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1 **Lacustrine redox variations in the Toarcian Sichuan Basin across the**  
2 **Jenkyns Event**

3

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14

15 **ABSTRACT**

16 The Early Jurassic Jenkyns Event (~183 Ma) represents a major environment perturbation  
17 event, characterized by the negative carbon isotope excursion during the early Toarcian.

18 Reconstruction of redox conditions, especially in the mega-lakes, across the Jenkyns Event is

19 of significance to understand the biogeochemical dynamics on land at the time. Here, we

20 report iron speciation and trace metal data from the two drill cores (LQ104X and X3 wells)

21 with different depositional environments in the lacustrine Sichuan Basin of SW China. Results

22 show that the water column in the Sichuan Basin experienced a significant shift of redox

23 conditions in the Toarcian. Frequent development of anoxic-ferruginous conditions,

24 interspersed with significant euxinic episodes across the Jenkyns Event. Conversely, during  
25 the pre/post-Jenkyns Event interval, dominantly oxic conditions, with short-lived anoxic-  
26 ferruginous or euxinic conditions, developed in the water column of the Sichuan Basin. We  
27 then proposed three possible mechanisms interdependent in nature that could have induced the  
28 water-column redox variability in Toarcian lakes: (1) lake stratifications, (2) enhanced  
29 methane release from the lake floor under low sulfate conditions that exhausted bottom water  
30 oxygen, and (3) lake eutrophication. We further anticipated that a close link between redox  
31 shift and ecological stress in the Sichuan Basin across the Jenkyns Event.

32

33 **Keywords:** Lower Jurassic Da'anzhai Member; lacustrine redox change; Fe speciation; P  
34 cycling; trace metal

35

## 36 **1. Introduction**

37       The Jenkyns Event refers to a major environmental shift that marine anoxia expanded and  
38 intensified at around 183 Ma during the early Toarcian of Early Jurassic (Jenkyns, 2010;  
39 Müller et al., 2017; Robinson et al., 2017; Reolid et al., 2020, 2021), and coincided with many  
40 other major environmental perturbations (e.g., the activity of the Karoo-Ferrar LIPs,  
41 greenhouse climate, and mass extinctions). Thus, the study of the early Toarcian oceanic  
42 anoxic event has been highlighted in the Earth system community for decades. Recently, this  
43 concept expanded to the terrestrial system (Jenkyns, 2010; Xu et al., 2017b, 2018, 2021; Liu et  
44 al., 2020; Jin et al., 2020), as the contemporaneous global carbon cycle was also perturbed and  
45 manifested in both marine and terrestrial records with a large negative carbon isotope  
46 excursion event through the Jenkyns Event (Hesselbo, et al., 2000; Kemp et al., 2005;  
47 McElwain et al., 2005; Svensen et al., 2007; Jenkyns, 2010; Percival et al., 2015, 2016; Xu et  
48 al., 2018, 2021). However, previous studies mainly focused on marine environmental  
49 responses (Pálfy and Smith, 2000; Suan et al., 2010; Jenkyns, 2010; Gómez et al., 2016;  
50 Rothman, 2017; Clarkson et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2018; Fernandez et al., 2021), and little is  
51 known regarding the responses on the lake system. Hence the investigation of the Jenkyns  
52 Event in the terrestrial realm is of great significance to understand how a hyperthermal event  
53 interacted with the terrestrial environment and ecosystem (Jenkyns et al., 2002; Burgess et al.,  
54 2015; Korte et al., 2015; Bond and Grasby, 2017; Ivanov et al., 2017; Bond and Sun, 2020;  
55 Fernandez et al., 2021; Scotese et al., 2021).

56       Previous analyses of marine redox conditions have suggested that widespread expansion  
57 of anoxia synchronous with the Jenkyns Event and turnovers of many benthic macrofauna and  
58 microfauna (Mattoli et al., 2008; Rita et al., 2016; Rothman, 2017; Them et al., 2018; Xu et

59 al., 2018; Reolid et al., 2019). The determination of lacustrine redox conditions is equally  
60 crucial because physical thermal stratification and eutrophication under hyperthermal  
61 conditions would also have impacted the redox gradient in large lake systems (Scholz, 2018)  
62 and led to a significant shift in the “habitability for lake ecosystem”. In addition, redox  
63 conditions in lakes also influence the biogeochemical cycling of key nutrient elements such as  
64 phosphorus (Kraal et al., 2012). Thus, the benthic cycling of P and productivity link to water-  
65 column redox conditions (Kraal et al., 2012; Xiong et al., 2019; Schobben et al., 2020).

66 The Sichuan Basin is a large, lake basin in southwest China, in which the Lower Jurassic  
67 Da’anzhai Member recorded the Jenkyns Event (Li et al., 2013). The Sichuan Basin offers a  
68 good window to investigate lacustrine redox changes in the water column across the Jenkyns  
69 Event (Xu et al., 2017a, 2021; Liu et al., 2020). Xu et al. (2017a) applied redox-sensitive  
70 element pairs (i.e., Ni/Co, Th/U, V/Cr, and V/Sc) and  $\delta Ce$  ( $\delta Ce = Ce_N / (La_N \times Pr_N)^{1/2}$ ) to  
71 preliminarily reconstruct the redox condition of the entire Da’anzhai Member in the Sichuan  
72 Basin, which indicates the dominantly oxic-suboxic condition. Based on the enrichment factor  
73 of Mo ( $MO_{EF}$ ) and the occurrence of pyrite in the Da’anzhai Member, Xu et al. (2017b)  
74 suggested that the Sichuan Basin may have developed some euxinic condition during the early  
75 Toarcian, but the exact timing, extent and geographic spread of these extreme anoxic  
76 conditions remain unclear. Liu et al. (2020) demonstrated that the Sichuan Basin was poised at  
77 oxygen-deficiency during the Jenkyns Event by utilizing  $MO_{EF}$  and the molar ratios of organic  
78 carbon to total phosphorus ( $C_{org}/P_T$ ). These interpretations are not unified, and are limited to  
79 single sedimentary environments, therefore, pending on more robust and direct water column  
80 redox proxy (e.g., Fe speciation) to trace lacustrine redox changes across specific timelines  
81 over areas sufficiently large to constrain basin-scale dynamics (Gilleaudeau et al., 2021).

82 These uncertainties also limit the understanding of mechanisms that drove the occurrence,  
83 expansion, and contraction of oxygen-deficiency in the basin, and further restrict the  
84 disclosure of the mechanism of the Jenkyns Event on land.

85 Here, we present new water column redox proxy data (Fe speciation and trace metals)  
86 from the organic-rich mudstone deposition of the Da'anzhai Member of 2 drill cores, which  
87 covers a basin transect from deep lacustrine to shallow lacustrine settings during the early  
88 Toarcian. Our study provides an important example of water column redox changes in paleo-  
89 lake basins across an extreme hyperthermal event (Jenkyns Event). The results shed new light  
90 on the lateral water-mass geochemistry variability across the Sichuan Basin and the dynamic  
91 lacustrine redox conditions.

92

## 93 **2. Geological setting**

94 The modern Sichuan Basin is located in southern China with a total area of ca. 230, 000  
95 km<sup>2</sup>, and its margins were surrounded by three mountain ranges, except for the southern part,  
96 during the Early Jurassic (Zhu et al., 2007; Zhao et al., 2010; Liu, et al., 2020; Fig. 1a). The  
97 paleo-Sichuan Basin in the Early Jurassic has been suggested to be larger than its present  
98 confines, and its maximum depth was greater than 200 m (Xu et al., 2020).

99 The Sichuan Basin entered a terrestrial setting since the Late Triassic (Li and He, 2014).  
100 During the Early Jurassic, lacustrine deposits, mainly the Ziliujing Formation, formed in the  
101 centre of the basin located in the Yingshan–Yilong area (Zhao et al., 2010; Li et al., 2013;  
102 Feng et al., 2015), which can be divided into the Zhenzhuchong, Dongyuemiao, Ma'anshan,  
103 and Da'anzhai members from bottom to top. Based on micro- and macrofossil biostratigraphy,  
104 carbonisotope chemostratigraphy and Re-Os geochronology, Xu et al. (2017b) established a

105 stratigraphic framework for the Da'anzhai Member in the Sichuan Basin, suggesting that  
106 deposition of this lacustrine succession have directly coincided with the Jenkyns Event (ca.  
107  $180 \pm 3.2$  Ma), corresponding to the late *tenuicostatum–falciferum (serpentinum)* zone of the  
108 ammonite province in northern European (Jenkyns, 1985).

109 The Da'anzhai Member can be mainly divided into the shelly beach, shallow lake, semi-  
110 deep lake and deep lake subfacies based on the previously reported petrographic and  
111 sedimentary evidence (Li et al., 2013; Li and He, 2014). The Da'anzhai Member occurs  
112 continuously throughout the Sichuan Basin, which was deposited during a complete lacustrine  
113 shallowing–deepening cycle, and formed a series of shell-bearing limestone–mudstone rocks  
114 (Zheng et al., 1998; Wang et al., 2004; Li et al., 2013; Feng et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2020).

115 From base to top, it can be divided into lower siltstone and/or silty mudstone, lower coquina,  
116 (shell-bearing) mudstone, upper coquina, and upper silty mudstone and/or siltstone (Liu et al.,  
117 2020). The silty mudstone and siltstone formed in the offshore–shallow lacustrine facies, the  
118 coquina formed in the shelly beach facies, and the (shell-bearing) mudstone formed in the  
119 semi-deep or deep lacustrine facies (Li and He, 2014; Feng et al., 2015).

### 121 3. Samples and methods

122 The studied core samples (n= 107) are collected from two representative wells: LQ104X  
123 (N  $31^{\circ}18'57''$ , E  $106^{\circ}49'06''$ ) and X3 (N  $30^{\circ}43'43''$ , E  $105^{\circ}53'26''$ ) (Fig. 1b, c). The LQ104X  
124 well is located approximately 42 km southwest of Pingchang County, while the X3 well is  
125 located approximately 20 km southeast of Pengxi County (Fig. 1b). The samples from  
126 LQ104X well were deposited in deep or semi-deep lacustrine facies, while samples from X3  
127 well were mainly deposited in shallower lacustrine facies. Rock samples were crushed and

128 powered using a silica mill in order to obtain a homogeneous powder. It is noteworthy that the  
129 data of organic carbon isotopes, and major and trace elements of LQ104X well are presented  
130 from a previous work (Liu et al., 2020). New data include total organic carbon (TOC) contents  
131 and Fe speciation of LQ104X and X3 wells, organic carbon isotopes and major and trace  
132 elements of X3 well.

