Age and long-term cooling effect of late Permian Emeishan LIP volcanism

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Pedogenic carbonate paleobarometer data in combination with modelling demostrated a silicate weathing related million year-scale reduction of atmospheric pCO_2 after the eruption of Central Atlantic Magmatic Province (Schaller et al. 2012), consistent with the modelling result for the Deccan Trap (Dessert et al., 2001), resulting in a net longterm climate cooling effect. We here present highprecision zircon U-Pb dating and climate proxy data to test this weahtering-induced climate cooling hypothesis for the Emeihan Large Igneous Province in South China.

CA-TIMS analysis gave a zircon U-Pb age of 259.51±0.21 Ma for one felsic tuff sample from the top Pu`an volcanic sequence. This age, together with one CA-TIMS age for the rhyolites in the top Binchuan sequence (Zhong et al., 2014), constraints the timing of Emeishan volcanism and overlaps with one zircon CA-TIMS age for the bottom of a Late Permian sedimentary sequence dominated by Emeishan volcanic-derived lutites. Based on highresolution mudstone sampling, we obtained a source chemical weathering (CIA, chemical weathering index of alteration) trend and an organic carbon isotopic ($\delta^{13}C_{\text{org}})$ curve. There shows an significant positive excursion (~2‰) in $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ value along with a large decrease (~20) in CIA value in the early a large decrease (~20) in CIA value in the early Wuchiapingian. The $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ value then gradually decreases upward with several samll-scale fluctuations and CIA value is generally low but with three high peaks, which generally correlates with $\delta^{13}C_{_{org}}$ negative excursions. These data are in greenment with the hypothesis and suggest an longterm atmospheric pCO2 decrease and an associated climate cooling following the emplacement of the Emeishan volcanic province.

References cited:

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