

1 **Citizen volunteers detect SARS-CoV-2 RNA from outdoor urban fomites**

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17 **Abstract**

18 In COVID-19 pandemics ordinary citizens are overwhelmed by the often contradictory
19 information about transmission of SARS-CoV-2 through surfaces, especially outdoors. Citizen
20 volunteers (N=39) and researchers, working together for the first time on SARS-CoV-2
21 detection, searched this virus' RNA on outdoors urban furniture of Mieres (Asturias, Spain)
22 during the summer of 2020. RNA extraction and RT-PCR were conducted using point-of-care
23 technology. A wooden slide and a sanitizer dispenser gave positive amplification of *Spike* gene.
24 Contrary to expectations of higher virus survival in cold humid conditions, positivity rate was
25 significantly higher in sunny sampling days, perhaps reflecting a higher frequentation of public
26 outdoors spaces. All the participants considered the experience totally satisfactory and declared
27 to have acquired new useful knowledge to face the pandemic. Significant increases of self-
28 declared knowledge about virus transmission and protection measures, and confidence in hands
29 hygiene for COVID-19 prevention, were found in the citizen volunteers following this
30 experience. Results suggest the need for more control of playgrounds and public sanitizer
31 dispensers. They also show how citizen volunteers can help to detect potential environmental
32 reservoirs of disease agents from RNA analysis. Finally, ordinary citizens involved in COVID-
33 19 research in small groups, following adequate training and safety protocols, feel empowered
34 while valuably co-creating knowledge with researchers.
35

36 **Highlights:**

- 37 - Researchers and citizen volunteers found SARS-CoV-2 RNA on frequently touched urban
38 surfaces.
- 39 - A portable, user-friendly machine for SARS-CoV-2 eRNA detection was employed.
- 40 - Citizen volunteers gained knowledge and felt more skilled to fight the pandemic.
- 41 - The positivity rate obtained was 10%, positives being obtained on a sunny day.
- 42 - Citizens volunteers empowered after their involvement in COVID-19 research.

43

44 **Key words:** Citizen volunteers; Environmental RNA; Fomites; SARS-CoV-2; Urban
45 furniture.

46

47 **1. Introduction**

48 The emergence of an invisible threat, SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, responsible for the
49 new infectious disease COVID-19, is shaking the social use and enjoyment of public spaces.

50 On the 30th of January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19

51 epidemic as a Public Health Emergency of International Interest. Since that upgrade to
52 pandemic, actions to prevent contagions are focused on personal protection measures and the
53 disinfection of public spaces. Although the main SARS-CoV-2 transmission route is aerial, via
54 exposure to droplets and aerosols contaminated with the virus that are dispersed over short
55 distances (e.g. Lu et al., 2020), coronaviruses can also be deposited directly on solid surfaces
56 where droplets fall (Orenes-Piñero et al., 2021). It is well known that fomites of different
57 materials contribute variably to the transmission of infectious diseases depending on their
58 capacity of retention of microorganisms (Julian et al., 2011; Rönngvistm et al., 2013; Ibfelt et
59 al., 2016). SARS-CoV-2 can survive for a short time out of the human body and in
60 anthropogenic surfaces (Carraturo et al., 2020). Fomites carrying SARS-CoV-2 may contribute
61 in some way to the propagation of COVID-19 (Ong et al., 2020; Pastorino et al., 2020). For
62 example, Razzini et al. (2020) found SARS-CoV-2 virus in hospital surfaces in Italy and
63 highlighted the potential of solid surfaces as coronavirus reservoirs. van Doremalen et al.
64 (2020) confirmed that the stability of SARS-CoV-2 is similar to that of SARS-CoV-1 under
65 experimental circumstances tested in aerosols and surfaces. Moreover, although all surfaces
66 are not equal in contact transmission of SARS-CoV-2, previous studies have found it on
67 inanimate surfaces up to 28 days after discharge of patients with COVID-19 (Zhou et al., 2020).
68 Therefore, and from the review by Eslami and Jalili (2020), reducing the frequency of touching
69 surfaces with our hands and increasing the disinfection of surfaces can reduce the amount of
70 coronavirus load on them and the rate of transmission.

71 According to research data like those exposed above, in the World Health Organization
72 newsroom webpage (<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-how-is-it-transmitted>), one of the eight recommendations to reduce the risk of getting
73 COVID-19 is to avoid touching surfaces in public settings. However, the role of fomites as a
74 route of COVID-19 transmission is controversial. For some authors, it has been exaggerated
75

76 (Goldman, 2020), being less frequent in real life than recognized (Mondelli et al., 2020). It
77 seems that, although the SARS-CoV-2 can survive on a surface for at least several hours, high
78 temperature and sunlight facilitate its destruction (Eslami and Jalili, 2020).

79 With these lots of information, sometimes contradictory, it is normal that anxiety,
80 depression, and indignation are significantly increasing in the population as a consequence of
81 the pandemic (e.g. Li et al., 2020). At least, a part of the distress is caused by concerns about
82 the exposure to the virus in daily life activities. Touching public surfaces was the most salient
83 worry about being contaminated (0.68 loading) when measuring COVID-19-related distress in
84 large North American population samples (Taylor et al., 2020). Knowing the conditions in
85 which the SARS-CoV-2 survives outdoors is indeed very important for citizens and scientists
86 concerned about the use of public spaces.

87 However, scientific advances in COVID-19 pandemic are not often communicated in
88 the best way to the public. Although unintentionally, communication often transmits the
89 uncertainty of scientists and health professionals that face the pandemic, creating confusion
90 among non-scientists. To control COVID-19, the different measures proposed by governments
91 will not be enough when lockdowns and movement restrictions are relaxed. It is necessary to
92 empower citizens with tools to visualize the benefits of a healthy behavior (Eichler et al. 2020)
93 and promote effective public messaging. This and health education programs to protect human
94 health, are paramount during infectious disease outbreaks (Wilder-Smith and Freedman, 2020).
95 Bavel et al. (2020) highlighted the importance of messages that appeal to scientific norms to
96 help citizens to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although people will not take action to
97 protect their health just motivated by scientific facts (Tibbetts, 2020), during public health
98 crises the interaction between citizens and experts (and politicians) could be improved through
99 citizen science exercises (Pearse, 2020).

100 Today, citizen science adopts multiple forms, from enrolling thousands of individuals

101 in massive data collection to organizing small groups of volunteers in order to address specific
102 local problems (Bonney et al., 2014). Indeed citizen science initiatives were affected during
103 COVID-19 pandemic around the world, but not all of them in the same way. For example, in
104 southern Africa citizen science bird projects were able to continue and be even enhanced (Rose
105 et al., 2020), while in Japan initiatives of recording city biodiversity experienced a noticeable
106 decrease of participants in the same circumstances (Kishimoto et al., 2021). Lower sampling
107 efforts and species records were registered in Colombia biodiversity projects despite higher
108 participation in online platforms (Sanchez-Clavijo et al., 2021), in contrast with Kishimoto et
109 al. (2021) experience in Tokyo where fewer but more enthusiastic participants were able to
110 obtain even more diversity records than in pre-pandemic years.

111 Directly related with COVID-19, in Kerala (India) a citizen project helped to follow the
112 pandemic in real time using online tools (Ulahannan et al., 2020). Emotional reactions along
113 five weeks during COVID-19 emergency were followed in 444 volunteers in Serbia (Sadicovic
114 et al., 2020). Here we put in practice Pearse's (2020) idea to increase the interaction between
115 citizens and experts, involving ordinary citizens in the detection of SARS-CoV-2 without
116 putting their health at risk. The objective was, to investigate the presence of the virus on
117 surfaces in public settings, where citizens are exposed anyway. Strict measures to prevent the
118 direct contact with the virus were taken, as we will see below. Given the nature of this project
119 where a close supervision of experts was needed, we opted for a citizen science project based
120 on small groups of volunteers (Bonney et al., 2014).

121 We have employed an easy procedure based on environmental RNA. DNA (e.g. Ibabe
122 et al. 2020) and RNA (e.g. Palich et al. 2017 for Ebola, Razzini et al. 2020 for SARS-CoV-2)
123 molecules are efficiently employed to detect species from different surfaces. Like biopollutant
124 eukaryotes from environmental DNA (Thomas et al. 2019), viruses can be quantified from
125 environmental samples using quantitative PCR (qPCR). We have used a portable, user-friendly

126 machine that allows a rapid detection of viruses in situ (Tomaszewicz Brown et al. 2020 for
127 canine distemper virus). We recruited local volunteers to work in a mixed group of citizen
128 volunteers and researchers analyzing urban surfaces. Departure hypotheses were: *a*) From its
129 lower survival in open spaces (Eslami and Jalili 2020), the SARS-CoV-2 RNA positivity rate
130 will be lower from the urban furniture in our study than that published from indoor fomites;
131 and *b*) From the importance of messages appealing to scientific norms to face COVID-19
132 (Bavel et al. 2020), citizen volunteers involved in this study will gain knowledge and feel more
133 skilled to fight the pandemic (thus empowered), especially regarding touching public surfaces.
134

135 **2. Material & methods**

136 *2.1. Ethical statement*

137 This study was approved by the competent Ethical Committee in Research of the University of
138 Oviedo with the reference number 2-RRI-20. It was carried out during the Spanish summer
139 holidays in late July – early August of 2020, while the COVID-19 pandemic was active in
140 Spain, with outbreaks in all the regions. A written informed consent was obtained from all
141 participants and approved by the Ethical Committee in Research of the University of Oviedo.
142 In this informed consent, volunteers were informed about the nature and purposes of the project
143 and they declared that the personal data were offered voluntarily, and consequently they
144 authorized their use exclusively for scientific dissemination purposes within this project.
145 Volunteers did not receive any economic compensation for their contribution.

