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125,000 year Arctic sea ice variability from the Renland ice core.

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Sea ice is a crucial parameter in the climate system, and it is declining at a faster rate than model predictions. Both seasonal and multiyear Arctic sea ice have suffered a consistent area reduction of since the 1980s-satellite era. In the framework of a warming climate and a sea ice decline, the reconstruction of sea ice is of crucial importance to predict its future trend.

Bromine and sodium are present is sea salt aerosol and several condensed saline phases on sea ice surfaces. Bromine plays a central role in the sea ice chemistry in the polar boundary layer through recycling multiphase reaction over sea salt aerosol and fresh sea ice surfaces that lead to exponential release of gas phase bromine during springtime. Therefore, bromine enrichment in snow, with respect to sodium in seawater, has been linked to first year sea ice variability in the Arctic and Antarctica.

We present here bromine enrichment variability driven by Arctic sea ice, from measurements in the Renland ice core (71.3°N 26.5° W, East Greenland). The core provides a detailed record of the Holocene, extending back to the last interglacial period, the Eemian. Directly facing the East coasts of Greenland, the bromine enrichment record in Renland might allow the first glacial-interglacial reconstruction of sea ice in this sector.