Author's response:

Dear Chris,

Thank you for taking care of the manuscript during the discussion process. We believe both reviewers' comments were fair and helpful.

The following pages contain:

- Response to the 1st reviewer
- Response to the 2nd reviewer
- Track changes of the manuscript
- Track changes of the supplementary material

Thank you.

Authors.

Response to Dr. Renato R. Colucci (Reviewer #1) to manuscript TC-2020-82

Italic: Referee comments

Bold: Authors comments

Red: Selected changes in the manuscript (note, not all changes are shown here, but will be submitted as revised manuscript with track-changes)

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Referee:

L26-27 When referring to the definition of glacieret a good reference is also the Unesco glossary of glacier mass balance and related terms by Cogley et al. available at this link https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000192525 Nevertheless, Serrano et al. 2011 gave a very interesting view of such minor ice bodies discussing their evolution from a disintegrating glacier or in areas where nival processes are dominant. To me, it would be important to add also this view in the introduction.

Authors:

The terminology is indeed vague when it comes to exact definition of the glacieret, so the definitions and discussions of Cogley et al. and Serrano et al. are now added in the text, and readers are referred to these two references for further reading.

...glacierets are defined as a type of miniature (typically less than 0.25 km²) glaciers or ice masses of any shape persisting for at least two consecutive years (Cogley et al., 2011; Kumar, 2011). Serrano et al. (2011) differ them from ice patches in terms that glacierets are "the product of larger ancient glaciers, still showing motion or ice deformation, although both very low. They have a glacial origin, glacial ice and are never generated by new snow accumulation", whilst ice patches are "ice bodies without movement by flow or internal motion". Despite their small size, glacierets occupy a significant volume fraction at regional scales (Bahr and Radić, 2012), and can therefore be considered as an important target for palaeoclimate studies. Accordingly, many present-day glacierets are closely monitored and studied (Gądek and Kotyrba, 2003; Grunewald and Scheithauer, 2010; Gabrovec et al., 2014; Colucci and Žebre, 2016), but the peculiarity of current global climate change requires more evidence from different proxies and from further in the past when current ice patches and glacierets were still glaciers...

Referee:

L 29-30 Pay attention, reference Bahr and Radi'c, 2012 should be highlighted after the sentence "occupy a significant volume fraction at regional scales" and not after "and are thus an important target for palaeoclimate studies"... they never stated this. Anyway, the sentence is overall questionable because the maximum size of the Triglav glacier during the Holocene was much larger than the size of a glacieret. I suggest rewriting the sentence in order to clarify this important aspect.

Authors:

We corrected the citation order, and also made it clearer that Triglav Glacier (Glacier with the capital as it is its official name) is now ice patch, but used to be glacier (and glacieret) in the past.

Referee:

Line 39-43 Subglacial carbonate crusts are also reported in the European Julian Alps by Colucci, 2016 (ESPL page 1232, Geomorphic influence on small glacier response to post-Little Ice Age climate warming: Julian Alps, Europe).

Authors:

The reference was added to the text.

Referee:

Line 51 You should be consistent with the given definition of glacieret, representing the actual state of this ice body. Honestly, as mentioned above, I would prefer the definition given by Serrano et al., 2011 and classify this ice body as a "glacial ice patch", meaning that it is actually an ice patch (no more than 2-3 m thick), residual ice body of a recently flowing glacier.

Authors:

We largely reworked the whole introduction chapter so it is clearly stated that Triglav Glacier is at present a "glacial ice patch" (and was also recently a "glacieret", and less recently a "glacier").

Referee:

Lines 84 and 94 Add space after "(sub)"

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

Line 127-133 I would suggest replacing here the term "glacieret" with "glacier" especially because when referring to the further chapter at line 135-138 is correctly stated that carbonate deposition resemble flow direction of the glacier and precipitation was strongly influenced by the mechanical force of the ice movement. Please, give clues about the location and number/name of such younger dated samples and of all the cited samples. It is important for the reader to understand where each dated sample is located in the surrounding s of the present ice patch which is a non-moving ice/firn mass. Nevertheless, after reading all the manuscript, I think this sub-chapter is rather unuseful and might be deleted because they are better presented and discussed in chapter 4.

Authors:

The term "glacieret" was replaced with "glacier". We also made it clearer in the Methodology chapter how many samples were collected and referred a reader to the location figures (Five subglacial carbonates were collected 50 m to 100 m from the current ice patch (Fig. 2).). Since this chapter is strictly representing the results only (as the chapters before this), followed by a discussion chapter, we still left the chapter included in the manuscript.

Referee:

Line 174-175 In that paper Resfinder et al. stressed the fact that carbonate crusts were preserved by very cold and dry Arctic climate, which is really not the case of the Triglav cirque in the last century or during any possible period of absence or almostcomplete- absence of an ice body. This is particularly true when looking at Mean Annual Precipitation (MAP) of 2600 mm w.e. recorded at Kredarica.

Authors:

This is a helpful additional argument for the continuously existing Triglav Glacier during the Holocene, and we added this part to the chapter 5.

...whilst Refsnider et al. (2012) discussed the preservation of the subglacial carbonates by very cold and dry Arctic climate, this cannot be the case of the cirque of Triglav Glacier in the last century or during any possible period of absence of an ice body, evident by mean annual precipitation at Kredarica hut (2515 m a.s.l.) (Slovenian Environment Agency, 2020) (see Fig. 2 for location)....

Referee:

Line 182 I'm wondering if this could be entirely correct. At the LGM peak, Kuhleman et al2008 suggested a lowering of summer temperature of about 9-11°C in the southeastern Alps. This roughly means that at Kredarica (2514 m), where the present summer temperature (1981â^{*}A^{*}T2010) is around +6.0 ° C

(http://meteo.arso.gov.si/uploads/probase/www/climate/table/sl/by_location/kredarica/climatenormals _81-10_Kredarica.pdf) and considering the recent warming in the area calculated in the southeastern Alps in +1.7 C since the end of the Little Ice Age by Colucci & Guglielmin 2015, should have been roughly between -4.7 and -6.7. These characteristics lead to the existence at that location of a cold base glacier, instead of a temperate glacier. Nevertheless, given dates at 23.62 ka, 18.45 ka, and 12.72 ka suggest some interesting speculation. As stated by Monegato et al., 2017 in the paper "The Alpine LGM game" the boreal ice-sheets published in *Scientific* in *Reports* (https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-02148-7), the LGM seems to be characterized by 2 main peaks with a withdrawal phase between 23.9 and 23.0 ka when the Garda glacier retreated, which fit rather well with the 23-62 ka date given in this work. The final collapse of the Garda glacier occurred around 17.7-17.3 ka but soon before there was a progressive stacking of moraines related to the retreat and lowering of the ice surface which seems to fit well with the 18.45 ka dating. Both events could represent the occurrence of "some" subglacial water at the glacier-bed. Finally, I have no problem considering that during the Younger Dryas phase there was certainly a large amount of free water flowing at the glacier-bed. Small scale Detailed paleoclimate conditions in the Alps are still an open question, and uncertainties are evident especially in the eastern Alps when looking at bias between the modeled MIS2 stage ice extent (Seguinot et al., 2018) and geomorphological reconstruction (Ehlers et al., 2011), but the discussion could be expanded in such a way.

Authors:

This discussion was avoided in the first draft due to the greater focus into preservation of subglacial carbonates and the lack of high-number/resolution dates to constrain the individual withdrawal periods during the LGM. Nevertheless, the retreat of the Garda Glacier indeed points out rather interesting correlations to the single ages of the subglacial carbonates of the Triglav Glacier, so we added the proposed discussion in the text.

...the cold Alpine environment during the glacial period with low biological respiration rates could be indicated in the relatively high δ 13C signal, also reported by others (Lemmens et al., 1982; Fairchild and Spiro, 1990; Lyons et al., in press), but the (re)freezing of the subglacial water causes supersaturation with respect to carbonate and the non-equilibrium conditions produced by this process can affect the stable isotopic composition of the subglacial carbonate, usually leading to isotopic enrichment in the carbonate minerals (Clark and Lauriol, 1992; Courty et al., 1994; Lacelle, 2007). In any case, the climate during the precipitation of subglacial carbonate had to be "warm" enough to produce subglacial water at the glacier-bed. Kuhlemann et al. (2008) suggested a lowering of summer temperature of about 9-11°C at the LGM peak, meaning that the summer temperatures at Triglav Glacier should have been around -4.7 to -6.7°C (based on the present summer temperatures at around +6°C (Slovenian Environment Agency, 2020) and additional considering the recent warming of +1.7°C in the area calculated in the southeastern Alps since the end of the Little Ice Age by Colucci and Guglielmin (2015)), which would have been conditions for the cold base glacier and the absence of subglacial water flow. Whilst small scale detailed palaeoclimate conditions in the southeastern Alps are still uncertain, the current U-Th ages of subglacial carbonates within this research fit with the temporary Garda Glacier

withdrawal phases reported by Monegato et al. (2017); 23.62 ka age of subglacial carbonate relates to the withdrawal phase between 23.9 and 23.0 ka, and 18.45 ka could relate to the glacier retreat from around 19.7 to 18.6 ka or even the final collapse of the glacier around 17.7 to 17.3 ka; both time periods could relate to commencement of subglacial water flow also at the Triglav Glacier and consequently the precipitation of subglacial carbonates. In addition, the 12.72 ka age of Younger Dryas would predate the period of maximum cooling between ca. 11-10 ka (Mathewes, 1993; Renssen and Isarin, 1997)...

Referee:

Lines 195-200 this is too speculative in my opinion. There is no evidence at present of cave ice older than roughly 10 ka at least in Europe, on my best knowledge. I would be more cautious in this manuscript deleting "perhaps even Last Glacial Maximum times".

Authors:

We deleted this part.

Referee:

Line 236 I would prefer "ablation" instead of "melting".

Authors:

We changed the words accordingly.

Referee:

Line 241 I might agree with what it is here stated, but as a possible cause I would also cite the important work of Painter et al., 2013 (https://www.pnas.org/content/110/38/15216).

Authors:

We included this work (and also added it in the chapter 7).