146

147 *2.2. Study region and town*

148 The COVID-19 pandemic in the region of Asturias (north Spain) in July and August of
149 2020 could be considered active but under control, with a prevalence of 5.2%, 60% of

150 asymptomatic carriers and 28 443 deaths due to the disease
151 ([https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccays/alertasActual/nCov-
152 China/documentos/Actualizacion_174_COVID-19.pdf](https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccays/alertasActual/nCov-China/documentos/Actualizacion_174_COVID-19.pdf)). The town of Mieres, in Asturias (38
153 000 inhabitants) was the locality chosen because of it is mid-size in the region. Located at 238
154 m of altitude above sea level in the middle of a former mining valley, it is representative of the
155 region. Its climate is Atlantic humid with annual average temperature of 14.3°C. The sampling
156 days in this study were in the summer, with alternate rain and sunshine, and with air
157 temperatures oscillating between 21 and 30°C.

158

159 *2.3. Recruitment and formation of citizen volunteers*

160 Citizen volunteers were recruited with the collaboration of the city council of Mieres.
161 A call was launched using communication channels like the official website
162 <http://www.mieres.es/areas-municipales/salud/informacion-sobre-coronavirus-covid-19/>,
163 regional radio and TV. The training was organized in three two-hour sessions: 1) training on
164 safety measures about SARS-CoV-2; 2) learning about fomite sampling, the importance of
165 sample traceability and introduction to RNA and PCR; 3) two-hour session to practice fomite
166 sampling and geolocation (registering coordinates in a city map); and organization of small
167 groups and sampling areas within the town.

168 The training workshop on fomite sampling was conducted during two weeks in July
169 2020. The volunteers worked in small groups (4-5 persons including one researcher). The first
170 session was essential to ensure that the citizen volunteers were not unnecessarily exposed to
171 SARS-CoV-2 infection. The volunteers learned how to put on and wear the elements of
172 protection, that were standard equipment employed in health care settings such as facial masks,
173 complete sterile overalls, gloves, high-protection FFP2 or surgical masks (Supplementary
174 Figure 1). Then they learned about the fomites as potential temporary reservoirs of viruses,

175 how to sample fomites with total security (not exposing themselves to the virus), to store
176 properly the samples in labeled tubes, to code and record each sample to ensure traceability.
177 The principles of PCR and molecular analysis were also briefly explained. Finally, the
178 volunteers organized the sampling for a good spatial coverage of the town, and chose the most
179 touched fomites in the most frequented spots within their sampling areas. They located the
180 preferred areas in maps.

181

182 *2.4. Questionnaires*

183 Before and after the experience, the volunteers answered a brief anonymous online
184 questionnaire (Supplementary Annex 1, Questionnaire 1) asking for their knowledge about: a)
185 the virus transmission; b) protection measures; and c) the importance of hand hygiene in the
186 COVID-19 pandemic. The scale was 1-4, from none to very much.

187 After the experience, they were also asked online and anonymously about their
188 satisfaction with this experience of volunteering as a citizen volunteers, and the perceived
189 acquisition of skills to face COVID-19 (thus increased security) (Supplementary Annex 1,
190 Questionnaire 2). A scale 1-5, from totally disagree to totally agree, was employed in these two
191 questions. Differences between pre- and post- tests, and perceived gains in skills to face
192 COVID-19, will serve to test Hypothesis *b*.

193

194 *2.5. Field work and sampling*

195 Field sampling, RNA extraction and RT-qPCR were conducted between the 28th of
196 July and the 4th of August of 2020, amid the summer holidays in Spain. The mixed team groups
197 (researcher + citizen volunteers) toured Mieres town to find the urban elements previously
198 selected on the map. The selected fomites were rubbed with sterile swabs that were
199 immediately stored in tubes with 1 ml of preservative solution (Bioer Sample Preservative

200 Fluid kit, Hangzhou Bioer, Technology Co., LTD). Researchers and citizen volunteers wore
201 protective clothes and equipment – sterile overall, mask, facial shield and gloves
202 (Supplementary Figure 2) – that were changed or sterilized with sanitizer spray before and after
203 collecting each sample. Strict hand hygiene protocols were followed, using sanitizer before
204 starting dressing overalls and putting on protection equipment. After sampling all the
205 volunteers disinfected again hands and sprayed sanitizer over their clothes and hair.

206 Sampling was done during the central hours in the morning or in the afternoon, when
207 the frequentation of public spaces is maximum. Abundant public was nearby during sampling,
208 never interfering with the collection of samples. The weather conditions were noted as Rainy,
209 Drizzly, Cloudy, or Sunny. Differences between positivity rates for different materials and
210 weather conditions while sampling will serve to test Hypothesis *a*.

211

212 *2.6. Molecular work*

213 Before starting the citizen science experience, the threshold of SARS-CoV-2 RNA
214 detection with the method employed was estimated from different concentrations (3.6, 7.2, 9,
215 10.8, 18, 36, 150, 300 copies/ μ l) of the reference synthetic SARS-CoV-2 RNA AcroMetrix™
216 Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) RNA Control (RUO). RNA extracted from virus sampled with
217 nasopharyngeal swabs from two patients diagnosed with COVID-19 and hospitalized in the
218 Central University Hospital of Asturias was used as positive controls, after 1:10 dilution in
219 distilled water. The Ct in these samples was 20, meaning an approximate virus concentration
220 of 4×10^6 copies/ml. These RNA samples were kindly provided by Dr. Jose Antonio Boga,
221 Director of the Microbiology unit in the Central University Hospital of Asturias.

222 Samples obtained from Mieres urban surfaces were analyzed by researchers together
223 with the citizen volunteers involved in their collection (Supplementary Figure 3). Sterility
224 measures in the molecular work included cleaning surfaces with bleach, hydroalcoholic gel,

225 gloves, UVA sterilization of the laboratory materials, and sterile filter pipette tips.

226 For its easy handling and visualization of results, we used Biomeme portable platform
227 of qPCR. It uses a one-step approach where cDNA synthesis and amplification are performed
228 in the same tube (Gaines, 2020), and the results can be visualized on a mobile phone. It has
229 been employed by Thomas et al. (2019) to detect environmental DNA, and by Tomaszewicz
230 Brown et al. (2020) for the detection of RNA of adenovirus causing canine distemper disease
231 in mammals. RNA was extracted with the Biomeme M1 Sample Prep Cartridge kit ©Biomeme
232 Inc., then PCR was immediately conducted using Biomeme SARS-CoV-2 Go-Strips
233 (©Biomeme Inc.), following the manufacturer’s instructions. It is an integrated sample
234 preparation and RNA detection test approved as point-of-care assay with U.S. Food and Drug
235 Administration regulatory status of Emergency Use Authorization (Parupudi et al., 2020). The
236 kit contains lyophilized master mix, enzymes, and multiplexed primer/probes for a triplex
237 reaction of SARS-CoV-2 *Spike* and *Orf1ab* genes and RNA of MS2 bacteriophage by
238 ©Biomeme Inc. as RNA Process Control to ensure that qPCR is working. Results were
239 visualized with Biomeme Go app (©Biomeme Inc.) in a smartphone where the PCR
240 amplification curve appears in real time, and a clear color signal of “positive” or “negative” at
241 the end. Manufacturer’s specifications for positive detection of Sars-CoV-2 using this
242 methodology are: fluorescence over 150 RFU for *Orf1ab* and/or over 200 RFU for *Spike* gene,
243 within 40 cycles ($Ct < 40$). The duration of RNA extraction process is 15 minutes and that of
244 PCR is 60 minutes, thus the result is ready in less than one hour and a half.

245

246 2.7. Data analysis

247 To test Hypothesis *a*, samples taken on sunny versus rainy or drizzly conditions were
248 compared, and also samples taken in this study (outdoors) with data published for indoor
249 fomites in other studies. Positivity rates (proportion of positive tests) were compared between

250 groups of samples using Fisher's exact test, taking Cramer's V as a measure of effect size, as
251 in Razzini et al. (2020).

252 The effect of the citizen science experience (Hypothesis *b*) on the perceived knowledge about
253 SARS-CoV-2 transmission and protection measures, and the perceived importance of hand
254 hygiene to prevent COVID-19, was measured comparing mean scores before and after
255 intervention employing paired t-tests. Significance threshold was $p < 0.05$. Statistics was done
256 with free PAST software version 3.1 (Hammer et al., 2001).). Figure 1 and 2 were constructed
257 using ggplot2 library within R software version 4.0.4 (2021-02-15) (R Core Team, 2020).

258

259

260 **3. Results**

261

262 *3.1. Positive controls*

263 The assays with synthetic SARS-CoV-2 RNA to evaluate the sensitivity of the method
264 gave a detection threshold of 36 copies/ μ l for *Spike* gene and 150 copies/ μ l for *ORF1ab*. At
265 that concentration, we obtained positive amplification of the two markers (Table 1). The two
266 samples obtained from patients with COVID-19 were indeed positive for the two markers and
267 provided lower C_t values for both *Orf1ab* and *Spike* genes than those found in the samples of
268 150 and 300 copies/ μ l of pure RNA (Table 1), as expected since the estimated concentration
269 of the virus in patient samples was approx. $4000 \text{ copies}/\mu\text{l} = 400 \text{ copies}/\mu\text{l}$ after 1:10 dilution.
270 These results showed a higher sensitivity of *Spike* marker where C_t values were lower than
271 those obtained for *Orf1ab* at the same concentration.

272 Taking into account the relative volume of the preservative fluid and the swab, we
273 expect an approximate dilution of 1:10 of the environmental RNA copies present on a surface.
274 Thus, from these sensitivity assays we expect to detect concentrations above 360 RNA

275 copies/ μ l for *Spike* and 1500 copies/ μ l for *ORF1ab* from surfaces using this method. These
276 values are much lower than the loads of SARS-CoV-2 in infected patients, with means around
277 10^4 virus copies/ μ l in some studies (e.g. Lescure and Boadma, 2020).

