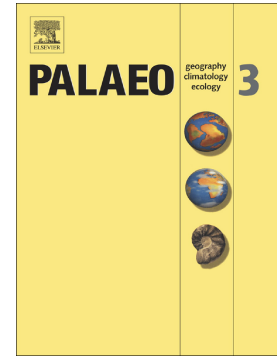


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Sea-level changes and carbonate platform evolution of the Xisha Islands (South China Sea) since the Early Miocene

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Abstract

Analyses of the biogeochemical branched and isoprenoid tetraether (BIT) index and elemental geochemistry from Well XK1 provide insight into the development of the Xisha Islands carbonate platform in the South China Sea (SCS) since the Early Miocene. BIT is the ratio of branched glycerol dialkyl glycerol tetraethers (bGDGTs) to isoprenoid glycerol dialkyl glycerol tetraethers (iGDGTs), which are derived from meteoric and marine environments respectively. BIT serves as a novel proxy for tracking sea-level changes.

The BIT curve of Well XK1 is characterized by “low–high–low–high” alternating

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