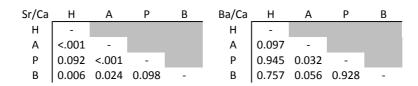
# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

| Taxon             | Profile ID |                       |                 |                             | <sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr                  | SD (2ơ)                                  | Sr/Ca*10 <sup>3</sup>                              | SD (2ơ)  | Ba/Ca*10 <sup>3</sup>                              | SD (2ơ)  |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
|                   | SKX 334    | Swartkrans Member 2   | RM <sup>1</sup> | P1<br>P2<br>P3              | 0.73165   | 0.00200<br>0.00263<br>0.00281            | 0.614<br>0.576<br>0.527                            | 0.058<br>0.020<br>0.056                            | 0.087<br>0.075<br>0.096                            | 0.022<br>0.012<br>0.028                            |
| Early <i>Homo</i> | SKW 268    | Swartkrans Member 2   | $RM^1$          | Р1<br>Р2                    | 0.74060<br>0.73917                                  | 0.00143<br>0.00188                       | 0.578<br>0.517                                     | 0.052<br>0.061                                     | 0.149<br>0.148                                     | 0.038<br>0.053                                     |
|                   | KB 5223    | Kromdraai Member 3    | $RM_1$          | P1<br>P1b<br>P2             | 0.73049   | 0.00120<br>0.00123<br>0.00097            | 0.305<br>-<br>0.384                                | 0.025<br>-<br>0.029                                | 0.160<br>-<br>0.193                                | 0.019<br>-<br>0.045                                |
| P. robustus       | SK 24605   | Swartkrans Member 1   | M <sub>1</sub>  | P1                          | 0.72448   | 0.00188                                  | 0.413  | 0.042  | 0.171  | 0.031  |
|                   | SK 24606   | Swartkrans Member 1   | RM <sup>³</sup> | P1                          | 0.72485   | 0.00235                                  | 0.448  | 0.057  | 0.232  | 0.037  |
|                   | SK 1524    | Swartkrans Member 1   | LM <sup>3</sup> | P1<br>P2                    | 0.73181<br>0.73211                                  |  | 0.864<br>0.760                                     | 0.292<br>0.154                                     | 0.221<br>0.243                                     | 0.088<br>0.085                                     |
|                   | SKW 6      | Swartkrans Member 1   | LM <sup>3</sup> | P1<br>P2                    | 0.73033<br>0.73165                                  |  | 0.728<br>0.674                                     | 0.133<br>0.112                                     | 0.266<br>0.258                                     | 0.054<br>0.035                                     |
|                   | TMPAL 99   | Swartkrans Member 4   | RM <sup>2</sup> | Р1<br>Р2                    | 0.72156<br>0.71966                                  |  | 0.365<br>0.404                                     | 0.028<br>0.054                                     | 0.270<br>0.307                                     | 0.054<br>0.064                                     |
|                   | SKW 21841  | Swartkrans Member 3   | RM <sup>3</sup> | P1<br>P2<br>P3<br>P4        | 0.72857<br>0.72961                                  | 0.00208<br>0.00278<br>0.00259<br>0.00265 | 0.582<br>0.626<br>0.545<br>0.649                   | 0.017<br>0.069<br>0.041<br>0.030                   | 0.232<br>0.188<br>0.147<br>0.206                   | 0.072<br>0.060<br>0.039<br>0.021                   |
|                   | TM 1517    | Kromdraai Member 3    | RM₃             | P1                          |   | 0.00280                                  | 0.870  | 0.164  | 0.324  | 0.189  |
|                   |            |                       | $RM_1$          | P1<br>P2                    | 0.73612<br>0.74121                                  | 0.00158<br>0.00197                       | 0.510<br>0.430                                     | 0.092<br>0.050                                     | 0.365<br>0.352                                     | 0.120<br>0.056                                     |
| A. africanus      | STS 1881   | Sterkfontein Member 4 | RM <sup>2</sup> |                             | 0.73590<br>0.73614                                  |  | 1.183<br>-<br>-<br>1.245                           | 0.406<br>-<br>-<br>0.264                           | 0.174<br>-<br>-<br>0.152                           | 0.062<br>-<br>-<br>0.027                           |
|                   | STS 31     | Sterkfontein Member 4 | RM³             | P1<br>P1b                   | 0.7326<br>0.7336                                    | 0.00194<br>0.00247                       | 0.595<br>-   | 0.150<br>-   | 0.167<br>-   | 0.106<br>-   |
|                   | STS 72     | Sterkfontein Member 4 | RM <sup>3</sup> | P1<br>P2<br>P2b             | 0.7308<br>0.7293                                    | 0.00315<br>0.00209                       | 2.753<br>2.046<br>1.458                            | 1.458<br>0.421<br>0.376                            | 0.447<br>0.349<br>0.296                            | 0.411<br>0.188<br>0.145                            |
|                   | STS 45     | Sterkfontein Member 4 | RM <sup>2</sup> | P1<br>P1b                   | 0.7288<br>0.7275                                    | 0.00122<br>0.00087                       | 0.543<br>-   | 0.142<br>-   | 0.103<br>-   | 0.023<br>-   |
| Bovidae sp.       | SKX 30375  | Swartkrans Member 3   | -               | P1<br>P2<br>P2b<br>P3<br>P4 | 0.72662<br>0.72856<br>0.72949<br>0.72780<br>0.73140 | 0.00158<br>0.00180<br>0.00188            | 0.509<br>0.508<br>-<br>0.502<br>0.551              | 0.048<br>0.047<br>-<br>0.104<br>0.075              | 0.253<br>0.322<br>-<br>0.329<br>0.381              | 0.025<br>0.041<br>-<br>0.093<br>0.065              |
|                   | SE 1152    | Sterkfontein Member 5 | -               | P1<br>P2                    | 0.73531<br>0.73409<br>0.73531                       | 0.00198<br>0.00178<br>0.00161<br>0.00190 | 0.551<br>0.713<br>0.827<br>0.859<br>0.805<br>0.727 | 0.075<br>0.205<br>0.173<br>0.180<br>0.184<br>0.158 | 0.381<br>0.484<br>0.462<br>0.485<br>0.531<br>0.478 | 0.065<br>0.128<br>0.152<br>0.120<br>0.198<br>0.204 |
|                   | SK 1396    | Swartkrans Member 2   | -               | Р3                          | 0.72538<br>0.72452<br>0.72228<br>0.72519<br>0.72804 | 0.00326<br>0.00329                       | 0.521<br>0.456<br>0.477<br>-<br>0.518              | 0.033<br>0.125<br>0.072<br>-<br>0.066              | 0.257<br>0.223<br>0.249<br>-<br>0.288              | 0.019<br>0.098<br>0.072<br>-<br>0.065              |

**Supplementary Table 1**: Species, specimen, locality, type of tooth, <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr, Sr/Ca and Ba/Ca mean and standard deviation for the profiles measured in this study.

| Sr/Ca | н                 | А                 | Р     | G                 | В     | С | Ba/Ca | Н                 | А                 | Ρ                 | G                 | В     | С |
|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|---|
| Н     |                   |                   |       |                   |       |   | Н     |                   |                   |                   |                   |       |   |
| Α     | 0.007             |                   |       |                   |       |   | Α     | 0.038             |                   |                   |                   |       |   |
| Ρ     | 0.237             | 0.008             |       |                   |       |   | Р     | 0.001             | 0.526             |                   |                   |       |   |
| G     | <10 <sup>-3</sup> | 0.135             | 0.002 |                   |       |   | G     | <10 <sup>-4</sup> | <10 <sup>-4</sup> | <10 <sup>-5</sup> |                   |       |   |
| В     | 0.490             | <10 <sup>-3</sup> | 0.126 | <10 <sup>-4</sup> |       |   | В     | <10 <sup>-4</sup> | 0.368             | 0.431             | <10 <sup>-7</sup> |       |   |
| С     | 0.135             | 0.027             | 0.574 | 0.008             | 0.023 |   | С     | 0.892             | 0.069             | 0.005             | <10 <sup>-6</sup> | <10-3 |   |

**Supplementary Table 2**: Results of *p* values for Wilcoxon tests performed between mean Sr/Ca and Ba/Ca values for different groups of samples. H, A, P, G, B and C stand for Early *Homo*, *A. africanus*, *P. robustus*, grazers, browsers and carnivores, respectively.