278

279 3.2. SARS-CoV-2 detection

280 Twenty samples were analyzed using the method described above: park and church
281 benches, children playground furniture, cash/ticket/vending machines, counters, outdoor
282 railings, trash containers, door handle/knob, and a public sanitizer dispenser (Table 2). The
283 detailed results are in Supplementary Table 1. The RNA process controls were always positive,
284 indicating that the qPCR was working properly. Two positive qPCR results were obtained for
285 *Spike* marker (>200 baseline subtracted relative fluorescence, $<40 C_q$), specifically in samples
286 taken from a wooden slide of a children playground (Figure 1-a) and from a sanitizer dispenser
287 made of plastic (Figure 1-b). Since strict measures of personal protection and sterility were
288 employed during sampling and laboratory analysis, contamination can be reasonably excluded.
289 In the rest of fomites, significant presence of virus RNA was not detected; all the samples were
290 negative for SARS-CoV-2 RNA with *Orf1ab* marker (Table 2). Thus, from the specifications
291 of the method employed in which one marker is sufficient for a positive result, the positivity
292 rate in our study was 10%.

293 The two positive results had in common that they were obtained on a sunny day (by
294 two different teams). Opposite to expectations (Eslami and Jalili, 2020), the positivity rate
295 obtained in sunny conditions (50% over 4 samples from sunny days) was significantly higher
296 than that in not sunny conditions, 0% of 16 samples taken on not sunny days (Fisher's exact
297 test with $P = 0.03$). The size effect was moderate (Cramer's $V = 0.66$). This indicates a
298 difference between weather conditions, that could be attributed to a higher frequentation of
299 outdoor urban spaces with good weather, thus augmenting the probabilities of SARS-CoV-2

300 carriers to touch urban furniture and leave virus traces on fomites.

301

302 *3.3. Study results in a wider context*

303 To put the positivity results found in this study in a more global context we have
304 compared them with six other studies of SARS-CoV-2 detection on public surfaces (Table 3),
305 two outdoors and the rest indoors. In these studies different markers were employed: N, CDC
306 N1 and N2, E Sarbeco, Orf 1ab, RdRP; three studies employed two markers simultaneously as
307 in our study, one employed one marker, another employed three markers, and one used a
308 commercial kit where markers were not disclosed (Table 3). Criteria to consider a test SARS-
309 CoV-2 positive were also varied: Guo et al. (2020) and Harvey et al. (2021) considered enough
310 one marker to be significantly amplified, while other authors needed all the markers employed
311 to be positive (Abraham et al., 2021; Orenes-Piñero et al., 2021) (Table 3). Despite the diversity
312 of SARS-CoV-2 genes employed as markers in the different studies, and positivity criteria, the
313 results were generally consistent with lower positivity outdoors than indoors (healthcare
314 settings). The two studies conducted outdoors gave similar positivity rates to that of 10% found
315 in our study: 5.25% and 8.3% in Massachusetts (Harvey et al., 2021) and Brazil (Abraham et
316 al., 2021) respectively. In contrast, positivity rates indoors were generally higher than 20%,
317 with the exception of 5.6% in rooms of COVID-19 patients in a Spanish hospital (Orenes-
318 Piñero et al., 2021), being as high as 52% in health care facilities in London during the peak of
319 the pandemics (Zhou et al., 2020).

320 To test Hypothesis *a*, we compared our results with data obtained from indoor fomites
321 in those articles. The positivity rate found in our study was indeed not lower than that found
322 by Orenes-Piñero et al. (2021) indoors; it was higher but not significantly different (Fisher's
323 exact test with $P = 0.611$; Cramer's $V = 0.083$, not significant effect size). Razzini et al. (2020)
324 found 24.3% positivity rate in 37 tests in an Italian hospital, which was not significantly

325 different from the positivity rate of 10% found in our study in 20 tests (Fisher's $P = 0.29$;
326 Cramer's $V = 0.17$). With Guo et al. (2020) results the difference was also not significant
327 (Fisher's $P = 0.22$; Cramer's $V = 0.169$). These results would not allow to accept Hypothesis
328 *a* of a significantly lower positivity rate outdoors. However, the comparison with London data
329 of Zhou et al. (2020) was highly significant (Fisher's $P = 0.0003$, Cramer's $V = 0.235$).

330 The positivity rate in our study was not significantly different of those found in similar
331 studies about high-touch public surfaces with much larger sample sizes. Although the rate
332 found in Brazil by Abrahao et al. (2021) was lower, the difference was not significantly
333 different (Fisher's test $P = 0.291$, not significant; Cramer's $V = 0.03$). Compared with Harvey
334 et al. (2021) study in Massachusetts, the positivity rate of our study was also not significantly
335 different (Fisher's test $P = 0.681$, Cramer's $V = 0.014$).

336

337 *3.4. Citizen science*

338 Of the 141 citizens who expressed interest in the project, the 27.7% (39 persons aged
339 18-70, 59% women, mean age 46.7 with standard deviation $SD = 15.4$) followed the training
340 sessions programmed and were actively involved in the project until the end. Only five of them
341 (12.8%) had any previous experience in biology or health sciences. For the 78% of the
342 volunteers, this was the first time they participated in volunteering, and it was the first time
343 working in a citizen science project for all of them.

344 The mixed research group was completed with three professional researchers. In teams
345 of 3-5 persons (one researcher and 2-4 citizen volunteers), they sampled with swabs the
346 surfaces selected in Mieres; put the swabs in preservative fluid; maintained a rigorous
347 traceability of samples using unique codes; extracted RNA from the preserved samples; and
348 conducted RT PCR, as explained above.

349 The raw results of the survey are reported in Supplementary Table 2. One participant

350 did not fill in any questionnaire, and two participants did not answer Questionnaire 1 before
351 the experience (7.6% of missing data in Questionnaire 1 and 2.5% in Questionnaire 2).

352 Results of Questionnaire 1 showed that the perceived knowledge gains (maximum score
353 of 4) augmented significantly after this citizen science experience (Figure 2): from a mean of
354 2.92 (SD 0.77) before the experience to 3.5 (SD 0.72) for the knowledge about SARS-CoV-2
355 virus transmission ways ($t = 3.35$ with $p = 0.001$); from 3.1 (SD 0.64) to 3.8 (SD 0.49) for
356 protection measures ($t = 4.73$ with $p \ll 0.001$); and from 3.78 (SD 0.48) to 3.97 (SD 0.16) for
357 the perceived importance and adherence to hand hygiene ($t = 2.36$ with $p = 0.02$). These results
358 confirmed the expectations of Hypothesis *b* about the increase of skills against the pandemic
359 following exposure to real scientific facts.

360 Regarding volunteers' satisfaction with this citizen science experience, results of
361 Questionnaire 2 showed that even though most participants (87%) had no previous experience
362 in molecular biology, all of them considered the experience totally satisfactory (mean = 5 for
363 a maximum of 5, SD = 0), and felt that they had acquired new useful knowledge to face the
364 pandemic (mean = 4.8, SD = 0.4) (Supplementary Table 2).

365

366

367 **4. Discussion**

368 The results obtained in this study, originated from a joint work of citizen volunteers and
369 researchers, demonstrate the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA on urban surfaces outdoors in
370 sunny days. Similar positivity rates were found outdoors in other countries using much larger
371 samples (Abrahao et al., 2021; Harvey et al. 2021). Perhaps the main novelty of our study in
372 this regard is the occurrence of positives only in sunny summer days, something not expected
373 given the fragility of this virus at high temperatures and when exposed to sunlight (Eslami and
374 Jalili, 2020).

375 Indeed, positive virus tests are also found in indoor surfaces that are frequently touched
376 (e.g. Guo et al., 2020) and located in areas more frequented by patients with COVID-19 (Zhou
377 et al., 2020; Orenes-Piñero et al. 2021), like a corridor for patients, the intensive care unit, and
378 an undressing room, including a public sanitizer dispenser (Razzini et al., 2020). However,
379 some of those rates (Guo et al., 2020; Orenes-Piñero et al., 2021; Razzini et al., 2020) were not
380 significantly higher than those found in our study, not allowing a full support of our Hypothesis
381 a; only was supported when our results were compared with those of Zhou et al. (2020) in the
382 middle of the pandemic peak. The small number of fomite samples analyzed in this citizen
383 science initiative is a limitation of our study. However, although our sample size was small,
384 taking into account that it was collected from outdoor spaces, in summer and in a moment of
385 controlled pandemic, our results should be taken seriously as a signal of public urban furniture
386 as potential, likely ephemeral but not negligible, virus carriers.

387 With the method here employed we have detected RNA, and we cannot say it
388 corresponds to integer, viable viruses. Dowell et al. (2020) did not find viable virus on hospital
389 fomites. However, Goldman (2020) found a window of 1-2 hours for the transmission of viable
390 viruses from fomites: if an infected person coughs or sneezes on a surface, and someone else
391 touches that surface soon after, there will be a chance of virus transmission; and Zhou et al.
392 (2020) found it on inanimate surfaces up to 28 days after discharge of patients with COVID-
393 19. Although the presence of RNA of the virus in urban furniture does not determine the
394 infectivity, detecting viral RNA in an item indicates the shedding of the virus (Razzini et al.,
395 2020). Therefore, although the RNA found is likely a trace of viruses and it does not necessarily
396 belong to integer virus particles, a precautionary approach should be adopted. Caution could
397 be recommended with sanitizer dispensers, favoring touchless systems. On the other hand, the
398 occurrence of virus RNA on a slide cannot be automatically interpreted as transferred from
399 children, because childcare persons also touch the playground furniture. Modeling studies of

400 COVID-19 predict that school closures would have much less effect in prevention of deaths
401 than playground closure (Viner et al., 2020). Whether children or childcare persons were the
402 carriers, our results emphasize the need of periodical disinfection of children playgrounds for
403 a safer enjoyment of these public spaces.

