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Journal

Geochemistry Geophysics Geosystems, 18(1)

ISSN

1525-2027

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[et al.](#)

Publication Date

2017

DOI

10.1002/2016gc006724

Peer reviewed

1 **Additive effects of acidification and mineralogy on calcium isotopes in**
2 **Triassic/Jurassic boundary limestones**

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14 **Key Points:**

- 15 • We observe a large negative calcium isotope excursion above the Triassic/Jurassic
16 boundary.
- 17 • Numerical modeling indicates the excursion is too large to be attributed to ocean
18 acidification alone.
- 19 • Much of the excursion is due to higher proportions of aragonite in our samples, possibly
20 favored during recovery from acidification.
21

22 Abstract

23 The end-Triassic mass extinction coincided with a negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion, consistent with
24 release of ^{13}C -depleted CO_2 from the Central Atlantic Magmatic Province. However, the amount
25 of carbon released and its effects on ocean chemistry are poorly constrained. The coupled nature
26 of the carbon and calcium cycles allows calcium isotopes to be used for constraining carbon
27 cycle dynamics and vice versa. We present a high-resolution calcium isotope ($\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$) record
28 from 100 m of marine limestone spanning the Triassic/Jurassic boundary in two stratigraphic
29 sections from northern Italy. Immediately above the extinction horizon and the associated
30 negative excursion in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ decreases by ca. 0.8‰ in 20 m of section and then recovers
31 to pre-excursion values. Coupled numerical models of the geological carbon and calcium cycles
32 demonstrate that this $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion is too large to be explained by changes to seawater
33 $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ alone, regardless of CO_2 injection volume and duration. Less than 20% of the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
34 excursion can be attributed to acidification. The remaining 80% likely reflects a higher
35 proportion of aragonite in the original sediment, based largely on high concentrations of Sr in the
36 samples. Our study demonstrates that coupled models of the carbon and calcium cycles have the
37 potential to help distinguish contributions of primary seawater isotopic changes from local or
38 diagenetic effects on the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ of carbonate sediments. Differentiating between these effects is
39 critical for constraining the impact of ocean acidification during the end-Triassic mass
40 extinction, as well as for interpreting other environmental events in the geologic past.

41 1 Introduction

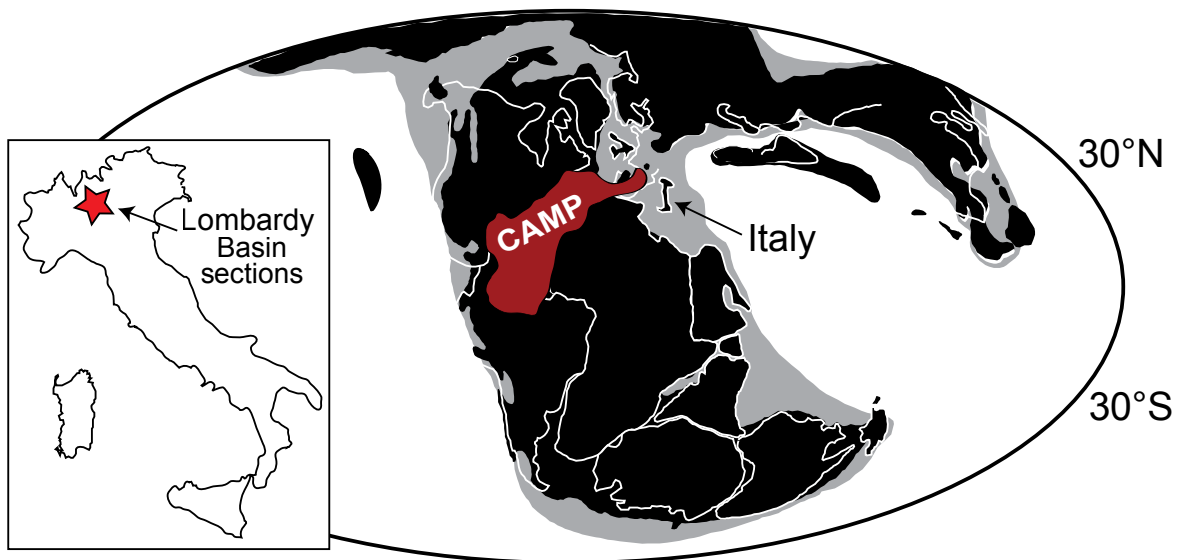
42 The end-Triassic mass extinction (ca. 201.6 Ma) was one of the five most severe biotic
43 crises of the Phanerozoic [Raup and Sepkoski, 1982]. Ocean acidification has been invoked as a
44 kill mechanism based on the preferential loss of heavily calcified marine animals [Hautmann,
45 2006; Kiessling and Simpson, 2011; McRoberts *et al.*, 2012] and a decrease in CaCO_3 deposition
46 in marine stratigraphic sections [Hautmann, 2004]. The extinction is coeval with the
47 emplacement of the Central Atlantic Magmatic Province (CAMP) [Blackburn *et al.*, 2013], an
48 increase in atmospheric $p\text{CO}_2$ [Schaller *et al.*, 2011; Steinthorsdottir *et al.*, 2011], and a negative
49 excursion in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of CaCO_3 and organic matter [see Bartolini *et al.*, 2012; Greene *et al.*,
50 2012] suggesting the release of CO_2 from CAMP triggered the loss of marine life. However, the
51 amount of carbon released and the extent of resulting ocean acidification remains poorly
52 quantified. Determining the mass and isotopic composition of carbon release during the end-
53 Triassic mass extinction is critical both to pinpointing the source of carbon and to quantifying the
54 degree of ocean acidification.

55 Some studies have attempted to constrain release volumes using $p\text{CO}_2$ proxies [Beerling
56 and Berner, 2002], but these data have low temporal resolution and may not capture the highest
57 concentrations of $p\text{CO}_2$ that occurred during and immediately after injection. Two recent studies
58 have attempted to accurately replicate the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record by modeling pulsed releases of CO_2 from
59 CAMP [Bachan and Payne, 2015; Paris *et al.*, 2016], but neither study includes model
60 verification using a second geochemical record. Testing extinction scenarios that are constructed
61 to explain carbon isotope data against their predictions for additional isotopes systems is one
62 effective avenue towards better understanding the sequence of events during the Triassic-Jurassic
63 transition.