**Supplementary Table 3**: Results of *p* values for Wilcoxon tests performed between %CV Sr/Ca and Ba/Ca values for different groups of samples. H, A, P and B stand for Early *Homo*, *A. africanus*, *P. robustus* and bovids, respectively.

### Supplementary Appendix:

#### Samples and standard preparation

All the analyzed teeth samples were housed at the Transvaal Museum (Ditsong National Museum of Natural History) in Pretoria, South Africa. The bovid molar teeth (SKX30375, Swartkrans Member 3; SKX1396, Swartkrans Member 2; SE1152, Sterkfontein Member 5) were embedded in epoxy resin and sectioned longitudinally with a diamond wafering wheel saw. The resulting surfaces were gently polished manually on wet fine-grained sandpaper. The hominid teeth that were selected were naturally broken (or already cut for microstructural studies purposes, as in the case of KB5223, SKX268, SKX21841). This strategy of sampling allows measuring chemical variations along profiles from the enamel dentin junction (EDJ) to outer enamel (OE). The international standard SRM-1400 ("Bone Ash") was used as a bracketing reference to correct for instrumental biases. The solid form of the standard was obtained by sintering powder at 2 GPa and 700°C in a belt apparatus at the Centre des Hautes Pressions of the Claude Bernard Lyon1 University<sup>7</sup>. The samples and the standard were mounted on plasticine at equal height. The laser focalization was optimized on the standard in order to obtain a similar efficiency of ablation for both samples and standard.

Special attention was made to expose the area of analysis of the broken teeth perpendicular to the laser beam axis. The elemental or the isotopic compositions of the samples were bracketed using the SRM1400 standard for every two or three samples. Prior to the analysis of samples, the total duration of the acquisition time for a given profile was estimated according to the length between the EDJ and OE, an average of 20 seconds of acquisition time per spot and a distance of 100 microns between spots. For the analysis of standards, the total acquisition time was set at one minute and corresponds therefore to five spots that were performed randomly.

#### Analytics

A quadrupole-ICPMS (Q-ICPMS, ThermoElement X7) was used for the measurement of trace elements concentrations. Selected monitored elements were Ca, Mn, Zn, Rb, Sr, Y, Ba, La, Sm, Yb, Th and U. The <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratio was measured on a Nu-HR (Nu-instrument) multicollector-ICPMS (MC-ICPMS). Strontium isotope data were obtained in static mode. Masses 88, 87, 86, 85, 84 and 83 were measured on Faraday cups. The isobaric interference of <sup>87</sup>Rb was corrected using the <sup>85</sup>Rb signal, which is extremely small (<1 mV). Krypton interferences at masses 84 and 86 (<1 mV) were corrected using <sup>83</sup>Kr. Prior to each measurement, blanks were measured within 5 seconds, the laser being switched off. The laser is a 157 nm F<sub>2</sub>/He excimer laser LPF202 of Lambda Physiks<sup>9</sup>. The main operational conditions are summarized in Supplementary Table S1.

| 202)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 157 nm  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 40 mJ   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 Hz   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $^{-1}$ J cm <sup>-2</sup>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 ns  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Round Teflon cell with an internal volume   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| of 30 cm <sup>3</sup> , CaF <sub>2</sub> window   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plano-convex lens with 40 mm focal length   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| rs)   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1300 W  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| He, 1 I min <sup>-1</sup>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ar, 13 l min <sup>-1</sup>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ar, 0.8 l min <sup>-1</sup>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <sup>44</sup> Ca, <sup>55</sup> Mn, <sup>66</sup> Zn, <sup>85</sup> Rb, <sup>88</sup> Sr, <sup>89</sup> Y,      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <sup>138</sup> Ba, <sup>139</sup> La, <sup>147</sup> Sm, <sup>172</sup> Yb, <sup>232</sup> Th, <sup>238</sup> U |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ts Nu 500)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1400 W  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| He, 1 I min <sup>-1</sup>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ar, 13 l min <sup>-1</sup>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ar, 0.8 l min <sup>-1</sup>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| H4( <sup>88</sup> Sr), H2( <sup>87</sup> Sr+ <sup>87</sup> Rb),Ax( <sup>86</sup> Sr+ <sup>86</sup> Kr),         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| L3( <sup>84</sup> Sr+ <sup>84</sup> Kr),L4( <sup>83</sup> Kr)   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Supplementary Table S1: Operating conditions for LA-Q-ICP-MS or LA-MC-ICPMS

### Profiles acquisition and treatment of data

Contrary to our previous study<sup>7</sup>, we did not measure trace element concentrations and isotopic ratios on the same spot using the tandem Q-MC-ICPMS method, because the Sr concentrations were too low in some of the samples, resulting in poor signal intensity on the MC-ICPMS. The trace elements and the isotopic ratios were therefore measured separately in two different sessions. However, for a given transect between EDJ and OE, the profiles used for trace elements and isotopic ratios were performed as close as possible to each other. In our previous study<sup>7</sup>, we demonstrated that the lateral variations of the Sr/Ca ratio for two adjacent profiles are negligible. In the present study, we performed additional adjacent profiles in order to evaluate the extent of the lateral variation of the <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratio. These are denoted by a postfix "b" or "c" at the end of the profile #ID.

For the samples and the standards, the first step of the treatment was to remove blank values. The data were then processed using a 3-sigma filter in order to remove outliers. The Sr/Ca and Ba/Ca ratios were calculated using natural abundances of <sup>44</sup>Ca, <sup>88</sup>Sr and <sup>138</sup>Ba, and the <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratio was calculated using <sup>87</sup>Rb-correction based on measured <sup>85</sup>Rb. The Sr/Ca,

Ba/Ca and <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios were then corrected for the average value of the bracketing standards. For the samples, the variations of the Sr/Ca, Ba/Ca and <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios were finally filtered using a moving average filter with a subset size of 50 measurements. The values of <sup>55</sup>Mn, <sup>66</sup>Zn, <sup>85</sup>Rb, <sup>89</sup>Y, <sup>139</sup>La, <sup>147</sup>Sm, <sup>172</sup>Yb, <sup>232</sup>Th and <sup>238</sup>U were not corrected because these elements are present at very low concentrations in the SRM 1400 standard and were not accurately detected (except for Zn for which  $\approx 2*10^3$  cps can be measured). The statistical correlations between elements concentrations were therefore performed without correction using the bracketing standard values.

#### Results

#### Elemental and isotopic analysis

All the results are expressed at the 95% confidence level (2 $\sigma$ ). The standard bone ash SRM-1400 which is certified to contain 250 ppm of Sr, produces typical signals of <sup>88</sup>Sr of  $\approx 5*10^4$  cps on the Q-ICPMS and  $\approx 700$  mV on the MC-ICPMS. For a total of sixteen SRM 1400 standards, we obtain an average Sr/Ca\*10<sup>3</sup> value of 0.668±0.042 and an average Ba/Ca\*10<sup>3</sup> value of 0.578±0.054. These numbers are close to the certified values of the Sr/Ca\*10<sup>3</sup> and the Ba/Ca\*10<sup>3</sup> ratios, i.e. 0.652 and 0.629, respectively<sup>25</sup>. For one run, the average internal error on the Sr/Ca\*10<sup>3</sup> and the Ba/Ca\*10<sup>3</sup> ratios of the SRM 1400 standard is ±0.021 and ±0.026, respectively. For a total of seventeen SRM 1400 standards, we obtain an average <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr value of 0.713068±0.000728. This number is close to a TIMS value of 0.713104±0.000019 reported by Schweissing and Grupe<sup>26</sup>. For one run, the average internal error on the SRM 1400 standard is ±0.000647.

A total of 42 profiles have been analyzed for trace elements. The average  $Sr/Ca^*10^3$  ratio calculated for each profile ranges from 0.305 to 2.753, and the mean standard deviation from 0.017 to 1.458 (Supplementary Table 1). This corresponds to an average coefficient of variation calculated within a profile of 17%, which is three times higher than the variation of the external reproducibility calculated using the SRM 1400 standard (6.3‰). The situation is similar for the Ba/Ca ratio, for which the average coefficient of variation within a profile (29.3%) is three times higher than the variation of the external reproducibility (9.3%). A total of 48 profiles have been analyzed for isotope ratios. The average  ${}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$  ratio calculated for each profile ranges from 0.7197 to 0.7410, and the mean standard deviation from 0.0024 to 0.0074 (Supplementary Table 1). This corresponds to an average coefficient of variation from 0.0024 to 0.0074 (Supplementary Table 1). This corresponds to an average coefficient of variation from 0.0024 to 0.0074 (Supplementary Table 1). This corresponds to an average coefficient of variation from 0.0024 to 0.0074 (Supplementary Table 1). This corresponds to an average coefficient of variation calculated within a profile of 0.59%, which is six times higher than the variation of the external reproducibility calculated using the SRM 1400 standard (0.10%). The observed intra-

tooth variations of the Sr/Ca, Ba/Ca and <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios are therefore not attributable to measurement uncertainties.

