1	Supplementary Material
2	Untangling The Environmental from The Dietary: Dust Does Not Matter
3 4 5 6	Methods
7	Controlled-food trials
8	The controlled-food trials were carried out at the Mourier farm (Limousin region,

9 France; agreement number B-87-176-01), under the supervision of the Centre Interrégional 10 deInformation et de Recherche en Production Ovine (CIIRPO) and the Institut de l'Elevage 11 (Idele). G.M. and D.G. who have official approval to carry out such procedures, designed 12 these trials. They were performed on domestic sheep (Ovis aries), using only ewes from the 13 Vendéen breed. All experiments were conducted on cull ewes, meaning sheep no longer 14 suitable for breeding and sold for meat. None of the experiments required the sheep to be 15 handled. Sheep had full access to foods with which they were familiar and none of them were 16 put down for the sole purpose of the study. As planned by the Mourier farm, cull ewes were 17 sold for meat after the 70 days experimentation. Due to sanitary and veterinary regulations in 18 the slaughterhouse, stomach content could not be sampled. All skulls and mandibles of ewes 19 were prepared and are stored at the IPHEP lab, CNRS and Université de Poitiers, France.

All of these ewes spent three months together in the very same grass-dominated pasture before the experiment started. Given that dental microwear is known to reflect the last few days or weeks of the dietary habits [1], it was assumed that their dental microwear signatures prior to beginning the controlled-food trials reflected a homogenous grazing signal [2]. A 5day period of adaptation to the diet was proposed. The ewes were kept inside a covered sheepfold and fed from July 15th to October 2nd 2014. The sheep were not kept on hay, which they would have eaten, but on dust-free wood shavings. Feeding troughs were covered with a

plastic film and cleaned out daily to avoid contamination. None of the ewes lost weight duringthe experiments.

29 Forty sheep were included in this study, divided into four groups of ten. Two 10-ewe 30 groups were fed on a red clover-dominated silage and the other two groups were fed on a 31 multispecific assemblage highly dominated by grasses. The red clover-dominated silage is 32 composed of 12% herbaceous monocots, mostly Lolium hybridum, and 88% herbaceous 33 dicots, including 72% of red clover *Trifolium pratense*. The second fodder is dominated by Poaceae with 92% herbaceous monocots, mostly Bromus hordeacus, Festuca arundinacea, 34 35 Guadinia fragilis, Holcus lanatus, Poa trivialis, and Anthoxanthum odoratum. Eight percent 36 of this silage is composed of herbaceous dicots, i.e. forbs. 37 The two sets of fodders were harvested from a 2.5 ha field heavily sown with red 38 clover (Trifolium pratense) in September 2013 and from a 1 ha 15 year old pasture that 39 underwent several phases of mechanical cutting and sheep grazing every year. In early July 2014, after 81 mm of precipitations spread over June 23th to July 5th, 2014, the two fields 40 41 were cut 10 cm above the ground to avoid including grit in the harvest. Also, due to the 42 precipitations that occurred, the harvest was expected to be free of air-born dust. This has 43 been double-checked by counting the phytoliths versus exogenous elements after 44 mineralization by incineration and acid attacks on the two fodders. More than 90 % of the 45 elements issued from the residues in both clover and grass fodders are indeed phytoliths. However, the weight of residues is larger for grasses than for clover. The harvest was bale-46 47 wrapped 24 hours after cutting in order to guarantee similar natural physical properties to the uncut plant throughout the controlled- food testing (percentage of dry matter about 50%). 48 49 Silica phytolith and cellulose contents expressed as percentages of dry matter weight for each

50 fodder, as well as toughness of red clover and of a set of grasses measured on fresh plants are

51 given in Tables S1 & S2 (see also Fig. S1).

The ewes had full access to the food. Ewes were given ~1.650 kg (dry matter weight)
of clover fodder and ~1.550 kg (dry matter weight) of grass fodder per day and per ewe.
These amounts were defined by giving large amounts of fodder and measuring how much the
ewes had consumed in 24 hours.

