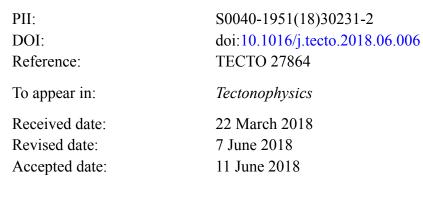
#### Accepted Manuscript

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Please cite this article as: Shaoqian Hu, Huajian Yao, Crustal velocity structure around the eastern Himalayan syntaxis: Implications for the nucleation mechanism of the 2017 Ms 6.9 Mainling earthquake and regional tectonics. Tecto (2018), doi:10.1016/j.tecto.2018.06.006

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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

## Crustal velocity structure around the eastern Himalayan syntaxis: Implications for the nucleation mechanism of the 2017 $M_s$ 6.9 Mainling earthquake and regional tectonics

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#### Abstract

A magnitude  $(M_s)$  6.9 earthquake occurred on November 18, 2017, in Mainling, southeastern Tibet, which is the largest earthquake to occur in or around the eastern Himalayan syntaxis within the last 50 years. To further understand the nucleation mechanism of this earthquake, the local seismicity distribution, and the regional tectonics, the detailed crustal velocity structure is obtained by direct ambient noise tomography using the Rayleigh wave phase velocity data (T=5 ~ 40 s) in this area. The spatial correlation of the velocity model with the distribution of the seismicity reveals that the nucleation mechanism of the 2017  $M_s$  6.9 Mainling earthquake is closely related to the local stress condition and velocity structure and to the aqueous fluid and

Preprint submitted to Tectonophysics

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