

Silicate weathering and carbon cycle controls on the Oligocene-Miocene transition glaciation

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Abstract

Changes in both silicate weathering rates and organic carbon burial have been proposed as drivers of the transient “Mi-1” glaciation event at the Oligocene-Miocene transition (OMT; ~23 Ma). However detailed geochemical proxy data are required to test these hypotheses. Here we present records of Li/Ca, Mg/Ca, Cd/Ca, U/Ca, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, and shell weight in planktonic foraminifera from marine sediments spanning the OMT in the equatorial Atlantic Ocean. Li/Ca values increase by 1 $\mu\text{mol/mol}$ across this interval. We interpret this to indicate a ~20% increase in silicate weathering rates, which would have lowered atmospheric CO_2 , potentially forcing the Antarctic glaciation *circa* 23 Ma. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of thermocline dwelling planktonic foraminifera track the global increase in seawater $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ across the OMT and during the Mi-1 event, hence supporting a hypothesized global increase in organic carbon burial rates. High $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ previously measured in epipelagic planktonic foraminifera and high Cd/Ca ratios during Mi-1 are interpreted to represent locally enhanced primary productivity, stimulated by increased nutrients supply to surface waters. The fingerprint of high export production and associated organic carbon burial at this site is found in reduced bottom water oxygenation (inferred from high foraminiferal U/Ca), and enhanced respiratory dissolution of carbonates, characterised by reduced foraminiferal shell weight. Replication of our results elsewhere would strengthen the case that weathering-induced CO_2 sequestration preconditioned climate for Antarctic ice sheet growth across the OMT and increased burial of organic carbon acted as a feedback that intensified cooling at this time.

Key Points:

- Foraminiferal Li/Ca suggests that silicate weathering rates increased across the O/M boundary
- High $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and Cd/Ca during Mi-1 indicate increased primary productivity and nutrient availability
- High U/Ca and low shell weight during Mi-1 suggest increased organic carbon burial

1 Introduction

The Oligocene-Miocene transition (OMT) at 23 Ma is marked by a rapid (200 kyr) pronounced transient positive excursion ($>1.5\text{‰}$) in the benthic foraminiferal oxygen isotope ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) record termed the “Mi-1 event” (Figure 1; *Miller et al.*, 1991; *Pälike et al.*, 2006; *Paul et al.*, 2000; *Zachos et al.*, 2001). Ice sheet modelling and reconstructions of deep water temperature suggest that this event represents an interval of temporary ice sheet expansion on Antarctica (to at least present-day Antarctic ice volumes; *Gasson et al.*, 2016; *Liebrand et al.*, 2011; *Liebrand et al.*, 2017) and cooling of deep waters by approximately 2°C during glacial inception [*Lear et al.*, 2004]. The Mi-1 event is also associated with a perturbation of the carbon cycle as indicated by $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ increase in benthic foraminifera (Figure 1; *Pälike et al.*, 2006). While the orbital pacing of this event is now well documented [*Liebrand et al.*, 2011; *Liebrand et al.*, 2017; *Pälike et al.*, 2006; *Zachos et al.*, 2001], the processes driving changes in the carbon cycle remain poorly understood.

Global coupled climate - dynamic ice sheet modelling has demonstrated that long-term (10^6 yr) decline in atmospheric $p\text{CO}_2$ played an important role in Cenozoic glaciation [*DeConto et al.*, 2008]. Processes with the capacity to significantly decrease $p\text{CO}_2$ across the OMT include underlying tectonic drivers, such as increases in global silicate weathering rates [*Raymo and Ruddiman*, 1992; *Walker et al.*, 1981] as well as short-term feedback mechanisms. These could include a shift in the locus of carbonate burial from the continental shelf to the deep ocean (which may explain carbon cycle changes coupled to Antarctic ice sheet advance at the Eocene-Oligocene transition; *Armstrong McKay et al.*, 2016; *Merico et al.*, 2008), and/or an increase in the ratio of organic carbon to carbonate burial [*Florindo et al.*, 2015; *Paul et al.*, 2000]. As yet, however, there is little paleoceanographic geochemical proxy evidence to support any of these mechanisms.

To date, the limited availability of suitable sediment cores and foraminiferal taxonomic ambiguities [*Stewart et al.*, 2012], mean that detailed proxy records for the OMT from both surface and deep water archives remains sparse. Short-term (<800 kyr) benthic foraminiferal Li/Ca, Mg/Ca and U/Ca and planktonic foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records have been generated, respectively, by *Mawbey and Lear* [2013] and *Pearson et al.* [1997] (Figure 1). Elevated benthic Li/Ca, low Mg/Ca and high (>50 nmol/mol) U/Ca during Mi-1 in those records are interpreted to represent cooling of deep water and an increase in bottom water oxygen utilisation, perhaps related to enhanced organic carbon burial during the glaciation [*Mawbey and Lear*, 2013]. Planktonic foraminiferal shell weight data from the same study also revealed a brief (<50 kyr) seafloor dissolution event during the glacial recovery, probably caused by enhanced organic matter remineralisation (Figure 1; *Mawbey and Lear*, 2013). However, these records only trace deep water signals and/or span little of the time periods before and after the Mi-1 excursion and hence fail to fully document changes in surface ocean chemistry. To address this gap, we have generated paired shell weight, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, Li/Ca, Mg/Ca, Cd/Ca, and U/Ca records for planktonic foraminifera recovered from sediments that span the OMT from the equatorial Atlantic Ocean.

