

**Supplementary material S5.** Relationships between silt+clay percentage (x axis) and TM concentration (y axis). Information, not available for all selected references, is derived from tables in S4 (Background concentrations for Eastern Mediterranean sediments estimated from cores) and S6 (offshore sediments). The linear regression is drawn when p-values show statistically significant relationships (p-value < 0.05) and R2 and p-values are reported, as a measure of statistical meaning of the relationship.

