



*Supplement of*

## **Geogenic organic carbon in terrestrial sediments and its contribution to total soil carbon**

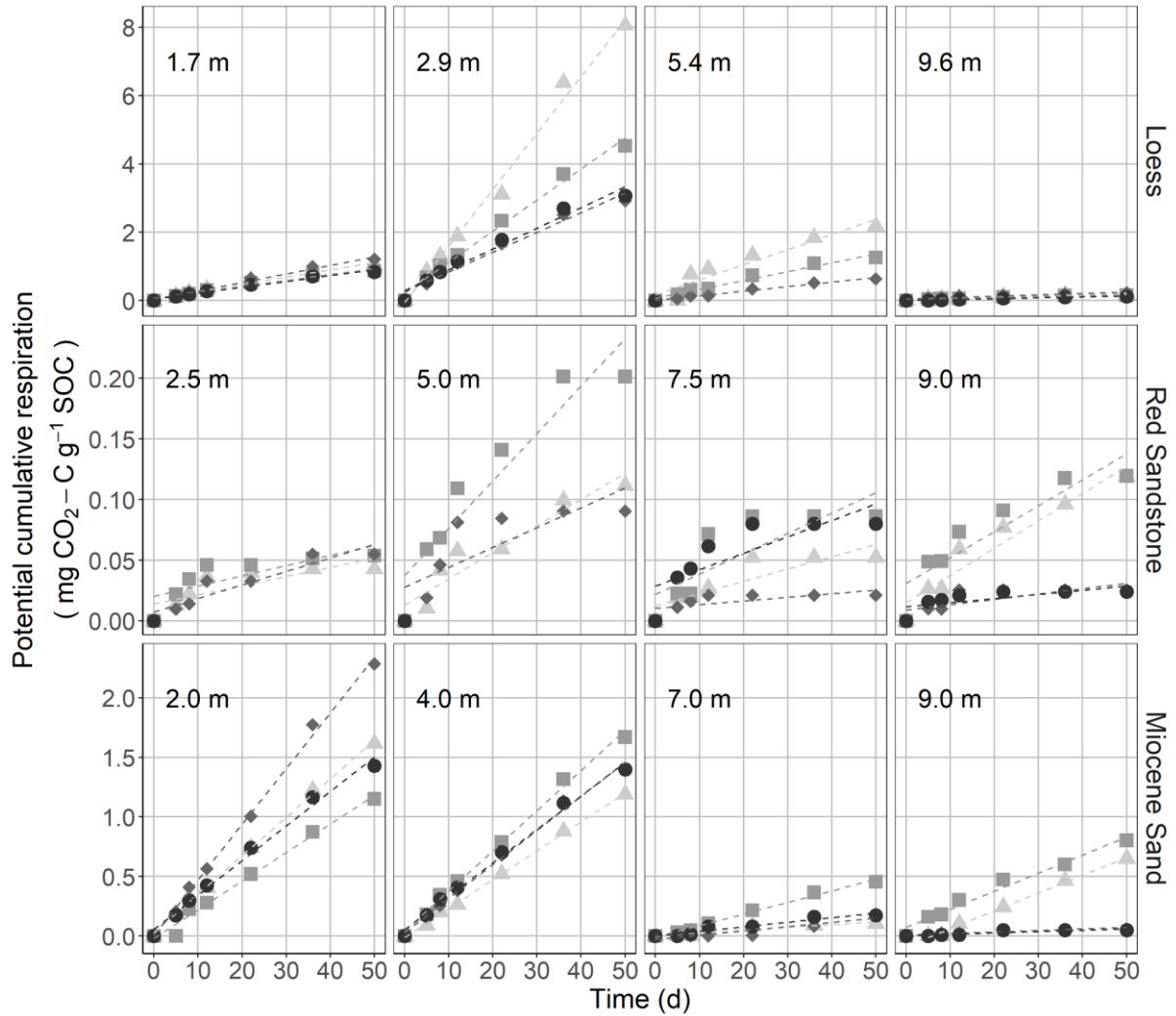