404 Another main novelty of this study was the citizen science approach adopted, with
405 citizen volunteers directly involved in the scientific process of sampling and in the molecular
406 work, being the the process of hypotheses verification developed by the researchers and
407 transferred finally to the citizen volunteers. Other citizen science studies of COVID-19
408 employed online approaches (Sadicovic et al., 2020; Ulahannan et al., 2020), in line with
409 lockdowns in the moments of emergency, but our study was conducted when some mobility
410 was possible after the first wave in Spain. In our study, Hypothesis b was fully supported from
411 the data. The volunteers acquired new knowledge that they considered important to fight the
412 pandemic, being thus empowered after the citizen science experience. A high satisfaction with
413 the experience of volunteering for this project was another important and significant result. A
414 strong message of co-creation is that, at the interface of science and practice, the interests of
415 both practitioners and academics have equal weight and benefits (Skipper and Pepler, 2020).
416 The benefit for the practitioners (in this case, citizen volunteers) here was principally the
417 acquisition of a better preparation to face COVID-19. From the academic side, this study was
418 conceived with volunteers, and their knowledge about the use of the most frequented urban
419 locations was essential for this project. Thus, comparable benefits were gained by academics
420 and volunteers.

421 Volunteering plays an increasingly important role in modern society, and citizen
422 science should take into account the satisfaction of the volunteers that helps them to adhere to,
423 feel motivated, and be retained in a project (e.g. West and Pateman, 2016). Provenzi and
424 Barello (2020) argue that this pandemic is changing our lives in all aspects, including the way

425 science presents its researches and advances; towards a new form of participatory and
426 collaborative approach to research, they support that *the partnership among citizens, clinicians*
427 *and scientists is no longer deferrable and the year 2020 appears to be a point of no return to*
428 *plan the science of the future*. Our study could open new perspectives in the ways of
429 approaching science to the general public, for example, through the involvement of small
430 groups in projects that benefit both professional and citizen volunteers, as in the present case.

431 From the technical side, the ©Biomeme equipment and app used in this study have been
432 successfully employed to quantify the biopollutant New Zealand mudsnail *Potamopyrgus*
433 *antipodarum* from environmental DNA in a river in Michigan (Thomas et al., 2019), and canine
434 distemper virus in wild raccoons of New York and Austrian wildlife (Tomaszewicz Brown et
435 al., 2020). Our results confirm its utility in SARS-CoV-2 environmental RNA, although the
436 level of sensitivity here found was lower than that found by Thomas et al. (2019) for DNA (21
437 copies per reaction). Other methods are much more sensitive, being able to detect even less
438 than one copy of SARS-CoV-2 per μl in surfaces (e.g. 0.17 copies/ μl in Santarpia et al., 2020).
439 However, the rapidity of the process and easy use in situ of this portable equipment
440 compensates its lower sensitivity found in the present study.

441

442

443 **5. Conclusions**

444 In conclusion, this study demonstrates the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in objects that are
445 part of public urban furniture, located outdoors and in good weather conditions, using a user-
446 friendly methodology and a portable qPCR machine. Results suggest that there is a not
447 negligible risk of virus transmission in open environments through anthropogenic fomites. It
448 also shows how citizen volunteers can help to detect potential environmental reservoirs of
449 disease agents like SARS-CoV-2 from RNA analysis, while working in total security in

450 collaboration with researchers. From the survey amongst the volunteers of the study, the final
451 message is that ordinary citizens involved in COVID-19 research, following adequate training
452 and safety protocols, feel empowered while valuably co-creating knowledge with researchers.

453

454 **CRedit authorship contribution statement**

455 AA, ED and EGV designed the citizen science protocol. ED led citizen recruitment. AA and
456 EGV were in charge of the practical learning of the citizens. AA and SF developed the
457 laboratory work. EGV wrote the initial manuscript. All authors reviewed and improved the first
458 manuscript. All authors approve the submission and publication.

459

460 **Declaration of competing interest**

461 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships
462 that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

463

464 **Acknowledgments**

465 Study funded by the EU European Open Science Cloud within the fast-track co-creation
466 funding program for COVID-19, Grant 116. And by The City Council of Mieres (FUO-393-
467 20).

468 We are immensely grateful to all the citizens that collaborated in sampling and lab tasks: Eva
469 M. Fernández Alonso, Marina Martínez García, Beatriz Tuñón González, Elena Martínez,
470 Daniel José Guadalupe, Hermelinda Lebrato Fernández, Andrea Ribas Álvarez, Ana
471 Fernández, Raquel Gutiérrez González, Yaiza Sante Gutiérrez, Jairo Aitor Antón González,
472 Marco González, Mary Fernández Romero, José M. Prieto Álvarez, Belén Marqués, Omar
473 Prieto Santamarta, Marco Alejandro Santín Santos, Raul-Jovino López Pola, Manuel Elviro

474 Martínez Fernández, Miguel Ángel Martín Martínez, Beatriz Vicente Bernardo, César
475 Estébanez, M. Jesús Guadalupe, Alfredo Merchante Olea, Mercedes Fernández Escobedo, Ana
476 M. Sinisterra, Victoria de la Fuente Prieto, Paola Matilla, Jesús González Aizpurúa, M. Luz
477 Vila Vicente, Beatriz Ibáñez, Beatriz Rodríguez Álvarez, Beatriz García Sánchez, Santiago
478 Fernández González, Celia Fernández Martín, Carmen M. Rodríguez González, Félix
479 Rodríguez, Gelu Armesto Conde, José Antonio Rubio Arconada. The City Council of Mieres
480 supported this study, economically (FUO-393-20) and helping with the call for volunteers. Our
481 thanks to Dr. Jose Antonio Boga for RNA samples of COVID-19 patients. Thanks to Aida
482 Dopico for proofreading the manuscript.

483

484

485

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612 **Table 1.** Baseline subtracted relative fluorescence found for the SARS-CoV-2 markers
 613 *ORF1ab* and *Spike* gene after 45 cycles of RT-PCR from different concentrations of synthetic
 614 RNA of the virus, and from RNA extracted from mucosa of two COVID-2 patients. Positive
 615 amplifications are marked with an asterisk (cycle quantification value C_t in parenthesis). C_t of
 616 RNA process control oscillated between 23.6 and 39.7 in these assays.

617

RNA sample	<i>ORF1ab</i>	<i>Spike</i> gene
3.6 copies/ μ l	-5.9	2.2
7.2 copies/ μ l	-8.9	-11.5
9 copies/ μ l	-8.9	-3.2
10.8 copies/ μ l	-14.5	-65.2
18 copies/ μ l	-7.8	13.2
36 copies/ μ l	39.3	382 * (35.3)
150 copies/ μ l	2196.6 * (32.15)	4799.7 * (29.96)
300 copies/ μ l	1733.7 * (33.07)	6127.5 * (28.82)
Patient 1	1411.4 * (25.62)	1658.7 * (23.58)
Patient 2	1210.5 * (28.47)	1586.9 * (26.59)

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621 **Table 2.** Samples analyzed, type of fomite and material, and weather conditions during
622 sampling. The two first digits in sample codes indicate the sampling team. Baseline subtracted
623 relative fluorescence found for the SARS-CoV-2 markers *Orflab*, *Spike* gene and the PCR
624 control after 45 cycles of qPCR in each sample. C_t in parenthesis in positive amplifications.
625 SARS-CoV-2 positive results are in bold.

626

Sample	Fomite	Material	Weather	ORF1ab	Spike gene	PCR control
1.1.7	Church bench	Wood	Drizzly	1.9	164.2	3820.3 (28.5)
1.1.13	Doorknob	Wood	Drizzly	47.8	5.8	2950.3 (31.5)
1.2.7	Ticket machine	Metal	Drizzly	17.5	194.6	3269.1 (30.4)
1.2.10	Trash container	Metal	Drizzly	6.5	162.3	2919.2 (31.9)
1.3.1	Playground swing	Rope	Drizzly	10.4	1.04	3185.9 (31.4)
1.3.10	Vendor machine	Metal	Drizzly	12.5	29.6	3464.3 (29.2)
2.1.2	Vendor machine	Glass	Rainy	7.7	5.7	2906.2 (33.2)
2.1.3	Door handle	Metal	Rainy	33.8	1.5	2802.9 (33.1)
2.2.8	Cash machine	Metal	Rainy	29.8	158.8	2826.04 (33.7)
2.2.10	Railing	Metal	Rainy	19.4	75.6	5.9
2.3.1	Park bench	Wood	Rainy	5.9	9.1	2975.8 (34.2)
2.3.2	Counter	Metal	Rainy	0.27	8.3	0.02
3.1.3	Vendor machine	Metal	Cloudy	14.6	84.6	2991.6 (33.4)
3.1.9	Railing	Metal	Cloudy	30.9	12.03	2925.8 (29.8)
3.2.5	Trash container	Plastic	Cloudy	18.5	82.5	2335.5 (36.4)
3.2.6	Cash machine	Metal/Glass	Cloudy	0.4	15.7	11.7
4.1.5	Playground slide	Wood	Sunny	4.7	217.8 (40.3)	2967.9 (29.6)
4.1.11	Ticket machine	Metal	Sunny	4.8	138.5	2877.7 (29.8)

4.2.3	Sanitizer dispenser	Plastic	Sunny	5.6	241.5 (39.5)	3059.8 (30.1)
4.2.10	Railing	Metal	Sunny	4.5	106.5	2639.2 (30.3)

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631 **Table 3.** Comparison of studies that use eRNA for SARS-Cov-2 detection on different

632 surfaces. Country where the study took place, rate of positivity obtained, genetic markers

633 employed, criteria for samples to be considered positive, type of surfaces sampled and

634 reference.

635

COUNTRY	RATE OF POSITIVITY	MARKERS USED	SAMPLES CONSIDERED POSITIVE	TYPE OF SURFACES	REFERENCES
USA	8.3% (29/348)	E Sarbeco and CDC N1	At least one of the triplicates amplified with N1 or E.	High-touch surfaces in a community setting-Massachusetts.	Harvey et al. 2021
Brazil	5.25% (49/933)	CDC N1 and N2	When both markers are positive.	Public surfaces in a densely populated urban area.	Abrahao et al. 2021
China	26.6% (17/64)	ORF 1 ab and N	One of the two targets is positive.	Different surfaces from intensive care unit and a general COVID-19 ward-Wuhan	Guo et al. 2020
UK	52.3% (114/218)	E Sarbeco	Two replicates are positive	Healthcare setting during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in London	Zhou et al. 2020
Spain	5.56% (2/36)	RdRP, N and E Sarbeco	Three targets are positive	COVID-19 traps placed in the rooms of 6 COVID-19 patients.	Orenes-Piñero et al. 2021
Italy	24.% (9/37)	Not described (commercial kit)	Not described (commercial kit)	Different areas, contaminated, semi-contaminated and clean areas, from an Italian hospital.	Razzini et al. 2020
Spain	10% (2/20)	ORF 1ab, Spike	One of the two targets is positive	Public surfaces in a medium-size village of Spain.	This study

636

637 **Figure captions**

638 **Fig. 1.** Relative fluorescence plot constructed after baseline subtraction over 45 PCR cycles is
639 presented.

