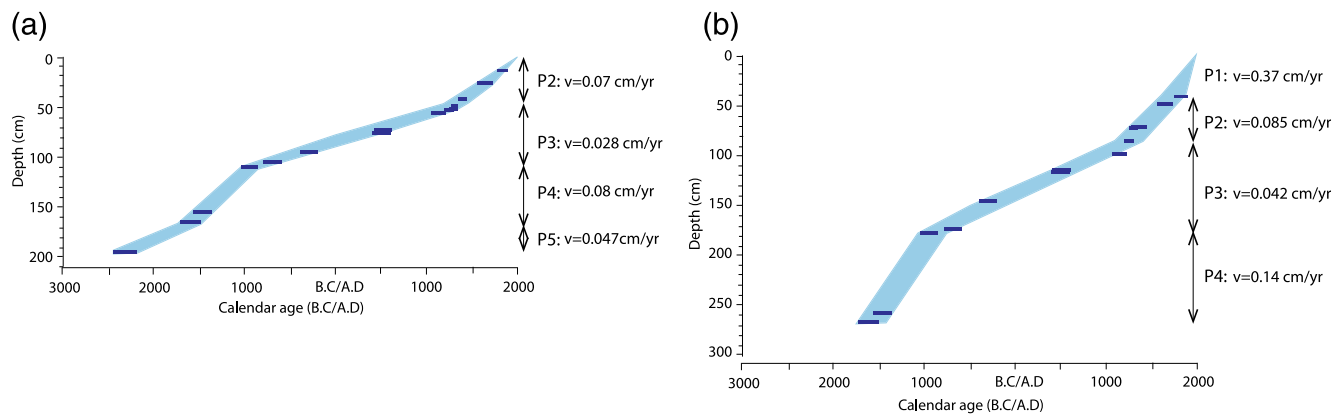
the last 4000 years. Despite the differences in the turbidite occurrences, the two cores have similar accumulation rate curves and show identical major changes in sedimentation pattern (Fig. 10). Five periods with different sedimentation rates are recorded. The chronology allows for the discussion on their origins.

An anomaly occurred in the 110–165 cm interval in Klg04 and below the depth of 170 cm in Klg03. During this period, labeled P4, sedimentation rates are similar at the Klg03 and Klg04 sites, but they are high (0.08 cm/yr in Klg04 and 0.14 cm/yr in Klg03). In the OxCal model, the P4 period occurred between 900 B.C.E. and 1600 B.C.E. and is coincident with the occurrence of the upper sapropelic layer referenced between 4.75 and 3.2 ky B.P. by Çağatay *et al.* (1999) in the Marmara Sea. Sapropelic layers are characterized by good preservation of the organic material in a reductive environment (Cramp and O'Sullivan, 1999). One way that sapropels are formed involves the slowing down of oxygen flux in the sediment, and the most effective process to reduce bottom water ventilation is to have a high sediment influx (Calvert, 1990; Çağatay *et al.*, 2004). The

high sedimentation rate during this period could also be related to the beginning of forest clearance and crop agriculture in the Marmara watersheds, starting at 1450 B.C.E. years (Eastwood *et al.*, 1998; Leroy *et al.*, 2002); indeed a peak in sedimentation rate is documented in lakes and along the southern shelf of the Marmara Sea at that time (Kazancı *et al.*, 2004).

However, during the P4 period, about five turbidites are recorded in Klg04, which would imply a recurrence rate of earthquakes of about 75 years. Such a high recurrence rate is improbable, and we suspect that the reservoir age determined for the upper part of the cores is invalid during P4, perhaps because the stratification of the water body at the time of deposition of the sapropelic layer was different from the present one (Reimer and McCormac, 2002).

The P3 period is marked by a sedimentation rate at the Klg04 site that is half the rate at the Klg03 site. In addition, turbidite deposits are more frequent at the Klg03 site than at the Klg04 site. These differences might be directly linked to the fact that less sediment was available during that time on the northern shelf and slopes than on the southern ones.