69 2 Methodology

70 2.1 Proxy operation

71 2.2 Li/Ca, Mg/Ca, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and shell weight

72 The residence time of lithium in the oceans ($\tau_{\text{Li}} \sim 1$ Myr; *Huh et al.*, 1998) is longer than the mixing time
 73 of the ocean (1.6 kyr) so the concentration of lithium in seawater ($[\text{Li}]_{\text{sw}}$) is globally uniform (modern
 74 $[\text{Li}]_{\text{sw}} = 26 \mu\text{M}$; *Morozov*, 1968). On timescales greater than τ_{Li} , the rate of change in the amount of
 75 lithium in the oceans (M_{Li}) is determined by the balance between the input flux ($F_{\text{Li}}^{\text{Li}}$) of lithium from
 76 rivers (RIV; $\sim 8 \times 10^{15}$ mol/Myr at present) and hydrothermal activity (HYD; $\sim 6 \times 10^{15}$ mol/Myr at present)
 77 and the output flux to sediments and marine basalts (SED; $\sim 14 \times 10^{15}$ mol/Myr at present) [*Hathorne and*
 78 *James*, 2006]:

$$\frac{\partial M_{\text{Li}}}{\partial t} = F_{\text{RIV}}^{\text{Li}} + F_{\text{HYD}}^{\text{Li}} - F_{\text{SED}}^{\text{Li}}$$

Equation 1

82 The lithium content of silicate rocks is around two orders of magnitude greater than that of carbonates,
 83 and field studies show that >90% of lithium dissolved in rivers is derived from silicate rocks, even in
 84 carbonate-dominated catchments, allowing global silicate weathering rates to be constrained from $F_{\text{RIV}}^{\text{Li}}$
 85 [*Kisakürek et al.*, 2005; *Vigier et al.*, 2009]. Foraminiferal calcite is an ideal substrate for reconstructing
 86 past lithium concentrations of seawater [*Delaney et al.*, 1985], hence a number of studies have used this
 87 technique to reconstruct past variations in silicate weathering rates [*Hathorne and James*, 2006; *Misra*
 88 *and Froelich*, 2012]. However, interpretation of these data is not straightforward because the Li/Ca ratio
 89 of test calcite may be influenced by multiple environmental factors.

90 The partition coefficient of lithium between calcite and seawater ($D_{\text{Li}} = (\text{Li/Ca})_{\text{calcite}}/(\text{Li/Ca})_{\text{sw}}$) is
 91 positively correlated with seawater carbonate ion saturation state (defined as $\Omega = [\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{sw}} \times [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{sw}} /$
 92 K_{sp}^*), at least in the surface ocean [*Hall and Chan*, 2004]. Yet, D_{Li} also shows an inverse relationship
 93 with calcification temperature [*Marriott et al.*, 2004a]. Thus these two hydrographic variables serve to,
 94 respectively, increase and decrease the resultant Li/Ca ratio of planktonic foraminifera. Consequently,
 95 an abrupt decrease (by $\sim 30\%$) is documented in planktonic foraminiferal Li/Ca during the last
 96 deglaciation (~ 12 ka) as the oceans warmed and Ω fell (*Burton and Vance*, 2000; *Hall and Chan*, 2004;
 97 *Hall et al.*, 2005). To reconstruct changes in $[\text{Li}]_{\text{sw}}$ from Li/Ca of ancient planktonic foraminifera,
 98 independent proxies for surface water Ω and temperature are therefore required. Here we use the
 99 planktonic foraminiferal proxies of shell weight [*Barker and Elderfield*, 2002; *Beer et al.*, 2010b;
 100 *Broecker and Clark*, 2001] combined with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ [*Bemis et al.*, 1998] and Mg/Ca [*Anand et al.*, 2003] to
 101 assess the respective effects of Ω and temperature on our Li/Ca data.

2.2.1 Organic carbon cycling

Organic carbon content in marine sediments is controlled by the rate of export production from the surface ocean, sedimentation rates and post-depositional remineralization [Tyson, 2001]. Slightly elevated total organic carbon (TOC) concentrations at Site 926 during Mi-1 therefore potentially indicate enhanced productivity (Figure 1; Diester-Haass *et al.*, 2011), but proxies for organic matter export production and surface water nutrient availability are required to test this hypothesis.

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of non-photosymbiont bearing planktonic foraminifera are strongly influenced by the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value of dissolved inorganic carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$) in surface waters. Surface water $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ can be altered by a number of processes including (i) weathering of (typically ^{12}C -depleted) shallow water carbonates (e.g. through glacio-eustatic exposure; Merico *et al.*, 2008), (ii) upwelling of ^{12}C -enriched deep waters or (iii) increased export production that preferentially removes ^{12}C from surface waters [Kroopnick, 1985]. This latter control means that $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in planktonic foraminiferal calcite provides a means to assess changes in primary productivity in surface waters.

The distribution of cadmium in the world oceans strongly resembles that of the labile nutrient phosphate [Boyle *et al.*, 1976], so the Cd/Ca ratio of foraminiferal calcite has been used as a paleo-nutrient tracer [Rickaby and Elderfield, 1999; Rosenthal *et al.*, 1997]. Estimates of the concentration of phosphate in ambient seawater ($[\text{PO}_4]_{\text{sw}}$) can be made from Cd/Ca ratios in foraminiferal calcite ($(\text{Cd}/\text{Ca})_{\text{foram}}$) [de Baar *et al.*, 1994; Rickaby and Elderfield, 1999]:

$$[\text{PO}_4]_{\text{sw}} = \frac{(\text{Cd}/\text{Ca})_{\text{foram}} \times [\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{sw}}}{D_{\text{Cd}} \times (\text{Cd}/\text{P})_{\text{sw}}}$$

Equation 2

where $(\text{Cd}/\text{P})_{\text{sw}}$ and $[\text{Ca}]_{\text{sw}}$ are, respectively, the Cd/P ratio and calcium concentration of seawater. In this way, the Cd/Ca ratio of planktonic foraminiferal calcite can be used to assess surface water nutrient concentrations. While the factors controlling export production at a particular site are complex [Arndt *et al.*, 2013; Henson *et al.*, 2012], intervals of increased nutrient availability at oligotrophic sites such as Ceara Rise may facilitate higher primary productivity, promoting export of organic carbon to the deep ocean [Howarth, 1988].