64 The calcium cycle is linked to the carbon cycle through burial of CaCO_3 and dependency
65 between weathering of Ca-bearing minerals and atmospheric $p\text{CO}_2$. Paired $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$

66 records can potentially be used to quantify the amount and composition of carbon required for a
 67 negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion and to test the hypothesis of ocean acidification [Payne *et al.*, 2010a;
 68 Komar and Zeebe, 2011, 2016; Griffith *et al.*, 2015]. Under acidification, excess volcanic CO_2
 69 dissolves into seawater, shifting the distribution of dissolved carbonate species away from CO_3^{2-}
 70 and decreasing the saturation state of CaCO_3 (Ω). CaCO_3 precipitation fractionates calcium
 71 isotopes and favors ^{40}Ca over ^{44}Ca . As a result, a relative decrease in CaCO_3 burial results in less
 72 preferential removal of ^{40}Ca from seawater and would cause a negative excursion in $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
 73 beginning at the time of carbon release [Payne *et al.*, 2010b]. In addition, increased weathering
 74 and seafloor dissolution of CaCO_3 as a consequence of high pCO_2 and reduced Ω , respectively,
 75 would add isotopically light calcium to seawater. Similarly, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ can be used to place broader
 76 constraints on mechanisms underlying $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ variation. Paired data that cannot be explained by
 77 any plausible environmental scenario can be used to identify cases in which one or both isotope
 78 records are unlikely to represent ancient seawater or atmospheric compositions, but instead
 79 reflect degree of influence from local or diagenetic effects.

80 With the goal of better constraining the nature of carbon release and the severity of ocean
 81 acidification, we present new $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ data paired with previously published $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data [Bachan *et al.*
 82 *et al.*, 2012, 2014] from samples collected at two sections spanning the end-Triassic extinction and
 83 Early Jurassic recovery from the Lombardy Basin in Italy. We then use numerical simulations of
 84 CO_2 injection into a coupled model of the carbon and calcium cycles to constrain the
 85 mechanisms responsible for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ variations.



86

87 **Figure 1.** Paleogeographic reconstruction ca. 200 Ma showing the extent of CAMP and the location of Italy. Inset
 88 shows the location of the Lombardy Basin in Italy, where the Val Adrara (45°43'29.33"N, 9°57'32.29"E) and

89 Italcementi (45°46'35.48"N, 9°30'27.09"E) sections are located. Modified from *van de Schootbrugge et al.* [2008]
90 and *Bachan et al.* [2012].

91 **2 Materials and Methods**

92 2.1 Geologic Setting

93 The Val Adrara and Italcementi sections are located in the Lombardy Basin of northern
94 Italy (Fig. 1). The two sections are separated by 35 km, with Val Adrara representing a more
95 distal setting on a shallowly dipping, subtidal ramp. Each section spans approximately 100 m of
96 stratigraphy, including the T/J boundary [*Bachan et al.*, 2012]. Facies successions are similar
97 between the two sections. Both sections have previously been studied for sedimentology,
98 paleontology and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ stratigraphy [see *Bachan et al.*, 2012].

99 Both sections begin in the uppermost Triassic (Rhaetian) Zu limestone, which is
100 composed of algal, molluscan, and coralline packstone and wackestone. Rhaetian fossils,
101 including the Rhaetian pollen taxon *Rhaetipollis germanicus*, last occur in the uppermost Zu
102 limestone and are absent from the overlying Malanotte Formation (Fm.) [*Galli et al.*, 2005]. At
103 these sections, the Malanotte Fm. is interpreted as lowermost Hettangian in age based on the
104 acme of *Krauselisporites reissingeri* and the accompanying assemblage of other Hettangian-age
105 pollen taxa [*Galli et al.*, 2007]. The base of the Malanotte Fm. contains a marl interval, followed
106 by thinly bedded limestones and alternating shales transitioning upwards to shallower facies with
107 more abundant bedforms and carbonate grains by the top of the formation [*Bachan et al.*, 2012].
108 The overlying Albenza Fm. comprises peloidal and oolitic packstone and grainstone with some
109 molluscan material [*Bachan et al.*, 2012]. Correlation between the two sections is anchored by
110 the base of the lowermost Jurassic Malanotte Fm. We refined these correlations based on the
111 biostratigraphy of *Galli et al.* [2007] and the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data of *Bachan et al.* [2012].

112 2.2 Geochemical methods

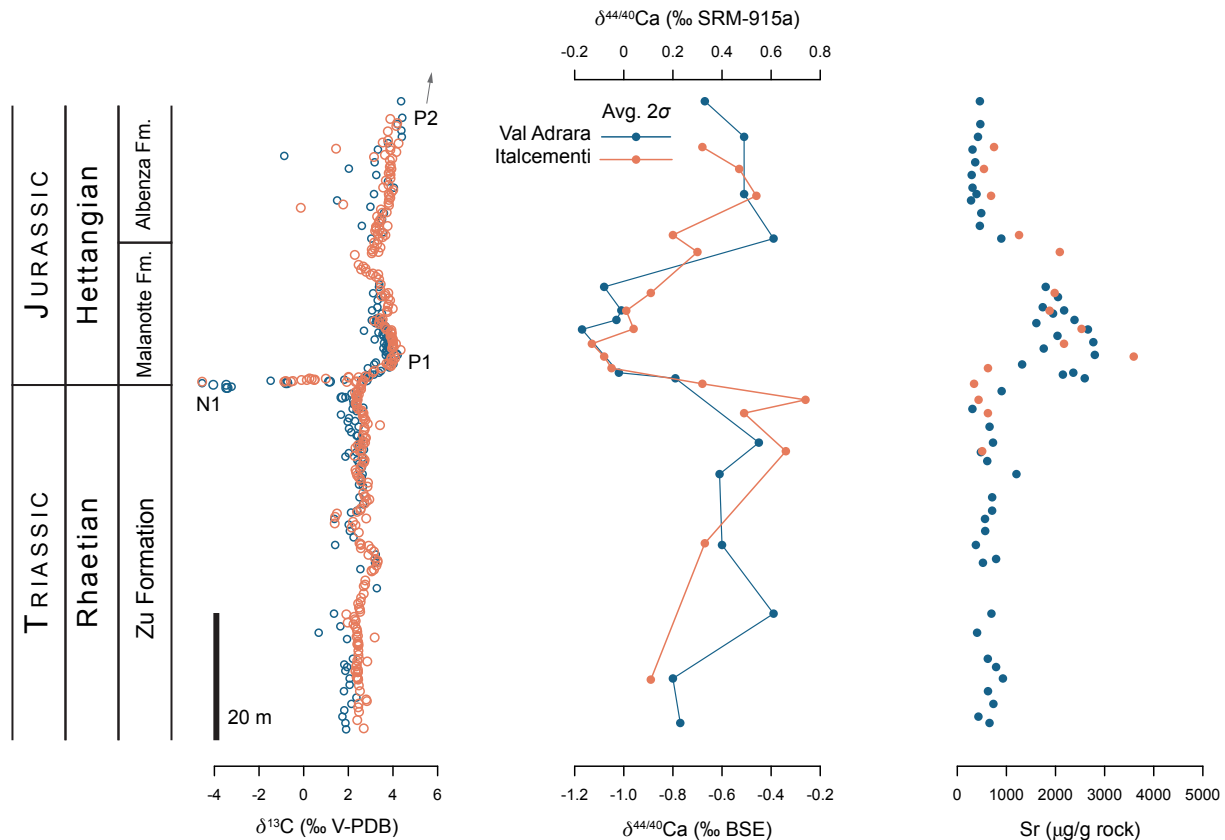
113 We cut limestone samples using a tile saw and drilled micrite from cut faces for $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
114 and major/trace element analyses using a bench-top drill press equipped with a 0.8 mm dental
115 drill. Carbonate powders were digested overnight in 1 M acetic acid, centrifuged, and separated
116 from the insoluble fraction to avoid contamination from non-carbonate phases such as clays and
117 organic matter. After separation from the insoluble fraction, carbonate samples were dried and
118 redissolved in 3.0 M HNO_3 . Dissolved samples were then spiked with a ^{42}Ca - and ^{48}Ca -enriched
119 tracer to allow for correction of mass-dependent fractionation occurring during analysis. Typical
120 $^{42}\text{Ca}/^{44}\text{Ca}$ ratios of spiked samples were 2–3. Calcium was purified from the sample matrix using
121 DGA resin (Eichrom). Samples were loaded on the resin in 3 M HNO_3 and the matrix was eluted
122 with subsequent additions of 3 M HNO_3 to the column. Calcium was then eluted using DI H_2O ,
123 dried down and treated with concentrated HNO_3 to destroy residual organics from the resin. For
124 each analysis, approximately 3 μg of the purified calcium sample was loaded onto zone-refined
125 Re in a double filament configuration. Samples were run in a Thermo-Fisher Triton multi-
126 collector thermal ionization mass spectrometer (TIMS) at the Center for Isotope Geochemistry
127 (CIG), University of California, Berkeley. $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ values are reported relative to Bulk Silicate
128 Earth (BSE) ($^{40}\text{Ca}/^{44}\text{Ca} = 47.162$ and $^{42}\text{Ca}/^{44}\text{Ca} = 0.31221$) in standard δ -notation. NIST SRM-

