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5 1 Links between seawater paleoredox and the formation of  
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8 2 sediment-hosted massive sulphide (SHMS) deposits – Fe  
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12 3 speciation and Mo isotope constraints from Late Devonian  
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16 4 mudstones

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32  
33 12 **ABSTRACT**

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35 13 Many models of sediment hosted massive sulphide (SHMS) deposit formation invoke  
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37 14 basin restriction events that resulted in long-term stagnation and anoxia, in which sulphidic  
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39 15 (euxinic) conditions ultimately prevailed. Euxinic conditions are then thought to provide a  
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41 16 chemical trap for hydrothermally exhaled base metals. Here, we present Fe speciation and Mo  
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43 17 isotope data for organic-rich mudstones from two drill-holes intersecting Upper Devonian strata,  
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45 18 deposited along the passive margin of ancestral North America. One drill-hole intersects a 35 m  
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47 19 thick sequence of SHMS mineralisation, while the other intersects correlative, un-mineralised  
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49 20 strata. All samples have high  $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T$  values ( $>0.38$ ), indicating water-column anoxia. For the  
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51 21 majority of samples in the un-mineralised drill-hole, the levels of pyritisation fall below the  
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53 22 threshold typically used to define euxinic conditions ( $Fe_{PY}/Fe_{HR} \leq 0.7$ ). In contrast, higher levels  
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55 23 of pyritisation in the mineralised drill-hole (median  $Fe_{PY}/Fe_{HR} = 0.86$ ) likely developed via  
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57 24 diagenetic pyrite enrichment. Whereas Pb and Zn are negatively correlated with Mo, Mo-U co-  
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4 25 variation is consistent with Fe (oxyhydr)oxide particulate shuttling in the water-column. In  
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6 26 addition, a weak correlation between TOC/P and Mo provides further evidence that Mo was  
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8 27 sourced via authigenic, rather than hydrothermal, processes. The  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values (+0.35 to +0.71‰)  
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10 28 are uniform between both drill-holes, and substantially lower than constraints for Late Devonian  
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12 29 seawater (+1.5 to +2.0‰), consistent with Mo adsorption to Fe (oxyhydr)oxides. Collectively, the  
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14 30 data provide evidence that local seawater was dominantly ferruginous (anoxic, non-sulphidic) at  
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16 31 Macmillan Pass. Regional variability in the extent of ferruginous (low TOC/P) and euxinic (high  
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18 32 TOC/P) conditions likely contributed to a balance between P regeneration and P enrichment that  
19  
20 33 maintained nutrient availability and productivity in the Selwyn Basin during the Late Devonian.  
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22 34 We argue that high primary productivity and enhanced organic carbon burial are key variables for  
23  
24 35 promoting sulphate reduction in the sub-surface. Moreover, how such conditions are maintained  
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26 36 over long periods of basin evolution is more important for producing effective metal traps in  
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28 37 SHMS systems, rather than a specific, localised redox condition of seawater (i.e. euxinia).  
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## 39 INTRODUCTION

40 Sediment-hosted massive sulphide (SHMS) deposits represent the anomalous enrichment  
41 of reduced sulphur and base metals (Pb, Zn, Fe) within organic-rich marine strata (Ohmoto and  
42 Goldhaber, 1997). A major challenge for previous studies on SHMS deposits has been to  
43 determine the nature of the relationship between ambient paleoredox conditions and  
44 mineralisation. Many deposits contain bedded (stratiform) sulphide mineralisation, which has led  
45 to the development of sedimentary exhalative (SEDEX) models involving sulphide precipitation  
46 from a stagnant water-column, where anoxic, sulphidic conditions (dissolved  $\text{H}_2\text{S} > \text{Fe}^{2+}$ ; euxinic)  
47 develop in restricted marine sub-basins (Goodfellow et al., 1993). Indeed, the development of  
48 euxinic conditions has been proposed as the chemical trap for hydrothermally exhaled base  
49 metals, and also provides a key component in the explanation for the secular distribution of  
50 SHMS deposits within the geologic record (Goodfellow, 1987; Lyons et al., 2006; Turner, 1992).

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4 51 Ultimately, this euxinic basin paradigm forms a framework for how basin architecture (i.e.  
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6 52 restriction) and geochemistry (i.e. stagnation, euxinia) is interpreted in SHMS systems, which  
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9 53 informs exploration models and the targeting of new discoveries.

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11 54 Combining the iron and Mo based redox proxies can provide an important framework for  
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13 55 evaluating seawater paleoredox across different scales, both local and global (Scott and Lyons,  
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15 56 2012). Molybdenum is the most abundant transition metal in seawater, and is homogenously  
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17 57 distributed within the modern oceans ( $\sim 8 \times 10^5$  yr residence time; Emerson and Huested, 1991).  
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19 58 Importantly, adsorption of Mo to Fe-Mn (oxyhydr)oxides in oxic seawater results in a large  
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21 59 isotopic fractionation, leading to modern seawater with a high  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  value (+2.4‰; Barling et  
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23 60 al., 2001; Barling and Anbar, 2004; Poulson et al., 2006; Siebert et al., 2003). In contrast, there is  
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25 61 minimal isotopic fractionation between seawater and sediments deposited under strongly euxinic  
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27 62 conditions in which  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  concentrations exceed  $11 \mu\text{M}$  (Erickson and Helz, 2000; Nägler et al.,  
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29 63 2005; Neubert et al., 2008). Assuming invariant Mo input to the oceans, periods of Earth history  
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31 64 with expanded euxinia are therefore characterised by  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values that are lower relative to  
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33 65 modern oceans (e.g. Arnold et al., 2004). However, accurate interpretations require independent  
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35 66 constraints of local depositional redox conditions, and the need to specifically demonstrate the  
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37 67 occurrence of strongly euxinic conditions in which no fractionation occurs between seawater and  
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39 68 sediment (e.g. Gordon et al., 2009). This is typically achieved by the combined interpretation of  
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41 69 Mo and Fe geochemistry (Scott and Lyons, 2012), with the latter involving an evaluation of  
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43 70 sediment Fe enrichments and the degree to which Fe occurs within pyrite relative to other phases  
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45 71 containing reactive Fe (e.g. carbonate and oxide phases; Poulton and Canfield, 2005).  
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51 72 Despite the proposed link between seawater paleoredox and sulphide mineralisation, a  
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53 73 combined approach using Mo and Fe geochemistry has not yet been attempted on the organic-rich  
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55 74 mudstones that host SHMS deposits. In this study, we focus on Upper Devonian organic-rich  
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57 75 mudstones from the Selwyn Basin which, like other sedimentary basins of this age, is host to fine-  
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59 76 grained siliciclastic rocks deposited along the continental margin of ancestral North America  
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4 77 (Fig. 1). Unlike other Late Devonian basins of North America, the Selwyn Basin also hosts  
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6 78 SHMS mineralisation (Fig. 2A, B). At Macmillan Pass, two SHMS deposits occur within  
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8 79 Frasnian strata (Fig. 2C), where the full deposit architectures are well-preserved, comprising a  
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10 80 discrete feeder zone of massive sulphide and iron carbonate mineralisation overlain by a laterally  
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12 81 extensive sequence (hundreds of meters) of bedded sulphide and barite mineralization (between  
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14 82 ~5 and 40 meters thick). This provides an opportunity to address a number of questions relating  
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16 83 to seawater paleoredox during the Late Devonian and possible relationships with SHMS  
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18 84 mineralisation, including: (1) is there any evidence of a hydrothermal Mo flux at Macmillan Pass,  
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20 85 and if so, what is the isotopic composition? 2) How does the Selwyn Basin compare in terms of  
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22 86 paleoredox to other sedimentary basins hosting organic rich mudstones? 3) Is there a clear genetic  
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24 87 relationship between seawater paleoredox and sulphide mineralisation?  
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## 31 89 **METHODS**

### 32 90 **Samples**

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35 91 Samples were collected from three correlated drill-holes (76-17, TYK-5 and TYK-1; Fig.  
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37 92 2C and 3), including 37 samples of un-mineralised mudstones and five samples from the  
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39 93 mineralised hydrothermal vent at the Tom deposit (Fig. 4). The stockwork veining in the vent  
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41 94 complex occurs immediately beneath the bedded mineralisation (see TYK-1 in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4),  
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43 95 and represents the main conduit of hydrothermal upflow in the SHMS systems at Macmillan Pass  
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45 96 (Magnall et al. 2016a).  
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49 97 Hand specimens of the un-mineralised mudstones were examined under a binocular  
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51 98 microscope to identify small-scale sedimentological features, and sub-samples were cut parallel  
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53 99 to bedding for geochemical analysis, minimising the vertical stratigraphic thickness of the sample  
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55 100 (< 2cm; Fig. 4). Care was taken to collect only the most homogenous, fine-grained samples, and  
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57 101 those containing high concentrations of euhedral pyrite, obvious detrital input (e.g. silt beds), and  
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59 102 any evidence of alteration (veining; hydrothermal or tectonic) were avoided. The vent complex  
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4 103 samples preserve an assemblage of ankerite veining and massive sulphide mineralisation within  
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6 104 variably altered organic-rich mudstone. The hydrothermal fluid entering the vent complex was  
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8 105 hot ( $> 250\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and reducing ( $f\text{O}_2 = 10^{-35}$ ) but rapidly cooled upon mixing with diagenetic fluids  
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10 106 (Magnall et al., 2016a).

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13 107 Chemical analyses

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15 108 Bulk rock powders for all samples (un-mineralised mudstones and mineralised vent  
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17 109 samples) were analysed for trace elements by aqua-regia digestion and ICP-MS at ACME  
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19 110 laboratories (Vancouver, Canada). Data quality and accuracy were monitored through the  
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21 111 analysis of in-house laboratory quartz blanks and internal standards, and the insertion of blind  
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23 112 quartz blanks and certified reference materials with the unknowns. As the un-mineralised  
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25 113 mudstones and mineralised vent complex samples have substantially different matrixes, different  
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27 114 reference materials were used; the SBC-1 and SGR-1b (USGS standards) were used for the  
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29 115 mudstones whereas OREAS standards (131a and 134a) were used for the mineralised vent  
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31 116 complex samples. The measured concentrations of the reference materials were always within the  
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33 117 certified range.

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37 118 For the un-mineralised mudstones, the sequential extraction technique of Poulton and  
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39 119 Canfield (2005) was used to quantify highly reactive Fe ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$ ), which represents Fe incorporated  
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41 120 into pyrite ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}$ ), carbonates (e.g. ankerite, siderite;  $\text{Fe}_{\text{CARB}}$ ), ferric oxides (goethite, hematite;  
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43 121  $\text{Fe}_{\text{OX}}$ ), and magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{MAG}}$ ). This involved the sequential extraction of  $\text{Fe}_{\text{CARB}}$  by a sodium  
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45 122 acetate leach (48 h at  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$ ),  $\text{Fe}_{\text{OX}}$  by sodium dithionite leach (2 h at room temperature) and  
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47 123  $\text{Fe}_{\text{MAG}}$  by ammonium oxalate leach (6 h at room temperature). Atomic absorption spectroscopy  
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49 124 (AAS) was then used to quantify the Fe in each sequential extraction. The  $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}$  fraction was  
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51 125 calculated from the extraction of sulphide as  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  following a hot chromous chloride distillation  
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53 126 (Canfield et al., 1986). The relative standard deviation of repeat analyses of  $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}$  was 14% ( $n =$   
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55 127 6), and for all other extractions  $< 8\%$  ( $n = 13$ ).

