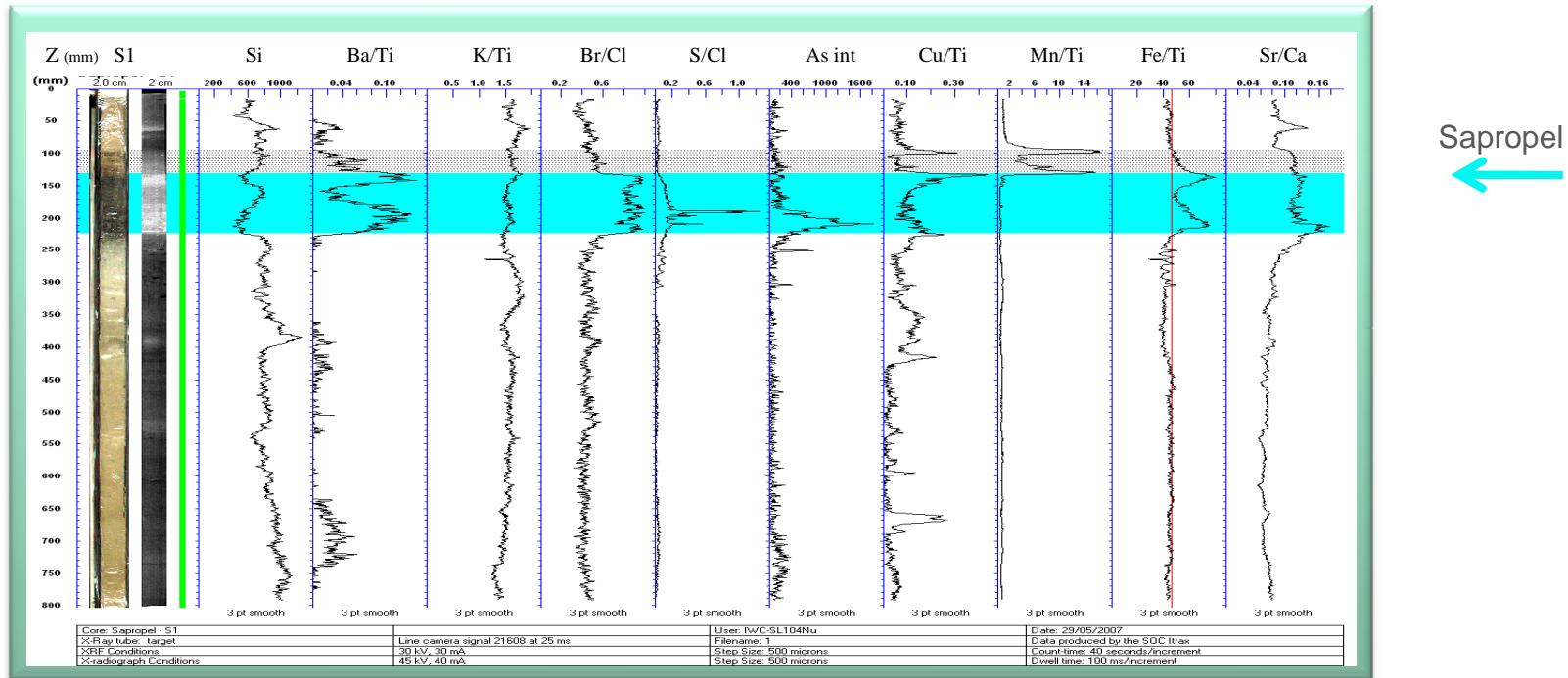


# Mediterranean sapropels



G. Rothwell et al. have been investigating sediment cores from the Mediterranean, which contain organic-rich sedimentary units (sapropels), that form periodically in the eastern Mediterranean. By doing high-resolution radiography and XRF, the physical and geochemical properties of these sedimentary units have been investigated. Besides a high organic content, the data also showed a thinning of the original sapropel thickness from the post-depositional oxidation, as concluded from Mn/Ti and Cu/Ti ratios; pyrite authigenesis in the residual visual sapropel from Fe/Ti and S/Cl ratios, and As integral; and aragonitic formation around the sapropel from the Sr/Ca ratio. Direction of supply of Fe, As and Cu into the sapropel could be inferred from the element profile shape.

*Read more:* **A geochemical application of the ITRAX scanner to a sediment core containing eastern Mediterranean sapropel units.** Thomson J., Croudace I.W., Rothwell R.G. New techniques in sediment core analysis. London, UK, Geological Society of London, 65-77.