

# 1 Testing for ocean acidification during the Early Toarcian using $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ and $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$ .

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15

## 16 Abstract

17 During the early Toarcian, volcanic gases released by the Karoo-Ferrar large igneous province  
18 are widely believed to have caused severe environmental disturbances, including ocean  
19 acidification. Here we show records of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  and  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$  through the early Toarcian, as recorded  
20 in three groups of biogenic calcite: Megateuthididae belemnites, Passaloteuthididae belemnites, and  
21 brachiopods of the species *Soaresirhynchia bouchardi*. We evaluate the data to eliminate the  
22 influence on isotopic composition of varying temperature, calcification rate, and salinity, through  
23 the section that may mask the environmental signals.

24 Neither  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  and  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$  show negative isotope excursions across the suggested  
25 acidification interval as would be expected had acidification occurred. A profile of  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ , re-  
26 interpreted from a published study, shows no variation through the interval. Taken together, these  
27 data provide little support for ocean acidification at this time.

28 Values of  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$  are independent of temperature or Sr/Ca in our belemnites. For brachiopods,  
29 too few data are available to determine whether such a dependence exists. Values of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  show a  
30 weak temperature control of magnitude  $+0.020 \pm 0.004$  ‰/°C (2s.d.). In belemnites,  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  also  
31 correlates positively with Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca.

32

33 **Keywords:** Ca-isotopes, Sr-isotopes, Toarcian, OAE, ocean acidification.

34

## 35 1. Introduction

36 The three million years between the late Pliensbachian and the early Toarcian (185 to around  
37 182 Ma; Gradstein *et al.* 2020) was an interval of biotic change (Hallam 1986; Raup and Sepkoski  
38 1986; Little and Benton 1995; Harries and Little 1999; Caswell *et al.* 2009; Danise *et al.* 2013).  
39 Although often termed a time of mass extinction (Little and Benton 1995), the biotic turnover was  
40 minor in comparison to the five most severe extinctions of the Phanerozoic and extended over 5  
41 (Little and Benton 1995) or 7 (Dera *et al.* 2010) ammonite Zones.

42 In the interval, large variations occurred in the isotopic composition of inorganic and organic  
43 carbon (Küspert 1982; Hesselbo *et al.* 2000, 2007, McArthur 2007, van de Schootbrugge *et al.* 2013;  
44 Suan *et al.* 2015; Bodin *et al.* 2016; Xu *et al.* 2018). In the early Toarcian, large temperature  
45 fluctuations are recorded in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of biogenic calcite (Bailey *et al.* 2003; Suan *et al.* 2008, 2010)  
46 together with a diminution of carbonate production (Suan *et al.* 2008, Mattioli *et al.* 2009; Trecalli  
47 *et al.* 2012; Krencker *et al.* 2020). Organic-rich sediments were deposited in several marginal basins  
48 around the world *e.g.* in NW Europe (Jenkyns 1988), ~~Argentina (Al Suwaidi *et al.* 2009)~~, Japan  
49 (Kemp and Izumi 2014), and China (Xu *et al.* 2017) whilst organic-poor sediments were deposited  
50 elsewhere *e.g.* Peniche (Hesselbo *et al.* 2007) and Morocco (Bodin *et al.* 2010, 2016). Substantial  
51 variations occurred in time, and between localities, in the isotopic composition of molybdenum  
52 (Pearce *et al.* 2008; Dickson *et al.* 2017) and osmium (Cohen *et al.* 2004; van Acken *et al.* 2019) in  
53 the basins of NW Europe, probably in response to hydrographic restriction (Küspert 1982, Saelen *et*  
54 *al.* 1996; McArthur 2019).

55 The environmental perturbations listed above are commonly attributed to the effects of LIP  
56 volcanism *i.e.* the Karoo-Ferrar large igneous province (Pálffy and Smith 2000; Burgess *et al.* 2015;  
57 Percival *et al.* 2016; many others) because radiometric dating places much of the eruptive phase of  
58 this volcanism in the late Pliensbachian through early Toarcian (Jourdan *et al.* 2005, 2007, 2008;  
59 Burgess *et al.* 2015, Ivanov *et al.* 2017; Moulin *et al.* 2017). Copious amounts of  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{HCl}$ ,  $\text{HF}$ ,  
60 and  $\text{SO}_2$ , may have been emitted by Karoo-Ferrar volcanism (Black *et al.* 2012; Schmidt *et al.* 2016,  
61 Jones *et al.* 2016). Dissolution of such gases in seawater might have caused ocean acidification:  
62 isotope excursions in  $\delta^{44}\text{Ca}$  (Brazier *et al.* 2015) and  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  (Müller *et al.* 2020) and the demise of  
63 some carbonate platforms (*e.g.* Trecalli *et al.* 2012; Ettinger *et al.* 2021) appear to support this view.

64 Marine carbonates are isotopically less positive than seawater in both  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  (Skulan *et al.*  
65 1997) and  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$  (Fietzke and Eisenhauer 2006) through preferential incorporation of  $^{40}\text{Ca}$  over  
66  $^{44}\text{Ca}$  and  $^{86}\text{Sr}$  over  $^{88}\text{Sr}$ . The isotopic compositions of Ca and Sr in seawater are therefore enriched  
67 in the heavier isotopes relative to carbonate sediments. Ocean acidification, by decreasing carbonate  
68 sedimentation and/or dissolving existing carbonate sediments, adds isotopically lighter Ca and Sr  
69 isotopes to the ocean and so generates, or contributes to, negative excursions of both  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  and

70  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$  in seawater, such as those of up to 0.6 ‰ in  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  across the Permian-Triassic boundary  
71 (Payne *et al.* 2010; Hinojosa *et al.* 2012; Silva-Tamayo *et al.* 2018) and the negative excursions of  
72 0.8 ‰ in  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  across the Triassic-Jurassic boundary (Jost *et al.* 2017), of which 20% (0.16‰) is  
73 attributed by those authors to ocean acidification. In contrast, no negative shift in  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  is seen  
74 across the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (Site 1212B of Griffith *et al.*, 2015), a time when  
75 ocean acidification is thought to have occurred (*e.g.* Penman *et al.* 2014)

76 Here, we report  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  and  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$  in belemnite and brachiopod carbonate through a  
77 composite section spanning Early Toarcian time in order to look for isotopic indicators of ocean  
78 acidification in that interval and also to contribute towards defining the secular evolution of the Ca-  
79 and Sr-isotopic composition of seawater through Phanerozoic time.

80

## 81 **2. Study Areas and Samples**

### 82 **2.1. Stratigraphy**

83 Our samples come Yorkshire, UK, and Peniche, Portugal (Fig. 1). The stratigraphy of both  
84 sections is summarized in Fig. 2, along with profiles of C-isotope variations through the sections.

85 The coastal sections at Peniche expose hemipelagic coccolith-bearing marls and limestones of  
86 the Lemedé and Cabo Carvoeiro Formations, of Late Pliensbachian and Early Toarcian age.  
87 Ammonite biostratigraphy for Peniche was first recorded by Mouterde (1955, 1967) and updated by  
88 Elmi (2006, 2007); Rocha *et al.* (2016), Duarte *et al.* (2017) and Duarte *et al.* (2018). The  
89 lowermost Toarcian zone, the *Tenuicostatum* Zone, comprises a lower *mirabile* Subzone that is  
90 0.2 m thick and is overlain by an upper *semicelatum II* Subzone that is 11 m thick. The overlying  
91 *Falciferum* Zone at Peniche has no formal subzones. The base of the Toarcian is at the base of the  
92 Bed 15e, the uppermost bed of the Lemedé Formation. Peniche is the GSSP for the Toarcian Stage,  
93 despite contravening several of the requirements for such a choice, notably regarding the  
94 completeness of the section (McArthur *et al.* 2020; Supplementary Information). Bed 15e, some  
95 20cm thick, encompasses the entire *mirabile* Subzone and is highly condensed. The condensation  
96 diminishes upward but extends some 3 m above the boundary (*ibid.*). An hiatus marks the base of  
97 the *Falciferum* Zone (Pittet *et al.* 2014).

98 Coastal sections in Yorkshire, UK, expose shales deposited in the Cleveland Basin. The  
99 lithology and ammonite zonation of the sediments of Toarcian age given in Howarth (1962, 1991),  
100 whose bed numbers are used here. The same ammonite zones are recognised in Peniche and  
101 Yorkshire (Page 2004; McArthur *et al.* 2020). In Yorkshire, the *Falciferum* Zone is divided into a  
102 lower *exaratum* Subzone and an overlying *falciferum* Subzone. The *exaratum* Sz. coincides with a  
103 lithological unit originally known as the Jet Rock, now renamed the lower part of the Mulgrave  
104 Shale Member of the Whitby Mudstone Formation. The interval from the uppermost *semicelatum I*

105 Subzone (middle of Bed 31) to the top of the overlying *exaratum* Subzone (base of bed 41) may  
106 encompass an oceanic anoxic event (Jenkyns 1988 *et seq.*) or be one example of regional anoxia in  
107 marginal basins (McArthur *et al.* 2008, McArthur 2019). The middle part of this interval is organic-  
108 rich with concentrations of total organic carbon reaching 18% (McArthur *et al.* 2008).

109

## 110 2.2. Environments

111 Peniche and Yorkshire show similar stratigraphic trends in their carbon-isotope composition,  
112 with an interval of lower values between positive excursions in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  at the top and bottom of the  
113 interval (Fig. 2). Between the positive excursions, the full stratigraphic development of which  
114 outside the range of Fig. 2, values of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in belemnite calcite is around +1‰, a value typical of  
115 most of Mesozoic time. Values of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in bulk sediment closely track the trend in macrofossil  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$   
116 but around 1‰ less positive. Previous studies (*e.g.* Röhl *et al.* 2001; Wignall *et al.* 2005) have  
117 documented the fact that changes in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  through the section occurred in parallel with changes in  
118 redox conditions of the water column in Yorkshire, allowing three intervals of differing redox  
119 conditions in the water column to be identified (Fig. 2), although their strict application to Peniche  
120 may not be appropriate – see Fantasia *et al.* (2019) and the discussion below.