640 A) Slide in a public playground exhibiting significant amplification of SARS-CoV-2 RNA
641 (*Spike* gene).

642 B) Public sanitizer dispenser where significant amplification of SARS-CoV-2 *Spike* gene was
643 found in Mieres (Spain).

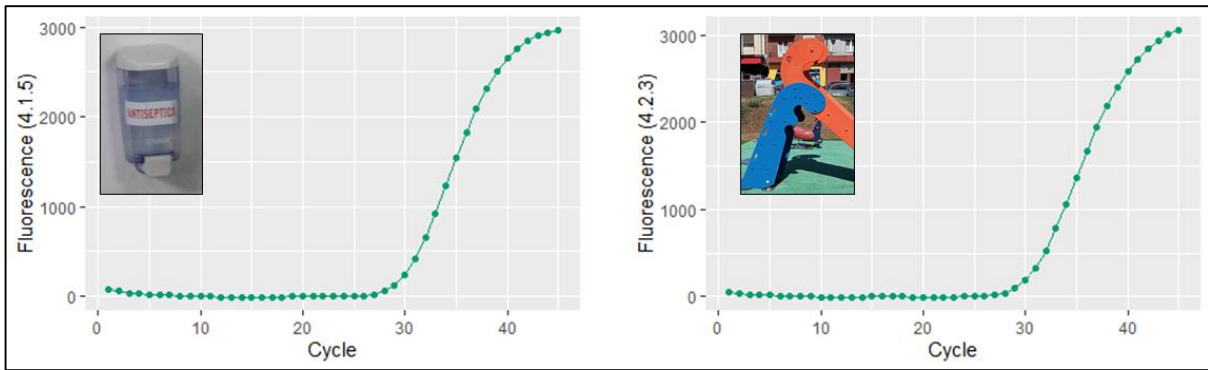
644 **Fig. 2.** Effect of this experience on the citizen volunteers involved. Mean perception of
645 knowledge about transmission of SARS-CoV-2, protection measures and efficacy of hand
646 hygiene for prevention, before and after the experience (scale 1-4). Standard deviation as
647 capped bars.

648

649 **Figure 1.**

650 **A)**

B)



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654 **Figure 2.**

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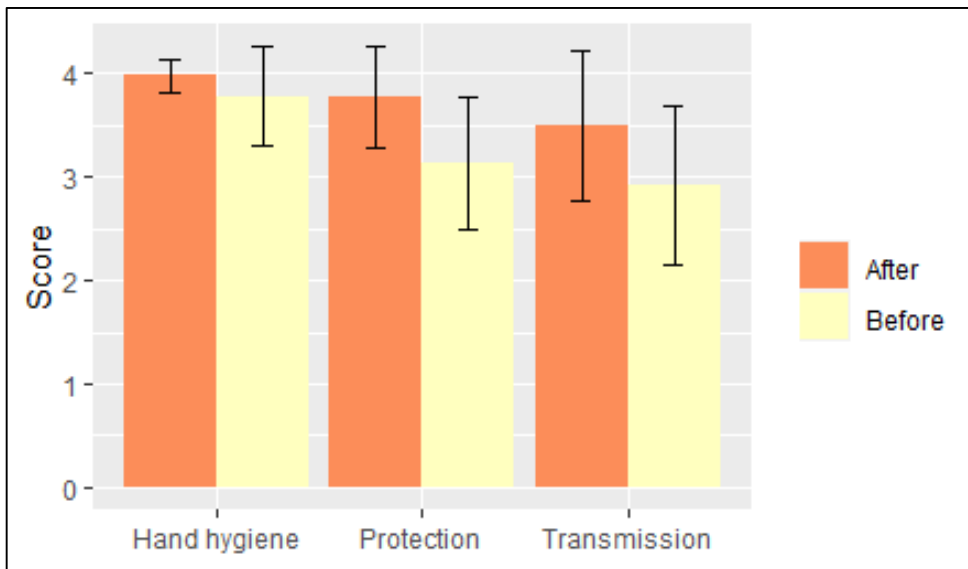
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670 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Picture showing the use of protective elements by citizens during
671 the training workshop.



678 **Supplementary Figure 2.** Pictures showing the protective clothes and equipment wore by
679 citizen volunteers during the field sampling.



687 **Supplementary Figure 3.** Picture showing the samples analysis developed by the citizens
688 and researchers, with all sterility measures during the molecular work.

689



690 **Supplementary Table 1.** Relative fluorescence (RFU) after subtracting the baseline obtained in RT PCR for the SARS-CoV-2 markers *ORF1ab*
691 (a), PCR control (b) and *Spike* gene (c) over 45 cycles, in RNA samples extracted from fomite surfaces. 1.1.7 and 2.3.1, benches; 1.2.7, 1.3.10,
692 2.1.2, 2.2.8, 3.1.3, 3.2.6 and 4.1.11, cash/ticket/vendor machines; 1.1.13 and 2.1.3, door knob/handle; 1.2.10 and 3.2.5, trash containers; 1.3.1
693 and 4.1.5, playground swing and slide; 2.2.10, 3.1.9 and 4.2.10, railings; 2.3.2, counter; 4.2.3, sanitizer dispenser.

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	PCR cycle																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1.1.7a	31,3	23,8	16,3	9,5	4,2	1,0	-0,6	-0,9	-0,3	0,8	1,9	2,9	3,8	4,9	6,2	7,9	9,9	11,9	13,9	16,1	18,5	21,0	23,5	25,9
1.1.7b	94,6	78,1	62,0	47,2	34,4	24,2	16,5	10,2	5,4	2,3	0,2	-2,2	-5,9	-10,5	-13,6	-13,7	-12,2	-10,9	-10,7	-11,8	-13,3	-13,9	-13,8	-13,7
1.1.7c	129,9	96,7	65,8	38,8	17,6	3,7	-2,6	-3,2	-0,6	2,7	4,8	5,1	3,9	2,3	1,8	2,8	4,9	6,8	7,9	7,9	7,3	6,5	6,5	6,5
1.1.13a	5,7	4,3	3,1	2,1	1,3	0,5	-0,1	-0,4	-0,5	-0,2	0,6	1,8	3,3	5,0	6,7	8,6	10,6	12,7	15,0	17,4	19,8	22,2	24,6	27,0
1.1.13b	32,7	29,3	25,2	20,6	16,4	12,9	10,0	7,3	4,2	0,8	-2,0	-3,5	-3,7	-3,7	-4,2	-5,0	-5,4	-5,8	-6,4	-7,1	-7,4	-7,3	-7,0	-6,7
1.1.13c	22,4	23,5	24,7	25,2	24,1	20,9	15,8	9,7	3,9	-0,3	-2,2	-2,5	-2,4	-2,5	-2,5	-2,5	-3,0	-4,3	-5,5	-6,5	-7,5	-8,9	-9,8	-10,7
1.2.7a	11,5	6,2	2,5	0,9	0,5	0,4	0,0	-0,3	-0,4	-0,2	0,0	0,4	1,1	2,1	3,0	4,0	5,1	6,2	7,4	8,8	10,7	12,9	15,3	17,7
1.2.7b	44,7	33,9	24,4	17,8	13,8	10,5	7,0	4,0	2,0	0,2	-1,4	-2,0	-1,6	-0,5	1,1	1,5	-0,1	-2,8	-5,9	-10,0	-14,4	-16,1	-13,8	-11,5
1.2.7c	71,9	47,6	30,6	22,3	19,0	16,0	11,7	7,1	3,3	0,4	-2,1	-4,9	-7,8	-9,7	-9,7	-7,9	-5,5	-4,0	-3,8	-4,2	-4,8	-4,7	-3,8	-3,5
1.2.10a	13,4	8,7	4,7	1,8	0,0	-0,9	-1,2	-1,2	-1,1	-1,0	-0,9	-0,8	-0,7	-0,6	-0,6	-0,6	-0,5	-0,4	-0,5	-0,7	-0,9	-1,0	-0,8	-0,6
1.2.10b	28,4	18,9	11,6	7,3	5,3	4,7	4,4	3,5	2,3	1,1	0,1	-0,9	-1,7	-1,8	-1,8	-1,8	-1,8	-1,8	-2,1	-2,7	-3,3	-4,0	-4,4	-4,4