In contrast to Li/Ca, Mg/Ca, and Cd/Ca ratios in planktonic foraminifera, U/Ca values are highly susceptible to post-depositional alteration if the oxygen concentration in pore fluids or overlying bottom water is low [Mangini *et al.*, 2001; Russell *et al.*, 1996; Russell *et al.*, 2004]. In these circumstances, planktonic foraminiferal U/Ca values are very high (>10 nmol/mol), and are often associated with high Mn/Ca (>100 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{mol}$; Lea *et al.*, 2005; Mangini *et al.*, 2001; Russell *et al.*, 1996). Elevated U/Ca

ratios in foraminifera therefore provide evidence for increased oxygen consumption [Algeo and Rowe, 2012], which is linked to the flux of organic carbon that reaches the sea floor [Smith and Baldwin, 1984].

2.3 Geological setting and chronology

Sediment samples spanning the OMT were collected from Ocean Drilling Program (ODP), Leg 154 Site 926 Hole B (Figure 2; 3°43.148'N, 42°54.507'W, 3,598 m present water depth; *Shipboard Scientific Party*, 1995) between 428.02 and 491.19 meters below sea floor (mbsf). Magnetostratigraphic age control is not available at Ceara Rise drill sites, but a high quality magnetostratigraphy is available for ODP Site 1090 on the Agulhas Ridge [Channell *et al.*, 2003] and this has been correlated to Site 926 [Liebrand *et al.*, 2011]. Sample ages given in our study are reported using the astronomically tuned age model of ODP Site 926 [Pälike *et al.*, 2006]. Sediment samples of 30 cm³ were taken at every ~2.5 m (~100 kyr spacing), increasing to every 30 cm (~10 kyr) across the benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ maximum to capture any high frequency geochemical variability associated with the Mi-1 event.

2.4 Sample preparation and analysis of shell weight

Sediment samples were dried in an oven at 50°C, weighed, then gently disaggregated in deionised water and washed over a 63 μm sieve. Sediment retained in the sieve was reweighed to calculate the percentage coarse fraction (>63 μm) of dry sediment (Supplementary Information Table). Approximately 1 mg of the large, abundant and continuously present planktonic foraminifera *Dentoglobigerina venezuelana* was picked from the 355-400 μm size fraction for trace element analysis. Mg/Ca, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data from nearby ODP Site 925 reveal that large *D. venezuelana* specimens (>355 μm) were non-photosymbiont bearing and inhabited the same thermocline depth habitat at Ceara Rise throughout this interval [Stewart *et al.*, 2012]. A further 10 individual *D. venezuelana* specimens were picked from the 300-355 μm size fraction of each sample for stable oxygen and carbon isotope analysis.

Prior to cleaning, sub-samples of 20 individual tests (355-400 μm) of *D. venezuelana* and a second species *Catapsydrax dissimilis* (sub-thermocline dweller; Stewart *et al.*, 2012) were weighed using a microbalance to determine the average size-normalised shell weight of each species. For this study, we adopted the simple “sieve-based weight” technique (estimated accuracy $\pm 11\%$; Beer *et al.*, 2010a). Adhering clay particles were removed by ultrasonication in deionised water and methanol. Samples were then subject to first reductive then oxidative cleaning to remove ferromanganese oxide coatings and organic matter, respectively. Finally, the tests were leached in weak acid (0.001 M HNO_3) [Boyle and Keigwin, 1985]. Once cleaned, samples were dissolved in 0.075 M HNO_3 .

165 2.5 Analytical techniques

166 2.5.1 Stable isotope analysis

167 *D. venezuelana* samples were gently crushed and ultrasonicated in deionised water before approximately
 168 200 µg of material was taken for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ analysis using a Thermo Scientific Kiel IV Carbonate
 169 device coupled with a MAT253 isotope ratio mass spectrometer at the University of Southampton.
 170 Results are presented in delta notation as the ‰ variation from Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (VPDB).
 171 Replicate analyses of an in-house standard are calibrated to NBS-18, and yield a reproducibility of
 172 $\pm 0.05\text{‰}$ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\pm 0.04\text{‰}$ for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (1σ).

173 2.5.2 Trace element analysis

174 Prior to trace element analysis, the Ca contents of dissolved samples were assessed using a Perkin-Elmer
 175 Optima 4300 DV inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer (ICP-OES; *Green et*
 176 *al.* 2003). Sample aliquots were then diluted to give 100 ppm of Ca. Solutions were analysed using a
 177 Perkin Elmer Elan DRC II ICP mass spectrometer (ICP-MS), calibrated using matrix-matched synthetic
 178 standard solutions, to give Li/Ca, Mg/Ca, Cd/Ca, and U/Ca ratios following *Rosenthal et al.* [1999].
 179 Al/Ca and Mn/Ca ratios were also determined to test the efficacy, respectively, of clay mineral and
 180 ferromanganese coating removal. Only samples with Al/Ca ratios $< 200 \mu\text{mol/mol}$ after cleaning were
 181 deemed to be unaffected by clay contamination and considered in subsequent discussions. The external
 182 reproducibility of trace element ratios was calculated from repeat measurements of two foraminiferal
 183 calcite consistency standards ($n=23$, for each standard) yielding the following 2σ uncertainties: Li/Ca
 184 $\pm 3.4\%$, Mg/Ca $\pm 2.1\%$, Al/Ca $\pm 11.8\%$, Mn/Ca $\pm 6.9\%$, Cd/Ca $\pm 15.3\%$, and U/Ca $\pm 4.1\%$.