Referee:

Line 242-248 This part is too hasty, although crucial in the discussion, and should be more deeply investigated and discussed. For instance, has been shown as the retreat of Triglav glacier since the LIA in the last century has been more evident than in other sectors of the Julian Alps where other glaciers existed. This is the case of Canin-Kanin or Montasio West glaciers which are lower in elevation than the Triglav glacier. The Montasio West is still classified as a moving glacier with dynamics due to internal deformation. The reason why Canin-Kanin and Zeleni Sneg (the largest LIA glaciers in the Julian Alps) had different fates in terms of shrinking velocity and a 200 m difference in the Equilibrium Line Altitude (ELA) has been justified by Colucci 2016 to a large difference in Mean Annual Precipitation (in the Triglav area precipitation are roughly 60% of that in Canin-Kanin) and potential annual solar radiation for the glaciers differed by about 7%. In this view Triglav glacier generally has higher sensitivity to summer temperature while Canin-Kanin lies in a more "maritime" environment and is more sensitive in changes of winter precipitation. I guess a discussion in terms of variability of these two parameters during the Holocene and/or in the Lateglacial period would improve this part of the manuscript. The literature is quite abundant on this topic.

Authors:

We emphasised now the geomorphological peculiarity of small glaciers which influence their dynamics and included the Canin example. Nevertheless, the aim of the paper is to demonstrate the value of subglacial carbonates which offer possible indications of on-going persistence of the Triglav Glacier since the LGM, which based on geomorphological predispositions would be

amongst the first ones to disappear, despite its higher altitude, and therefore the most appropriate one to relate this to other small glaciers. However, as stated in the paper, high-resolution analyses of subglacial carbonates need to follow to justify further environmental discussions.

...on the other hand, further comparable research on various small glaciers is needed to generalise the palaeoclimatic data due to geomorphological peculiarity of glacier regions; for example, even though the resilience of the Triglav Glacier until present can be emphasised due to the above described regional components, the retreat of the Triglav Glacier has been more evident than the retreat of the Canin Glacier (Italy), Montasio West Glacier (Italy) and Skuta Glacier (Slovenia) (all in southeastern Alps), which are all lower in elevation than the Triglav Glacier, but large difference in mean annual precipitation (e.g., in the Triglav area water equivalent precipitation (2071 mm) is 62% of that in Canin area (3335 mm)) and potential annual solar radiation play a major role for differences in glaciers' dynamics (Colucci, 2016)...

FIGURES

Referee:

Figure 3 Is not adding anything crucial to the study area or the manuscript itself. It Maybe could be deleted and glacier outlines drawn in figure 2. Instead, Figure S2 could be added in the main article as Figure 3, maybe highlighting with arrows and numbers the location of the samples because in the main manuscript a picture of the study area with a view of the present state of the ice patch is missing.

Authors:

Figure 3 was deleted. We added the locations of samples in Figure 1 B, which is showing the area of the present state of the ice patch. Figure S2 and S3 are therefore also not needed as they are similar to Figure 1 B and were therefore deleted. The ice outline from previous Figure 3 was added (only 1946 year) to the Figure 2, whilst additional outlines can still be traced in supplementary material. All of the figures have now text changed into Times New Roman and in places enlarged to be more visible.





Fig. 2

Referee:

Suppl. Material Figure S3... it would be useful to add a number of samples together with arrows Figure S5... not clear which of the 3 caves is the Tiglavski Brezno Shaft... Fonts and size are not the best, please improve the size and the visibility of the text Figure S6... I would change "melting season" with "ablation season". More, please give clues about the moving average used (how many years ?! It is centered ?) Figure S7... Besides linear regression, I would also add a moving average which probably better highlights variability along about the last 170 years. These are indeed very interesting data, I'm asking my self if they are available in some repository to the scientific community.

Authors:

We made on all the figure maps clear now which is the Triglavski Brezno Shaft, and also improved fonts and size. Figure S6 is updated, also Figure S7; we included now the 20-year uncentered moving average for both graphs. The raw data of Figure S6 is available through Slovenian Environment Agency site (<u>https://www.arso.gov.si/en/</u>), and a number of additional raw data of the Triglav Glacier are accessible on the dedicated page of the Slovenian Environment Agency (<u>http://kazalci.arso.gov.si/en/content/triglav-glacier</u>). The original reconstruction data of Figure S7 was primarily published in Gabrovec et al. (2014) and the reader is referred to this reference (as the caption states as well); the reconstruction of the highest seasonal snow height is not the main topic of the manuscript, however, due to its recognition as a valuable data, the process has been started to build a repository upon the referenced (Gabrovec et al., 2014) work.





Again, we thank dr. Colucci for the fair and constructive review.

Authors.

Response to Dr. Bernard Hallet (Reviewer #2) to manuscript TC-2020-82

Italic: Referee comments

Bold: Authors comments

Referee:

This is a fine paper, clearly presented and well illustrated, but only with skeletal captions that do not do justice to the figures...

Authors:

Incorporating also all the following comments, the figure captions have now been updated.

Referee:

One important improvement would be to add credibility to the ages reported by providing more explicit details about the impact on the calculated age of the initial content of Thorium 230 in the precipitate. One effective way of doing this is in table form much as that shown below from Fitzpatrick, J. J., Muhs, D. R., & Jull, A. J. T. (1990). (Saline minerals in the Lewis Cliff ice tongue, Buckley Island quadrangle, Antarctica. Contributions to Antarctic Research I, 50, 57-69). In particular, for 230/232 values of 4, for example, the age could be as much as 40% younger than the age calculated that does not assume there is any 230 initially. Also, the text should reflect as accurately as possible the corresponding large uncertainties.

Authors:

We added extra data to the text, stating that we assumed an initial 230Th/232Th ratio of $0.825 \pm 50 \%$ (the bulk-Earth value, which is the most commonly used for initial/detrital 230Th corrections). In addition, the reader is referred to the Supplementary table showing the detailed data and including the detailed analysis procedures, which are furthermore referenced. For example, the 230Th/238U and 234U/238U activity ratios of the samples were calculated using the decay constants given in (Cheng et al., 2000). The non-radiogenic 230Th was corrected using an assumed bulk-Earth atomic 230Th/232Th ratio of $4.4\pm2.2\times10$ -6. U-Th ages were calculated using the Isoplot/Ex 3.75 Program (Ludwig, 2012).

Referee:

The authors may also wish to consider leveraging the limelight of Ötzi, the Iceage Man, and its climate implications, as referenced by Solomina et al (2015) in their supplementary material.

Authors:

A helpful suggestion, which we included now in the text with appropriate referencing.

Referee:

29. ... significant volume fraction of what?

Authors

It is a significant ice volume fraction. We corrected this in the text.

Referee:

41. Also reported from the southern tip of S. America (Tierra del Fuego, Personal communication, Rabassa), New Guinea (Peterson and Moresby, 1979), and from sites where they formed under LGM ice.

Authors:

We added New Guinea to the text, but, for now, left S. America out as it can only be cited as 'personal communication'. Nevertheless, we consider the reviewer's suggestion of S. America as very important, because it is assumed that the lack of available 'published material' is a likely cause that subglacial carbonates in S. America are 'missing'.

Referee:

56-57. The units, $kg/m^2/yr$, seem unusual. Why not report ice thinning rate in m/yr, or the rate of increase of exposed bedrock, m^2/yr ? This rate must be averaged over a certain area, but what is it? This reference, Gabrovec et al., 2014, does not help; it is incomplete and insufficient.

Authors:

We changed the units and used and cited the newly published data about the Triglav Glacier retreat (...around 0.6 m/yr (1952-2016) (Triglav-Čekada and Zorn, 2020)).

Referee:

Fig. 1 caption should be more informative, explaining to unfamiliar readers

- what is what (bedrock vs. precipitate)?
- the orientation of surface imaged relative to horizontal and to the former sliding direction
- the morphology of the precipitates

Authors:

We updated the figure caption.

Referee:

Fig. 2. What are is the pink areas? Replace these terms in legend; in English they are incorrect or awkward.

From:

Relief types

Erosional topography

Depositional topography Periglacial topography

Relief Shapes

Main ridge

To:

Terrain types

Erosional surfaces Depositional surfaces Periglacial terrain

Relief Elements

Topographic divides

Authors:

The terms have been corrected accordingly – note that the whole Figure 2 has been extensively edited, and eventually joined with the Figure S2, which makes the message of the figure itself more condensed and clearer. We omitted the topography types as their boundaries cannot be strictly defined (in places they are coinciding), and rather made the glacier extents throughout the history clearer.



Referee:

60. Replace "...the recently exposed subglacial carbonate deposits due to glacier retreat." by "...the subglacial carbonate deposits recently exposed by glacier retreat."

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

78. (...targeting carbonate) cement ought to be replaced by the more appropriate word, precipitate

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

103. Replace "They are fluted and furrowed crust-like deposits characterized by brownish, greyish or yellowish colour." by "The fluted and furrowed crust-like deposits are brownish, greyish or yellowish in colour."

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

115-6. "Depending on the angle of the lee side of bedrock protuberances, columnar calcite crystals grow either perpendicularly to the host rock (Fig. 5a) or with a lower angle, generally oriented downslope..." Replace "angle" by "inclination" or "slope". It would be good to explain how the crystal orientation varies with bedrock surface inclination less ambiguously. For example, do vertical crystals grow perpendicular to the rock when bedrock surface is near vertical or near horizontal? Is there a relation between the crystal orientation and the former glacier sliding direction?

Authors:

To avoid ambiguity, we have changed the cited sentence to the following "Calcite crystals grow perpendicularly to the substrate on the steeper, nearly vertical areas of the bedrock (Fig. 4a) while in the less steep, nearly horizontal areas, crystals grow inclined, oriented downslope, presumably in the sliding direction of the forming glacier (Supp. Fig. S6)."

Referee:

124. Replace is by are.

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

127. For the isotopic ratios, the ranges should be included in the text, as well as averages. The reader should not have to look up the supplement for this basic information.

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

129-134. Briefly explain what ages you expected. Weere the "two U-Th ages of stratigraphically younger cement" obtained from the same sample? If any of the thin sections are from this sample, you should mention it in the text, and help understand the stratigraphic setting of these younger deposits. Why would the former glacier be thick, and what do you mean by thick?

Authors:

The expected ages were of Little Ice Age, as it was assumed that glacier was completely melted during the Holocene Climactic Optimum – we added this in the text. We also referred readers to Figure 3 for more details where sample were obtained from (drilling locations), which also explains 'stratigraphically younger/older' situations. In the main text, we changed "of stratigraphically younger cement of the thickest ..." to "corresponding to samples drilled in more surficial calcite layers of the thickest". By 'thick -glacier-' we mean 'of sufficient thickness to cause regelation', which is now clarified in the text.

Referee:

147. I'd replace low supersaturated solutions by slightly supersaturated solutions

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

148-9. Replace "high Mg/Ca ratio in the water partially could be the trigger for the precipitation of aragonite" by "high Mg/Ca ratios in the water partially be responsible for the precipitation of aragonite".