#### Control of diagenesis

Three lines of evidence suggest that the diagenetic effects on the teeth samples are not significant. First, we have measured along with Sr, B and Ca several elements (Mn, Zn, Rb, Y, La, Sm, Yb, Th and U) that were used as diagenetic proxies because their concentration is very low in modern enamel and increase post-mortem<sup>10</sup>. The accurate measurement of the concentration for these elements using LA-Q-ICPMS was not possible because the concentration were below the detection level in the SRM1400 standard, as well as in most of the samples. Considering that the concentrations of the diagenetic proxies in the SRM1400 standard are measured with solution ICMPS at the ppb level<sup>7,25</sup>, we conclude that these are present at similar concentration in the fossil teeth samples. However, significant amount of U can be detected in some of the fossil teeth samples (i.e., KB5223, SKX21841). The comparison with previously measured U concentration by means of solution ICPMS on fossil enamel coming from the same caves<sup>11</sup>, suggests that detectable signals should correspond to concentrations around 1-3 ppm. Second, we have conducted correlation tests between all the elements. For a given tooth, the results are provided for each profile in the section C (see below). For none of the profiles is any co-variation found between Ca, Sr or Ba and the diagenetic proxies. In some cases (i.e. SK 1524, SK 268), Sr concentrations are negatively correlated with REE, but this results from an asymptotic relationship, which does not relate to additional diagenetic incorporation of Sr. Positive significant correlation are only found between diagenetic proxies. Lastly, we do not found any correlation between the Sr/Ca and the <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios, which would have traduced a mixing between a diagenetic and a biogenic end-members.

### Presentation of the results

A plate summarizing all the results has been constructed for each tooth sample. The plate includes a photo of the whole tooth (the white bar is one centimeter), with close-ups corresponding to the areas where the profiles have been performed. Each profile is oriented from the EDJ to the OE using an arrow and is annotated with a "Q" or "MC" prefix which stands for "quadrupole" or "multicollector", respectively. For each plate, four sections have been created. The section A shows the evolution of selected isotopes along the specified profile. The units for X and Y axes correspond to the number of cycles ( $\approx 250$  ms) and the

number of counts per second (cps). Only <sup>44</sup>Ca, <sup>55</sup>Mn, <sup>88</sup>Sr, <sup>138</sup>Ba, <sup>139</sup>La, <sup>172</sup>Yb, <sup>232</sup>Th and <sup>238</sup>U data are shown for the sake of clarity. Section B shows the evolution of the Sr/Ca (pink) and Ba/Ca (green) corrected ratios along the specified profile. Section C presents the correlation coefficients results between all the isotopes. The presence of the NaN symbol (not a number) traduces the fact that the measurement of the isotope always yields zero cps. The correlation coefficient has been highlighted in grey when its associated probability is < 0.05. Section D shows the evolution of the <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr corrected ratio along the specified profile. The X axis corresponds to the number of cycles (1 s). The thin and the thick lines represent the 3-sigmas and the moving average filtered data, respectively.

#### A- Trace elements profiles

The intensities of the selected isotopes cover more than five orders of magnitude, rare Earth elements (REE) being the less concentrated with generally no more than  $10^2$  cps, and Ca the more concentrated with about >  $10^5$  cps. Intermediate intensities are observed for Mn, Sr and Ba, such that Ca > Sr ≥ Ba ≥ Mn > REE, U, Th. It is interesting to note that for Ca, which is stoechiometric in apatite, the evolution is always flat while it can be very variable for other trace elements. This demonstrates that the ablation efficiency along transects from EDJ to OE was always regular.

#### B- Sr/Ca and Ba/Ca ratios profiles

The evolution of the Sr/Ca and Ba/Ca ratios along transects from EDJ to OE always mimic each other. The only noticeable exception should be the two profiles of the *Australopithecus africanus* specimen STS1881, for which sharp variations of the Ba/Ca ratio are observed. The similarity of the evolution of the Sr/Ca and Ba/Ca ratios is not surprising since both elements are proportionally segregated relative to Ca in biological processes<sup>4,20</sup>. The overall trend of the Sr/Ca and Ba/Ca ratios is to decrease from EDJ to OE, a pattern already observed by Humphrey et al.<sup>8</sup> in exfoliated deciduous teeth. These authors attributed the trend as a differential incorporation of Sr and Ca during enamel secretion and maturation. However, the present results show that this overall trend is associated with variations of higher frequencies that can be attributable to dietary changes during the secretory and/or maturational phases of enamel formation.

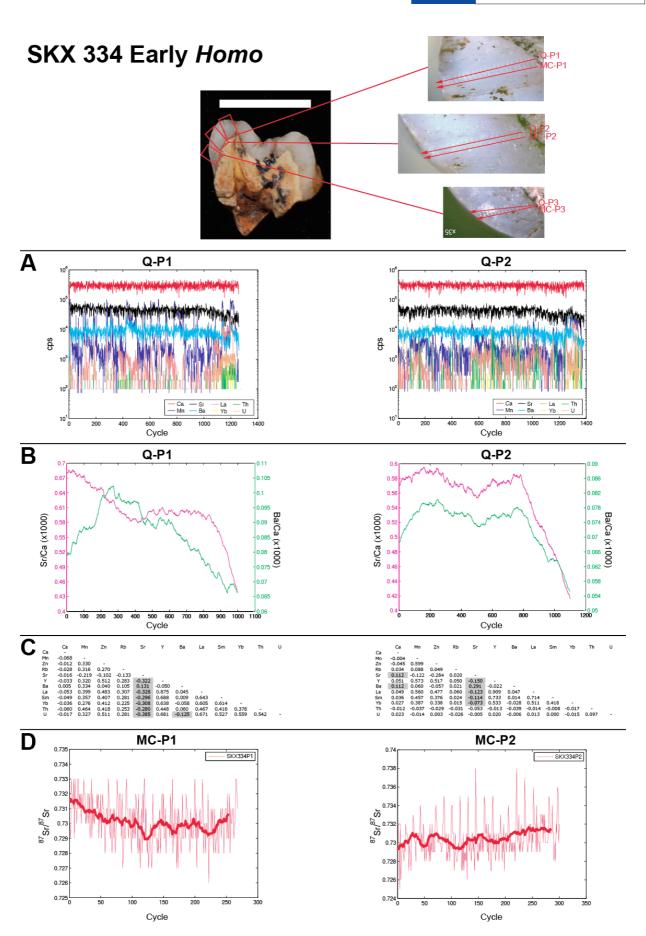
### C- Correlation between elements

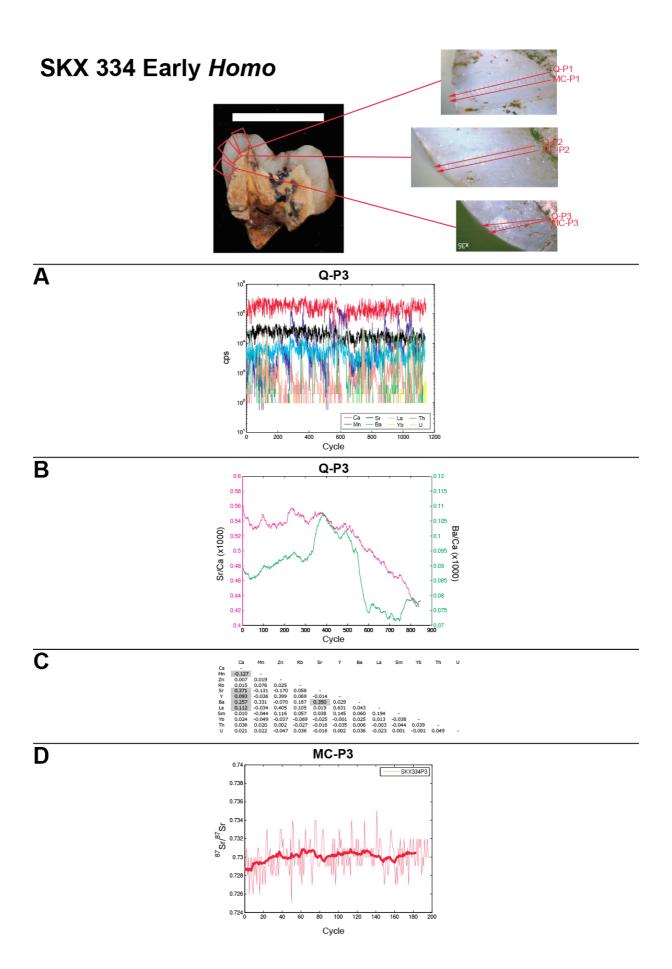
In addition to Ca, Sr, and Ba, we have measured Mn, Zn, Rb, Y, La, Sm, Yb, Th and U, which are elements representative of diagenetic incorporation. A matrix of correlation coefficients between all elements has been performed for each profile in order to test the potential effects of diagenesis on the Sr, Ba and Ca concentrations. We never found a significant correlation coefficient between Sr, Ba or Ca and the elements of diagenetic origin.