**Figure 10.** Sediment-accumulation-rate curves in a turbidite-free scale for (a) Klg04 and (b) Klg03. The core correlation (Fig. 6) allows for the transfer of  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages from one core to the other. Sedimentation rate,  $v$ , for the different periods are indicated for both cores to the right of the curves. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

The P2 period is marked by a slight increase in sedimentation rate in Klg03 and in Klg04 in comparison with the P3 period. The P3–P2 transition corresponds to a decrease in clay content and to an increase in silt recorded in all of the cores in the Marmara Sea (Figs. 4 and 5, and Drab *et al.*, 2012). It implies that sediment input to the Marmara northern margin was increasing even if watersheds around Istanbul were restricted and could not have been an important sediment sources (i.e., most of the sediment yield comes from rivers from the southern margin of the Marmara Sea; Smith *et al.*, 1995). This increase in sedimentation rate might be a consequence of the intensification of soil erosion and of agricultural development around Istanbul. This event might be related to the renewed development of Constantinople during the Ottoman period after 1453.

The most recent change in sedimentation rate is observed in Klg03 after 1894. The sedimentation rate increased to about 0.37 cm/yr due to the deposition of turbidite tA. This value is close to rates obtained during the twentieth century in lakes located on the southern part of the Marmara Sea and from sediment sampled from the Kocasu River, one of the major sediment sources for the Marmara Sea, and is characteristic of poor land use and deforestation (Kazancı *et al.*, 2004). We interpret the increase in sedimentation rate occurring at the Klg03 site as linked to a marked increase in sediment input on the Marmara southern shelf and slopes. The latter might be related to the dramatic shift in agricultural practices over the past century involving the replacement of working animals with machines. Because of the increase of sediment yield, mass failure related to far-field earthquakes can occur as with the 1999 earthquake recorded in the Çınarcık basin (Fig. 7).

#### Triggers of Turbidites Documented in Klg03 and Klg04

Considering the specific geomorphic setting of the Çınarcık basin and the core locations (McHugh *et al.*, 2006; Sari and Çağatay, 2006), storms, earthquakes, and/or sediment

loading are the only possible triggering mechanisms for turbidites in Klg03 and Klg04. Four distinct arguments lead us to consider that turbidites deposited in the studied cores are seismically generated.

First, in the Marmara Sea, the distance a given wind can blow over the water is very restricted; thus whatever the storm, the wave height is restricted, as is the related wave energy. So storms in this particular setting are unlikely to trigger turbidites. Second, slope failure linked only to sediment loading on the northern slope of the Çınarcık basin is questionable. The faulted margin of the basin in the vicinity of the Klg03 and Klg04 cores is too steep to accumulate a significant sedimentary load (Çağatay *et al.*, 2012). In addition, sediment input on the northern shelf is restricted due to the very small watersheds draining the land to the north of the Çınarcık basin. Cumulative Holocene sedimentation reaches a maximum of 2.5 m in the middle of the shelf and less than 1 m in its southern part (Çağatay *et al.*, 2009). Excess sedimentary loading on the edge of the shelf is thus unlikely.

Third, the turbidites we identified in Klg03 and Klg04 have sedimentological characteristics identical to the specific properties of earthquake-triggered turbidites in the Marmara Sea and the Izmit Gulf studied by others (McHugh *et al.*, 2006; Sari and Çağatay, 2006; Beck *et al.*, 2007; Çağatay *et al.*, 2012; Drab *et al.*, 2012) (see the *Seismoturbidite Characteristics* section). Such multiple sources in a turbidite deposit are linked to a series of catastrophic failures and turbidite currents triggered within perhaps minutes of each other (Goldfinger *et al.*, 2012). Such a phenomenon can uniquely be generated by earthquake shaking in the Marmara setting. Finally, another test to determine if turbidites are seismically generated is to check the synchronicity of the documented events regionally (McCalpin, 1996; Goldfinger, 2011; Goldfinger *et al.*, 2012). Our test rests upon the time correlation obtained to the dated reference core, Klg06, located in a different structural setting. Figure 6 shows that the turbidites in the Klg04 core are systematically correlated to ones in Klg03. The Klg03 and Klg04 cores are, however, only separated by 3 km, which might not be distant enough



to completely fulfill this synchronicity test. We thus looked at the C15 core (Sarı and Çağatay, 2006) located several kilometers from Klg03 (Fig. 1c). Sarı and Çağatay (2006) documented quartz-rich seismoturbidites at 61 and 74 cm with uncalibrated ages of  $1470 \pm 35$  yr B.P. and  $1890 \pm 35$  yr B.P. Independently of any age reservoir correction, the radiocarbon ages imply that the two turbidites correlate with events E2 and E3 in Klg04 (Fig. A2).