Authors:

Here we have rewritten the sentence to make it clearer. The new sentence is: "In some freshwater systems like spring deposits (Jones, 2017), and specially in speleothems, Mg/Ca ratios seem to be the main factor controlling aragonite vs calcite precipitation (Frisia et al. 2002; Wassenburg et al. 2012; Rossi and Lozano, 2016)".

Referee:

150-1. Recast sentence to avoid circular logic.

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

152. I suggest replacing "pose a challenge to determine" by "raise the difficult question of"

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

159-160. What is it about the moment that matters in the following "... factors such as the percentage of initial aragonite and the moment of the aragonite to calcite transformation...the possible additional redistribution of Th or the degree of opening of the system"? How about this rewording: "... factors such as the initial relative amount of aragonite and the timing of its transformation to calcite ...the possible additional redistribution of Th and the extent of chemical exchange with widespread subglacial meltwater"?

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

162-4. Suggested edit from:

"Based on the U concentration in samples within this study (in ppm; Supp. Table S2), it is notable that the youngest sample (2ka; T.03_b1) has 1.77 ppm of U concentration, whilst two of the old samples (LGM and YD; T.01_a1 and T.03_a1) have around 0.41 and 0.46 ppm of U concentration, respectively"

To

"It is notable that the U concentration (in ppm; Supp. Table S2) in the youngest sample (2ka; T.03_b1) within this study is 1.77 ppm, whereas it is around 0.41 and 0.46 ppm in two of the old samples, T.01_a1 and T.03_a1, respectively LGM and YD."

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

165. Replace contrary by to the contrary

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

166 & 168. Replace In case of the first possibility...by Assuming the first possibility...The same goes for line 168.

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

Figure 4:

An informative caption is needed for this important figure. The labels are ambiguous. I assume, but am uncertain, that upper and lower "sides" refers to the surface (facing open air before being collected) and underside of the carbonate samples. In any case, how is depth measured? Is it relative to the surface or to the underside? For T.03, does the "lower side" include limestone bedrock as well as subglacial precipitate? It would be helpful for the reader to indicate clearly in words or graphics how the ages vary with stratigraphy. Perhaps, this could be dome easily by providing the ages that correspond to the depths written on figure. Is this the only sample for which several dates have been obtained?

Authors:

Upper and lower sides refer to the surface (facing open air before being collected) and underside of the carbonate samples, respectively (the most appropriate side was chosen for drilling and consequently for visual presentation within this figure). The depths were measured relative to the starting drilling point of each sample as they are shown in this figure (lower side perspective for sample T.03 and upper side perspective for all the other samples); only the T.03 sample had precipitates thick enough that allowed to obtain several dates in three different depths. We also made the figure clearer in terms of differentiating what is subglacial carbonate and what is limestone bedrock.

Referee:

192. δ 18O differences of a few per mill in the carbonate precipitate can also arise due to variations in subglacial hydrology shifting from closed to open geochemical systems (see Hanshaw & Hallet)

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

197. Replace "lighter in deuterium compared to the Triglav..." by "lighter in deuterium than those from Triglav..."

Authors:

Corrected/

Referee:

199. The last clause (constraining the implications that the Triglav Glacier was constant during

the Holocene.) does not follow logically from the preceding text. Clarify or delete it.

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

203. I am unsure of your intent with the leading sentence of this section. If it is consistent with the heading, I would suggest this revision: The LGM and YD ages are the first physical evidence that Triglav Glacier persisted through the Holocene to the present day (Solomina et al., 2015). If your intent is different, describe it clearly.

Authors:

We made the leading sentence of this section clearer.

Referee:

210. I suggest replacing "not being documented in the literature" by "not having been reported in the literature"

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

214. This paragraph ought to be updated in view of more recent work reporting even slower denudation (e.g. Steinemann et al., 2020), but still supports the contention that the 5mm crust would have weathered off during the HCO if exposed to the elements.

Authors:

The recent work of Steinemann et al. (2020) has been incorporated into the text.

Referee:

221. Delete the last 3 words because once exposed the subglacial carbonate deposits they cannot be glacially abraded. Moreover, I would not expect them to be abraded even under the glacier because they form in lee positions where I would expect abrasion to vanish as abrading rock fragments diverge from the bed at sites of subglacial precipitation due to regelation ice growth.

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

228. Delete "assessment of"

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

240. Replace "quick rate of 21st" by "rapid 21st"

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

243. Replace "show a lower sensitivity to climate fluctuations" by "are less sensitive to climate fluctuations"

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

245. This remark about bright limestone substrate reminds me of the photographs, which begs the question: what is responsible for the color difference (greys vs. beige & brown on the more recently exposed bedrock surfaces)?

Authors:

To our knowledge, this has not been studied on that particular location. In general terms, the discolouration of the limestone is usually due to microbial (and lichen) activity (e.g. Dias et al., 2018). The more recently exposed bedrock surfaces have, assumingly, been affected less (for the shorter time) by microbials than the long-exposed bedrock in further surroundings. We inserted this remark in the Figure 1 caption.

Referee:

250. What do you mean here? The preliminary data shows a high possibility that subglacial carbonate deposits may endue unprecedented retreat... Might you mean the following? The preliminary data suggest that subglacial carbonate deposits can archive valuable datable records of glacial retreat, including hints that the current and ongoing retreat is unprecedented.

Authors:

Yes. We paraphrased the sentence to make the statement clearer.

Referee:

255. Replace observe by determine.

Authors:

We replaced 'observe' by 'detect'.

Referee:

260. Replace considerably fast by relatively high. This section should also leverage, and be updated by, recent work (Steinemann et al., 2020).

Authors:

Corrected. We also referred the reader to the Section discussion limestone denudation and glacial erosion on limestone substrate, which includes recent work by Steinemann et al., 2020.

Referee:

264-5. Replace "particulates on the present remnants of ice (and possible ice cores, if a glacier has not disappeared completely)" by "material on the small remaining ice masses and, if possible, ice cores)

Authors:

Corrected.

Referee:

274. The conclusion would be stronger and clearer without the first sentence. I would replace it as follows:

Subglacial carbonate deposits recently exposed by the retreating Triglav Glacier contain the first direct evidence of the existence and extent of Triglav Glacier since the Last Glacial Maximum and Younger Dryas.

The deleted sentences should be incorporated in the previous section and clearly explained: "U-Th ages of subglacial carbonate with the combination of aragonite and calcite are regarded as maximum ages as aragonite-to-calcite transformation, evident in fabrics, might have occurred in calcite crystals that could have been falsely considered as primary.

Authors:

We re-arranged the conclusion, especially the first sentence. The previous message of the sentence is a part of Section 4.

Referee:

Missing refs

Hanshaw, B. B. and B. Hallet. 1978. Oxygen isotope composition of subglacially precipitated calcite: possible paleoclimatic implications. Science, 200,1267-1270.

- Peterson, J. A., and Moresby J.F. 1979 Subglacial travertine and associated deposits in the Carstensz area, Irian Jaya, Republic of InCorrectedsia. Zeitschrift fur Gletscherkunde und Glazialgeologie. 15(1), 23-29
- Steinemann, O., Ivy-Ochs, S., Grazioli, S., Luetscher, M., Fischer, U. H., Vockenhuber, C., & Synal, H. A. 2020. Quantifying glacial erosion on a limestone bed and the relevance for landscape development in the Alps. Earth Surface Processes and Landforms, 45(6), 1401-1417.

Authors:

All these references are now included and cited in appropriate places within the text.

Referee:

Figure S2:

The caption states "The recently exposed surface with shafts and subglacial carbonate deposits" but does not address the distinct colors, ranging from greys to rusty brown. Do the color boundaries correspond to, or parallel outlines of glacial extent in Figure S4? The figure should also show where the subglacial deposits or shafts are. In fact, what do you mean by shafts?

Authors:

Figure S2 has been deleted as very similar photograph with more detail is shown in Figure 1. Colour boundaries generally correspond to the glacial extent in the 19th century, but note that deposition of graviclastic material (which is of brighter colour as well) took place in some areas, which correspond to the glacial extent coincidentally. However, in general it matches to the oldest extent documented, and we included the observation to the caption.

By shafts we mean vertical caves, which we added now in the text where the word 'shaft' first appear.

Referee:

Figure S8: XRD graphs. A short caption is needed to explain what these samples are, how they differ from one another, and which are bedrock (if any).

Authors:

We have improved the caption: "XRD diagrams of all the studied samples (for precise location, see Figure 3 in the main manuscript). Samples TRG-01 C and TRG-03 D correspond to the bed rock. Green lines mark the reflections corresponding to calcite and red lines, those corresponding to aragonite.".

Referee:

Comments and questions in italics. Figure S9: a) Short columnar calcite crystals alternating with brown micritic bands constitute the first phase of calcite precipitation on the bedrock. Plane polarised light (PPL); b) columnar calcite crystals predominantly oriented towards the right (downslope).[what is the orientation of the thin section relative to the former sliding direction? Same question for Fig S10]. The growth of the crystal on the center crosscut the direction of growth of previous crystals.[what is the center crosscut?] Crossed polarised light (XPL)

Authors:

The figure captions have been modified according to the suggestions. The sentence referring to how some crystals crosscut the previous has been deleted and we have added information on the orientation of thin sections. "Thin sections orientation is parallel to the former glacier sliding direction.".

Referee:

Figure S11- caption needs a brief explanation of what the figure shows. What are the various curves?

Authors:

Figure S11 represented a location photo and a graph of ¹⁴C results of dated moraine organic matter by Karsten Grunewald and his team in the laboratory in Erlangen. We initially included it in the paper as these results have not been published elsewhere. However, since the focus on the paper is on U-Th dates of subglacial carbonates and discussion about their preservation, and since discussion of dating techniques of moraines are not included, we feel that this figure rather confuses readers. We deleted this figure now.

Subglacial carbonate deposits as a potential proxy for <u>a glacier's</u> former existence presence

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Abstract. The retreat of ice shelves and glaciers over the last century provides unequivocal evidence of recent global warming. Glacierets (miniature glaciers) and ice patches are an-important components of the cryosphere that highlights the global retreat of glaciers, but knowledge of their behaviour prior to the Little Ice Age is lacking. Here, we present-report the utranium-

- 20 thorium age iof subglacial carbonate deposits from a recently exposed surface previously occupied by the disappearing Triglav Glacier (southeastern European Alps) that may elucidate the glacier's existence-presence throughout the entire Holocene. The ages since their maximum uranium thorium (U Th) ages suggest their possible preservation since the Last Glacial Maximum and Younger Dryas. These thin deposits, formed by regelation, are easily eroded if exposed during previous Holocene climatic optima. The age data indicate the glacier's present unprecedented level of retreat since the Last Glacial Maximum, and the
- 25 potential of subglacial carbonates as additional proxies to highlight the extraordinary nature of the current global climatic changes.