56 Every day, a load of dust was added to the fodder of one of the 10-ewe samples per 57 diet category (Table S1). Fodder and dust were placed in large troughs which were cleaned daily. For several days, the remaining dust was gathered and measured. This showed that 58 59 more than 90% of the dust load was ingested by the ewes. The quantity and the properties of the dust used in the controlled- food testing follow the study of Breuning Madsen & Awadzi 60 61 [3]. To our knowledge, this is the only study in inter-tropical latitudes quantifying the dust 62 deposits on vegetation. It was conducted in Ghana and aimed at quantifying such deposits due to the Harmattan winds blowing from the Sahara from November to March. The authors 63 64 sampled dust on carpets simulating vegetation at 1m, 3m and 7m above the ground at 65 different spots along a latitudinal transect. In this current study, we focus on simulating dust 66 accumulation in areas of high primary productivity with high concentrations of wildlife, and 67 not on more arid areas where dust accumulation would indeed be more important, but wildlife would also be scarcer. Also, we focus on simulating ungulates feeding on above ground plant 68 69 parts and not on species such as suids which forage on underground items with soil particles 70 [4]. Data for the Guinean savannahs in the Tamale region in Ghana were therefore chosen to 71 calculate the amount of exogenous particles to be added to the fodder. We use data collected 72 at 1m above ground. One month of dust accumulation represents on average 3.3 g/m², an 73 average calculated from 3 consecutive years. Ten ewes forage on approximately 40 m² a day. Consequently, the food was laden with 132 g of dust per 10-ewe sample to simulate the 74 75 amount of dust deposited by the Harmattan on a meadow in 30 days.

76 Preparation, Casting, Scanning

The skulls were prepared following standard procedures in osteological preparation [5]. Each tooth was carefully cleaned. The facet of interest is located on the disto-labial enamel band of the protoconid of one of the lower second molars (Fig 1). Molds are then made using a polyvinylsiloxane elastomer (Regular Body President, ref 6015 - ISO 4823, medium consistency, polyvinylsiloxane addition type; Coltene Whaledent). This product is known to be the most efficient one to replicate a given surface [6,7].

The molds are then placed under a Leica DCM8 confocal profilometer using white light confocal technology with a Leica 100× objective (Numerical aperture = 0.90; working distance = 0.9 mm). The center of the dental facet of interest was sampled (Fig 1). Surface elevations for each specimen were collected at a lateral (x, y) interval of 0.129 m with a vertical numerical step of 1 nm. For each specimen, a surface of $200 \times 200 \,\mu\text{m}$ (1550 × 1550 points; Fig 1) is scanned and treated through LeicaMap software (Fig 1).

89 Abnormal peaks, due to interferences with air bubbles within the silicone matrix, were 90 automatically erased with a batch algorithm computed on ImageJ software based on 91 mathematical morphological tools (Fig. S2). The original surface S_0 is modified using an opening procedure (combination of erosion and dilatation) with a radius of 9 pixels in order to 92 remove feature finer than 18 pixels (~2.0 μ m). The resulting surface S₁ is subtracted from the 93 original surface S₀. From this emerges a surface S₂, which contains abnormal peaks and the 94 95 slight elevation differences between the S_0 and S_1 that correspond to the acquisition noise and low scale features. S₂ is submitted to a threshold at $Z = 0.2 \mu m$ to select only the highest 96 97 features corresponding to abnormal peaks. Such a cut-off value was chosen by carefully identifying the slope change on a frequency histogram of Z values on S2. S₃ contains Z values 98 99 associated with threshold pixels, i.e., the abnormal peaks. The difference between the original 100 surface S₀ and S₃ generates the final surface S₄, free of abnormal peaks on which further 101 analyses are conducted. Such procedures generate surfaces that differ from any surfaces

102 treated by median denoising and gaussian filters which do not erase but partially attenuate the 103 abnormal peaks and remove low-scale features in conjunction with removing the noise. In the 104 present analysis, the abnormal peaks are totally erased from S_0 , the rest of the surfaces initial 105 S_0 and final S_4 being strictly identical. Also, this procedure is more efficient and replicable 106 than manual deletions.

