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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

<sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar dating of oceanic plagiogranite: Constraints on the initiation of seafloor spreading in the South China Sea

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## ABSTRACT

The Cenozoic opening of the South China Sea was one of the most significant tectonic events in SE Asia, coinciding with complex regional rifting, subduction, terrane collision, and large-scale

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