1	Abrupt episode of mid-Cretaceous ocean acidification triggered by massive						
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### 21 Abstract

22 Large igneous province volcanic activity during the mid-Cretaceous approximately 94.5 million years ago triggered a global-scale episode of reduced marine oxygen levels known as Oceanic Anoxic Event 23 2. It has been hypothesized that this geologically rapid degassing of volcanic carbon dioxide altered 24 seawater carbonate chemistry, affecting marine ecosystems, geochemical cycles, and sedimentation. 25 Here, we report on two sites drilled by the International Ocean Discovery Program offshore of 26 27 southwest Australia that exhibit clear evidence for suppressed pelagic carbonate sedimentation in the form of a stratigraphic interval barren of carbonate, recording ocean acidification during the event. We 28 then use the osmium isotopic composition of bulk sediments to directly link this protracted ~600-29 30 kiloyear shoaling of the marine calcite compensation depth to the onset of volcanic activity. This decrease in marine pH was prolonged by biogeochemical feedbacks in highly productive regions that 31 32 elevated heterotrophic respiration of carbon dioxide to the water column. A compilation of mid-Cretaceous marine stratigraphic records reveals a contemporaneous decrease of sedimentary carbonate 33 content at continental slope sites globally. Thus, we contend that changes in marine carbonate 34 chemistry are a primary ecological stress and important consequence of rapid emission of carbon 35 dioxide during many large igneous province eruptions in the geologic past. 36

#### 37 Main Text

### 38 Introduction

Episodes of ocean acidification in Earth history provide context for predicting the future consequences 39 of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Potential geologic acidification events have been identified during the 40 Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), end-Permian mass extinction, Triassic-Jurassic 41 boundary, and Mesozoic oceanic anoxic events<sup>1-5</sup>. However, some geologic episodes of prolific 42 volcanic CO<sub>2</sub> release may have occurred too slowly to significantly decrease marine pH<sup>6</sup> given that 43 emission rates must outpace fluxes of alkalinity from silicate weathering and seafloor carbonate 44 45 dissolution, which buffer ocean carbonate chemistry on timescales of 10's of kiloyears. Therefore, precisely resolved stratigraphic records are key to assessing candidate ocean acidification events. Here, 46 we evaluate the long-standing hypothesis that ocean acidification accompanied the mid-Cretaceous 47 Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2, ~94 Ma), ultimately resulting in turnover of marine fauna and altered 48 marine geochemical cycles<sup>7–9</sup>. 49

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Ocean acidification's first order effects on marine carbonate chemistry are well understood due to the 51 relationship between pH, alkalinity, carbonate speciation, and carbonate mineral saturation states 52  $(\Omega_{\text{mineral}})^{10}$ . However, erosive carbonate dissolution and sediment burndown commonly occur during 53 54 ocean acidification events, obscuring direct chemostratigraphic proxy records of changes in  $\Omega$  and pH<sup>5,11</sup>. The stratigraphic record does, however, robustly preserve an alternative marker of ocean 55 56 acidification in the form of the calcite compensation depth (CCD) – the depth below which pelagic 57 sediments contain low carbonate contents (<20 wt.%) due to calcite undersaturation and dissolution in colder CO<sub>2</sub>-rich bottom waters. Rapid addition of CO<sub>2</sub> to the marine realm decreases calcite saturation 58 59 and forces the CCD to shallow, as is occurring in the modern ocean due to uptake of anthropogenic

60  $CO_2^{12}$ . Thus, paleoacidification events may be identified from punctuated carbonate-barren intervals in 61 pelagic marine strata<sup>1,10,13</sup>.

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During OAE2, widespread anoxia and euxinia in marine bottom waters led to the deposition of black 63 shales in many, though not all, marine basins globally<sup>14,15</sup>. The organic carbon burial event is defined in 64 stratigraphic records by a positive carbon isotope excursion lasting at least 600 kiloyears across the 65 Cenomanian-Turonian stage boundary <sup>16,17</sup>. A volcanic trigger for OAE2 is suggested by increased 66 contents of volcanogenic elements in marine sediments, and isotopic excursions indicate enhanced 67 activity from large igneous provinces (LIPs) emplaced around the time of the event, such as the 68 Caribbean and/or High Arctic LIPs<sup>7,18</sup> (Fig. 1a). Particularly strong evidence for this trigger is a shift to 69 unradiogenic (i.e., mantle-like juvenile volcanic) initial osmium isotope ratios (Osi) in sediments at 70 many marine sites tens of thousands of years prior to the beginning of OAE2<sup>17,19,20</sup>. Kerr (1998) 71 72 hypothesized that the Caribbean LIP could have influenced marine carbonate chemistry based on the volume of basalts emplaced ( $\sim 4x10^6$  km<sup>3</sup>) and a recent estimate of the total CO<sub>2</sub> degassed during OAE2 73 ranges from 14,000 to 46,000 Pg of carbon<sup>21</sup>. Additionally, pioneering sedimentological observations 74 of deep-sea cores through the OAE2 interval also noted carbonate barren intervals at many pelagic 75 sites, portending a shallowed  $CCD^{22-25}$ . Although OAE2 has been implicated in general considerations 76 of acidification through geologic time<sup>4,8</sup>, only one recent Ca isotope study has offered direct 77 geochemical evidence for altered calcite saturation states during OAE2<sup>9</sup>. To comprehensively test the 78 OAE2-ocean acidification hypothesis, here we report osmium geochemical proxy evidence for the 79 80 timing and magnitude of LIP volcanic activity in relation to changes in the CCD preserved in sediment 81 cores from the Mentelle Basin offshore southwest Australia. These osmium data are combined with a

compilation of carbonate content records from marine sites to resolve global trends in the CCD duringOAE2.

