

THE EFFECTS OF PLASTIC POLLUTION ON THE EMERGENCE OF THE **LOGGERHEAD TURTLE** HATCHLINGS

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INTRODUCTION

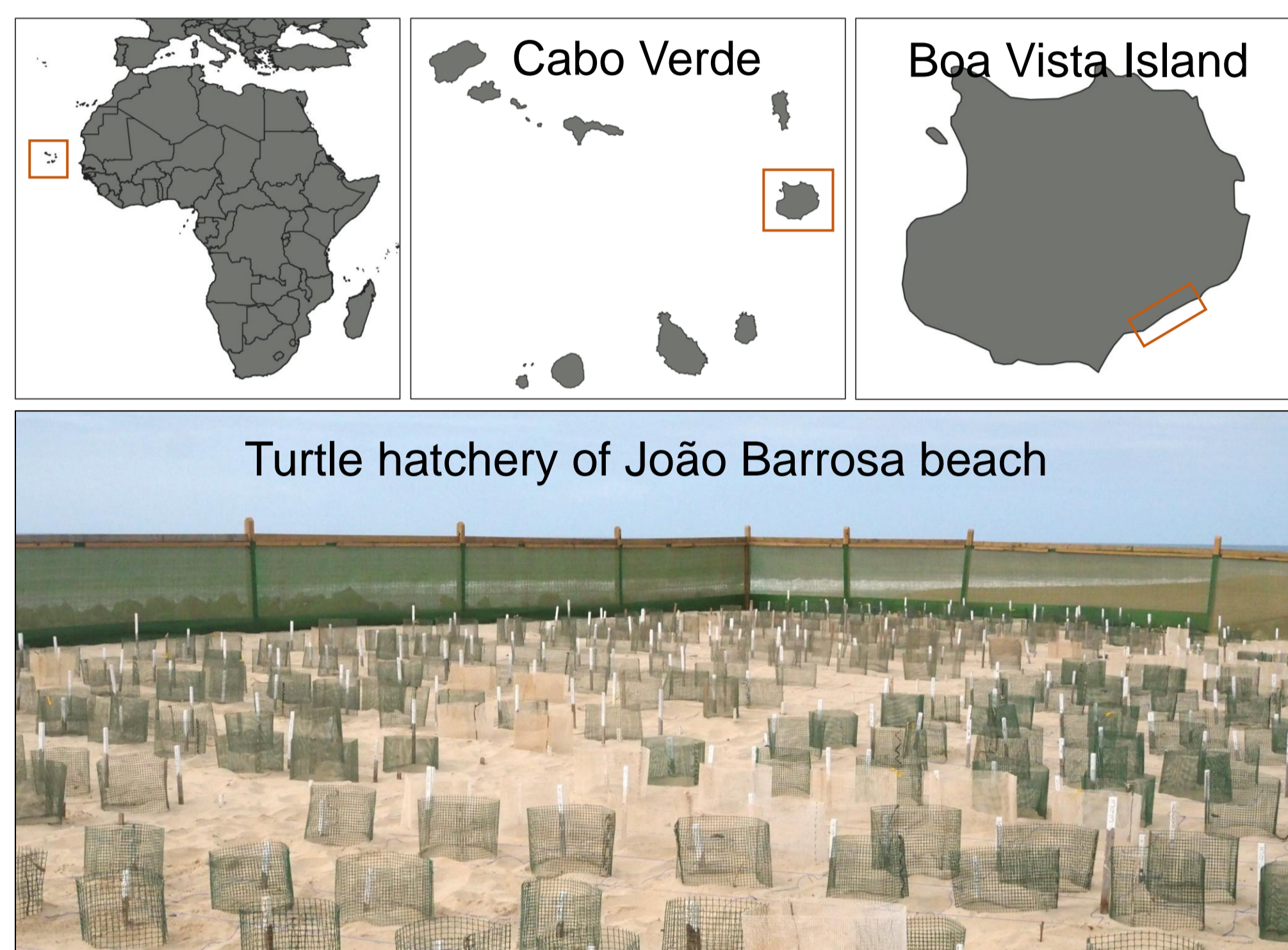
- Coastal urbanization, marine debris accumulation and climate change are increasingly affecting marine turtles' nesting habitats.
- Cabo Verde hosts the third-largest population of loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the world.
- The northeast beaches of the archipelago accumulate high volume of marine debris, coming from the ocean, African continent or Cabo Verde.