107

108 Cellulose and phytoliths contents, dust load and Total Ingested Silica index

109 Samples of the clover and grasses fodders were dried and the proportion of cellulose 110 was quantified: 28.6 % (±2.0 %) of dry weight for the clover-dominated fodder and 28.3 % 111 $(\pm 2.1\%)$ of dry weight for the grass-dominated fodder. Samples of the clover and grasses 112 fodders were mineralized and content in Si (exogenous particles and silica phytoliths) was 113 then quantified by inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy. The residues of 114 clover and grass fodders after mineralization and acid attack were carefully checked to control 115 potential air-born dust pollution. In the clover fodder, more than 93 % of the particles larger 116 than 5 μ m were silica phytoliths, the rest being quartz grains. In the grass fodder, more than 117 91% of the particles larger than 5 µm were phytoliths. It is worth noting that in every residue, 118 micrometric scale clays were present but not counted. Results, given in percentage by dry 119 weight, were then normalized to obtain how much silica phytoliths one ewe ingested per day 120 using the total mass of fodder given per ewe (Table S4). This differed according the nature of the fodder (as dry weight; Clover=1650g/day/ewe; Grasses=1550g/day/ewe, Table S1). 121

The combination of X-ray diffraction, chemical element analysis and phase
quantification was applied to the dust. It was composed of 72% to 74% quartz grains and 18%
to 20% Mg-feldspaths. Clays represent less than 6% and Fe-oxides less than 1%. The dust
load was sieved to retain only grains below 100 μm. The mineralogical composition and grain
size are similar to the conditions met in the Harmattan windblown dust in Ghana [3]. The

Total Ingested Silica index is the sum of phytolith weight naturally contained in the plant
tissues cumulated with the quantity of exogenous dust added to the fodder during the trials
(Table S1).

130 **Toughness of the plants**

131 Several plants including aerial and underground organs with clumps of earth were 132 sampled at different locations in the fields from which fodders were harvested. Samples were 133 carried to the University of Poitiers where the measurements were performed. We measured 134 the fracture toughness, the ductility, and the ultimate tensile stress of the red clover (stems) 135 and several specimens of grasses (stems and leaves; Fig. S1). Mechanical behavior was 136 estimated using tensile tests. The length of the specimens was constant (identical strain rate to 137 limit any viscous effects) and their mean surface/diameters were estimated by averaging three points at three different positions. These tests have been performed using a Zwick Z0.5 testing 138 system fitted with a 50 N load cell (Table S2). The specimen were tested using a strain rate of 139 = 1.5×10^{-3} s⁻¹. The fracture toughness (J.m⁻³) represents the material s ability to absorb 140 141 deformation energy per unit volume before failure. This can be estimated qualitatively by 142 measuring the area under a stress ó strain curve obtained from a tensile test at low strain rate 143 [8]. The fracture toughness values are scattered within the same batch of plant items. 144 However, grass leaves have the lowest median fracture toughness while stems of clover show 145 the highest values. The ultimate tensile stress represents the force per unit surface required to 146 initiate the crack at the failure point. It is worth noting (Table S2) that the leaves of grasses 147 required much more force than the one required for stems of clover or grasses. However, the 148 ductility of grass leaves is much lower than the ductility of the stems of either clover or 149 grasses (Table S2). Sheep have to generate much more force to initiate cracks on grass leaves 150 than on the other items.