129 915a is -1.00‰ on the BSE scale and seawater is $+0.91\text{‰}$ [Nielsen *et al.*, 2011]. SRM-915A
130 averaged -1.03‰ during this study and the long term reproducibility at CIG is $\sim 0.1\text{‰}$.

131 Concentrations of major and trace elements (Ca, Mg, Mn, Sr) were measured with an
132 inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer (ICP-OES) in the Environmental
133 Measurements Lab at Stanford University. Carbon isotopes from both sections were measured
134 and presented by *van de Schootbrugge et al.* [2008] and *Bachan et al.* [2012, 2014]. *Bachan et al.*
135 *al.* [2012] labeled the initial negative excursion (N1), and two subsequent positive excursions
136 (P1 and P2) in the southern Alps. The N1 and P1 excursions are present within both sections in
137 this study (Fig. 2), and the P2 excursion is present at Val Adrara, albeit above our study interval.

138 **3 Results**

139 The two measured sections exhibit similar records of stratigraphic variation in $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
140 (Table 1, Fig. 2). At Val Adrara, $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ increases from -0.77‰ at the base of the section to $-$
141 0.45‰ at the Triassic/Jurassic (T/J) boundary. Just above the boundary, $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ decreases as low
142 as -1.17‰ in the Malanotte Fm. $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ then recovers to -0.39‰ in the uppermost Malanotte
143 above a stratigraphic gap, and ends at -0.67‰ in the lower Albenza Fm. At Italcementi, $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
144 starts at -0.89‰ at the base of the section, increases to -0.26‰ before the T/J boundary, and
145 then rapidly decreases to values as low as -1.13‰ in the lower Malanotte Fm. The record at
146 Italcementi provides more detail in the upper Malanotte Fm., showing a steady recovery from the
147 nadir up to -0.46‰ by the base of the Albenza Fm. The section ends in the lower Albenza at $-$
148 0.68‰ . In both sections, the onset of the negative $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion coincides with the N1
149 excursion in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record. The nadir of the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion occurs approximately 5 m above
150 the peak of the P1 excursion in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$.



151

152 **Figure 2.** The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$, and $[\text{Sr}]$ data from each section, exhibiting large excursions immediately above the
 153 Triassic/Jurassic boundary. Dark blue is Val Adrara, orange is Italcementi. Val Adrara data are plotted by
 154 stratigraphic height, and Italcementi points are minimally adjusted to best match the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ at Val Adrara. Errors on
 155 $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ are calculated from replicate measurements of the same sample.

156 Stratigraphic variations in $[\text{Sr}]$ are also similar between the two sections (Table 1, Fig. 2).
 157 Both exhibit uppermost Triassic baseline $[\text{Sr}]$ values near 650 ppm ($\mu\text{g/g}$ rock), followed by a
 158 sharp rise to ca. 2800 ppm and a steady decrease back to baseline concentrations in the lower
 159 Albenza Fm. The $[\text{Sr}]$ and $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ values are inversely correlated at both locations (Val Adrara:
 160 Spearman's $\rho = -0.71$, $p = 0.002$; Italcementi: $\rho = -0.76$, $p = 0.001$) (see Table S1 for all
 161 correlation coefficients).

162 4 Discussion

163 The co-occurrence of the negative $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion with a rapid negative excursion in
 164 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and the last occurrences of Triassic fossils and the carbonate-poor boundary marl is
 165 consistent with an acidification scenario for the mass extinction event. To explore the extent to
 166 which acidification can account quantitatively for the coupled variations in $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, we
 167 simulated CO_2 injection using a coupled numerical model of the geological carbon and calcium
 168 cycles. Our model, similar to one introduced by Bachan and Payne [2015], uses mass and
 169 isotopic fluxes of carbon and calcium in a single ocean-atmosphere reservoir.

170 **Table 1.** Geochemical data from Val Adrara and Italcementi. For full $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data, see Bachan *et al.* [2012, 2014]. 2σ
 171 values for $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ are calculated from replicate measurements of the same sample. Standard deviations on Ca, Mg,

172 Sr, and Mn measurements based on standard replicate measurements are 0.6 wt%, 0.03 wt%, 1 µg/g rock, and 3 µg/g
 173 rock, respectively.