Based on their sedimentological characteristics, large lateral extent, and synchronicity, we conclude the turbidites deposited simultaneously in Klg03 and Klg04 are earthquake triggered. The original mass failure would come from the Çınarcık northern slope (see the [Correlation of Cores and Turbidites](#) section) and must be related to rupture of the fault running at the slope base. We thus infer that these seismoturbidites have been triggered by large earthquakes along the northern Çınarcık fault segment.

The Klg03 site is located on the Çınarcık basin floor, where seismoturbidites from different sources can be deposited. The basin is bounded to the north and south by the Çınarcık segment and the southern segment, respectively; to the west by the Central segment crossing the Central High; and to the east by the Izmit segment (Fig. 1b). An  $M_w > 7$  earthquake along one of these faults would destabilize broad parts of the bounding slopes and initiate a huge volume of sediment flows. Turbidites can travel considerable distances across flat basin floors. We speculate the turbidites present in Klg03 (but not in Klg04) may have a seismic trigger but with a far-field origin. The seismicity in the region is so high that earthquakes are the most likely trigger for slope failure. Indeed, the first turbidite recorded in Klg03, labeled tA, occurred very recently according to radionuclide data and can be attributed to the 1999  $M_w$  7.4 earthquake (Fig. 7). A similar far-field turbidite was triggered in the Black Sea approximately at the same distance as the Çınarcık basin (Yücel *et al.*, 2010). The event has a particular sedimentological imprint with a nonerosive base associated with an increase in magnetic susceptibility and grain size.

#### Inferred Rupture History for the Çınarcık Segment and Adjacent Segments

The turbidite record deposited in a minor push-up structure along the Çınarcık fault places some new constraints regarding past ruptures of the Çınarcık fault. In the following section, we combine the historical catalog with the proposed age model to reconstruct an history of ruptures along the Çınarcık fault. We infer the historical catalog for large magnitude earthquakes has been complete since Istanbul was founded to become the capital of the Roman Empire in 324 C.E. (Gibbon, 1829). The earthquake record represented in Figure 1 shows that a wealth of large earthquakes has been inferred to have occurred in the Çınarcık basin. However, it is not possible to know exactly which one ruptured the Çınarcık fault. In the following section, we will compare the history of ruptures of the Çınarcık fault with historical records. From the

combination of the present dataset and paleoseismological record, a coherent history of ruptures can be reconstructed.

The radionuclide data implies that turbidite E1 would occur between 1919 C.E. and 1885 C.E. The 1894  $M_w$  7.3 earthquake (Ambraseys, 2002) affected a large area from Istanbul to Izmit (see isointensity curves from Eginitis, 1894, and in Ince, 2011). Ambraseys (2002) located the earthquake epicenter in the east of the Marmara Sea near the Hersek Peninsula. A significant tsunami in Bosphorus and Prince Islands (Yalçiner *et al.*, 2002; Altnok *et al.*, 2011) was associated with this earthquake. Using a modeling approach for the tsunami, Hebert *et al.* (2005) concluded the 1894 earthquake source must have extended in the Çınarcık basin, likely with a normal component. Pondard *et al.* (2007), using Coulomb stress failure modeling, also deduced that the 1894 earthquake broke the northern- or southern-bounding fault of the Çınarcık basin. Klg03 and Klg04 both record the 1894 earthquake, implying that the northern Çınarcık fault ruptured.

The magnetic chronomarkers point out that the three previous turbidite events, E2, E3, and E4, occurred between 1500 and 900 cal years (Fig. 8). In addition, the OxCal chronology (Fig. 9, Table 3) strongly suggests these events are related to  $M_w > 6.8$  earthquakes occurring in 1509 C.E., during the fourteenth century (1296 C.E., 1353 C.E., 1344 C.E., or 1343 C.E.) and in 989 C.E. The 1509 C.E. earthquake caused heavy damages on both sides of Istanbul implying an epicenter location at the boundary between the Çınarcık and the Central faults (Ambraseys, 2002). The earthquake triggered a large tsunami (6 m runup; Ambraseys and Finkel, 1991; Yalçiner *et al.*, 2002), attributed to the rupture of the Çınarcık fault (Hebert *et al.*, 2005). Our records are compatible with this scenario. Paleoseismic data further east also suggest an NAF rupture at that time, with the most recent surface rupture across the Hersek delta (Kozacı *et al.*, 2010, 2011) attributed to the 1509 C.E. earthquake. The earthquake rupture is confirmed further east in paleoseismic trenches (Klinger *et al.*, 2003) and recorded in cores just west of Hersek (McHugh *et al.*, 2006), in the Hersek Lagoon (Bertrand *et al.*, 2011), and in the Karamusel Bay (Çağatay *et al.*, 2012). The inferred 100 km long rupture would be compatible with the  $70 \pm 30$  km long rupture estimated in Ambraseys (2001).