151 Data analysis on Dental Microwear Textures

152 The analyses were performed using the Scale-Sensitive Fractal Analysis using Toothfrax and Sfrax software (Surfract, www.surfract.com) following Scott et al. [9]. 153 154 Photosimulations of all of the 40 surfaces analyzed in this study are shown in Figure S3 and 155 individual textural parameters are given in Table S3. Four microwear variables are used in 156 this study (Table S4). Complexity (Asfc or Area-scale fractal complexity) is a measure of the 157 roughness at a given scale (min scale: 0.02 µm²; max scale: 7200 µm²). Heterogeneity of 158 complexity (HAsfc or heterogeneity of area-scale fractal complexity), quantifies the variation 159 of complexity observed between within scan. *HAsfc* is calculated through 81 cells. Anisotropy 160 (epLsar or exact proportion of length-scale anisotropy of relief) measures the orientation 161 concentration of surface roughness (calculated at the scale of 1.8 µm). Textural fill volume 162 (Tfv) does not depend on the surface shape but on its finer texture. Tfv is here estimated as the 163 difference between the total fill volume generated by cubes with square faces 2 µm per side 164 minus the structural fill volume generated by cubes with square faces 10 µm per side. All 165 variables have been described in further details in Scott et al. [9]. It has been shown that wild 166 grazing bovids tend to have lower values in Asfc, HAsfc and Tfv (less complex and less 167 heterogeneous textures) and higher in *epLsar* (more anisotropic textures) than browsing 168 antelopes [10]. It is worth mentioning here that the present ewe data set shows a reverse 169 pattern for the *Tfv* parameter. Grass-fed ewes have higher *Tfv* than clover-fed ones; the latter 170 groups simulating leaf browsing and not mixed- or fruit-browsing habits might be the source 171 of difference between the two studies. Statistical tests were then used in order to highlight 172 potential differences in dental microwear textural parameters between the dietary groups. As 173 textural parameters violated conditions for parametric tests, they were rank-transformed 174 before each analysis [11,12].

Two-way factorial ANOVAs (with diet and dust load as factors) for each parameter
were used to determine the sources of significant variation. Jackknife resampling techniques

were also used as a further investigation into the solidity of our results. The frequency of
significant p-values was reported. Any potential difference was then highlighted using the
combination of the conservative HSD test (Tukeyøs Honest Significant Differences) together
with the less conservative LSD test (Fisherøs Least Significant Differences; Fig 1; Table 1;
Table S4).

182 A species might be assigned to a dietary category based on a given parameter but plots 183 with another one when a second parameter is considered. Combining all of the parameters 184 into a set of linear combinations may offer some help in dietary classification. A principal 185 component analysis was performed on the four textural parameters and the 40 ewes without 186 an a priori classification. The first component of the analysis carries 46.9% of the variation 187 seen in the total sample (Table S5). One-way ANOVA highlights significant differences in 188 coordinates only along PC1 between the different ewe samples. Accordingly, coordinates 189 along the first component are taken to form the Wear Textural Index (WTI).

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222 Table S1: Silica and dust measurement. Bio-silica content, dust load and total ingested

Samples	Bio-silica Content (% of dry weight)	Bio-silica Content Total (g/ewe/day)	Dust Load (g/ewe/day)	Total Ingested Silica (g/ewe/day)
Clover - dust-free	0.496	8.184	0	8.184
Clover - dust-laden	0.496	8.184	13.2	21.384
Grass - dust-free	1.14	17.67	0	17.67
Grass - dust-laden	1.14	17.67	13.2	30.87

silica index depending on samples of ewes.

- **Table S2: Food mechanical properties.** Mean, median, standard deviation and extreme
- values of toughness $(J.m^{-3})$, ultimate tensile stress (Mpa), and ductility (%) of the most
- 228 dominant items that compose the fodders given to ewes.

		Toughness				
	Ν	m	median	SD	min	max
Grass leaves	29	23.95	22.28	12.79	3.88	54.99
Grass stems	18	44.84	25.46	38.12	10.30	137.42
Clover stems	30	61.86	53.46	32.79	7.30	145.06
			Ultima	te tensile	e stress	
	Ν	m	median	SD	min	max
Grass leaves	29	5.68	5.54	1.48	1.92	9.81
Grass stems	18	3.59	3.15	1.37	1.64	7.60
Clover stems	30	3.98	4.16	1.10	1.33	7.00
		Ductility				
	Ν	m	median	SD	min	max
Grass leaves	29	1.98	2.68	1.69	0.12	8.55
Grass stems	18	9.19	12.33	9.54	0.77	35.22
Clover stems	30	9.78	10.27	4.65	1.45	31.50

Table S3: Textural parameters for every single ewe. Asfc: Complexity, HAsfc:

heterogeneity of complexity, *epLsar:* anisotropy, *Tfv*: Textural fill volume.