185 3 Results

186 The average shell weight of both *D. venezuelana* and *C. dissimilis* is approximately 40 µg over the
 187 interval of study (between 24 and 21.5 Ma). The two species exhibit similar variations in shell weight
 188 over time with a broad minimum of 35 µg associated with the benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ maximum
 189 during the Mi-1 event at 23 Ma (Figure 1 H). This minimum is bounded by shell weight maxima (45 µg)
 190 approximately 200 kyr either side of Mi-1. In addition, *D. venezuelana* shows a long-term decrease in
 191 shell weight, of between 5 and 10 µg, across the entire interval. In detail (Figure 3), high frequency
 192 (< 100 kyr) shell weight minima that contribute to the broad low in *D. venezuelana* shell weight during
 193 the Mi-1 event correspond to low percentage coarse fraction.

194 We compare our planktonic foraminiferal stable isotope and trace element data generated from the OMT
 195 interval of ODP Site 926 (Figure 4) with the benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records (plots A and
 196 B) for this site [*Pälike et al.*, 2006]. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for *D. venezuelana* are around 2‰ lower than

197 corresponding benthic values. Planktonic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ increases very slightly (by $\sim 0.5\text{‰}$) between 24 and 21.5
 198 Ma, punctuated by a small ($+0.5\text{‰}$) transient (500 kyr) increase during the Mi-1 event at 23 Ma (vertical
 199 grey bar). Planktonic foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values also increase over between 24 and 21.5 Ma (by almost
 200 1‰), and also increase sharply (by $>0.5\text{‰}$) during the Mi-1 event. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values that we measure for
 201 *D. venezuelana* are similar to those reported by Pearson *et al.* [1997] (Figure 1) and show close
 202 resemblance to values observed in contemporaneous benthic foraminiferal calcite [Pälike *et al.*, 2006].

203 Li/Ca in *D. venezuelana* also shows an overall increase from $10.5\text{ }\mu\text{mol/mol}$ in the late Oligocene (~ 24
 204 Ma) to $11.5\text{ }\mu\text{mol/mol}$ in the early Miocene (~ 22 Ma; Figure 4 C). This trend is again punctuated by a
 205 transient increase of $>0.5\text{ }\mu\text{mol/mol}$ during the Mi-1 event, which is composed of higher frequency
 206 oscillations (<100 kyr) of high Li/Ca that coincide with benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ maxima at 22.83,
 207 22.93, 23.02, 23.06, 23.10, and 23.19 Ma (blue vertical bars). The mean Mg/Ca value measured in *D.*
 208 *venezuelana* is approximately 2.5 mmol/mol (Figure 4 D), however, unlike Li/Ca, Mg/Ca shows no
 209 long-term or systematic change across the interval between 24.0 and 21.5 Ma.

210 Except for one sample at 23.3 Ma, Cd/Ca values in *D. venezuelana* are relatively constant (~ 0.1
 211 $\mu\text{mol/mol}$) in the run up to the OMT (Figure 4 E). However, Cd/Ca values increase to a well-defined
 212 short maximum of $\sim 0.15\text{ }\mu\text{mol/mol}$ between 23.2 and 22.8 Ma, during the peak of the Mi-1 glaciation.
 213 Similarly, U/Ca values are relatively stable ($\sim 70\text{ nmol/mol}$) before and after the OMT but show a broad
 214 maximum ($>120\text{ nmol/mol}$) during the Mi-1 event (Figure 4 F). The highest U/Ca values, however, do
 215 not coincide perfectly with highest benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values; rather, U/Ca returns to low, pre-excursion,
 216 values ~ 100 kyr before the termination of the Mi-1 event. This is in contrast to our other trace element
 217 records that exhibit excursions that persist throughout the 200 kyr Mi-1 event.

218 The Mn/Ca ratio of cleaned planktonic foraminiferal calcite in this study ranges from 500 to 1000
 219 $\mu\text{mol/mol}$. These values are high but we find no correlation ($R^2 \sim 0$) between Mn/Ca measured in our
 220 planktonic foraminiferal calcite samples and Li/Ca, Cd/Ca, or Mg/Ca suggesting that these Mn-rich
 221 phases have little overall effect on trace element compositions.

222 4 Discussion

223 4.1 Saturation state of seawater

224 Calcium isotope measurements of planktonic foraminiferal calcite indicate that $[\text{Ca}]_{\text{sw}}$ remained near-
 225 constant between 25 and 20 Ma [Heuser *et al.*, 2005], hence changes in the saturation state of seawater
 226 at Ceara Rise during the OMT were primarily driven by $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$. Ceara Rise was bathed in oligotrophic
 227 waters throughout the Cenozoic [Shipboard Scientific Party, 1995], thus it is reasonable to infer that, to
 228 a first order, saturation states of surface and thermocline waters at Site 926 were closely coupled,

permitting changes in surface water saturation state to be estimated from our thermocline dwelling foraminifera.