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CCD shoaling in the Mentelle Basin. Expedition 369 of the International Ocean Discovery Program 85 (IODP) cored two relatively conformable pelagic successions of OAE2 at Sites U1513 and U1516 in 86 the Mentelle Basin in 2017<sup>26,27</sup> (Fig. 1a, Extended Data Fig. 1). At the time of OAE2, these sites were 87 located at ~60°S in the southeastern Tethys Ocean on the subsiding eastern flank of the Naturaliste 88 Plateau at an estimated water depth of ~1100 m<sup>28</sup>. At Site U1516, changing carbonate content<sup>26</sup> and Ca 89 90 XRF core scanning data reveal a shoaling of the CCD between 471.0-467.3 m rCCSF (revised core composite depth below sea floor) (Fig. 2). This 3.7 m thick darker and carbonate-free stratigraphic 91 interval corresponds to much of the encompassing OAE2 interval as constrained by microfossil 92 biostratigraphy and bulk carbonate carbon isotope ( $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ ) chemostratigraphy<sup>27</sup>. The absence of 93 carbonate minerals means some details of the  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  excursion (CIE) through the event are not 94 preserved. However, the base and termination of the event's CIE are apparent in the bracketing 95 carbonate-bearing intervals (Extended Data Fig. 2). Based on a floating orbital timescale derived from 96 bandpass filtering of Fe XRF core scanning data, the duration of the carbonate compensation event is 97 approximately six short eccentricity cycles, or ~600 kiloyears, which approaches the total duration of 98 the OAE2 CIE at Site U1516 of approximately seven short eccentricity cycles, or ~700 kiloyears [see 99 100 Methods and Extended Data Figs. 3-4].

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Extremely unradiogenic  $Os_i$  values (<0.2) and high <sup>192</sup>Os contents in strata across the base of the OAE2 interval at Site U1516 provide evidence for volcanic activity (**Fig. 2**). The main unradiogenic  $Os_i$ 

excursion (to juvenile volcanic end-member values) and spike in  $^{192}$ Os contents to ~1,800 parts per

105 trillion at Site U1516 both culminate between 471-470 m rCCSF, marking major LIP volcanic activity associated with the onset of OAE2 (Fig. 2). This timing is notable because the initial shoaling of the 106 CCD in the Mentelle Basin directly coincides with the geologically rapid intensification of LIP 107 volcanism (Fig. 3). Based on inverse modeling of the Os<sub>i</sub> and <sup>192</sup>Os profiles, the LIP Os flux to the 108 marine reservoir exceeded pre-event baseline mantle/volcanic fluxes by at least 30x during peak 109 intensity and lasting at least 60 kiloyears through the onset of OAE2 [see Methods and Extended Data 110 Tables 1-2]. If continental weathering fluxes increased as much as 80% during OAE2 as has been 111 suggested recently<sup>29</sup>, the additional radiogenic osmium flux would necessitate an even greater LIP 112 volcanic Os flux approaching 50x baseline levels to recreate the trends in observed Osi curves 113 (Extended Data Fig. 5). Combined, these observations link the emission of volcanically derived CO<sub>2</sub> 114 to the initial shoaling of the CCD at Site U1516 and ocean acidification during OAE2. 115

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More radiogenic (higher) Osi datapoints and low <sup>192</sup>Os contents occur above 469.6 m rCCSF at Site 117 U1516, signaling a waning of LIP volcanic activity in the upper interval of OAE2 roughly 180±60 118 kiloyears after the start of the event (Figs. 2-3). Five unradiogenic Os<sub>i</sub> datapoints are intermittently 119 present in this interval (469.4-466.0 m rCCSF) and could possibly represent punctuated renewed LIP 120 eruptions. However, this seems unlikely as the horizons do not record concomitant spikes in <sup>192</sup>Os 121 contents and no previously published marine Osi chemostratigraphic records (n>15) document global-122 scale LIP volcanic activity in the upper OAE2 or post-OAE2 intervals<sup>17,19,20,30</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 2). 123 Thus, it seems more likely these upper unradiogenic Os<sub>i</sub> points reflect either seafloor reworking of 124 continental slope sediments or record a localized source of volcanic activity, such as the Kerguelen 125 Plateau, with a smaller Os flux that did not mix on a global scale<sup>31</sup>. 126

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128 Global carbonate sedimentation during OAE2. Trends in marine carbonate sedimentation during OAE2 from a global compilation fall into several categories (Fig. 1b). Eight sites from abyssal, 129 continental rise, or lower continental slope settings preserve less than 20 wt.% CaCO<sub>3</sub> before, during, 130 and after the OAE2 interval, indicating they remained consistently below or near the CCD. Thirteen 131 sites almost exclusively from epicontinental seas preserve 40-95% CaCO<sub>3</sub> prior to and during OAE2 132 and are therefore interpreted to have remained consistently above the CCD. Of those sites, seven record 133 increases in carbonate content during OAE2. Finally and notably, carbonate contents at thirteen sites 134 mainly from continental slope settings decrease to sub-CCD wt.% CaCO3 values during OAE2 135 136 indicating a pronounced shoaling of the CCD in multiple basins globally. The OAE2 interval is relatively condensed at a majority of these shoaled pelagic sites, reflecting reduced carbonate 137 accumulation<sup>32</sup>. 138

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Ocean Acidification during OAE2. The observations from our osmium and compiled 140 sedimentological data for OAE2 suggest that ocean acidification was an additional fundamental 141 paleoceanographic response to this episode of LIP volcanism. Acidification resulted in a shoaling of the 142 CCD recorded at continental slope sites globally. In shallower settings through OAE2 though, 143 carbonate deposition progressed and many carbonate platforms persisted <sup>33</sup> despite partial drowning 144 and stress from nutrient loading<sup>34</sup> (Fig. 1b). Increases in carbonate content were particularly substantial 145 in epicontinental seaways like the North American Western Interior Seaway, where a pronounced 146 global transgression decreased the relative contribution of siliciclastic sedimentation<sup>35</sup> (Fig. 1a). Arthur 147 et al. (1987) attributed carbonate barren deep sea intervals during OAE2 to a shift in carbonate 148 149 sedimentation from the pelagic realm to the vastly expanded epicontinental seaways. Models invoking sea level rise have successfully recreated prolonged shifts in the CCD through the Middle Eocene 150

Climatic Optimum "MECO", a rare geologic example of a long-lasting (~500 kiloyears) carbonate
compensation event similar to OAE2<sup>36</sup>. Increased shallow marine calcification and consequent
decreased alkalinity would have worked in concert with LIP CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to promote shoaling of the
CCD during OAE2 in slope marine settings like Site U1516.