Stratigraphic height (m)	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰ VPDB)	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (‰ VPDB)	Ca (wt %)	Mg (wt %)	Sr (µg/g rock)	Mn (µg/g rock)	$\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ (‰ BSE)	$\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ (‰ SRM-915a)	$\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ (‰ seawater)	2σ for $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$	n for $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
<i>Val Adrara</i>											
2.8	1.87	-2.14	31.60	0.66	656	77	-0.77	-1.77	0.14	0.25	3
9.8	2.06	-2.19	31.00	0.57	929	73	-0.80	-1.80	0.11	0.11	2
20.0	1.36	-2.26	31.30	0.67	695	152	-0.39	-1.39	0.52	0.24	2
30.8	1.41	-3.52	29.70	0.66	378	68	-0.60	-1.60	0.31	0.17	2
40.0	2.64	-1.90	32.10	0.47	1204	26	-0.61	-1.61	0.30	0.03	2
46.9	2.54	-2.02	31.40	0.55	727	26	-0.45	-1.45	0.46	0.33	4
57.0	2.76	-2.56	33.67	0.40	2595	126	-0.79	-1.79	0.12	0.21	3
57.9	3.37	-1.68	34.74	0.41	2362	42	-1.02	-2.02	-0.11	0.13	2
64.7	3.79	-2.11	32.30	0.43	2660	74	-1.17	-2.17	-0.26	0.08	2
66.2	3.27	-3.20	35.39	0.32	2386	70	-1.03	-2.03	-0.12	0.16	2
67.7	3.06	-2.94	32.87	0.31	2175	87	-1.01	-2.01	-0.10	0.26	5
71.4	3.37	-2.59	33.20	0.41	1800	54	-1.08	-2.08	-0.17	0.08	2
79.0	3.03	-3.40	35.00	0.56	896	29	-0.39	-1.39	0.52	0.25	3
86.0	3.15	-5.84	35.35	0.66	392	13	-0.51	-1.51	0.40	0.13	2
95.0	4.40	-5.32	34.40	0.16	421	7	-0.51	-1.51	0.40	0.08	2
100.6	4.36	-5.68	33.50	1.29	460	13	-0.67	-1.67	0.24	0.17	2
<i>Italcementi</i>											
7.4	2.44	-1.40	NA	NA	NA	NA	-0.89	-1.89	0.02	0.14	2
23.9	2.50	-1.54	NA	NA	NA	NA	-0.67	-1.67	0.24	0.23	3
35.4	2.51	-1.59	20.30	0.50	507	513	-0.34	-1.34	0.57	0.47	3
41.1	2.68	-4.48	31.03	0.43	623	21	-0.51	-1.51	0.40	0.01	2
43.1	2.42	-2.91	35.98	0.30	433	19	-0.26	-1.26	0.65	0.04	2
45.5	2.58	-1.99	35.79	0.48	341	21	-0.68	-1.68	0.23	0.16	2
47.1	3.49	-1.88	26.08	0.71	624	111	-1.05	-2.05	-0.14	0.11	2
49.9	NA	NA	44.43	0.59	3592	85	-1.08	-2.08	-0.17	0.06	2
53.0	NA	NA	31.09	0.33	2173	38	-1.13	-2.13	-0.22	0.34	2
56.6	3.68	-1.92	39.76	0.41	2531	59	-0.96	-1.96	-0.05	0.11	2
61.0	3.73	-2.19	39.76	0.36	1880	74	-0.99	-1.99	-0.08	0.24	2
65.3	3.79	-2.56	31.26	0.31	1983	47	-0.89	-1.89	0.02	0.23	3
72.9	3.35	-2.14	30.44	0.31	2087	50	-0.70	-1.70	0.21	0.07	2
77.0	3.66	-2.05	35.67	0.59	1257	25	-0.80	-1.80	0.11	0.35	2
86.5	3.83	-2.58	35.76	0.45	687	15	-0.46	-1.46	0.45	0.18	2
93.0	3.93	-3.97	36.52	0.37	543	13	-0.53	-1.53	0.38	0.00	2
98.3	3.88	-6.70	34.89	0.37	748	7	-0.68	-1.68	0.23	0.24	2

174
 175 CAMP likely erupted in four pulses [Schaller *et al.*, 2011] over the early-middle
 176 Hettangian (*spelae-liassicus* zones [Hillebrandt *et al.*, 2013]), or potentially into the late
 177 Hettangian (*liassicus-angulata* zones [Hillebrandt *et al.*, 2013]) based on correlation of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in
 178 northern Italy with geochronologically constrained sections elsewhere [Bachan and Payne,
 179 2015]. The interval examined in this study encompasses the N1 and P1 excursions, which likely
 180 corresponds to the first observed increase in $p\text{CO}_2$. If the N1 and P1 excursions were associated
 181 with first rise in CO_2 observed by Schaller *et al.* [2011, 2012], then our study interval post T/J
 182 boundary is likely constrained to 270 kyr. Bachan and Payne [2015] modeled this initial eruptive
 183 phase using a two-pulse injection (4200 Pg C at -70‰ and 14,400 Gt C at -5.5‰). In this study,
 184 we opt for a single pulse of CO_2 for simplicity.

185 4.1 Model construct

186 We constructed a forward box model of the carbon and calcium cycles to predict the
 187 dynamics of these interconnected biogeochemical systems. The ocean is the sole reservoir in our
 188 model, in which we track the moles of dissolved inorganic carbon (M_C), referred to in the text
 189 hereafter as DIC, dissolved Ca^{2+} (M_{Ca}), dissolved phosphate (M_P), and dissolved sulfate (M_S).
 190 The changes in M_C can be expressed in terms of the major inputs and outputs to the
 191 ocean/atmosphere carbon reservoir:

$$192 \frac{dM_C}{dt} = F_{w,carb} + F_{w,org} + F_{volc} - F_{b,org} - F_{b,carb} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

193 where $F_{w,carb}$ and $F_{b,carb}$ are the weathering and burial of calcium carbonate rock, $F_{w,org}$ and $F_{b,org}$
 194 are the weathering and burial of organic carbon, and F_{volc} is the release of volcanic CO_2 . We set
 195 DIC and total alkalinity (Alk) to yield an initial $p\text{CO}_2$ value ~ 2000 ppm and a mean saturation
 196 state of calcite, $\Omega_{calcite}$ (herein simply Ω) of 1.75 (see Table 2 for a list of parameters). The
 197 changes in M_{Ca} can be expressed similarly:

$$198 \quad \frac{dM_{Ca}}{dt} = F_{w,sil} + F_{w,carb} - F_{b,carb} \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