Using the relationship between Ω and shell weight of *Broecker and Clark*, [2001] and *Barker and Elderfield*, [2002], our shell weight data might be taken to suggest that the $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ of thermocline waters decreased gradually between 24 and 21.5 Ma, with a more abrupt decrease of between 30 and 60 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ at the peak of the Mi-1 event. However, shell weight minima during Mi-1 in our records are associated with minima in the sand fraction record (Figure 3) suggesting that tests deposited at the peak of the Mi-1 event were affected by dissolution in the water column or on the sea floor. While records from other sites are required to rule out a change in ocean circulation resulting in the delivery of low pH deep waters to Ceara Rise, release of metabolic CO_2 from organic matter remineralization within the sediments is a likely cause of dissolution [*Hales and Emerson*, 1997]. Our shell-weight data may imply that export of organic carbon increased during the Mi-1 event, possibly as a result of increased primary production at Ceara Rise (see Section 4.6). This interpretation is consistent with that of *Mawbey and Lear* [2013], who document a brief (100 kyr duration) reduction in *C. dissimilis* shell weight during Mi-1 at this site, although our records are in detail more similar to the *Globigerina praebulloides* shell weight record (Figure 1 H). Our shell weight records span a broader interval and suggest that the imprint of marked sea-floor carbonate dissolution persisted longer (~400 kyr duration).

4.2 Preservation of primary test chemistry

A reduction in foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and Mg/Ca values together with an increase in and increasing of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is often observed during partial dissolution of test calcite [*Lohmann*, 1995; *Rosenthal and Lohmann*, 2002]. These dissolution effects must therefore be considered when interpreting stable isotope and trace element proxy data within the inferred dissolution event at this site during Mi-1. However, the taphonomy of all planktonic foraminifera used in this study is “frosty” rather than “glassy” (e.g. *Sexton et al.*, 2006) indicating that all samples analysed here, throughout the OMT, have undergone some degree of recrystallization. Below we discuss the implications of this on the interpretation of our records, particularly where trace metal partition coefficients (D) between inorganic calcite and seawater, and biogenic calcite and seawater, are different (Table 1).

$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in planktonic foraminiferal calcite is susceptible to alteration by calcite recrystallization in cold deep waters on the seafloor. This process leads to underestimation of surface ocean temperatures meaning that relative changes in temperature are more reliable than absolute values [*Sexton et al.*, 2006]. $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ generally decreases with water depth as organic matter, enriched in ^{12}C , is removed from the surface ocean by primary production and remineralized at depth (Figure 2 B). The resulting planktonic-benthic gradient in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ is small however so primary $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values in planktonics are robust to sea floor recrystallization.

D_{Li} for foraminiferal calcite is similar to D_{Li} in inorganic calcite, whereas D_{Mg} for inorganic calcite precipitated in laboratory experiments may be up to two orders of magnitude greater than that of biogenic calcite (e.g. inorganic calcite $D_{Mg} = 0.06$ to 0.02 ; Katz, 1973; Sexton *et al.*, 2006). However, deep water diagenetic carbonates have much lower D_{Mg} ($D_{Mg} = 8.1 \times 10^{-4}$; Baker *et al.*, 1982), closer to the value for biogenic calcite [Sexton *et al.*, 2006]. Similarity between biogenic and inorganic calcite partition coefficients implies that the contribution of recrystallization to test Li/Ca, and Mg/Ca is likely to be small in a carbonate-rich closed system, such as Ceara Rise. Mg/Ca based temperature estimates are therefore expected to be more reliable than planktonic $\delta^{18}O$, however, the temperature dependency of D_{Mg} [Anand *et al.*, 2003] dictates that Mg/Ca in specimens recrystallized in the cold deep ocean must be interpreted with some caution.

By contrast, the partition coefficients for Cd and U into inorganic calcite are respectively one and two orders of magnitude greater than they are for planktonic foraminiferal calcite. The U/Ca ratio of the foraminiferal test is therefore susceptible to overprinting by the addition of inorganic calcite during test recrystallization. The extremely high U/Ca values measured in planktonic foraminifera in this study (>40 nmol/mol) relative to core top and plankton tow samples from Ceara Rise (10 nmol/mol; Russell *et al.*, 1994) suggest that U in our samples is chiefly present in diagenetic calcite (e.g. Lea *et al.*, 2005; Mangini *et al.*, 2001; Russell *et al.*, 1996). The influence of diagenesis on the Cd/Ca ratio of our samples, however, is less clear. The Cd/Ca ratio of uncleaned planktonic foraminiferal calcite is generally >1 $\mu\text{mol/mol}$ [Boyle, 1981], whereas cleaned planktonic foraminifera commonly have Cd/Ca ratios of <0.1 $\mu\text{mol/mol}$ [Rickaby and Elderfield, 1999]. Enrichment of Cd in uncleaned foraminifera may result from recrystallization (D_{Cd} of inorganic calcite is high; Table 1) or incorporation of pore water Cd in Fe-Mn coatings [Tachikawa and Elderfield, 2002]. Cd/Ca values measured in this study are, however, similar to North Atlantic core top measurements for *Globorotalia truncatulinoides* (which is also deeper-thermocline dwelling; Cd/Ca = 0.08 $\mu\text{mol/mol}$; Ripperger *et al.*, 2008). This perhaps suggests that our Cd/Ca values are minimally affected by diagenesis although we acknowledge that overprinting of the primary surface water Cd/Ca signal cannot be fully discounted.