### 134 ***3.1. TOC and organic carbon isotope $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ analysis***

135 Total organic carbon contents were conducted with an Elementar Vario Macro CHNS  
136 element analyzer at the MOE Key Laboratory of Surficial Geochemistry at Nanjing  
137 University. The powder samples were treated with 2 M HCl at 60 °C for 24 h to remove  
138 inorganic carbon, and then rinsed with distilled water five times and dried for 72 h to remove  
139 the excess HCl. Analytical uncertainties were estimated to be < 5%.

140 Organic carbon isotopes were determined with a Finnigan MAT 253 mass spectrometer at  
141 the State Key Laboratory for Mineral Deposits Research at Nanjing University. The powdered  
142 organic carbon samples were evenly mixed with CuO powder (mass ratio of 1:8) in a quartz  
143 tube, vacuum sealed, and heated at 850 °C. After cooling in a cryotrap to separate H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>  
144 was introduced directly into the inlet system of the mass spectrometer. The results are reported  
145 in standard per mil ( $\delta$ ) notation relative to Vienna Peedee Belemnite (VPDB). The black  
146 carbon standard GBW04407 ( $\delta^{13}C_{VPDB} = -22.43\text{‰} \pm 0.07\text{‰}$ ) was used as the reference  
147 standard, and the precision of the measurements was  $\pm 0.1\text{‰}$ .

### 149 ***3.2. Major and trace element analysis***

150 Dried powdered samples (ca. 50 mg) were subjected to total digestion using an HF-HNO<sub>3</sub>



151 mixture in high-pressure Teflon bombs under 190 °C temperature. The resulting solution was  
152 then measured for major elements concentrations using Thermo iCAP 6300 inductively  
153 coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer (ICP-OES) at the MOE Key Laboratory of  
154 Surficial Geochemistry at Nanjing University, and trace elements concentrations using Aurora  
155 M90 inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS) at the State Key Laboratory for  
156 Mineral Deposits Research at Nanjing University. Rh was used as an internal standard to  
157 monitor the signal drift during measurements. Elemental concentrations were calibrated with  
158 the USGS rock standards GSP-1 and AGV-2. Analytical uncertainties were estimated to be <  
159 10%.

160

### 161 ***3.3. Fe speciation analysis***

162 A sequential extraction scheme was applied to determine operationally defined pools of  
163 reactive Fe minerals ( $Fe_{HR}$ ) in sediment samples, including carbonate associated iron ( $Fe_{Carb}$ ),  
164 pyrite ( $Fe_{Py}$ ), ferric oxides ( $Fe_{Ox}$ ) and magnetite ( $Fe_{Mag}$ ) (Poulton and Canfield, 2005). The  
165 powder sample (ca. 100 mg) was first treated with  $CH_3COONa$  solution at pH 4.5 and 50 °C  
166 for 48 h to extract  $Fe_{Carb}$ .  $Fe_{Ox}$  was then extracted via  $Na_2S_2O_4$  solution at pH 4.8 and at room  
167 temperature for 2 h. This is followed by the final leaching of  $Fe_{Mag}$  with  $(NH_4)_2C_2O_4$  solution  
168 at room temperature for 6 h. Extraction solutions were analyzed for Fe concentration by  
169 Thermo iCAP 6300 ICP-OES with Y as an internal standard at the MOE Key Laboratory of  
170 Surficial Geochemistry at Nanjing University. The Fe concentrations were calibrated with the  
171 GSB 04-1726-2004. Analytical uncertainties were estimated to be < 10%. Concentrations of  
172  $Fe_{Py}$  were determined by the Cr reduction method (Alcott et al., 2020), and were calculated  
173 stoichiometrically by the weight of precipitated  $Ag_2S$  from the extraction.

174

### 175 **3.4. Calculation of trace metal enrichment factors**

176 To constrain the sedimentary enrichment degree of the trace elements relative to  
177 continental crust, the “enrichment factors” (EFs) were calculated (SupplementaryTable 1)  
178 (Tribovillard et al., 2006; Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009; Algeo and Liu, 2020). The EFs are  
179 defined as:  $X_{EF} = \frac{(\frac{X}{Al})_{sample}}{(\frac{X}{Al})_{UCC}}$ , where X and Al represent the weight% concentrations of elements  
180 X and Al, respectively (Tribovillard et al., 2013) and UCC is Upper Continental Crust  
181 (Rudnick and Gao, 2014).  $X_{EF}$  less than 1 and greater than 1 imply that element X is depleted  
182 and enriched relative to UCC, respectively (Tribovillard et al., 2006).

183

### 184 **3.5. Calculations of Chemical index of alternation**

185 The intensity of regional terrestrial weathering can be determined by the chemical index  
186 of alteration (CIA) in sedimentary rocks, which was first proposed by Nesbitt and Young  
187 (1982) and defined as:

$$188 \quad CIA = \frac{Al_2O_3}{Al_2O_3 + CaO^* + Na_2O + K_2O} \times 100,$$

189 where CaO\* represents the CaO in silicate mineral, defined as  $CaO^* = CaO - (\frac{10}{3} \times P_2O_5)$ .

190 If the  $CaO^* < Na_2O$  (mole fraction), the CaO\* is used, otherwise, the Na<sub>2</sub>O is used as CaO\* in  
191 the calculation of CIA. Note that, the CIA parameter applies to mudstone/shale, thus the (clay-  
192 bearing) coquina samples with greater than 30 wt. % CaCO<sub>3</sub> content are not included in the  
193 following discussion.

194

## 195 **4. Results**

### 196 **4.1. TOC, and $\delta^{13}C_{org}$**

197 The TOC contents of the samples range from 0.06–2.69 wt.%, with an average of 0.95  
198 wt.% (Supplement Table 1). The TOC contents in LQ104X well (0.06–2.69 wt.%, mean =  
199 1.03 wt.%) is slightly higher than that of X3 well (0.06–2.45 wt.%, mean = 0.87wt.%). The  
200  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  values of the samples in X3 well range from –33.2– –22.7 ‰, with an average of –  
201 27.8 ‰.

#### 203 ***4.2. Major and trace elements***

204 The average of Ca (12.3 wt.% ) and Al ( 8.07 wt.%) contents of samples in X3 well is  
205 generally higher than the other elements in the Da’anzhai Member (Supplement Table 1). The  
206 fluctuation of Ca (range from 0.23–44.5 wt.%) contents is more obvious than that of Al (range  
207 from 0.86–11.8 wt.%). Additionally, the average of Ti, Fe, Mg, Na, K and P contents in X3  
208 well is 0.33 wt.%, 3.99 wt. %, 1.54 wt.%, 0.33 wt.%, 2.03 wt.% and 0.07 wt.%, respectively  
209 (Supplement Table 1).

210 The Mo, U and Zr contents of samples in X3 well range from 0.48–5.81 ppm (mean =  
211 1.70 ppm), 0.60–4.5 ppm (mean = 2.66) and 11.9–212 ppm (mean = 110 ppm), respectively  
212 (Supplement Table 1).

#### 214 ***4.3. Fe speciation***

215 The average of  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  contents in X3 well (mean = 1.34 wt.%) is slightly higher than that  
216 in LQ104X well (mean = 1.22 wt.%). Among the  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  speciation, the contents of  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Py}}$  (mean  
217 = 0.54) in two wells are the highest. The average of  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Carb}}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Ox}}$  and  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Mag}}$  contents of all  
218 samples is 0.37 wt.%, 0.14 wt.% and 0.24 wt.%, respectively (Supplement Table 1). The  
219 contents of  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Py}}$  in LQ104X well (mean = 0.58 wt.%) is slightly higher than that in X3 well

(mean = 0.51 wt.%).

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. The comparison of the carbon isotope stratigraphy

The Jenkyns Event is characterized by a prominent combination of negative carbon isotope excursions (CIEs) and organic matter accumulation (high TOC contents) in the marine sedimentary records due to massive injection of the isotope-light carbon ( $^{12}\text{C}$ -rich) to the atmosphere–marine system (Duncan et al., 1997; Hesselbo, et al., 2000; Kemp et al., 2005; McElwain et al., 2005; Svensen et al., 2007; Jenkyns, 2010; Percival et al., 2015, 2016; Suan et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2018, 2021; Ruebsam et al., 2020). Nonetheless, the CIE is synchronously preserved in the fossil woods sourced from terrestrial realms (Hesselbo et al., 2007, 2011). Moreover, the contemporary Sichuan Basin and Ordos Basin, where expanded lake systems were developed, also archive this major carbon cycle perturbation event (Xu et al., 2017b; Jin et al., 2020). In this study, our organic carbon isotope record from both wells in the Sichuan Basin show a negative  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  excursion with a magnitude of 4.1‰ (–24.6 – –28.4‰) in the shallower X3 well, and 3.8‰ (–24.6 – –28.4‰) in the deep water LQ104X well. These excursions are also accompanied by a significant increase in TOC abundances by 2.3% in the shallower X3 well and 2.6% in the deep water LQ104X well (Fig. 2). Both the absolute values and magnitude of the excursion are consistent with those observed in early Toarcian marine and terrestrial organic-matter records from Europe (i.e., Mochras Borehole in the UK) and the Sichuan Basin through the Jenkyns Event (Core A in Xu et al., 2017b, 2018; LQ104X well in Liu et al., 2020). Importantly, the X3 well, LQ104X well, and reported Core A share the same lithological units (Da’anzhai Member), i.e., alternating beds of fossiliferous

243 carbonate and dark mudrocks from clay-rich marl to laminated black shale. (Fig. 2; Xu et al.,  
244 2017b, 2021; Liu et al., 2020). This provides the basis for the comparison of carbon isotope  
245 stratigraphy in the present study. Note that, there is also an obvious negative CIE in the  
246 1769.75–1781.33 m interval of X3 well. However, this negative CIE is accompanied by  
247 extremely low TOC contents (mean = 0.18 wt. %) instead of high TOC contents. The  
248 thickness of the Jenkyns Event intervals of the classical Peniche section is ca. 35 m (Hesselbo  
249 et al., 2007), sharply greater than ca. 12m of the X3 well (1769.75–1781.33 m). Given that the  
250 sedimentary rate in lake systems is higher than that in ocean systems, the thickness of the  
251 Jenkyns Event interval in lake systems should be expected to be greater than 30 m. Therefore,  
252 we argue that the 1782.2–1822.2 m interval (40 m) of the X3 well responds to the Jenkyns  
253 Event rather than the 1769.75–1781.33 m interval (ca. 12 m).