121 In Interval 1, the water column at both localities appears to have been oxic (benthic faunas are  
122 present) and values of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  are around –25 ‰. Values of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{carb}}$  rise to a peak of around 2.5 ‰  
123 and form the rising limb of a positive excursion of around +2.5 ‰ in the Tenuicostatum Zone that  
124 occurs widely elsewhere (Harazim *et al.* 2013; Bodin *et al.* 2016).

125 Interval 2 marked a decline in oxygenation of the water column that began in Yorkshire in the  
126 upper part of the *Semicelatum I* Subzone and developed into mostly euxinic conditions during  
127 *exaratum* times, the euxinia extending into the photic zone as shown by decreases in the size of  
128 framboidal pyrite in sediments (Wignall *et al.* 2005) and the presence in sediments of molecular  
129 biomarkers for photic-zone euxinia (Fig. 2; Schouten *et al.* 2000; French *et al.* 2014). Brief periods  
130 of oxygenation were recorded by short-lived invasions of benthos (*e.g.* Caswell *et al.* 2009, Caswell  
131 and Coe, 2013). In Peniche, development of such conditions was more subdued but may have  
132 occurred over the same interval. Upwards from the mid-Tenuicostatum Zone, the carbonate content  
133 of the sediment declined, nanno-plankton showed increasing signs of stress (Suan *et al.* 2008) and  
134 belemnites became scarcer and smaller. The positive excursion in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{carb}}$  peaked in the mid-  
135 Tenuicostatum Zone and trends to less positive values in the interval from 8 m to 12 m above datum.  
136 The paucity of benthic faunas between 11 and 21 m in the section suggests that the bottom water in  
137 Peniche were dysoxic, although Fantasia *et al.* (2019) argue for normally oxygenated bottom waters  
138 in this interval. Traces of dolomite are found throughout the section but are more common (2–3 %  
139 of the sediment) between 11 and 21 m (Hermoso 2009).

140 In Interval 3, the force driving unfavourable conditions in the water column(s?) retreated and  
141 values of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  increased in both localities to define the well-known positive isotope excursion that  
142 was for some time the recognised marker for the putative Early Toarcian oceanic anoxic event.  
143 Benthic faunas returned in Peniche at the start of Interval 3 but euxinia persisted into the upper part  
144 of the *exaratum* Subzone in Yorkshire. Our brachiopod samples from Peniche were therefore alive  
145 during the euxinic interval in Yorkshire.

146 The Cleveland Basin, Yorkshire, the source of the Yorkshire belemnites, was hydrographically  
147 restricted for much, if not most, of *exaratum* time (McArthur *et al.* 2008; McArthur 2019), with  
148 euxinia extending into the photic zone (Schouten *et al.*, 2000; Wignall *et al.*, 2005; French *et al.*  
149 2014). Nevertheless, ammonite faunas preserved in sediments of the *exaratum* Subzone in  
150 Yorkshire attest to an oxic surface layer, at least at times. Sporadic benthic colonisation in the  
151 *exaratum* Sz. of Yorkshire (Caswell *et al.* 2009; Caswell and Coe 2013) and in the temporally-  
152 equivalent Posidonia Shale in Germany (Röhl *et al.* 2001; Schmid-Röhl *et al.* 2002) by  
153 opportunistic bivalves testify to multiple oxygenation events affecting the entire water column,  
154 events possibly as brief as a single season (*ibid*). The Yorkshire belemnites record temperatures  
155 higher than samples from Peniche, but appear otherwise typical of Jurassic belemnites. The  
156  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios of specimens from both localities are concordant (McArthur *et al.* 2020) and the  
157 values of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ , Mg/Ca, and Sr/Ca in the Yorkshire belemnites are not obviously anomalous in  
158 comparison to belemnites from upper Pliensbachian and lower Toarcian strata at Peniche and  
159 elsewhere *e.g.* Spain (Rosales *et al.* 2004).

160

161

### 162 **3. Sample preparation and analysis**

#### 163 **3.1. Samples**

164 Samples from Peniche were mostly belemnites of the family Passaloteuthididae, but the two  
165 stratigraphically highest, from Bed 133 at 35 m, are of the family Megateuthididae. The samples are  
166 a subset of those used to derive an  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  profile through the section in Peniche (McArthur *et al.*  
167 2020). We also analysed four specimens of the brachiopod *Soaresirhynchia bouchardi*. No  
168 macrofossils were found between 11 m and 19 m in the section at Peniche. We filled this  
169 stratigraphic gap with six belemnites from the correlative Whitby Mudstone Formation, Yorkshire,  
170 UK.

171 Of the Yorkshire samples, two (PM 13, PM 106) were used in McArthur *et al.* (2000) and four  
172 were newly collected. Two belemnites derive from the uppermost part of Bed 32, in the uppermost  
173 *semicelatum I* Subzone, 20 – 40 cm below the base of the *exaratum* Subzone. Three belemnites are  
174 from the *exaratum* Subzone (Beds 34, 35, 38, of Howarth 1962). The sixth was collected 10 cm

175 above the *exaratum* Sz. and so 10 cm above the base of Bed 41. The lowest of the Yorkshire  
176 belemnites, from the upper part of Bed 32, belongs to the family Passaloteuthididae whilst the  
177 remainder are of the family Megateuthididae (Table 1).

178

### 179 **3.2 Preparation**

180 For belemnites, the exterior, the apical line, and other visually altered areas, were removed  
181 using diamond cutting tools. The samples were then broken into pieces and a piece of the stem  
182 region of the rostrum was crushed in an agate pestle-and-mortar. The fragments were immersed  
183 briefly ( $\approx 3$  seconds) in 1.2 M hydrochloric acid to remove calcite fines, rinsed with 18 M $\Omega$  water,  
184 and dried in a clean-hood. For analysis, fragments of mm or smaller size were picked from a  
185 methanol bath under the binocular microscope. Brachiopods were trimmed of adhering sediment  
186 using a scalpel and then gently crushed. Clean flakes of the fibrous calcite from the secondary  
187 (inner) shell were picked under the microscope for analysis. Analyzed fragments comprised  
188 translucent uncoloured calcite. Analyzed fragments were judged to be sufficiently well-preserved to  
189 retain their original compositions and isotopic signatures without material alteration. Each type of  
190 analysis (Ca-, C/O-, Sr-isotope; elemental) used different picked subsamples. Details of state of  
191 preservation are given in the Supplementary Information, including photomicrographs of analyzed  
192 sampled (Fig. S1) and major and trace-element composition is given in Table 1.

193

### 194 **3.3. Measurements of $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$**

195 Twenty-three samples were measured on a Triton Plus Thermal ionization mass spectrometer  
196 (TIMS) at the University of Cambridge following the procedures in Bradbury and Turchyn (2018)  
197 using a  $^{42}\text{Ca} - ^{48}\text{Ca}$ -isotope double spike. Seven samples were measured on a IsotopX Phoenix-X62  
198 TIMS at Royal Holloway University of London (RHUL) broadly following the procedures of Li *et*  
199 *al.* (2016) using a  $^{43}\text{Ca} - ^{46}\text{Ca}$ -isotope double spike. Full details of the procedures are given in the  
200 Supplementary Information. No column separation was performed on samples or standards before  
201 analysis for Ca-isotopes. The results of our analysis are given in Table 1. We report  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  relative  
202 to SRM915a. At Cambridge, replicate measurements of NIST SRM-915b standard yield an average  
203 of  $0.76 \pm 0.12$  ‰ (2sd,  $n = 29$ ) on  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ , relative to SRM-915a. At RHUL, analyses of HPS<sub>new</sub>  
204 yielded a mean  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  value of  $0.71 \pm 0.20$  ‰ (2 s.d.  $n = 11$ ) relative to SRM-915a, consistent  
205 with its published values (Reynard et al., 2010 and Li et al., 2016).

206

### 207 **3.4. Measurement of $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$**

208 Strontium isotope analyses were performed on the IsotopX Phoenix-X62 TIMS at Royal  
209 Holloway University of London (RHUL). An  $^{87}\text{Sr} - ^{84}\text{Sr}$  double spike solution was used to correct

210 for mass fractionation and to determine the true Sr isotope ratios of samples. Spiked and unspiked  
211 samples were prepared and run separately for  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$  and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  analysis. Further details of  
212 analytical methods are given in the Supplementary Information. During the course of the analysis,  
213 SRM 987 and IAPSO seawater were analysed as primary and secondary standards to monitor the  
214 performance of Sr measurements and to check the accuracy of the double spike correction method.  
215 Measurements of SRM 987 yield an average  $^{84}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  of  $0.056487 \pm 0.000009$  (internally  
216 normalised to  $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr}$  of 0.1194) , and a mean  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  of  $0.710239 \pm 0.000009$  (also normalised  
217 to 0.1194). The mean  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$  of IAPSO seawater measured during this study was  $0.390 \pm 0.009 \text{ ‰}$   
218 (2.s.e.,  $n = 20$ ), consistent with the published value of  $0.386 \pm 0.010$  (2.s.e.,  $n = 10$ ; Krabbenhöft *et*  
219 *al.* 2009). The analytical uncertainty of the measurements at 2s.d. is  $\pm 0.04 \text{ ‰}$ . The results of our  
220 analysis are given in Table. 1.

221

### 222 3.5. Measurement of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and elemental composition

223 Analysis of calcite for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  was done at RHUL using a GV Instruments (now  
224 Elementar) Multiflow preparation system on line to an IsoPrime mass spectrometer. Standards used  
225 were NBS 19 and LSVEC international standards and RHUL internal calcite standard. External  
226 precision (2s.d.) of standards during the period of sample analysis was  $\leq \pm 0.05 \text{ ‰}$  for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\leq \pm$   
227  $0.10 \text{ ‰}$  for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ . At UCL, analysis of calcite for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  was undertaken with a Thermo  
228 Delta Plus XP mass spectrometer attached to a Thermo Gas Bench II device and a CTC Pal auto-  
229 sampler. Calibration was with in-house standard and NBS 19. External precision (2s.d.) of  
230 standards during the period of sample analysis was  $\leq 0.04 \text{ ‰}$  for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\leq 0.10 \text{ ‰}$  for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ .

231 To measure elemental composition, samples of  $10 \pm 0.2 \text{ mg}$  were dissolved overnight in 10 ml  
232 of 1.2% nitric acid and were analysed for Ca, Ba, Fe, and Mn by direct comparison of intensities to  
233 the intensities of commercial standards (VWR<sup>®</sup>) matrix-matched to samples. Analysis was  
234 undertaken with a Varian 720 ICP-OES. Using a separate set of matrix-matched standards, values  
235 of Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca only were obtained by the intensity-ratio method of de Villiers (2002) and used  
236 to calculate Sr and Mg values from measured Ca.

237

### 238 3.6. Isotopic fractionation of $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$

239 We seek to define the variations through time in the  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  of seawater, so factors affecting the  
240 fractionation of Ca-isotopes into marine biogenic calcite must be corrected for. These factors are  
241 mineralogy (aragonite  $\nu$  calcite), taxonomic group/vital effects (fractionation factors for belemnites  
242 differ from those for brachiopods, Gussone *et al.* 2005; Farkaš *et al.* 2007a), temperature (*e.g.*  
243 Nögler *et al.* 2000; von Allmen *et al.* 2010; Gussone & Heuser 2016), and kinetics/rate of  
244 calcification (Kisakürek *et al.* 2011). The original mineralogy of the brachiopods, and the belemnite

245 rostra, we have analysed was calcite, so there is no mineralogical control on our data. We correct  
246 for other controls as follows.

247 *Taxonomic group:* to account for the fact that we have analysed belemnites and brachiopods, we  
248 convert from measured  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  to what we term here base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  using fractionations of 1.4 ‰  
249 for belemnites (Farkaš *et al.* 2007a) and 0.85 ‰ for brachiopods (Gussone *et al.* 2005). This  
250 process converts  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  to a value that approximates the  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  of the fluid from which they  
251 precipitate, which in this case is the  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  of seawater; the values are approximate as they are, at  
252 this point, not corrected for the effects on  $^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  of different temperatures and calcification rates  
253 between specimens – see next two sections.

254 *Temperature:* Temperatures were derived from  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (Table 1) using the palaeo-temperature  
255 equation of Hays and Grossman (1991), and a value of  $-1$  ‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ . We correct base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$   
256 to a common temperature of  $15^\circ\text{C}$  using a temperature dependence of Ca-isotope fractionation of  
257  $+0.020$  ‰/°C derived from the slope of the regression line between temperature and  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$   
258 (Fig. 3a). We use the term temperature-corrected- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  for the result. Both brachiopods and  
259 belemnites fall on the regression line in Fig. 3a. The temperature dependency of  $+0.020 \pm$   
260  $0.004$  ‰/°C (2s.d.,  $n = 44$ ) is similar in magnitude and sign to that reported by others (*e.g.* Gussone  
261 and Heuser 2016; but see also Farkaš *et al.* 2007a,b).

262 The positive correlation between base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  and temperature (Fig. 3a) might be interpreted  
263 as suggesting that the isotopic composition of oxygen in belemnites is controlled by kinetic, not  
264 equilibrium, isotope fractionation (McConnaughey 1989; Watkins *et al.* 2013; Daëron *et al.* 2019).  
265 Kinetic control is unlikely given the demonstration by Bajnai *et al.* (2020) that belemnites grew in  
266 isotopic equilibrium with ambient water. Furthermore, values of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  do not correlate with  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$   
267 (Fig. S2, Supplementary Information; see also Uchikawa and Zeebe 2012), so we conclude that  
268 kinetics are at most a minor control on belemnite composition, probably contributing only to the  
269 scatter of data about the regression line in Fig. 3a.

270 *Calcification rate:* in the analysed belemnites, base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  correlates positively with Mg/Ca  
271 and Sr/Ca (Fig. 3b, c). A strong inverse relation between  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  and Sr/Ca in inorganic calcite  
272 was found experimentally by Tang (2008) and ascribed to kinetic isotope fractionation governed by  
273 precipitation (calcification) rate. Modelling and measurement has subsequently confirmed these  
274 findings (DePaolo 2011; Nielsen *et al.* 2012). The absence in our samples of an inverse correlation  
275 between  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  and Sr/Ca shows either that the results of inorganic experiments must be applied  
276 with caution to biogenic calcite or that calcification rate has only a minor influence on  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  in  
277 our samples. The latter deduction agrees with the observation of Ullmann and Pogge von  
278 Strandmann (2017) that, for a single specimen of *Passaloteuthis bisulcata* (Blainville, 1827),  
279 calcification-rate affected Mg/Ca minimally, with Mg/Ca *decreasing* by around 8% for a doubling



280 of growth rate.

281 Temperature is the main control on both Mg/Ca and  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ , so the correlation between these  
282 two variables (Fig. 3b) might be viewed as simply induced and reflects that master control on both.  
283 It is therefore odd that, for belemnites, values of Mg/Ca correlate with base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  (Fig. 3b,  $r =$   
284 0.89) more strongly than do temperatures ( $r = 0.82$ , not shown) and more strongly than the  
285 temperature correlates with  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  for the entire data set (Fig. 3a,  $r = 0.81$ ). The better correlation  
286 of base- $\delta^{44}\text{Ca}$  with Mg/Ca (Fig. 3b) over the correlation of base- $\delta^{44}\text{Ca}$  with temperature (Fig. 3a)  
287 implies that base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  in belemnites might be *marginally* influenced by kinetic factors *i.e.*  
288 variations in calcification rate, and that the marginal difference between correlation coefficients in  
289 Fig 3a and Fig. 3b reflects that additional but marginal influence. If so, correcting values of  $\delta^{44}\text{Ca}$  to  
290 a common value of Mg/Ca, rather than to a common temperature, will give values of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  that  
291 better reflect ambient seawater values. In addition to correcting for temperature, we therefore  
292 separately also correct base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  to a common Mg/Ca of 11.5 mM/M using the slope of the  
293 correlation line in Fig. 3b ( $\Delta\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}/\Delta\text{Mg}/\text{Ca}$  of 0.045 ‰/mM/M). The term detrended- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  is  
294 applied to the result. The value of 11.5 does not represent the Mg/Ca of Early Toarcian seawater;  
295 the number is a convention adopted to bring all data to a common baseline. We use 11.5 because it  
296 is the middle value of the range of Mg/Ca of the samples; its use therefore minimizes changes to  
297  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$ . Other values could be used but with essentially similar results – to bring values of  
298 Mg/Ca to a common baseline. The correction does not apply to the brachiopods, so brachiopods are  
299 omitted from consideration when detrended- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  is discussed in later sections.

300

### 301 **3.7. Isotopic fractionation of $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$**

302 We seek to define the variations through time in the  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$  of seawater, so factors affecting the  
303 fractionation of Sr isotopes into marine biogenic calcite must be corrected for. These factors are  
304 temperature, taxonomic group, rate of precipitation and (possibly) mineralogy *i.e.* aragonite *v*  
305 calcite (Fietzke and Eisenhauer 2006; Böhm *et al.* 2012; Vollstaedt *et al.* 2014; Al-Khatib and  
306 Eisenhauer 2017). As we analysed only calcite, a mineralogical control is absent.

307 *Taxonomic group:* we can identify no taxonomic effect that preferentially biases isotopic  
308 composition of any of the three groups analysed – Megateuthididae, Passaloteuthididae, or  
309 brachiopods, despite differences in Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca between these groups. We therefore convert  
310 from measured  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{cal}}$  to the  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{sw}}$  using the fractionation factor of 0.21 ‰ ( $\Delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{sw}} - \text{carb}$ ),  
311 following Vollstaedt *et al.* (2014).

312 *Temperature:* in our samples, temperature does not correlate with  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{cal}}$ , either overall or in  
313 any taxonomic group (Fig. 4a), so we do not correct for temperature dependency. Little temperature

314 dependence has been reported for the calcitic foraminifera *G. ruber* (Böhm *et al.* 2012) or for  
315 modern calcitic terebratulid brachiopods (Vollstaedt *et al.* 2014). For the modern aragonitic coral  
316 *Pavona clavus*, Fietzke and Eisenhauer (2006) reported a dependence of +0.033 ‰ / °C.

317 *Calcification rate*: an inverse correlation between  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{cal}}$  and Sr/Ca for biogenic calcite has  
318 been reported (Böhm *et al.* 2012) and appears also to extend to inorganic calcite (Al-Khatib and  
319 Eisenhauer 2017). The latter show that a single inverse correlation fits both inorganic calcite and  
320 biogenic calcite from a range of taxa. The inverse relation is ascribed to a kinetic control on the  
321 incorporation of Sr into the biogenic calcite structure (Stoll and Schrag, 2000, *et seq.*). In our  
322 samples  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{cal}}$  is independent of Sr/Ca (Fig. 4b), so we make no correction for calcification rate.

323

324

## 325 4. Results and Discussion

### 326 4.1. Stratigraphic profile of $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$

327 For presentation of the stratigraphic profile of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  (Fig. 5), we show base values in (a),  
328 temperature-corrected values in (b), and detrended-values in (c). In Table 1 are given the mean and  
329 2s.e. values for  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  in each of the three redox intervals shown in Fig. 2. Values of base-  
330  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  (Fig. 5a) decrease by around 0.05‰ through the Tenuicostatum Zone then, up-section,  
331 show a positive excursion of around 0.4 ‰ through the early part of the euxinic interval followed  
332 by decreasing values to the top of the section.

333 Temperature-corrected values (Fig. 5b) are around 1.50 ‰ at the base of the section, decrease  
334 to 1.45 ‰ at around 8 m before showing a small positive spike of around 0.25 ‰ at the beginning  
335 of the *exaratum* Subzone. Values then decrease up-section to around 1.45 ‰ at the top of the profile.  
336 The most positive 30% of the temperature-corrected  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  of Brazier *et al.* (2015; also  
337 corrected to 15°C) agrees well with our temperature-corrected  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$ .