4.3 Seawater temperature

Changes in thermocline temperature can be assessed using our planktonic foraminiferal $\delta^{18}O$ and Mg/Ca data. To this end, we apply the temperature calibrations for modern *Orbulina universa* from Bemis *et al.* [1998]:

$$T (^{\circ}\text{C}) = 16.5 - 4.8 (\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{foram}} - \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}) \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

and the “all planktonic species” Mg/Ca temperature calibration of Anand *et al.* [2003]:

$$\text{Mg/Ca}_{\text{foram}} = 0.38 \exp(0.090 \times T) \quad \text{Equation 4}$$

328 The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of seawater varies as a function of salinity and global ice volume. Although unlikely to
 329 be constant, for simplicity, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of seawater for late Oligocene in Equation 3 is considered to
 330 be -0.5‰ throughout the OMT [Lear *et al.*, 2004]. Similarly, we also assume the Mg/Ca value of
 331 seawater was the same as the present day and remained unchanged during the OMT. In this way, our
 332 data indicate that absolute thermocline temperatures based on Mg/Ca are more than 3°C higher than
 333 those estimated using planktonic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (Figure 4 A and D). This is not unexpected because planktonic
 334 foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is more susceptible to alteration during calcite recrystallization. Use of an alternative
 335 planktonic foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -temperature calibration (e.g. *G. bulloides*; Bemis *et al.*, 2000) and/or
 336 adjustment of the pre-exponent of the Mg/Ca-temperature calibration to account for seawater Mg/Ca
 337 ratios lower than present day during the OMT [Lear *et al.*, 2000] serve to increase the discrepancy
 338 between the two proxies.

339 Nevertheless, our Mg/Ca data suggest that Ceara Rise thermocline temperatures varied by less than 3°C
 340 across the interval, and there was no reduction in thermocline temperature at this location during the Mi-
 341 1 event. This result is even consistent with our (arguably less reliable) planktonic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ temperature
 342 estimates that suggest cooling between 24 and 21.5 Ma and during the Mi-1 event was restricted to less
 343 than 2°C . Furthermore, if the reduction in shell weight during Mi-1 is primarily driven by dissolution,
 344 then application of a dissolution-adjusted Mg/Ca [Rosenthal and Lohmann, 2002] and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ [Lohmann,
 345 1995] temperature calibration further rule out any cooling, serving to slightly *increase* thermocline
 346 temperature estimates (by $\sim 1^\circ\text{C}$) during the Mi-1 event.

347 4.4 Environmental controls on foraminiferal Li/Ca on short (<1 Myr) timescales

348 The changes in the Li/Ca ratio of planktonic foraminifera at Ceara Rise during the 200 kyr excursion at
 349 Mi-1 (Figure 4 C) cannot be a result of changes in $[\text{Li}]_{\text{sw}}$ because τ_{Li} is long (~ 1 Myrs). Rather, these
 350 rapid changes in planktonic foraminiferal Li/Ca during the Mi-1 event are in step with higher frequency
 351 benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ variability (Figure 4 C; vertical blue bars), suggesting that the Li/Ca ratio of *D. venezuelana*
 352 varies as a function of calcification temperature and/or Ω . Li/Ca measurements in modern foraminifera
 353 in the North Atlantic indicate a temperature sensitivity of $\sim -1.5\%$ per $^\circ\text{C}$ [Hathorne and James, 2006].
 354 Assuming a similar temperature sensitivity and no other controls, our data would require a large (6°C)
 355 reduction in thermocline temperatures during the Mi-1 event. Alternatively, if Li/Ca was controlled by
 356 changes in carbonate chemistry alone then, using the relationships determined by Hall and Chan [2004],
 357 this change in Li/Ca corresponds to an increase in thermocline $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ of $20\text{ }\mu\text{mol/kg}$; to a value that is
 358 about 10% higher than the modern value [Takahashi *et al.*, 1981].

359 Our Mg/Ca and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data do not support a significant decrease in thermocline temperature during the
 360 Mi-1 event, hence the contemporaneous increase in Li/Ca (as well as the higher frequency glacial
 361 maxima) is more likely attributed to an increase in Ω of thermocline waters. This hypothesis is consistent
 362 with modelling results of other intervals of rapid continental ice sheet growth (and thus sea level

lowering) during the Oligocene [Armstrong McKay *et al.*, 2016; Merico *et al.*, 2008] where exposure of shelf carbonates reduced carbonate burial and increased the carbonate weathering flux to the ocean. This combination would increase Ω of seawater.

4.5 Controls on foraminiferal Li/Ca over long (>1 Myr) timescales

We reason that changes in planktonic foraminiferal Li/Ca on timescales shorter than τ_{Li} are predominantly controlled by seawater Ω . By contrast, the longer-term $\sim 1 \mu\text{mol/mol}$ increase in Li/Ca between 24 Ma and 21.5 Ma might be attributed to; (i) decreasing thermocline temperature, (ii) an increase in the Ω of seawater, (iii) a decrease in $[\text{Ca}]_{sw}$ of $\sim 1 \text{ mmol/kg}$ (impacting both Li/Ca ratio of seawater and potentially carbonate ion concentration; Hain *et al.*, 2015), and/or (iv) an increase in $[\text{Li}]_{sw}$. The first three of these scenarios are, however, unlikely: (i) Benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records show that the main climate signal across this interval was a transient glaciation [Pälike *et al.*, 2006; Zachos *et al.*, 2001]. Furthermore, *D. venezuelana* Mg/Ca and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values imply that there was little variation in thermocline temperature at Ceara Rise during the OMT, suggesting that temperature is unlikely to have driven the observed increase in Li/Ca. (ii) There is no evidence for permanent deepening of the carbonate compensation depth (CCD) at the OMT [Pälike *et al.*, 2012] and, the overall decrease in planktonic foraminiferal shell weight suggests that thermocline $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ may have actually decreased across the OMT (serving to decrease planktonic foraminiferal Li/Ca). This interpretation assumes that, unlike during the peak Mi-1 event, our foraminiferal shell weight records either side of the glacial interval are not severely influenced by dissolution. (iii) Calcium isotope measurements suggest that $[\text{Ca}]_{sw}$ was relatively constant between 25 and 20 Ma ($\sim 12 \text{ mmol/kg}$; Heuser *et al.*, 2005), although other studies [Griffith *et al.*, 2008; Hardie, 1996] suggest that it may be more variable (see below). Nevertheless, our other trace-element records, also normalised to Ca, do not show any increase between $\sim 24 \text{ Ma}$ and $\sim 21.5 \text{ Ma}$, further implying a large decrease in $[\text{Ca}]_{sw}$ is unlikely. We conclude that the long-term change in Li/Ca of planktonic foraminiferal calcite is due to an increase in $[\text{Li}]_{sw}$ over this 2.5 Myr interval.