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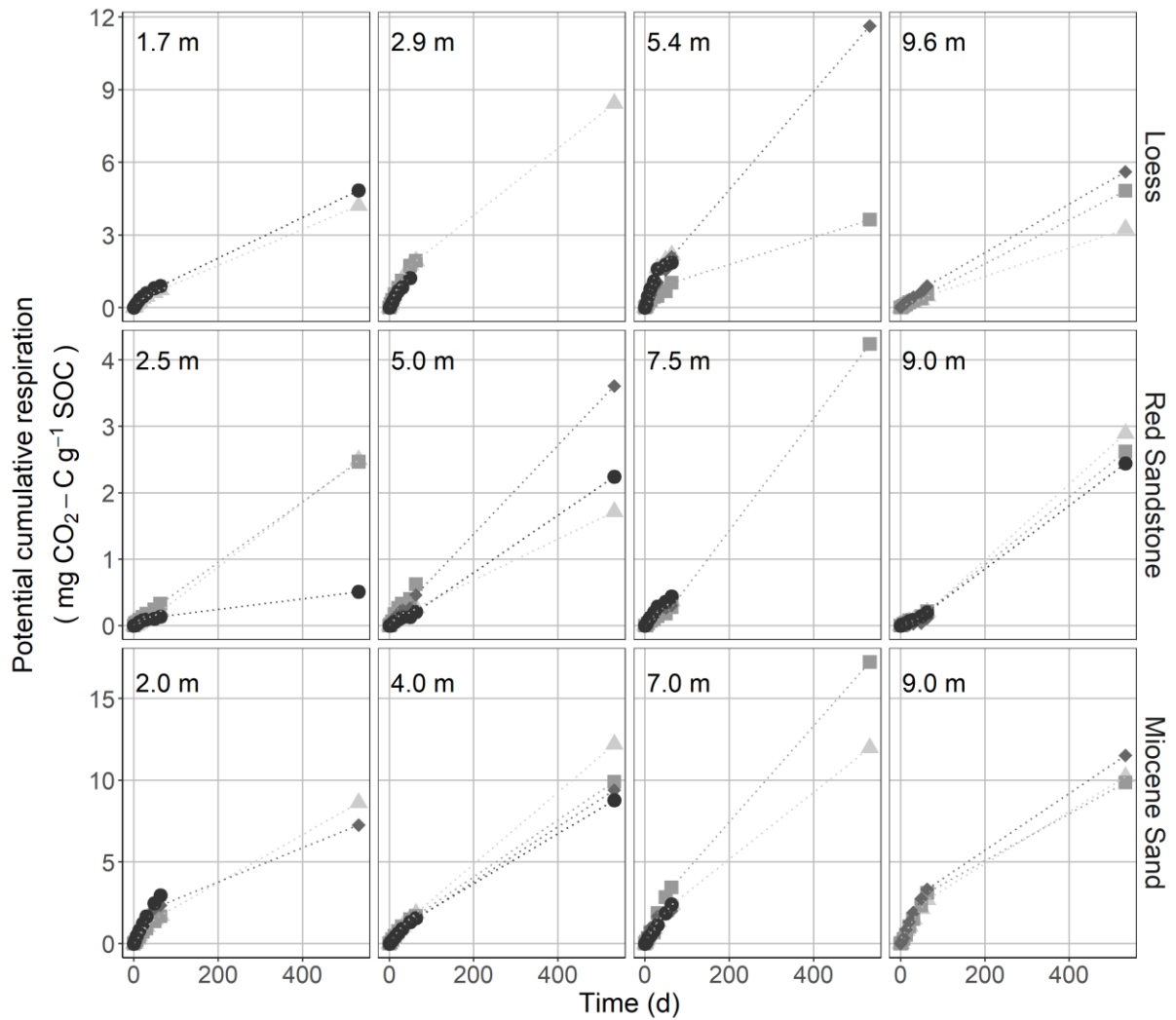
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Supplementary Material

