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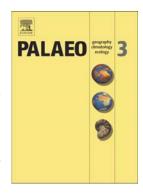
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Bulk-carbonate and belemnite carbon-isotope records across the Pliensbachian-Toarcian boundary on the northern margin of Gondwana (Issouka, Middle Atlas, Morocco)

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ABSTRACT

The data presented here provide the first high-resolution investigation of carbon isotope and geochemical analyses derived from the Pliensbachian-Toarcian boundary, of Issouka, Middle Atlas, Morocco. The isotope data recorded in micrite reveal a stepwise negative carbon isotope excursion with values dropping to -1.8 % within the Polymorphum Zone. This excursion coincides with major marine biological changes and extinctions and corresponds with European records, supporting the assertion that the excursion was global in extent. The Issouka section is relatively expanded compared to other well–studied sections in Europe. The excursion at the Pliensbachian–Toarcian boundary also shows several similarities with the negative Early Toarcian event. In contrast, carbon isotope values derived from coeval belemnites show positive values. The belemnite δ^{13} C data presented here suggest spatial heterogeneity in the carbon isotopic composition of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) in the Early Jurassic ocean. Overturning or

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