During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, there was a sequence of earthquakes (sequence 2 in Fig. 11) in the Marmara region: in 1296 C.E. ( $M_s$  7), 1343 C.E. ( $M_s$  7), 1344 C.E. ( $M_s$  6.9), and 1354 C.E. ( $M_s$  7.4). None of these earthquakes were located in the Çınarcık basin by Ambraseys (2002). However, historical reports from that period are less reliable because the Roman Empire was struggling to survive (Gibbon, 1829). Indeed, Istanbul was taken and sacked by the Crusaders in 1203 C.E. In 1261 C.E., the Emperor took the city back, but the population was about 35,000 people. Then, in 1347 C.E., Istanbul was hit by the plague; and, when the Ottoman Turks captured the city in 1453 C.E., it contained approximately 50,000 people. The 1296 C.E. earthquake occurred in the east of the Çınarcık basin (Ambraseys, 2002) and was documented in the Karamusel basin (Çağatay *et al.*, 2012). The 1343 C.E.



and 1354 C.E. earthquakes occurred in the western part of the Marmara Sea and were confirmed in paleoseismic trenches (Rockwell *et al.*, 2001, 2009; Meghraoui *et al.*, 2012). McHugh *et al.* (2006) documented a seismoturbidite in the Central basin attributed to the 1343 C.E. earthquake. Based on historical sources, the 1344 C.E. earthquake has been located in the central part of the Marmara Sea (Ambraseys, 2002). It was associated with a tsunami that caused significant damage in Istanbul and inundated the Bosphorus, reaching up to 2000 m (Altnok *et al.*, 2011). A 1.2 m tectonic uplift of the Hersek Peninsula (Özaksoy *et al.*, 2010) also occurred during that time period. Finally, we documented one of these events in our cores. Therefore, we conclude the 1344 C.E. earthquake ruptured the Çınarcık fault, as it is the only event that triggered a tsunami in Istanbul (Hebert *et al.*, 2005). In that case, the 1354 C.E. and 1343 C.E. earthquakes would have occurred on the Central–Tekirdağ–Ganos faults and the 1296 C.E. earthquake on the Izmit fault.

The next large historical earthquake is the 989 C.E.  $M_w$  7.2 earthquake located in the Çınarcık basin (Ambraseys, 2002). The earthquake was associated with a damaging tsunami in Istanbul (Altnok *et al.*, 2011) and was also recorded in the Hersek Lagoon (Bertrand *et al.*, 2011), but not in the Karamusel basin (Çağatay *et al.*, 2012). Because we record a turbidite at that time (E4), we conclude that the 989 C.E. earthquake ruptured the Çınarcık fault and may have extended to the Hersek Peninsula.

Event E5 is dated between 607 C.E. and 867 C.E. The largest earthquake within this age range is the 740 C.E.  $M_w$  7.1 earthquake. Ambraseys (2002) located the epicenter of this earthquake in the Çınarcık basin. The earthquake was associated with (1) a large tsunami (Altnok *et al.*, 2011) affecting Istanbul in the Izmit area and (2) an atypical subsidence in the Hersek Peninsula of about 2 m (Bertrand *et al.*, 2011). This earthquake was also documented in the Central basin (McHugh *et al.*, 2006) and in the Izmit Bay (Çağatay *et al.*, 2012). We thus conclude that the 740 C.E. earthquake may have ruptured the Çınarcık fault.