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The ~600-kiloyear shoaling of the CCD observed during OAE2 at Site U1516 is much longer than 156 predictions of conventional models for marine carbonate chemistry tailored to other geological episodes 157 of voluminous CO<sub>2</sub> release<sup>4</sup>. During the PETM for example, the delivery of alkalinity from seafloor 158 carbonate dissolution and silicate weathering ends surface ocean acidification events within 10s of 159 kiloyears<sup>4</sup>. To reconcile model results and observational data for OAE2, we hypothesize that the 160 161 remineralization of ample organic carbon sinking from highly productive surfaces waters produced a significant flux of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> to marine bottom waters. In the lower OAE2 interval at Site U1516, 162 geochemical proxies—such as biogenic Si<sup>37</sup> and Si enrichment factor (SiEF) values—increase near three 163 thin laminated black shale beds (4-12 cm-thick beds labeled "a" "b" "c" in Fig. 2), indicating 164 intermittently enhanced primary productivity. In the upper OAE2 interval, more sustained increases in 165 biogenic silica<sup>37</sup>, SieF, and BaeF, and abundant radiolaria<sup>27</sup>, indicate consistently higher productivity 166 levels, which would have led to higher heterotrophic respiration rates and increased dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> in 167 the water column as has been noted previously at OAE2 sites with high total organic carbon  $(TOC)^{38,39}$ . 168 An intense CO<sub>2</sub> flux from LIP volcanism appears to have triggered ocean acidification, but marine 169 biogeochemical feedbacks that enhanced primary productivity appear to have sustained a shallower 170 CCD for hundreds of kiloyears during OAE2. Differences between model and observation may also 171 reflect that models employ a combination of burndown and continental chemical weathering (chemical 172 compensation) as the dampening mechanism to ocean acidification, whereas Ca isotope data for OAE2<sup>9</sup> 173

and for the older OAE1a<sup>40</sup> point to additional influence from reduced carbonate production (biological
 compensation)<sup>41</sup>.

176 These marine biogeochemical factors, along with epicontinental carbonate deposition discussed above, would explain the longer duration CCD anomaly during OAE2 and possibly other OAEs<sup>2</sup>, especially in 177 comparison to the PETM, an event without pervasive black shale deposition and a positive CIE<sup>1</sup>. 178 179 Notably, the Site U1516 carbonate record also exhibits a recovery of carbonate deposition following OAE2 (Fig. 2). This final deepening of the CCD was likely linked to the factors that ultimately 180 terminated the event, such as alkalinity buildup from reduced carbonate production, increased 181 182 continental weathering, and/or a decline in global primary productivity, as is observed locally at Site U1516 in waning biogenic silica and BaEF values above ~467.3 m rCCSF. 183

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Os flux relation with CO<sub>2</sub> release. The relationship between an increasing flux of Os and the emission 185 of CO<sub>2</sub> as LIP activity progressed is poorly constrained and to some degree depends upon the lithology 186 of the intruded host rock<sup>42</sup>. However, if the volcanic Os and C fluxes scaled linearly, a > 30x increase in 187 CO<sub>2</sub> emission above background mantle/volcanic degassing rates would begin to approach modern 188 anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emission rates, which are ~80-270x above background volcanic fluxes and are 189 rapidly altering marine carbonate chemistry<sup>12,43</sup>. In the mid-Cretaceous, a scenario of even lower CO<sub>2</sub> 190 release, though of similar order of magnitude and rate, would have strongly affected ocean chemistry 191 due to lower carbonate ion concentrations<sup>10</sup>, and would have likely decreased pH and carbonate mineral 192 saturation, as is inferred from Ca isotope records<sup>9</sup> and the shoaled CCD. 193

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Typically, negative CIEs occur during candidate ocean acidification events in the geologic record (e.g., 195 PETM or OAE1a) due to the release of CO<sub>2</sub> with low  $\delta^{13}$ C values from volcanogenic carbon reservoirs 196 (~-5‰ PDB or biogenic (<-20‰ PDB - Peedee Belemnite scale))<sup>1,44</sup>. Near the onset of OAE2, some 197 sites record a negative CIE, possibly reflecting the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> that shoaled the CCD during the 198 event <sup>18,21</sup>. These records are somewhat rare though and could alternatively be explained by local 199 environmental changes in depositional settings that also influence  $\delta^{13}$ C values. Somewhat puzzlingly 200 and despite exhibiting a shoaling of the CCD and one of the most severe volcanogenic Osi excursions 201 of the Phanerozoic, OAE2 is dominantly characterized by a positive CIE <sup>25</sup>. Recently, Mason et al. 202 (2017)<sup>45</sup> showed that volatile-rich volcanic settings which assimilate crustal carbonate also release CO<sub>2</sub> 203 with high  $\delta^{13}$ C values (~ -1‰ PDB). Thus, if the volcanism associated with OAE2 erupted in a 204 carbonate-rich setting like the Caribbean (Fig. 1a), we hypothesize that CO<sub>2</sub> would have been released 205 from an isotopically heavy pool of C, generating the observed carbonate compensation event 206 independent of a pronounced negative CIE. 207

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Biotic effects of acidification. Marine deoxygenation is hypothesized to have accelerated marine 209 macro- and micro-faunal turnover rates during OAE2<sup>46,47</sup>. Suppressed calcite and aragonite saturation 210 states due to LIP volcanism would also have been a compounding stressor to marine ecosystems. 211 Laboratory studies of modern calcifying organisms record significant declines in calcification rates at 212  $\Omega_{aragonite}$  less than three<sup>48</sup>. Such conditions, where surface waters were not undersaturated and would not 213 experience outright dissolution, but where  $\Omega$  had declined, are consistent with the epicontinental 214 215 carbonate sedimentation trends of OAE2. Biotic indicators of ocean acidification, such as dwarfing, thinning, and fragmentation of foraminifera and calcareous nannofossils, occur strikingly during the 216 PETM<sup>11</sup>. Some, but not all, of these features occur during OAE2, in particular, the dwarfing of calcitic 217

microfossils<sup>49,50</sup>, which correlates with Ca isotope evidence for reduced precipitation rates<sup>51</sup>. These morphological shifts, along with the extinction of the deep-dwelling, keeled foraminifera *Rotalipora cushmani* early in OAE2, are consistent with a scenario of LIP volcanic CO<sub>2</sub> emission, decreased  $\Omega$ , global warming, and biotic extinctions<sup>52</sup>. Similarly, records of demise in the mid-Cretaceous rudist reefs<sup>53</sup> along with turnover of aragonitic ammonite<sup>46</sup> and calcitic microfossil<sup>47</sup> taxa may in part record selection following changes in marine carbonate chemistry during OAE2.

