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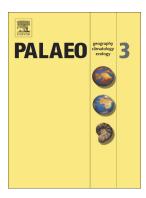
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

High frequency fluctuations in redox conditions during the Late Permian extinction event

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ABSTRACT

New high-resolution geochemical and sedimentological data from Fiskegrav, East Greenland, reveal fluctuations

in marine conditions associated with the final disappearance of bioturbating organisms during the Late Permian

extinction. Sedimentological observations imply a transgressive episode and the associated geochemical evidence

for decreasing oxygen availability and the establishment of persistently ferruginous (Fe²⁺-rich) conditions implies

the shoreward migration of an oxygen minimum zone (OMZ). The long-term decline in dissolved oxygen (DO)

availability could have been exacerbated by increased delivery of nutrients to the marine shelf by terrestrial runoff,

stimulating biological oxygen demand (BOD), and sea floor oxygen deficiency may have been exacerbated by

water column stratification resulting from salinity contrasts and high surface sea water temperatures. During the

transition to persistently ferruginous conditions we identify intervals of intermittent benthic meiofaunal

recolonisation, events that we attribute to small transient increases in DO availability. The mechanism controlling

these fluctuations remains speculative, but given the apparent millennial-scale frequency of these changes, we

hypothesise that the mid-latitude setting of Fiskegrav during the Late Permian was sensitive to changes in in

atmospheric circulation patterns, which may have influenced local precipitation on such time scales and thus

intermittently modulated some of the processes reducing DO availability.

Keywords

Permian extinction; Marine redox; Fe speciation; East Greenland; Stable isotopes

Highlights

• Water column anoxia associated with disappearance of biotutbators

• Fluctuating redox conditions during transition from oxic and anoxic conditions

Changes linked to local factors including transgression and weather patterns

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