Figures



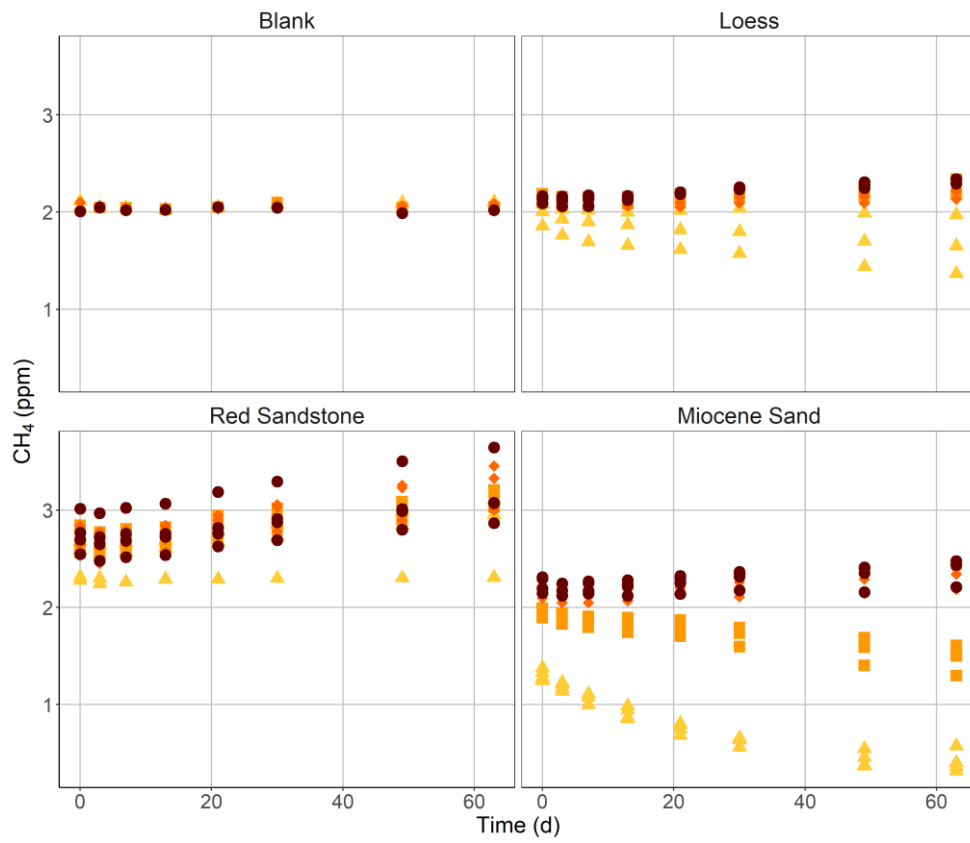
**Fig. S1:** Potential degradability of sedimentary OC from three sites during the first incubation experiment. Results represent cumulative respiration at 20°C for each of the four repetitions. Dashed lines represent a fitted linear model to the respiration data.