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4 128 Isotopic analyses

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6 129 Molybdenum isotope analyses were performed at the W.M. Keck Foundation Laboratory  
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9 130 for Environmental Biogeochemistry (Arizona State University) on a Thermo Finnigan Neptune  
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11 131 MC-ICP-MS with an Elemental Scientific Apex-Q and a PFA nebuliser. Splits of the same bulk  
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13 132 rock powders of un-mineralised mudstone were ashed at 550°C overnight to degrade organic  
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15 133 matter. Aliquots of 100 mg were sonicated in a combination of trace-metal-grade nitric and  
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17 134 hydrofluoric acids, then heated in sealed Teflon vessels at 120°C overnight. This was followed by  
18  
19 135 nitric and hydrochloric acids if digestion was not complete. Acids were evaporated off under  
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21 136 HEPA filtered air, and samples were re-dissolved in 6 M trace metal grade hydrochloric acid.  
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23 137 Samples were purified using a two-column method previously reported (Duan et al., 2010). In  
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25 138 brief, Biorad AG1X-8 anion resin is used to separate Fe and Mo from the resin; the matrix is  
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27 139 eluted in 6M HCl, and the Fe and Mo are co-eluted in 1 M HCl. Biorad AG50WX-8 cation  
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29 140 exchange resin is used to sequester Fe in 0.5 M HCl, and elute Mo. To correct for instrumental  
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31 141 mass bias and isobaric interferences, samples were doubled-spiked with a calibrated <sup>97</sup>Mo–<sup>100</sup>Mo  
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33 142 spike. The following isotopes were measured for 4.1 seconds at 100 cycles per analysis: <sup>91</sup>Zr,  
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35 143 <sup>92</sup>Mo, <sup>94</sup>Mo, <sup>95</sup>Mo, <sup>96</sup>Mo, <sup>97</sup>Mo, <sup>98</sup>Mo, <sup>99</sup>Ru and <sup>100</sup>Mo. All Mo isotopes were corrected for mass  
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37 144 bias and isobaric interferences with Zr (<sup>92</sup>Zr, <sup>94</sup>Zr and <sup>96</sup>Zr).  
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42 145 Sample measurements were bracketed (every two analyses) by an in house standard,  
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44 146 RochMo2 (Johnson Matthey Chemical, Specpure ICP-MS standard, Stock #35758, Lot  
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46 147 #802309E). Every 10 samples four additional secondary standards were analysed, including NIST  
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48 148 SRM3134 (Goldberg et al. 2013), KyotoMo (In-house ICP standard, Kyoto University),  
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50 149 ImperialMo (in-house ICP standard, Imperial University) and SDO-1 (USGS rock reference  
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52 150 material). The Mo isotope data are presented as delta (δ) values as the parts per thousand (‰)  
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54 151 deviation in <sup>98</sup>Mo/<sup>95</sup>Mo relative to the standard:

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$$\delta^{98}\text{Mo} (\text{‰}) = \left\{ \left[ \frac{(^{98}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo})_{\text{sample}}}{(^{98}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo})_{\text{standard}}} \right] - 1 \right\} \times 1000$$

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4 153 The reproducibility of all analysed standard materials compare well with the long-term  
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6 154 values. The measured value for NIST SRM 3134 ( $+0.31\text{‰} \pm 0.04$ ,  $2\sigma$ ;  $n = 12$ ) is slightly higher  
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8 155 than the value determined for this reference material ( $+0.25\text{‰}$ ; Goldberg et al., 2013), and  $0.06\text{‰}$   
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10 156 has been subtracted from each sample so that data are reported relative to this interlaboratory  
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12 157 scale (Nägler et al., 2014).  
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## 17 159 **RESULTS**

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20 160 The major element chemistry of the un-mineralised mudstones has already been  
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22 161 published in Magnall et al. (2015) and is supplemented in Table 1 by trace element data and 5  
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24 162 samples from the vent complex (this study). All chemical (Fe speciation) and Mo isotope data  
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26 163 are summarised in Table 2, together with bulk rock  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values reported by Magnall et al. (2016b)  
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28 164 that were produced on the same un-mineralised mudstone samples. Down-hole plots of Fe  
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30 165 speciation parameters ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$ ) and Mo geochemistry ( $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ , ppm) are presented  
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32 166 in Figure 5. Where median values are given in the following text, the interquartile range (Q1 to  
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34 167 Q3) is included in parentheses. The un-mineralised mudstones contain high levels of  $\text{SiO}_2$   
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36 168 (median  $77.0\text{ wt.}\%$ ; Q1 to Q3 =  $72.9$  to  $80.6$ ). The  $\text{SiO}_2$  is largely of biogenic origin (see Magnall  
37  
38 169 et al. 2015), however total Fe ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$ ) has not been diluted below the concentration considered to  
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40 170 give reliable Fe paleo-redox data ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{T}} = 0.5\text{ wt.}\%$ ; Clarkson et al., 2014); samples from drill-hole  
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42 171 (DH) 76-17 contain median  $\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$  of  $1.47\text{ wt.}\%$  (Q1 to Q3 =  $1.19$  to  $1.83$ ) and DH-TKY-5 of  $2.41$   
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44 172  $\text{wt.}\%$  (Q1 to Q3 =  $1.32$  to  $2.90$ ). Samples from DH-76-17 and DH-TYK-5 preserve contrasting  
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46 173  $\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}/\text{Al}$  ratios, with respective median values of  $0.38$  (Q1 to Q3 =  $0.31$  to  $0.45$ ) and  $0.61$  (Q1 to  
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48 174 Q3 =  $0.29$  to  $0.67$ ). In samples from DH-TYK-5,  $\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}/\text{Al}$  forms a positive correlation ( $R^2 = 0.72$ )  
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50 175 with bulk rock  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values (Fig. 6).  
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54 176 In terms of Fe speciation, highly reactive iron ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$ ), which is a summation of Fe in  
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56 177 pyrite ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}$ ), carbonate ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{CARB}}$ ), oxide phases ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{OX}}$ ) and magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{MAG}}$ ), comprises a  
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58 178 major proportion of total Fe ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$ ) in both drill-holes (Fig. 5). Median  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$  values are  $0.86$   
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4 179 (Q1 to Q3 = 0.81 to 0.94) and 0.98 (Q1 to Q3 = 0.95 to 1.02) for samples from 76-17 and TYK-5,  
5  
6 180 respectively. The fraction of Fe<sub>HR</sub> present as Fe<sub>PY</sub> is high in both drill-holes (Fig. 5), with median  
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8 181 values for Fe<sub>PY</sub>/Fe<sub>HR</sub> of 0.72 (Q1 to Q3 = 0.65 to 0.76) in samples from DH-76-17 and 0.85 (Q1  
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10 182 to Q3 = 0.78 to 0.86) for samples from TYK-5. Most of the un-sulphidised Fe<sub>HR</sub> occurs as  
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12 183 Fe<sub>CARB</sub>, with minor amounts of Fe<sub>OX</sub> and Fe<sub>MAG</sub> (see Table 1).  
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15 184 In terms of trace metals (see Fig. 7), the 5 mineralised samples contain high but variable  
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17 185 levels of Zn (0.8 wt.%, < 0.1 to 2.5) and Pb (3.8 wt.%, 0.1 to 8.2), but low levels of Mo (3 to 5  
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19 186 ppm). In contrast, the un-mineralised mudstones contain < 100 ppm Pb and mostly < 1000 ppm  
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21 187 Zn. Compared to the mineralised vent samples, however, Mo is enriched in the mudstones (18  
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23 188 ppm, Q1 to Q3 = 14 to 21). The mudstone samples have a narrow, normally distributed range of  
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25 189  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values (0.48‰  $\pm$  0.11), with no systematic relationship between  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values and  
26  
27 190 Fe<sub>PY</sub>/Fe<sub>HR</sub> (Fig. 5). There are weak correlations between Mo and TOC ( $r^2 = 0.37$ ; Fig. 8) and  
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29 191 between Mo and TOC/P ( $r^2 = 0.43$ ; Fig. 9a), and a stronger correlation between TOC/P and P/Al  
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31 192 ( $r^2 = 0.59$ ; Fig. 9b). Also included in Figures 8 and 9 are recently published data for correlative  
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33 193 mudstones from the Richardson Trough (Fraser and Hutchison, 2017), which is a northerly  
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35 194 extension of the Selwyn Basin (Figure 1).  
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4 195 **DISCUSSION**

5  
6 196 Iron Geochemistry

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8 197 The total Fe ( $Fe_T$ ) budget of marine sediments is comprised of  $Fe_{HR}$ , which represents Fe  
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10 198 that may undergo redox-controlled mineralogical transformations during diagenesis, together with  
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12 199 poorly reactive and unreactive silicate Fe (Raiswell and Canfield, 1998). When normalised to Al  
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14 200 (which in most sedimentary environments is immobile), changes in  $Fe_T/Al$  typically reflect redox-  
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16 201 controlled changes in the  $Fe_{HR}$  budget of sediments (Lyons and Severmann, 2006; Scholz et al.,  
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18 202 2014). For example, when dissolution of insoluble Fe (oxy)hydroxides occurs in euxinic basins,  
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20 203 water column (syngenetic) pyrite formation can result in underlying sediments developing high  
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22 204 Fe/Al ratios relative to lithogenic background (Lyons and Severmann, 2006). In contrast, in parts  
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24 205 of the modern ocean where both low oxygen and low sulphide concentrations occur, Fe  
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26 206 (oxy)hydroxide dissolution in sediment pore fluids results in the release of  $Fe^{2+}$  to the water  
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28 207 column and the development of relatively low sedimentary Fe/Al ratios (Scholz et al., 2014).  
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31  
32 208 The median Fe/Al value for samples from DH-76-17 (0.38; Fig. 6a) overlaps with  
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34 209 correlative mudstones from the Richardson Trough (Fraser and Hutchison, 2017). Combined, the  
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36 210 Fe/Al value of samples from the Richardson Trough and DH-76-17 may indicate a regional  
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38 211 lithogenic background (e.g. Scholz et al., 2014) that is lower than the upper continental crust  
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40 212 value that is commonly used as a reference for shale (0.44; McLennan, 2001). In contrast, the  
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42 213 Fe/Al in samples from DH-TYK-5 is higher (median = 0.61), which could indicate  $Fe_{HR}$   
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44 214 enrichment associated with syngenetic pyrite formation in a euxinic water column (Lyons and  
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46 215 Severmann, 2006). Indeed, there is a good correlation between increasing Fe/Al (Fig. 6b), and  
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48 216 more positive bulk rock  $\delta^{34}S$  values that are typical of pyrite formation in sulphate limited  
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50 217 conditions (Gomes and Hurtgen, 2015). Sulphate limited conditions, however, can occur on  
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52 218 different scales; for example, within the water column at a basin scale (Newton et al., 2011) or at  
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54 219 a more local scale within diagenetic pore fluids (Borowski et al., 2013). Indeed, recent in situ  
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56 220 isotopic analyses of pyrite at Macmillan Pass has established that positive  $\delta^{34}S$  values ( $> 15\text{‰}$ )  
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4 221 developed during diagenesis (i.e. at a local scale), close to the sulphate methane transition zone  
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6 222 (SMTZ) (Magnall et al., 2016b). Thus, the trend towards more positive bulk rock  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values at  
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8 223 higher Fe/Al in samples from DH-TYK-5 (Fig. 6b) is evidence that Fe enrichment corresponds  
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10 224 with a greater proportion of pyrite formed at the SMTZ relative to pyrite formed via bacterial  
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12 225 sulphate reduction (BSR). This interpretation is similar to recent work that has documented  
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14 226 increasing  $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  and  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values at the SMTZ along the continental margin of the South  
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16 227 China Sea (Lin et al., 2016). In contrast, there is no correlation between Fe/Al and  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  in  
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18 228 samples from DH-76-17, indicating the predominant generation of pyrite formed during early  
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20 229 diagenesis via BSR and there was minimal subsequent Fe enrichment. Nevertheless, in both drill  
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22 230 holes (TYK-5 and 76-17)  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  still represents the predominant component of  $\text{Fe}_{\text{T}}$  and greatly  
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24 231 exceeds the threshold for deposition under anoxic conditions ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{T}} > 0.38$ ; Poulton and  
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26 232 Raiswell, 2002; Raiswell and Canfield, 1998).

