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Sponge-dominated offshore benthic ecosystems across South China in the aftermath of the end-Ordovician mass extinction

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Abstract. Offshore benthic communities were sparse after the end-Ordovician mass extinction. The recent discovery of diverse, abundant sponges in south-eastern China (Anhui and Zhejiang provinces) that flourished during the Hirnantian (Late Ordovician) post-

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