254

## 255 ***5.2. Toarcian Terrestrial input in the Sichuan Basin***

256 Elevated terrestrial weathering rate and terrigenous input were observed in many  
257 proximal marine and lacustrine sites on a global scale during the Jenkyns Event (Cohen et al.,  
258 2004; Jenkyns, 2010; Dera et al., 2011; Kemp et al., 2011; Brazier et al., 2015; Percival et al.,  
259 2016; Them et al., 2017; Izumi et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2018). Hence, it is crucial to assess the  
260 potential weathering influence on various elemental enrichments in the Toarcian sediments of  
261 the Sichuan Basin, especially for the periphery of the Sichuan Basin where terrigenous input  
262 may have been strengthened during the Jenkyns Event (Xu et al., 2018). During the process of  
263 chemical weathering on land, calcium (Ca), sodium (Na) and potassium (K) that assemble the  
264 CIA proxy generally are removed from the feldspars such that the proportion of alumina (Al)  
265 to alkalis usually increases in the weathered end-product (Nesbitt and Young, 1982). Thus, the

266 CIA can assess the regional terrestrial chemical weathering intensity of hinterland around the  
267 periphery of the Sichuan Basin. Additionally, aeolian inputs is also a potential source of  
268 elements in the lake or marginal marine-setting. The grain-size distribution of the lithogenous  
269 fraction of sediments can be used to derive relative wind strengths on the assumption that  
270 more vigorous atmospheric circulation will transport larger particles (mineral and rock grains)  
271 to a given site of deposition. Some geochemical proxies such as Ti/Al and Zr/Al have been  
272 successfully used to track aeolian inputs. (Calvert and Pedersen, 2007).

273 CIA values through the Da'anzhai Member in two wells of this study range from 50.1–  
274 83.2, with an average of 68.1. Among them, average CIA values in the deeper LQ104X well  
275 (mean = 75.2) yield a higher level than those of X3 well (mean = 68.1). These high  
276 background CIA (> 65) values in the Sichuan Basin confirm the indication of a warm climate  
277 during the early Toarcian, associated with a moderate chemical weathering intensity (Nesbitt  
278 and Young, 1982; Fedo et al., 1996; Young and Nesbitt, 1999; Guo et al., 2018). Note that, the  
279 CIA values at 1769.75–1781.33 m interval of X3 well is ineffective due to their host-rock  
280 lithology of coquina or limestone with high Ca contents and low Al contents. Additionally, the  
281 CIA record shows an upward decreasing trend in the deep water LQ104X well (Fig. 3A), but  
282 remains relatively stable through the succession in the shallower X3 well (Fig. 3B). No sudden  
283 rise in CIA values was observed in these records associated with the Jenkyns Event. Similarly,  
284 the Ti/Al and Zr/Al ratios also show an upward decreasing trend in the Jenkyns Event interval  
285 of both the LQ104X and X3 wells. Such features may indicate that the contemporaneous  
286 weathering conditions in the early Toarcian may have not exerted a major control over raw  
287 material and nutrient delivery to the periphery of the Sichuan Basin at a regional scale. Hence,  
288 we argue that terrigenous input had a minor influence on elemental enrichment in lacustrine

289 sediments (e.g., highly reactive iron and trace metal) adjacent to the hinterland. Indeed, no  
290 covariation was present between CIA, Ti/Al and Zr/Al with  $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T$  and Mo/U at both the  
291 proximal X3 well and deeper water LQ104X, which possibly indicates domination of  
292 lacustrine redox control rather than terrestrial input.

293

### 294 ***5.3. Early Toarcian lacustrine redox change in the Sichuan Basin***

295 Having established that the iron speciation and trace metal concentrations in these  
296 lacustrine sediments likely receive minimal terrestrial influence, here we utilize Fe speciation  
297 and trace metal to track the variation of lacustrine redox condition in the water column of the  
298 Sichuan Basin through the early Toarcian. The calibration of modern sediments and ancient  
299 sedimentary rocks indicates that aquatic sediments may enrich in  $Fe_{HR}$  in an anoxic water  
300 column ( $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T > 0.22-0.38$ ) compared to oxic conditions (Poulton and Raiswell, 2002;  
301 Poulton et al. 2010; Raiswell and Canfield, 2012; Clarkson et al., 2014; Them et al., 2018;  
302 Stüeken et al., 2019; Poulton, 2021). However, it is noteworthy that these thresholds for  
303 distinguishing anoxic conditions in marine deposits may vary significantly in lacustrine  
304 environments due to more restricted settings in lakes. Additionally, the enrichment of U can  
305 provide independent constraints on the redox condition. U exists as a soluble  $UO_2^{2+}$  in the  
306 oxidized water column. Under the reducing condition, the U(VI) will be reduced to less  
307 soluble U(IV) (i.e.,  $UO_2$ ,  $U_3O_7$  and  $U_3O_8$ ) and hereby promote authigenic enrichment of U in  
308 the sediments relative to the average crustal abundance (Tribovillard et al., 2008; Azrieli-Tal et  
309 al., 2014; Bura-Nakić et al., 2018; Lu, et al., 2020; He et al., 2022). The anoxic condition can  
310 be further determined by detecting the proportion of pyrite in the  $Fe_{HR}$  pool, where a  
311 ferruginous (anoxic,  $Fe^{2+}$  rich and sulfide-free) water column yields  $Fe_{Py}/Fe_{HR}$  lower than 0.6-

312 0.8 and euxinic condition above this threshold in the marine environment (Poulton, 2021). In  
313 addition, Mo is present in the water column as the stable and largely unreactive molybdate  
314 oxyanion ( $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$ ) in oxic conditions. Under anoxic–sulfidic conditions, the  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  will be  
315 converted to thiomolybdates ( $\text{MoO}_x\text{S}_{(4-x)}^{2-}$ ,  $x = 0\text{--}3$ ), which is easy to be absorbed by organic  
316 matter or Fe sulfide, resulting in the enrichment of Mo (Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009; Bura-  
317 Nakić et al., 2018). The variation of these proxies for the two wells in this study was presented  
318 in Fig. 4 (LQ104X well) and Fig. 5 (X3 well), respectively.

319 In the LQ104X well (Fig. 4), sediments have no co-enrichment of U and  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  below the  
320 3535.95 m (Ma’anshan Member and lower Da’anzhai Member) and above the 3519.96 m (top  
321 of the Da’anzhai Member) (Fig. 4c and 4g), suggesting that oxic conditions were dominant at  
322 the time, except for a few occasions (i.e., 3546.95 m, 3512.02 m, 3501.92 m and 3496.15–  
323 3497.02 m). These periods of co-enrichment in U and  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  (Fig. 4c and 4g) likely indicate  
324 short-lived anoxic episodes. In the 3535.95–3519.96 m (middle of the Da’anzhai Member) of  
325 the section (i.e., the nadir of the CIE), relative longer-term enrichments in U ( $U_{\text{EF}}$  above the  
326 UCC) were observed (Fig. 4g), coinciding with elevated  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$  ratios (Fig. 4c), which  
327 suggest that the anoxic condition prevailed in the Sichuan Basin during the heyday of the  
328 Jenkyns Event. Furthermore, the covariation between their U/Al and  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$  ratios supports  
329 the dominantly anoxic condition (Fig. 6a).

330 Moreover, several samples in the Sichuan Basin show  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Py}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  ratios scattering around  
331 the equivocal zone (0.6–0.8) in the 3535.95–3519.96 m section (Fig. 4d), which may indicate  
332 either anoxic-ferruginous or euxinic condition (Poulton, 2021). Furthermore, all these samples  
333 with high  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Py}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  ratios coincide with co-enrichment in  $\text{Mo}_{\text{EF}}$  and Mo/U (Fig. 4d, 4f, 4h and  
334 4i), which suggests a fluctuation state between anoxic-ferruginous and euxinic conditions in



335 the water column of the Sichuan Basin during the major phase of the Jenkyns Event (Fig. 4i).  
336 Additionally, co-enrichment of  $Fe_{Py}/Fe_{HR}$ ,  $Mo_{EF}$  and  $Mo/U$  also occurred in the 3501.92 m and  
337 3496.15–3497.02 m intervals (top of the Da'anzhai Member) indicative of short-lived euxinic  
338 condition (Fig. 4d, 4f, 4h and 4i).

339 The early Toarcian redox variation in the shallower X3 well is similar to that in LQ104X  
340 well (Fig. 5). Sediments have no co-enrichment of U and  $Fe_{HR}$  below the 1806.90 m (bottom  
341 of the Da'anzhai Member) and above the 1795.05 m (top of the Da'anzhai Member and  
342 Lianggaoshan Formation; Fig. 5c and 5g) in the X3 well, suggesting that oxic conditions were  
343 dominant, except for individual intervals (i.e., 1820.8 m, 1786.50–1787.35 m, 1780.15 m and  
344 1769.75 m). Co-enrichment in  $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T$  and U occurred in the 1806.90–1795.05 m section  
345 (middle Da'anzhai Member), indicating a dominantly anoxic condition (Fig. 5c and 5g). There  
346 is also co-enrichment in  $Fe_{Py}/Fe_{HR}$ ,  $Mo_{EF}$  and  $Mo/U$  in the 1806.90–1795.05 m section of the  
347 middle Da'anzhai Member (nadir of the CIE; Fig. 5d, 5f and 5h), suggesting redox fluctuation  
348 between anoxic-ferruginous and euxinic conditions, consistent with the contemporaneous redox  
349 state in the deeper site (LQ104X well) (Fig. 5i).

350 In summary, the water column in the Sichuan Basin experienced a significant shift  
351 towards oxygen level deterioration during the early Toarcian Jenkyns Event. Dominantly oxic  
352 condition, with short-time anoxic-ferruginous interval, developed in the water column  
353 preceding the Jenkyns Event (Fig. 4i and 5i). This was immediately followed by a shift  
354 towards an anoxic state during the heyday of the Jenkyns Event, but it alternates between  
355 anoxic-ferruginous and euxinic conditions possibly as a result of fluctuation in sulfate  
356 availability (Fig.4i and 5i). Then, the water column switched back to a more oxic condition,  
357 interspersed with occasionally anoxic-ferruginous or euxinic conditions in the Sichuan Basin

358 following the Jenkyns Event (Fig. 4i and 5i).