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Implications and unresolved aspects of mid-Cretaceous ocean acidification. In summary, osmium 225 chemostratigraphic data and compiled sedimentological observations of carbonate content from OAE2 226 indicate that CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from intense LIP volcanic activity triggered a shoaling of the CCD, which 227 was likely prolonged by subsequent marine biogeochemical feedbacks and sea level transgression. We 228 229 conclude that ocean acidification represented a notable component of environmental deterioration during OAE2, and perhaps other Mesozoic OAEs, with volcanogenic and biogeochemical fluxes of C 230 to the global ocean that exceeded thresholds for buffering from silicate weathering. In particular, these 231 results raise questions about the temporal relation between shifts in surface water carbonate chemistry 232 and longer duration changes in the CCD during LIP episodes in Earth history. More quantitative depth 233 constraints on the shift of the CCD during OAE2 may help refine the total mass of pelagic carbonate 234 dissolved and, in turn, the amount of CO2 emitted from LIP sources. However, the relative roles of 235 dissolution versus lower calcification rates<sup>40</sup> in driving the CCD shallower during OAEs must still be 236 quantitatively discerned. As to the source of the CO<sub>2</sub>, observations of carbon isotope profiles may 237 fingerprint which volcanic province or provinces were linked to the event, yet the geochronology and 238 eruptive tempo of many mid-Cretaceous LIPs is still coarsely resolved<sup>54</sup> compared with LIPs from 239 other intensely studied intervals, such as the Deccan Traps at the Cretaceous-Paleogene Boundary<sup>55</sup>. In-240

situ verification of the precise setting and timing of volcanic flows associated with ocean acidification during OAE2 remains a grand challenge in paleoceanography.

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These deep-time findings highlight the role that marine nutrient loading, along with elevated 244 productivity and subsequent anoxia, play in exacerbating and prolonging carbonate mineral 245 undersaturation in marine settings. Continued study of how benthic and planktic communities 246 responded to a decrease in calcite saturation state during OAE2 should provide predictive insights into 247 the vulnerabilities and resiliencies of modern ecosystems as marine pH continues to decline. Additional 248 investigations employing existing ocean acidification-sensitive isotope proxies, such as  $B^4$ , and 249 emerging ones, including Ca<sup>9</sup> and stable Sr<sup>40</sup>, may further critically test for surface water fluctuations in 250 pH, calcite/aragonite saturation, and calcification stress. 251

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## 262 <u>Author Contributions</u>

263	Study conceptualization – M.M.J., B.B.S., A.D.J.; geochemical analyses – M.M.J., D.S., S.J.B., L.R.,
264	K.G.M., K.A.B.; field work and core collection – B.T.H., R.W.H., K.A.B., M.L.G.T., J.K., S.J.B., L.R.,
265	K.G.M., M.M.J.; original manuscript draft – M.M.J., B.B.S., D.S., A.D.J., K.G.M., S.J.B., L.R.;
266	modeling analyses – M.M.J., S.J.B., M.L.G.T., J.K.; manuscript editing – all.
267	
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269	
270	FIGURE CAPTIONS
271	Figure 1: A – Late Cretaceous paleomap of sites compiled for carbonate sedimentation through
272	Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2). See Extended Data Table 3 for data sources. Marker colors
273	correspond to paleobathymetric setting and red rings denote sites where a shoaling of the calcite
274	compensation depth (CCD) is observed. Yellow star denotes IODP Site U1516. Purple regions
275	represent Caribbean (CLIP), High Arctic (HALIP), and Kerguelen (KLIP) large igneous provinces.
276	Map adapted from <sup>20</sup> . WIS – Western Interior Seaway. B – A global compilation of trends in
277	sedimentary carbonate contents (wt.%) prior to and during Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2). Text color
278	corresponds to paleobathymetric setting. Sites with a precipitous decrease in carbonate during the event
279	record a shoaling CCD (bottom center). Shallow water sites (bottom right) remained above the CCD
280	throughout OAE2 with some increasing in carbonate contents in contrast to deeper water sites (see text
281	for discussion).

Figure 2: Chemostratigraphy and core photos of the Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2) interval at IODP
Site U1516 (eastern Indian Ocean). LIP volcanism is recorded by a decrease in initial osmium isotope
ratios (Os<sub>i</sub>; red, panel D) and spike in <sup>192</sup>Os contents (ppt=parts per trillion; purple, panel E) near the

base of OAE2. A positive carbonate carbon isotope ( $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ , panel C) excursion and nannofossil 285 biostratigraphy <sup>27</sup> confirm this correlation (see Extended Data Figure 4 for more details). A ~600-286 kiloyear shoaling of the calcite compensation depth (CCD) is preserved by the near-complete absence 287 of carbonate minerals from ~471-467.3 m rCCSF (revised core composite depth below sea floor) based 288 on shipboard carbonate content data<sup>26</sup> (black dots -panel A) and Ca 10 kV XRF scanning data (blue, 289 panel A). XRF scanning data plotted from cores 3R-5R in Hole D. The bandpass filter of Fe 10 kV 290 XRF scanning data records the short eccentricity orbital cycle of ~100 kyr and forms a floating 291 timescale (panel B). Elemental proxies at right (Si<sub>(EF)</sub> - silicon enrichment factors, panel F; biogenic Si 292 - biogenic silica<sup>37</sup>, panel F; Ba<sub>(EF)</sub> - barium enrichment factor, panel G) show evidence for increased 293 productivity during OAE2, especially in the upper interval of the event. Together, these data are 294 consistent with a volcanic trigger for ocean acidification and the shoaling of the CCD, which was 295 296 prolonged by elevated productivity during OAE2.