199 where $F_{w,sil}$ is the weathering of Ca-bearing silicate rock. The initial concentration of Ca^{2+} is set
 200 to 17 mM, yielding a residence time of approximately 650 kyr (determined as $M_{Ca}/F_{b,carb}$ during
 201 steady state). Using equations from *Berner* [2004], we define the non-carbonate weathering
 202 fluxes (Ca-silicates, and organic C) and carbonate fluxes such that they each scale with the
 203 atmospheric $p\text{CO}_2$:

$$204 \quad F_{w,t} = F_{w,i} (RCO_2)^{GZ} (1 + GZ \log(RCO_2))^{0.65} \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

$$205 \quad F_{w,carb,t} = F_{w,carb,i} (RCO_2)^{GZ_{carb}} (1 + GZ \log(RCO_2)) \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

206 where G and Z are constant scaling coefficients (see *Berner* [2004]) and RCO_2 is the ratio of CO_2
 207 at time t relative to the level at the initial time i :

$$208 \quad RCO_2 = \frac{pCO_{2,t}}{pCO_{2,i}} \quad \text{Eq. 5}$$

209 $p\text{CO}_2$ is calculated from the total dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), which is determined
 210 from M_C :

$$211 \quad DIC = \frac{M_C}{sV_{oc}} \quad \text{Eq. 6}$$

212 and alkalinity (Alk):

$$213 \quad Alk = 2 \frac{M_{Ca^{2+}}}{sV_{oc}} - 2 \frac{M_{SO_4^{2-}}}{sV_{oc}} + k_{alk} \quad \text{Eq. 7}$$

214 where s is salinity, V_{oc} is ocean volume, and k_{alk} is a constant representing the remaining
 215 components of alkalinity, which we assume to be fixed during the perturbation. Thus, with Alk
 216 and DIC known, we solve for the other parameters of the carbonate system ($[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$, $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$,
 217 $[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3]$, $p\text{CO}_2$, pH) based on the methods outlined in *Zeebe and Wolf-Gladrow* [2001]. The
 218 burial flux of CaCO_3 scales with Ω :

$$219 \quad \Omega = \frac{[Ca^{2+}][CO_3^{2-}]}{K_{sp}} \quad \text{Eq. 8}$$

220 where Ω values < 1 imply undersaturation and dissolution, and $\Omega \geq 1$ implies saturation and
 221 precipitation. Thus, the burial of carbonate scales with Ω :

$$222 \quad F_{b,carb,t} = F_{b,carb,i} \frac{\Omega_t - 1}{\Omega_i - 1} \quad \text{Eq. 9}$$

223 Our model does not include a sediment reservoir, so we cannot explicitly dissolve CaCO_3
 224 sediment during an acidification. However, if Ω drops below 1.0, $F_{b,carb}$ will become negative
 225 and become an input into the ocean reservoir. This process simulates dissolution of CaCO_3 in the
 226 absence of a dedicated sediment reservoir.

227 The burial of organic carbon is dependent on the relative changes in the amount of phosphate
 228 (M_P), a limiting nutrient on geologic timescales, in seawater:

$$229 \quad F_{b,org,t} = F_{b,org,i} k_{cp} \quad \text{Eq. 10}$$

230 where k_{cp} is equivalent to the C:P ratio in ocean sediment:

$$231 \quad k_{cp,t} = k_{cp,i} \left(\frac{M_{PO_4^{2-},t}}{M_{PO_4^{2-},i}} \right)^{p_{cp}} \quad \text{Eq. 11}$$

232 and p_{cp} is a scaling coefficient (assumed to be unity for all scenarios in this study—see *Bachan*
 233 *and Payne* [2015] for other uses). The C:P ratio in sediments is normally Redfieldian (106:1) in
 234 oxic conditions, but low oxygen conditions favor release of PO_4^{3-} sorbed on Fe(III) oxides [*Van*
 235 *Cappellen and Ingall*, 1996].

236 All of the carbon and calcium delivery and removal fluxes can be assigned an average
 237 isotopic composition to be used in determining the change in seawater isotopic composition over
 238 time:

$$239 \quad M_C \frac{d\delta_C}{dt} = F_{volc}(\delta_{volc} - \delta_C) + F_{w,org}(\delta_{w,org} - \delta_C) + F_{w,carb}(\delta_{w,carb} - \delta_C) -$$

$$240 \quad F_{b,org}(\Delta_{org}) \quad \text{Eq. 12}$$

$$241 \quad M_{Ca} \frac{d\delta_{Ca}}{dt} = (F_{w,sil} + F_{w,carb})(\delta_{w,riv} - \delta_{Ca}) - F_{b,carb}(\Delta_{carb}) \quad \text{Eq. 13}$$

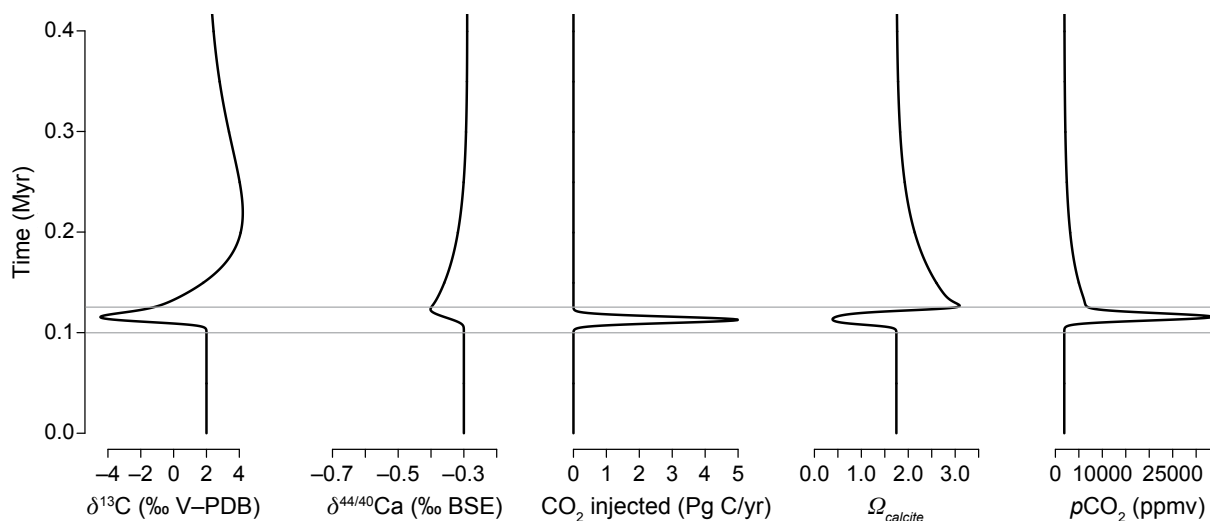
242 where δ_{riv} is the average riverine $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ composition, calculated at each t based on the relative
 243 contribution of $F_{w,carb}$ and $F_{w,sil}$. We incorporate a carbon injection via a new variable F_{extra} with
 244 a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ composition δ_{extra} . These are incorporated into Eqs. 1 and 11 such that:

$$245 \quad \frac{dM_C}{dt} = F_{w,carb} + F_{w,org} + F_{volc} - F_{b,org} - F_{b,carb} + F_{extra} \quad \text{Eq. 14}$$

$$246 \quad M_C \frac{d\delta_C}{dt} = F_{volc}(\delta_{volc} - \delta_C) + F_{w,org}(\delta_{w,org} - \delta_C) + F_{w,carb}(\delta_{w,carb} -$$

$$247 \quad \delta_C) - F_{b,org}(\Delta_{org}) + F_{extra}(\delta_{extra} - \delta_C) \quad \text{Eq. 15}$$

