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### **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

# Evolution of primary producers and productivity across the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition

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Abstract: Nearly all extant animal phyla first appeared during the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition. A revolution in primary producer ecology and marine productivity has been proposed as a bottom-up ecological driver for this rapid diversification of metazoans. However, the control(s) driving the evolution of primary producers and primary productivity around the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition, and their potential relationship to the Cambrian Explosion, are not fully understood. In this study, we measured the nitrogen content and the nitrogen isotopic composition of

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