1.2.10c	12,0	2,0	-4,1	-5,6	-4,7	-3,2	-2,0	-1,0	0,1	1,2	2,2	3,1	3,9	4,1	3,6	2,7	1,8	0,6	-1,2	-3,5	-5,6	-6,7	-6,0
1.3.1a	32,3	21,4	12,2	5,8	2,2	0,4	-0,2	-0,4	-0,2	0,4	1,7	3,6	5,9	8,0	9,2	10,1	11,1	12,3	13,4	14,0	14,3	14,1	13,4
1.3.1b	71,4	51,1	33,7	20,7	12,5	7,9	5,0	2,4	0,3	-1,1	-1,4	-0,3	1,6	2,3	0,8	-2,0	-3,9	-4,4	-4,6	-5,2	-6,0	-5,9	-4,4
1.3.1c	120,4	84,2	54,2	32,4	16,7	4,7	-4,7	-11,8	-16,1	-16,7	-13,1	-6,3	1,6	8,7	13,3	15,0	14,8	13,9	13,2	12,4	10,9	8,3	5,1
1.3.10a	9,8	6,4	3,2	0,5	-1,3	-2,5	-3,2	-3,5	-3,6	-3,7	-3,8	-3,9	-3,7	-3,3	-2,9	-2,8	-2,8	-2,6	-2,0	-0,8	0,6	2,1	3,5
1.3.10b	41,6	34,4	27,4	21,0	15,6	11,5	8,7	6,7	4,8	2,7	0,3	-2,4	-4,7	-5,4	-5,1	-5,4	-7,3	-9,3	-9,9	-9,0	-7,2	-5,6	-4,0
					-	-																	
1.3.10c	-11,6	-14,7	-16,4	-16,5	15,9	15,3	-14,3	-12,9	-11,7	-10,7	-9,7	-8,9	-8,0	-6,5	-4,8	-3,6	-2,9	-2,1	-0,2	3,3	8,0	12,5	15,4
2.1.2a	5,2	3,5	1,0	-1,7	-4,2	-5,7	-6,3	-6,5	-6,5	-6,3	-5,9	-5,3	-4,4	-3,3	-2,2	-1,1	0,2	2,2	4,8	7,3	8,8	9,1	8,3
2.1.2b	49,5	33,2	20,4	12,9	10,2	9,6	8,5	6,6	4,4	1,9	-0,1	-1,2	-2,5	-4,6	-7,5	-10,1	-10,3	-7,6	-3,3	0,1	1,1	0,1	-2,0
2.1.2c	71,3	60,7	49,0	36,8	25,8	16,9	9,8	3,7	-1,4	-5,6	-8,7	-11,2	-13,4	-15,3	-16,6	-16,4	-13,7	-8,2	-1,2	-5,0	-9,0	11,5	13,2
2.1.3a	18,6	12,5	7,5	4,0	1,8	0,5	-0,1	-0,4	-0,4	-0,1	0,5	1,3	2,1	3,1	4,1	5,3	6,9	8,9	11,4	14,1	16,7	19,0	21,0
2.1.3b	55,2	39,9	27,8	19,7	14,9	11,9	9,9	7,6	4,7	1,5	-0,6	-1,8	-2,4	-3,2	-4,2	-5,6	-7,4	-9,0	-9,8	-9,4	-8,2	-6,1	-3,7
2.1.3c	92,4	72,5	56,3	44,9	36,6	29,8	24,0	18,3	12,2	5,7	-0,2	-5,1	-9,0	-12,1	-14,5	-16,7	-18,3	-18,4	-16,8	-14,3	-11,3	-7,8	-3,0
2.2.8a	9,3	7,4	5,4	3,4	1,7	0,5	-0,1	-0,4	-0,4	0,0	0,5	1,2	2,2	3,5	4,8	6,1	7,5	9,1	11,1	13,2	15,5	17,7	19,5
2.2.8b	52,3	42,0	32,3	23,4	16,3	12,5	11,3	10,2	7,4	3,0	-1,5	-3,8	-3,5	-2,5	-2,9	-4,9	-7,2	-8,4	-8,8	-9,1	-9,7	-10,2	-9,5
2.2.8c	85,6	65,9	48,9	36,1	26,9	20,1	14,4	8,9	3,6	-0,7	-3,6	-5,4	-6,5	-7,3	-8,0	-8,6	-9,1	-9,3	-8,9	-7,9	-6,8	-5,6	-3,8
2.2.10a	9,2	6,0	3,4	1,7	0,9	0,4	0,0	-0,2	-0,2	-0,2	-0,1	0,1	0,3	0,6	1,0	1,5	2,0	2,6	3,4	4,5	5,8	7,5	9,2
2.2.10b	41,3	32,1	24,6	19,3	15,2	12,0	9,6	8,2	6,7	4,7	2,3	0,2	-1,6	-3,0	-3,5	-3,2	-3,2	-3,8	-4,5	-4,6	-4,6	-5,8	-7,3
2.2.10c	7,9	1,5	-2,4	-3,3	-2,5	-1,3	-0,6	0,0	0,9	1,6	1,4	0,3	-0,9	-1,4	-0,7	1,5	4,7	8,1	11,4	15,0	19,4	24,3	28,3
2.3.1a	1,9	2,2	2,1	1,5	0,6	-0,2	-1,0	-1,4	-1,7	-1,8	-1,8	-1,8	-1,8	-1,9	-2,2	-2,4	-2,2	-1,8	-1,5	-1,1	-0,4	1,1	3,1
2.3.1b	19,7	21,5	20,5	17,8	15,4	13,9	12,6	10,6	7,6	3,9	0,6	-1,3	-1,9	-1,8	-1,9	-2,6	-4,3	-7,7	-12,5	-16,5	-17,1	-14,1	-9,5
2.3.1c	21,9	25,5	28,2	29,1	28,3	26,0	22,5	18,1	13,5	9,3	5,5	2,3	-0,4	-3,0	-5,8	-9,1	-12,7	-16,0	-18,5	-18,7	-15,4	-9,9	-5,1
2.3.2a	29,2	21,1	14,4	9,5	6,2	4,1	2,8	2,2	1,9	1,5	1,2	0,8	0,4	0,0	-0,5	-0,8	-1,1	-1,5	-1,9	-2,2	-2,4	-2,6	-2,0

2.3.2b	49,2	34,5	22,6	14,1	8,4	4,6	2,5	1,5	1,0	0,9	1,1	1,7	2,1	1,9	1,5	1,2	1,3	1,3	0,7	-0,4	-1,2	-1,6	-1,9
2.3.2c	69,1	40,9	18,4	3,6	-4,3	-6,5	-4,5	-0,7	2,9	5,2	6,8	7,8	8,2	7,4	5,9	4,0	2,4	1,2	0,2	-0,6	-1,5	-2,2	-2,8
3.1.3a	6,4	5,2	3,8	2,4	1,1	0,3	-0,2	-0,2	0,0	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,5	0,9	1,6	2,4	3,4	4,6	5,9	7,1	8,1	8,5
3.1.3b	25,7	22,5	19,2	15,4	11,6	8,7	7,4	6,7	5,0	2,6	0,5	-0,8	-1,5	-2,0	-2,3	-2,6	-3,2	-4,2	-5,6	-7,4	-8,8	-8,9	-7,5
3.1.3c	32,3	22,0	13,3	7,0	2,9	0,5	-0,4	-0,3	0,0	0,0	-0,1	0,3	1,7	4,1	7,2	10,4	13,6	17,2	21,3	25,4	29,2	33,6	38,8
3.1.9a	75,4	61,1	48,5	38,7	31,9	27,3	23,9	21,1	18,3	15,1	11,4	7,3	2,5	-2,2	-5,9	-8,2	-9,4	-10,1	-10,5	-10,6	-10,7	-11,1	11,8
3.1.9b	86,4	60,1	38,8	24,1	15,4	11,6	11,5	13,5	15,0	14,3	10,7	4,4	-3,5	-11,1	-15,9	-17,6	-17,6	-16,7	-15,6	-14,9	-15,2	-15,8	15,5
		159,	112,																				
3.1.9c	218,4	9	3	80,5	62,1	51,2	44,0	39,0	34,6	29,6	22,6	12,5	-0,4	-12,6	-20,0	-21,6	-19,4	-16,0	-12,9	-11,5	-12,5	-16,1	21,3
3.2.5a	-3,5	-1,7	-0,5	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,5	0,7	1,1	1,8	2,5	3,0	3,8
3.2.5b	3,8	2,1	1,7	3,1	4,6	4,7	3,7	2,4	1,1	0,9	2,2	3,8	4,0	2,7	1,2	0,1	-1,0	-2,2	-2,8	-2,7	-2,5	-3,5	-6,1
3.2.5c	-39,7	-29,7	-20,9	-14,2	-9,3	-5,9	-3,7	-2,9	-2,3	-0,8	1,7	4,0	5,2	5,0	4,0	2,7	1,6	0,6	-0,4	-0,9	-0,9	-0,9	-1,0
3.2.6a	61,4	53,9	46,4	39,2	32,5	26,6	21,2	15,5	9,3	3,1	-2,4	-6,6	-9,2	-10,6	-11,1	-11,1	-10,7	-10,3	-10,0	-9,8	-9,6	-8,9	-7,0
		109,	100,																				
3.2.6b	117,1	8	4	88,8	76,1	62,9	49,2	35,3	22,0	10,1	-0,3	-9,2	-16,4	-21,0	-22,6	-21,9	-20,2	-18,6	-17,9	-18,5	-20,1	-21,8	22,3
		258,	239,	215,	188,	157,	122,																
3.2.6c	274,6	6	4	9	3	1	5	86,0	50,3	17,9	-9,2	-30,4	-45,0	-53,2	-56,1	-56,2	-55,5	-54,9	-54,1	-52,7	-50,3	-46,8	42,7
4.1.5a	49,7	39,7	29,9	21,1	13,9	8,6	5,0	2,6	1,1	0,1	-0,8	-1,6	-2,4	-3,0	-3,4	-3,5	-3,5	-3,7	-3,9	-4,2	-4,2	-3,7	-2,8
4.1.5b	78,4	57,9	40,4	27,4	19,0	14,2	11,2	8,5	5,5	1,6	-2,6	-6,4	-9,0	-10,1	-10,1	-9,8	-8,7	-6,2	-3,1	-0,8	-0,1	-1,0	-2,9
		124,																					
4.1.5c	160,4	0	89,4	59,6	37,0	21,6	11,2	4,2	-0,6	-3,6	-5,5	-6,7	-7,1	-6,7	-5,9	-5,5	-5,9	-6,4	-6,3	-5,6	-4,0	-1,6	1,0
4.1.11a	7,2	5,8	4,5	3,2	1,9	0,8	0,0	-0,6	-1,0	-1,3	-1,4	-1,5	-1,5	-1,5	-1,5	-1,6	-1,5	-1,3	-1,1	-0,9	-0,7	-0,5	0,0