Question

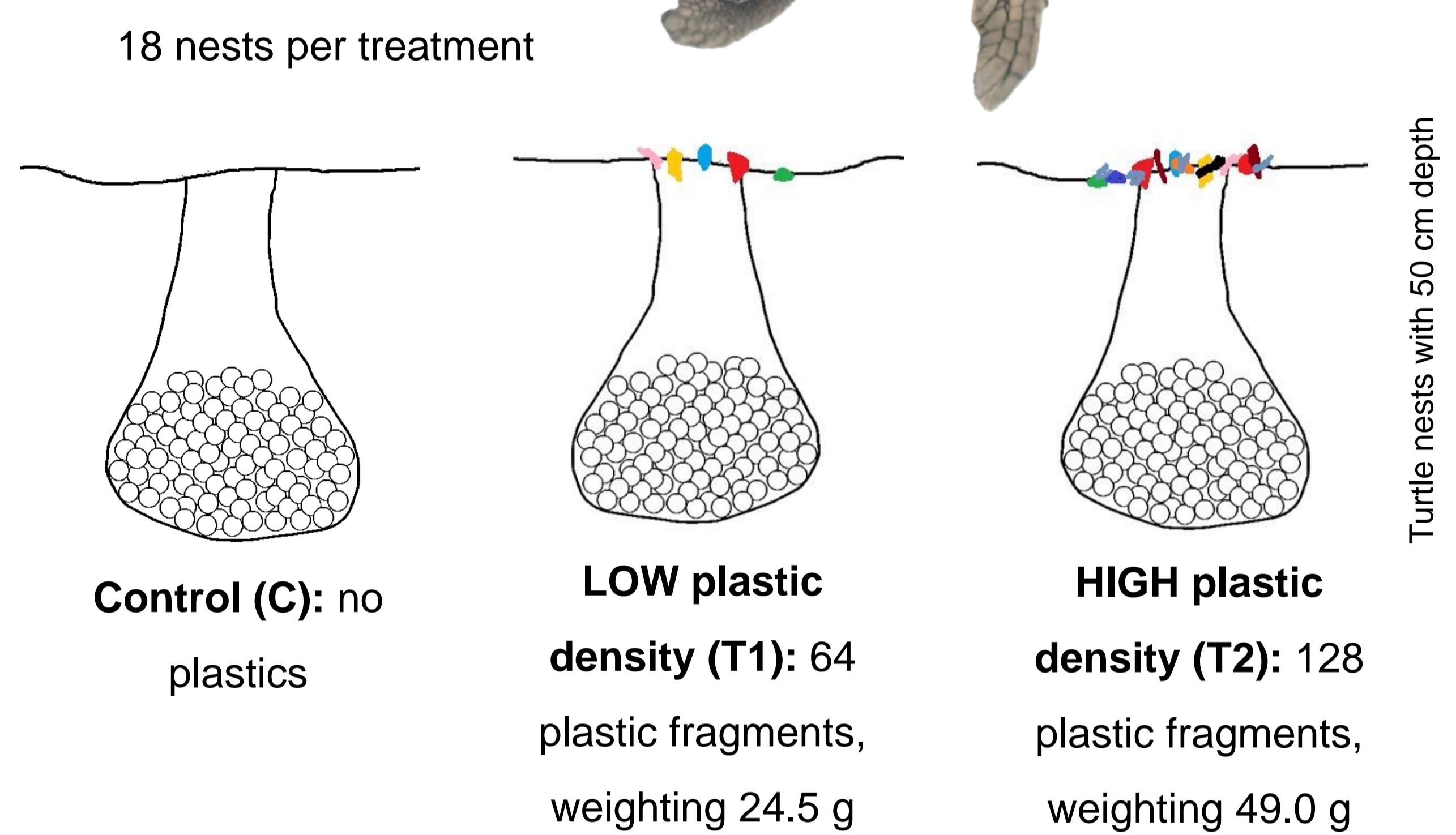
Can plastic accumulation on turtle nests' surfaces affect the incubation period, emergence period, or hatchlings' fitness?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

