



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

This is a repository copy of *The iron paleoredox proxies: A guide to the pitfalls, problems and proper practice*.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/126859/>

Version: Accepted Version

---

**Article:**

Raiswell, R, Hardisty, DS, Lyons, TW et al. (5 more authors) (2018) The iron paleoredox proxies: A guide to the pitfalls, problems and proper practice. *American Journal of Science*, 318 (5). pp. 491-526. ISSN 0002-9599

<https://doi.org/10.2475/05.2018.03>

---

**Reuse**

Items deposited in White Rose Research Online are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved unless indicated otherwise. They may be downloaded and/or printed for private study, or other acts as permitted by national copyright laws. The publisher or other rights holders may allow further reproduction and re-use of the full text version. This is indicated by the licence information on the White Rose Research Online record for the item.

**Takedown**

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing [eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk) including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.



[eprints@whiterose.ac.uk](mailto:eprints@whiterose.ac.uk)  
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/>

TABLE 1. Commonly used extractions and the main minerals extracted (for methodology see Poulton and Canfield, 2005).

<b>Extraction</b>	<b>Main Minerals Extracted</b>
Na acetate, pH 4.5, 24 hr	Carbonate Fe, including siderite and ankerite
Na dithionite, pH 4.8, 2 hr	Ferrihydrite, lepidocrocite, goethite, hematite
NH <sub>4</sub> oxalate, pH 3.2, 6 hr	Magnetite
Boiling 12 N HCl, 2 mins	All Fe (oxyhydr)oxides, carbonate Fe and some silicate iron

TABLE 2. Modern sediment proxy values (data from Anderson and Raiswell, 2004; Raiswell and Canfield, 1998).

<b>Sediment</b>	<b>Fe<sub>HR</sub>/Fe<sub>T</sub></b>	<b>Fe<sub>py</sub>/Fe<sub>HR</sub></b>
Black Sea	0.70±0.19	0.88±0.02
Cariaco Basin	0.51±0.03	0.89±0.02
Dysoxic or Fluctuating	0.28±0.10	0.63±0.27
Continental Margin + Deep Sea	0.26±0.08	0.10±0.17

TABLE 3. Best practice thresholds for the iron proxies.

<b>Environment</b>	<b>Best Practice Thresholds</b>			
	<b>DOP*</b>	<b>Fe<sub>T</sub>/Al**</b>	<b>Fe<sub>HR</sub>/Fe<sub>T</sub><sup>+</sup></b>	<b>Fe<sub>py</sub>/Fe<sub>HR</sub><sup>++</sup></b>
Oxic, Dysoxic	<0.45	0.55±0.11	<0.22 or 0.38	<1.0
Anoxic, Ferruginous	<0.75	>0.66	0.22(0.38) to >0.7	0.22(0.38)-0.7
Euxinic	>0.75	>0.66	>0.7	>0.7

\* See DOP section; consider constraints 1-5

\*\*See Fe<sub>T</sub>/Al section; consider local thresholds and dilution effects. Hydrothermal inputs possible for Fe<sub>T</sub>/Al > 2.

<sup>+</sup>See Fe<sub>HR</sub>/Fe<sub>T</sub> section; consider compositional constraints (Fe<sub>T</sub> >0.5%, organic C >0.5%). Modern sediment values in brackets.

<sup>++</sup>See Fe<sub>py</sub>/Fe<sub>HR</sub> section; consider in conjunction with Fe<sub>T</sub>/Al and Fe<sub>HR</sub>/Fe<sub>T</sub>. Modern sediment values in brackets.