338 Our interpretation remains robust when the assumption of uniform  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  at both sample sites  
339 is abandoned. We modelled the effect of having different  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  in Peniche and Yorkshire, and of  
340 having different  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  in the euxinic interval in Yorkshire and outside it (Supplementary  
341 Information Figs. S3 and S4). We did so by varying the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  in Yorkshire whilst keeping it -1‰  
342 in Peniche for an ice-cap-free world, and separately by varying the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  in the euxinic interval in  
343 Yorkshire whilst keeping  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  outside it at -1‰. In both cases, we monitored the size of the  
344 small positive anomaly (Fig. 5) in the lower part of Interval 2 (Fig. 2). We also monitored the  
345 correlation coefficient (Fig. 3a) for the relation between temperature and  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ . The detailed  
346 results of the sensitivity modelling are given in the Supplementary Information (Fig. S3) and  
347 summarised here.

348 Values of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  more positive than -1 ‰ in Yorkshire flatten the profile of temperature-

349 corrected  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  seen in Fig. 5 and lessen (but do not remove) the small positive excursion in the  
350 lower part of Interval 2. The values, however, give implausibly high palaeo-temperatures of up to  
351 45 °C in Yorkshire (Fig. S3). Values of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  in Yorkshire more negative than  $-1\text{‰}$  increase the  
352 positive anomaly in the lower part of Interval 2, largely because both temperature, and so the  
353 temperature correction, are decreased (Fig. S3). Values more negative than  $-1\text{‰}$  for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  also  
354 seriously degrade the correlation between temperature and  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ ; from 0.81 at  $-1\text{‰}$  to 0.69 at  
355  $-2\text{‰}$  (Fig. S3). In short, no realistic variation across our sites in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  can generate negative  
356 excursions in  $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$  through our composite section.

357 Values of detrended- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  (Fig. 5c) show a small decline of around 0.05 ‰ from the base  
358 of the section to around the 3 m level, above which the trend appears essentially unchanged to the  
359 top of the section. The key point is that, no matter what correction is applied, no negative excursion  
360 of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  can be generated in the interval between the mid *semicelatum I* and lower *exaratum*  
361 subzones (Interval 2 of Fig. 2), as would be expected were ocean acidification to have occurred.

362

#### 363 4.2. Stratigraphic profile of $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$

364 In Fig. 6 we show the profile of  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{sw}}$  against stratigraphic level. Values increase from  
365 around 0.39 ‰ at the base of the section to 0.41 ‰ at 8 – 20 m, and then decrease towards 0.39 ‰.  
366 At the top of the section. These changes are half the reproducibility of our standards of  $\pm 0.040\text{‰}$   
367 (2.s.d) and so may not be real. The data for the Yorkshire belemnites are indistinguishable from the  
368 trend defined by belemnites and brachiopods from Peniche. The key point of Fig. 6 is that the  
369 profile does not show a negative excursion of  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{sw}}$  in Interval 2 (Fig. 2, mid *semicelatum* to  
370 early *exaratum* time) when the effects of ocean acidification have been postulated to operate. The  
371 means and 2s.e. of  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{sw}}$  in Intervals 1, 2, and 3, respectively are given in Table 1.

372

#### 373 4.3. Explaining the trends: $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$

374 To assist interpretation of our trends, we first examine two other time-intervals for which  
375 negative excursions in  $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$  have been demonstrated at times of LIP volcanism *viz.* the  
376 Permian – Triassic and the Cretaceous – Paleogene boundary intervals. We also compare our data  
377 to models of the observed profiles in a further attempt to constrain explanations of our data.

378 The Permian-Triassic boundary interval was a time of major extinction and LIP volcanism  
379 arising from emplacement of the Siberian Traps. The volcanism is widely credited with driving the  
380 extinctions and other environmental change. The boundary interval shows negative excursions in  
381  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  of up to 0.6‰, the magnitude depending on location or where the baseline is placed before  
382 and after the excursion (Payne *et al.* 2010, Hinojosa *et al.* 2012, Silva-Tamayo *et al.* 2018, Wang *et*  
383 *al.* 2019). The excursion has been attributed to ocean acidification (Payne *et al.* 2010); “an

384 imbalance between calcium weathering and burial fluxes triggered by ocean acidification”  
385 (Hinojosa *et al.* 2012); and a combination of initial ocean acidification (to generate the negative  
386 excursion) and a subsequent enhancement of silicate weathering, coupled to mineralogical change  
387 and, perhaps, the degree of saturation of seawater in carbonate, for the recovery (Silva-Tamayo *et al.*  
388 2018). In contrast, Wang *et al.* (2019), noting that the P/T boundary was a time of major regression,  
389 invoke simple subaerial exposure and dissolution of shelf carbonates during that regression to  
390 explain negative isotope excursions in both  $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$  and  $^{88}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  across the P/T interval: unless  
391 that dissolution was driven by acid waters resulting from LIP volcanism, the mechanism does not  
392 explain the C-isotope excursion across the P/T boundary.

393 The end-Cretaceous boundary interval was also a time of major extinction arising from  $\text{CO}_2$   
394 and  $\text{SO}_2$  from both LIP volcanism (Deccan Traps) and the end-Cretaceous meteorite impact into  
395 Yucatan evaporites and carbonates. A negative excursion in  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  of 0.2 – 0.3 ‰ occurs across  
396 the Cretaceous – Palaeogene boundary, together with some variation before it (Linzmeier *et al.*  
397 2019); the magnitudes of the excursions depend on where the baseline is placed.

398 For the Permo-Triassic interval, Silva-Tamayo *et al.* (2018) and Komar and Zeebe (2016)  
399 used coupled Ca- and C-modelling of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  to simulate the effect on  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$   
400 in seawater. Neither model was able to explain how ocean acidification alone could generate the  
401 magnitude of the negative excursion in  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ , so the models invoke mechanisms additional to  
402 volcanogenic- $\text{CO}_2$  to fully explain the C- and Ca-isotope excursions. In the case of the Cretaceous –  
403 Palaeogene boundary interval, modelling also failed to account for the magnitude of the Ca-isotope  
404 excursion, so biological fractionation (a vital effect) was invoked to explain the changes in  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$   
405 (Linzmeier *et al.* 2019). What modelling does not do is remove the reality of the excursions, or the  
406 fact that they occur at times of LIP volcanism, or the fact that, for the Permian – Triassic boundary  
407 interval, ocean acidification appears confirmed by  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -isotope profiles (Jurikova *et al.* 2020).

408 Models are indicative, not proscriptive, as Silva-Tamayo *et al.* (2018) acknowledge. The models  
409 noted above include numerous assumptions *e.g.* regarding the response of fractionation of Ca-  
410 isotopes to saturation state and carbonate-ion concentration in seawater (*cf.* Tang *et al.* 2008,  
411 Lemarchand *et al.* 2004, Al-Khatib and Eisenhauer 2017). Neither do models include the effects of  
412 injection into the atmosphere of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{HCl}$  (Black *et al.* 2012; Schmidt *et al.* 2016, Jones *et al.*  
413 2016), injections that would have enhanced acidification and added to  $\text{CO}_2$  by titrating existing  
414 alkalinity. Nevertheless, models give a sense of direction for expected excursions, even if the  
415 magnitudes may be poorly calibrated, so we compare our measurements to qualitative  
416 representations of the models of Silva-Tamayo *et al.* (2018) that indicate what might be expected  
417 from ocean acidification and other scenarios of climate-change.

418 Outputs from the models of Silva-Tamayo *et al.* (2018) are shown in Fig. 7. The relevant model

419 scenarios are: A, ocean acidification as a result of increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> from LIP volcanism,  
420 B; an increase in alkalinity as a result of oceanic anoxia (more sulphate reduction); C an increase in  
421 weathering and so increased nutrient flux to the ocean, leading to increased flux of calcite and  
422 organic matter to the ocean floor and so increased burial of <sup>12</sup>C-enriched carbon and <sup>40</sup>Ca-enriched  
423 calcite.

424 Our profiles of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in Fig. 5 do not accord with any of the outputs shown in Fig. 7.  
425 Neither does combining the models in Fig. 7 lead to linear profiles that match those we report  
426 (Supplementary Information Fig. S5). A negative excursion in  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  is not seen in our data in  
427 the upper *semicelatum* to mid-*exaratum* interval, whether the data is corrected or uncorrected (Fig.  
428 5). The profile of temperature-corrected  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  shows a barely-resolved positive excursion at the  
429 top of the *semicelatum I* Subzone, which is the opposite of what is expected from ocean  
430 acidification. Furthermore, the detrended values of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  do not show any resolvable positive or  
431 negative excursion. These profiles allow us to reject the hypothesis that ocean acidification  
432 occurred in the *exaratum* Sz.

433 The absence of trends in our detrended- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  profile cannot arise from chance compensation  
434 amongst the three forcings shown in Fig. 7; combining them (Fig. S5) modifies, but does not  
435 remove, the modelled stratigraphic variations *i.e.* does not yield the unvarying profile we document.

436 Ocean acidification might explain the minimum in temperature-corrected  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  at around 8  
437 m in the section (Fig. 5b) but the minimum is not seen in data detrended with Mg/Ca (Fig. 5c) nor is  
438 it seen in our profile of  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{cal}}$  (Fig. 6). If real, it occurs below the putative acidification zone in  
439 Interval 2. The apparent minimum may be an artefact of the shortness of, and condensation in, the  
440 section: a longer section might show a background value of 1.45 ‰ superimposed on which are two  
441 positive excursions centred on 0 m and 12 m in the section – only a longer profile interval can  
442 resolve this issue. The shortness of the record is a problem that affects the interpretation of many  
443 Toarcian isotopic profiles. Without definition of a long-term trend that establishes a background  
444 trend (the baseline) for any variable (here, isotopic profiles through time), it is difficult to interpret  
445 changes in those profiles. We contend that the interval from mid *Semicelatum I* time through the  
446 lower *exaratum* Subzone (the supposed interval of acidification) does not show a negative  
447 excursion in either  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  or  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{sw}}$ , but longer and more densely populated records would  
448 establish this point with greater confidence.