### D-<sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratio profiles

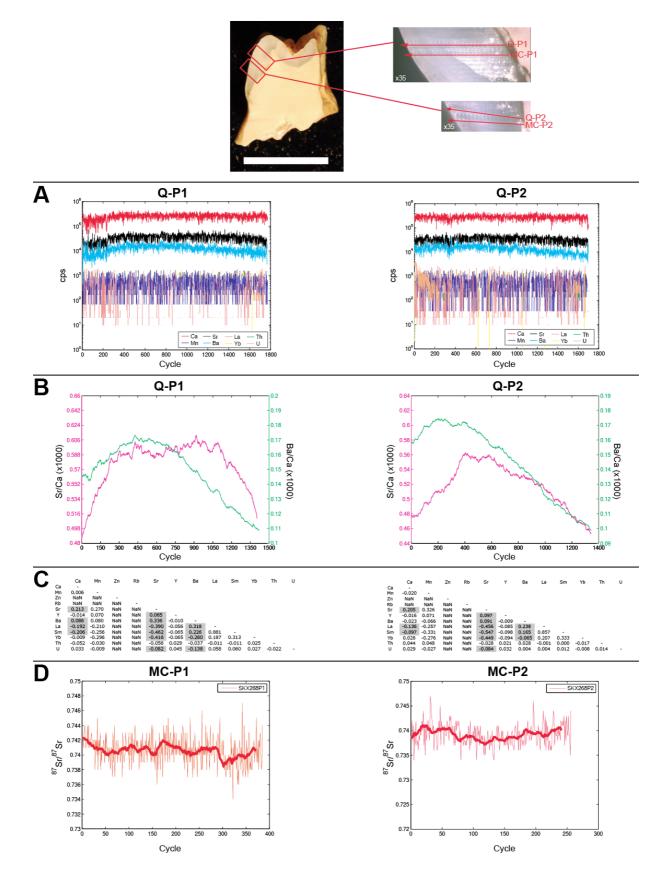
The <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratio profiles from EDJ to OE do not exhibit systematic trends, as is the case for the Sr/Ca and Ba/Ca ratios. This suggests that the Sr isotope composition is quantitatively incorporated during enamel secretion and maturation without any preferential incorporation of a Sr isotope. The extent of lateral variations of the <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratio for two adjacent profiles is small. This is illustrated for instance by the three profiles P1/P1b/P1c of the *A. africanus* STS 1881 specimen or by the two profiles P1/P1b of the *A. africanus* STS 31 specimen. The small <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr variations are reproduced in each profile with an offset, which never exceeds 2‰. The coefficients of variations of the <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratio are rather constant among hominids (Early *Homo*, 0.57%±0.08%; *P. robustus*, 0.55%±0.10%; *A. africanus*, 0.54%±0.08%) and are similar for hominids and bovids (hominids, 0.55‰±0.09‰; bovids, 0.62%±0.19%).

#### Supplementary data

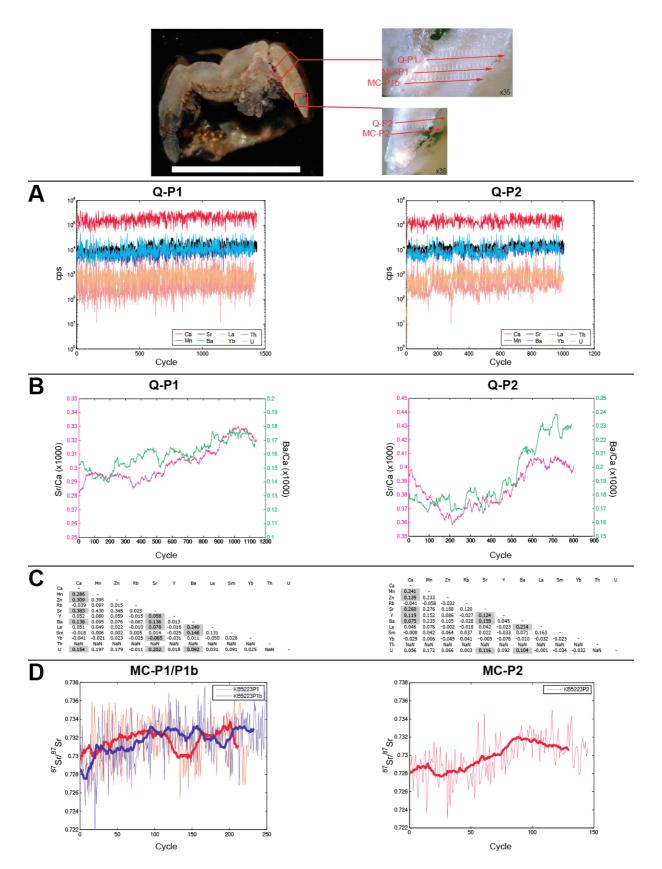




### SKX 268 Early Homo



# KB 5223 Early Homo



A

Β

C

D

# SK 24605 P. robustus

0.39

0.3

0.37 0.36 0.3

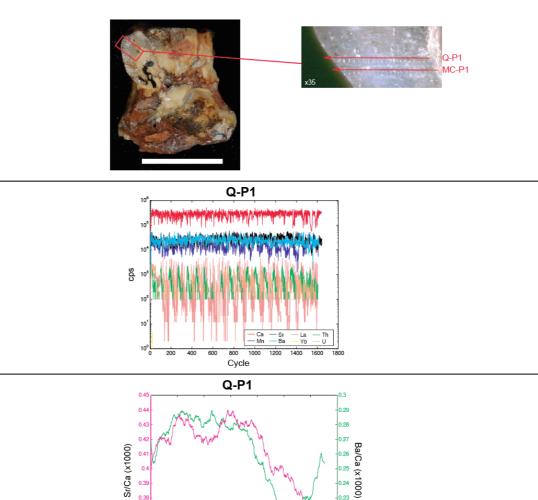
Ca

0.734

0.732 0.73 0.728

0.72 0.718 0.716 0.714

Ca Mn Zn Sr Y Ba La Sm Yb Th U 0.062 0.015 -0.063 0.192 0.105 0.064 -0.053 -0.053 0.002 0.469 0.064 0.453 0.453 0.043 0.163 0.031 0.009 -0.035 -0.059 0.560 -0.049 0.171 -0.019 0.037 0.054 -0.020 0.061 0.026 -0.029 -0.034 0.002 0.137 -0.042 -0.041 -0.035 -0.020 0.125 0.040 0.028 0.415 0.071 0.051 -0.061 0.003 0.026 0.036 -0.115 0.027 0.230 0.045