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31 233         The degree to which  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  is converted to  $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}$  can be used to distinguish between anoxic  
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33 234 non-sulphidic (ferruginous) and anoxic sulphidic (euxinic) conditions (Poulton and Canfield,  
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35 235 2005). High levels of pyritisation ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}} > 0.7$ ) suggest a persistently euxinic water-column,  
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37 236 whereas lower values ( $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}} < 0.7$ ) are more consistent with varying degrees of pyritisation  
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39 237 within sulphidic pore fluids (i.e. beneath anoxic, non-sulphidic waters, which are commonly  
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41 238 ferruginous) or under weakly or intermittently euxinic conditions (Poulton and Canfield, 2011).  
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43 239 Applying this framework to samples from Macmillan Pass is only appropriate for samples from  
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45 240 DH-76-17, considering the evidence for diagenetic pyrite enrichment (Fig. 6b). For these  
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47 241 samples, a median value for  $\text{Fe}_{\text{PY}}/\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  of 0.72 represents a high level of pyritisation that does  
48  
49 242 not strongly distinguish between euxinic or ferruginous conditions. Indeed, ferruginous settings  
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51 243 that are prone to intermittent euxinia result in similar levels of pyritisation (e.g. Poulton et al.,  
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53 244 2015). As such, it is necessary to evaluate additional redox proxies to ensure an accurate  
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55 245 interpretation of seawater paleoredox at Macmillan Pass.

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6 247 Molybdenum Geochemistry

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8 248 In oxic seawater, molybdenum is present as the conservative molybdate anion ( $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$ ),  
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10 249 which adsorbs onto ferromanganese oxides resulting in a large isotopic fractionation ( $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{SW-OX}}$   
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12 250 =  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{SW}} - \delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{OX}} \leq 3\text{‰}$ ; Barling et al., 2001; Siebert et al., 2003; Barling and Anbar, 2004;  
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14 251 Poulson et al., 2006). In contrast, when sulphide concentrations exceed 11  $\mu\text{M}$  (Erickson and  
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16 252 Helz, 2000), the complete transformation of molybdate to reactive thiomolybdate species  
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18 253 (substitution of oxygen by sulphur;  $\text{MoO}_x\text{S}_{4-x}^{2-}$ ) may result in minimal fractionation of  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$   
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20 254 values between sediment and seawater or pore fluid (e.g. Nögler et al., 2005; Neubert et al.,  
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22 255 2008). This can also result in high sedimentary Mo enrichments ( $> 100$  ppm) in unrestricted  
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24 256 euxinic basins (Scott and Lyons, 2012).

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29 257 There are currently two studies that provide constraints for the  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  value of Late  
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31 258 Devonian seawater (Gordon et al., 2009; Dahl et al. 2010), albeit from two different periods (Fig.  
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33 259 10). Both studies present data generated from analyses of organic-rich mudstones, where  
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35 260 deposition in a euxinic basin is inferred from high levels of pyritisation. The  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values  
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37 261 reported in either study ( $\sim 1.5 - 2.0\text{‰}$ ) are lower than modern seawater ( $2.4\text{‰}$ ), which provides  
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39 262 evidence that the global oceans during the Late Devonian may have been less oxygenated,  
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41 263 although it is difficult to accurately constrain the size of the ferruginous vs. euxinic sinks (Gordon  
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43 264 et al., 2009; Dahl et al. 2010).

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47 265 At Macmillan Pass, the narrow distribution of  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values ( $+0.48\text{‰} \pm 0.20$ ) is between  
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49 266  $0.7\text{‰}$  and  $1.0\text{‰}$  lower than current constraints for Late Devonian seawater ( $\delta^{98}\text{Mo} = +1.4\text{‰}$  to  
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51 267  $+1.6\text{‰}$ ; Gordon et al., 2009). Considering the equivocal constraints provided by the Fe based  
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53 268 paleoredox proxies, there are three possible explanations for the  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values: (1) the Mo has a  
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55 269 predominantly hydrothermal rather than authigenic origin; (2) Mo was fractionated from seawater  
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4 270 in a non-euxinic setting; (3) deposition occurred in a euxinic setting, with a  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  value of  
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6 271 Frasnian seawater that was lower than the constraints for Givetian and Fammenian seawater.

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8 272 Starting with option (1), the  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values at Macmillan Pass (Fig. 10) overlap with  
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10 273 analyses of modern low-temperature hydrothermal fluids that circulate through sediment covered  
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12 274 ridge axis systems ( $\delta^{98}\text{Mo} = 0.8\text{‰}$ ; McManus et al., 2002). In these modern settings, the Mo is  
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14 275 thought to be derived from fluid-rock interaction with basalt ( $\pm$  some diagenetic Mo component;  
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16 276 Wheat et al., 2002). The majority of studies on Mo solubility in hydrothermal fluids focus on  
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18 277 magmatic hydrothermal systems, where Mo is shown to partition into the vapour phase (Rempel  
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20 278 et al., 2009). The hydrothermal systems at Macmillan Pass preserve no evidence of direct  
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22 279 magmatic input (Magnall et al., 2016a), and in the hot ( $> 250^\circ\text{C}$ ), reducing ( $f\text{O}_2 = 10^{-35}$ ) single  
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24 280 phase fluids,  $\text{Mo}^{4+}$  rather than the more soluble  $\text{Mo}^{6+}$  will have been stable. The vent fluids are  
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26 281 therefore unlikely to have produced a major hydrothermal flux of Mo, which is supported by the  
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28 282 negative correlation between Mo and Pb+Zn concentrations in samples from the mineralised vent  
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30 283 complex and organic-rich mudstones (Fig. 7). Having established that the Mo in the Macmillan  
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32 284 Pass mudstones is predominantly authigenic (rather than hydrothermal), the mechanism of Mo  
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34 285 enrichment (option 2) and whether this can provide any information on Late Devonian seawater  
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36 286 (option 3) will now be considered.

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38 287 Organic-rich mudstones commonly preserve a strong relationship between Mo and TOC  
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40 288 (Algeo et al. 2007). In modern, strongly restricted, anoxic basins, the efficient transfer of Mo  
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42 289 from seawater to sediment results in Mo depletion over time, such that sediments are  
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44 290 characterised by low Mo/TOC ratios (e.g. Black Sea; Algeo and Lyons, 2006). Where there is  
45  
46 291 strong co-variation between Mo and TOC, it is also possible to place more quantitative  
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48 292 constraints on both the size of the Mo reservoir and also deep-water residence times of Mo within  
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50 293 a basin (Algeo et al., 2007). For the Macmillan Pass mudstones, Mo and TOC are only weakly  
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52 294 correlated ( $r^2 = 0.37$ ; Fig. 8), with a narrow range in Mo/TOC (3.5 to 8 ppm/wt.%) that overlaps  
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4 295 with Black Sea sediments. Similar Mo/TOC values are also preserved in the Richardson Trough  
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6 296 samples (Fraser and Hutchison, 2017), although for these samples there is no correlation between  
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8 297 Mo and TOC ( $r^2 = 0.02$ ).  
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10 298 The contrasting redox chemistries of Mo and U can lead to the development of  
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13 299 characteristic trends that provide information on both the redox and hydrography of depositional  
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15 300 environments (Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009). For example, reduction of soluble  $U^{6+}$  to insoluble  
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17 301  $U^{4+}$  occurs at a similar redox potential to the  $Fe^{3+}$ – $Fe^{2+}$  transition, meaning that U enrichment  
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19 302 occurs under less reducing conditions than for Mo, which requires sulphidic conditions (Morford  
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22 303 et al., 2009). This means that as conditions become more reducing (i.e. suboxic – anoxic –  
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24 304 euxinic), there is a progressive enrichment of Mo relative to U in open marine settings (Algeo and  
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26 305 Tribovillard, 2009). In contrast, in basins that are both reducing and have longer deep-water  
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28 306 renewal times (i.e. basin restriction), water mass chemistry can evolve to lower Mo/U ratios (e.g.  
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30 307 Black Sea; Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009). In Figure 11, Mo and U enrichment factors (EFs) have  
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32 308 been calculated for samples from Macmillan Pass, and compared to correlative Late Devonian  
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34 309 mudstones from the Richardson Trough (Fraser and Hutchison, 2017). The two Selwyn Basin  
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36 310 data sets form a linear trend at a Mo/U ratio higher than seawater. This trend is thought to result  
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38 311 from the complexation of Mo to Fe and Mn (oxyhydr)oxides (particulate shuttle; Algeo and  
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40 312 Tribovillard, 2009), which occurs at the chemocline between oxic and anoxic water masses  
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42 313 (Berrang and Grill, 1974; Dellwig et al., 2010). More recently it has been demonstrated that  
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44 314 nitrate, not oxygen, can act as the terminal electron acceptor in modern oxygen minimum zones  
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46 315 (Scholz et al. 2016); in these settings,  $Fe^{2+}$  released from sediment pore fluids is oxidized at the  
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48 316 chemocline between weakly sulphidic and nitrogenous conditions in near bottom waters.  
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50 317 Importantly, the location of this chemocline exerts a control on the degree of trace element  
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52 318 enrichment (Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009). For example, in stratified basins (e.g. the Black Sea)  
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54 319 where the chemocline is located high in the water column, particulates undergo reductive  
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56 320 dissolution and Mo is released before reaching the sediment (Crusius et al., 1996). In contrast,  
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4 321 Mo transfer can be enhanced when there is redox variability on short timescales, particularly  
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6 322 when the chemocline is located close to the sediment-water interface (SWI). The suppression of  
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8 323  $Mo_{EF}$  values at higher  $U_{EF}$  (i.e. a flattening of the Mo-U co-variation), which is a trend typically  
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10 324 encountered in strongly restricted basins, is not preserved in the Macmillan Pass samples (Fig.  
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12 325 11). It is worth highlighting that current paleogeographic reconstructions show the Selwyn Basin  
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14 326 was no less connected to the global ocean than other Late Devonian basins on the Laurentian  
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16 327 margin (Fig. 1). Furthermore, the Mo-U co-variation is similar to trends observed both in  
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18 328 moderately restricted basins such as the Cariaco Basin (Venezuela; Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009)  
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20 329 and the Baltic Sea (Scholz et al., 2013), as well as upwelling zones in open ocean settings (e.g.  
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22 330 Peru; Scholz et al., 2011). This appears to contrast with the low Mo/TOC ratios at Macmillan  
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24 331 Pass and Richardson Trough. However, the stronger co-variation between Mo and U  
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26 332 demonstrates the predominant mechanism of Mo enrichment occurred via the particulate shuttle,  
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28 333 weakening any relationship between Mo and TOC. As such, it may be difficult to make a reliable  
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30 334 interpretation of deep-water renewal times when a relationship between Mo and TOC cannot be  
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32 335 established.

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40 337 The particulate shuttle and Mo isotope fractionation

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43 338 The identification of a particulate shuttle trend provides valuable context for the  
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45 339 interpretation of  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values at Macmillan Pass, which are offset from available constraints for  
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47 340 Late Devonian seawater (+1.5 to +2.0‰; Dahl et al., 2010; Gordon et al., 2009). Although Mo  
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49 341 isotopes cannot directly help to address the issue of basin restriction, similar isotopic  
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51 342 fractionations are preserved in modern anoxic, open-ocean settings (McManus et al., 2002;  
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53 343 Poulson et al., 2006; Dickson et al., 2014).