449 Whatever data set is accepted (base-, temperature-corrected, or detrended), no profile of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ ,  
450 nor the profile of  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{sw}}$ , shows a negative excursion in mid *semicelatum I* to *exaratum* time, so  
451 the data do not support the presence of ocean acidification during this interval. Not making  
452 corrections for temperature or calcification rate leaves positive isotope excursions. These findings  
453 are in accordance with the data of Müller *et al.* (2020), who provide a profile of  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  in brachiopod

454 calcite through the Peniche section. Their samples contain up to 4% Al, and the samples they  
455 analysed for  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  contain up to 1.2% Al, possibly in palygorskite, a Mg-rich clay (Fig. S8). The  
456 samples most affected are in the dysoxic interval. When  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  is corrected for the effects of  
457 contamination by clays (Fig. 8), the data show no definite trend to lower values in Interval 2. Since  
458  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  is sensitive to the pH of seawater, the corrected data indicate that the pH of seawater did not  
459 change through the interval, suggesting ocean acidification did not occur.

460 Neither is ocean acidification needed to explain our profiles. Allowance must be made for  
461 condensation of strata in the boundary interval (Elmi 2006, 2007; McArthur *et al.* 2020), which  
462 accentuates the apparent rate of change of all chemical and isotopic profiles in the lowermost 3m of  
463 the Toarcian section at Peniche: in Yorkshire, the *exaratum* Subzone is also condensed relative to  
464 underlying and overlying strata (McArthur *et al.* 2000). When allowance is made for condensation  
465 at Peniche, values of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{C}_{\text{cal}}$  show no more variation per Ma through the interval of study, a  
466 period of between 1 and 3 myrs, than is seen through much of Phanerozoic time (de la Rocha and  
467 DePaolo 2000; Farkaš *et al.* 2007a,b).

468

## 469 **Wider Considerations**

470 Whilst it is not appropriate here to review the entirety of early Toarcian events in the light of  
471 our findings, a few merit attention. The first is the suggestion that ocean acidification led to the  
472 demise of carbonate platforms (Trecalli *et al.* 2012; Ettinger *et al.* 2021). That suggestion is not  
473 supported by our data. Furthermore, as Krencker *et al.* (2020) highlight, many other possible causes  
474 exist for platform demise, including a rise in sea-level, an event widely accepted as characterising  
475 the early Toarcian (Hallam 1988, 1997; Thibault *et al.* 2018).

476 The second worth mentioning is the weathering proxy based on osmium isotopes. Values of  
477  $^{187}\text{Os}/^{188}\text{Os}_{\text{initial}}$  in sediments below the *exaratum* Sz. are around 0.2 – 0.4 (Cohen *et al.* 2004, Porter  
478 *et al.* 2013; Percival *et al.* 2016; summary in Kemp *et al.* 2020) whilst above it values are around  
479 0.4 (*ibid*). Yet values within the *exaratum* Sz. range from 0.4 to 1.0 (*ibid*). The high values of 0.8 to  
480 1.0 in this subzone in Yorkshire, UK, were attributed by Cohen *et al.* (2004), and later, others, to  
481 enhanced weathering of continental crust. The low values of  $\approx 0.4$  in the *exaratum* Sz. in  
482 Dotternhausen, Germany, were attributed by van Acken *et al.* (2019) to weathering of LIP flood  
483 basalts. Such a large range in  $^{187}\text{Os}/^{188}\text{Os}_{\text{initial}}$  values in the *exaratum* Sz., and such conflicting  
484 interpretations, pose problems for the use of Os isotopes as a global weathering proxy, at least for  
485 this interval. The large differences in values of  $^{187}\text{Os}/^{188}\text{Os}_{\text{initial}}$  between sites for the same time  
486 period might be better explained in other ways. Those ways include the operation of local effects,  
487 such as basin restriction and drawdown of Os, which sensitizes isolated basins to riverine inputs and  
488 magnifies crustal contributions from waters above a pycnocline (McArthur *et al.* 2008; McArthur

489 2019); such an influence probably provides the best explanation for the large variations in the Mo-  
490 isotope composition of sediments across northern Tethys (compare Pearce *et al.* 2008 with Dickson  
491 *et al.* 2017).

492 Finally, the early Toarcian trends in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  are usually described as broad positive excursions (in  
493 both organic matter and carbonate) on which, in Interval 2, are superimposed negative excursions in  
494  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{cal}}$ , both being driven either by volcanogenic  $\text{CO}_2$  (Karoo-Ferrar), or the release of  
495 methane from clathrates (*e.g.* Hesselbo *et al.* 2000, Ruebsam *et al.* 2020). Such release would drive  
496 ocean acidification. Others point to difficulties with these suggested drivers of Toarcian trends in  
497  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ . Notably, van de Schootbrugge *et al.* (2005) highlighted the large range from place-to-place in  
498 the magnitude of the putative negative changes in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in the *exaratum* Sz. Such variation is usually  
499 explained as ‘local’ effects moderating a ‘global’ signal but, other than basin restriction, the  
500 mechanisms driving those local effects are not explained.

501 For inorganic carbon, no global component needed if one views the trends in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{cal}}$  through the  
502 Pliensbachian and Toarcian as simply comprising three separate positive excursions (two in the  
503 Toarcian) with a return to background between each (*c.f.* McArthur 2007). Such a view seems the  
504 best explanation for isotopic profiles that cover a period long enough to define background values  
505 below and above both positive excursions *e.g.* the Trento Platform (see Fig. 3 of Ettinger *et al.* 2021,  
506 reproduced here as Fig. S14) and the Nianduo Section, Tibet (see Fig. 3 of Han *et al.* 2018).

507 For organic carbon, van de Schootbrugge *et al.* (2013) and Suan *et al.* (2015) showed that  
508 variations in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  cannot be interpreted correctly in the absence of accompanying analysis for  
509 hydrogen index (HI). Correcting  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  for variations in HI substantially reduces variations in  
510  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  (*bid.*) and can remove entirely some negative excursions seen in uncorrected data  
511 (Schöllhorn *et al.* 2019). After correcting for variation in HI, van de Schootbrugge *et al.* (2013) and  
512 Suan *et al.* (2015) explained a residual apparent isotopic change of  $-3\text{‰}$  in the *exaratum* Sz. of NW  
513 Europe as arising from a contribution to sediment organic-matter of bacterial biomass originating in  
514 the redoxcline of a redox-stratified water-mass. These authors thus revitalise the Küspert model for  
515 the interval (Küspert 1982; Saelen *et al.* 1989) as an explanation for trends in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  in the  
516 *exaratum* Sz. Our failure to detect ocean acidification in that subzone further informs this debate.

517

## 518 **6. Conclusions**

519 No negative excursion was found in  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  of biogenic calcite, or of  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{sw}}$ , through the  
520 interval from the mid *semicelatum* Subzone to the end *exaratum* Subzone, an interval commonly  
521 termed an oceanic anoxic event. It follows that ocean acidification postulated for the interval was  
522 insufficient to disturb oceanic  $^{44}\text{Ca}/^{40}\text{Ca}$  or  $^{88}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  enough for our analysis to detect its effect, in

523 contrast to other intervals of time when boundary excursions in  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  occurred and have been  
524 attributed to ocean acidification (e.g. Payne *et al.* 2010; Jost *et al.* 2017, Silva-Tamayo *et al.* 2018).

525 Values of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  in Passaloteuthididae belemnites, Megateuthididae belemnites, and  
526 brachiopods of the species *Soaresirhynchia bouchardi*, show a positive correlation between  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$   
527 and temperature with a temperature sensitivity of  $+0.020 \pm 0.004 \text{ ‰/}^\circ\text{C}$  (2.s.d.). For belemnites  
528 only,  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  correlates positively with Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca. Values of  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{cal}}$  are independent of  
529 temperature and Sr/Ca.

530

### 531 **Acknowledgements**

532 We thank 3 anonymous reviewers for comments that were perceptive and constructive, and  
533 L.V. Duarte for assistance in the field.

534

535 Statement of Funding. This work was funded by grant RPG-2014-399 from the Leverhulme Trust.

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## 907 **List of Tables**

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909 Table 1. Elemental and isotopic compositions of belemnites and brachiopods analysed for this study.  
910 For  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  measurements, R = RHUL, C = Cambridge, For locality, Y = Yorkshire, P = Peniche,  
911 For taxonomy, M = Megateuthididae, H = Hastites, P = Passaloteuthididae, B = Brachiopod.  
912 Measured  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{calcite}}$  to SRM 951a; measured  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{calcite}}$  to SRM 987. Base values are  
913 measured values corrected for natural isotopic fractionation on precipitation of calcite from  
914 seawater. Temperature from equation of Hayes and Grossman (1991).

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917 **List of Figures.**

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919 Fig. 1. Map showing the positions of the sections sampled in relation to the disposition of land  
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922

923 Fig. 2. Stratigraphy of the sections sampled in Peniche, Portugal, and Yorkshire, UK. Arrows  
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927 Yorkshire are correlated to equivalent levels in Peniche using Sr-, C- and O-isotope  
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930 Zone 1–3 based on Thibault *et al.* 2018.

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932 Fig. 3. Correlations of base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  to **a)** temperature for all samples. Temperatures are  
933 derived from  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  using the palaeo-temperature equation of Hays and Grossman (1991),  
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936

937 Fig. 4. Base- $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{cal}}$  does not correlate with either **a)** temperature or **b)** Sr/Ca.

938

939 Fig. 5. Profiles of  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  through the studied sections: **a)** base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  **b)** base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$   
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941 and the temperature dependency on fractionation of  $+0.020\text{‰}/^\circ\text{C}$  (Fig. 3a). Also shown  
942 are the data of Brazier *et al.* (2015) corrected to  $15^\circ\text{C}$ ; **c)** detrended- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}_{\text{cal}}$  (corrected  
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946 Fig. 6. Profile of  $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}_{\text{sw}}$  through the sections at Peniche, Portugal, and Yorkshire, UK. The  
947 samples from Yorkshire are correlated to equivalent levels in Peniche using Sr-, C- and  
948 O-isotope stratigraphy (McArthur *et al.* 2000, 2020). Other data sources as in Fig. 6.