Event E6 occurred between 136 C.E. and 481 C.E. According to historical reports, Ambraseys (2002) located two earthquakes during that time lag (the 407 C.E.  $M_w$  6.6 and the 437 C.E.  $M_w$  6.8), and Guidoboni and Comastri, (2005) also locate the 447 C.E.  $M_w$  7.2 and 478 C.E.  $M_w$  7.3 earthquake in the Istanbul area. Only the 407 C.E., 447 C.E., and 478 C.E. earthquakes were associated with a tsunami invading Istanbul (Altnok *et al.*, 2011). According to historical reports, the 478 C.E. earthquake was associated with a stronger tsunami. E6 may be related to one of these earthquakes and perhaps more likely with the 478 C.E.  $M_w$  7.3 earthquake. It is also consistent with the average recurrence interval calculated for the segment. Nevertheless, the lack of information from other studies does not allow us to further discuss the location of this earthquake.

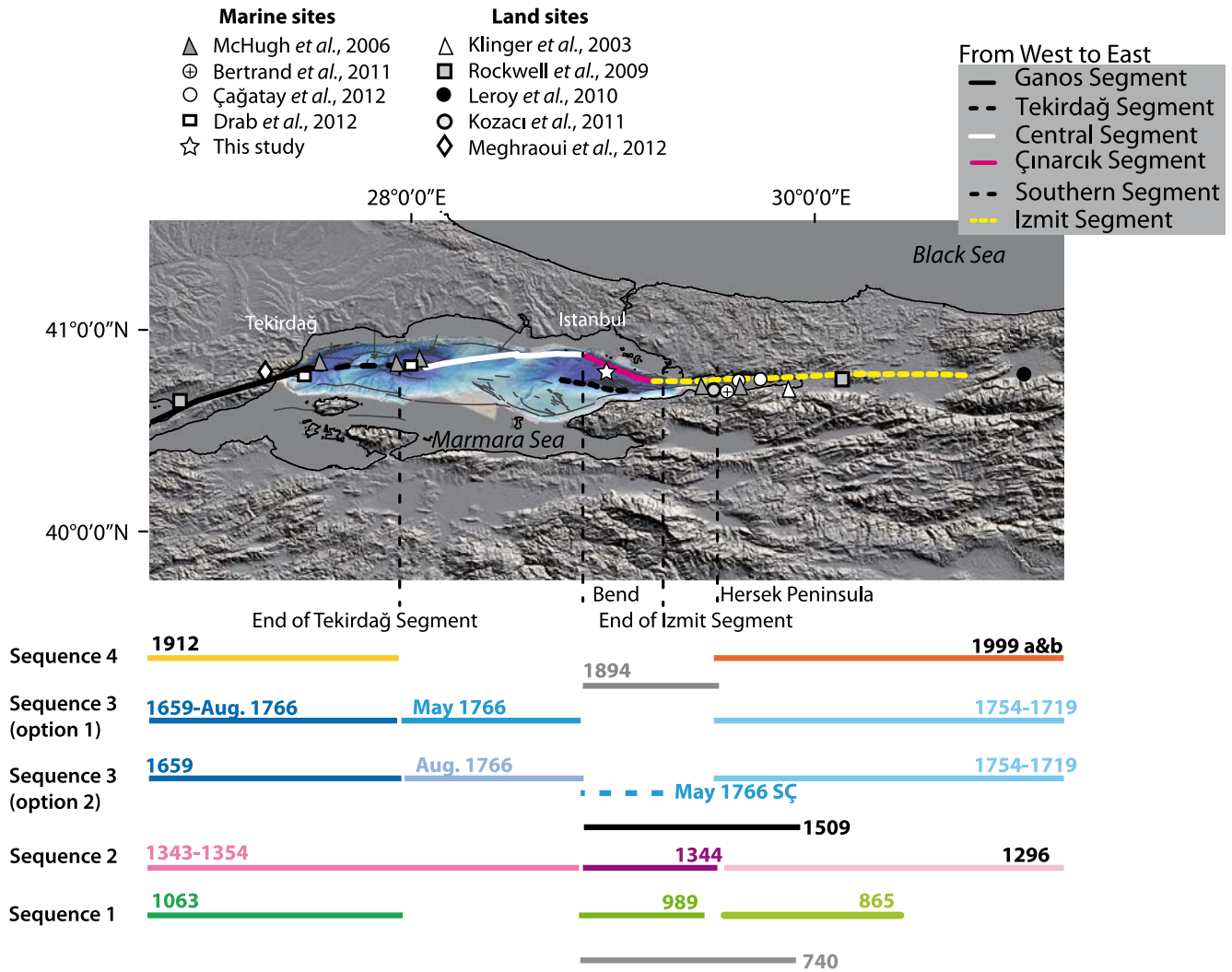
Older turbidite events have limited time constraints, and the earthquake catalog may not be complete. Before 324 C.E., the largest town in the area was Nicomedia (i.e., Izmit).