359  
360 ***5.4. Development mechanism of the redox transition during the Jenkyns Event in the***  
361 ***Sichuan Basin***

362 Based on the above discussion, it is clear that strengthened lacustrine anoxia was  
363 developed in the Sichuan Basin during the Jenkyns Event. There may have been several  
364 possible mechanisms independently or collectively driving this major redox shift in theory,  
365 including (1) lake stratification, (2) enhanced methane release from the lake floor that  
366 exhausted bottom water oxygen, and (3) lake eutrophication (Reed et al., 2016; He et al.,  
367 2020; Woolway et al., 2021).

368 Global warming would have a considerable influence on lake stratification. Heat input  
369 tends to warm the near-surface layer (Woolway et al., 2021). This shifts the density in warm  
370 surface water to lower than that in deep water, hence the water column circulation is  
371 suppressed (Woolway et al., 2021). Additionally, large lake systems are more subjected to  
372 being stratified due to the enormous morphology (depth and surface area) (Xu et al., 2017b;  
373 Woolway et al., 2021). It is widely known that the average global temperature rose by 5–7°C  
374 during the Jenkyns Event (Jenkyns et al., 2002; Korte et al., 2015; Krencker et al., 2015; Bond  
375 and Grasby, 2017; Jones et al., 2018; Bond and Sun, 2020; Ruebsam et al., 2020; Fernandez et  
376 al., 2021; Scotese et al., 2021), while the Sichuan Basin had expanded to a large lake system  
377 associated with rising lake level (Xu et al., 2017b, 2021; Liu et al., 2020). Hence, the  
378 development of the anoxic condition within the Jenkyns Event may be driven by thermal  
379 stratification that was ultimately promoted by the greenhouse climate and the elevated lake-  
380 level at the time. Importantly, enhanced lake stratification in the Sichuan Basin was supported

381 by evidence of elevated gammacerane index during the Jenkyns Event (Xu et al., 2021).

382 Releasing of methane from the sediments on the lake floor to the water column may be  
383 an additional possible mechanism, as the lake system is one of the important sources of  
384 methane to the atmosphere, and the methanogenesis ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^- + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{CH}_4 + \text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{CO}_2$   
385  $+ 4\text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{CH}_4 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) is common in lake sediments when there is sufficient organic supply  
386 (Beaulieu et al., 2019; He et al., 2020). The anaerobic oxidation of methane (AOM:  $\text{CH}_4 +$   
387  $\text{SO}_4^{2-} \rightarrow \text{HCO}_3^- + \text{HS}^- + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and sulfate reduction ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-} + 2\text{CH}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{S} + 2\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) are  
388 dominant microbial processes in methane-rich sediments (Hinrichs and Boetius, 2002; Joye et  
389 al., 2004). One of the key features of the Jenkyns Event is the massive accumulation of  
390 organic matter (McArthur et al., 2008; Jenkyns et al., 2010; Montero-Serrano et al., 2015;  
391 Suan et al., 2015; Reolid et al., 2020). High organic carbon loading to the lake floor may  
392 enhance methane production and benthic release to the water column in the Sichuan Basin  
393 during the Jenkyns Event. The Sichuan Basin is generally a freshwater lake system with low  
394 sulfate concentrations through most of the early Toarcian, which limits the capacity for AOM  
395 (He et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020). Suppressed AOM in the Sichuan Basin would enable  
396 elevated methane flux to escape to the water column and consume free  $\text{O}_2$ , thus inducing  
397 negative feedback on oxygen levels (Günthel et al., 2019; He et al., 2020). Consequently, the  
398 redox state in the Sichuan Basin turns to the anoxic-ferruginous condition under low sulfate  
399 settings, or euxinic conditions when sulfate supply and microbial sulfate reduction intensity  
400 were high.

401 Moreover, eutrophication at the epilimnion would also have resulted in the decline of  
402 oxygen level, and even euxinic, in the water column (Reed et al., 2016). Eutrophication is  
403 often regarded as the ecosystem response to increased nutrient loading. Generally,

404 eutrophication elevated primary productivity in surface waters due to high nutrient load, which  
405 enhances the organic matter export to the lake floor and increases benthic oxygen demand  
406 (Gustafsson et al., 2012; Carstensen et al., 2014; Reed et al., 2016). Importantly, global  
407 warming will likely accelerate existing eutrophication effects (Seidel et al., 2021), which  
408 provides a premise for the possible eutrophication in the Sichuan Basin during the Jenkyns  
409 Event. It is acknowledged that nutrient, which is usually linked to terrigenous input, is  
410 essential to eutrophication formation. Xu et al. (2017) attributed the increased productivity  
411 during the Jenkyns Event to elevated continental weathering and accelerated riverine nutrient  
412 supply. However, our data show that the intensity of regional terrestrial chemical weathering  
413 in the periphery of the Sichuan Basin was not elevated during the Jenkyns Event, based on the  
414 CIA, Ti/Al and Zr/Al data (Fig. 3). Therefore, even if eutrophication contributes to the redox  
415 shift during the Jenkyns Event in the Sichuan Basin, the increased nutrient surge may not  
416 relate to continental weathering, but via another mechanism(s) (e.g., the release of benthic  
417 phosphorus). Global warming or enhanced weathering input stimulates the formation of  
418 eutrophication and further promotes the anoxic condition in the Sichuan Basin. Additionally,  
419 increasing organic matter deposition may enhance the methanogenesis, resulting in the release  
420 of CH<sub>4</sub> to the water column, and further increased oxygen demand. Owing to the cooperation  
421 of the above three potential mechanisms, the redox condition in the Sichuan basin would have  
422 shifted to intensified anoxic-ferruginous or euxinic conditions, and the Jenkyns Event  
423 eventually happened.

424

### 425 ***5.5. Coupling of redox changes and benthic phosphorus cycling across the Jenkyns Event***

426 Phosphorus (P) is a key limiting nutrient for many aquatic ecosystems (Bush et al., 2017).

427 Indeed, elevated inputs of P have been regarded as an important cause of high productivity  
428 (i.e., eutrophication). As mentioned above, the intensity of terrestrial weathering did not  
429 increase during the Jenkyns Event. Alternatively, we propose that increased benthic P  
430 recycling would have driven the nutrient surge. Benthic phosphorus cycling is closely related  
431 to redox conditions (Kraal et al., 2012; Komar and Zeebe, 2017; Xiong et al., 2019; Guilbaud  
432 et al., 2020; Schobben et al., 2020). Variation in redox conditions during the Jenkyns Event  
433 had the potential to perturb the benthic P cycling and the paleo-productivity in the Sichuan  
434 Basin (Komar and Zeebe, 2017; Reinhard and Planavsky, 2020; Schobben et al., 2020).

435 Low  $C_{org}/P_T$  ratios occurred in pre-Jenkyns Event intervals (i.e., below the 3541.88 m in  
436 LQ104X well (average = 35.8) and 1816.25 m in X3 well (average = 24.0)) and post-Jenkyns  
437 Event intervals (i.e., above the 3519.96 m in LQ104X well and 1792.1 m in X3 well, Fig. 7).  
438 During these intervals, the water column redox condition was dominantly oxic based on trace  
439 metal and iron speciation data (Fig. 7), while P was possibly being drawdown to sediment  
440 with Fe- (oxyhydr)oxides and/or organic matter, hence P is retained in sediments with  
441 suppressed P recycling (Anderson and Sarmiento, 1994; Algeo and Ingall, 2007; Algeo and  
442 Herrmann, 2018; Xiong et al., 2019; Guilbaud et al., 2020; Schobben et al., 2020).

443 Higher  $C_{org}/P_T$  ratios occurred during the Jenkyns Event (i.e., 3519.96 m–3541.88 m in  
444 LQ104X well (average = 63.3) and 1792.1–1816.25 m in X3 well (average = 71.3), Fig. 7).  
445 During the Jenkyns Event, the water column was dominated by strengthened anoxia and  
446 frequent development of euxinic conditions. Beneath an anoxic-sulfidic water column, P is  
447 recycled back to the water column via effective anaerobic organic matter remineralisation.  
448 Consequently, extensive recycling of P release reactive P back to the water column, which  
449 leads to elevated  $C_{org}/P_T$  in sediments and potentially higher productivity in the surface water

(Reinhard and Planavsky, 2020; Schobben et al., 2020).

In summary, the fluctuation of P cycling during the Jenkyns Event in the Sichuan Basin may suggest that the transition of the redox state in the Sichuan Basin, and the release of benthic phosphorus is a potential cause for eutrophication in the Toarcian Sichuan Basin. Figure 8 presents the conceptual model of these changes. Oxidic condition was dominant in the basin during the pre-Jenkyns Event interval. U, Mo and Fe exist as soluble  $\text{UO}_2^{2+}$  (VI),  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  (VI) and Fe- (oxyhydr)oxides (III), respectively. Phosphorous may be present in association with Fe (oxyhydr) oxides. Subsequently, during the heyday of the Jenkyns Event, when the LQ104X site and X3 site are situated below the chemocline with dominantly anoxic–ferruginous or euxinic conditions. The U (VI) was reduced to U (IV), existing as less soluble  $\text{UO}_2$ . The  $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  was converted to thiomolybdates ( $\text{MoO}_x\text{S}_{(4-x)}^{2-}$ ,  $x = 0-3$ ), and adsorbed by organic matter or Fe sulfide. Fe (oxyhydr) oxides dissolved, and the P was released, which would induce an increase in productivity. The soluble  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  would combine with free  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  to form pyrite, which may facilitate the Mo enrichment. The post-Jenkyns Event interval was dominated by the oxidic condition at both sites, but interspersed with short-lived anoxic pulses. The U, Mo, Fe and P would revert to their original form as before the Jenkyns Event occurred.

### ***5.6. Implications for the relation of redox transition and ecological stress in the Sichuan Basin during the Jenkyns Event***

The temperature has a fundamental effect on almost all biological activities (Brown et al., 2004). As mentioned in section 4.4, global warming would result in thermal stratification, which adds a significant impact on biological productivity by directly influencing the size of

473 the trophogenic zone where photosynthesis takes place and also influencing nutrient supply  
474 from deep water (O'Beirne et al., 2017; Yankova et al., 2017; Woolway et al., 2021).  
475 Additionally, transition in redox conditions will also affect biotic communities, because redox  
476 reactions can supply energy for metabolisms in the ecosystem (Zakem et al., 2020). Bush et al.  
477 (2017) present a mathematical model describing interactions between microbial and  
478 biogeochemical oxidation–reduction reactions, suggesting that this model abruptly transitions  
479 between an oxic state dominated by cyanobacteria and an anoxic state with sulfate-reducing  
480 bacteria and phototrophic sulfur bacteria. Note that, this model has been validated in the lake  
481 system (i.e., Lake Vechten; Bush et al., 2017).