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57 344 Using the constraints for Late Devonian seawater, the  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values of the Macmillan  
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59 345 Pass mudstones (+0.7 to +1.0‰) correspond with the isotopic fractionation that occurs during Mo

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4 346 adsorption to Fe (oxyhydr)oxides (Goldberg et al., 2009). In samples without major diagenetic  
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6 347 pyrite enrichment ( $Fe/Al < 0.44$ ) there is a positive correlation between  $Fe/Al$  and  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values  
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8 348 (Fig. 12a), providing evidence that the redox geochemistry of Fe and Mo may have been linked.  
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10 349 A major finding of Goldberg et al. (2009) was that the mineralogy of Fe (oxyhydr)oxides exerts a  
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12 350 control on  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values, as complexation with magnetite, goethite and ferrihydrite produces  
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14 351 respective fractionations ( $\Delta^{98}Mo$ ) of  $0.83\% \pm 0.60$ ,  $1.11\% \pm 0.15$  and  $1.40\% \pm 0.48$ . Assuming  
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16 352 that  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values are controlled predominantly by Fe (oxyhydr)oxide mineralogy, the correlation  
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18 353 between  $Fe/Al$  and  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values may indicate that a change in mineralogy was accompanied by  
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20 354 an increase in delivery of  $Fe_{HR}$ .  
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25 355 As sedimentary Mo enrichment appears to be controlled primarily via the particulate  
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27 356 shuttle, the correlation between  $Fe/Al$  and  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values could also be explained by a simple  
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29 357 closed system Rayleigh fractionation model (Fig. 12b). In terms of the boundary conditions, the  
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31 358 model starts with a  $\delta^{98}Mo$  value of  $1.5\%$ , taken as a lower limit for Late Devonian seawater  
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33 359 (Dahl et al., 2010; Gordon et al., 2009). A major assumption of this model is that the  $\delta^{98}Mo$  value  
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35 360 of seawater remained constant throughout the stratigraphic interval, which could represent  
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37 361 deposition over more than 7 Myr (Fig. 10). From this starting point ( $\delta^{98}Mo = 1.5\%$ ), a  
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39 362 fractionation factor intermediate between ferrihydrite ( $\alpha = 0.99989$ ) and goethite ( $\alpha = 0.99986$ ) is  
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41 363 used, which corresponds with the lowermost  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values at Macmillan Pass ( $0.33\%$ ). The  
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43 364 model then produces the narrow distribution of  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values without extensive depletion of Mo  
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45 365 in the residual fluid (see Fig. 12b). In this case, the residual fluid is unlikely to represent global  
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47 366 seawater, the  $\delta^{98}Mo$  value of which represents isotopic mass balance between all other Mo sinks.  
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49 367 Indeed, the good correlation between  $Fe/Al$  and  $\delta^{98}Mo$  is evidence that a single, more localised  
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51 368 parameter (i.e. particulate shuttle) is responsible for the isotopic composition of Mo retained in  
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53 369 the sediment. Thus, the model demonstrates how the size of the Mo flux associated with the  
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4 370 particulate shuttle could produce small corresponding changes in the  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  value of soluble Mo  
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6 371 at the chemocline.  
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11 373 Phosphorus cycling and productivity in the Selwyn Basin during the Late Devonian  
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14 374 The anoxic, predominantly non-sulphidic conditions that prevailed at Macmillan Pass  
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16 375 during the Late Devonian will have played a key role in the cycling of phosphorus (e.g. März et  
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18 376 al., 2008), the availability of which controls primary productivity (Tyrrell, 1999). Unlike Fe, only  
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20 377 a minor fraction of the total phosphorus ( $P_T$ ) in marine sediments is of detrital origin, and a major  
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22 378 component of  $P_T$  is associated with organic matter and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides (Algeo and Ingall,  
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24 379 2007). Depositional redox conditions, therefore, exert a strong control on the degree to which P is  
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26 380 retained within marine sediments, and as conditions become more reducing the regeneration of P  
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28 381 from organic matter and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides to seawater is enhanced (Ingall et al., 1993; Ingall  
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30 382 and Cappellen, 1990).  
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34 383 The TOC/P ratios of the Macmillan Pass samples are depleted relative to the Redfield  
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36 384 ratio (~106:1), which defines the TOC:P ratio of marine phytoplankton (Redfield, 1958). Low  
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38 385 TOC/P ratios often develop in sediments deposited under suboxic conditions, when there is  
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40 386 limited P regeneration back to the water column (e.g. Peruvian margin; Böning et al., 2004).  
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42 387 Moreover, the weak correlation between TOC/P and  $\text{Mo}_{\text{EF}}$  at Macmillan Pass is consistent with  
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44 388 the contrasting redox behaviours of P and Mo, with the latter being more sensitive to reduced  
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46 389 sulphur availability. Expanding this framework to samples from the Richardson Trough further  
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48 390 supports this model; here, high TOC/P values are coupled with more extreme Mo enrichments,  
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50 391 indicating extensive P recycling under more reducing (likely sulphidic) conditions.  
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54 392 At Macmillan Pass, the high levels of pyritisation, low TOC/P and intermediate Mo  
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56 393 enrichments are similar to those preserved in mudstones deposited in the proto North Atlantic  
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58 394 during the Cretaceous under ferruginous conditions (März et al., 2008). Nevertheless, considering  
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4 395 the high levels of pyritisation ( $\geq 0.7$ ) in some Macmillan Pass samples, intermittent periods of  
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6 396 euxinia remain a possibility. Notably, continuous high resolution sampling of short stratigraphic  
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8 397 intervals has revealed a cyclicity in the development of ferruginous and euxinic conditions during  
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10 398 periods of major carbon burial (e.g. März et al., 2008; Poulton et al., 2015). Such redox cyclicity  
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12 399 likely has a key role in maintaining a balance between burial and regeneration of P, which  
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14 400 ultimately governs P availability, primary productivity and carbon burial over geologic timescales  
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16 401 (Van Cappellen and Ingall, 1994). Both at Macmillan Pass and Richardson Trough, the organic  
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18 402 rich mudstones are enriched in biogenic silica ( $>75$  wt. %; Magnall et al. 2015, Fraser and  
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20 403 Hutchison, 2017), which provides evidence of high productivity during the Late Devonian. The  
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22 404 development of anoxic conditions, which were predominantly ferruginous but had potential for  
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24 405 intermittent euxinia, would therefore have had an important role in maintaining nutrient  
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26 406 availability and productivity on a regional scale.  
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33 408 The role of seawater paleoredox in the formation of SHMS deposits  
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36 409 Some of the early work on seawater paleoredox in the Selwyn Basin emphasised a link  
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38 410 between basin restriction, protracted water-column euxinia and sulphide formation (Goodfellow  
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40 411 et al., 1993; Turner, 1992). In this euxinic basin model, sulphide formation occurred within the  
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42 412 water column following exhalation of hydrothermal fluids above the SWI. However, the Fe  
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44 413 speciation and Mo isotope data presented for Macmillan Pass in this study provide no evidence of  
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46 414 sustained euxinia. Rather, sulphide was likely restricted to sediment pore fluids with an overlying  
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48 415 water column that was predominantly ferruginous.  
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51 416 In ferruginous settings, pyrite formation may be limited by the availability of sulphate  
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53 417 rather than organic carbon (Poulton and Canfield, 2011), an observation supported by recent work  
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55 418 proposing low concentrations of sulphate in Late Devonian seawater (Sim et al., 2015). Indeed,  
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57 419 low seawater sulphate may have been characteristic of much of the Early Paleozoic (Horita et al.,  
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4 420 2002). Two factors are important in this context: (1) under reducing conditions, sulphide  
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6 421 concentration imposes a limit on the solubility of base metals, and long periods of low seawater  
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8 422 sulphate may have facilitated the development of sulphide-poor, Pb-Zn-Fe enriched basinal fluids  
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10 423 (Wilkinson, 2014), and; (2) the formation of massive sulphide deposits close to the seafloor in a  
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12 424 non-euxinic setting requires the optimisation of other processes that concentrate reduced sulphur,  
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14 425 derived from seawater sulphate, into the host rock. Various pathways of sulphur enrichment have  
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16 426 been documented in the host rocks to SHMS mineralisation, including diagenetic barite formation  
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18 427 (Johnson et al., 2004), diagenetic sulphate reduction (e.g. Fallick et al., 2001; Magnall et al.,  
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20 428 2016b), and thermochemical sulphate reduction (Gadd et al., 2016; Magnall et al., 2016a). All  
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22 429 pathways are linked by organic carbon, and a common feature of emerging models for SHMS  
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24 430 mineralisation is their formation in continental margin environments with high levels of  
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26 431 biological productivity (e.g. Magnall et al., 2015; Reynolds et al., 2015; Slack et al., 2016).

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31 432         Where SHMS deposits form via sub-seafloor replacement, there is clear potential for an  
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33 433 overlap between hydrothermal and diagenetic processes. Despite there being no direct modern  
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35 434 analogues for SHMS systems, hydrothermal activity in the Guaymas Basin serves as a useful  
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37 435 comparison, where rift-related hydrothermal activity is accompanied by the release of methane  
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39 436 within recently deposited sediments (Berndt et al., 2016). At Macmillan Pass, SHMS  
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41 437 mineralisation occurs where faults provide a flow path for metal-rich hydrothermal fluids (e.g.  
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43 438 Magnall et al., 2016a) to reach the shallow sub-surface environment. It is likely, therefore, that  
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45 439 the onset and development of hydrothermal activity at Macmillan Pass during the Late Devonian  
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47 440 would have resulted in the enhanced circulation of diagenetic fluids in sediments proximal to the  
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49 441 hydrothermal system. Clearly, in more dynamic diagenetic environments it is necessary to  
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51 442 evaluate multiple proxies when attempting to reconstruct seawater paleoredox. In coupling the Fe  
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53 443 and Mo based proxies in samples from a proximal and distal setting (with respect to SHMS  
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55 444 mineralisation), we have demonstrated how this approach can be made.  
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4 445 **CONCLUSIONS**

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6 446           The co-variation between Mo and U in the combined data-sets from Macmillan Pass and  
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8 447 the Richardson Trough provides good evidence that the dominant mechanism of Mo enrichment  
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10 448 occurred via a particulate shuttle involving Fe (oxyhydr)oxides. This is further supported by the  
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13 449  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values preserved in mudstones at Macmillan Pass, which are fractionated from Late  
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15 450 Devonian seawater by 0.7 to 1.0 ‰. The incomplete pyritisation of  $\text{Fe}_{\text{HR}}$  ( $\leq 70\%$ ) in samples from  
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17 451 DH-76-17 provides evidence that conditions were predominantly ferruginous, with potential for  
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19 452 intermittent euxinia. At Macmillan Pass, anoxic, non-sulphidic conditions led to P enrichment  
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21 453 and TOC/P ratios below the Redfield ratio (~106:1). This contrasts with the high TOC/P ratios in  
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23 454 the Richardson Trough, which are combined with much greater Mo enrichments. Here,  
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25 455 regeneration of P within the water column combined with high levels of Mo provides convincing  
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27 456 evidence of more persistent water column euxinia. Nevertheless, the dominant mechanism of Mo  
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29 457 enrichment was still via the particulate shuttle, and high but uniform Mo/U values provide no  
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31 458 evidence of long deep-water renewal times and strong basin restriction. At Macmillan Pass,  
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33 459 formation of SHMS deposits in non-euxinic environments therefore requires the optimisation of  
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35 460 other factors (e.g. diagenetic sulphate reduction, barite replacement) that contribute to the sulphur  
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37 461 budget of the host rock. At a first order, these factors are controlled by high primary productivity  
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39 462 and enhanced carbon burial, which therefore represent the most important variables in the  
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41 463 development of effective chemical traps for high-grade SHMS deposits.  
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4 703 Figure 1. The paleogeography of North America (Laurentia) during the Late Devonian (380 – 370  
5  
6 704 Ma). Cross section A – B taken from Nelson and Colpron (2007) and paleogeography  
7  
8 705 reconstruction annotated from Blakey (2016). The black stars correspond with lithochemical  
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10 706 studies conducted on organic-rich mudstones from broadly time equivalent Late Devonian basins:  
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12 707 (1) Selwyn Basin (this study), (2) Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin (Algeo et al., 2007), (3)  
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14 708 Illinois Basin (Dahl et al. 2010), (4) Appalachian Basin (Gordon et al. 2009), (5) Permian Basin  
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16 709 (Harris et al., 2013).