600 Cycle

MC-P1

15

Cycle

1000

.24

.23

Th U

0.047 0.051 0.026 -0.032 0.016 -0.089

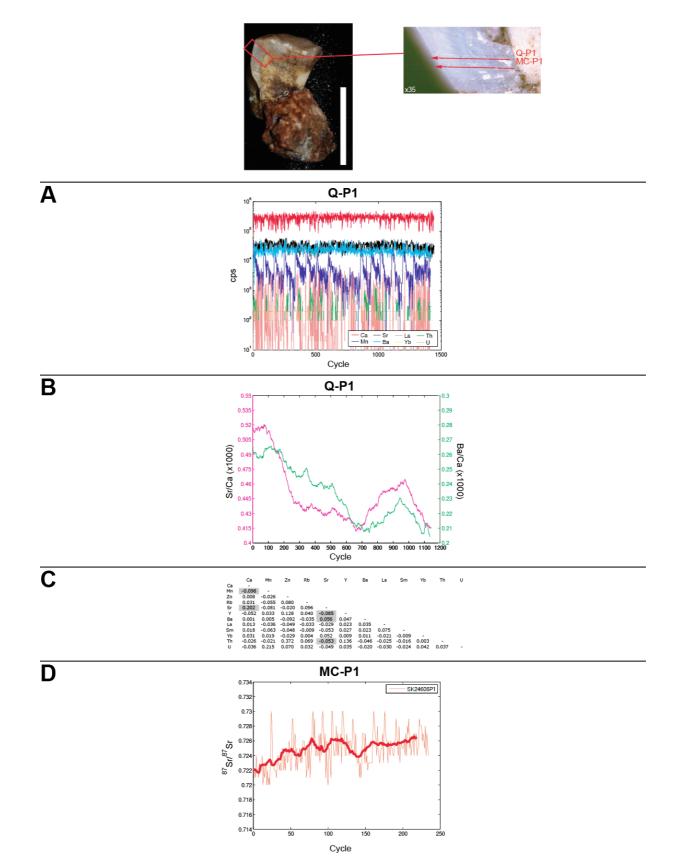
SK24605P1

250

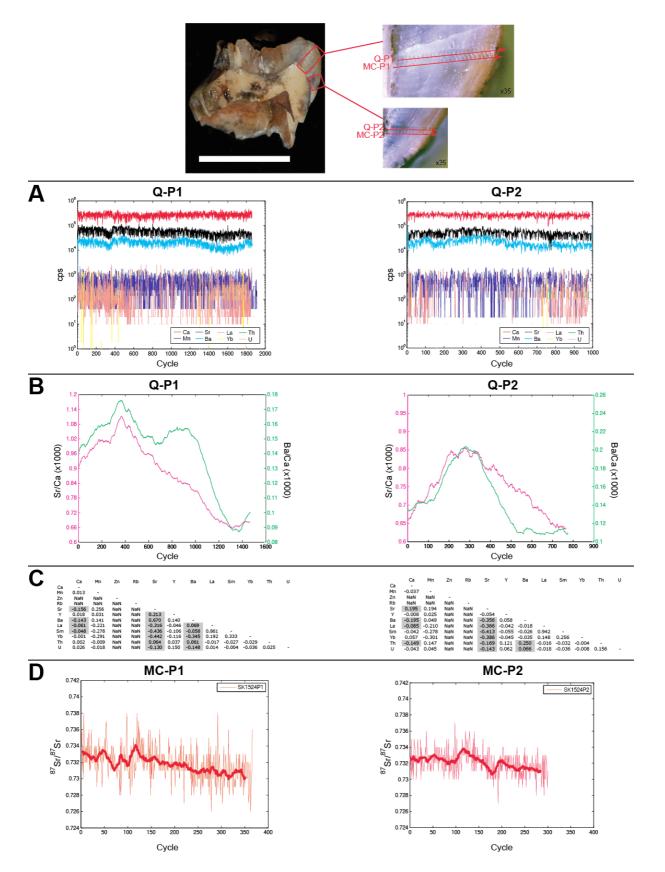
300

WWW.NATURE.COM/NATURE | 13

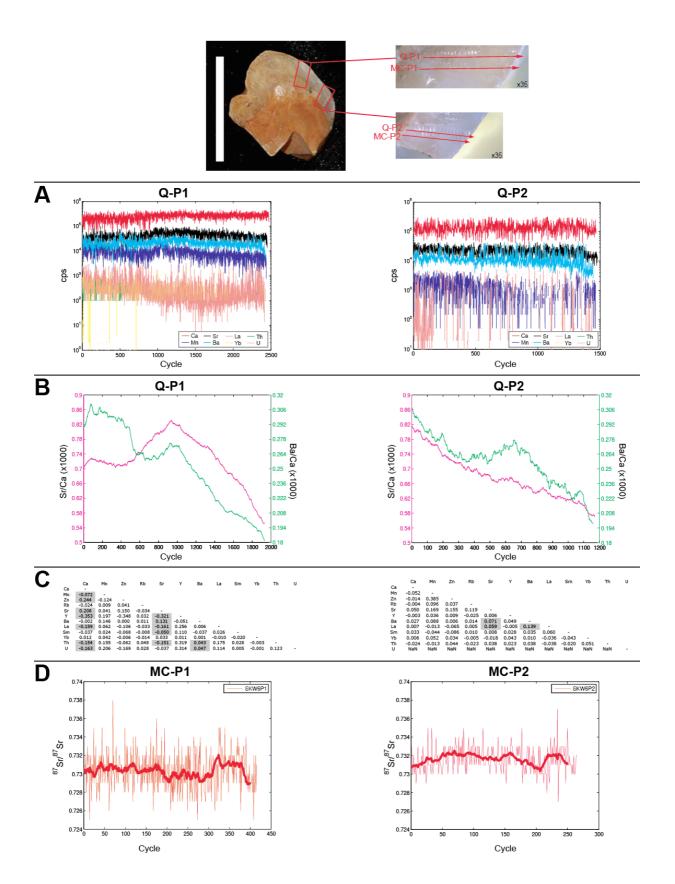
# SK 24606 P. robustus

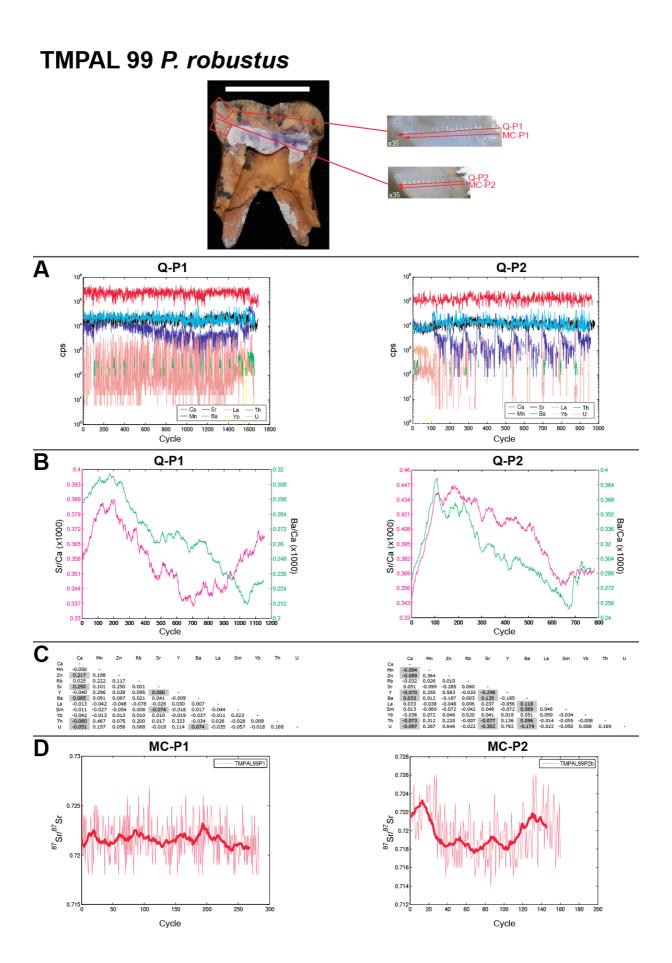


### SK 1524 P. robustus



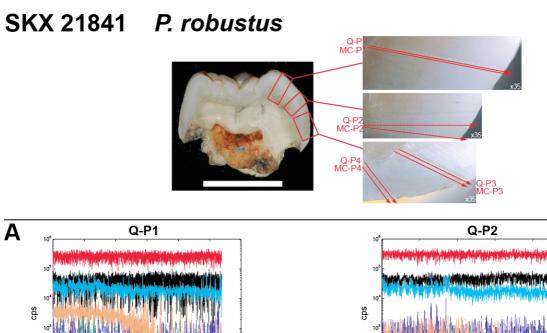
# SKW 6 P. robustus

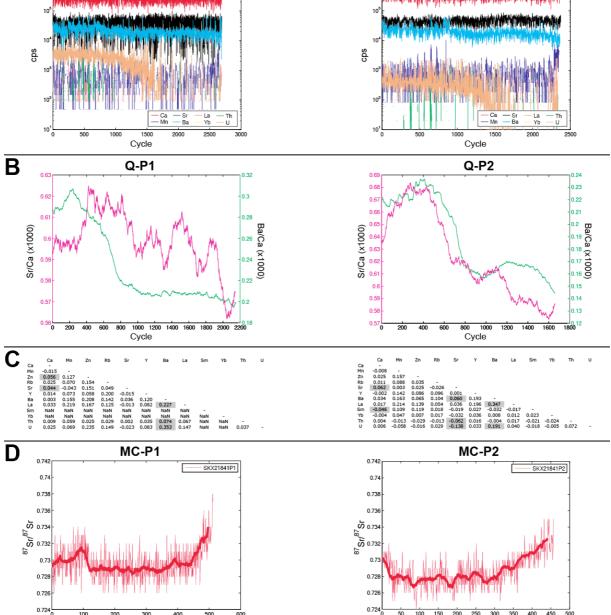




100

Cycle