482 In the Sichuan Basin, the kerogen type, amorphous organic matter (AOM) abundance,  
483 and TPP (C<sub>30</sub> tetracyclic polyprenoids) ratios across the Jenkyns Event suggests stratigraphic  
484 changes in the composition of sedimentary organic matter towards a more hydrogen-rich,  
485 algae-derived component during the Jenkyns Event (Holba et al., 2000; Xu et al., 2021).  
486 Additionally, the high abundance of hopanes relative to steranes in the Jenkyns Event interval  
487 indicates the relatively high bacterial activity. Importantly, the presence of 3β-methylhopane,  
488 mainly derived from methane-oxidizing bacteria (Farrimond et al., 2004; Welander and  
489 Summons 2012), indicating oxidation of methane during deposition of the Da'anzhai Member  
490 (Xu et al., 2021), proved that massive methane had likely been released to the water column  
491 during the Jenkyns Event. Therefore, the redox transition and ecological community dynamics  
492 may indeed have a close link in the Sichuan Basin during the Jenkyns Event.

493

## 494 **6. Conclusions**

495 The trace metal and Fe speciation indicate that the water column in the Sichuan Basin

496 experienced the significant transition of redox condition in Toarcian (i.e., commonly oxic  
497 condition before the heyday of the Jenkyns Event, a frequent fluctuation between commonly  
498 anoxic-ferruginous and euxinic conditions in the heyday of the Jenkyns Event, and commonly  
499 oxic with the occasionally anoxic-ferruginous or euxinic condition after the heyday of the  
500 Jenkyns Event).

501 The possible mechanisms resulting in the transition of redox conditions in the Sichuan  
502 Basin across the Jenkyns Event include: (1) lake stratification, (2) methane release to bottom  
503 water, and (3) eutrophication, and these three controls may be essentially interdependent. The  
504 potential eutrophication induced by high nutrient load may not source from elevated terrestrial  
505 weathering but from benthic phosphorus releasing due to the redox transition during the  
506 Jenkyns Event.

507 There are obvious changes in the ecological system in the Sichuan Basin during the  
508 Jenkyns Event, which suggest that the relationship between redox transition and ecological  
509 community dynamics may indeed exist in the Sichuan Basin. This idea would benefit from  
510 more specific works to be further and better developed.

511

#### 512 **Declaration of competing interest**

513 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal  
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515

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521

## 522 **Appendix A. Supplementary data**

523 Supplementary data to this article can be found at Supplementary Data 1.

524

525

526

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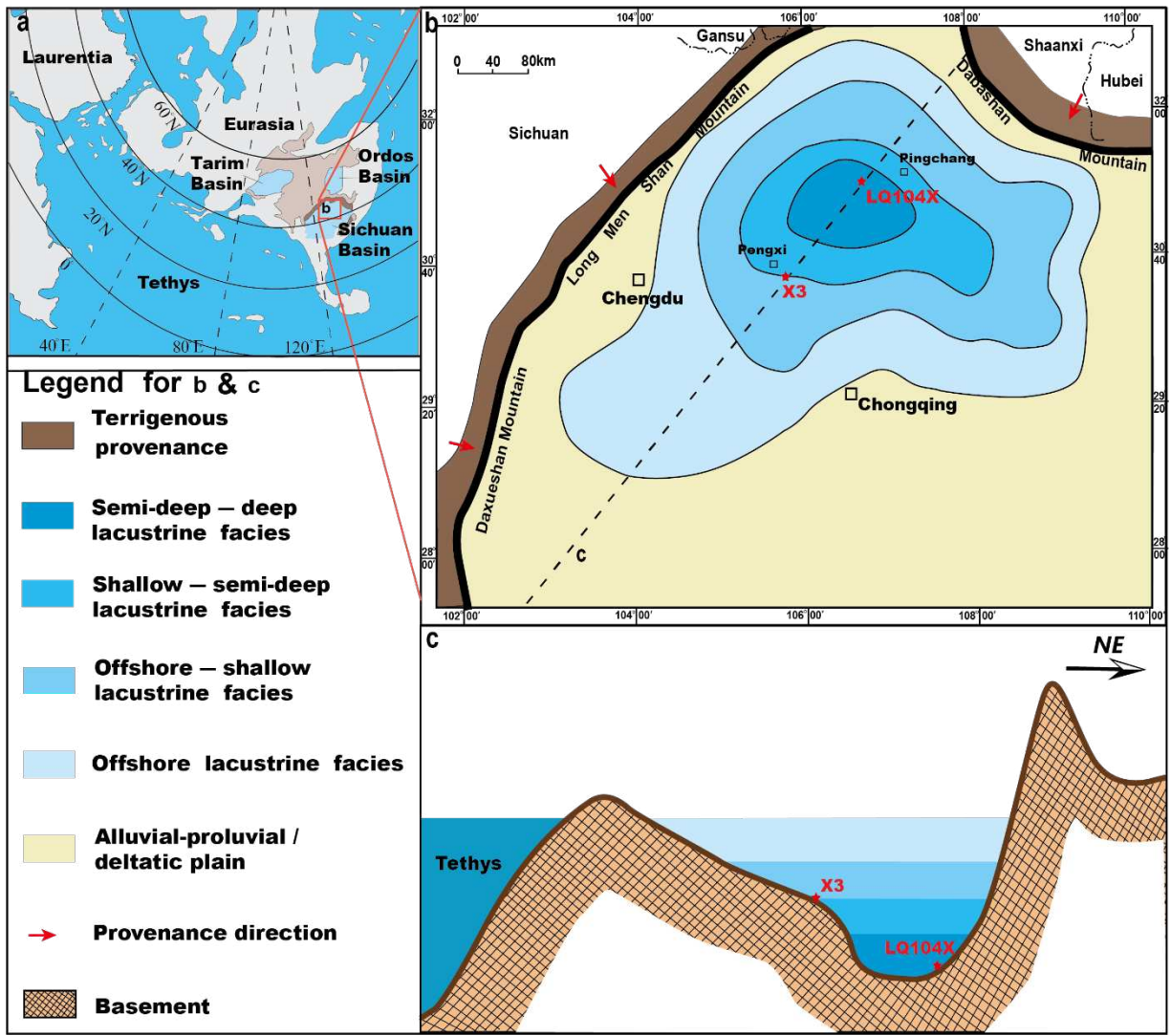
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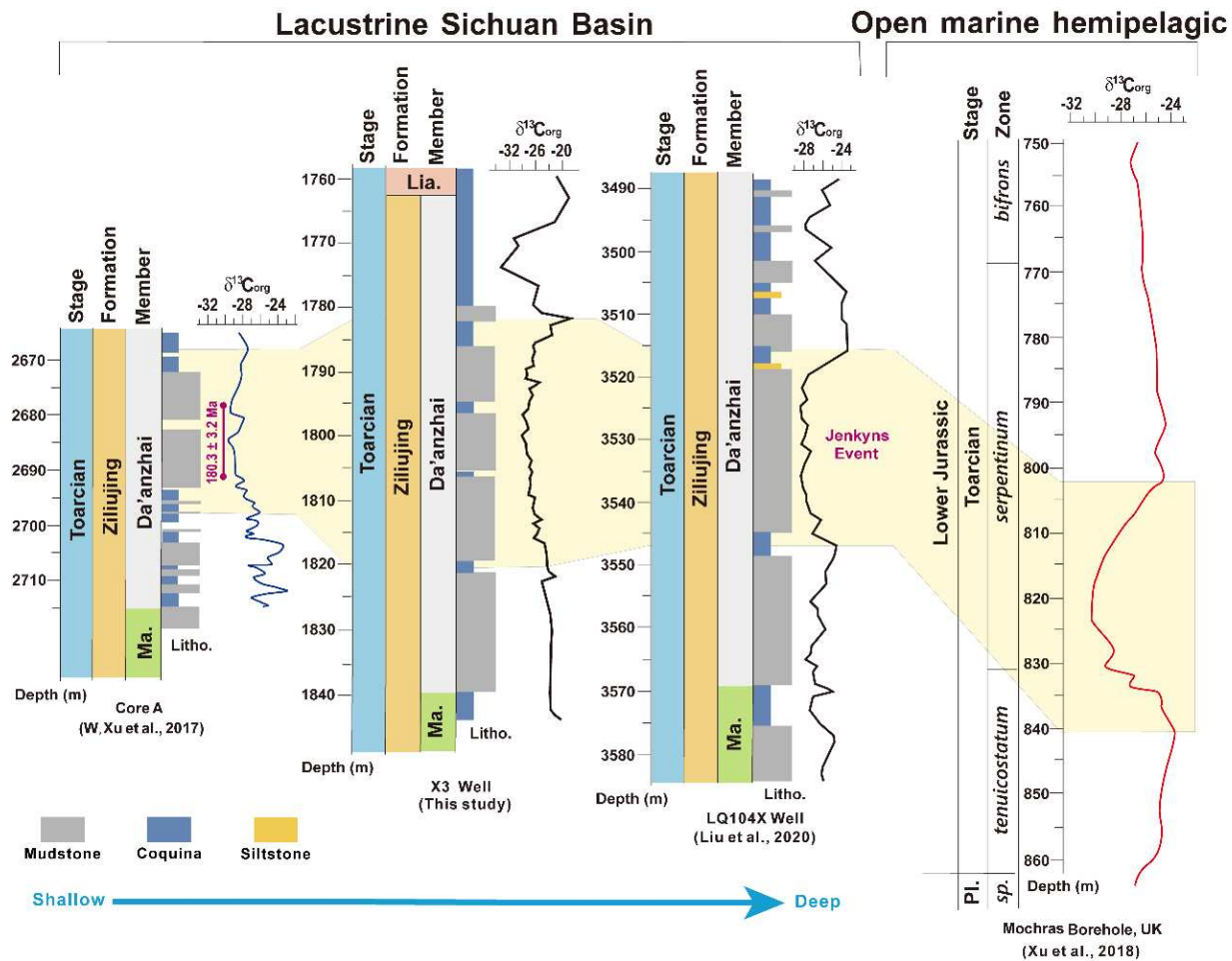
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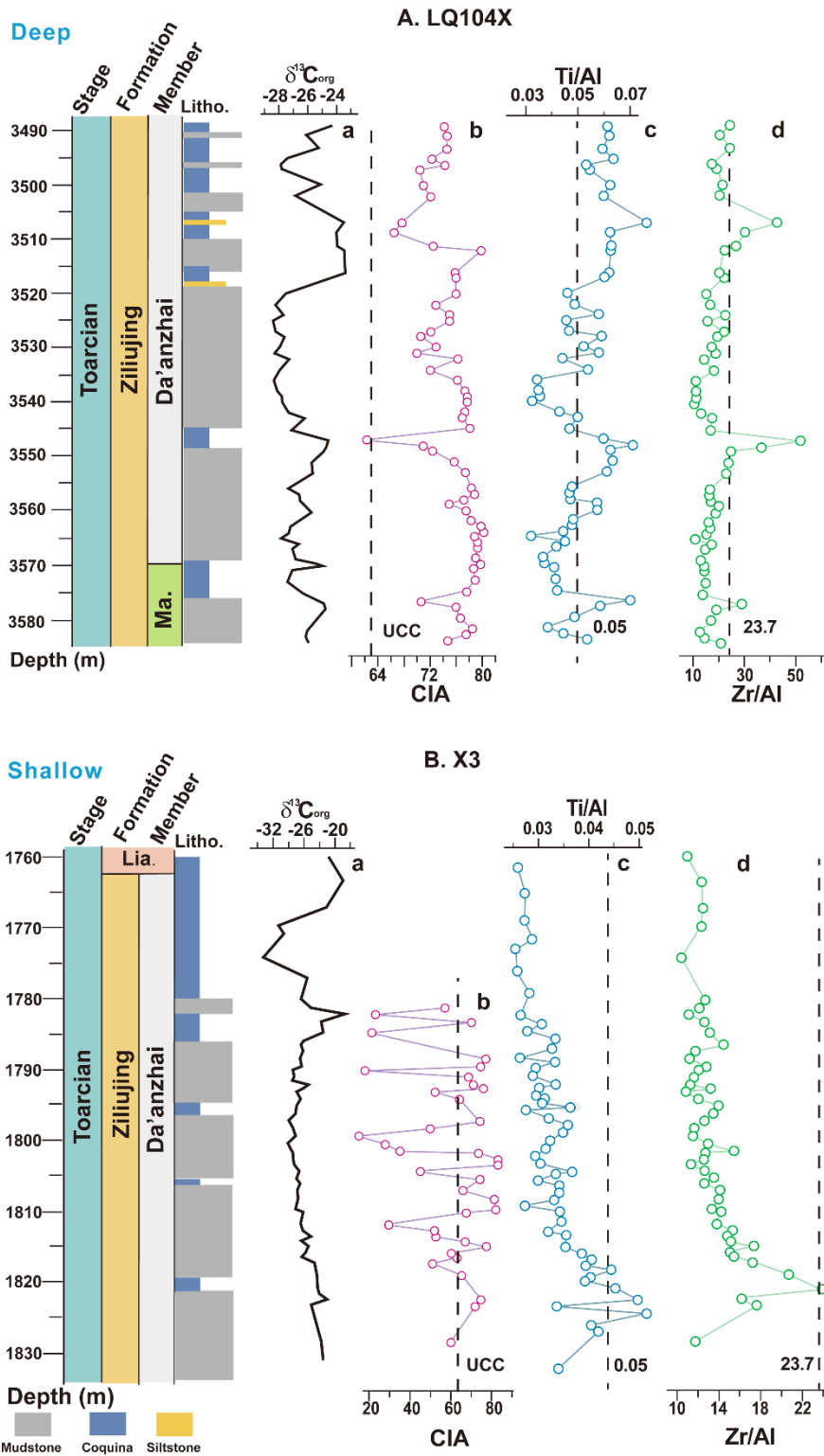
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 913 **Fig. 1. Geological map of the Sichuan Basin during the Early Jurassic. a.** Location of the  
 914 Sichuan Basin in the Eurasia continent (modified after Xu et al., 2017a). **b.** Sedimentary  
 915 environment of the Toarcian Sichuan Basin and the paleogeographic locations of X3 and  
 916 LQ104X wells. **c.** Bathymetric positions of X3 and LQ104X wells in the lacustrine Sichuan  
 917 Basin.