1 Introduction

Glaciers respond to climatic changes making them valuable archives with which to study the effects of past and current climatic changes (Benn and Evans, 2010). Their worldwide retreat globally over the last century provides evidence in support of current

30 global climate change even though the decrease of summer insolation in the Northern Hemisphere favours climate cooling (Solomina et al., 2015; IPCC, 2018). The uniqueness of this trend can only be understood when compared to past retreats and advances of different types of glaciers throughout the entire Holocene.

<u>A type of miniature (typically less than 0.25 km²) glaciers or ice masses of any shape persisting for at least two consecutive</u> years, and with little or no movement, are defined as 'glacierets' (Cogley et al., 2011; Kumar, 2011). Serrano et al. (2011)

- 35 differ them from ice patches in terms that "the product of larger ancient glaciers, still showing motion or ice deformation, although both very low. They have a glacial origin, glacial ice and are never generated by new snow accumulation_Despite their small size, 'glacierets', defined as miniature glaciers or ice masses with little or no movement for at least two consecutive years (Kumar, 2011), occupy a significant volume fraction at regional scales (Bahr and Radié, 2012), and are can thus therefore be considered as an important target for palaeoclimate studies (Bahr and Radié, 2012). Accordingly, many glacierets are closely
- 40 monitored and studied (Gądek and Kotyrba, 2003; Grunewald and Scheithauer, 2010; Gabrovec et al., 2014; Colucci and Žebre, 2016), but the peculiarity of current global climate change requires more evidence from different proxies and from further in the past.

The data that informs a glacier's dynamics in the past can be provided by subglacial carbonate deposits (Hallet, 1976; Sharp et al., 1990). These are thin carbonate crusts formed in a microscopic space between the ice and bedrock due to by regelation

- 45 at the glacier base on the lee side of a bedrock protuberance (Hallet, 1976; Lemmens et al., 1982; Souchez and Lemmens, 1985), and can provide information on chemical and physical processes present at the time of their formation (Hallet, 1976). Unlike other remnants of glacial deposits (e.g., moraines), subglacial carbonates may be eroded in a few-matter of decades (Ford et al., 1970), suggesting their exposure can be recent. which is also evident in literature where generally 'recently exposed' subglacial carbonates are studied. They have been reported from deglaciated areas of northern North America (Ford
- 50 et al., 1970; Hallet, 1976; Refsnider et al., 2012), northern Europe and <u>the</u> European Alps (Lemmens et al., 1982; Souchez and Lemmens, 1985; Sharp et al., 1990; Lacelle, 2007; Gabrovec et al., 2014; Colucci, 2016; Thomazo et al., 2017), Tibet <u>in Asia</u> (Risheng et al., 2003), <u>New Guinea (Peterson and Moresby, 1979)</u> and Antarctica (Aharon, 1988; Frisia et al., 2017). <u>The uUranium-Tthorium (U-Th)–isotope analysesmethod</u> remains the main dating technique for these carbonates, whilst the ¹⁴C technique is invalidated by modern carbon contamination (Aharon, 1988) and possible dead carbon effect.
- 55 The deposits recently exposed by the drastic rapid retreat of the Triglav Glacier (Fig. 1) over the last 100 years, from ca. 46 ha (extending between 2280 and 2600 m.a.s.l.) to ca. 0.5 ha (between 2439 and 2501 m.a.s.l.) (Gabrovec et al., 2014), offer a unique opportunity to gain additional knowledge of this glacier's behaviour in the past. The Triglav Glacier extends from the northeastern side of Mount Triglav (2864 m a.s.l.) in the Julian Alps (Fig. 2, Supp. Fig. S2), Slovenia's highest mountain and consisting of Upper Triassic limestone and dolostone (Ramovš, 2000; Pleničar et al., 2009). This region's montane climate is
- 60 characterised by precipitation from moisture-bearing air masses from Mediterranean cyclones, which are most frequent typically in autumn and late spring, and by frequent temperature change from below freezing to above freezingfreeze-thaw cycles (Komac et al., 2020).

At present, the <u>Triglav glacier Glacier</u> is one of only two remaining ice masses in Slovenia since the last extensive Pleistocene glaciation (Bavec and Verbič, 2011; Ferk et al., 2017; Triglav-Čekada et al., 2020). <u>The extensive-retreat of the glacier has</u>

65 <u>exposed a glaciokarst environment (Fig. 2, Supp. Fig. S2 and Supp. Fig. S2</u>) comprising a range of erosional (shafts (i.e., vertical caves), karrens, polished surfaces and roches moutonnées) and depositional (moraines, boulders, till, carbonate

<u>deposits</u>) features (Colucci, 2016; Tičar et al., 2018; Tóth and Veress, 2019). The known extent and behaviour of the Triglav Glacier spans from the present to the Little Ice Age (LIA) (Colucci, 2016; Colucci and Žebre, 2016), the cool-climate anomaly between the Late Middle Ages and the mid-19th century (Grove, 2004; Nussbaumer et al., 2011), and is based on

- 70 geomorphological remnants, historical records and systematic monitoring since 1946 (Gabrovec et al., 2014). Over the last 100 years, the Triglav Glacierglacier retreated from ca. 46 ha (extending between 2280 and 2600 m.a.s.l.) to ca. 0.5 ha (between 2439 and 2501 m.a.s.l.) (Supp. Fig. S1), with a downwasting rate of retreat at of around 580 kg/m²/yr0.6 m/yr (199252-200816) (Triglav-Čekada and Zorn, 2020). The glacialer has thus evolved Together, tThis information reveals its on-going retreated from the plateau-type glacier to the through present recent glacieret-type and to the present ice--patch -type.
- 75 (Colucci, 2016; Colucci and Žebre, 2016) (see also Supp. Fig. S1 & S2), with a rate of retreat at around 580 kg/m²/yr (1992-2008) (Gabrovec et al., 2014).

<u>Glacierets are defined as a type of miniature (typically less than 0.25 km²) glaciers or ice masses of any shape persisting for at least two consecutive years (Cogley et al., 2011; Kumar, 2011). Serrano et al. (2011) differ discriminate them from ice patches, arguing in terms that glacierets are "the product of larger ancient glaciers, still showing motion or ice deformation, although the service of the product of larger ancient glaciers."</u>

- 80 both very low. They have a glacial origin, glacial ice and are never generated by new snow accumulation"; whilst-ice patches on the other hand are "ice bodies without movement by flow or internal motion". Despite their small size, glacierets occupy a significant ice volume fraction at regional scales (Bahr and Radić, 2012), and can therefore be considered as an important target for palaeoclimate studies. Accordingly, many present-day glacierets are closely monitored and studied (Gądek and Kotyrba, 2003; Grunewald and Scheithauer, 2010; Gabrovec et al., 2014; Colucci and Žebre, 2016), but the peculiarity of
- 85 <u>current global climate change requires more evidence from different proxies and from further in the past when current ice patches and glacierets were still glaciers.</u>

The extensive retreat of the glacier has exposed a glaciokarst environment (Fig. 2 and Supp. Fig. S2) comprising a range of erosional (shafts, karrens, polished surfaces and roches moutonnées) and depositional (moraines, boulders, till, carbonate deposits) features (!!! INVALID CITATION !!! (Colucci, 2016; Tičar et al., 2018; Tóth and Veress, 2019)).

90 Here, we present preliminary geochemical and petrological data of <u>the subglacial carbonate deposits recently exposed by the</u> <u>glacier-retreat the recently exposed subglacial carbonate deposits due to glacier the retreat of the Triglav Glacier</u>. The aim is to highlight the occurrence of deposits in terms of their possible preservation since the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), discuss the complexity of the deposit and validate the results in the context. This relates to <u>of</u> the present climate regime of rising temperatures and global retreat of glaciers.

95 6-2 Methods

The extent of the Triglav Glacier has been measured annually since 1946 and systematically photographed since 1976 (Meze, 1955; Verbič and Gabrovec, 2002; Triglav Čekada and Gabrovec, 2008; Triglav-Čekada et al., 2011; Triglav-Čekada and Gabrovec, 2013; Gabrovec et al., 2014; Del Gobbo et al., 2016), using a panoramic non-metric Horizont camera. The photos

were transformed from a panoramic to a central projection in order to allow the calculation of the area and estimation of the

- 100 volume (Triglav-Čekada et al., 2011; Triglav-Čekada and Gabrovec, 2013; Triglav-Čekada and Zorn, 2020). The early measurement technique included-was by measuring tape and compass, which enabled to-measurement of the glacier's retreat from coloured marks on the rocks around the glacier (Meze, 1955). Accurate and continuous geodetic measurements began in the 1990s: standard geodesic tachymetric measurements, UAV photogrammetric measurements (from both the ground and air), GPS measurements, and LIDAR (Triglav Čekada and Gabrovec, 2008; Gabrovec et al., 2014). In addition, several
- 105 extensive field campaigns were conducted throughout the year 2018 with the focus on the central part of Triglav Plateau at the side of the present and former glacier (Fig. 1, 2). During this time, and five subglacial carbonate deposit samples (Fig. 3) were collected at multiple localities (Fig. 1, 2; Supp. Fig. S2Fig. 1) for further laboratory analyses.
 Five subglacial carbonates t These were collected 50 m to 100 m from the current ice patch. A hand drill was used in order to
 - obtain powdered samples for geochemical analysis;, sampling was restricted to performed in areas of the deposit consisting of
- 110 the densest and thickest and thick enough crystalssections. Prior to and after each drilling, the surface was cleaned with deionized water and dried under clean air. Drilling was performed with a 0.6 mm drill bit in a clean environment, targeting carbonate cementprecipitate. A stainless steel spatula and a-weighing paper were used to harvest the drilled powder and transfer it into a-clean 0.5 ml sterile vials.

Five thin sections (30 - 50 µm) were examined using an Olympus BX51 polarising microscope equipped with an Olympus

115 SC-50 digital camera. Due to the fragility of the samples, they were embedded in Epoxy resin under vacuum before being cut and polished.

The mineralogy of twelve (sub)_samples was determined by X-ray diffraction (XRD) using a Bruker D2PHASER diffractometer equipped with an energy dispersive LYNXEYE XE-T detector, located at the <u>ZRC SAZU</u> Karst Research Institute-<u>ZRC SAZU</u>, Slovenia. Powdered samples were scanned from 5 to 70° 2θ at a 0.02° 2θ/0.57 s scan speed. The diffractograms were interpreted using EVA software by Bruker (DIFFRACPlus 2006 version).