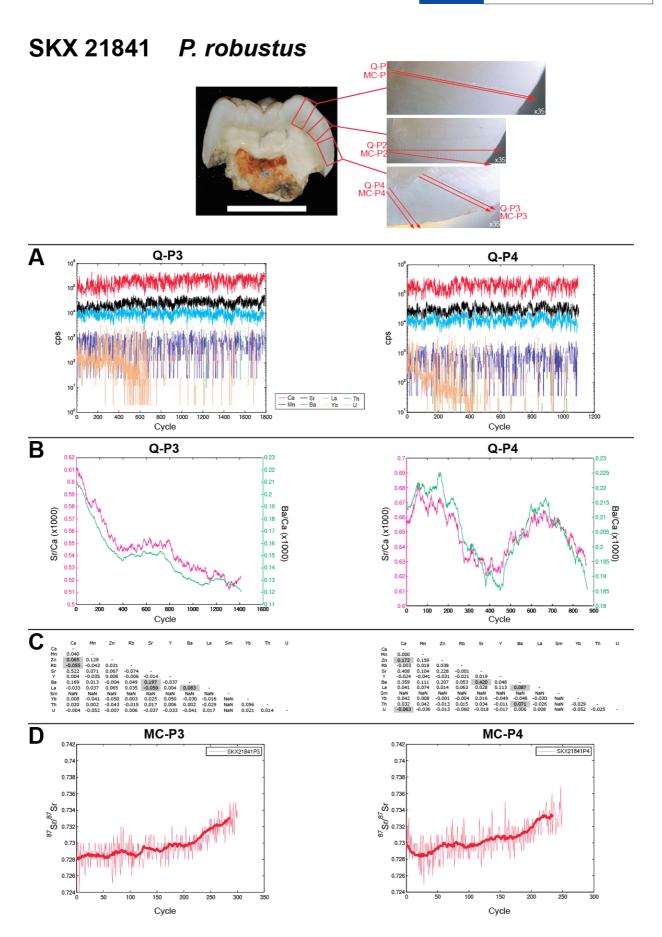


600

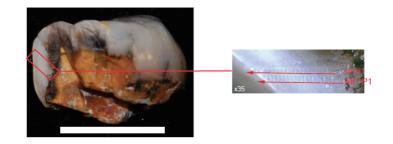
400 450

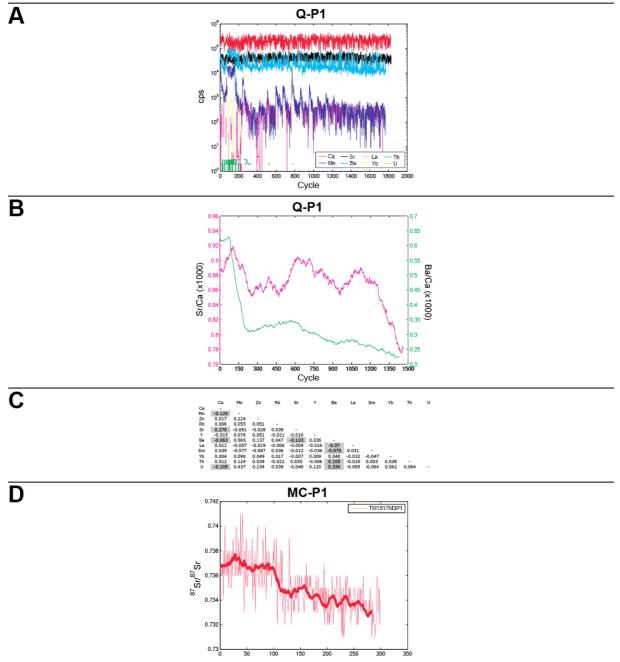
250 300 350

Cycle



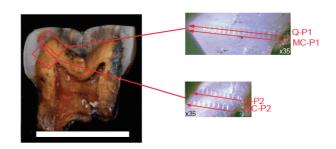
## TM 1517-M3 P. robustus

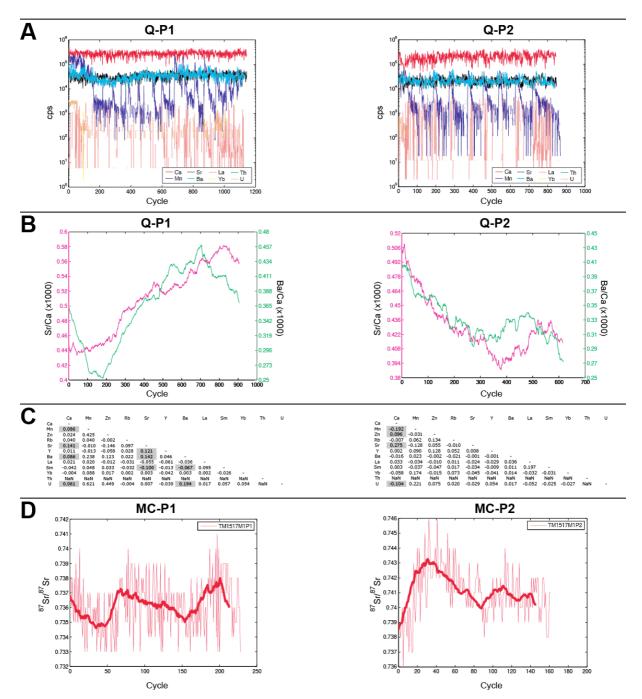




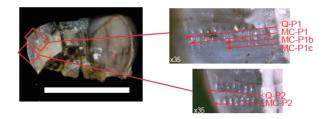


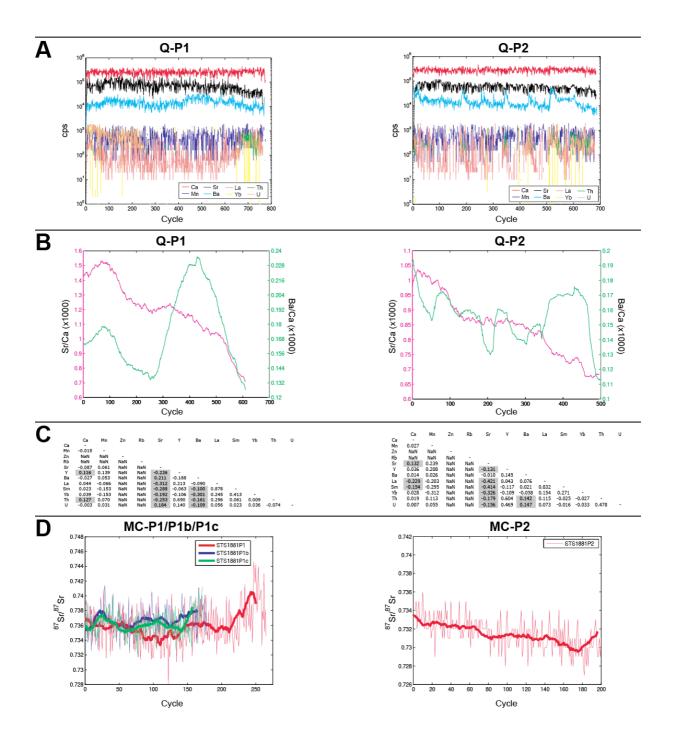
## TM1517-M1 P. robustus



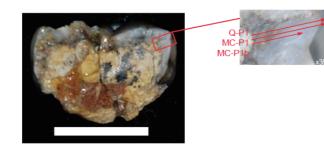


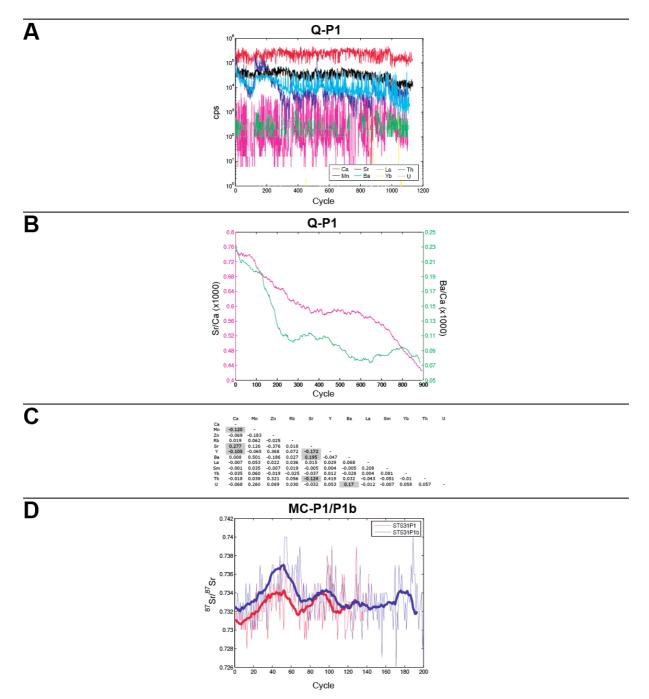
# STS 1881 A. africanus



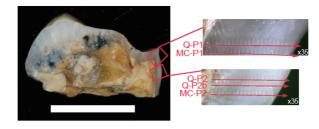