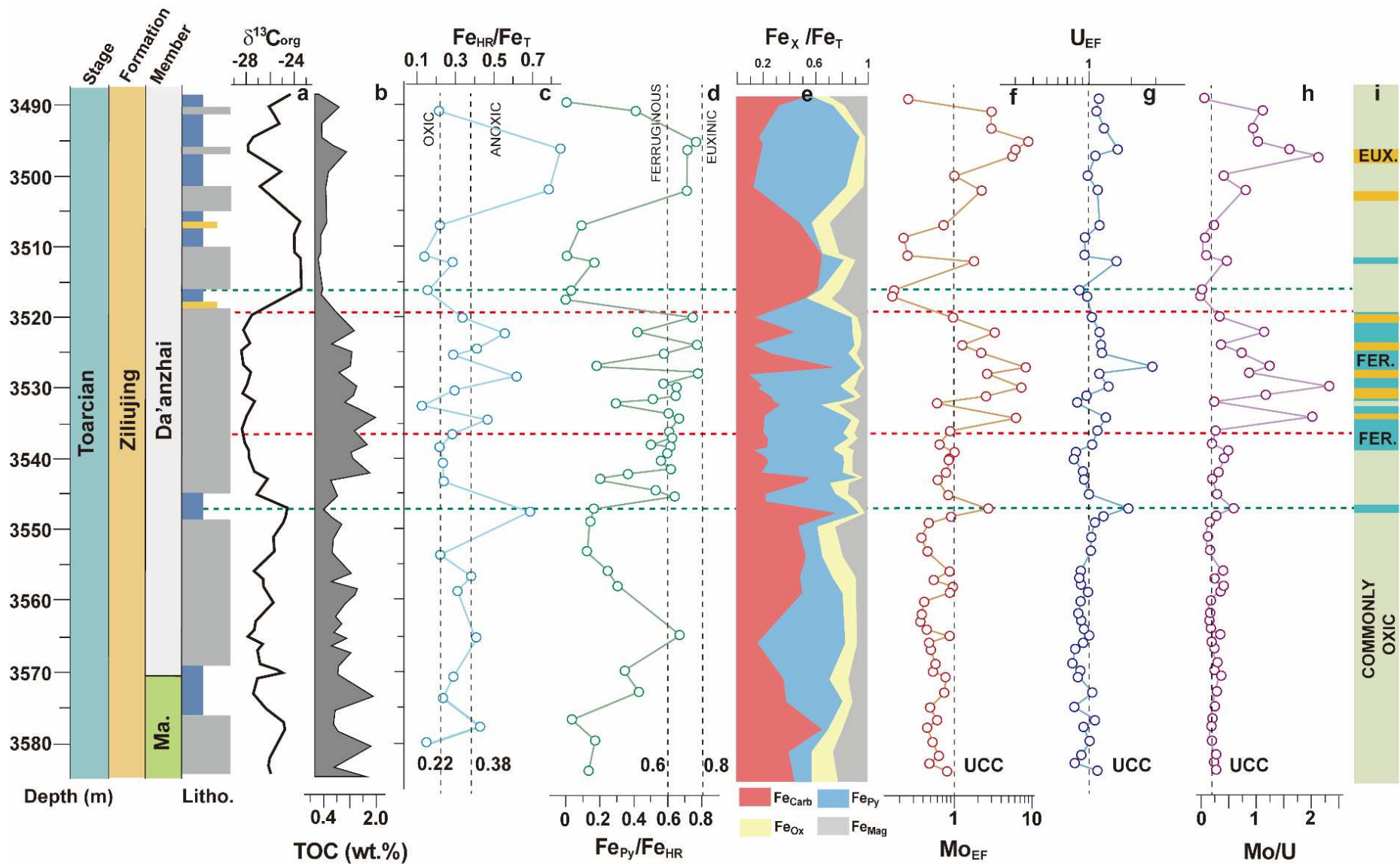


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 920 **Fig. 2. Interbasinal and global stratigraphic correlation of Toarcian strata using organic**  
 921 **carbon isotope data of bulk sediment.** Data of X3 well are reported in this study. Data of  
 922 LQ104X well are presented from Liu et al. (2020) of the lacustrine Sichuan Basin. Data of  
 923 Core A in the Sichuan Basin are presented from Xu et al. (2017). Data of the open-marine  
 924 hemipelagic Mochras core shows a reference of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  profile of western Tethys (Xu et al.,  
 925 2018). The yellow shaded area represents the duration of the Jenkyns Event. The age of the  
 926 Da'anzhai Member ( $180.3 \pm 3.2$  Ma) was given by Re–Os dating (Xu et al., 2017). Note: Ma.  
 927 – Ma'anshan Member; Lia. – Lianggaoshan Formation; Pl. – Pliensbachian Stage; *sp.* –  
 928 *spinatum* zone.