The city was located on the NAF segment, lying just east of the Çınarcık fault. A large earthquake on the Çınarcık fault would also have impacted the city and might be recorded in the historical catalog. The Oxcal model shows that about 1000 years separate event E6 from event E7, which implies that the reservoir age in the Marmara Sea might have changed between those two events. Therefore, we cannot constrain the interpretation any further.

Finally, we do not record any turbidites in the site along the Çınarcık fault in the eighteenth century. During that time period, a westward-propagating earthquake sequence (labeled sequence 3 in Fig. 11) consisted of four strong shocks in 1719 C.E., 1754 C.E., May 1766 C.E., and August 1766 C.E. The 1719 C.E.  $M_w$  7.4 and the 1754 C.E.  $M_w$  6.8 earthquakes occurred in the eastern part of the Marmara Sea (Ambraseys, 2002). There is widespread evidence of an eighteenth century earthquake in paleoseismic trenches along the 1999 Düzce and Izmit earthquake ruptures (Rockwell *et al.*, 2001, 2009; Sugai *et al.*, 2001; Klinger *et al.*, 2003; Fraser *et al.*, 2010), but it is not possible to determine exactly which earthquake occurred at a particular spot within this time window. The August 1766 C.E. earthquake occurred in the western part of the Marmara Sea, and paleoseismic trenches west of the Marmara Sea also reveal surface ruptures attributed to the 1659 C.E. ( $M_s$  7.2) or to the August 1766 C.E. ( $M_s$  7.4) earthquakes (Rockwell *et al.*, 2009; Meghraoui *et al.*, 2012). The location of the May 1766 C.E.  $M_w$  7.1 earthquake is strongly debated, with Ambraseys (2002) inferring a location in the Çınarcık basin and others (Pondard *et al.*, 2007) in the Central basin. The triggered tsunami induced damage in the Bosphorus (Yalçiner *et al.*, 2002) and suggests a rupture in the Çınarcık basin (Hebert *et al.*, 2005). There are no apparent turbidites recorded during that period along the Çınarcık fault, but a turbidite is recorded at the KlG03 site (Fig. 6, t2). Furthermore, Drab *et al.* (2012) documented seismoturbidites, probably related to the May and August 1766 C.E. earthquakes, in the Tekirdağ and Central basins. In addition, there is no surface rupture across the Hersek delta during that period (Kozaci *et al.*, 2010, 2011), and the sediment record in the Karamusel basin (Çağatay *et al.*, 2012) contains no distinctive identifying signal of these earthquakes.

We thus propose the two following scenarios: (1) the 1719 C.E. and 1754 C.E. earthquakes occurred east of the Hersek Peninsula, the May 1766 C.E. earthquake broke the Central fault, and the 1659 C.E. and August 1766 C.E. earthquakes ruptured the Ganos and Tekirdağ faults. This scenario is still compatible with earthquake damages (Ambraseys, 2002). (2) However, it is not possible to exclude that the May 1766 C.E. ruptured a fault along the southern edge of the Çınarcık basin, a scenario more compatible with Coulomb stress analysis of Pondard *et al.* (2007). In that case, the 1696 C.E. earthquake would be similar to the 1912 earthquake, rupturing the Ganos and Tekirdağ segments, and the August 1766 C.E. would have ruptured the Central fault.