4.1.11b	6,0	5,3	5,5	6,9	9,2	11,3	11,3	7,7	1,4	-4,8	-8,2	-8,9	-7,4	-4,1	-0,2	1,9	0,6	-2,9	-5,7	-6,1	-4,0	-1,8	-1,3
4.1.11c	-1,7	-2,9	-4,1	-4,8	-4,1	-2,1	0,2	1,8	2,2	1,8	1,0	0,2	-0,6	-1,2	-1,3	-0,8	-0,4	-0,9	-2,0	-2,5	-1,6	0,2	2,3
4.2.3a	11,4	11,6	11,1	9,6	7,4	5,0	3,0	1,5	0,3	-0,6	-1,3	-1,8	-2,2	-2,7	-3,2	-3,6	-3,5	-3,1	-2,6	-2,2	-1,8	-1,6	-1,3
4.2.3b	55,3	36,8	24,5	18,4	14,3	10,3	7,2	4,8	1,7	-2,2	-5,7	-7,9	-8,3	-5,4	-0,3	2,9	1,9	-0,7	-2,2	-2,6	-3,6	-4,4	-3,3
4.2.3c	57,4	59,9	57,7	49,4	37,2	24,6	14,3	6,9	1,5	-2,6	-5,8	-8,1	-9,8	-11,0	-11,4	-10,8	-9,3	-7,7	-6,3	-4,8	-2,5	1,0	5,2
4.2.10a	0,9	-0,7	-1,8	-2,1	-1,9	-1,6	-1,3	-1,3	-1,1	-0,9	-0,6	-0,3	-0,1	0,0	0,2	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,6	0,4	0,2	-0,1
4.2.10b	6,5	8,1	8,6	7,3	4,5	1,8	0,0	-0,7	-0,4	0,6	1,9	2,9	2,8	1,7	0,2	-1,3	-2,8	-3,8	-3,8	-3,0	-2,4	-2,0	-1,7
					-	-																	
4.2.10c	-34,5	-29,5	-24,9	-20,8	17,0	12,9	-8,7	-4,7	-1,1	2,2	5,0	6,7	6,9	5,9	4,4	3,5	3,3	3,7	4,0	3,5	1,7	-1,4	-4,0
Continued																							
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	
1.1.7a	26,1	28,8	31,2	33,0	33,5	32,8	31,2	29,2	27,0	24,7	22,2	19,6	16,9	14,4	12,1	10,2	8,5	6,8	5,2	3,7	2,6	1,9	
					138,	253,	416,																
1.1.7b	-11,3	-1,7	21,4	65,0	7	0	6	631,3	890,6	1182,8	1493,6	1809,3	2116,9	2406,7	2674,9	2920,7	3139,9	3327,7	3484,1	3613,8	3723,2	3820,3	
1.1.7c	6,4	7,8	10,6	14,1	16,3	14,3	6,0	-7,7	-23,2	-37,9	-51,5	-64,8	-77,3	-88,3	-98,0	-107,4	-116,7	-126,1	-135,7	-145,4	-155,0	-164,2	
1.1.13a	27,3	29,8	32,0	33,7	35,1	36,2	37,1	37,9	38,8	39,6	40,4	41,0	41,6	42,2	42,9	43,6	44,3	45,1	45,9	46,7	47,3	47,8	
1.1.13b	-5,8	-3,6	-0,5	3,7	11,2	28,3	65,4	137,1	258,6	440,9	685,7	980,5	1302,3	1624,9	1927,1	2194,6	2419,7	2600,2	2737,6	2835,9	2902,5	2950,3	
1.1.13c	-9,3	-7,4	-4,6	-1,9	-0,3	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,2	0,4	0,5	0,7	1,1	1,7	2,1	2,4	3,0	3,6	3,7	3,7	4,3	5,8	
1.2.7a	17,6	19,5	20,9	22,0	23,1	24,1	25,0	25,3	25,1	24,4	23,4	22,3	21,2	20,5	20,2	20,1	19,9	19,5	19,0	18,4	17,9	17,5	
							151,																
1.2.7b	-8,3	-2,3	4,6	14,6	33,6	73,7	6	282,2	473,6	725,4	1027,5	1361,2	1702,3	2028,6	2324,8	2582,0	2795,2	2962,8	3087,5	3174,7	3231,3	3269,1	
1.2.7c	-1,1	2,1	6,0	10,7	16,3	22,4	28,8	36,3	46,0	58,6	73,6	90,1	106,7	122,5	137,5	151,3	163,8	173,9	181,4	186,8	191,0	194,6	
1.2.10a	-0,4	0,2	0,9	1,6	2,5	3,4	4,0	4,3	4,4	4,3	4,1	3,7	3,0	2,1	1,1	-0,1	-1,4	-2,6	-3,7	-4,7	-5,6	-6,5	

1.2.10b	-5,5	-5,5	-4,4	-1,1	6,5	22,5	54,0	111,7	209,6	361,2	572,7	838,1	1140,1	1455,2	1760,7	2039,3	2281,0	2482,1	2641,9	2762,4	2850,4	2919,2
1.2.10c	-5,5	-3,8	-1,7	1,2	5,4	11,1	17,2	22,9	29,1	37,3	48,7	63,0	78,9	94,8	109,7	123,2	134,8	144,0	150,9	155,9	159,5	162,3
1.3.1a	12,5	11,4	10,5	9,8	9,2	8,3	7,4	6,4	5,4	4,4	3,4	2,2	1,0	-0,3	-1,3	-2,1	-2,9	-3,9	-5,4	-7,1	-8,8	-10,4
1.3.1b	-2,8	-2,9	-4,3	-3,1	5,3	26,6	70,3	150,9	283,8	477,6	728,9	1024,0	1343,0	1665,0	1971,1	2247,9	2488,7	2693,0	2862,6	2998,3	3102,4	3185,9
1.3.1c	2,0	-0,7	-2,7	-4,1	-5,2	-6,4	-7,5	-8,5	-9,2	-9,5	-9,1	-7,9	-5,7	-2,8	0,4	3,1	5,0	5,8	5,4	3,9	1,6	-1,0
1.3.10a	4,9	6,2	7,5	8,9	10,2	11,1	11,1	10,0	8,2	6,2	4,3	2,8	1,3	-0,1	-1,5	-2,9	-4,3	-5,7	-7,3	-8,9	-10,7	-12,5
					168,	302,																
1.3.10b	-3,3	0,2	10,2	34,1	82,9	7	1	488,1	724,0	998,4	1294,4	1594,8	1886,2	2160,4	2412,9	2641,2	2843,7	3019,6	3168,4	3289,8	3385,5	3464,3
1.3.10c	16,7	17,5	18,5	19,8	21,1	22,2	22,3	20,8	17,0	11,6	6,6	3,7	2,9	2,1	-0,4	-4,7	-10,1	-15,5	-20,1	-23,5	-26,5	-29,6
2.1.2a	8,4	8,0	7,7	7,3	6,9	6,2	5,2	3,9	2,5	1,4	0,5	-0,1	-0,8	-1,5	-2,3	-3,1	-4,1	-5,2	-6,3	-7,2	-7,6	-7,7
2.1.2b	-3,9	-4,4	-3,1	-0,8	2,55	8,0	18,5	45,0	90,9	178,9	318,7	517,5	771,1	1064,4	1376,9	1688,4	1981,3	2242,7	2465,9	2647,8	2790,0	2906,2
2.1.2c	14,2	14,2	13,3	11,9	10,3	8,5	6,2	3,9	1,9	0,2	-1,3	-2,4	-2,8	-2,4	-2,0	-2,2	-3,1	-4,1	-5,0	-5,4	-5,6	-5,7
2.1.3a	22,4	23,4	24,1	24,9	25,6	26,4	27,2	28,0	28,6	29,3	29,9	30,5	31,2	32,0	32,8	33,5	33,9	34,1	34,0	33,9	33,8	33,8
2.1.3b	-1,5	0,4	1,6	2,5	3,9	8,5	20,5	46,7	97,7	187,7	330,3	531,7	786,9	1079,0	1384,5	1680,9	1952,8	2191,3	2391,9	2555,1	2687,7	2802,9
2.1.3c	0,7	3,8	5,3	5,4	5,3	5,2	4,7	3,3	1,5	-0,0	-0,9	-0,7	0,3	1,8	3,3	4,2	4,2	3,5	2,5	1,6	1,3	1,5
2.2.8a	22,0	24,0	26,0	27,9	29,6	31,0	32,1	33,1	34,1	35,1	35,7	35,7	35,3	34,9	34,4	33,7	32,9	32,2	31,6	31,1	30,6	29,8
2.2.8b	-6,3	-2,7	-0,7	-0,2	1,5	5,5	12,8	27,7	59,1	119,8	223,5	381,9	599,7	871,2	1179,3	1500,0	1809,3	2088,5	2327,8	2525,8	2687,4	2826,0
2.2.8c	-0,9	2,6	6,0	9,1	12,1	15,5	19,0	22,5	26,2	30,7	37,0	45,7	56,7	70,0	85,0	100,5	115,3	128,3	139,4	148,0	154,2	158,8
2.2.10a	10,8	12,1	13,3	14,5	15,8	17,0	18,1	19,0	19,6	20,0	20,4	20,8	21,2	21,5	21,5	21,3	21,0	20,6	20,3	20,1	19,7	19,4
2.2.10b	-9,2	-8,8	-6,5	-3,5	-1,3	-0,7	-0,8	0,1	2,2	4,2	4,6	3,0	0,5	-1,9	-3,3	-3,0	-0,6	2,7	5,3	6,4	6,4	5,9
2.2.10c	32,6	36,1	40,0	44,2	48,6	52,8	56,6	59,8	62,7	65,1	66,9	68,1	68,9	69,9	71,1	72,5	73,9	75,2	76,2	76,8	76,6	75,6
2.3.1a	4,8	5,5	5,4	4,9	4,4	3,9	3,5	3,2	2,8	2,4	1,8	1,2	0,8	0,4	-0,2	-1,0	-1,8	-2,6	-3,3	-4,1	-5,0	-5,9
2.3.1b	-6,2	-4,8	-3,8	-2,3	-0,6	1,4	5,4	15,2	37,6	83,8	167,9	303,0	496,3	745,4	1038,6	1356,4	1677,6	1984,8	2267,5	2522,7	2755,5	2975,8
2.3.1c	-3,2	-3,7	-4,8	-5,1	-4,5	-4,0	-4,4	-5,4	-6,0	-5,6	-4,5	-3,0	-1,2	0,9	3,2	5,6	7,8	9,9	11,7	12,7	11,9	9,1