Figure 3. Inverse modeling results of large igneous province (LIP) volcanic activity during Oceanic 297 Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2; gray shading) based on Osi (red) and <sup>192</sup>Os (purple) data from IODP Site 298 299 U1516 (circles, panel B). At peak intensity in the OAE2 onset interval, input fluxes of Os from LIP sources (panel A) must be >30 times greater than the global background level of the mid-Cretaceous 300 mantle/volcanic Os flux. The Site U1516 Osi record is consistent with smaller, yet still significant 301 302 volcanic activity preceding OAE2 by several hundred kiloyears (kyr). Also plotted is a coeval Os timeseries from the Angus Core in the Western Interior Basin of North America<sup>17</sup> (triangles) for a shallow 303 marine comparison (panel B). See Methods for full modeling details. 304

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#### 441 Methods

#### 442 Astrochronologic time scale construction

The Cenomanian–Turonian sediments at IODP Site U1516 display a rhythmic banding pattern of dark and light lithologies (see Core Photos) that is particularly well expressed around 477 m<sup>26</sup>. Here, the darker bands occur at a scale of ~20 cm, and vary in darkness on a scale of 80 cm to 1 m. This may reflect the influence of eccentricity-modulated precession, with individual (~20 cm scale) alternations corresponding to precession cycles and the bundling corresponding to the influence of the short eccentricity (~100 kyr) cycle.

REDFIT power spectra<sup>56</sup> of the Fe core-scanning XRF data of three stratigraphic intervals (the carbonate-free interval and the intervals above and below) confirm the detection of these periodicities (Extended Data Figure 3). Additionally, they exhibit a decrease in sedimentation rate over the carbonate-free interval attributed to the shoaling of the CCD. Dominant periodicities were extracted by band-pass filtering in AnalySeries<sup>57</sup>, with a frequency of 1.24 cycles/m and a bandwidth of 0.41 for the intervals above and below the carbonate-free interval, and with a frequency of 1.90 cycles/m and a bandwidth of 0.63 for the carbonate-free interval.

456

#### 457 Osmium isotope modeling of volcanic activity

458 *Principles*: To quantitatively assess the magnitude and rate of LIP volcanic activity during OAE2, we 459 implemented an osmium isotope box model following the approach of Tejada et al.  $(2009)^{58}$ . The 460 marine Os isotopic reservoir is highly sensitive to changes in unradiogenic volcanic fluxes (<sup>187/188</sup>Os = 461 0.126) relative to radiogenic fluxes of continental weathering (<sup>187/188</sup>Os = ~1.4, global average)<sup>59</sup>.

Moreover, the marine osmium reservoir has a short residence time (10's of kyr) and was relatively
well-mixed during Mesozoic OAEs. As a result, the Os<sub>i</sub> chemostratigraphic records of OAE2 from
marine sites globally exhibit rapid perturbations from mantle-sourced Os originating from
LIPs<sup>17,19,20,30,60-62</sup>.

We use a simple inverse model to reconstruct the first-order trends in the OAE2 Os<sub>i</sub> excursion and <sup>192</sup>Os concentration time-series at IODP Site U1516 (Figure 3). The Site U1516 Os<sub>i</sub> and <sup>192</sup>Os timeseries were generated from the site's short-eccentricity bandpass astronomical time scale, using the 'tune' function in R-package 'Astrochron' <sup>63</sup>. In addition we plot the densely sampled, conformable, and astronomically-tuned Os time series from the Angus Core in the Western Interior Seaway of North America<sup>17</sup> for comparison. Model calculations were performed using MATLAB and R scripts available upon request.

*Parameterization*: The box model calculates the mass (M<sub>o</sub>) and isotopic composition (R<sub>o</sub>) of the Late
Cretaceous global oceanic osmium reservoir through OAE2 based on input and output fluxes of Os
with different isotopic compositions, represented in the following equations:

$$dM_o = F_{riv} + F_{mantle} + F_{cosmic} + F_{LIP} - F_{sed}$$

477 
$$dR_o = \frac{\left[ \left( F_{riv} * (R_{riv} - R_O) \right) + \left( F_{mantle} * (R_{mantle} - R_O) \right) + \left( F_{LIP} * (R_{LIP} - R_O) \right) + \left( F_{cosmic} (R_{cosmic} - R_O) \right) \right]}{M_o}$$

set at 339 tonnes/kyr (15% higher than Tejada et al., 2009<sup>58</sup>). Given likely changes in marine Os 483 cycling between the modeled Early Cretaceous data<sup>58</sup> and the Late Cretaceous data modeled in this 484 study, the minor offsets of our flux values with those in Tejada et al. (2009)<sup>58</sup> are considered 485 reasonable. The model runs for 3000 kyr at a step of 1 kyr. For the purpose of comparing the model 486 results to the measured sedimentary  $O_{s_i}$  datasets, time zero (t=0) is aligned to the datapoint in each 487 chemostratigraphic record that is prior to the earliest extremely unradiogenic  $Os_i$  value ( $Os_i < 0.3$ ) 488 indicative of intense LIP activity. The model is permitted to run for several hundred kiloyears prior to 489 the oldest measured Os datapoint to reach a steady state. 490

Large igneous province perturbation: The model also incorporates a perturbation flux representing the 491 flux of unradiogenic Os to the global ocean from LIP volcanic activity (FLIP) during OAE2, presumably 492 493 from a submarine setting. In an inverse approach and holding all background Os input fluxes constant (Friv, Fmantle, Fcosmic), the FLIP was iteratively adjusted at 11 control points through time to generate a 494 marine <sup>187/188</sup>Os composition that approximated the general trends in U1516 Os time-series (Fig. 3; 495 Extended Data Table 2). FLIP values were linearly interpolated between these control points using the 496 497 'interp1' function in MATLAB to create a continuous perturbation scenario, varying through time. Highly unradiogenic Osi datapoints in the upper OAE2 to post-OAE2 intervals at Site U1516 were 498 interpreted as likely unrepresentative of a globally correlative increase in FLIP for several reasons (see 499 500 main text). Therefore, iterative modeling of LIP volcanic activity did not attempt to recreate these anomalies. 501

502

### 503 **Re-Os analytical methods**

Samples from IODP Site U1516 were analyzed for rhenium-osmium geochemistry (n=28; 463.00 –
480.04 m rCCSF) to establish chemostratigraphic markers of LIP volcanic activity associated with
OAE2. Sampling depth resolution ranged from 17-205 cm/sample spanning the Cenomanian-Turonian
boundary stratigraphic interval, with higher sampling density in the OAE2 interval. Data are reported in
Supplementary Table 1.