929 **Fig. 3. Variation of chemical index of alteration in the Toarcian Ziliujing Formation of**  
 930 **the lacustrine Sichuan Basin. A.** deep water LQ104X well. **B.** shallower X3 well. **a.** Organic  
 931 carbon isotope profiles of bulk sediment. **b.** Chemical index of alteration (CIA). **c.** Ti/Al ratio.  
 932 **d.** Zr/Al ratio. The vertical dotted lines represent the CIA, Ti/Al and Zr/Al values of the UCC  
 933 (upper continental crust; Rudnick and Gao, 2014).  
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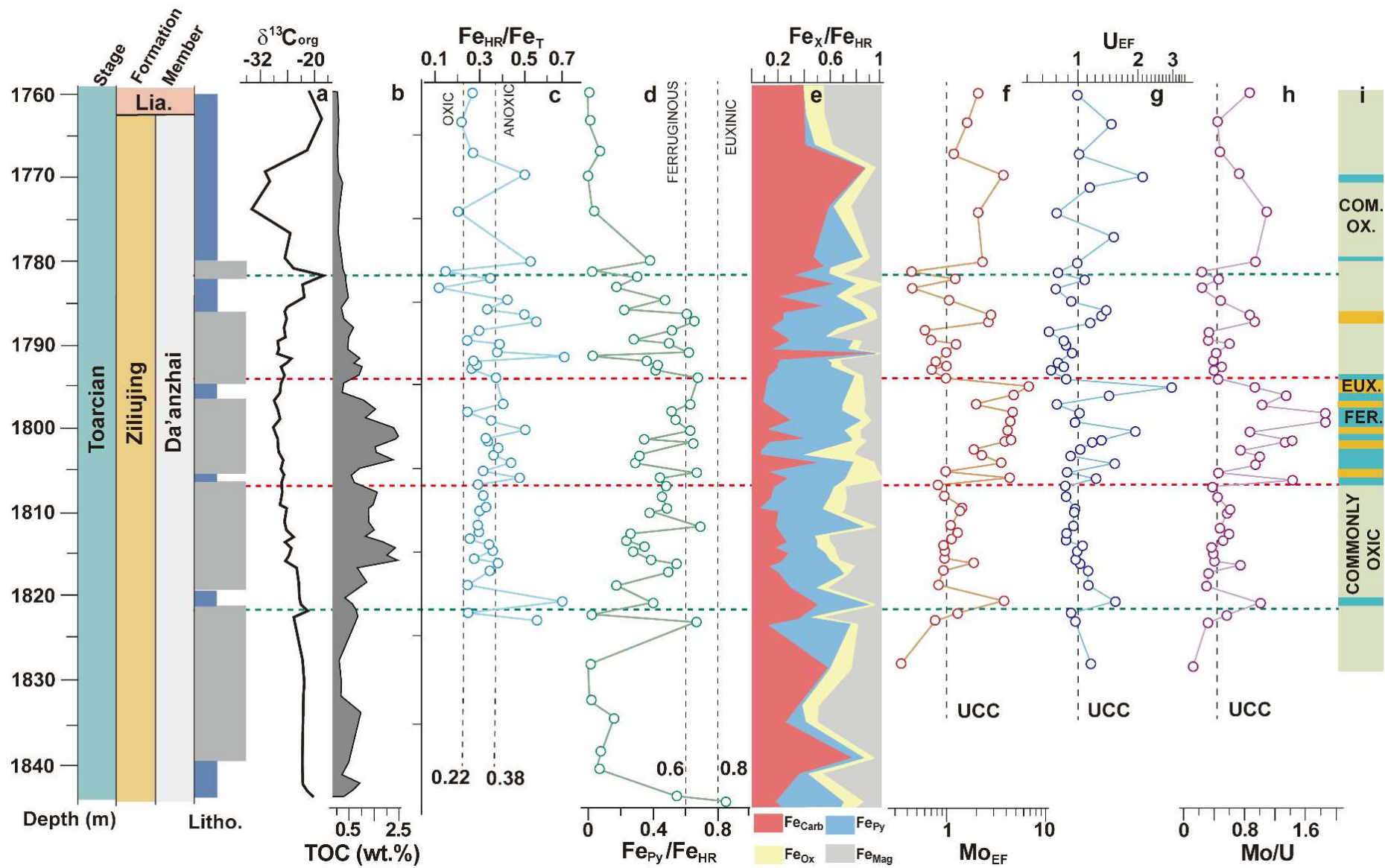
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**Fig. 4. Variation of carbon, iron and trace metal geochemistry from the deep water LQ104X well.** Green horizontal dotted lines represent the initiation and termination of the Jenkyns Event. Red horizontal dotted lines represent the start and end of sedimentary Mo enrichment. We

938 aware that these marine-based Fe speciation thresholds may vary in different lacustrine settings, but they are shown here for comparison. **a.**  
939 Organic carbon isotope profiles of bulk sediment. **b.** Total organic carbon (TOC) contents. **c.** Highly reactive iron to total iron ratios ( $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T$ );  
940 vertical dash lines represent the thresholds for oxic ( $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T < 0.22$ ) and anoxic ( $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T > 0.38$ ), respectively; area between 0.22 – 0.38  
941 represents either oxic or anoxic conditions. **d.** Pyrite iron to highly reactive iron ratios ( $Fe_{Py}/Fe_{HR}$ ); vertical dash lines represent the thresholds for  
942 ferruginous ( $Fe_{Py}/Fe_{HR} < 0.6$ ) and euxinic ( $Fe_{Py}/Fe_{HR} > 0.8$ ), respectively; area between 0.6 – 0.8 represents either ferruginous oreuxinic  
943 conditions. **e.** Proportion of individual reactive iron specie within the total highly reactive iron pool. **f.** Enrichment of molybdenum. **g.** Enrichment  
944 of uranium. Vertical dashed lines in figures **f and g** represent the enrichment of Mo and U in UCC, respectively. **h.** Mo to U ratios; vertical dashed  
945 lines represent the Mo to U ratios in UCC. **i.** Variation in water column redox conditions; lime-green band – commonly oxic condition; lake blue  
946 band – commonly anoxic-ferruginous condition; orange band – commonly euxinic condition.

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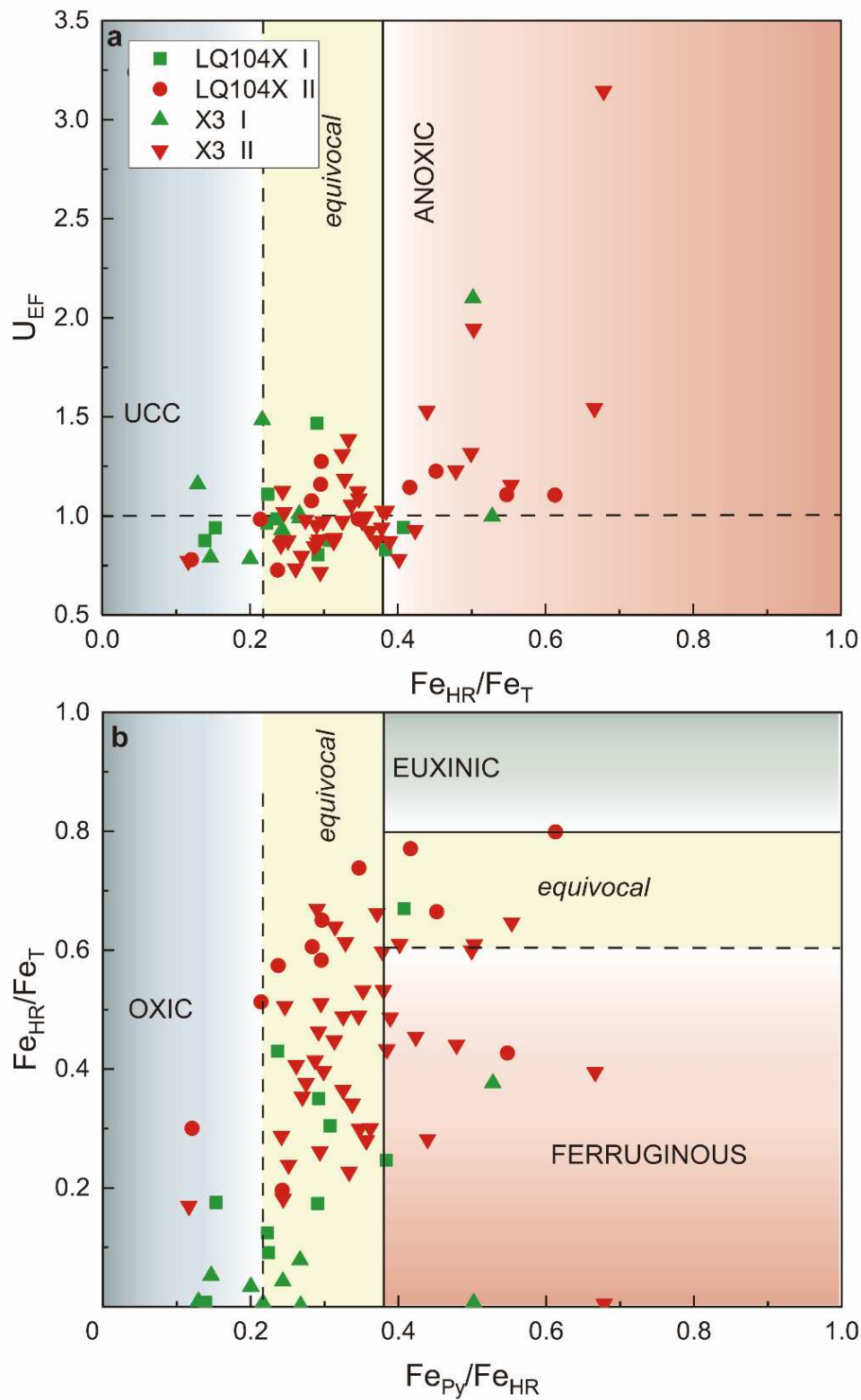
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**Fig. 5. Variation of carbon, iron and trace metal geochemistry from the shallower X3 well.** Green horizontal dotted lines represent the initiation and termination of the Jenkyns Event. Red horizontal dotted lines represent the strat and end of sedimentary Mo enrichment. **a.** Organic

953 carbon isotope profiles of bulk sediment. **b.** TOC contents. **c.**  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$ . **d.**  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Py}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$ . **e.** The proportion of each reactive iron speciation within the  
954 total highly reactive iron pool. **f.** Enrichment of molybdenum. **g.** Enrichment of uranium. **h.** Mo to U ratio. **i.** Variation in water-column redox  
955 conditions.