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23 711 Figure 2. A – The regional extent of the Selwyn Basin in the Canadian Cordillera with the  
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25 712 locations of major sediment hosted massive sulphide deposits (modified from Nelson and  
26  
27 713 Colpron, 2007). Allochthonous terranes accreted during Mesozoic deformation occur west of the  
28  
29 714 Tintina Fault; east of this regional structure is the Selwyn Basin and adjoining carbonate platform  
30  
31 715 that formed a passive margin along the western margin of ancestral North America (Laurentia). B  
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33 716 – A stratigraphic column for the Selwyn Basin, compiled from work mostly conducted at  
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35 717 Macmillan Pass (Abbott and Turner, 1991; Carne and Cathro, 1982; Gordey and Anderson, 1993;  
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37 718 Turner et al., 2011). C – The local geology at Macmillan Pass, along with the location of the  
38  
39 719 drill-holes from which samples were obtained in this study (modified from Abbott and Turner,  
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41 720 1991).

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48 722 Figure 3. Lithological sedimentary logs for drill holes TYK-1, 76-17 and TYK-5 with sample  
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50 723 locations annotated by grey arrows. The un-mineralised drill-hole (76-17) has been correlated  
51  
52 724 with two drill-holes intersecting sulphide mineralisation at the Tom deposit, and is described in  
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54 725 further detail in Magnall et al. (2015). In TYK-1, the vent complex occurs beneath the bedded  
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56 726 mineralisation.

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4 728 Figure 4. Photographs of un-mineralised mudstone samples from 76-17 and TYK-5, and a sample  
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6 729 of the hydrothermal vent from TYK-1. The areas from which lithogeochemical analyses were  
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9 730 produced are highlighted by the white boxes and those for thin sections by the red boxes.

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13 732 Figure 5. Lithological logs, Fe speciation ( $Fe_{PY}/Fe_{HR}$  and  $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T$ ) and Mo geochemical data  
14  
15 733 (abundance and  $\delta^{98}Mo$  values) for DH-7617 (A) and DH-TYK5 (B). All samples plot within the  
16  
17 734 anoxic field ( $Fe_{HR}/Fe_T > 0.38$ ), and samples from TYK-5 contain a higher proportion of pyritised  
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20 735 reactive Fe ( $Fe_{PY}/Fe_{HR} > 0.8$ ). A thick black line represents Late Devonian seawater ( $\delta^{98}Mo = 1.5$   
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22 736  $\pm 0.1$  ‰) and the grey dashed line represents Mo enrichment in euxinic settings (Scott and Lyons,  
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24 737 2012).

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29 739 Figure 6. A – histogram of Fe/Al for mudstones from DH-76-17 and DH-TYK-5, compared with  
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31 740 mudstones from the Richardson Trough (Fraser and Hutchison, 2017). B –  $Fe_{PY}/Fe_{HR}$  vs.  $\delta^{34}S$   
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33 741 values (Magnall et al. 2016b) in samples from 76-17 (hollow) and TYK-5 (solid).

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38 743 Figure 7. Box and whisker plots for Pb, Zn and Mo in mudstone samples from 76-17 (grey),  
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40 744 TYK-5 (black) and the mineralised vent (orange). Circles and lines denote the median and  
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42 745 average, respectively, and whiskers extend to outliers beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quartiles.

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47 747 Figure 8. TOC vs. Mo (ppm) for samples from Macmillan Pass (this study) and the Richardson  
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49 748 Trough (Fraser and Hutchison, 2017).

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56 751 Figure 9. A – Log TOC/P (molar ratio) vs. Log  $Mo_{EF}$  for Macmillan Pass mudstones and  
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58 752 Richardson Trough samples. Box and whisker plots for the sample sub-groups are included at the

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4 753 top of the figure (note the different axis), with boxes representing the interquartile range, white  
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6 754 circles the average and outliers ( $1.5 * Q3 - Q1$ ) data that plots beyond the whiskers. B – Log  
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8 755 TOC/P (molar ratio) vs. Log P/Al (wt. %) for Macmillan Pass mudstones and Richardson Trough  
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10 756 samples. Separate regression lines (dotted) are plotted for Macmillan Pass and Richardson  
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12 757 Trough samples, and also for the combined data set (solid).

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17 759 Figure 10. Chronostratigraphy of the Late Devonian with annotated conodont biostratigraphy  
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19 760 (Kaufmann, 2006), mass extinction events (House, 2002) and published  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  values (this study;  
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21 761 Gordon et al., 2009; Dahl et al. 2010). The isotopic fractionation of Mo between Late Devonian  
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23 762 seawater ( $\delta^{98}\text{Mo} = 1.5 \pm 0.1 \text{‰}$ ) and sediment deposited in contrasting redox environments  
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25 763 ( $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{SW-SED}}$ ): euxinic (Neubert et al., 2008), anoxic (Poulson et al., 2006; Poulson Brucker et  
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27 764 al., 2009), suboxic and oxic (Siebert et al., 2006), and the suggested  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  value for low-  
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29 765 temperature hydrothermal fluids (McManus et al., 2002).

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34 767 Figure 11. The abundance of Mo and U for Macmillan Pass and Richardson Trough mudstones  
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36 768 calculated as enrichment factors ( $X_{\text{EF}} = (X/\text{Al})_{\text{sample}} / (X/\text{Al})_{\text{NASC}}$ ), where NASC = North American  
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38 769 Shale Composite (Gromet et al., 1984). The annotated redox states (suboxic, anoxic and euxinic)  
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40 770 correspond with the observation that relative to seawater (sw), Mo enrichment exceeds U  
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42 771 enrichment in progressively reducing conditions; however, more extreme enrichment of Mo over  
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44 772 U also occurs during particulate shuttling of Fe-Mn oxyhydr(oxides), when these complexes are  
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46 773 deposited and subsequently dissolved during early diagenesis (Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009).

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51 775 Figure 12. A –  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  vs. Fe/Al for Macmillan Pass mudstones. Samples with low Fe/Al ( $< 0.44$ )  
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53 776 preserve a good correlation ( $r^2 = 0.82$ ) between  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$  and Fe/Al. Samples located within 15  
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55 777 meters of the mineralised interval in DH-TYK-5 form another sub-group, as they preserve  
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778 evidence of post depositional pyrite enrichment and phyllosilicate alteration associated with the  
779 hydrothermal system (described in Magnall et al. 2015). B – closed system Rayleigh fractionation  
780 model describing the evolution of  $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{fluid}}$  values that occurs with progressive complexation of  
781 Mo to Fe (oxyhydr)oxides. The upper and lower dotted lines represent goethite and ferrihydrite  
782 respectively; the solid line represents a fractionation factor intermediate between the two.

Figure1  
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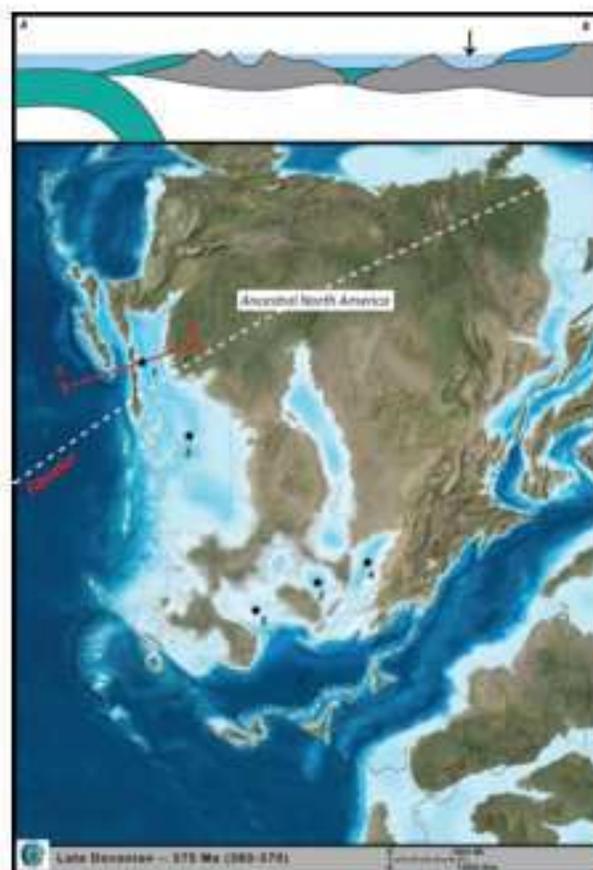


Figure 2

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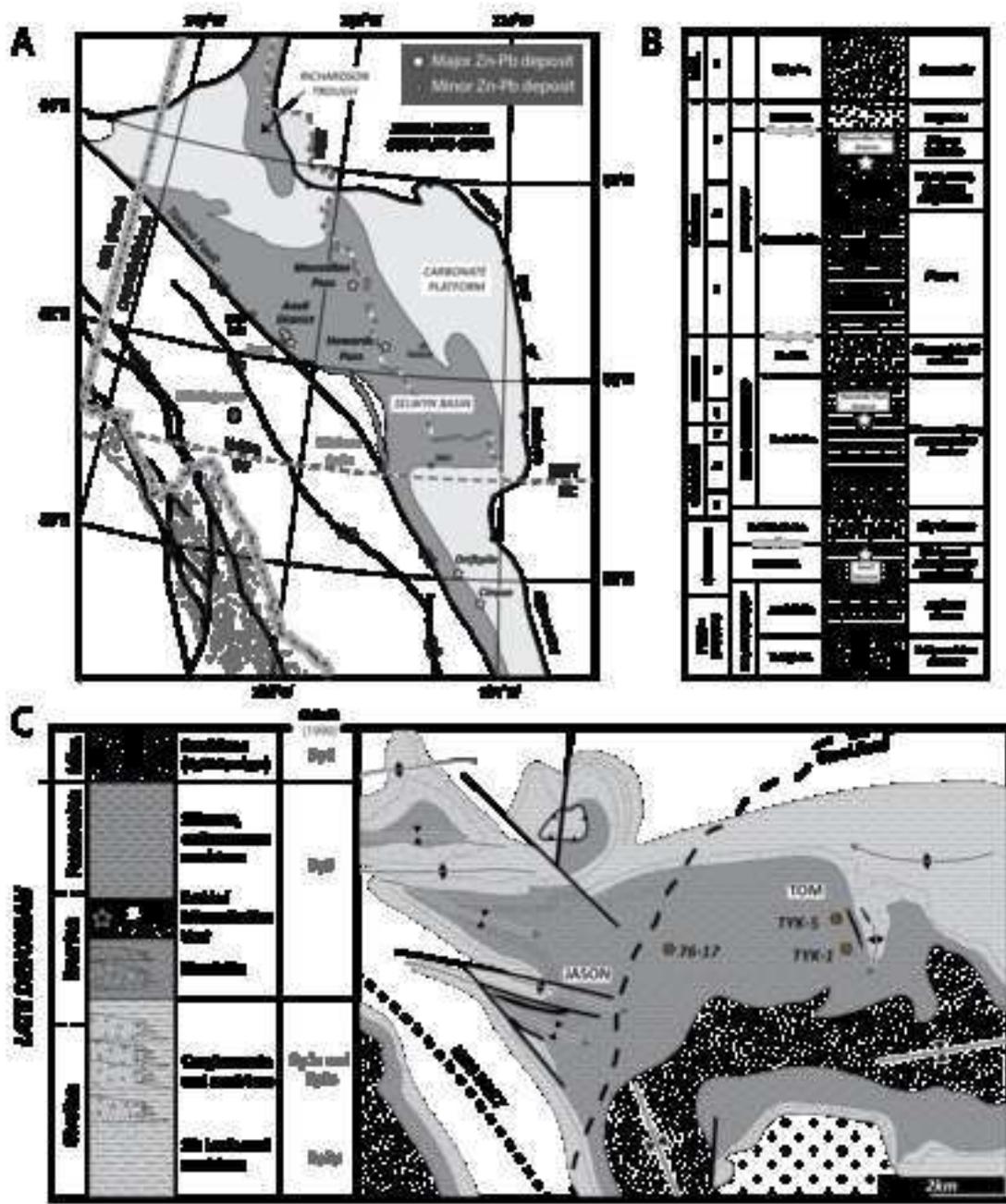