- 120 diffractograms were interpreted using EVA software by Bruker (DIFFRACPlus 2006 version). Five (sub)_samples were dated by the <u>uranium thorium (U-Th)</u> method at the University of Queensland, Australia. To <u>assure ensure</u> that samples <u>had sufficiently were suitable for high-U/Th ratios for datinganalysis</u>, they were first measured by ICP-MS for their trace element concentrations. U-Th age dating was carried out using a Nu Plasma multi-collector inductively-coupled plasma mass spectrometer (MC-ICP-MS) in the Radiogenic Isotope Facility (RIF) at the School of Earth and
- 125 Environmental Sciences, The University of Queensland-(UQ). Ages were corrected for non-radiogenic ²³⁰Th incorporated at the time of deposition assuming an initial ²³⁰Th/²³²Th ratio of 0.825 ± 50 % (the bulk-Earth value, which is the most commonly used for initial/detrital 230Th corrections.XXXX. Age errors are reported as 2σ uncertainties. Full details of the method are provided in the supplementary material Table S2S1.

The stable-isotope composition (δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O) of five (sub)samples was measured at The stable isotope laboratory at-the

130 <u>School of Geography</u>, University of Melbourne, Australia, was used to analyse five (sub)samples for both δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O isotopes. Analyses were performed on CO₂ produced by the reaction of the sample with 100% H₃PO₄ at 70°C using continuous-flow isotope--ratio mass spectrometry (CF IRMS), following the method previously described in Drysdale et al. Drysdale et al.

al. (2009) and employing an <u>Analytical Precision</u> AP2003 instrument. Results are reported using the standard δ notation (per mille ‰) relative to the Vienna PeeDee Belemnite (V-PDB scale). The uncertainty based on a working standard of Cararra

135 Marble (NEW1) is 0.05‰ for δ^{13} C and 0.07‰ for δ^{18} O.

3 Results

<u>The s</u>Subglacial carbonate deposits occur on the lee sides of small protuberances on a bare polished and striated limestone bedrock surface in the immediate vicinity of <u>near</u> the Triglav Glacieret. They are most abundant on the bedrock recently uncovered by the retreating ice, and their occurrence rapidly decreases with the distance from the edge of the present glacieret

140 terminationmargin. The fluted and furrowed crust-like deposits are brownish, greyish or yellowish in colourThey are fluted and furrowed crust like deposits characterized by brownish, greyish or yellowish colour. The deposits do not exceed 0.5 cm in thickness and in some cases are occasionally internally laminated.

3.1 Mineralogical and petrographic data

X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis shows that the carbonate deposits mostly consist of calcite₁; and mixtures of calcite with small amounts of aragonite<u>1</u> XRD has-also confirm<u>sed</u> the calcite composition of the host rock (Supp. Fig. S85). <u>The</u> <u>Petrographic petrographic</u> study has allowed the identification of different fabrics (Fig. 4). Due to the similarities of subglacial carbonate textures to those of speleothem deposits, we have used<u>1</u> whe<u>re</u><u>n</u> possible<u>1</u> the formal terminology of <u>Frisia and</u> <u>Borsato (2010)</u>-Frisia and Borsato (2010):

Primary calcite fabrics are composed of transparent crystals with uniform extinction. The first crystals to form directly over

- 150 the bedrock are short columnar (length to width ratios < 6:1) crystals from 50 to 200 µm long (Supp. Fig. <u>S9-S6</u> and <u>S10S7</u>). Columnar (L/W ratios ~ 6:1) and elongated columnar (L/W ratios > 6:1) crystals up to 2 mm long and 0.5 mm wide constitute the most abundant fabric. <u>Calcite crystals grow perpendicularly to the substrate on the steeper, nearly vertical areas of the bedrock (Fig. 4a) while in the less steep, nearly horizontal areas, crystals grow inclined, oriented downslope, presumably in the sliding direction of the forming glacierDepending on the angle of the lee side of bedrock protuberances, columnar calcite</u>
- 155 crystals grow either perpendicularly to the host rock (Fig. 4a) or with a lower angle<u>inclination</u>, generally oriented downslope (Supp. Fig. <u>\$9\$6</u>). In some areas, the younger crystals crosscut the main direction of <u>the crystal</u> growth of the previous layer, resulting in crystal boundaries resembling unconformities (Supp. Fig. <u>\$9\$6</u>).

Primary aragonite fabrics consist of acicular crystals (L/W ratio >>6:1) generally growing outwards from a common point in the shape of fans. In some areas of the crusts, these fans are aligned in bands interlayered with very dark, dense micrite and

transparent equidimensional calcite crystals, forming layered textures (Fig. 4b, Supp. Fig. <u>S9dS6d</u>).
 Aragonite-to-calcite replacement fabrics are characterised by calcite crystals of variable size and patchy extinction patterns.
 They contain abundant fibrous inclusions interpreted as aragonite relicts that are either are-aligned in layers or unevenly

distributed throughout, which results in very irregular textures (Supp. Fig. <u>S9defS6d, e and f</u>). Micrite and microsparite <u>is are</u> often associated with aragonite relicts.

165 3.2 Geochemical data and ages

Stable carbon and oxygen isotope ratios (δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O) of the subglacial carbonate yielded average values of 1.35 ± 0.05 ‰ for δ^{13} C and –4.32 ± 0.07 ‰ for δ^{18} O (relative to the V-PDB; <u>Supp. Table S1Fig. 3</u>).

Whilst the expected ages of subglacial carbonates were of the LIA, The-the U-Th ages yielded considerably older ages-than expected: 23.62 ka ± 0.78 ka, 18.45 ka ± 0.70 ka and 12.72 ka ± 0.28 ka, respectively (Supp. Table S2S1). The results indicate that these subglacial carbonate dates fall within the Last Glacial MaximumLGM and the Younger Dryas (YD). In addition, two U-Th ages corresponding to samples drilled in more surficial calcite layers of the thickestof stratigraphically younger cement of the thickest obtained sample_-yielded 3.85 ka ± 0.09 ka and 1.96 ka ± 0.04 ka, indicating the presence of a glacier of sufficient thickness thick_enough glacieret to cause regelation also during these periods, or recrystallisation. For details where the samples were obtained from, the reader is referred to Figure 3.

175 **4 Subglacial carbonate deposits**

The fluted and furrowed morphology of carbonate deposition parallel to the apparent former ice-flow direction, some of the crystal textures, the location of the samples and the age data imply a subglacial origin of the carbonate crusts. The presence of ice-flow oriented calcite crystals suggests that precipitation was strongly influenced by the mechanical force of the ice movement. Similar fabrics occur in different types of tectonic veins, as for instance, slickensides, where crystals grow obliquely to the sheets in shear veins, indicating the general shear direction (Bons et al., 2012). Previous studies on subglacial carbonates have considered the orientation of calcite parallel to the ice flow as an evidence of its growth in a thin water film confined by sliding regelation ice (Hallet, 1976), and deformation structures such as folds and fractures, the result of glacially imposed stress (Sharp et al., 1990).

The variability of fabrics of the studied crusts and, especially, the presence of aragonite coexisting with calcite indicate spatial

- and/or temporal variability in local subglacial water chemistry. The most important parameters controlling the precipitation of aragonite versus calcite appears to be the CaCO₃ saturation state, the Mg/Ca ratio in the waters (De Choudens-Sánchez and González, 2009) and/or rapid CO₂ degassing rates (Fernández-Díaz et al., 1996; Jones, 2017). In freshwater systems like spring deposits (Jones, 2017), and specially in speleothems, Mg/Ca ratios seem to be the main factor controlling aragonite vs calcite precipitation (Frisia et al., 2002; Wassenburg et al., 2012; Rossi and Lozano, 2016), with aragonite precipitation favoured by
- 190 high Mg/Ca ratios (Rossi and Lozano, 2016) in low <u>slightly</u> supersaturated solutions. The studied deposits grow over carbonate bedrock with prevailing limestone and some dolostone (Jurovšek, 1987; Ramovš, 2000), so high Mg/Ca ratios in the water may be partially could be responsible the trigger for the precipitation of aragonite. Similarly, precipitation of aragonite in

subglacial deposits at Vestfold Hills, Antarctica, seems to have been favoured by the presence of Mg^{2+} in the waters, mobilised from the pyroxenes of the gneiss bedrock (Aharon, 1988).

- 195 The U-Th ages of LGM and YD are in good accordance with the glacier's history when it was expected to be thick enough to cause regelation which additionally strengthens the argument for carbonate's subglacial origin. However, aragonite-to-calcite replacement fabrics pose a challenge to determineraise the difficult question of whether all subglacial carbonate crystals were primarily aragonite and were subjected to complete recrystallisation to calcite in places left no-without leaving traces of replacement fabrics, which may provide a false identification of calcite fabrics as primary. This, in turn, may lead to inaccurate
- 200 interpretation of the U-Th ages (Bajo et al., 2016). Previous studies ion corals and speleothems have shown that the diagenetic transformation of aragonite into calcite can affect the accuracy of U-Th dating (Ortega et al., 2005; Scholz and Hoffmann, 2008; Lachniet et al., 2012; Bajo et al., 2016; Martín-García et al., 2019). This is mostly due to the uranium loss associated with the process (Lachniet et al., 2012; Bajo et al., 2016), which usually leads to older-than-true U-Th ages. However, the extent of uncertainty can be very highly variable depending on several factors such as the percentage of initial relative amount.
- 205 of aragonite and the moment of the aragonitetiming of its transformation to calcite transformation (Bajo et al., 2016), the possible additional redistribution of Th (Ortega et al., 2005; Lachniet et al., 2012) or and the extent of chemical exchange with widespread-younger subglacial meltwaters degree of opening of the system during diagenesis (Ortega et al., 2005; Martín-García et al., 2019).