2.3.2a	-2,5	-2,4	-2,3	-2,1	-1,7	-1,3	-0,9	-0,5	-0,1	0,3	0,7	1,0	1,4	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,6	1,4	1,1	0,9	0,6	0,3
2.3.2b	-2,1	-2,3	-2,9	-4,3	-6,1	-7,6	-7,9	-7,1	-5,4	-3,4	-1,9	-0,8	0,0	1,1	2,8	4,4	5,4	5,8	5,7	5,1	3,3	0,0
2.3.2c	-3,7	-5,5	-7,5	-9,2	-9,9	-9,5	-8,1	-6,1	-4,4	-3,1	-2,2	-1,2	0,3	1,7	2,4	2,5	2,7	3,3	4,2	5,3	6,6	8,3
3.1.3a	9,3	9,3	9,1	8,7	8,1	7,4	6,7	5,9	5,0	4,0	2,9	1,8	0,5	-1,0	-2,7	-4,4	-6,1	-7,6	-9,2	-10,9	-12,7	-14,6
3.1.3b	-6,5	-5,3	-4,0	-2,5	-0,7	2,3	10,3	30,6	73,9	153,5	283,1	472,7	721,9	1017,2	1336,6	1657,7	1963,6	2242,8	2486,3	2688,7	2852,4	2991,6
3.1.3c	43,9	47,7	49,9	51,3	52,5	53,6	54,5	55,2	56,2	58,1	60,9	64,0	66,8	69,2	71,4	73,7	75,9	77,5	78,5	79,6	81,6	84,6
					-	-																
3.1.9a	-12,4	-13,1	-13,9	-15,1	16,4	17,4	-17,2	-15,1	-11,6	-8,5	-6,6	-5,7	-5,3	-4,7	-2,8	1,5	8,0	15,2	20,9	24,9	28,0	30,9
					129,	220,																
3.1.9b	-13,5	-7,3	5,0	27,5	66,6	0	6	344,1	495,2	664,3	842,9	1027,5	1216,5	1409,5	1608,5	1818,0	2039,5	2262,6	2468,2	2644,0	2792,5	2925,8
					-	-																
3.1.9c	-25,7	-28,7	-31,4	-34,3	37,0	39,0	-37,9	-31,3	-20,4	-10,2	-3,6	-0,5	-0,3	-0,8	2,7	14,9	35,3	55,2	62,0	50,3	23,3	-12,0
3.2.5a	3,6	3,8	3,9	3,6	3,1	2,4	1,5	0,5	-0,7	-2,1	-3,6	-5,1	-6,7	-8,2	-9,7	-11,0	-12,2	-13,4	-14,7	-16,1	-17,4	-18,5
3.2.5b	-8,4	-8,9	-8,1	-7,4	-7,3	-6,9	-5,2	-1,9	3,4	12,5	32,1	74,2	153,0	280,8	463,8	699,0	972,9	1265,9	1559,3	1838,2	2095,2	2335,5
3.2.5c	-1,1	-1,0	-0,5	0,1	0,4	0,3	-0,7	-2,6	-5,1	-7,5	-9,3	-10,4	-10,3	-7,8	-1,8	8,1	21,0	35,1	48,8	61,1	72,1	82,5
3.2.6a	-5,8	-3,4	-0,7	2,1	4,2	5,2	5,1	4,5	3,8	3,5	3,4	3,3	3,2	3,0	2,8	2,5	2,1	1,7	1,2	0,7	0,1	-0,4
3.2.6b	-20,9	-17,4	-12,4	-6,7	-2,0	1,4	3,8	5,1	5,1	4,4	3,7	3,7	4,4	5,6	7,2	8,7	9,2	9,0	8,7	8,9	9,9	11,7
3.2.6c	-35,9	-27,8	-17,6	-6,6	3,0	9,5	13,0	14,6	15,3	15,7	16,2	16,7	16,8	16,5	16,1	15,8	15,7	15,5	15,0	14,7	15,0	15,7
4.1.5a	-1,6	-0,3	0,9	2,0	2,9	3,4	3,7	3,9	4,0	4,1	3,9	3,5	2,8	2,0	1,1	0,4	-0,3	-0,9	-1,6	-2,5	-3,5	-4,7
					129,	247,																
4.1.5b	-2,2	0,8	7,6	23,1	58,7	2	5	420,8	649,8	925,8	1229,6	1537,7	1830,7	2094,9	2321,0	2505,8	2651,6	2763,1	2844,3	2900,0	2938,1	2968,0
4.1.5c	5,7	10,7	16,6	22,7	28,9	36,0	45,4	58,0	73,7	91,2	109,5	127,9	145,5	162,1	176,7	188,6	197,7	204,4	209,3	213,0	215,8	217,8
4.1.11a	0,8	1,9	2,9	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,0	3,8	3,3	2,7	2,1	1,6	1,2	0,8	0,2	-0,6	-1,5	-2,3	-2,9	-3,4	-4,0	-4,8

						112,	215,															
4.1.11b	-2,1	-1,2	4,7	19,9	51,9	7	6	371,5	583,2	842,9	1132,7	1431,0	1717,7	1978,4	2204,4	2392,6	2543,3	2658,8	2743,5	2803,5	2845,7	2877,7
4.1.11c	3,8	4,6	5,0	6,1	8,7	13,2	19,6	27,8	37,7	49,5	62,6	76,0	88,3	98,7	107,5	115,2	121,9	127,7	132,3	135,5	137,4	138,5
4.2.3a	-1,0	-0,5	0,2	1,3	2,9	4,7	6,1	6,4	6,1	5,4	4,6	3,4	2,1	0,9	0,0	-0,8	-1,5	-2,2	-2,8	-3,5	-4,5	-5,6
							184,															
4.2.3b	-0,9	1,1	3,9	13,8	39,7	92,1	2	328,0	527,6	776,9	1062,3	1364,6	1662,0	1937,2	2182,7	2396,5	2577,2	2725,5	2844,4	2936,5	3005,5	3059,8
4.2.3c	8,8	11,8	15,9	23,1	33,3	44,7	55,7	66,5	78,6	93,1	109,8	127,9	146,2	163,6	179,5	193,5	205,5	215,5	223,5	230,1	235,9	241,5
4.2.10a	-0,3	-0,3	-0,2	0,0	0,3	0,7	1,2	1,7	2,1	2,4	2,5	2,6	2,2	1,6	0,8	0,1	-0,5	-1,1	-1,7	-2,5	-3,4	-4,5
							155,															
4.2.10b	-1,6	-1,1	1,9	10,8	31,5	74,5	0	286,8	474,9	713,6	986,9	1272,9	1549,5	1799,1	2012,0	2186,0	2324,0	2430,0	2508,4	2564,5	2605,6	2639,2
4.2.10c	-6,3	-6,2	-4,9	-3,8	-3,2	-2,7	-1,1	3,1	11,0	22,9	37,6	53,1	67,2	79,1	88,4	95,4	100,7	104,8	107,5	108,5	108,1	106,5

696

697

698 **Supplementary Table 2.** Raw data of the survey passed to the volunteers. For easier visualization data were numerically ordered from the
699 answer to the first question column.
700

Participants		Questionnaire 1 - before experience			Questionnaire 1 - after experience			Questionnaire 2	
Age	Town	Virus transmission	Protection measures	Hand hygiene	Virus transmission	Protection measures	Hand hygiene	Satisfaction with the experience	Acquisition of useful knowledge
32	Mieres	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4
62	Oviedo	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4
61	Mieres	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
45	Mieres	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
43	mieres	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
62	Oviedo	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
57	Mieres	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
36	Oviedo	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
43	Mieres	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
36	Mieres	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
54	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
43	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	4
60	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
60	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
60	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
68	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
28	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
54	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
53	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	4
57	Mieres	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	4
20	Avilés	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
68	Oviedo	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5

68	Oviedo	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
70	Oviedo	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
37	Mieres	3	3	4	3	4	4	5	5
55	Mieres	3	3	4	3	4	4	5	5
22	Mieres	2	3	4	3	4	4	5	N/A
37	Mieres	2	3	4	3	4	4	5	5
61	Avilés	2	3	4	3	4	4	5	5
38	Mieres	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5
56	Mieres	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	5
20	Mieres	2	2	3	3	3	4	5	5
28	Mieres	2	2	3	3	3	4	5	4
45	Mieres	2	2	3	2	3	4	5	5
36	Oviedo	2	2	3	2	3	4	5	4
18	Mieres	1	2	2	2	3	4	5	5
54	Mieres	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	3	4	5	5
26	Avilés	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2	3	5	5

701

702

703

704 **Supplementary Annex 1.** Questionnaires employed in this study. Questionnaire 1 was filled
705 in before and after the citizen science activity, and Questionnaire 2 was filled in after the
706 activity.

707
708

709 **Questionnaire 1**

710
711

712 -----
713 **Collaborative science for the detection of environmental SARS-Cov2 from surfaces and**
714 **water in Mieres and Urbiés (May-October, 2020)**

715

715 **Personal information**

716

716 Age:

717

717 Town of residence:

718

719 **Please answer the following questions choosing one of the options (1 to 4, as 4: very**
720 **much; 3: quite a lot; 2: a little; 1: none)**

721

722 1. How much do you know about the following aspects of the SARS-Cov2 virus that
723 causes COVID-19?

724

725 1.1. About its transmission ways.

726

726 1.2. About the measures you can take to protect yourself from contagions.

727

728 2. How much importance do you give to hand hygiene for COVID-19 prevention?

729

730

730 -----

731

731 **Questionnaire 2**

732

733 **Being 5 “I totally agree” and 1 “ I totally disagree”, please rate between 1 and 5 the**
734 **following statements:**

735

736 1. I am satisfied with my experience as a citizen volunteer in this project.

737

737 2. I have acquired knowledge that is useful for me to face this coronavirus pandemic.

738

739

739 -----