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Authigenic carbonates from newly discovered active cold seeps on the northwestern slope of the South China Sea: Constraints on fluid sources, formation environments, and seepage dynamics

Qianyong Liang^{a1}, Yu Hu^{b1}, Dong Feng^{c*}, Jörn Peckmann^{d,e}, Linying Chen^b, Shengxiong Yang^a, Jinqiang Liang^a, Jun Tao^a, Duofu Chen^b

^aMLR Key Laboratory of Marine Mineral Resources, Guangzhou Marine Geological Survey, China Geological Survey, Guangzhou 510070, China

^bShanghai Engineering Research Center of Hadal Science and Technology, College of Marine Sciences, Shanghai Ocean University, Shanghai 201306, China

^cCAS Key Laboratory of Marginal Sea Geology, South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510301, China

^dInstitute of Geology, University of Hamburg, 20146 Hamburg, Germany

^eDepartment of Geodynamics and Sedimentology, University of Vienna, 1090 Vienna, Austria

*Corresponding author. E-mail address: feng@scsio.ac.cn (D. Feng).

Abstract

Authigenic carbonates recovered from two newly discovered active cold seeps on the northwestern slope of the South China Sea have been studied using petrography, mineralogy, stable carbon and oxygen isotopic, as well as trace element compositions, together with AMS ^{14}C ages of shells of seep-dwelling bivalves to unravel fluid sources, formation conditions, and seepage dynamics. The two seeps (ROV1 and ROV2), referred to as ‘Haima seeps’ herein, are approximately 7 kilometers apart, and

¹ Both authors should be regarded as joint first authors.

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