The modern Mediterranean Sea neodymium isotopic budget: insight from core-top sediments and box model calculations

KAZUYO TACHIKAWA\textsuperscript{1}, FRANÇOIS BENY\textsuperscript{2}, MARINE CORNUAULT\textsuperscript{2}, ABEL GUIHOU\textsuperscript{3}, PIERRE DESCHAMPS\textsuperscript{4}, HARTMUT SCHULZ\textsuperscript{5}, FRANCISCO J. SIERRO\textsuperscript{6} AND MARIE BOYE\textsuperscript{7}

\textsuperscript{1}Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, IRD, INRAE, Coll France, CEREGE
\textsuperscript{2}Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, IRD, INRAE, Coll France, CEREGE, France
\textsuperscript{3}Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, IRD, INRAE, Coll France, CEREGE UMR 7330
\textsuperscript{4}CEREGE, Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, IRD, INRAE, Coll France
\textsuperscript{5}University of Tübingen
\textsuperscript{6}Univ. de Salamanca
\textsuperscript{7}Institut de physique du globe de Paris

Presenting Author: kazuyo@cerege.fr

Neodymium isotopic compositions ($^{143}$Nd/$^{144}$Nd or $e_{\text{Nd}}$) have been used as a tracer of water mass provenances in the modern and past oceans. Recently, a potential importance of benthic flux from abyssal seafloor has been proposed although its ubiquitous contribution is still a matter of debate. The Mediterranean Sea is ideal to study major Nd sources and factors affecting seawater isotopic distribution because the water circulation, seawater and detrital $e_{\text{Nd}}$ distribution are relatively well constrained. We analyzed $e_{\text{Nd}}$ of foraminiferal authigenic oxides and leachate (thereafter authigenic phases) and residual fraction of modern sediments along a zonal transect of Mediterranean Sea. The authigenic and residual $e_{\text{Nd}}$ ranged from -9.0 to -3.9 and from -12.0 to -4.4, respectively with the highest values in the easternmost Levantine and the Aegean Seas. The authigenic $e_{\text{Nd}}$ generally agree with deep-water signals except in the easternmost Levantine Sea where they are more radiogenic than corresponding seawater values. Our results combined with existing data revealed that the correlation between the authigenic and detrital $e_{\text{Nd}}$ is not significant on sub-basin scale. Compiled seawater $e_{\text{Nd}}$ co-vary with detrital signals at water depths 0-200m and the correlation becomes weaker at water depths deeper than 1000m. These results question general importance of benthic flux in the modern Mediterranean Sea. Sensitivity tests using a calibrated box model demonstrate that two major factors affecting seawater Nd isotopic distribution in the Mediterranean Sea are the flux of radiogenic Nd from possibly Nile river particles to easternmost basin and the Mediterranean circulation state.