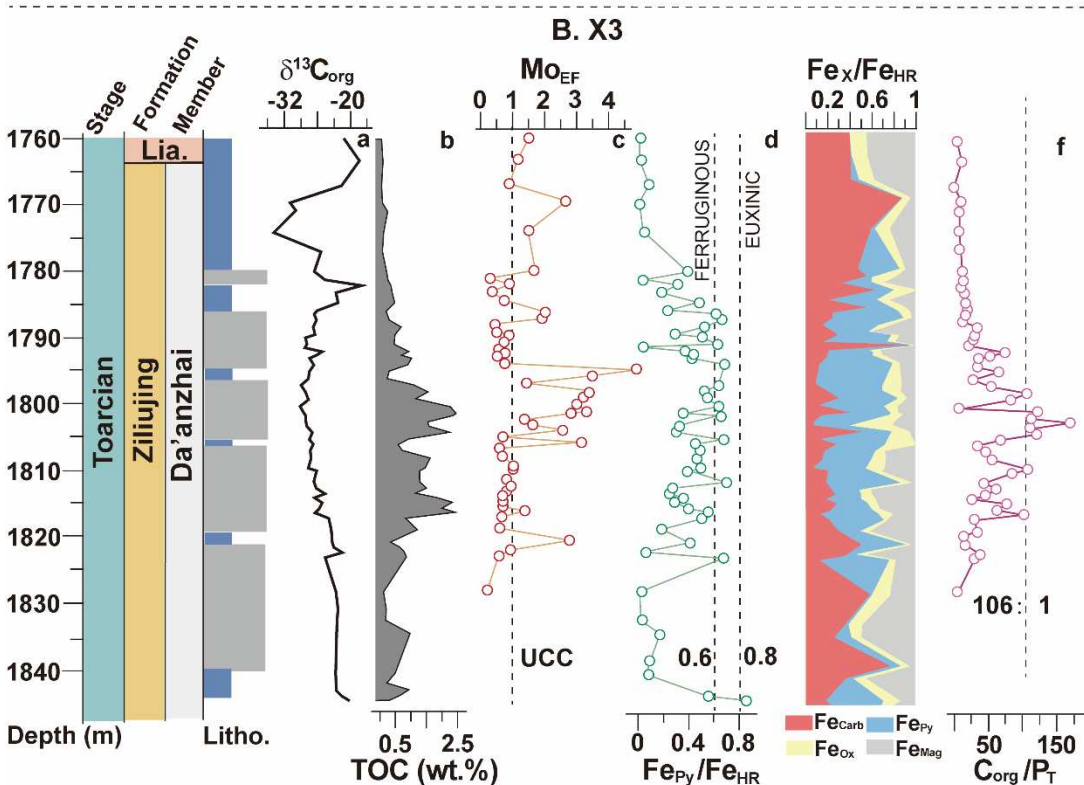
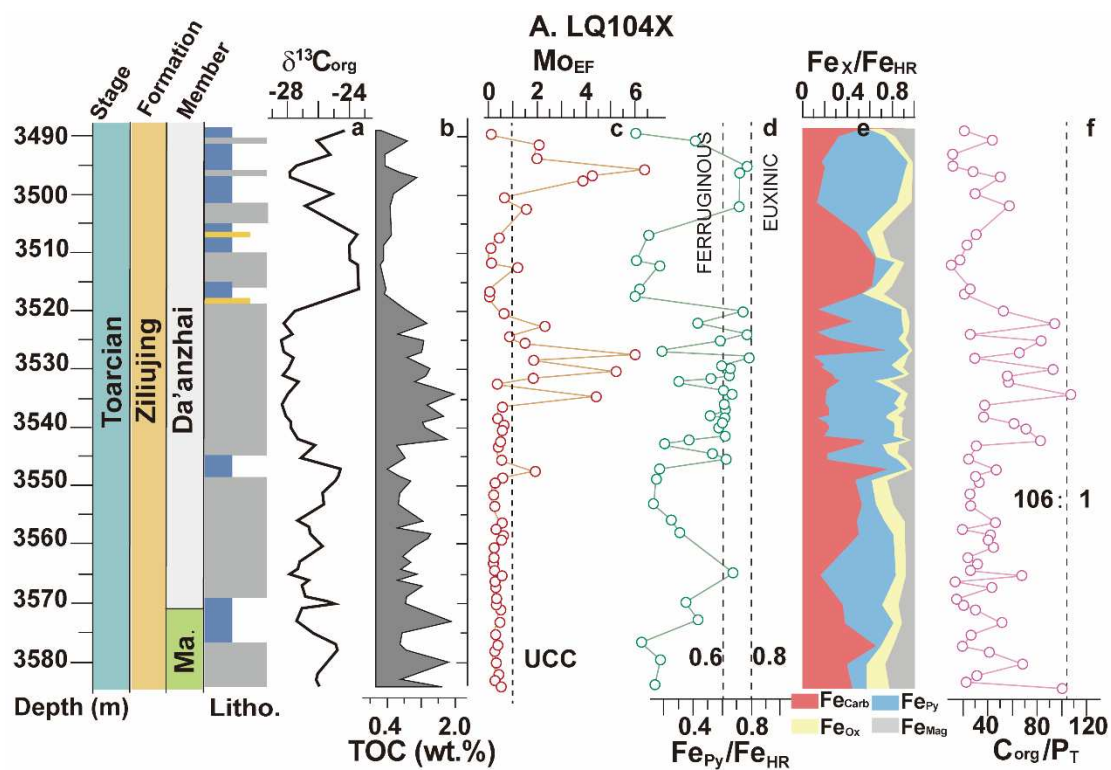


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 957 **Fig. 6. Fe speciation and U enrichment in the Toarcian Da'anzhai Member from the**  
 958 **Sichuan Basin. a.** Cross-plot of  $U_{EF}$  versus  $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T$  ratio. The horizontal dash line represents  
 959 the U enrichment of UCC (Rudnick and Gao, 2014). **b.** Cross-plot of  $Fe_{Py}/Fe_{HR}$  ratio against  
 960  $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T$  ratio.  $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T$  ratios of  $> 0.38$  represent anoxic condition, whereas  $< 0.22$  represent  
 961 oxic water column (Poulton and Raiswell, 2002; Poulton, 2021).  $Fe_{Py}/Fe_{HR}$  values  $> 0.8$  are

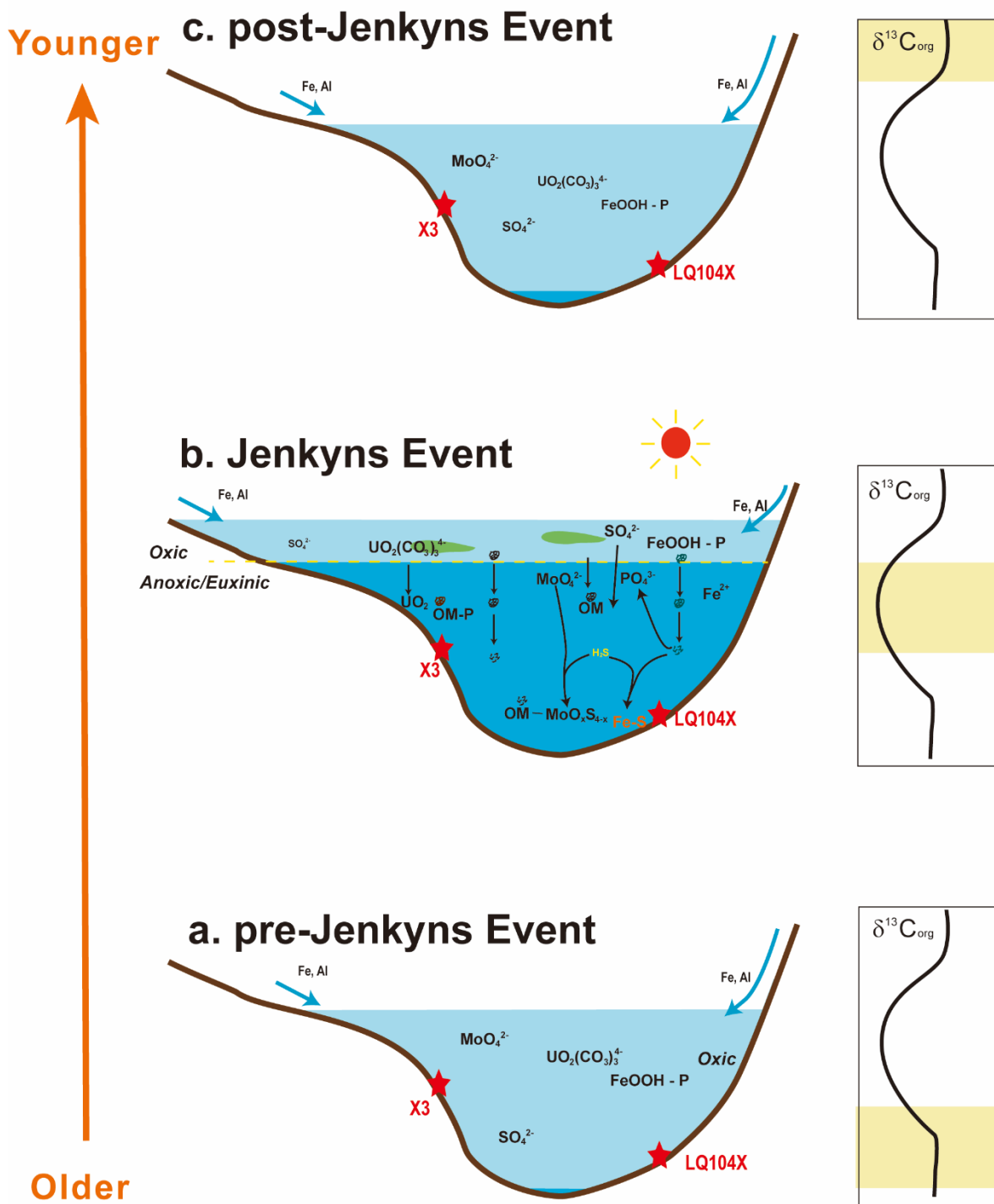
962 indicative of water column euxinia, whereas  $< 0.6$  represent ferruginous condition (Poulton,  
963 2021). Additionally, the yellow shade area (i.e.,  $0.22 < \text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{T}} < 0.38$  and  $0.6 < \text{Fe}_{\text{Py}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}} <$   
964  $0.8$ ) may be equivocal, which can represent either oxic or anoxic conditions, and ferruginous  
965 or euxinic conditions, respectively (Poulton, 2021). The LQ104X I and X3 I represent the  
966 samples in non-Jenkyns Event intervals, while the LQ104X II and X3 II represent the samples  
967 in Jenkyns Event intervals. Note that samples deposited under anoxic conditions show obvious  
968 covariation between their  $U_{\text{EF}}$  and  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$  ratios ( $r^2 = 0.40$ ).

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 972 **Fig. 7. Variation of redox proxies and P cycling in the Toarcian Da'anzhai Member from**  
 973 **the Sichuan Basin. A.** deep water LQ104X well. **B.** shallower X3 well. **a.** Organic carbon  
 974 isotope profiles of bulk sediment. **b.** Total organic carbon (TOC) contents. **c.** Enrichment of  
 975 molybdenum. **d.** Pyrite iron to highly reactive iron ratios ( $Fe_{Py}/Fe_{HR}$ ). **e.** Proportion of each  
 976 reactive iron speciation within the total highly reactive iron pool. **f.** Molar ratio of organic  
 977 carbon to total phosphorus (Refield ratio; Algeo and Ingall, 2007).



978 **Fig. 8. Conceptual model of lacustrine redox changes in the Sichuan Basin across the**  
 979 **Jenkyns Event.** Yellow bands through data profiles indicate different episodes of the early  
 980 Toarcian negative carbon isotope excursion event. **a.** dominantly oxic condition in the basin  
 981 during pre-Jenkyns Event interval. **b.** heyday of the Jenkyns Event, when the LQ104X site and  
 982 X3 site are situated below the chemocline with dominantly anoxic-ferruginous or euxinic  
 983 conditions. **c** post-Jenkyns Event interval dominated by oxic condition at both sites, but  
 984 interspersed with short-lived anoxic pulses. The “sun” represents hyperthermal event.  
 985