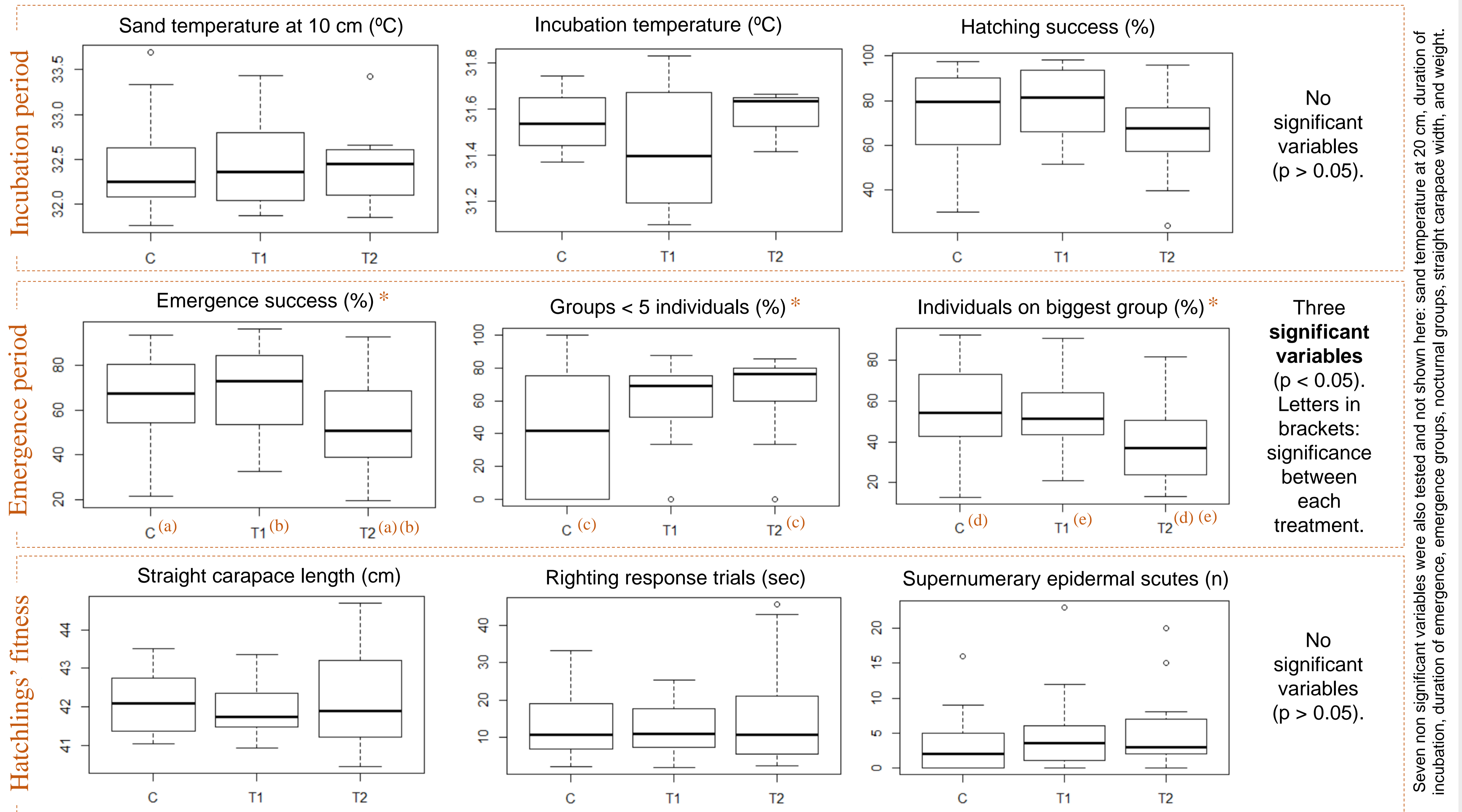
Study area



Experimental study



RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

- Plastic accumulation on nests surfaces might **decrease the emergence success** of the turtle hatchlings.
- Plastics also seem to cause **loss on the synchrony of emergence**, with more scattered and smaller emergent groups, which increase the predation risk on the beach.

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