248 Initial values and parameters for the model are listed in Table 2. Equations are based on
 249 those in *Kump and Arthur* [1999], *Berner* [2004], *DePaolo* [2004], and *Bachan and Payne*
 250 [2015]. Select output from a single model run is illustrated in Figure 3.



251
 252 **Figure 3.** Output from a single model run illustrating the typical geochemical patterns resulting from a CO₂
 253 perturbation in our model. From left to right, rate of CO₂ injection, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$, Ω_{calcite} , and $p\text{CO}_2$. This scenario
 254 depicts an injection of 40,000 Pg C with a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value of -15‰ injected over 25 kyr. The grey lines signify the start
 255 and end of the CO₂ injection.

256 4.2 Modeling results and the role of acidification in the excursion

257 We iteratively modeled a range of CO₂ injection volumes (from 5000 to 50,000 Pg C),
 258 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ compositions of injected CO₂ (from -5‰ (average mantle) to -60‰ (biogenic CH₄)), and
 259 durations of CO₂ release (5 kyr to 50 kyr) assuming seawater [Ca] = 17 mM [Horita *et al.*, 2002]
 260 (see supplement for consideration of alternative [Ca] values). We then compared the magnitudes
 261 of the modeled negative and positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursions to the Val Adrara N1 and P1 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
 262 excursions (6.5 below and 2.3‰ above the first sampled $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of 1.9‰) to determine the
 263 optimum scenario. There are several parameter combinations that can recreate the N1 and P1
 264 excursions; the optimum range is roughly 40,000 to 45,000 Pg C at -15‰ in less than 30 kyr
 265 (Fig. 4). Importantly, these scenarios result in a negative $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion only slightly larger
 266 than 0.1‰ . In fact, no model scenario within our entire model parameter space produces a
 267 $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion as large as is observed in our records (maximum modeled excursion is $-$
 268 0.14‰) (Fig. 4). Note that we model organic carbon burial with a first order equation ($p_{cp}=1$),
 269 whereas Bachan and Payne [2015] vary p_{cp} between 1 and 3 for different CO₂ pulses. Increasing
 270 p_{cp} to 3 would increase the magnitude of the P1 excursion, thereby requiring less CO₂ to yield
 271 the same size excursion. Because of this reduction in CO₂ required with increase p_{cp} , as well as
 272 the fact that we are modeling this event as a single CO₂ pulse, our optimum CO₂ magnitudes
 273 should be viewed as upper limits. According to our simulations, if the observed excursion in
 274 $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ is -0.72‰ (based on Val Adrara; it is -0.87‰ at Italcementi), then at most 20% of the
 275 observed negative excursion in $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ is attributable to CO₂ release and acidification, leaving
 276 the remaining 80% to be explained by local or diagenetic mechanisms.

277

278 **Table 2.** Model parameters and initial variables.

Variable	Value	Units	Reference
T	15	°C	
s	1.035	kg/L	
V_{oc}	2.32×10^{21}	L	
Alk	1.89×10^{-3}	eq/kg	Used to generate correct pCO_2 and Ω
DIC	1.90×10^{-3}	mol/kg	Used to generate correct pCO_2 and Ω
initial [Ca]	17×10^{-3}	mol/kg	Based on Horita et al. 2002
initial [PO4]	25×10^{-6}	mol/kg	
initial [SO4]	28×10^{-3}	mol/kg	
initial Ω	1.75	—	
K_{sp}	4.31×10^{-7}	mol ² /kg ²	Calculated with Zeebe and Wolf-Gladrow (2001)
initial pCO_2	1893	ppm	Based on Steinthorsdottir et al. 2011
initial k_{alk}	0.0243	—	Solved for based on Alk , [Ca], and $[SO_4^{3-}]$
initial $f_{w,org}$	0.25	—	
initial $f_{b,org}$	0.25	—	
F_{volc}	16×10^{12}	mol C/yr	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
initial $F_{w,carb}$	24×10^{12}	mol C/yr	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
initial $F_{w,org}$	8×10^{12}	mol C/yr	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
initial $F_{w,sil}$	12×10^{12}	mol Ca/yr	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
initial $F_{b,carb}$	36×10^{12}	mol C/yr	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
initial C:P, k_{cp}	106	—	
initial $F_{b,org}$	12×10^{12}	mol C/yr	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
initial $F_{w,p}$	11.3×10^{10}	mol P/yr	
initial $F_{b,p}$	11.3×10^{10}	mol P/yr	
G	3.3		Berner (2004)
Z	0.09		Berner (2004)
Z_{carb}	0.07		Berner (2004)
δ_{volc}	-5.5	‰ VPDB	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
initial $\Delta_{c,org}$	30	‰	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
initial $\delta_{b,carb}$	2	‰ VPDB	Based on data from this study
initial $\delta_{b,org}$	-28	‰ VPDB	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
$\delta_{w,carb}$	2	‰ VPDB	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
$\delta_{w,org}$	-28	‰ VPDB	Kump and Arthur 1999, adjusted for steady state
initial Δ_{Ca}	-1.4	‰	Calculated using Ω using Eqs. from DePaolo 2011
initial $\delta_{b,Ca}$	-0.3	‰ BSE	Based on data from this study
δ_{riv}	-0.3	‰ BSE	Calculated from relative contributions of $F_{w,carb}$ and $F_{w,sil}$
$\delta_{w,carb}$	-0.4	‰ BSE	Based on Depaolo 2004, adjusted for steady state
$\delta_{w,sil}$	-0.1	‰ BSE	Based on Depaolo 2004, adjusted for steady state

279

280

281 Many processes can influence a $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ record, particularly variation in the magnitude of
282 calcium isotope fractionation ($\Delta^{44/40}Ca$) during $CaCO_3$ precipitation due to precipitation rate
283 [*Tang et al.*, 2008; *DePaolo*, 2011], stoichiometry [*Nielsen et al.*, 2012], mineralogy [*Gussone et*
284 *al.*, 2005; *Blättler et al.*, 2012], and temperature [*Gussone et al.*, 2005]. Diagenetic processes can
285 also alter the $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ of carbonate sediments and rocks [*Holmden et al.*, 2012; *Fantle*, 2015].
286 The extent to which one or more of these processes can account for observed $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ variation
287 can be assessed through comparison with predictions under these scenarios. In addition, many
288 scenarios imply predictions for the behavior of other aspects of rock chemistry, such as trace
289 element concentrations.