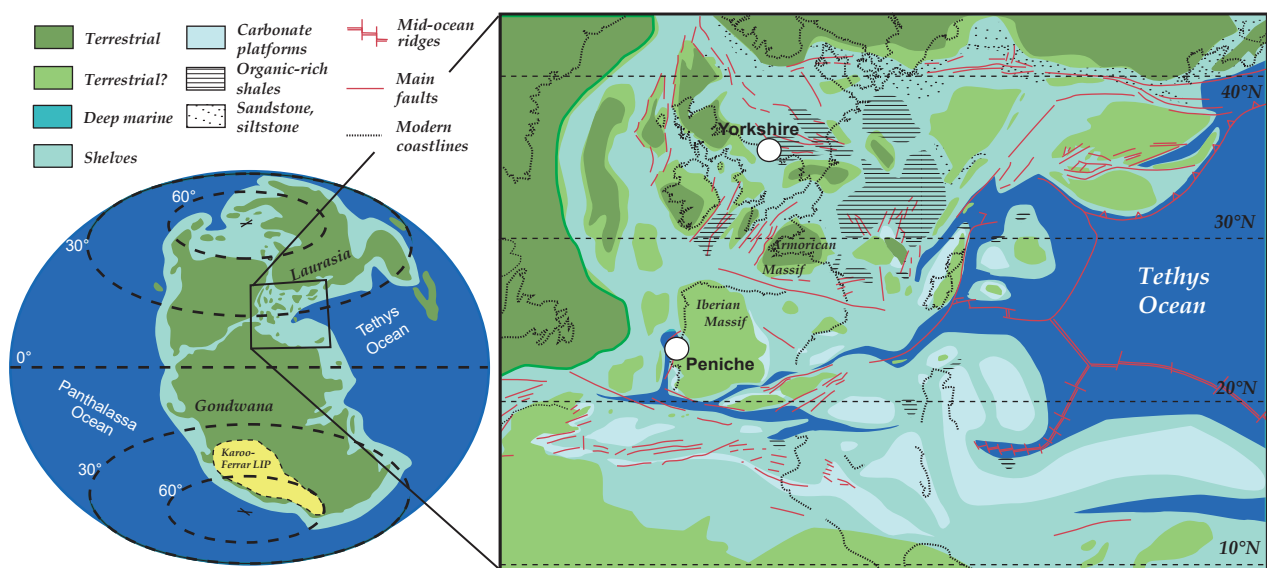
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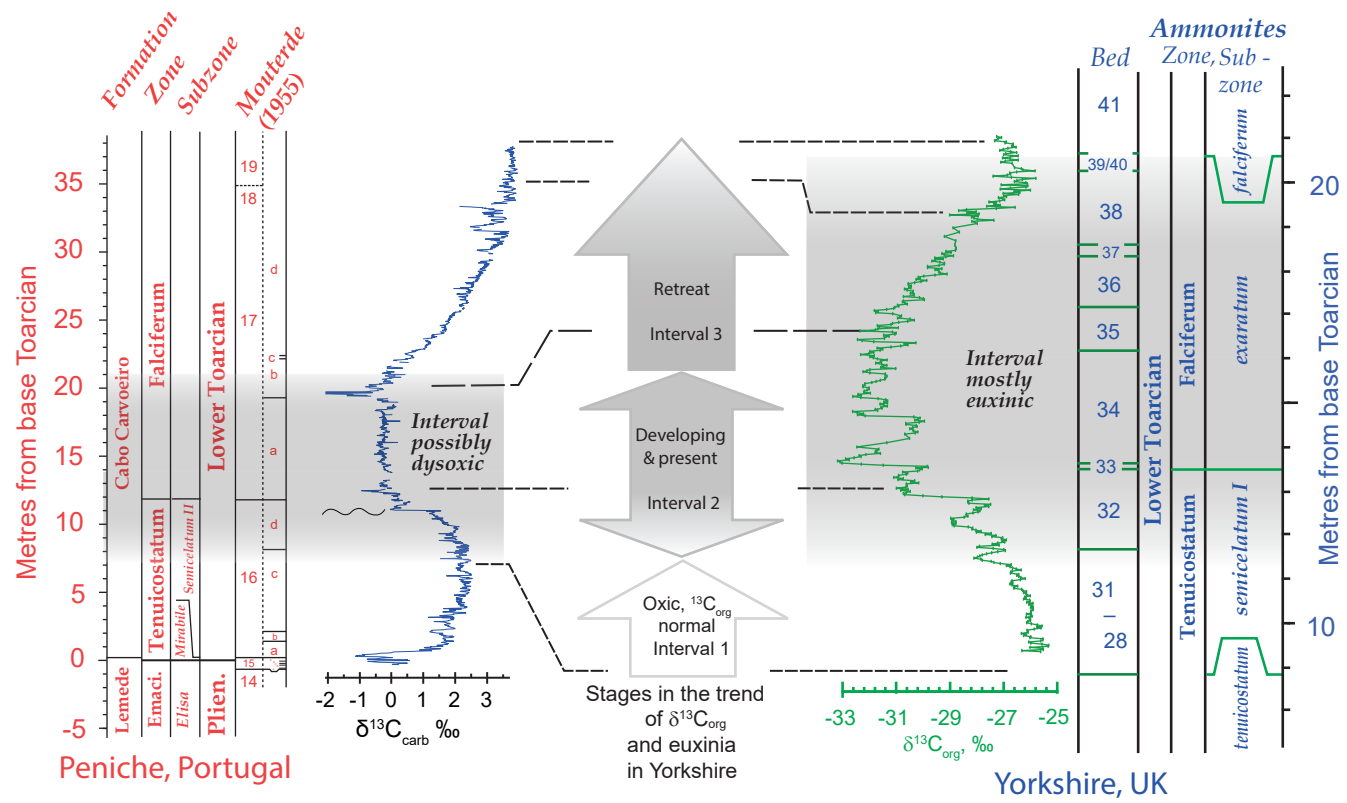
950 Fig. 7. Variations by  $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$  in seawater and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in carbonate sediment as a consequence of  
951 variations in three driving factors, as modelled by Silva-Tamayo *et al.* (2018).

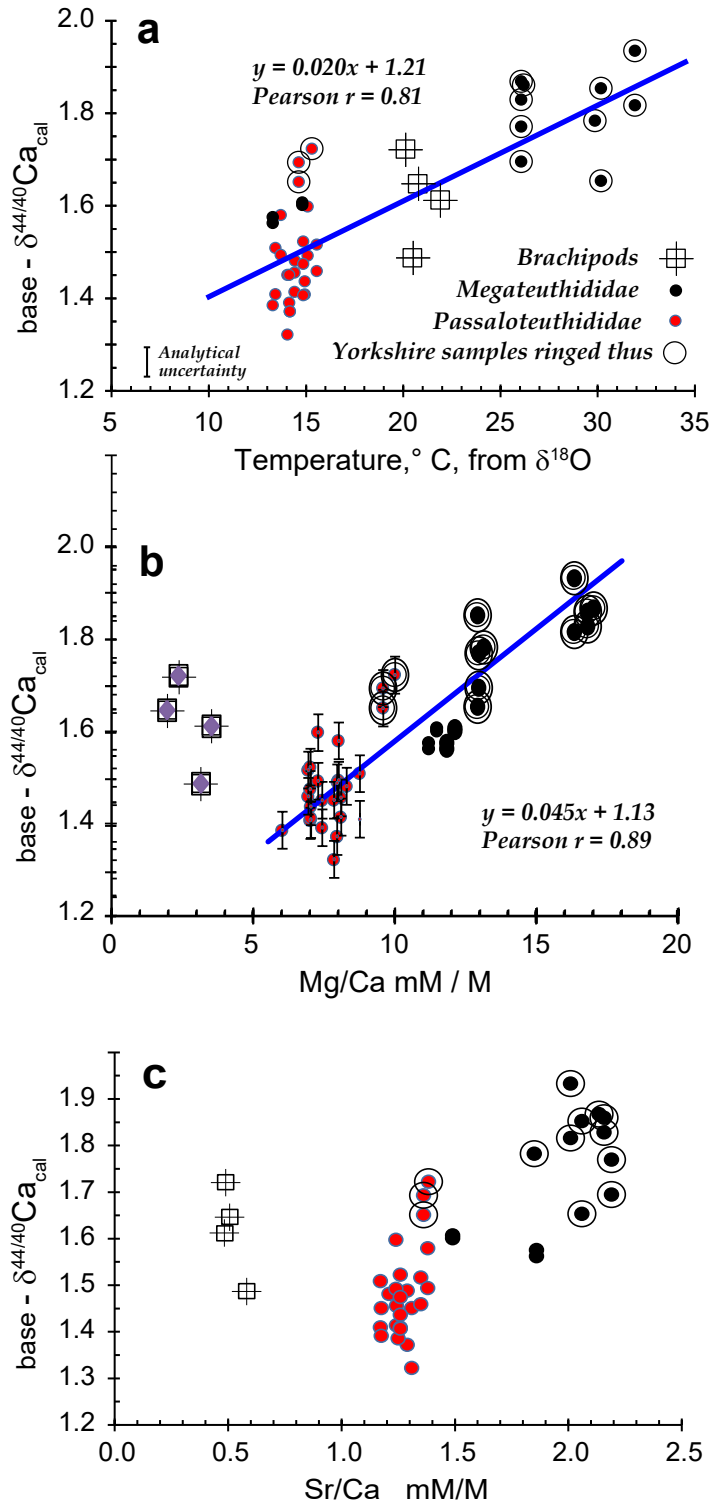
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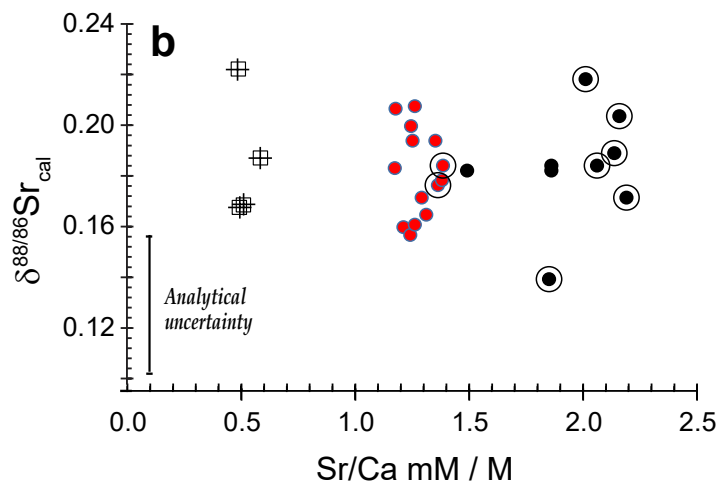
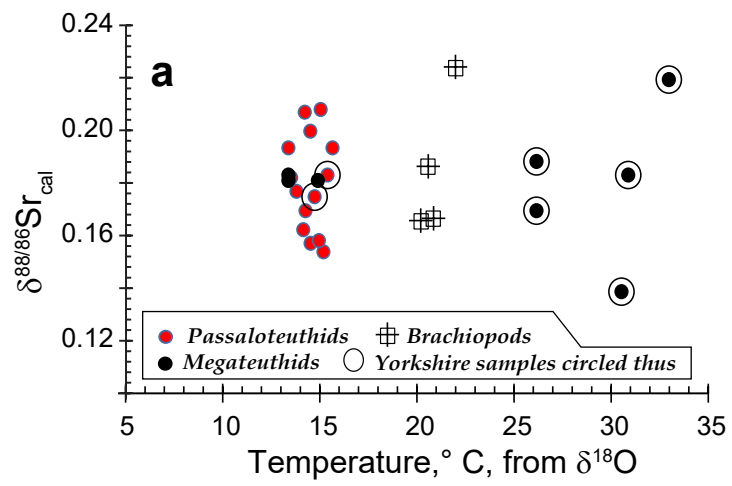
953 Fig. 8. Profiles of  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  in brachiopod calcite from Peniche; data from Muller *et al.* (2020),  
954 corrected for contamination from clays (see Supplementary Information). Blue vertical  
955 lines is drawn at the mean values of corrected  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  and has a width equal to analytical  
956 uncertainty, calculated as the mean deviation from the means of 10 analyses of 5 pairs of  
957 samples from 5 different levels (mean =  $0.39\text{‰}$ ,  $n = 5$ ).