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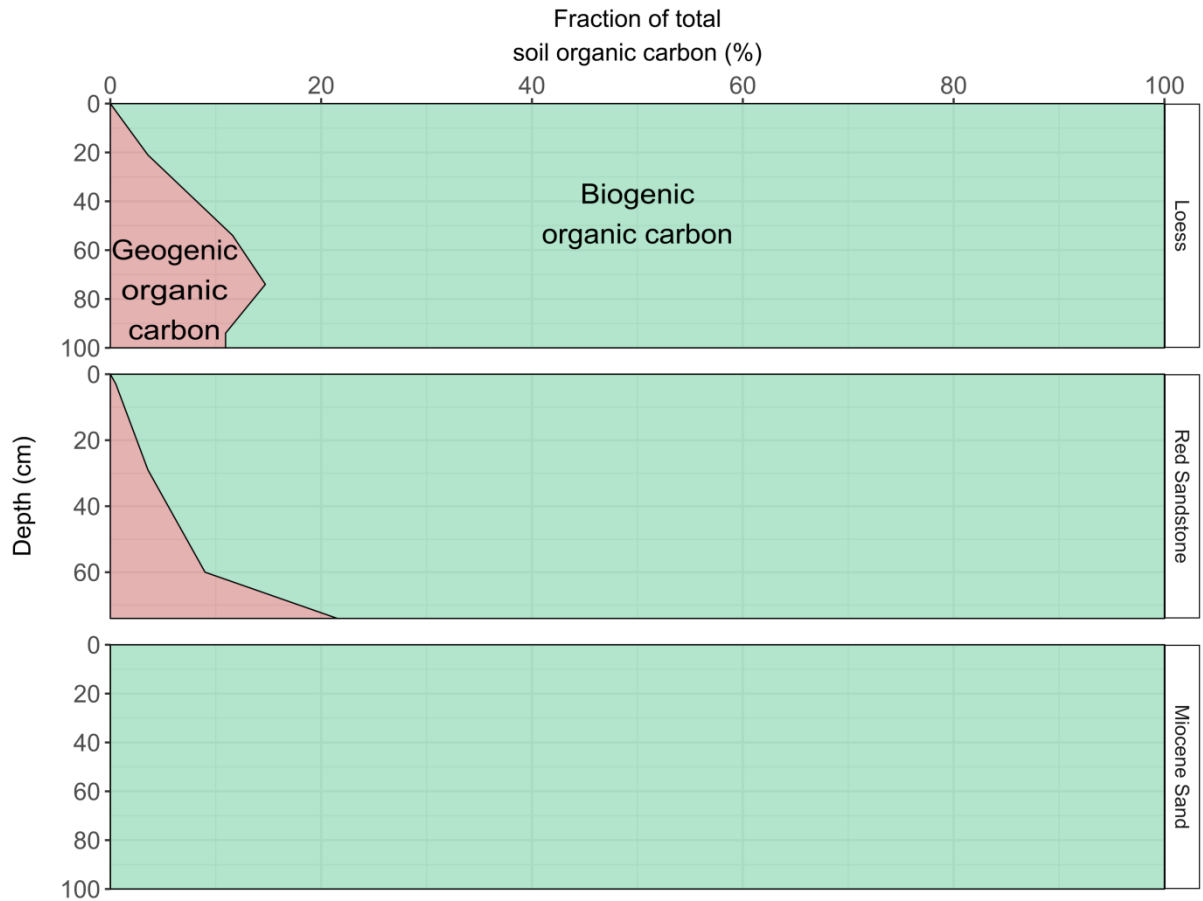
15 **Fig. S2:** Potential degradability of sedimentary OC from three sites during the second incubation  
 16 experiment with crushed Red Sandstone samples with the sample after 533 days included. Results  