Figure3  
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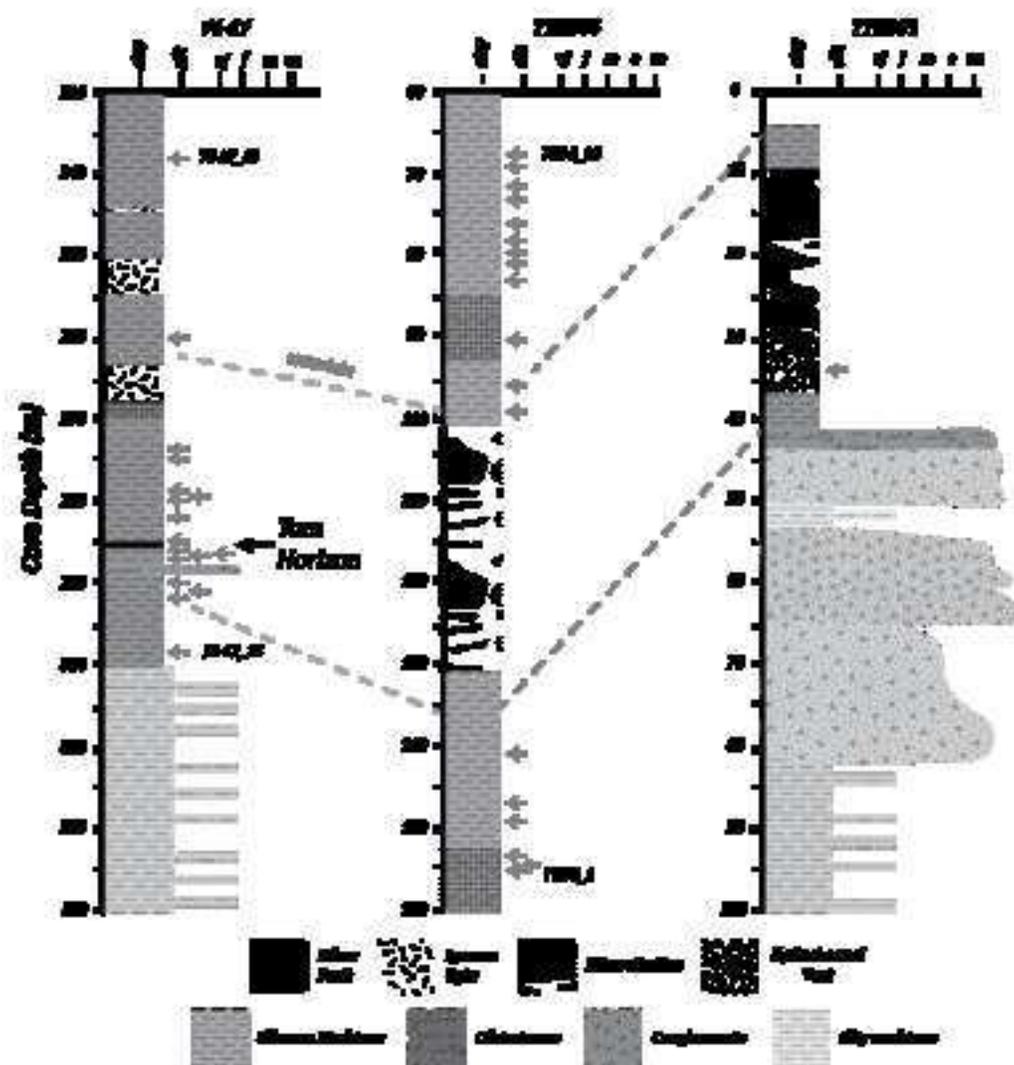


Figure 5

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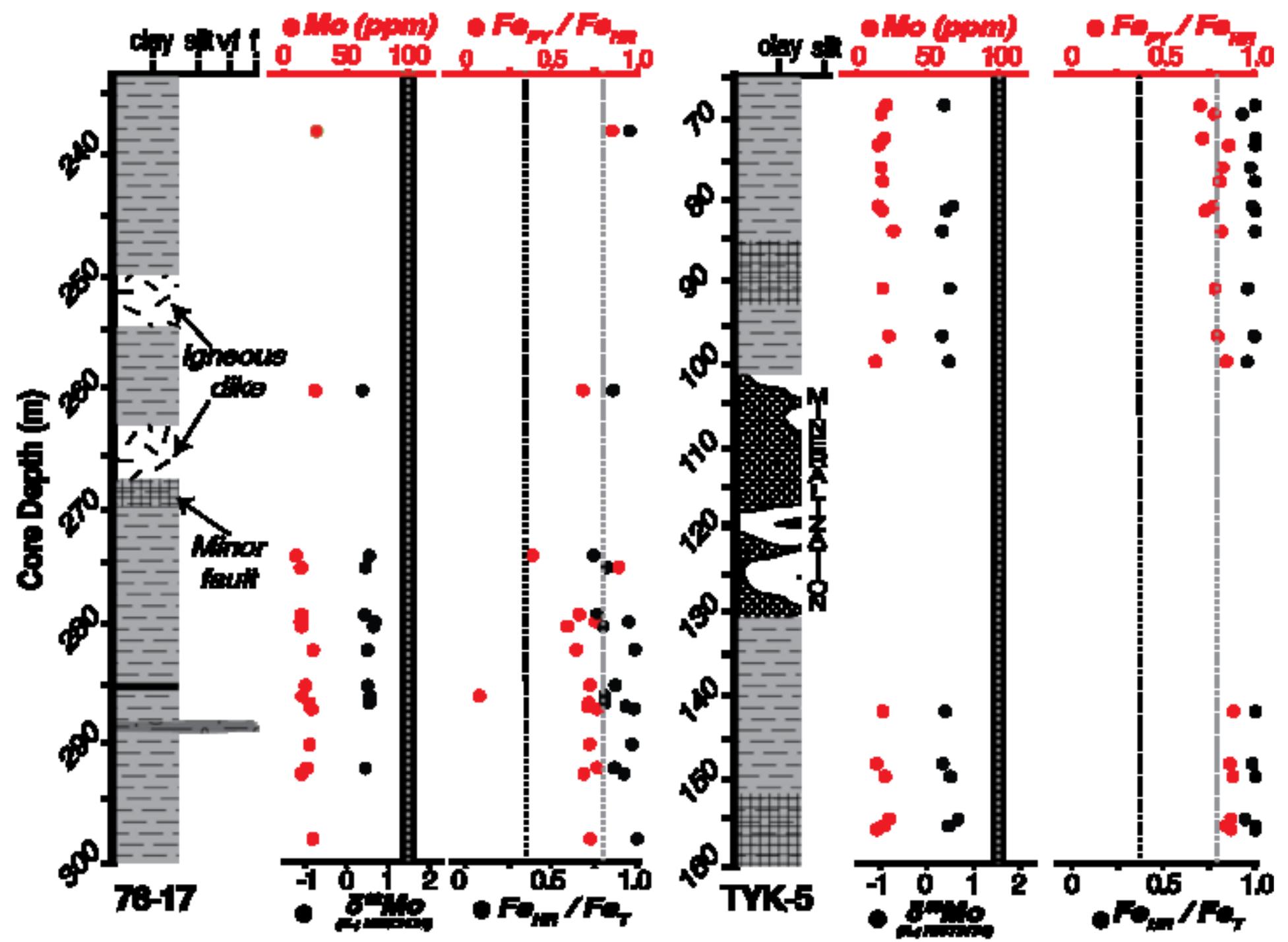