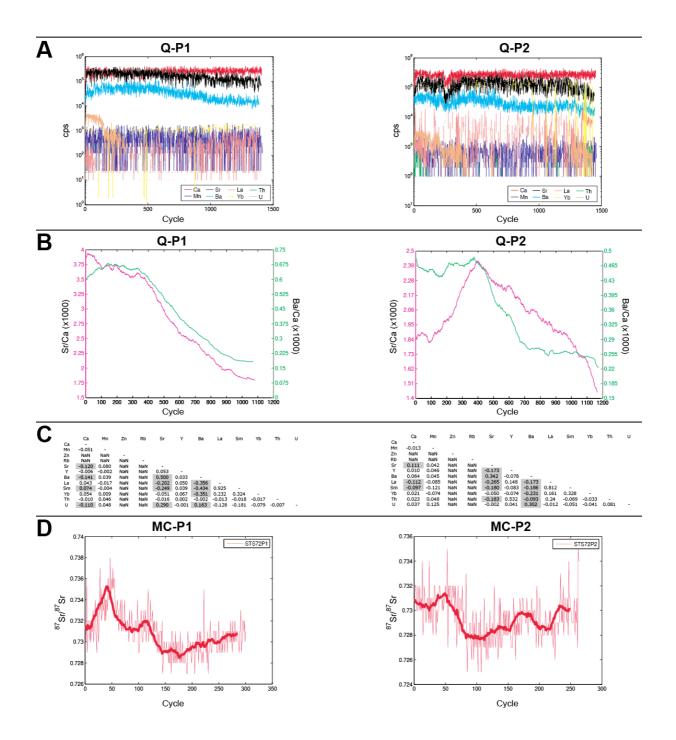
# STS 31 A. africanus



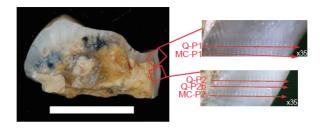


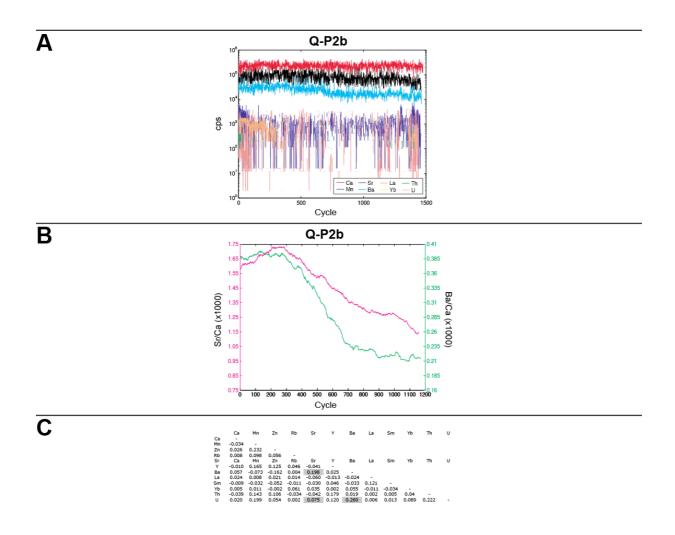
# STS 72 A. africanus

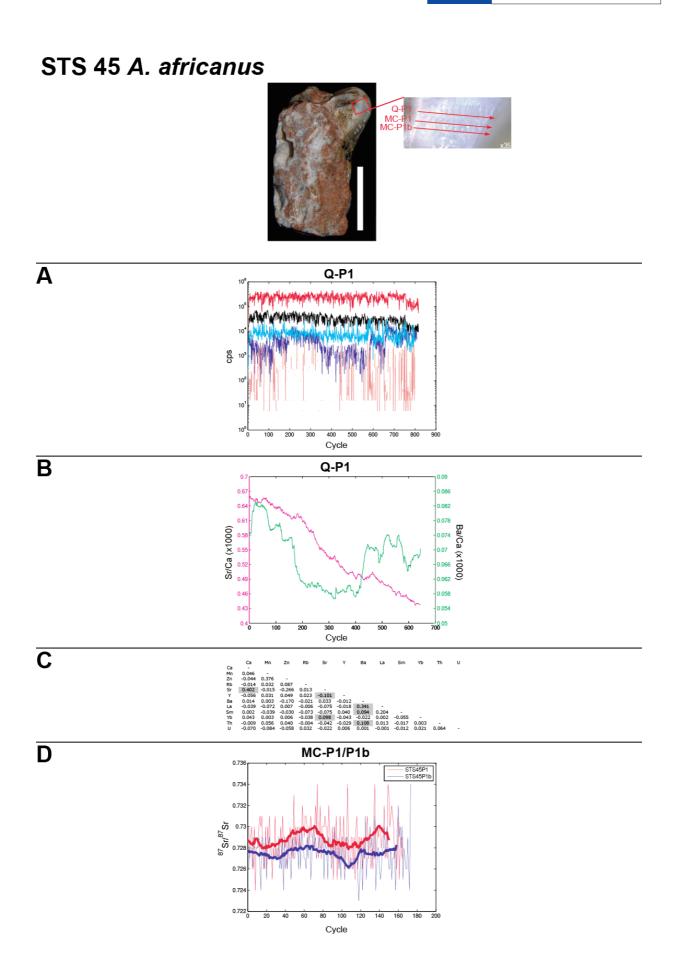




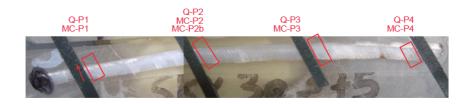
# STS 72 A. africanus

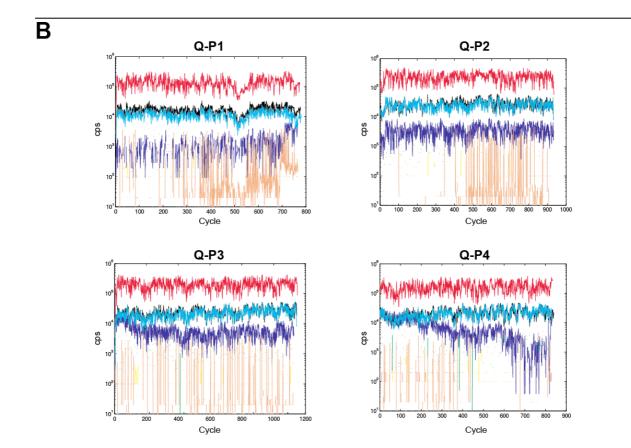




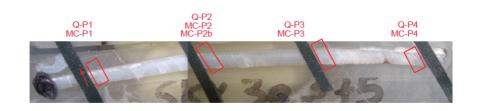


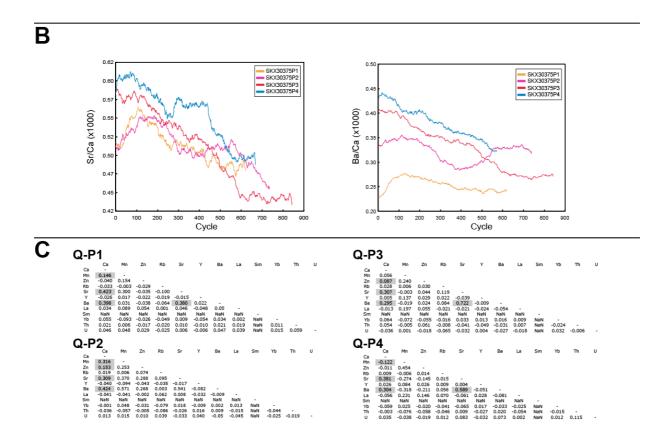
# SKX 30375 indet. bovidae



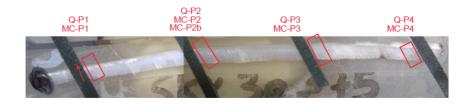