 17 represent cumulative respiration at 20°C for each of the four repetitions. Dashed lines represent the  
 18 connection for every single repetition.

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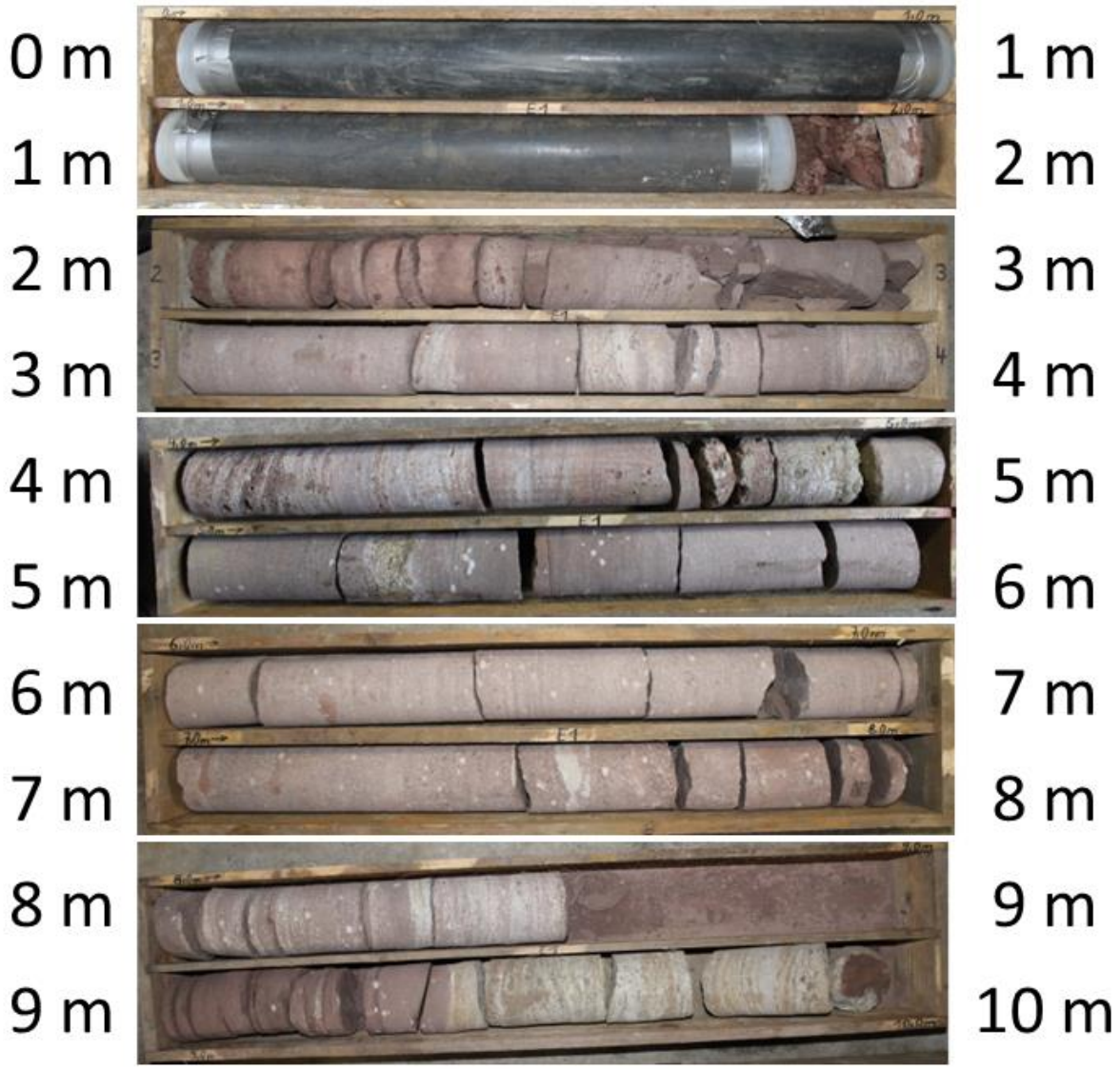
21 **Fig. S3:** Potential rates of CH<sub>4</sub> consumption and production during the incubation experiment.