To quantify the magnitude of secular change in $[\text{Li}]_{sw}$ required to explain our Li/Ca record we begin by smoothing the Li/Ca record of *D. venezuelana* (Figure 5). We make various estimates of the relative change (Δ) in $[\text{Li}]_{sw}$ for differing values of D_{Li} (based on measurements of modern planktonic foraminifera; Delaney *et al.*, 1985; Hathorne and James, 2006) and $[\text{Ca}]_{sw}$ during the O/M interval. $[\text{Ca}]_{sw}$ at the OMT is assumed to lie between $\sim 12 \text{ mmol/kg}$ [Heuser *et al.*, 2005], and $\sim 35 \text{ mmol/kg}$ [Hardie, 1996], (note, the latter value is more than three times greater than modern $[\text{Ca}]_{sw} = 10 \text{ mmol/kg}$). Reconstructed $\Delta[\text{Li}]_{sw}$ is highly sensitive to our choice of $[\text{Ca}]_{sw}$ (Figure 5). If $[\text{Ca}]_{sw} = 12 \text{ mmol/kg}$ then the $[\text{Li}]_{sw}$ was close to that of the modern ocean ($26 \mu\text{mol/kg}$; $M_{Li} 3.5 \times 10^{16} \text{ moles}$; Morozov, 1968) and $[\text{Li}]_{sw}$ is estimated to have increased by $\sim 2 \mu\text{mol/kg}$ (an increase in M_{Li} of $3.6 \times 10^{15} \text{ moles}$) across this interval. If the higher value for $[\text{Ca}]_{sw}$ is used, then $[\text{Li}]_{sw}$ increased by $> 6 \mu\text{mol/kg}$.

An increase in $[\text{Li}]_{\text{sw}}$ of $2 \mu\text{mol/kg}$ requires a change in the flux of lithium to/from the oceans (Equation 1; *Hathorne and James*, 2006). Oceanic crustal production rates remained relatively constant over this interval [*Rowley*, 2002] so large changes in hydrothermal inputs of lithium or removal into marine sediments are unlikely [*Hathorne and James*, 2006]. Furthermore, the lithium isotopic composition of seawater, inferred from foraminiferal $\delta^7\text{Li}$, shows little change across this interval ($<2\%$ between 30 and 20 Ma; *Misra and Froelich*, 2012), implying that the proportion of lithium retained in secondary clay minerals (which preferentially incorporate ^6Li ; *Huh et al.*, 1998) was unchanged throughout this interval. The best explanation for higher $[\text{Li}]_{\text{sw}}$ is therefore increased delivery of lithium down rivers through higher silicate weathering rates.

The flux of lithium from rivers required to increase M_{Li} by 3.6×10^{15} moles in 2 Myr is 9.8×10^{15} mols/Myr; approximately 20% higher than today's value. Assuming that riverine lithium is predominantly derived from weathering of silicate rocks of similar lithium content [*Kisakürek et al.*, 2005], this represents a substantial increase in the overall global silicate weathering rate. Although approximately half of this increase appears to occur after the inception of the Mi-1 (note the timing of Li/Ca change is dependent on the robustness of the smoothing function in Figure 5 A), the large increase in silicate weathering rate could act to lower $p\text{CO}_2$, perhaps forcing the glacial expansion at 23 Ma.

Currently, the Earth is considered to be in a “reaction-limited” weathering regime, in which the supply of freshly eroded rock is plentiful [*Stallard and Edmond*, 1983]. In a warmer, more “transport-limited” early icehouse world silicate weathering rates are expected to have responded more strongly to the generation of fresh easily weathered material exposed through orogenic uplift [*West et al.*, 2005]. Paleomagnetic data [*Lippert et al.*, 2014; *van Hinsbergen et al.*, 2012], tectonic models [*Harrison et al.*, 1992] and sedimentary records from the Bengal Fan [*Galy et al.*, 1996] all suggest that Indo-Asian continental lithosphere collision occurred between 25 to 20 Ma, causing widespread deformation of the Asian continent, exposing Greater Himalayan crystalline rocks to erosion. This increased exposure of fresh, unaltered silicate rock to weathering may have led to increased silicate weathering rates (and increased $F_{\text{RIV}}^{\text{Li}}$) at this time.