Prior to analysis at Durham University, samples were powdered in ceramic containers using high-purity 509 510 crushing techniques at Northwestern University and the University of Michigan. The ceramic 511 containers were cleaned using Ottawa sand, then washed and finally rinsed with ethanol. The prepared powders were analyzed in the Source Rock and Sulfide Geochronology and Geochemistry Laboratory 512 at Durham University utilizing isotope dilution negative ion mass spectrometry<sup>65</sup>. In brief, sample 513 powders (0.3–1.0 g) were spiked with a mixed <sup>185</sup>Re+<sup>190</sup>Os tracer solution and digested in sealed Carius 514 tubes with 8 mL of 0.25 g/g CrO<sub>3</sub> in 4N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> for ~48 hours at 220°C, principally leaching 515 hydrogenous Re and Os (i.e., carbonates and organic matter). The Os fraction was isolated and purified 516 via chloroform extraction with back reduction into HBr and CrO3·H2SO4-HBr microdistillation. The Re 517 518 fraction was isolated via NaOH-acetone extraction and anion chromatography. Isotopic ratios of samples and solution standards (Re STD and DROs) were measured on a Thermo Triton thermal 519 ionization mass spectrometer (TIMS) in negative ionization mode in the Arthur Holmes Laboratory at 520 Durham University. Running average values for <sup>187</sup>Os/<sup>188</sup>Os and <sup>187</sup>Re/<sup>185</sup>Re solution standards to the 521 time of these analyses (10/2019) were  $0.16094 \pm 0.00050$  (1  $\sigma$ ; n = 700) and  $0.59861 \pm 0.00159$  (1  $\sigma$ ; n = 522 506), respectively. Total procedural blanks during this study were  $15.5 \pm 3.5$  pg and  $0.08 \pm 0.03$  pg ( $1\sigma$ 523 S.D., n = 3) for Re and Os, respectively, with an average  ${}^{187}$ Os/ ${}^{188}$ Os value of 0.21 ± 0.01 (n = 3). 524 Present-day measured <sup>187</sup>Os/<sup>188</sup>Os values of samples were corrected to initial osmium ratios (Os<sub>i</sub>) by 525

accounting for post-depositional beta decay of <sup>187</sup>Re ( $\lambda = 1.666 \times 10^{-11} \text{yr}^{-1.66}$ ) using an age of 94.0 Ma for the Cenomanian-Turonian stage boundary<sup>17</sup>.

528

## 529 XRF core scanning methods

Split section halves of cores from Site U1516 were analyzed on two Avaatech X-ray fluorescence 530 (XRF) scanners in the XRF Core Scanning Facility at the IODP Gulf Coast Repository in College 531 Station, Texas in 2018. Section halves spanning the OAE2 stratigraphic interval were scanned from 532 Hole C and Hole D (Cores 2R-5R). Emission of secondary fluoresced X-rays characteristic to a suite of 533 elements were generated from scanning at excitation energy levels of 10, 30, and 50 kV. These scans 534 measured chemostratigraphic records of semi-quantitative elemental concentrations in units of counts 535 per second at a median depth sampling resolution of 1.5 cm. Counts of Ca, Fe, and Si are reported from 536 the 10 kV scan (no filter, 0.160 mA). Counts of Ba are reported from the 50 kV scan (Cu filter, 0.75 537 mA). Full details on XRF scanning methods are presented in Bogus et al. (2019)<sup>67</sup>. Processed scanning 538 data can be accessed at the IODP online repository (<u>https://web.iodp.tamu.edu/LORE/</u>). We interpret 539 Ca XRF scanning data to primarily reflect the relative carbonate mineral (calcite) contents of cores 540 given its correlation with shipboard wt. percent carbonate content data (Figure 2). 541

542

### 543 Major and minor element analytical methods

544 Prior to analysis, bulk-rock samples were powdered to ~10 μm using a ring and puck mill at Sorbonne
545 University's ISTeP laboratory (Paris, France). Concentration of Si and Ba were determined respectively

with an ICP-OES (Thermo Fisher iCap 6500) and an ICP-MS (7700X Agilent) at the spectrochemical
laboratory of the Service d'Analyse des Roches et des Minéraux (SARM) of the Centre National de la
Recherche Scientifique (CNRS; Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France). Sample powder preparation consisted
of fusion with LiBO<sub>2</sub>, followed by acid digestion in HNO<sub>3</sub> (2%) <sup>68</sup>. Precision and accuracy are both
better than 1% for Si and 5% for Ba, respectively.

551 Sedimentary Si and Ba contents are considered paleoproductivity proxies in many marine settings<sup>37,69</sup>.

552 To account for the influence of carbonate non-deposition on elemental abundances during OAE2,

enrichment factors (EF) were calculated for the elements Si and Ba at Site U1516. For a given element

of interest, enrichment factors calculate the ratio of a sample's elemental content to its Al content and

normalize that ratio to a reference value, using the following equation<sup>69</sup>:

556  $EF = \frac{\left(\frac{element}{Al}\right)_{sample}}{\left(\frac{element}{Al}\right)_{average shale}}$  Various reference datasets exist. For this work, the EFs were calculated using

the Upper Continental Crust (UCC) reference shale<sup>70</sup>.

558

## 559 Global OAE2 carbonate content compilation

560 Values for sedimentary weight percent carbonate contents in the pre-OAE2 and OAE2 intervals

reported in the global compilation are estimated averages from studies with quantitative data 22,26,71-107.

562 Code Availability Statement: Matlab and R codes for inverse box modeling of isotopic records are

available as a Zenodo data repository item (10.5281/zenodo.7182186).

564	Data Availability Statement: All geochemical data measured for this study are available as a Zenodo
565	data repository item (10.5281/zenodo.7182186). Core scanning X-ray fluorescence (XRF) data for Site
566	U1516 are available through the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) at
567	web.iodp.tamu.edu/LORE/.
568	Correspondence and request for materials should be directed to M.M.J.
569	
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## 722 Extended Data Figure 1. Map of International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Site U1516

723 (yellow circle). Additional sites cored during IODP Expedition 369 in the Mentelle Basin offshore

southwest Australia are displayed (modified from <sup>108</sup>). Bathymetric contour interval of 500 meters.