22

23 **Fig. S4:** Highest possible contribution from GOC to OC (red area) in relation to the bulk OC content.  
 24 Here the GOC contents are based on to the assumption of an average biogenic OC age of 10,000 years.

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27 **Fig. S5:** Core samples from the Red Sandstone down to 10 m depth.

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30 **Table S1:** Bulk values for organic carbon (OC), inorganic carbon (IC), nitrogen (N) and calculated ages  
 31 of the organic part of soil carbon ( $^{14}\text{C}$  age) and fraction of modern carbon ( $F^{14}\text{C}$ ) for each depth  
 32 increment of the cores and respective samples from the soil profiles. Measurement values are  
 33 represented as mean values with standard deviations ( $\pm$ ) and, if measurements for two cores were  
 34 available, as a range (-).

| Substrate     | Depth (m)       | OC (g kg <sup>-1</sup> ) | IC (g kg <sup>-1</sup> ) | N (g kg <sup>-1</sup> ) | $^{14}\text{C}$ age (yrs BP) | $F^{14}\text{C}$ |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Loess         | 0.21            | 9.47                     | 0.31                     | 0.8                     | 0                            | 1.03             |
|               | 0.54            | 2.83                     | 0.30                     | 0.24                    | -                            | -                |
|               | 0.74            | 2.21                     | 0.53                     | 0.26                    | 4,413                        | 0.58             |
|               | 0.94            | 3.01                     | 0.10                     | 0.29                    | -                            | -                |
|               | 1.9             | 2.86 $\pm$ 0.04          | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.00          | 3.06 $\pm$ 0.02         | 2,200                        | 0.76             |
|               | 2.9             | 2.62 $\pm$ 0.01          | 0.14 $\pm$ 0.00          | 0.31 $\pm$ 0.01         | 2,730                        | 0.71             |
|               | 3.9             | 9.71 $\pm$ 0.06          | 0.41 $\pm$ 0.02          | 0.68 $\pm$ 0.00         | 2,770                        | 0.71             |
|               | 4.9             | 1.60 $\pm$ 0.06          | 9.36 $\pm$ 0.26          | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.01         | 13,870                       | 0.18             |
|               | 5.9             | 0.25 $\pm$ 0.01          | 0.10 $\pm$ 0.00          | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.01         | 14,720                       | 0.16             |
|               | 6.9             | 0.24 $\pm$ 0.01          | 0.09 $\pm$ 0.01          | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.00         | 17,610                       | 0.11             |
|               | 7.9             | 0.21 $\pm$ 0.02          | 0.10 $\pm$ 0.00          | 0.11 $\pm$ 0.00         | 30,730                       | 0.02             |
|               | 8.9             | 0.38 $\pm$ 0.02          | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.00          | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.00         | 20,410                       | 0.08             |
|               | 9.9             | 0.81 $\pm$ 0.00          | 10.72 $\pm$ 0.00         | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.01         | 18,030                       | 0.11             |
| Miocene       | 0.03            | 15.87                    |                          |                         | -                            | -                |
|               | 0.17            | 11.11                    |                          |                         | -                            | -                |
|               | 0.39            | 15.21                    |                          |                         | 1,277                        | 0.85             |
|               | 0.61            | 7.79                     |                          |                         | 1,771                        | 0.80             |
|               | 0.81            | 2.35                     |                          |                         | -                            | -                |
|               | 1               | 0.66                     |                          |                         | -                            | -                |
|               | 1.9             | 0.50 - 0.71              | 0.01 - 0.02              | 0.02 - 0.04             | 7,710                        | 0.38             |
|               | 2.9             | 0.17 - 0.20              | 0.01 - 0.02              | 0.01 - 0.02             | -                            | -                |
|               | 3.9             | 0.17 - 0.42              | 0.01 - 0.01              | 0.02 - 0.02             | -                            | -                |
|               | 4.9             | 0.21 - 0.45              | 0.01 - 0.01              | 0.02 - 0.04             | 6,750                        | 0.43             |
|               | 5.9             | 0.10 - 0.53              | 0.01 - 0.01              | 0.02 - 0.03             | -                            | -                |
|               | 6.9             | 0.08 - 0.30              | 0.00 - 0.02              | 0.02 - 0.02             | -                            | -                |
|               | 7.9             | 0.13 - 0.16              | 0.00 - 0.00              | 0.01 - 0.02             | 12,770                       | 0.20             |
| 8.9           | 0.16 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.00 $\pm$ 0.00          | 0.02 $\pm$ 0.00          | -                       | -                            |                  |
| 9.9           | 0.04 - 0.10     | 0.00 - 0.00              | 0.00 - 0.02              | -                       | -                            |                  |
| Red Sandstone | 0.03            | 21.82                    |                          |                         | 0                            | 1.04             |
|               | 0.29            | 3.2                      |                          |                         | 532                          | 0.94             |
|               | 0.6             | 1.27                     |                          |                         | -                            | -                |
|               | 0.74            | 0.53                     |                          |                         | -                            | -                |
|               | 0.9             | 0.05                     |                          |                         | -                            | -                |
|               | 1.9             | 0.19 - 0.51              | 0.05 - 0.08              | 0.25 - 0.27             | 13,650                       | 0.03             |

|     |             |              |             |        |      |
|-----|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------|------|
| 2.9 | 0.16 - 0.47 | 0.26 - 8.03  | 0.03 - 0.07 | -      | -    |
| 3.9 | 0.21 - 0.53 | 2.29 - 19.90 | 0.01 - 0.02 | -      | -    |
| 4.9 | 0.10 - 0.11 | 0.00 - 0.46  | 0.03 - 0.04 | 13,870 | 0.14 |
| 5.9 | 0.02 - 0.14 | 0.58 - 2.12  | 0.04 - 0.05 | -      | -    |
| 6.9 | 0.01 - 0.18 | 0.73 - 2.22  | 0.02 - 0.03 | 12,940 | 0.21 |
| 7.9 | 0.04 - 0.22 | 2.12 - 4.53  | 0.01 - 0.05 | -      | -    |
| 8.9 | 0.29 - 0.32 | 0.49 - 5.05  | 0.08 - 0.10 | 17,390 | 0.19 |
| 9.9 | 0.10 - 0.31 | 0.40 - 1.30  | 0.07 - 0.12 | -      | -    |

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|         |   |             |             |             |  |
|---------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Quarz   | - | 0.01 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 |  |
| Control | - | 0.01 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 |  |

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