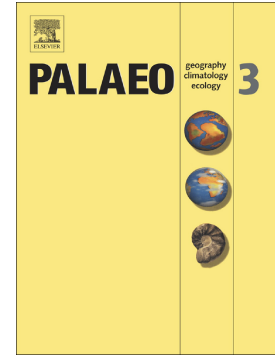


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**Maastrichtian oil shale deposition on the southern Tethys margin, Egypt:
Insights into greenhouse climate and paleoceanography**

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Abstract

A comprehensive set of organic and inorganic geochemical proxies, clay mineralogy, and molecular fossils are presented from two biostratigraphically well-dated oil shale horizons of Egypt, within the Upper Cretaceous Duwi and Dakhla formations. The studied oil shales were deposited within intracratonic sedimentary basins in a broad northern African epeiric sea. Calcareous nanofossil biostratigraphy indicates that the oil shales range from early to late Maastrichtian in age, covering nanofossil zones UC18, UC19, and UC20. The oil shales contain smectite and kaolinite as the main clay minerals that formed by weathering of precursor basement rocks. The relative abundances of clay

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