Since the ninth century, three complete sequences have released stresses along the NAF (Fig. 11). The present seismic cycle is incomplete, with a seismic gap along the Central fault



**Figure 11.** Proposed rupture scenario for  $M_w > 6.8$  earthquakes in the Marmara Sea between C.E. 740 and 1999. Four sequences are observed, but only three are complete. The twentieth century westward propagation had not yet ruptured the eastern Marmara Sea. The scenario is compatible with a recent Coulomb stress analysis (Pondard *et al.*, 2007) and description of damage (Ambraseys, 2002). Different shapes represent onland and submarine paleoseismological investigations of NAF ruptures in and around the Marmara Sea. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

and the Çınarcık fault (Hubert-Ferrari *et al.*, 2000; Parsons *et al.*, 2000). Figure 11 also shows that no clear rupture propagation direction prevails and highlights the importance of the Çınarcık basin bounded to the north by the Çınarcık fault. Uçarkuş *et al.* (2010) considered the structure as 10 km wide stepover between the Izmit fault to the east and the Central fault to the west. This large stepover is a significant geometric barrier (King and Nábělek, 1985) for rupture propagation (Wesnousky, 2006) through the Marmara Sea, yet a large earthquake like that in 1509 C.E. seems to have propagated through the bend, rupturing the Çınarcık segment and the western part of the Izmit segment. The 30° bend, located at the western part of the Izmit Segment, is of great importance because it may act as a permanent seismic barrier. In addition, some ruptures along the Çınarcık fault are out of sequence, as in the 1894 C.E. earthquake. The latter may be linked to the stress shadow induced by the May 1766 C.E. rupture of a secondary normal

fault segment. The stress shadow may have delayed rupture along the Çınarcık segment by 130 years. Finally, segments seem to have similar activity, implying no specific creep, with the possible exception of the Central fault (Drab *et al.*, 2012). Further paleoseismic studies in the Central basin are required to confirm this hypothesis, which has strong implications for hazard assessment in the Istanbul area, both in terms of the recurrence rate and the maximum magnitude of earthquakes along this segment.

## Conclusion

We applied the concepts of subaquatic paleoseismology to two sediment cores located 20 km south of Istanbul in the Çınarcık basin (Marmara Sea) to assess past fault rupture history along the Çınarcık segment of the NAF. Historical seismicity suggests that this segment has ruptured in  $M_w > 7$  earthquakes.

About 40% of the cores are composed of turbidites. Based on their distinctive sedimentological characteristics, their geographical extent, and synchronicity, and by the exclusion of other triggering mechanisms, the studied turbidites are concluded to be earthquake triggered. Core K1g04, located on the berm in the northern fault margin of the basin, likely records earthquakes rupturing the Çınarcık fault, whereas K1g03 may record earthquakes occurring on other faults and highlights the different sensitivity of both sites to earthquakes.

We estimated the timing of the first six sedimentary events using radiocarbon dating, radionuclides, and paleomagnetism measurements. Radiocarbon dating was calibrated using OxCal software and was corrected for marine reservoirs with a local reservoir correction of  $400 \pm 50$  years, implying that the total reservoir age in the Marmara Sea is about 800 years for the last 2000 years.

The first earthquake-related turbidite recorded in the cores corresponds to the 1894 C.E. earthquake. Event E2 occurred between 1364 and 1511 C.E. and is probably related to the 1509 C.E. historical earthquake. Event E3 was dated 1268–1360 C.E. and was likely generated by the 1344 C.E. earthquake. Event E4, which occurred between 779 C.E. and 1041 C.E., was triggered by the 989 C.E. earthquake. Event E5, may be related to the 740 C.E. earthquake. Finally, event E6 (136–481 C.E.) may be related to the 478 C.E. earthquake.

The integration of our results enables us to propose a coherent scenario of past ruptures along the Çınarcık fault, which can be used for seismic-hazard assessment. Indeed, our observations help relocate some earthquakes for which the rupture segment is still under debate. We suggest that the 1766 C.E. earthquake did not occur along the Çınarcık fault, but that the 1344 C.E. earthquake was likely related to its activation. To obtain a better understanding of segment ruptures, a strengthened age model of sediment deposition in the Marmara Sea will require the acquisition of additional cores along the fault and in the basin.

### Data and Resources

All historical earthquake data used in this article came from the published sources listed in the references. Maps were made using ArcGis 9.3 (<http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis>; last accessed August 2014). Age model was obtained using OxCal (Bronk Ramsey, 2007; also available at <http://c14.arch.ox.ac.uk/embed.php?File=oxcal.html>, last accessed October 2014). Cals3k.4 was obtained from <http://www.gfz-potsdam.de/en/research/organizational-units/departments/department-2/earths-magnetic-field/topics/field-models/calsxk/cals3k4/> (last accessed August 2014).