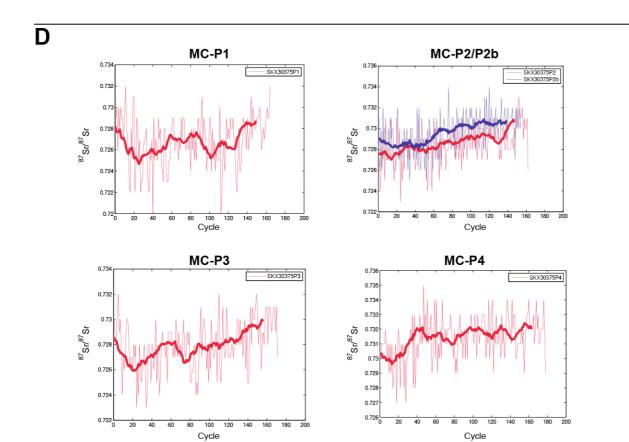
### SKX 30375 indet. bovidae



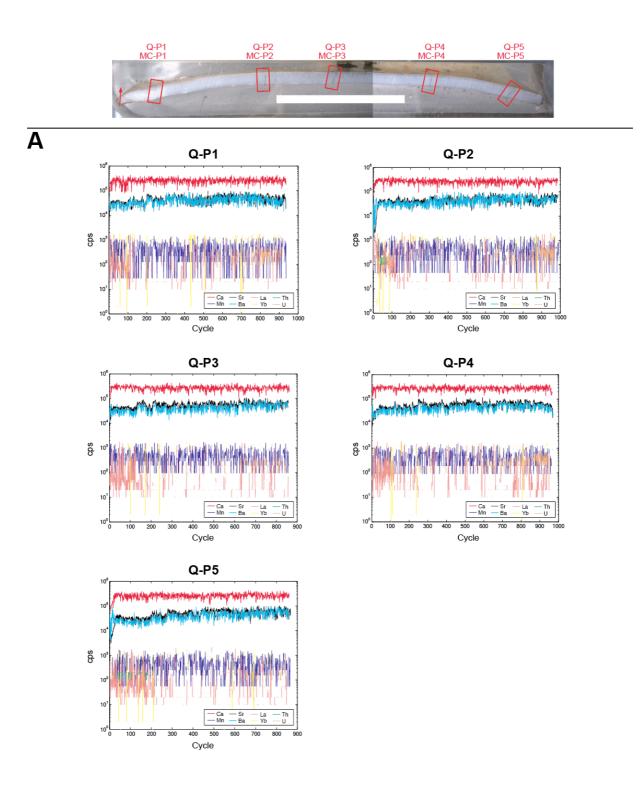


# SKX 30375 indet. bovidae

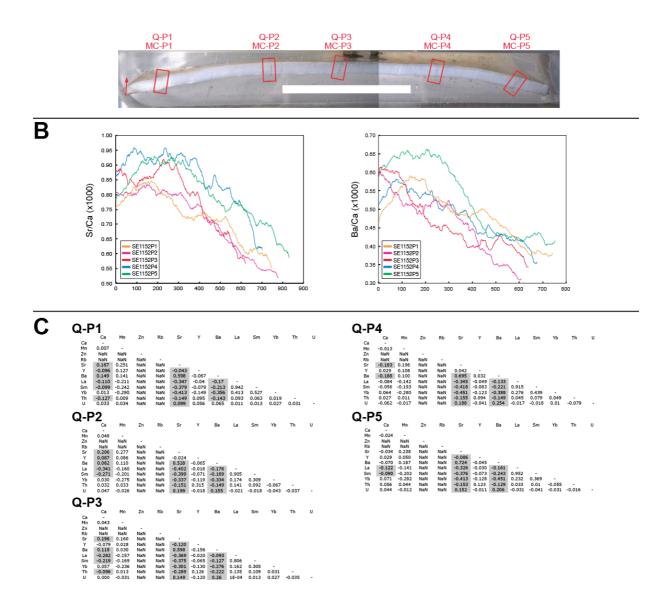




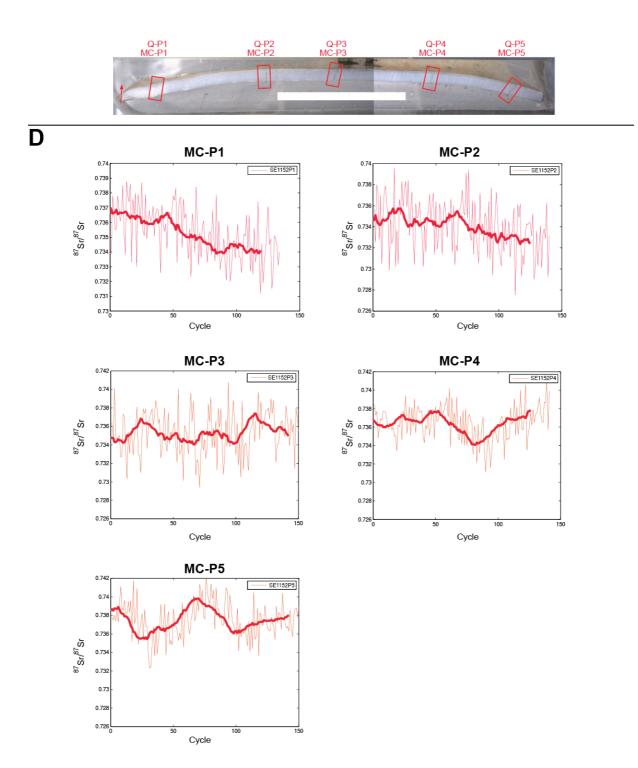
# SE1152 indet. bovidae



## SE1152 indet. bovidae

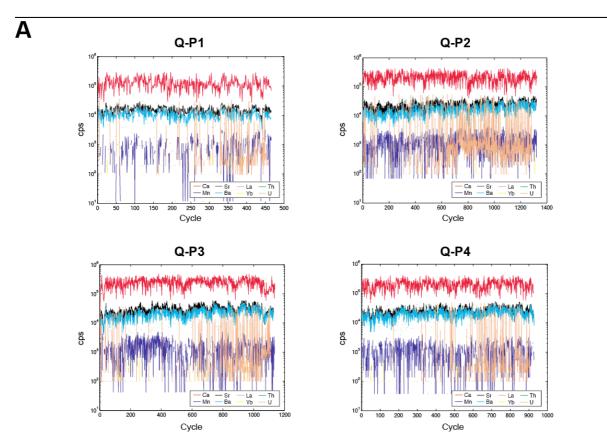


# SE1152 indet. bovidae



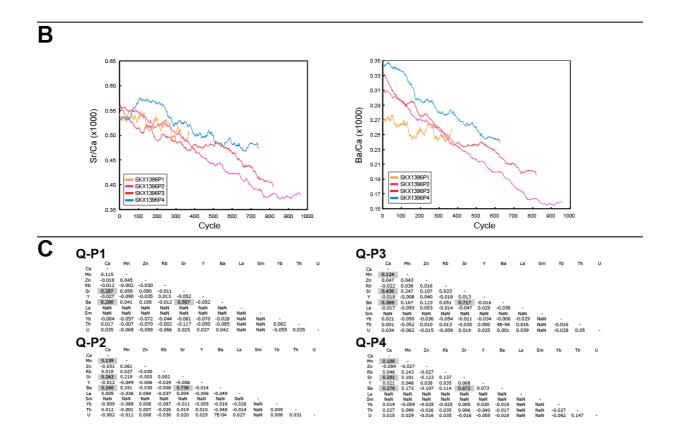
# SKX 1396 indet. bovidae





### SKX 1396 indet. bovidae





### SKX 1396 indet. bovidae