Specimen	diet	dust	Asfc	epLsar (×10 ⁻³)	HAsfc(81 cells)	Tfv
Ovis10098	clover	dust-free	9.508	1.880	2.078	45190.7
Ovis11723	clover	dust-free	2.230	1.407	0.735	38011.8
Ovis20939	clover	dust-free	5.871	2.427	1.844	17082.1
Ovis31042	clover	dust-free	2.869	0.194	0.692	35435.8
Ovis70519	clover	dust-free	10.211	0.795	1.371	39398.3
Ovis80140	clover	dust-free	2.573	2.888	0.782	29384.0
Ovis80307	clover	dust-free	1.687	6.144	1.210	33563.9
Ovis08045	clover	dust-free	6.612	3.084	2.898	26618.7
Ovis80729	clover	dust-free	2.719	2.593	1.073	43456.5
Ovis90287	clover	dust-free	10.014	0.288	1.441	38607.4
Ovis10106	clover	dust-laden	3.731	0.859	0.924	45184.2
Ovis11707	clover	dust-laden	3.124	1.231	0.603	2253.4
Ovis20094	clover	dust-laden	4.839	1.226	0.807	36079.5
Ovis21376	clover	dust-laden	5.829	1.347	1.000	54650.4
Ovis70379	clover	dust-laden	2.484	3.548	0.713	43623.4
Ovis80147	clover	dust-laden	4.985	2.690	1.046	58144.3
Ovis80288	clover	dust-laden	2.148	2.570	1.042	19106.0
Ovis80748	clover	dust-laden	2.831	4.471	0.849	47413.1
Ovis90074	clover	dust-laden	2.403	3.168	0.900	25216.3
Ovis90206	clover	dust-laden	3.322	3.162	1.468	25151.3
Ovis10053	grass	dust-free	2.380	2.561	1.014	37644.9
Ovis11739	grass	dust-free	5.495	2.511	0.472	42303.3
Ovis20965	grass	dust-free	2.953	1.187	1.157	44859.6
Ovis31028	grass	dust-free	4.900	0.943	1.044	52264.9
Ovis70520	grass	dust-free	0.895	5.163	0.698	37887.4
Ovis07898	grass	dust-free	5.741	11.40	0.899	88990.3
Ovis80133	grass	dust-free	1.728	6.304	0.805	40075.4
Ovis80312	grass	dust-free	1.389	8.192	0.616	38029.6
Ovis80718	grass	dust-free	1.233	6.057	0.545	54016.8
Ovis90455	grass	dust-free	3.931	2.255	1.167	52713.6
Ovis00234	grass	dust-laden	1.133	5.104	0.619	40806.3
Ovis08043	grass	dust-laden	2.787	1.578	0.392	30823.6
Ovis12772	grass	dust-laden	0.872	7.718	0.441	37125.2
Ovis80356	grass	dust-laden	0.979	6.125	0.384	46173.0
Ovis90045	grass	dust-laden	1.220	8.338	0.453	49253.8
Ovis90256	grass	dust-laden	6.000	7.029	0.608	67754.3
Ovis90300	grass	dust-laden	2.144	6.230	1.069	59132.3
Ovis90730	grass	dust-laden	1.826	4.269	1.111	37926.1
Ovis90764	grass	dust-laden	2.755	3.122	1.832	54238.6
Ovis90814	grass	dust-laden	1.434	1.405	0.831	25113.0

237 Table S4: Pair wise multicomparisons tests. Synthesis of the posthoc tests resulting from

the Jackknife procedure and carried out on clover-fed, grass-fed, dust and dust-free groups.

Percentages represent the frequency of significant difference (p-value<0.05) over the 40

iterations. Above the diagonal: Tukey's Honest Significant Difference Test; below the

241 diagonal: Fisher's Least Significant Difference test.