It is notable that Notably, the U concentration -(in ppm; Supp. Table S21) in the youngest sample (2ka; T.03 b1) within this

- 210 study is 1.77 ppm, whereas it is around 0.41 and 0.46 ppm in two of the old samples, -T.01 a1 and T.03 a1, respectively LGM and YDBased on the U concentration in samples within this study (in ppm; Supp. Table S2), it is notable that the youngest sample (2 ka; T.03_b1) has 1.77 ppm of U concentration, whilst two of the old samples (LGM and YD; T.01_a1 and T.03_a1) have around 0.41 and 0.46 ppm of U concentration, respectively. This could indicate U-loss during aragonite-to-calcite recrystallisation and consequently provide older-than-true ages, or to the contrary, that these two samples represent primary
- 215 calcite with non-preferential incorporation of U in calcite with respect to aragonite and thus providing to be the most reliable. <u>Assuming the first possibilityIn case of the first possibility</u>, the oldest sample (24 ka; T.05) has relatively high U concentration (1.33 ppm), which would indicate less loss of U but still provide data that subglacial carbonates may date back to the last glacial period. <u>In case of Assuming</u> the second possibility, the ages of T.03_a1 and T.03_a2 in correct stratigraphic order would strengthen the reliability of the results. Aharon (1988) used U-Th method for dating two samples with a combination of
- aragonite and calcite fabrics with high but also variable U content (23.2 and 41.4 ppm), however, the indistinguishable dates compared to the <u>ones-those from of pure</u> aragonite led to <u>the</u> conclusion that <u>they the dates are reasonably good provide the reliable age estimates</u>. Nevertheless, due to the external Th incorporated into the samples, he regarded the dates as "maximum ages", which, in this case, is the appropriate approach also with the dates discussed in this study. Similar U-Th ages (19_-_21 ka) were reported also from northern Canada (Refsnider et al., 2012), however, the carbonate fabrics were not identified and discussed_described. The U-Th dates from Antarctica by Frisia et al. (2017) and radiocarbon dates from the French Alps by Thomazo et al. (2017) were performed on calcites. More studies should therefore be done in this direction to positively confirm
 - 7

the LGM and YD ages of carbonates, and especially to gain the high-resolution dates to construct the whole timeline of subglacial carbonate precipitation. Nevertheless, since three of our dates fall in the period of 12 - 24 ka, we will proceed with the discussion of their susceptibility to weathering and its implication to glacier's existence.

- 230 The cold Alpine environment during the glacial period with low biological respiration rates is evident<u>could be indicated</u> in the relatively high δ^{13} C signal, also reported by others (Lemmens et al., 1982; Fairchild and Spiro, 1990; Lyons et al., 2020), <u>but</u>-In addition, the (re)freezing of the subglacial water causes supersaturation with respect to carbonate and the non-equilibrium conditions produced by this process can affect the stable isotopic composition of the subglacial carbonate, usually leading to isotopic enrichment in the carbonate minerals (Clark and Lauriol, 1992; Courty et al., 1994; Lacelle, 2007). In any case, the
- 235 <u>climate during the precipitation of subglacial carbonate had to be "warm" enough to produce subglacial water at the glacier-bed.</u> Kuhlemann et al. (2008) <u>suggested a lowering of summer temperature of about 9 11°C at the LGM peak, meaning that the summer temperatures at Triglav Glacier should have been around -4.7 to -6.7°C (based on the present summer temperatures at around +6°C (Slovenian Environment Agency, 2020) and additionalalsoconsidering the recent warming of up to +2.03°C in the area (Colucci and Guglielmin, 2015; Hrvatin and Zorn, in press)), which would have been conditions for the cold base</u>
- 240 glacier and the absence of subglacial water flow. Whilst small scale detailed palaeoclimate conditions in the southeastern Alps are still uncertain, (Seguinot et al., 2018)the current U-Th ages of subglacial carbonates within this research fit with the temporary Garda Glacier (Italy) withdrawal phases reported by Monegato et al. (2017): 23.62 ka age of subglacial carbonate relates to the withdrawal phase between 23.9 and 23.0 ka, and 18.45 ka could relate to the glacier retreat from around 19.7 to 18.6 ka or even the final collapse of the glacier around 17.7 to 17.3 ka; bBoth time periods could relate to commencement of
- 245 <u>subglacial water flow also at the Triglav Glacier and consequently the precipitation of subglacial carbonates. In addition, the 12.72 ka age marks the early phase of YD cooling (12.9-11.5 ka ago) (Renssen and Isarin, 1997; Alley, 2000; Broecker et al., 2010).</u>

The δ¹⁸O_{PDB} of subglacial carbonate can be transformed into δ¹⁸O_{SMOW} using the equation δ_{SMOW} = 1.03037 δ_{PDB} + 30.37 (Faure, 1977). The mean values of subglacial carbonate δ¹⁸O_{SMOW} would therefore be 25.92‰, ranging from 27.44 to 24.75‰.
Using the fractionation factor of 1.0347 for calcite and water at 0°C (Clayton and Jones, 1968) and the δ_{SMOW} values of subglacial carbonate, we obtain δ¹⁸O_{SMOW} values ranging from -7.02‰ to -9.62‰. On the other hand, if assuming calcite crystals could have all originated primarily as aragonite crystals, we can use the fractionation factor of 1.0349 for aragonite and water at 0°C (Kim et al., 2007) and obtain relatively similar δ¹⁸O_{SMOW} values ranging from -7.21‰ to -9.81‰.-...This relates to the average Triglav Glacier ice meltwater values (δ¹⁸O_{SMOW} = -9.3‰) measured in the summer 2018 (Carey et al., 2020). However, it is slightly heavier when compared to the glacier ice samples, which that ranged between -10.0‰ and -12.7‰. The reason could be that water in equilibrium with the growing ice is progressively impoverished in heavy isotopes (Jouzel and Souchez, 1982), or simply that the remnants of present remaining-residual ice has a different isotopic ratio than

the basal ice at the time of carbonate precipitation, for which is also known that itself could represents a large range of isotopic composition in values (Lemmens et al., 1982). In addition, δ¹⁸O differences of a few per mills in the carbonate precipitate can
 also arise due to variations in subglacial hydrology shifting from closed to open geochemical systems (Hanshaw and Hallet,

1978). However, the <u>a</u> geochemical study of the present Triglav <u>area</u>-ice <u>area</u> (Carey et al., 2020) <u>showed shows</u> that ice samples found within the cave of Triglavsko Brezno Shaft (see Fig. 1 for location) are much lighter in deuterium compared to the than those from the Triglav Glacier, which suggests that they were deposited during colder, <u>perhaps even Last Glacial</u> Maximum, times, indicating <u>possible remains of the they are old</u> remnants of the <u>older Triglav Glacier ice</u>, <u>constraining</u> the implications that the Triglav Glacier was constant during the Holocene.

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5 Implications for continuously existing glacier during the Holocene

The LGM age is the first physical evidence to prove the LGM Triglav Glacier, whilst the YD age is related to the end of the Alpine Late Glacial, when glaciers advanced markedly (Ivy Ochs et al., 2009) and persisted until the earliest Holocene (Solomina et al., 2015).

- 270 The LGM and YD ages onf the Triglav subglacial carbonates provide are the first physical evidence that the Triglav Glacier persisted through the Holocene to the present day. Glacierets of southern Europe, including the Triglav Glacier, have generally been viewed as relicts of the LIA, with suggesting a discontinuous presence due following to the Holocene Climatic Optimum (HCO) (Grunewald and Scheithauer, 2010), a period of high insolation and generally warmer climate between 11,000 and 5,000 years ago (Renssen et al., 2009; Solomina et al., 2015).
- 275 Being prone to fast weathering (Ford et al., 1970), subglacial carbonate deposits are generally found only on recently deglaciated areas (Ford et al., 1970; Sharpe and Shaw, 1989). The Triglav Glacier area is no exception., The fact that they have not been reported previously in the literature and the relatively recent exposure of the deposits is also evidenced by not being documented having been reported in the literature (Meze, 1955; Šifrer, 1963, 1976, 1987) until the year 2005 (Hrvatin et al., 2005; Gabrovec et al., 2014) reinforces their likely recent exposure. Whilst Refsnider et al. (2012) discussed the preservation
- 280 of the subglacial carbonates by very cold and dry Arctic climate, this is unlikely to be the case eannot be the case of in-of the plateau of the Triglav Glacier, either in the last century or during any possible period of absence of an ice body, evident by because of the large mean annual precipitation at the site (2038 mm; redcorded at Kredarica hut, (2515 m a.s.l.) (Slovenian Environment Agency, 2020) (see Fig. 2 for location).

To provide the <u>This is supported by</u> theoretical numerical data <u>of for the</u> chemical denudation of the subglacial carbonate, we ean which is based on summarise selected chemical denudational rates of limestones (Table 121).

Chemical denudation rates on carbonate rocks can vary from ca. 0.009 to 0.14 mm/year (Gabrovšek, 2009). Taking the low and high extreme values for, e.g., 6 ka during the HCO, the denudation surface lowering would be between 54 and 840 mm, so the exposed 5 mm thick subglacial carbonate would have been denuded in by this time.

In addition, carbonate surfaces in periglacial areas are exposed not only to chemical weathering but also to intensive frost weathering, promoting <u>physical</u> disintegration <u>of minerals</u> <u>of depositional features</u> (Matsuoka and Murton, 2008). <u>Therefore, had the subglacial carbonate been exposed in the past, it would be expected to be eroded by dissolution or frost weathering. This indicates, that subglacial carbonate was constantly covered with glacier ice, and, as Steinemann et al. (2020) has</u> demonstrated, that glacial abrasion on carbonate bedrocks is minimal compared to the abrasion on crystalline bedrock. This s, aiming at-would promote the preservation of subglacial carbonates on limestone plateaus in the Alps. Moreover, as-since the

- 295 <u>subglacial carbonates form in lee positions of bedrock protuberances, it is expect-likely that abrasion would vanish as abrading rock fragments diverge from the bed at sites of subglacial precipitation due to regelation ice growth. In case of a glacier retreat beyond the subglacial carbonates, the re-advance of the glacier would abrade the deposits with material eroded from surrounding mountain face. Therefore, had the subglacial carbonate been exposed in the past, it would be expected to be eroded by dissolution, frost weathering, or by abrasion.</u>
- 300 Organic matter (charchoal/wood) from a non-vegetated, scree-covered moraine ca. 300 m below the main ice patch of the Triglav Glacier (as it stood in the year 2006) was analysed in the radiocarbon (¹⁴C) laboratory in Erlangen, Germany. The ¹⁴C result yielded 5604-5446 BP age, which provides additional evidence of pre-LIA, and post-LGM and post-YD ice cover (unpublished analysis by Karsten Grunewald and his team; Supp. Fig. S11). Similarly, the two younger U-Th ages obtained within this study (3.85 ka and 1.96 ka) also provide evidence of <u>a</u> pre-LIA ice cover.