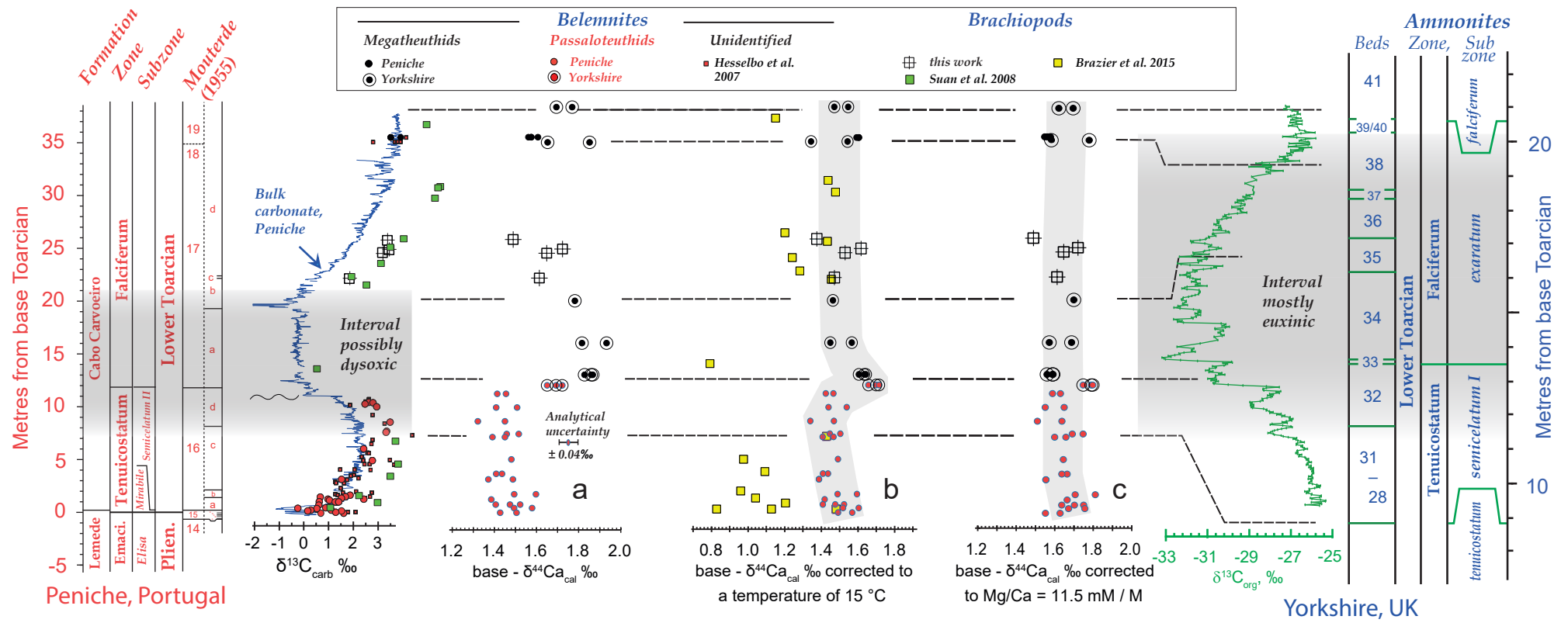
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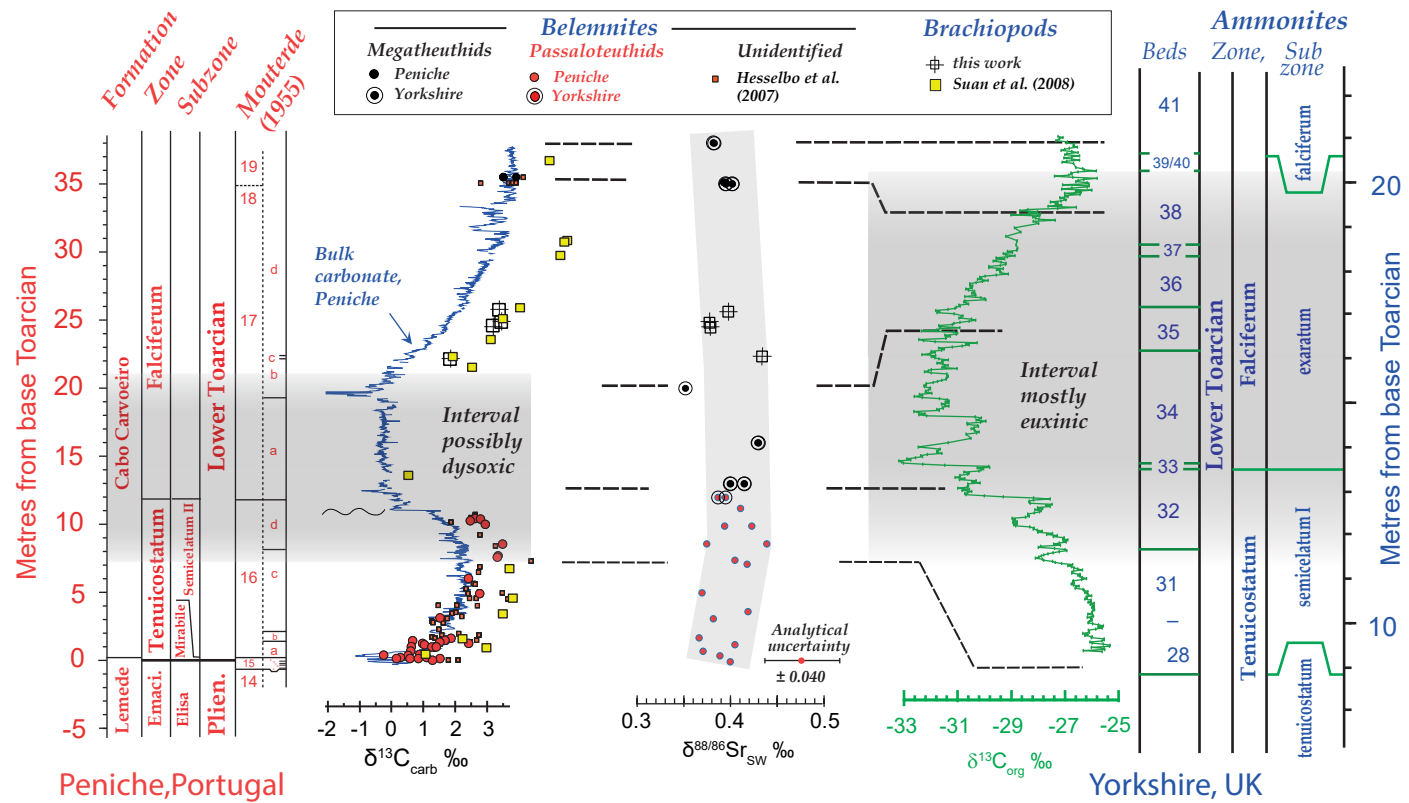