Aste		Clov	ver	Grass		
Asjt		Dust-free	Dust-laden	Dust-free	Dust-laden	
Clover	Dust-free		0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	
Clover	Dust-laden	0.0%		0.0%	0.0%	
Grass	Dust-free	10.0%	0.0%		0.0%	
Glass	Dust-laden	100.0%	100.0%	2.5%		
onI sar		Clov	ver	Gr	ass	
epLsu		Dust-free	Dust-laden	Dust-free	Dust-laden	
Clover	Dust-free		0.0%	0.0%	82.5%	
Clovel	Dust-laden	0.0%		0.0%	0.0%	
Grass	Dust-free	20.0%	0.0%		0.0%	
Ulass	Dust-laden	100.0%	95.0%	0.0%		
HAsfc		Clov	ver	Grass		
		Dust-free	Dust-laden	Dust-free	Dust-laden	
Clover	Dust-free		0.0%	0.0%	90.0%	
Clovel	Dust-laden	2.5%		0.0%	0.0%	
Grass	Dust-free	75.0%	0.0%		0.0%	
Ulass	Dust-laden	100.0%	2.5%	0.0%		
Tfv		Clover		Grass		
		Dust-free	Dust-laden	Dust-free	Dust-laden	
Clover	Dust-free		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Dust-laden	0.0%		0.0%	0.0%	
Grass	Dust-free	77.5%	0.0%		0.0%	
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245 Table S5: Results of the Principal Component Analysis. The analysis is conducted with the

246 40 ewes without *a priori* diet assignation and with the four textural parameters (a:

Eigenvalues b: communities r and square communities r2 between variables and components).

248 An ANOVA (c) on ranked individual score is performed on PC1 to PC3 to test significant

249 differences between samples of ewes (see also Table 2 in text).

a)				
Component	Eigenvalue	% variance	Û Eigenvalues	Û variance
1	1.88	46.89	1.88	46.89
2	1.27	31.68	3.14	78.58
3	0.59	14.68	3.73	93.26
4	0.27	6.74	4.00	100.00

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b)								
	PC1		PC1 PC2		PC3		PC4	
	r	r ²	r	r ²	r	r ²	r	r ²
Asfc	-0.744	0.554	0.537	0.288	-0.233	0.054	-0.322	0.104
epLsar	0.769	0.591	0.398	0.158	0.430	0.185	-0.257	0.066
HAsfc	-0.766	0.587	0.301	0.091	0.538	0.289	0.182	0.033
Tfv	0.380	0.144	0.855	0.731	-0.243	0.059	0.258	0.066

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c)					
	df	SS	MS	F	р
PC1					
diet	1	1742.40	1742.40	18.1070	0.000142
dust	1	122.50	122.50	1.2730	0.266
diet*dust	1	0.90	0.90	0.0094	0.923
Error	36	3464.20	96.23		
PC2					
diet	1	90.00	90.00	0.6382	0.429
dust	1	160.00	160.00	1.1347	0.293
diet*dust	1	3.60	3.60	0.0255	0.873
Error	36	5076.40	141.01		
PC3					
diet	1	40.00	40.00	0.2799	0.600
dust	1	0.40	0.40	0.0028	0.958
diet*dust	1	144.40	144.40	1.0103	0.321
Error	36	5145.20	142.92		

Figure S1. Schematic representation of the mechanical properties of the three types of food items measured during tensile tests. It is worth to mention that clover is tougher but require less stress to reach the limit between elastic and plastic deformation and that leaves of the grasses we measured are significantly less ductile than the stem of these same plants. The inner structure of the stems arranged as a furrows of multiple layers.



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Figure S2. Flow charts showing the bivariate filtering process erasing abnormal peaks. 3D views of a raw surface S0 including abnormal peaks, which are automatically erased by combing mathematical morphological filters (opening) with a height-threshold filter and surface subtraction on ImageJ software. N: number of pixels. Black and Gray frequency histograms representing N and log (N) respectively depending on Z height values. Note that abnormal peaks which represent less than 0.025% of the pixel amount of S0 had a significant effect on textural parameters. All the other pixels are unaffected in Z values.

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282	Figure S3. Photosimulations from the dental wear surfaces of all of the 40 ewes scanned and
283	analyzed in this study.
284	











Clover Dust free













Clover Dust free













Grass Dust free













Grass Dust free













Clover Dust













Clover Dust













Grass Dust













Grass Dust