305 6 Glacier variations and palaeoclimatic implications

The assessment of complex global patterns in of Holocene glacier fluctuations shows that they are indicates the influenced by of multiple climatic mechanisms and that individual glaciers may not respond uniformly to a particular set of climate forcings (Kirkbride and Winkler, 2012; Solomina et al., 2015). In addition, glaciers are also influenced by topographic conditions (DeBeer and Sharp, 2017), as well as their size and flow dynamics (Sugden and John, 1976; Nussbaumer et al., 2011). The

- Alps has experienced several glacial expansions-<u>advances</u> and <u>recessions-retreats</u> during the Holocene (Nussbaumer et al., 2011), with reports that some glaciers were even smaller than today or <u>entirely</u> absent (Leemann and Niessen, 1994; Hormes et al., 2001; Ivy-Ochs et al., 2009; Solomina et al., 2015). On the other hand, certain regions show evidence of unprecedented modern retreat of glaciers beyond their previous Holocene minima (Koerner and Fisher, 2002; Antoniades et al., 2011; Miller et al., 2013).
- 315 Current climate near the Triglav Glacier is characterised by rising temperatures in the <u>melting-ablation season from May to</u> <u>October</u> (Supp. Fig. S63) and a descending trend of the highest seasonal snow elevation (Supp. Fig. S47). If subglacial deposits would-indicate its ongoing existence throughout the Holocene, the <u>present-recent</u> retreat of the Triglav Glacier would indicate suggests cold enough regional climate during previous Holocene optima was cool enough to sustain the glacier, or <u>unless</u> an additional (presently unknown) forcing component <u>prevailed</u> which would have not been was not important in the past.
- 320 Exceptionally quick rate of rapid 21st-21st-century melting, for example, has been reported also from Barnes Ice Cap in northern Canada (Gilbert et al., 2017), in the European-Alps, where the exceptional retreat has been contributed attributed to deposition of the-industrially sourced -black carbon (Painter et al., 2013), and is also evident by a large number of recently melt-out archaeological and paleontological finds (Mol et al., 2001; Basilyan et al., 2011), including the famous "Ice Man" Ötzi in the Tyrolean Alps (Baroni and Orombelli, 1996; Solomina et al., 2015).

- 325 Local physiographic influences can insulate small glaciers from the warming effects of regional and global climate (Grunewald and Scheithauer, 2010); it has been shown that some small glaciers show a lower sensitivity<u>are less sensitive</u> to climate fluctuations than previously thought (Colucci and Žebre, 2016). The natural resilience of the Triglav Glacier is due to its relatively high elevation, bright limestone substrate with higher albedo, and the vertical water drainage through karstified rocks and the consequent lack of subglacial lakes as heat collectors, and avalanche- feeding (Grunewald and Scheithauer, 2010;
- 330 Gabrovec et al., 2014). Assuming these factors were relatively constant throughout the Holocene, the possible unprecedented retreat may highlight the consequences of direct anthropogenic forcing (Solomina et al., 2015). On the other hand, further comparative research on various other small glaciers is needed to generalise test the palaeoclimatic data due to the geomorphological peculiarity of glacier regions.: fFor example, even though in spitedespite of the apparent resilience of the Triglav Glacier until the presentrecently can be emphasised due to the above described regional components, the its retreat of
- 335 the Triglav Glacier has been more evident than the retreat-that of the glacierets/ice patches of Canin Glacier (Italy), Montasio West Glacier (Italy) and Skutas (Slovenia) (all in the southeastern Alps), which are all lower in elevation than the Triglav Glacier, but with large differences in mean annual precipitation (e.g., in the Triglav area water equivalent precipitation (2038 mm) is 62% of that in Canin area (3335 mm)); and potential annual solar radiation also plays a major role in controlling for differences in glaciers' dynamics (Colucci, 2016).

340 7 Further researchConclusion

Three U-Th ages of subglacial carbonate exposed by the retreating Triglav Glacier fall within the LGM and YD, providing the first direct evidence of the Triglav Glacier at that time. The high erodibility of these deposits, once exposed, strongly suggests a continuous glacier cover since their deposition throughout all but the most recent part of the Holocene, including the HCO. This defines the subglacial carbonates as a complex, but an important palaeoenvironmental proxy and a research subject for

345 <u>further analyses with great potential that may further highlight the extraordinary nature of the current global warming in the context of the Holocene.</u>

The preliminary data <u>presented here shows a high possibility suggest</u> that subglacial carbonate deposits may endue <u>record</u> unprecedented retreat of <u>the</u> Triglav Glacier in the southeastern Alps, and are thus <u>constitute a potentiallyn</u> important proxy <u>worthy of for further research</u>. Several separate lines of additional evidence <u>are worth studying to could</u> strengthen this

350 <u>assertion</u>e hypothesis:

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A –<u>-</u> High resolution U-Th dating targeting primary calcite. Additionally, isolation <u>i</u>Identification and geochemical analyses of primary aragonite would contribute the data on primary U concentration in samples (in case-where there is evidence all the erystals were primarily of primary aragonite), which can be used to observe-detect U loss in recrystallised crystals. In situ U-series dating by laser-ablation would represent the best approach as the samples (and laminae) are small and the aim is to target different crystal fabrics, but this is challenging due to low U concentrations.

 $B - \underline{HU}$ se ³⁶Cl nuclide dating method on the limestone hosting the subglacial carbonate deposits to extract the exposure time of the limestone <u>surfaces where those hosting the</u> carbonate crusts <u>occur</u> (i.e., no glacier cover) and provide additional data <u>as</u> <u>to</u> whether <u>or not</u> those areas have <u>not</u> experienced <u>additional multiple episodes of</u> exposures during the Holocene-Climatic Optimum. The production rate at 2500 m a.s.l. (the <u>mean altitude</u> of the <u>upper part of the present</u> Triglav Glacier) is <u>relatively</u> <u>higheonsiderably fast</u>, which is <u>ian</u> advantage for dating young exposures. In addition, calcite and limestone are one of the best mineral/rock systems for ³⁶Cl because they often have low ³⁵Cl abundances, so there is less of uncertainty regarding

contribut<u>ionsed to the from</u> factors that affect thermal neutron production of ³⁶Cl, such as water or snow shielding (Fabel and Harbor, 1999; Marrero et al., 2016).

C – The analyses of <u>material on the small remaining ice masses and, if possible, ice coresparticulates on the present remnants</u> of ice (and possible ice cores, if a glacier has not disappeared completely) can highlight the existence of a present-day input to

- accelerate melting. For example, black carbon and other mineral dust particles in glaciated regions, which accumulate on the ice, can accelerate the melt of glaciers by reducing the albedo (Ramanathan and Carmichael, 2008; Ming et al., 2013; Painter et al., 2013; Gabbi et al., 2015). Despite various published examples of such additional contributions (e.g.?), small glaciers would be the most affected due to their larger surface to volume ratios.
- 370 D –<u>the nN</u>umerical data <u>of on</u> frost weathering. There is <u>a</u> relatively extensive literature concerning <u>the</u> chemical denudation <u>and glacial erosion</u> of the limestone, but scarce numerical data <u>of for</u> frost weathering, and no direct measurements concerning subglacial carbonates. This can be experimentally studied by direct freezing-thawing <u>method_experiments</u> with controlled humidity and additional <u>measurements-control for of</u> the type of porosity and pressure gradient (Ducman et al., 2011).

8 Conclusion

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- 375 <u>Three_U-Th ages of subglacial carbonate with the combination of aragonite and calcite are regarded as maximum ages as</u> aragonite to calcite transformation, evident in fabrics, might have occurred in calcite crystals that could have been falsely considered as primary. Nevertheless, three ages of subglacial carbonate deposits exposed by the retreating Triglav Glacier fall within the Last Glacial Maximum and Younger Dryas, which could be <u>providing</u> the first direct evidence of the Triglav Glacier at that time. The fragility high crodibility of these deposits once exposed strongly suggests the a continuous glacier-cover
- 380 since their deposition throughout all but the most recent part of the Holocene, including the <u>Holocene_cClimatic opOptimum</u>. This defines the subglacial carbonates as a complex, but an important palaeoenvironmental proxy and a research subject for further analyses with great potentials, which <u>that may further highlight the extraordinary nature of the current global warming</u> in the context of the Holocene.

Data availability

385 The live and recent-archive photos of Triglav Glacier observation: http://ktl.zrc-sazu.si/

The climate data are available through the Slovenian Environment Agency web page: https://www.arso.gov.si/en/ and http://meteo.arso.gov.si/met/sl/archive/

Additional Triglav Glacier measurement data are available on the dedicated Slovenian Environment Agency web page: http://kazalci.arso.gov.si/en/content/triglav-glacier

390 All visual computer data are included in Supplementary files.s, raw data will be available on the ZRC SAZU repository after the acceptance of the paper.

Author contributions

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ML designed the research, led the study, drafted the manuscript and generated figures. AMP performed petrographic analysis, generated the petrographic figures, contributed the writing and editing of the manuscript. JT, MG, MH, BK, MZ contributed the writing and editing of the manuscript and compiled the monitoring data. NZH performed XRD analysis. J-XZ performed U-Th analysis and wrote the U-Th methods section of the manuscript. RND performed stable isotope analysis, edited and reviewed the manuscript. MF contributed the writing and editing of the manuscript. ND performed stable isotope analysis, edited and reviewed the manuscript. MF contributed the writing and editing of the manuscript.

Competing interests

400 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Figure 1: Mount Triglav, the Triglav Glacier and the sampling location of subglacial carbonates relative to the years 1932 (A; arrows) and 2017 (B; dots). Close up of <u>an-the</u> exposure of subglacial carbonate (C); <u>arrows point to fluted subglacial carbonate</u>,

attached to the lee side of the Upper Triassic limestone. Note the colour-change between the bedrock surfaces: greys (longer exposure) versus beige & brown on the recently exposed surfaces. This has often been explained by microbial activity (Dias et al., 2018). Photo courtesy of (A) Janko Skerlep (© ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute archive), (B) Miha Pavšek and (C) Matej Lipar.



Figure 2: Locality map of the Triglav Glacier, the sampling sites discussed in the text, and general geomorphology.



Sample	Bedrock / subglacial carbonate	XRD mineralogy	δ ¹³ C (‰ PDB)	δ ¹⁸ O (‰ PDB)	U-Th ages (ka)
T.01 A	subglacial carbonate	calcite	2.41	-2.84	18.45
T.01 B	subglacial carbonate	calcite, aragonite			
T.01 C	bedrock	calcite			
T.02 A	subglacial carbonate	calcite			
T.03 A	subglacial carbonate	calcite, aragonite	1.35	-4.71	12.72
T.03 B	subglacial carbonate	calcite, aragonite	0.51	-5.45	3.85
T.03 C	subglacial carbonate	calcite			1.96
T.03 D	bedrock	calcite			
T.04 A	subglacial carbonate	calcite	1.50	-3.96	
T.04 B	subglacial carbonate	calcite, aragonite			
T.04 C	subglacial carbonate	calcite			
T.05 A	subglacial carbonate	calcite	0.98	-4.63	23.62
Average			1.35	-4.32	

Figure 3: Subglacial carbonate samples used for this study. <u>Upper and lower sides refer to the surface (facing open air before being collected) and underside of the carbonate samples, respectively. The depths were measured relative to the starting drilling point of each sample as they are shown in this figure (lower side perspective for sample T.03 and upper side perspective for all the other samples); only the T.03 sample had precipitates thick enough that allowed to obtain several dates in three different depths.</u>



Figure 4: Petrography of the carbonate crusts. a) Primary columnar calcite crystals growing perpendicularly to the substrate on the lee steeper side of the bedrock irregularity.; b) alternation of aragonite (fibrous) and calcite crystals forming layered textures. The base of the aragonite fans of crystals nucleates in dark micritic aggregates. Both images were taken under plane polarised light.