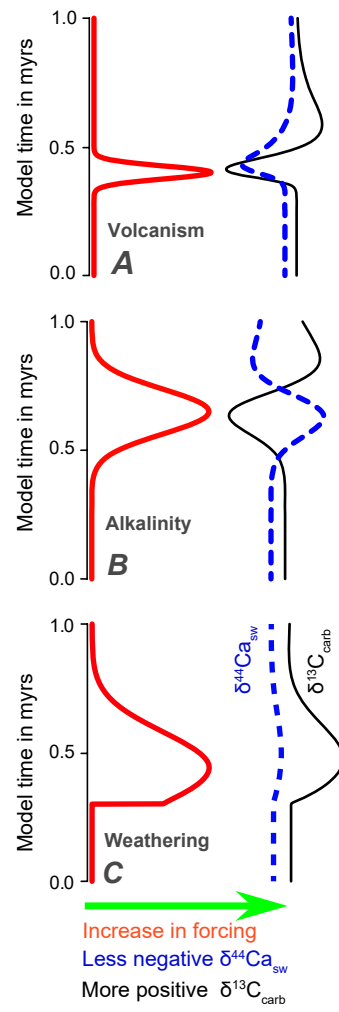




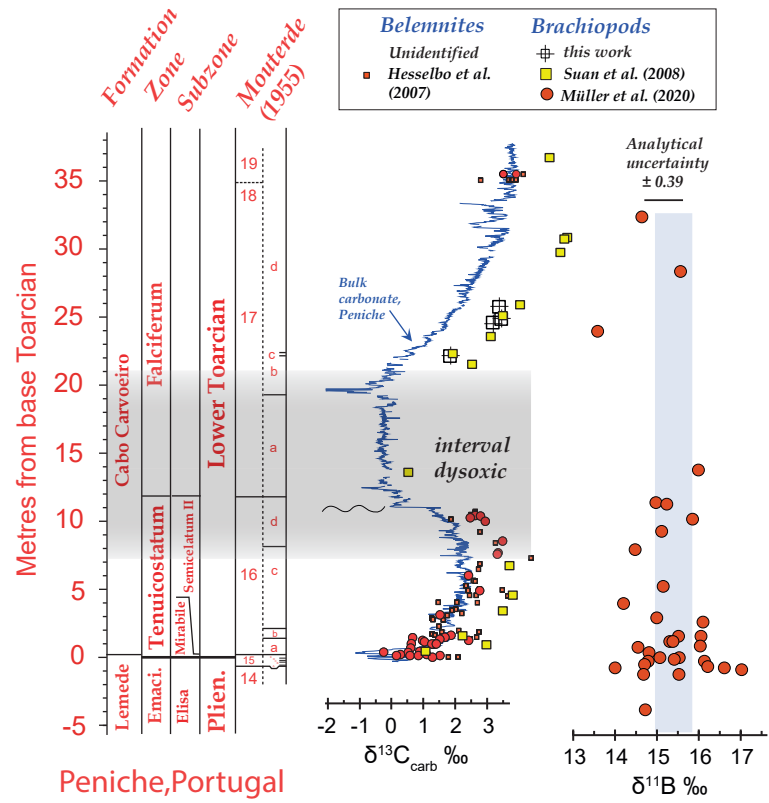












Stage	Ammonite Zone	Ammonite Subzone	Sample No and Bed No.	Taxa	Site	Specimen identification: belemnites unless indicated otherwise	Stratig. Level, m.a.d	Zone	Lab	Measured $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ Calcite to 915a	$\pm$ 2 s.e.	Base- $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ Calcite to 915a	T-corr. $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ Calcite to 915a	Detrend $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ Calcite to 915a	Measured $\delta^{88/86}\text{Sr}$ Calcite SRM 987	$\pm$ 2 s.e.
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Exaratum Sz	PM 13	M	Y	? <i>Acrocoelites inaeqstriatus</i>	38.0	Zone 3	C	0.37	0.021	1.77	1.53	1.70	0.171	0.020
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Exaratum Sz	PM 13 Repeat				38.0	Zone 3		0.29	0.022	1.69	1.46	1.63		
Toarcian	Serpentinum		133A	M	P	<i>Acrocoelites</i> sp	35.1	Zone 3	C	0.17	0.030	1.58	1.61	1.59	0.182	0.025
Toarcian	Serpentinum		133A Repeat				35.1	Zone 3		0.16	0.022	1.56	1.60	1.58	0.184	0.034
Toarcian	Serpentinum		133B	M	P	Indet.	35.1	Zone 3	C	0.20	0.019	1.60	1.60	1.60	0.182	0.018
Toarcian	Serpentinum		133B Repeat				35.1	Zone 3		0.20	0.027	1.61	1.61	1.61		
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Exaratum Sz	Y18/PM/38(127/152)	M	Y	<i>Acrocoelites</i> sp	35.0	Zone 3	C	0.45	0.021	1.85	1.53	1.79	0.184	0.020
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Exaratum Sz	Y18/PM/38(127/152) Repeat				35.0	Zone 3		0.25	0.021	1.65	1.33	1.59	0.191	0.036
Toarcian	Serpentinum		13.3 m	B	P	<i>S. bouchardi</i> ?	25.8	Zone 3	C	0.64	0.022	1.49	1.37		0.187	0.040
Toarcian	Serpentinum		12.4 m	B	P	<i>S. bouchardi</i> ?	24.9	Zone 3	C	0.87	0.018	1.72	1.61		0.167	0.029
Toarcian	Serpentinum		12.0 m	B	P	<i>S. bouchardi</i> ?	24.5	Zone 3	C	0.80	0.021	1.65	1.52		0.168	0.031
Toarcian	Serpentinum		9.65 m	B	P	<i>S. bouchardi</i> ?	22.2	Zone 3	C	0.76	0.021	1.61	1.46		0.223	0.030
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Exaratum Sz	Y18/PM/35(0/91)	M	Y	<i>Acrocoelites</i> sp	20.0	Zone 2	C	0.38	0.020	1.78	1.47	1.71	0.139	0.028
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Exaratum Sz	Y18/PM/34(173/259)	M	Y	<i>Acrocoelites</i> sp	16.0	Zone 2	C	0.53	0.020	1.93	1.57	1.72	0.219	0.022
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Exaratum Sz	Y18/PM/34(173/259) Repeat				16.0	Zone 2		0.41	0.020	1.82	1.46	1.60		
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Semicelatum I	PM 106	M	Y	<i>Acrocoelites</i> sp	13.0	Zone 2	C	0.46	0.027	1.87	1.63	1.62	0.189	0.021
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Semicelatum I	PM 106 Repeat				13.0	Zone 2		0.43	0.024	1.83	1.59	1.59	0.204	0.019
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Semicelatum I	PM 106 Repeat 2				13.0	Zone 2		0.46	0.028	1.86	1.62	1.62		
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Semicelatum I	Y18/KS/32(138/183)	P	Y	<i>cf. Pseudohastites longiformis</i> (juv.)	12.0	Zone 2	C	0.29	0.021	1.69	1.70	1.78	0.176	0.019
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Semicelatum I	Y18/KS/32(138/183) Repeat				12.0	Zone 2		0.32	0.021	1.72	1.72	1.79	0.184	0.015
Toarcian	Serpentinum	Semicelatum I	Y18/KS/32(138/183) Repeat 2				12.0	Zone 2		0.25	0.032	1.65	1.66	1.74		
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	25 B	P	P	<i>Passaloteuthididae</i> indet.	11.2	Zone 2	C	0.01	0.034	1.41	1.43	1.57	0.200	0.038
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	25 B Repeat				11.2	Zone 2		0.05	0.034	1.46	1.47	1.61		
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	24 Top	P	P	<i>Passaloteuthididae</i> indet.	9.90	Zone 2	C	0.11	0.023	1.51	1.54	1.63	0.183	0.028
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	24 Top		P		9.90	Zone 2	R	0.01	0.051	1.41	1.44	1.53	0.212	0.028
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	22 Mid	P?	P	Indet	8.60	Zone 2	C	-0.08	0.054	1.32	1.34	1.49	0.164	0.025
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	22 Mid		P		8.60	Zone 2	R	0.05	0.091	1.45	1.47	1.61	0.228	0.035
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	21B	P	P	<i>Passaloteuthis</i> sp. indet.	7.40	Zone 1	C	0.06	0.031	1.46	1.45	1.66	0.194	0.025
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	21B		P		7.40	Zone 1	R	0.11	0.054	1.52	1.50	1.72		
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	20	P	P	<i>Passaloteuthididae</i> indet.	7.10	Zone 1	C	0.05	0.031	1.45	1.47	1.63	0.207	0.025
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	20		P		7.10	Zone 1	R	-0.01	0.057	1.39	1.41	1.57		
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	17	P	P	<i>Passaloteuthididae</i> indet. juv.	5.00	Zone 1	C	0.08	0.022	1.48	1.49	1.62	0.159	0.029
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	15	P?	P	Indet	3.63	Zone 1	C	0.03	0.042	1.44	1.44	1.64	0.208	0.021
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	15		P		3.63	Zone 1	C	0.01	0.042	1.41	1.41	1.61		
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	13 Top	P	P	<i>Passaloteuthis</i> sp. indet. juv.	3.10	Zone 1	C	-0.03	0.020	1.37	1.39	1.53	0.171	0.025
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	13 Top		P		3.10	Zone 1	R	0.09	0.058	1.50	1.51	1.65		
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	11 Mid	P	P	<i>Passaloteuthididae</i> indet. juv.	1.70	Zone 1	C	0.20	0.024	1.60	1.60	1.79	0.156	0.029
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	11 Mid Repeat				1.70	Zone 1		0.09	0.020	1.49	1.49	1.68		
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	7 Top	P	P	<i>Passaloteuthididae</i> indet.	1.20	Zone 1	C	-0.02	0.020	1.39	1.42	1.63	0.194	0.021
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	3C	P	P	<i>Passaloteuthididae</i> indet.	0.72	Zone 1	C	0.00	0.025	1.41	1.41	1.61	0.160	0.025
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	3C Repeat				0.72	Zone 1		0.12	0.038	1.52	1.52	1.72		
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	3C		P		0.72	Zone 1	R	0.07	0.059	1.47	1.48	1.68		
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	2	P?	P	? <i>Pseudohastites</i> sp. A	0.39	Zone 1	C	0.18	0.025	1.58	1.61	1.74	0.178	0.025
Toarcian	Tenuicostatum	Semicelatum II	2		P		0.39	Zone 1	R	0.09	0.060	1.49	1.52	1.65		
		<b>Means, 2s.e.</b>	<b>Zone 3 excluding brachs</b>										<b>1.535</b>	<b>1.636</b>	<b>0.182</b>	<b>0.0026</b>
		<b>Means, 2s.e.</b>	<b>Zone 3 incl brachs</b>										<b>1.521</b>	<b>1.636</b>	<b>0.184</b>	<b>0.0051</b>
		<b>Means, 2s.e.</b>	<b>Zone 2</b>										<b>1.540</b>	<b>1.640</b>	<b>0.191</b>	<b>0.0081</b>
		<b>Means, 2s.e.</b>	<b>Zone 1</b>										<b>1.477</b>	<b>1.654</b>	<b>0.181</b>	<b>0.0069</b>





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**Supplementary file**

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