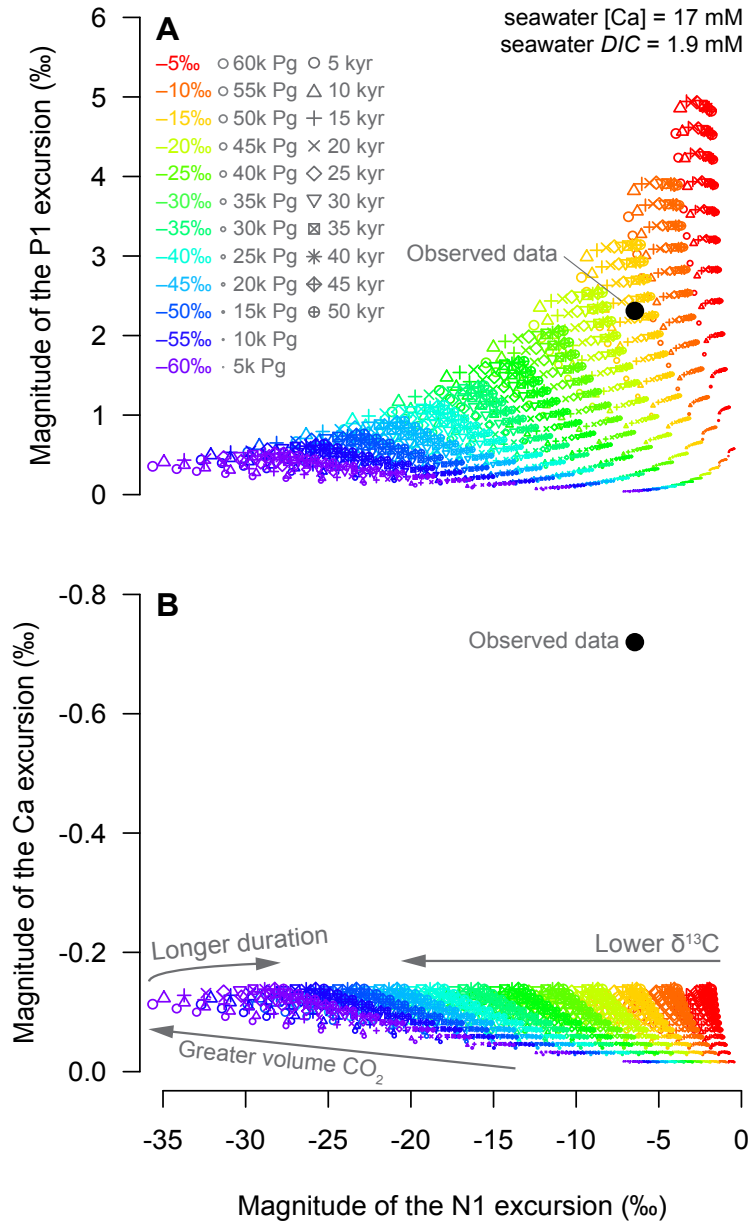
290 Submarine groundwater discharge (SGD) can be ruled out as a cause of the T/J boundary
291 $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ excursion at our study site. SGD during marine regression can cause seawater to mix
292 with ^{44}Ca -depleted pore-fluids during precipitation and thereby lower its $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ composition

293 [Holmden *et al.*, 2012]. However, the local sea level history is not compatible with this
294 explanation. The lowest $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ values in our dataset occur in the Malanotte Fm., which
295 represents a transgression in the Lombardy Basin and much of western Europe [Galli *et al.*,
296 2007]. The subsequent return to higher $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ values coincides with a transition into the lower
297 Albenza Fm. oolites and peloidal grainstones, which reflect local shallowing after the deposition
298 of the Malanotte Fm. Thus, changes in local base level are in the direction opposite to that
299 expected under an SGD scenario.

300 The magnitude of $\Delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ is affected by temperature, precipitation rate (R), and
301 mineralogy. Temperature can be ruled out as the primary control because the observed $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
302 excursion would require a temperature decrease of approximately 35 °C (assuming 0.02‰/°C
303 [Gussone *et al.*, 2005]), which is unrealistically large and inconsistent with evidence for
304 increased $p\text{CO}_2$ and climate warming [Schaller *et al.*, 2011; Steinhorsdottir *et al.*, 2011].

305 Precipitation rate is not likely the driver of our $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ record. In laboratory studies,
306 precipitation rates strongly affect the magnitude of $\Delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ in inorganic calcite [Lemarchand *et*
307 *al.*, 2004; Tang *et al.*, 2008]. Assuming a constant seawater stoichiometry ($\text{Ca}^{2+}:\text{CO}_3^{2-}$), the
308 average $\Delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ observed for CaCO_3 precipitated from modern seawater (ca. 1.4‰) is already
309 close to maximum observed kinetic value, and thus cannot increase in magnitude by more than
310 ca. 0.2‰ [DePaolo, 2011; Nielsen *et al.*, 2012]. Decreasing $\text{Ca}^{2+}:\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ by orders of magnitude
311 could cause $\Delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ to increase [Nielsen *et al.*, 2012], however our model only predicts a
312 decrease of ~40%. Furthermore, it is unclear exactly how this relationship applies to organisms
313 precipitating biogenic CaCO_3 , as it would require them to vary their forward/backward/net
314 precipitation rates significantly in order to vary $\Delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ noticeably. It remains unclear whether
315 precipitation rate and/or seawater stoichiometry affected carbonate sediment $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
316 significantly, but given the required assumptions, we view this scenario as unlikely.

317



318

319 **Figure 4.** Model predicted (color) and observed (black) values for (A) the N1 and P1 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursions and (B) the
 320 N1 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion, demonstrating that while the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data can be reconciled with modeled scenarios,
 321 the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ data cannot. For the model outputs, symbol size corresponds to the volume of injected CO_2 , symbol type
 322 corresponds to injection duration, and symbol color corresponds to the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of the injected CO_2 . Model excursion
 323 magnitudes are relative to the pre-event baseline. Observed $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion magnitudes are relative to the first
 324 sampled $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value at Val Adrara. The observed $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion magnitude is relative to the last data point (-
 325 0.45‰) before the excursion. While there is a range of scenarios that can replicate the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data, there are no models
 326 that can simultaneously replicate the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ data.