725 DSDP = Deep Sea Drilling Program.

## 726 Extended Data Figure 2. Stratigraphic correlation of the Cenomanian-Turonian boundary

727 interval at IODP Site U1516 to the Portland Core near the base Turonian Global Stratotype

728 Section and Point (GSSP) in Colorado, USA. Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2) is defined by a

positive carbon isotope ( $\delta^{13}$ C) excursion (grey shading). The correlation is based on: 1) the base and

730 termination of the  $\delta^{13}$ C excursion<sup>27</sup>, 2) the anomalously high <sup>192</sup>Os abundance interval (light purple

dashed line) linked to large igneous province (LIP) volcanic activity<sup>19</sup>, 3) the base of the initial osmium

isotope ( $^{187/188}Os_i$ ) excursion associated with LIP volcanism at the base of OAE2<sup>19</sup>, and 4) bandpassed

~100 kyr-short eccentricity cycles. Calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy independently supports the

correlation as the CC10a/CC10b subzone boundary, approximated by the last occurrence (LO) of

Axopodorhabdus albianus, falls in the carbonate barren interval at Site U1516<sup>27</sup> and lower OAE2

interval in Portland Core<sup>109</sup>. Site U1516 data sources:  $\delta^{13}$ C data<sup>27</sup>, Os data and and cyclostratigraphy

(this study). Portland Core data sources: Os data<sup>20</sup>,  $\delta^{13}$ C data<sup>16</sup> (figure adapted from<sup>17</sup>). kcps =

kilocounts per second; VPDB = Vienna Peedee Belemnite scale; ppt = parts per trillion; CCD = calcite
compensation depth.

#### 740 Extended Data Figure 3. REDFIT power spectra of Fe XRF scanning data from IODP Site

741 **U1516.** Plots span intervals of A: 455.2–467.4 m rCCSF; B: 467.4–470.7 m rCCSF and C: 470.7–481.8

m rCCSF, using a Welch window with 80%, 90%, 95% and 99% confidence levels, and main

743 periodicities indicated.

### 744 Extended Data Figure 4. Floating astrochronology for the Cenomanian-Turonian boundary

interval at IODP Site U1516. This is based on a short eccentricity bandpass ~100-kyr filter of the 745 cyclic Fe XRF scanning data from Hole D. Squares in right pane show sedimentation rate estimates 746 from the bandpass filter and dashed line shows an average sedimentation rate of 0.8 cm/kyr for the 747 general interval from shipboard nannofossil biostratigraphy<sup>26</sup>. The unradiogenic Os<sub>i</sub> excursion marks 748 the onset of LIP volcanism several tens of kiloyear before the initiation of the OAE2 carbon isotope 749 excursion in most conformable sites  $^{17,19,20,60,61}$ . The base of the Os<sub>i</sub> excursion has been dated to 94.55  $\pm$ 750 0.1 Ma<sup>17</sup> and ~94.9 Ma<sup>62</sup>, providing scenarios for absolute numerical age tie points for the Site U1516 751 record. 752

## 753 Extended Data Figure 5. Additional plot of box modeling results for marine <sup>187/188</sup>Os. This

includes the scenario of large igneous province (LIP) volcanism (top panel, A) and a second scenario (bottom panel, B) where fluxes of radiogenic osmium from continental weathering ( $F_{riv}$ ) are set to increase by 80% for 500 kiloyears through Ocean Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2)<sup>29</sup>. An increase in  $F_{riv}$ necessitates an even larger increase in the flux of unradiogenic osmium from large igneous province sources ( $F_{LIP}$ ) by as much as 50x larger than background mantle/volcanic fluxes. Model outputs are plotted against initial osmium isotope ratio data (Os<sub>i</sub>) through OAE2 from IODP Site U1516 in the

#### 762 Extended Data Table 1. Model parameters for Late Cretaceous marine Os fluxes and model

- **initial conditions.** See **Extended Data Table 2** for final modeled FLIP values through time.
- 764 Extended Data Table 2. Modeled large igneous province Os flux (F<sub>LIP</sub>) values through time used
- 765 to perturb the marine Os reservoir during OAE2. FLIP values are reported as a ratio to the
- background global volcanic/mantle flux (F<sub>mantle</sub>) (i.e., F<sub>LIP</sub>/F<sub>mantle</sub>). For example, a F<sub>LIP</sub> value of 1.0
- represents a large igneous province Os flux as large as the pre-event background volcanic/mantle Os
- 768 flux.

#### 769 Extended Data Table 3. A global compilation of carbonate contents (wt.% CaCO3) pre-OAE2

and during OAE2 from 46 sites. Sites in compilation are mapped in Figure 1a.











## IODP Site U1516 Mentelle Basin, southeast Indian Ocear





## **SCENARIO 1: LIP VOLCANISM**



Β

Α

# SCENARIO 2: LIP VOLCANISM + INCREASED CONTINENTAL WEATHERING



Marina Og Saunas/Sink	<sup>187/188</sup> Os	Flux		
Marine Os Source/Sink	(isotopic composition)	(tonnes Os/kyr)		
Riverine (F <sub>riv</sub> )	1.4	339		
Mantle/volcanic (F <sub>mantle</sub> )	0.126	352		
Cosmic (F <sub>cosmic</sub> )	0.126	17.6		
Large igneous province $(F_{LIP})$	0.126	iteratively varied*		
Sedimentation (F <sub>sed</sub> )	Ro(t)	$M_o(t)/\tau$		
Model Initial Conditions (t=0)	Symbol	Value		
marine <sup>187/188</sup> Os ratio	$R_{o}(0)$	0.9		
mass of marine Os reservoir	$M_{o}(0)$	13,000 tonnes		
marine Os residence time	τ	20,000 years		

Floating time	LIP Os flux (F <sub>LIP</sub> )				
(kiloyears)	(ratio: F <sub>LIP</sub> /F <sub>mantle</sub> )				
1500	0.75				
800	0.75				
550	1				
280	2				
170	3.75				
50	35.75				
-10	35.75				
-20	2.5				
-200	0.75				
-440	0				
-1500	0				