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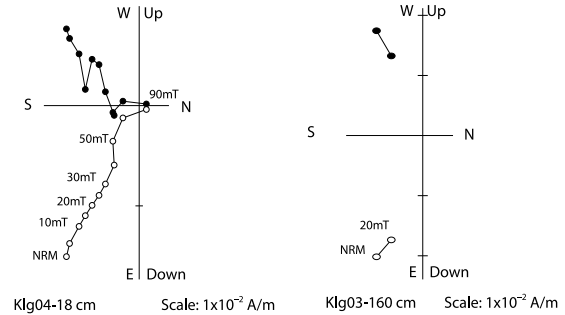
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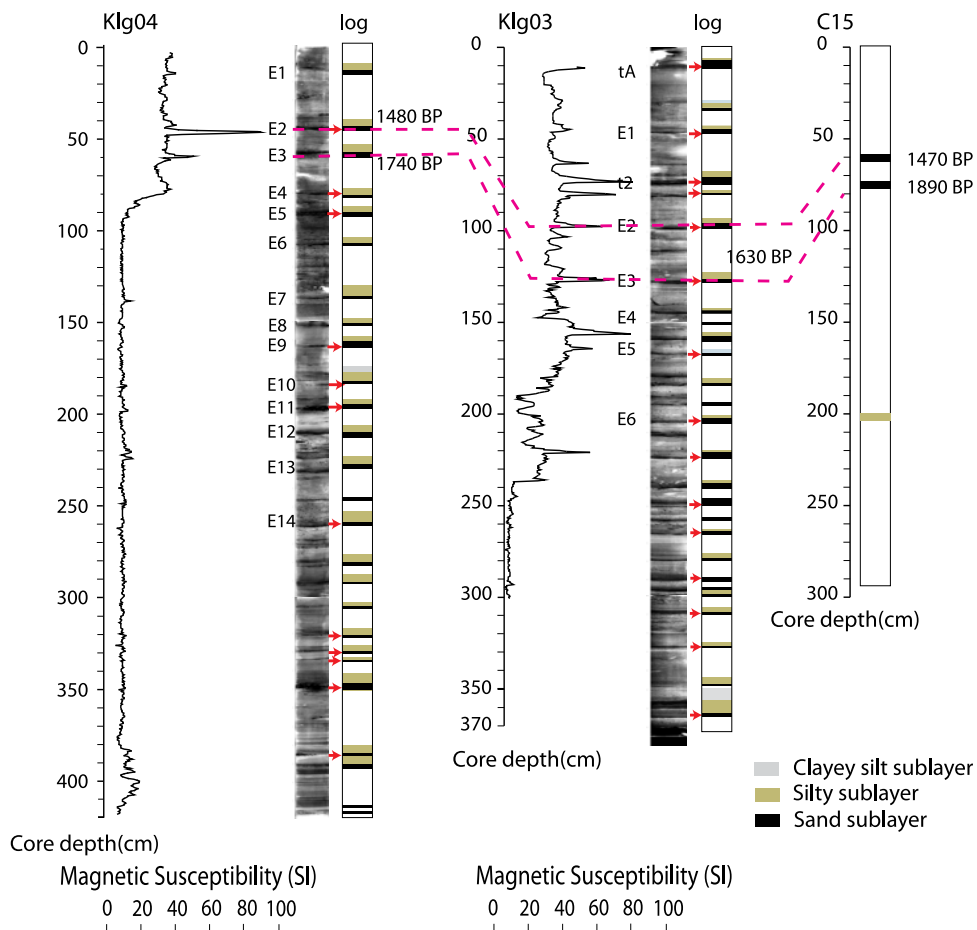
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Appendix

Figure A1 presents the Zijderveld diagrams for cores Klg03 and Klg04, and Figure A2 displays the correlation between the Klg03 and Klg04 cores, and the C15 core previously studied by Sari and Çağatay (2006).



**Figure A1.** Zijderveld diagram of demagnetization for cores Klg04 at 18 cm in depth and Klg03 at 160 cm in depth. The solid circles represent the projection on the horizontal plane, and the open circles the projection on the vertical plane.



**Figure A2.** Correlation between cores Klg03, Klg04, and C15 (Sari and Çağatay, 2006). Ages are represented as uncalibrated. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.

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