327 A local increase in the proportion of aragonite (f_a) at our study locations could account
 328 for the direction and magnitude of the negative $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion because the $\Delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ for

329 aragonite is as much as 0.9‰ greater than it is for calcite [Gussone *et al.*, 2005]. The higher [Sr]
 330 in the Malanotte samples are also consistent with this scenario, as aragonite incorporates more Sr
 331 than high- or low-Mg calcite does. However, this scenario alone does not account for the
 332 contemporaneous changes in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. A global switch from calcite to aragonite seas is also a
 333 possible cause for the excursion in $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ [Farkaš *et al.*, 2007; Blättler *et al.*, 2012], but the
 334 temporary increase in [Sr] is inconsistent with a permanent shift to aragonite. This scenario is
 335 also at odds with existing sedimentological and paleontological evidence suggesting the Early
 336 Jurassic oceans switched from aragonite to calcite seas [Hautmann, 2006; Stanley, 2006].

337 The observed changes in [Sr] are roughly compatible with variable f_a , as calcite has lower
 338 concentrations (<1000 ppm) than aragonite does (ca. 7000 ppm) [Veizer, 1983]. Predicting how
 339 these changes in [Sr] manifested is challenging because f_a (and [Sr]) can vary due to linear
 340 mixing of primary aragonite and calcite or due to preferential diagenetic recrystallization of
 341 aragonite to calcite (see supplement for an extended consideration of $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ and [Sr]
 342 covariation) [Husson *et al.*, 2015]. An upper limit on changing [Sr] can be determined from a
 343 linear mixing; using the concentrations above, increasing f_a by 64% would yield a [Sr] increase
 344 of 4000 ppm. This value is greater than the observed maximum [Sr], though some may have
 345 been additionally lost during diagenesis [Brand and Veizer, 1980]. In either case, all of the
 346 CaCO_3 in our samples is assumed to be presently calcite, but aragonitic $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ and [Sr] values
 347 could have been preserved if neomorphism occurred in low-porosity closed system conditions
 348 during later diagenesis [Husson *et al.*, 2015].

349 The majority of the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion in our sections likely represents the recovery from
 350 the acidification event (when Ω is greater than background), not the acidification event itself
 351 (when Ω is less than background) which is likely stratigraphically condensed given the sharpness
 352 of the N1 excursion. Other sections are also potentially stratigraphically condensed or even
 353 missing this interval given the globally observed decrease in carbonate sedimentation
 354 [Hautmann, 2004] and that several localities do not capture the N1 excursion (see Bachan *et al.*
 355 [2012] and Greene *et al.* [2012]). Our model predicts that the nadir of $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ occurs when Ω is
 356 at its maximum (Fig. 3). The maximum in Ω would be due to increased delivery of Ca^{2+}
 357 via continental weathering as a result of higher $p\text{CO}_2$. Thus it is possible that aragonite would
 358 have been more easily preserved shortly above the main extinction level, when Ω was greatest.

359 Of the scenarios listed above, local variation in f_a in T/J boundary sediments is the most
 360 compatible with our data. Variable f_a has been proposed, in part, as the cause of a large (ca.
 361 1.2‰), regional-scale negative $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion in the Ediacaran-age Wonoka Fm. of south
 362 Australia [Husson *et al.*, 2015]. The Wonoka samples exhibit an inverse correlation between
 363 $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ and [Sr], similarly to the T/J boundary data. However, explaining the T/J boundary
 364 $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion only by variation in f_a is incomplete. Local variation in mineralogy alone
 365 cannot account for the associated mass extinction, the selective loss of heavily calcified marine
 366 animals, the large, globally observed excursions in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, or the temporary increase in
 367 atmospheric $p\text{CO}_2$. The carbon and calcium cycles are connected through the weathering and
 368 burial of CaCO_3 and the dependency of weathering on $p\text{CO}_2$. Therefore, if large fluctuations in
 369 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ during the extinction event were caused by rapid injection of large volumes of CO_2 from
 370 CAMP volcanism and the subsequent effects on carbonate saturation and organic carbon
 371 production [Hautmann *et al.*, 2008; Greene *et al.*, 2012; Honisch *et al.*, 2012; Martindale *et al.*,
 372 2012], it is likely they also affected seawater $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$. Any mineralogical effects on $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
 373 would therefore be *in addition* to primary seawater changes triggered by T/J events.

374 Given that the effects of acidification and changing mineralogy on $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ may be
 375 additive, we use our model results to estimate the relative impact of mineralogy on the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
 376 excursion. Assuming -0.14% of the observed $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion was from acidification (20% of
 377 the full excursion), -0.58% would come from increasing f_a . Using an offset of 0.9% between
 378 calcite and aragonite $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$, this corresponds to a 64% increase in f_a during the negative
 379 $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion.

380 5 Conclusions

381 We observe a ca. -0.8% excursion in $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ preserved in the lowermost Jurassic
 382 limestone sediments in the Lombardy Basin, northern Italy, immediately above the end-Triassic
 383 extinction horizon. Numerical modeling of the coupled carbon and calcium cycles demonstrates
 384 that the magnitude of the $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion is too large to have been caused solely by ocean
 385 acidification resulting from emission of volcanic CO_2 during CAMP eruptions. Under a scenario
 386 that best explains the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record and the associated evidence for increased $p\text{CO}_2$ and mass
 387 extinction, roughly 80% of the T/J $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$ excursion at our locality is explained by locally
 388 higher proportions of aragonite while the remainder reflects the consequences of ocean
 389 acidification. Our study demonstrates that a coupled model of the carbon and calcium cycles can
 390 be used to deconvolve the contributions of primary seawater isotopic changes and local effects
 391 on sedimentary $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$.

392 Acknowledgments and Data

393 Information on statistics, additional model scenarios, and diagenetic modeling of Sr and $\delta^{44/40}\text{Ca}$
 394 are available in the supplement. This study was supported by NASA grant (NNX09AN6767) to
 395 J.L.P., by funding from Geological Society of America, the American Association of Petroleum
 396 Geologists, the Paleontological Society, and Stanford University to A.B.J., and by the Director,
 397 Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Division of Chemical Sciences,
 398 Geosciences, and Biosciences, of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC02-
 399 05CH11231 to D.J.D. The isotopes used in this research were supplied by the United States
 400 Department of Energy Office of Science by the Isotope Program in the Office of Nuclear
 401 Physics. We thank K.V. Lau, G. Li, K. Maher, T.L. Owens, and K.W. Weaver for their
 402 assistance with laboratory work, and two anonymous reviewers for their constructive feedback
 403 on this manuscript.

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