

The 6 May 1773 Algiers earthquake

*B006*¹ (*years 1773, 1774, t. 16*). On the 6th instant, about the hour of ten in the morning, several violent shocks of an earthquake were felt along the coast of Africa. At first a rumbling was felt, which lasted about half a minute, then a violent shock, after that a trembling for six or seven seconds, then another shock more violent than the former, and these shocks and trembling continued to the number of twenty and all happened in near the same of time as the first. At Algiers the sea rose five feet ten inches every fourteen minutes, and fell slow, that boats and small craft near the shore were left aground, as were numbers of small fish. This flux and reflux lasted till four the next morning, having decreased gradually from twelve at noon. The Dey's palace, which fronts the harbour, was severely shook, but no damaged; the Christian hospital likewise escaped, but many buildings fell; yet happily only two lives were lost. Tangier has greatly suffered, being almost destroyed; the sea rose there upwards of thirty feet perpendicular, the fountains stopped, and at last gushed out with a black water of a bituminous taste, and several people were killed.

¹ The different ID numbers correspond to the references included in Table S1 of the article <http://dx.doi.org/10.1785/0220150092>