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Paleo-marine environments of the early Cambrian Yangtze Platform

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Abstract

Previous studies have generated conflicting interpretations of the nature of oceanographic conditions on the early Cambrian Yangtze Platform. We investigated paleo-environmental conditions there through an analysis of major elements and redox-sensitive trace elements in the lower Cambrian Niutitang Formation from two new drillcores (RY1 and RY2) in Guizhou Province. High TOC and excess Ba concentrations record elevated productivity in the study area. Redox variation was documented based on enrichment factors (EFs) for redox-sensitive trace elements (Mo, U, V, Cr, Ni, and Co) and C_{org}:P ratios. These proxies indicate that the

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