Table 1: 813 C and 818 O stable isotope ratios.

Surface denudation in karst areas (mm/a)							
			Precipitation				
Location / Source	From	То	(mm)				
Dachstein, Austria, 1700 – 1800 m a.s.l. (Bauer, 1964)	0.015	0.020	1500				
Malham area, NW England, 400 – 500 m a.s.l. (Sweeting, 1964)	0.040	/ 1500					
Western Julian Alps, 2000 – 2100 m a.s.l. (Kunaver, 1978)	0.094	/	3500				
Average for Slovenia, 0 – 2864 m a.s.l. (Gams, 2004)	0.020	0.100	< 900 > 3200				
Northern Calcareous Alps, Austria, 1500 – 2277 m a.s.l. (Plan, 200	05) 0.011	0.011 0.048 1377					
Classical Karst area and Istrian Karst, 0 – 440 m a.s.l. (Furlani et a	1., 2009) 0.009	0.009 0.140 1015 - 134					
Tietar Valley, central Spain, 427 m-a.s. l. (Krklec et al., 2016)	0.018	0.025	797				
			Average				
			(rounded)				
Min	0.009	0.020	0.01				
Avg	0.0296	0.0666	0.05				
Max	0.094	0.140	0.1				
Calculation of subglacial carbonate existanceexistence							
Thickness (mm)Existence - max (years)Existence - avg (years)	ence - min (years)						
0.1 10 2	1						
0.2 20 4	2						

0.3	30	6	3	
0.4	40	8	4	
0.5	50	10	5	
1	100	20	10	
1.5	150	30	15	
2	200	40	20	
2.5	250	50	25	
3	300	60	30	
4	400	80	40	
5	500	100	50	

Table <u>121</u>: Calculation of subglacial carbonate existence under meteoric environment based on its thickness, years of exposure and denudation rate.

Subglacial carbonate deposits as a potential proxy for <u>a glacier's former existencepresence</u>

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Supplementary Information

Supplementary Figure S1: Photographic material of the retreating Triglav Glacier (© ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute archive).









Supplementary Figure S2: Locality LiDAR DTM map of the Triglav Glacier extent and the sampling sites discussed in the text.



Supplementary Figure S23: Locality aerial map of the Triglav Glacier, the sampling sites discussed in the text, and general geomorphology.



Supplementary Figure S4<u>3</u>: Average <u>melting-ablation</u> season temperature (May – October) on meteorological station Kredarica (Fig. 1) between 1955 and 2018. <u>Data Sourcesource</u>: Slovenian Environment Agency.



Supplementary Figure S<u>54</u>: Reconstruction of the highest seasonal snow height on the edge of the Triglav Glacier between 1852 and 2018. U updated from Gabrovec et al. (2014) (Gabrovec et al. 2014(Gabrovec et al., 2014). Ssource: Slovenian Environment Agency (from 1955 on), reconstruction/reanalysis before 1955 done by Jaka Ortar).



Supplementary Figure S65: <u>XRD diagrams of all the studied samples (for precise location, see Figure</u> 3 in the main manuscript). Samples TRG-01 C and TRG-03 D correspond to the bed rock. Green lines mark the reflections corresponding to calcite, and red lines mark the reflections of those corresponding to aragonite.<u>XRD graphs</u>



























Supplementary Figure S76: a) Short columnar calcite crystals alternating with brown micritic bands constitute the first calcite precipitates over the host rock. Plane polarised light (PPL); b) columnar calcite crystals predominantly oriented towards the right (downslope). The growth of the crystal on the center erosscut the direction of growth of previous crystals. Crossed polarised light (XPL); c) oriented columnar calcite crystals displaying signs of dissolution. Occasionally, both crystal layers are separated by a thin, wavy micritic layer possibly indicating dissolution processes (PPL); d) aragonite-calcite layered textures (right) and secondary calcite crystals with aragonite relicts, some of them arranged in fans aligned forming a band (PPL); e) secondary calcite showing abundant aragonite relicts and very anhedral textures (PPL); f) the same image as e, under crossed polarised light. Thin sections orientation is parallel to the former glacier sliding direction.



Supplementary Figure <u>S8S7</u>: The columnar and elongated columnar calcite <u>crystalss</u> oriented downslope (plane polarised light – above, and crossed polarised light – below). Thin section orientation is parallel to the former glacier sliding direction.



Supplementary Figure S9: The photograph and ¹⁴C results of dated moraine organic matter by Karsten Grunewald and his team in the laboratory in Erlangen.



Supplementary Table S1: δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O stable isotope ratios.

	ð¹³C−(‰	
Sample	PDB)	δ¹⁸Ο (‰ PDB)
T.01_a	2.41	-2.84
T.03_a	1.35	-4.71
T.03_b	0.51	-5.45
T.04_c	1.50	-3.96
T.05_a	0.98	-4.63

Supplementary Table <u>S2S1</u>: U-Th data for the subglacial calcite. Note: Ratios in parentheses are activity ratios calculated from the atomic ratios. Errors are at 2 δ level. The ages are calculated using the Isoplot 3.75 Program of <u>Ludwig (2012)</u>Ludwig (2012) with decay constants from <u>Cheng et al. (2000)</u>Cheng et al. (2000). Corrected Ages were calculated assuming initial/detrital ²³⁰Th/²³²Th activity ratio equal 0.825 ± 50 % (the bulk-Earth value, which is the most commonly used for initial/detrital ²³⁰Th corrections).

U-Th dating was carried out using a Nu Plasma multi-collector inductively-coupled plasma mass spectrometer (MC-ICP-MS) in the Radiogenic Isotope Facility (RIF) at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Queensland (UQ) following chemical treatment procedures and MC-ICP-MS analytical protocols described elsewhere (Zhao et al., 2009; Clark et al., 2012; Clark et al., 2014). Powdered or chipped sub-samples weighing 16–78 mg were spiked with a mixed 229 Th- 233 U tracer and then completely dissolved in concentrated HNO₃. After digestion, each sample was treated with H₂O₂ to decompose trace amounts of organic matters (if any) and to facilitate complete sample-tracer homogenisation. U and Th were separated using conventional anion-exchange column chemistry using Bio-Rad AG 1-X8 resin. After stripping off the matrix from the column using double-distilled 7N HNO as eluent, 3 ml of a 2% HNO₃ solution mixed with trace amount of HF was used to elute both U and Th into a 3.5-ml pre-cleaned test tube, ready for MC-ICP-MS analyses, without the need for further drying down and re-mixing. After column chemistry, the U-Th mixed solution was injected into the MC-ICP-MS using a detector configuration to allow simultaneous measurements of both U and Th isotope. (Zhou et al., 2011; Clark et al., 2014). The 230 Th/ 238 U and 234 U/ 238 U activity ratios of the samples were calculated using the decay constants given in _(Cheng et al., 2000). The non-radiogenic 230 Th was corrected using an assumed bulk-Earth atomic 230 Th/ 232 Th ratio of $4.4\pm2.2\times10^{-6}$. U-Th ages were calculated using the Isoplot/Ex 3.75 Program (Ludwig, 2012).

Sample Name	Sample wt.(g)	U (ppm)	±2s	²³² Th (ppb)	±2s	(²³⁰ Th/ ²³² Th)	±2s	(²³⁰ Th/ ²³⁸ U)	±2s	(²³⁴ U/ ²³⁸ U)	±2s	uncorr. ²³⁰ Th Age (ka)	±2s	corr. ²³⁰ Th Age (ka)	±2s	Initial (²³⁴ U/ ²³⁸ U)	±2s
T.01_a1	0,06022	0,45584	0,00019	20,522	0,019	10,945	0,047	0,1624	0,0007	0,9787	0,0012	19,83	0,10	18,45	0,70	0,9773	0,0013
T.03_a1	0,07823	0,41066	0,00017	7,454	0,012	19,219	0,103	0,1150	0,0006	1,0053	0,0005	13,26	0,07	12,72	0,28	1,0055	0,0006
T.03_a2	0,02380	0,8933	0,0003	4,929	0,005	19,99	0,23	0,0363	0,0004	1,0062	0,0011	4,012	0,047	3,849	0,094	1,0063	0,0011
T.03_b1	0,01620	1,7737	0,0005	4,080	0,005	24,49	0,23	0,0186	0,0002	1,0079	0,0008	2,027	0,019	1,959	0,039	1,0079	0,0008
T.05	0,02151	1,3305	0,0004	68,59	0,11	12,20	0,05	0,2072	0,0008	1,0060	0,0010	25,15	0,11	23,62	0,78	1,0065	0,0011
HU 1 standard HU 1	0,03057	0,7511	0,0003	0,0660	0,0006	34680	342	1,0036	0,0026	1,0013	0,0011	Secular equil	ibrium	-	-	-	-
standard VB 1	0,03538	0,7542	0,0003	0,1994	0,0008	11439	53	0,9969	0,0024	1,0006	0,0009	Secular equil	ibrium	-	-	-	-
standard YB-1	0,09094	0,1293	0,0001	0,5889	0,0012	291,3	1,3	0,4371	0,0018	1,7452	0,0018	30,79	0,15	30,71	0,15	1,8136	0,0020
standard	0,10259	0,1292	0,0001	0,6118	0,0012	278,6	1,3	0,4348	0,0019	1,7445	0,0020	30,62	0,15	30,5 4	0,16	1,8126	0,0022

corr

SRM 960 standard YB-1	0,10570	5,5396	0,0046	0,01	0,000	1485	28	0,00071	0,00001	0,9636	0,0007	0,0805	0,0009	0,0805	0,0009	0,9636	0,0007
speleothem std	0,10214	0,1253	0,0000	0,49	0,001	339,8	1,2	0,4343	0,0015	1,7492	0,0013	30,53	0,12	30,46	0,12	1,8174	0,0014

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