Site	Basin	Setting	pre-OAE2	OAE2	% change	CCD	Resolution of	References
W Bermuda Rise	proto-North Atlantic	Abyssal Plain	0	0	0%	sub-CCD	coarse	Tucholke et al. (1979)
(DSDP Site 387) Vigo Seamount	proto-North Atlantic	Seamount	0	0	0%	sub-CCD	coarse	Arthur (1979)
(DSDP Site 398)								Mevers (1987)
(DSDP Site 603)	proto-North Atlantic	Abyssal Plain	0	0	0%	sub-CCD	coarse	Dean and Arthur (1987)
New Jersey Margin (DSDP Site 105)	proto-North Atlantic	Continental Rise	7	7	0%	sub-CCD	high	<u>Herbin et al. (1987)</u>
Central Bermuda Rise (DSDP Site 386)	proto-North Atlantic	Continental Rise	15	9	-40%	sub-CCD	coarse	<u>Cameron (1979)</u> <u>van Helmond et al. (2014)</u>
Walvis Ridge (DSDP Site 530)	proto-South Atlantic	Abyssal Plain	15	20	33%	sub-CCD	high	Forster et al. (2008)
Falkland Plateau (DSDP Site 511)	proto-South Atlantic	Continental Slope	~0	~0	0%	sub-CCD	coarse	<u>Huber et al. (1995)</u>
Poland - Barnasiowka Section	Tethys?	Continental slope?	~0	~0	0%	sub-CCD	n/a	<u>Uchman et al. (2008)</u>
Mentelle Basin (IODP Site U1516)	proto-Indian Ocean	Continental Slope	25	0	-100%	shoaled CCD	high	<u>Huber et al. (2019) Site U1516</u>
Mentelle Basin (IODP Site U1513)	proto-Indian Ocean	Continental Slope	25	0	-100%	shoaled CCD	high	Huber et al. (2019) Site U1513
Exmouth Plateau (ODP Site 763C)	Tethys	Continental Slope	38	0	-100%	shoaled CCD	high	<u>Thurow et al. (1992)</u> Rullkötter et al. (1992)
Galicia Margin (ODP Site 641)	proto-North Atlantic	Continental Slope	40	0	-100%	shoaled CCD	high	<u>Thurow et al. (1988)</u> van Helmond et al. (2014 <u>)</u>
Newfoundland Margin (ODP Site 1276)	proto-North Atlantic	Continental Rise	42	9	-79%	shoaled CCD	high	Shipboard Sci. Party (2004) Sinninghé Damste et al (2010) Arnaboldi and Meyers (2006)
Demerara Rise (ODP Site 1258)	proto-North Atlantic	Continental Slope	52	20	-62%	shoaled CCD?	high	<u>Hetzel et al. (2009)</u>
Austria - Rehkogelgraben Section	Tethys	Continental Slope	60	0	-100%	shoaled CCD	high	Wagreich et al. (2008)
Italy - Furlo section	Tethys	Continental Slope?	67	3	-97%	shoaled CCD	high	Turgeon & Burmsack (2006)
Goban Spur (DSDP Site 549)	proto-North Atlantic	Continental Slope	70	6	-91%	shoaled CCD	high	<u>de Graciansky et al. (1985)</u> Waples & Cunningham (1985) Linnert et al. (2011)
Goban Spur (DSDP Site 551)	proto-North Atlantic	Continental Slope	75	0	-100%	shoaled CCD	high	<u>de Graciansky et al. (1985)</u> Waples & Cunningham (1985) Linnert et al. (2011)
Exmouth Plateau (ODP Site 762)	Tethys	Continental Slope	76	0	-100%	shoaled CCD	coarse	<u>Exon et al. (1992)</u>
Kerguelen Plateau (ODP Site 1138)	proto-Indian Ocean	LIP Slope	77	4	-95%	shoaled CCD	high	<u>Meyers et al. (2009)</u> Dickson et al. (2017)
Blake Nose (ODP Site 1050)	proto-North Atlantic	Continental Slope	85	14	-84%	shoaled CCD	coarse	<u>Huber et al. (1999)</u>
Bass River, New Jersey (ODP Leg 174x/)	proto-North Atlantic	Epicontinental	10	25	150%	above CCD? Siliciclastic- rich, proximal	high	Bowman and Bralower (2005)
Colorado, USA Angus Core, Denver Basin	Western Interior Seaway	Epicontinental	45	65	44%	above CCD	high	Joo & Sageman (2014)
northwest Europe (Grobern borehole)	European Shelf Seas	Epicontinental	45	55	22%	above CCD	high	<u>Voigt et al. (2006)</u>
Gongzha, Tingri Tibet	Tethys	Epicontinental	50	70	40%	above CCD	high	<u>Bomou et al. (2013)</u>
Colorado, USA (Rock Canyon Anticline)	Western Interior Seaway	Epicontinental	50	65	30%	above CCD	high	<u>Sageman et al. (2014)</u>
Jordan (GM3 Section)	Tethys	Epicontinental	60	75	25%	above CCD	high	<u>Wendler et al. (2010)</u>
Columbia Olini & Paipa sections	La Luna Sea	Epicontinental	60	50	-17%	above CCD	high	Paez-Reyes et al. (2021)
Demerara Rise (ODP Site 1260)	proto-North Atlantic	Continental Slope	63	48	-24%	above CCD	high	<u>Hetzel et al. (2009)</u>
Tunisia Oued Mellegue area	Tethys	Epicontinental	70	80	14%	above CCD	high	Nederbragt & Fiorentino (1999)
Morocco (SN4 Core, Tarfaya Basin)	proto-North Atlantic	Epicontinental	70	75	7%	above CCD	high	<u>Beil et al. (2018)</u>
Kansas, USA (Cuba section)	Western Interior Seaway	Epicontinental	75	80	7%	above CCD	high	Bowman and Bralower (2005)
France (Lambruisse Section)	European Shelf Seas	Epicontinental	85	45	-47%	above CCD	high	Takashima et al. (2009)
Poland (Pulawy Borehole)	European Shelf Seas	Epicontinental	85	60	-29%	above CCD	coarse	Peryt & Wyrwicka (1993)
Guerrero state, Mexico carbonate platforms	Epicontinental Sea	Epicontinental	95	80	-16%	above CCD	high	Elrick et al. (2009)