Figure 6

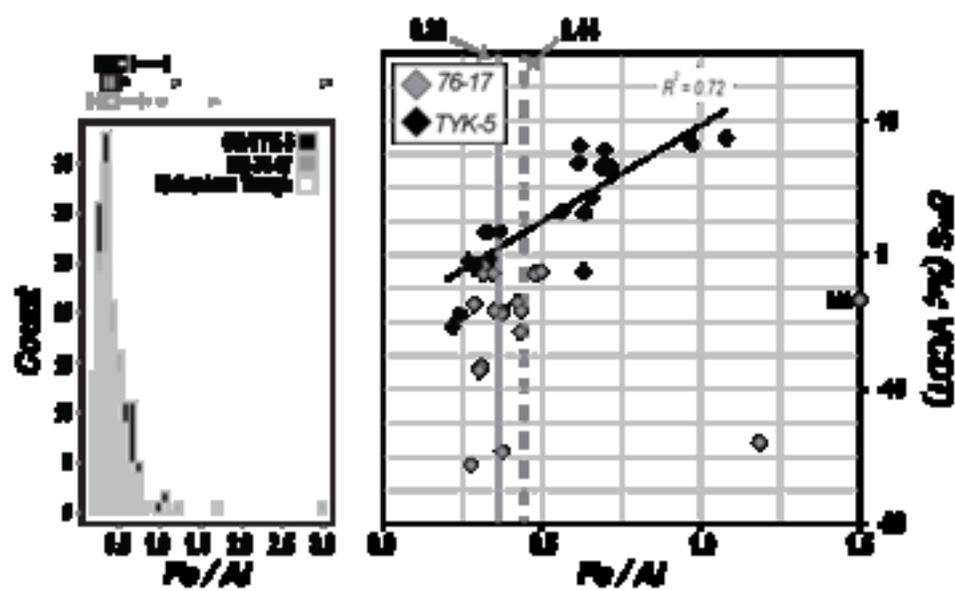


Figure 6

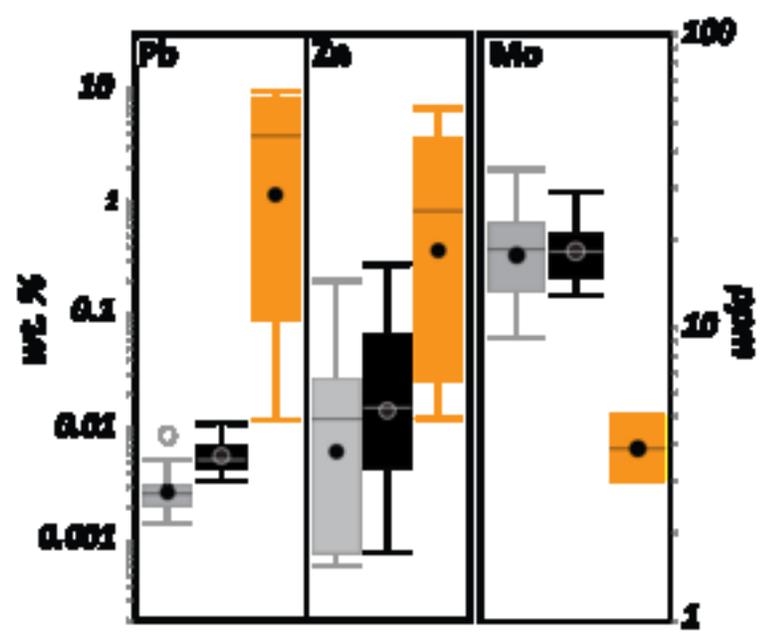


Figure 8

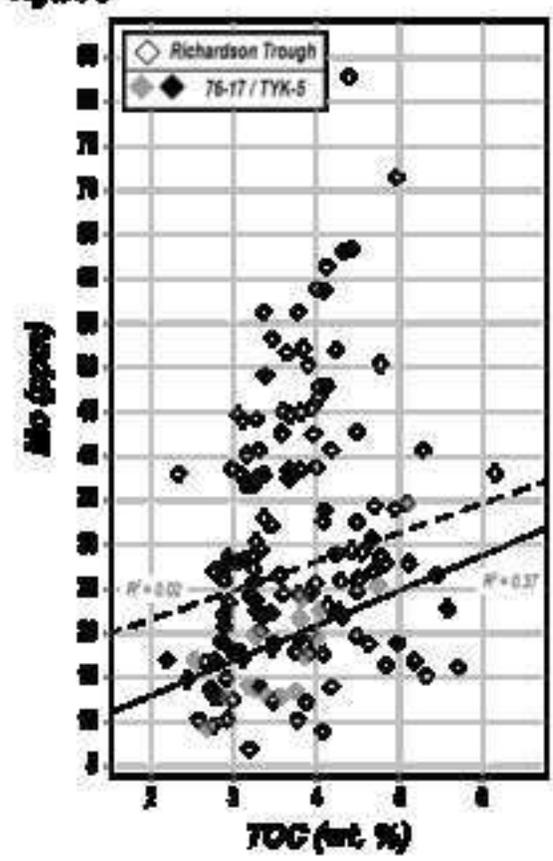


Figure 9

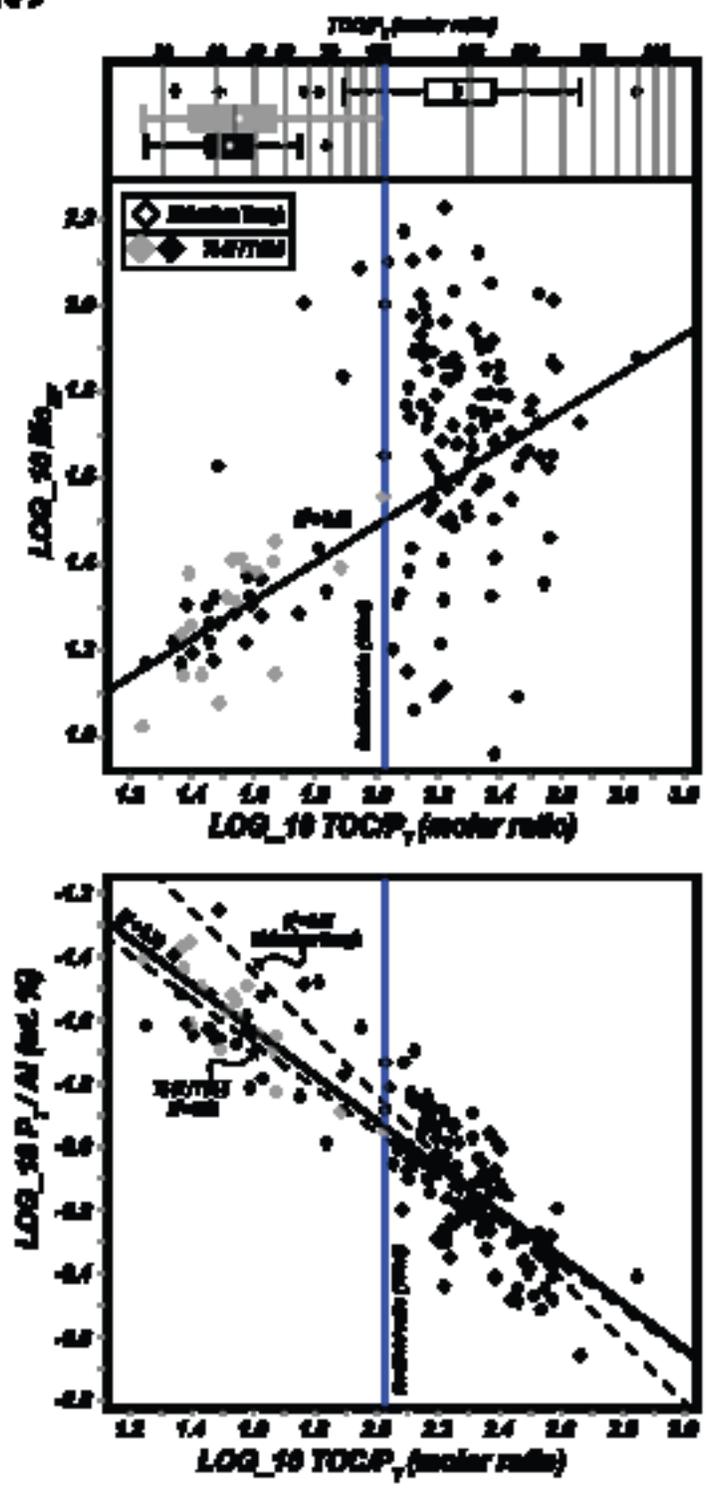


Figure 10

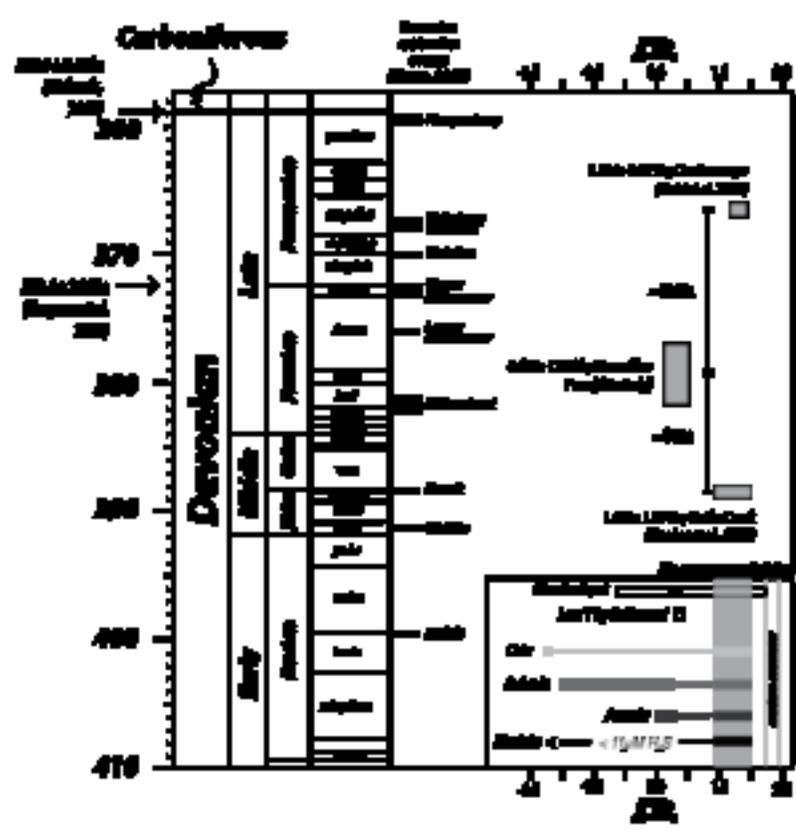
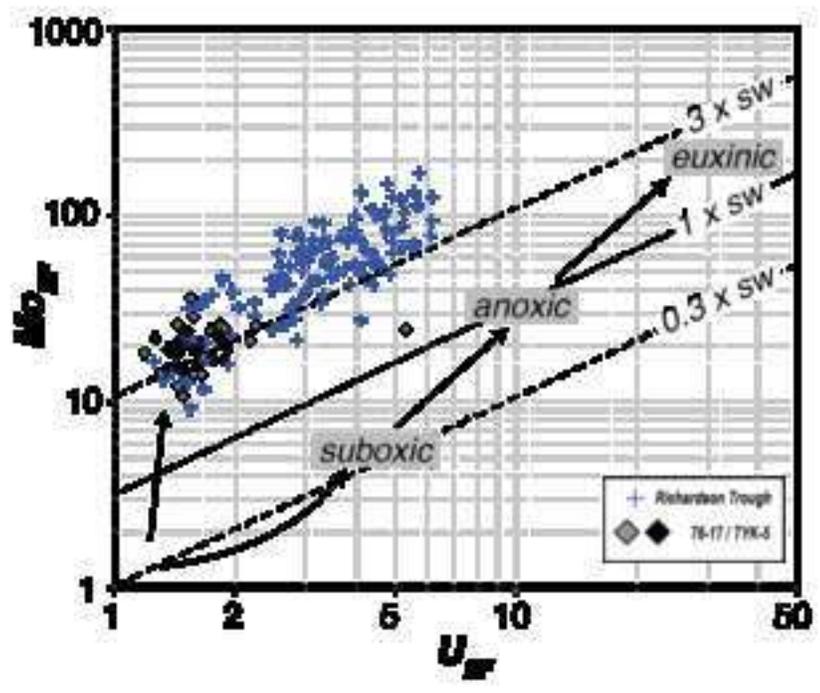
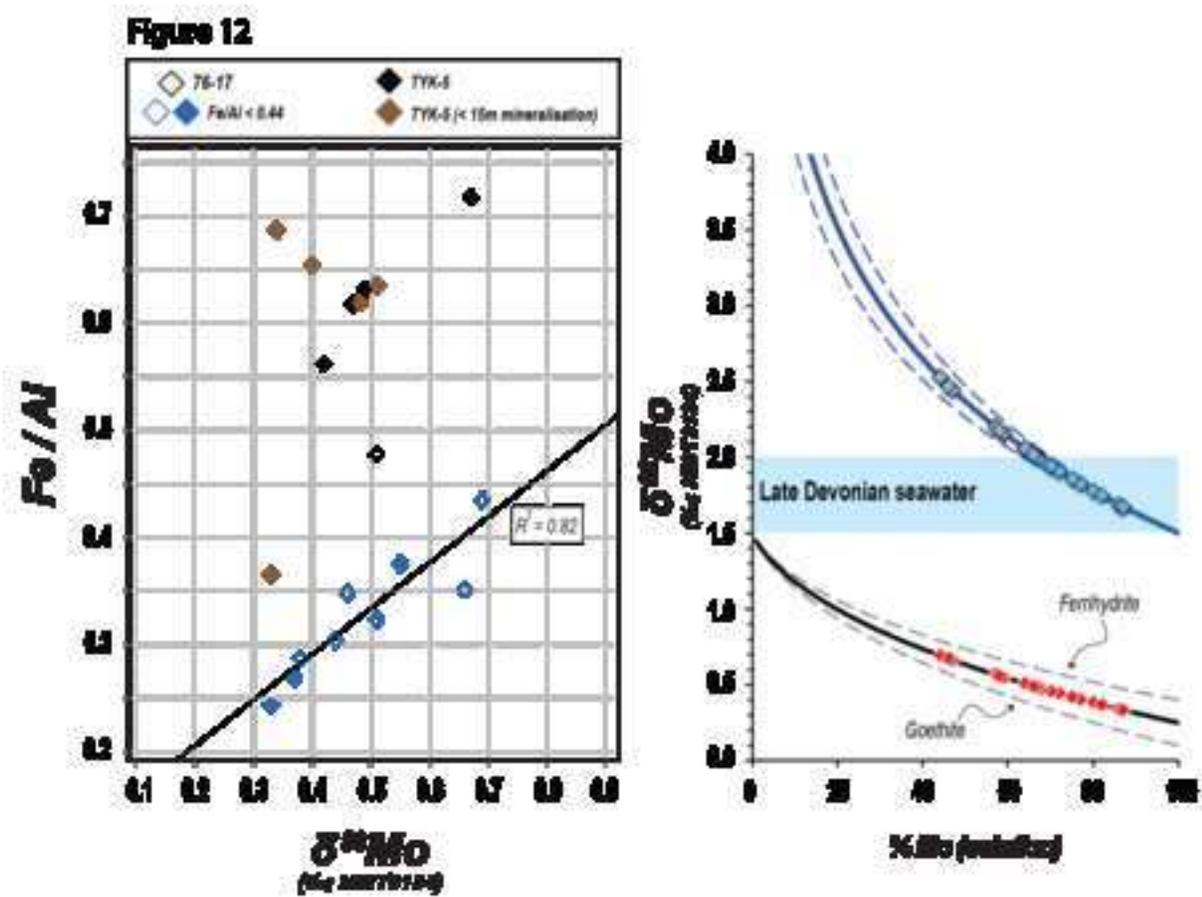


Figure 11





**Table1**  
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Sample #	Metres	C <sub>org</sub>	P	S <sub>T</sub>	Al <sub>T</sub>	Fe <sub>T</sub>	Pb	Zn	Mo	U	Mo <sub>EF</sub>	U <sub>EF</sub>
		wt. %					ppm					
76-17_15	298	4.0	0.1	1.1	3.9	1.7	43.0	227.0	22.5	6.1	25.6	2.2
76-17_17	292.5	3.4	0.1	0.8	3.4	1.1	26.5	587.0	13.1	3.9	17.2	1.7
76-17_18	292	3.9	0.1	1.1	3.8	1.3	29.7	276.0	17.5	4.9	20.5	1.8
76-17_20	290	3.3	0.1	1.2	3.5	1.5	30.9	226.0	19.9	4.4	25.6	1.8
76-17_22	287	3.8	0.1	1.3	4.0	1.5	29.8	521.0	21.7	5.3	23.9	1.9
76-17_23	286.8	4.0	0.2	0.9	3.6	1.1	20.4	173.0	19.6	4.4	23.9	1.7
76-17_24	286.5	3.3	0.1	0.9	3.1	1.2	21.6	271.0	19.9	3.4	28.4	1.6
76-17_26	285.9	3.2	0.1	0.7	2.6	7.7	14.3	149.0	14.1	9.5	24.4	5.3
76-17_29	285	2.5	0.1	1.0	4.1	1.3	21.5	98.0	16.9	3.4	18.2	1.2
76-17_31	282	4.0	0.1	1.5	4.1	1.9	30.7	1999.0	22.6	5.3	24.7	1.9
76-17_32	280	3.3	0.1	1.1	5.1	1.8	25.1	15.0	13.8	5.1	12.0	1.4
76-17_33	279.6	3.6	0.1	1.4	4.1	1.8	26.7	10.0	12.9	4.7	13.9	1.6
76-17_34	279	3.7	0.2	1.0	4.3	1.3	21.6	7.0	13.5	4.7	13.9	1.6
76-17_35	275	2.9	0.1	5.1	4.1	4.8	86.4	7.0	12.9	3.7	14.0	1.3
76-17_36	274	2.7	0.2	0.8	3.9	1.5	15.7	8.0	9.3	4.0	10.6	1.5
76-17_38	260	3.8	0.1	0.9	4.1	1.2	16.8	6.0	24.0	4.1	25.9	1.4
76-17_40	238	4.7	0.1	2.6	5.4	2.7	53.3	8.0	25.4	8.1	21.1	2.2
76-17_41	225	5.1	0.0	0.8	4.3	1.2	29.1	12.0	34.6	4.6	35.9	1.5
<i>median</i>		3.7	0.1	1.0	4.1	1.5	26.6	123.5	18.6	4.7	22.5	1.6
<i>min</i>		2.5	0.0	0.7	2.6	1.1	14.3	6.0	9.3	3.4	10.6	1.2
<i>max</i>		5.1	0.2	5.1	5.4	7.7	86.4	1999.0	34.6	9.5	35.9	5.3
TYK5-1	155.4	3.3	0.1	4.3	3.7	4.0	89.9	190.0	14.0	4.6	16.6	1.8
TYK5-2	155	5.0	0.1	3.3	5.1	3.1	105.1	86.0	18.9	6.6	16.6	1.9
TYK5-3	154.18	5.6	0.1	3.5	4.4	3.1	79.5	25.0	22.8	5.4	23.2	1.8
TYK5-6	149.08	3.8	0.1	3.0	4.3	2.7	69.9	15.0	19.5	5.6	20.1	1.9
TYK5-7	147.54	2.7	0.1	3.0	4.1	2.8	58.6	8.0	13.7	4.5	15.0	1.6
TYK5-8	141.29	3.5	0.1	3.0	4.2	2.8	52.7	11.0	18.4	5.6	19.3	1.9
TYK5-10	99.41	2.8	0.1	2.4	3.9	2.4	110.2	258.0	12.9	4.0	14.8	1.5
TYK5-11	96.37	2.9	0.1	2.0	4.9	1.8	48.6	1241.0	22.1	5.5	20.2	1.6
TYK5-12	90.66	3.0	0.1	2.6	4.2	2.7	64.5	152.0	18.2	4.0	19.0	1.3
TYK5-13	83.84	3.2	0.1	1.4	5.4	1.3	44.3	678.0	25.8	5.5	21.2	1.5
TYK5-14	81.36	3.0	0.1	1.7	3.3	1.9	50.6	264.0	17.6	3.5	23.5	1.5
TYK5-14A	80.82	2.4	0.1	3.1	3.6	3.5	48.8	70.0	14.8	3.6	18.3	1.4
TYK5-15	77.82	3.1	0.1	2.7	4.1	2.9	66.3	71.0	18.0	4.5	19.3	1.6
TYK5-16	76.19	2.2	0.1	1.7	5.1	1.7	49.2	112.0	17.0	4.8	14.9	1.4
TYK5-17	73.52	2.5	0.1	1.4	4.2	1.4	43.2	249.0	14.9	4.2	15.6	1.4
TYK5-18	72.7	2.9	0.1	1.2	4.3	1.2	33.9	1751.0	19.2	4.2	20.0	1.4
TYK5-19	69.81	2.8	0.1	1.1	4.1	1.2	36.4	692.0	16.9	3.9	18.5	1.4
TYK5-20	68.72	2.9	0.1	1.2	4.4	1.2	38.6	2798.0	20.7	4.5	21.1	1.5
TYK5-21	29.33	4.2	0.1	1.3	5.9	1.3	54.8	45.0	29.0	5.2	21.7	1.3
<i>median</i>		3.0	0.1	2.4	4.2	2.4	52.7	152.0	18.2	4.5	19.3	1.5
<i>min</i>		2.2	0.1	1.1	3.3	1.2	33.9	8.0	12.9	3.5	14.8	1.3
<i>max</i>		5.6	0.1	4.3	5.9	4.0	110.2	2798.0	29.0	6.6	23.5	1.9
<b>Vent</b>		<b>wt. %</b>										
T91.14-11		0.0	5.0	0.6	20.8	0.7	0.0	5.0	1.2			
TYK1-6		0.1	1.9	0.7	26.4	0.0	0.1	3.0	0.7			
TYK2-14		0.0	30.6	0.7	2.0	7.1	0.8	<DL	0.5			
TYK2-15		0.0	8.3	0.5	25.9	9.4	1.9	<DL	0.4			
TYK2-17		<DL	24.7	0.5	17.5	3.8	6.7	<DL	0.3			

Table2

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Sample #	Metres	Fe <sub>mag</sub>	Fe <sub>ox</sub>	wt. %			Fe <sub>py</sub> / Fe <sub>tot</sub>	Fe <sub>hr</sub> / Fe <sub>T</sub>	δ <sup>56</sup> Mo (‰)				δ <sup>34</sup> S (‰)	
				Fe <sub>carb</sub>	Fe <sub>py</sub>	Fe <sub>hr</sub>			RochMo2	Nist3134	2σ	n		
76-17_15	298	0.02	0.05	0.55	1.65	2.26	0.73	1.34						-5.7
76-17_17	292.5	0.01	0.06	0.16	0.68	0.91	0.74	0.85						-1.4
76-17_18	292	<DL	0.04	0.20	0.88	1.12	0.78	0.85	0.79	0.48	0.01	3		-1.3
76-17_20	290	<DL	0.05	0.34	1.03	1.42	0.72	0.97						-3.5
76-17_22	287	<DL	0.04	0.24	1.14	1.42	0.80	0.94						-4.2
76-17_23	286.8	<DL	0.03	0.24	0.75	1.01	0.74	0.90						-8.3
76-17_24	286.5	<DL	0.04	0.23	0.68	0.95	0.72	0.81	0.88	0.57	0.03	3		-4.3
76-17_26	285.9	1.38	1.21	3.19	0.50	6.27	0.08	0.81	0.90	0.59	0.02	3		-3.2
76-17_29	285	<DL	0.07	0.25	0.84	1.17	0.72	0.87	0.84	0.53	0.05	3		-0.7
76-17_31	282	0.01	0.07	0.45	1.24	1.77	0.70	0.91	0.84	0.53	0.01	3		-1.4
76-17_32	280	0.02	0.04	0.47	0.85	1.44	0.59	0.80	0.99	0.68	0.01	3		-4.1
76-17_33	279.6	0.05	0.10	0.26	1.29	1.70	0.76	0.95	1.02	0.71	0.04	3		-4.1
76-17_34	279	0.03	0.06	0.25	0.66	1.00	0.66	0.77	0.77	0.46	0.03	3		-8.6
76-17_35	275	0.03	0.14	0.26	3.54	3.98	0.89	0.82	0.79	0.48	0.05	3		-13.9
76-17_36	274	0.06	0.11	0.50	0.43	1.10	0.39	0.75	0.88	0.57	0.06	3		-14.6
76-17_38	260	0.03	0.08	0.22	0.69	1.01	0.68	0.86	0.71	0.40	0.05	3		-3.6
76-17_40	238	0.02	0.06	0.30	2.18	2.55	0.85	0.96						-1.2
76-17_41	225	0.02	0.10	0.31	0.60	1.03	0.58	0.87						-15.6
<i>median</i>		0.02	0.06	0.26	0.85	1.29	0.72	0.86	0.84	0.53				-4.1
<i>min</i>		0.01	0.03	0.16	0.43	0.91	0.08	0.75	0.71	0.40				-15.6
<i>max</i>		1.38	1.21	3.19	3.54	6.27	0.89	1.34	1.02	0.71				-0.7
TYK5-1	155.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	3.6	4.1	0.87	1.02						8.7
TYK5-2	155	0.1	0.1	0.4	2.7	3.2	0.85	1.02	0.80	0.49	0.10	4		6.9
TYK5-3	154.18	0.0	0.1	0.3	2.6	3.0	0.87	0.95	1.00	0.69	0.02	3		6.5
TYK5-6	149.08	0.0	0.1	0.3	2.6	2.9	0.88	1.06	0.84	0.53	0.05	3		3.1
TYK5-7	147.54	0.0	0.1	0.3	2.4	2.8	0.87	0.99	0.67	0.36	0.05	3		6.5
TYK5-8	141.29	0.0	0.1	0.2	2.5	2.8	0.89	1.01	0.73	0.42	0.03	3		4.3
TYK5-10	99.41	0.0	0.1	0.3	2.0	2.3	0.85	0.96	0.81	0.50	0.09	4		8.1
TYK5-11	96.37	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.4	1.7	0.84	0.95	0.66	0.35	0.06	3		1.7
TYK5-12	90.66	0.0	0.1	0.5	2.0	2.6	0.79	0.96	0.82	0.51	0.04	3		-1.2
TYK5-13	83.84	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.1	1.3	0.85	0.97	0.66	0.35	0.11	3		-4.4
TYK5-14	81.36	0.0	0.1	0.4	1.4	1.9	0.74	1.02	0.75	0.44	0.07	5		3.2
TYK5-14A	80.82	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.7	3.5	0.78	0.99	0.89	0.58	0.03	3		8.3
TYK5-15	77.82	0.0	0.0	0.6	2.7	3.4	0.81	1.16						7.8
TYK5-16	76.19	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.4	1.7	0.82	0.98						-0.3
TYK5-17	73.52	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.4	1.6	0.86	1.17						1.7
TYK5-18	72.7	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.9	1.2	0.78	0.93						-0.8
TYK5-19	69.81	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.9	1.1	0.79	0.92						-0.7
TYK5-20	68.72	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.1	0.85	0.93	0.70	0.39	0.08	4		-0.5
TYK5-21	29.33	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.8	1.0	0.78	0.73						-5.3
<i>median</i>		0.02	0.05	0.26	1.96	2.31	0.85	0.98	0.78	0.46				3.09
<i>min</i>		0.01	0.03	0.13	0.75	0.96	0.74	0.73	0.66	0.35				-5.27
<i>max</i>		0.10	0.07	0.71	3.59	4.11	0.89	1.17	1.00	0.69				8.71
SDO-1									1.11	0.80	0.06	11		
KyotoMo									-0.06	-0.37	0.04	11		
ImperialMo									0.15	-0.16	0.05	10		