We compare our record of Li/Ca with records of other elements controlled (at least in part) by silicate weathering in Figure 5 C. In general, as continental inputs to the oceans increase, the proportion of radiogenic ^{87}Sr [*McArthur*, 2004] and ^{187}Os [*Burton et al.*, 2010; *Ravizza and Peucker-Ehrenbrink*, 2003] increase in seawater. The oceanic residence times of strontium and osmium are very different (respectively, >4 Myr and 10 kyr; *Veizer*, 1989; *Oxburgh*, 2001), hence strontium is a proxy for multimillion-year changes in silicate weathering fluxes, whereas osmium is controlled by short-term (sub-Myr) changes in weathering flux. The $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratio of seawater can also be modified by carbonate weathering and/or episodes of intense volcanism [*McArthur*, 2004; *Oliver et al.*, 2003], whereas $^{187}\text{Os}/^{188}\text{Os}$ is strongly influenced by inputs from black shales [*Peucker-Ehrenbrink and Hannigan*,

2000], therefore caution is advised when using these proxies in isolation. Nevertheless, both strontium and osmium isotope data imply that continental inputs increased across the OMT (between 25 and 20 Ma; *McArthur, 2004; Peucker-Ehrenbrink and Ravizza, 2000*), although the $^{187}\text{Os}/^{188}\text{Os}$ record is interrupted by an abrupt decrease at the time of the Mi-1 oxygen isotopic excursion. Decreases in the $^{187}\text{Os}/^{188}\text{Os}$ composition of seawater are observed during many major glaciations and are attributed to a brief decrease in silicate weathering rates following global cooling, aridity, and ice sheet blanketing of silicate rocks (e.g. the Oi-1 and LGM; *Oxburgh et al., 2007; Burton et al., 2010*). Although data are limited, this transient decrease in the $^{187}\text{Os}/^{188}\text{Os}$ composition of seawater during Mi-1 is likely a result of a short interruption to the trend of increasing silicate weathering rates across the OMT caused by glacial inception (e.g. *Lear et al., 2004*). A significantly longer residence time means that this would not be apparent in Li/Ca records.

4.6 Changes in organic carbon cycling during Mi-1

The increases we measure in planktonic foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ across the entire OMT and during the Mi-1 event suggests that thermocline $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ increased at this time. However, the close similarity of *D. venezuelana* values with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of benthic foraminifera suggest that thermocline $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ tracked the whole ocean increase in $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$. Changes in thermocline $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in response to enhanced primary productivity are generally more muted than they are in the surface mixed layer (Figure 2 B). Hence, although this result gives further support for the hypothesized increase in organic carbon burial globally, *D. venezuelana* $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ alone does not provide evidence higher surface water export production at Ceara Rise. By contrast, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of *G. praebulloides* [*Pearson et al., 1997*], which inhabits the surface mixed layer, change by up to 1‰ at Site 926 during the Mi-1 event, reaching maxima at 22.95 and 23.02 Ma far in excess of modern surface water $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ at Ceara Rise (>2.5‰; Figure 1 B). Furthermore, intervals of partial dissolution, such as that inferred from our shell weight records during Mi-1, are expected to artificially lower primary foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ [*Lohmann, 1995*]. It is therefore likely that planktonic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values underestimate the increase in surface water $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ during the Mi-1. Changes in local weathering of shallow water carbonates, delivering ^{13}C enriched carbon to surface waters, cannot be fully discounted during this interval of lower sea level (e.g. *Merico et al., 2008*). However, it is likely that the increases in surface water $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ during Mi-1 represent elevated primary production in surface waters that, in turn, may have increased export production at this site. This is supported by higher benthic foraminiferal mass accumulation rates during this interval, both at Ceara Rise as well as other sites in the South Atlantic (Figure 1 C; *Diester-Haass et al., 2011*). Our data also support the idea that an increase in the ratio of organic carbon to carbonate burial acted to intensify this glacial expansion [*Paul et al., 2000*].

If primary test chemistry has been preserved (see Section 4.2), then the Cd/Ca ratio of *D. venezuelana* can be used to reconstruct $[\text{PO}_4]$ in surface waters at Ceara Rise during the OMT using Equation 2 (Figure 6). We assume $(\text{Cd/P})_{\text{sw}}$ for equatorial Atlantic seawater is equal to the modern day value

437 (0.25×10^{-3} ; *de Baar et al.*, 1994), because benthic foraminiferal Cd/Ca shows little change across the
 438 Miocene [*Delaney and Boyle*, 1987]. The effect of variable $(\text{Cd/P})_{\text{sw}}$ is small compared to the
 439 uncertainties in $[\text{Ca}]_{\text{sw}}$ and D_{Cd} (Figure 6 B). Again, we assume values for $[\text{Ca}]_{\text{sw}}$ of 12 mmol/kg [*Heuser*
 440 *et al.*, 2005] and 35 mmol/kg [*Hardie*, 1996], and D_{Cd} values between 1.9 and 4.1 [*Delaney*, 1989;
 441 *Mashiotto et al.*, 1997]. If the higher value for $[\text{Ca}]_{\text{sw}}$ is used, then thermocline $[\text{PO}_4]$ is between 4 and
 442 $10 \mu\text{mol/kg}$; far higher than the concentrations found in modern deep waters at Ceara Rise ($[\text{PO}_4] < 1.5$
 443 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) and even in upwelling regions ($[\text{PO}_4]$ up to $3.0 \mu\text{mol/l}$; *Garcia et al.*, 2010). If $[\text{Ca}]_{\text{sw}}$ is 12
 444 mmol/kg, then estimated thermocline $[\text{PO}_4]$ values are more similar to those of the modern nutricline at
 445 Ceara Rise ($[\text{PO}_4] < 2.5 \mu\text{mol/l}$; Figure 2 B; *Garcia et al.*, 2010). The correspondence to modern values
 446 is even closer if D_{Cd} is 4.1 (calculated $[\text{PO}_4] \approx 1.5 \mu\text{mol/l}$), rather than 1.9 ($[\text{PO}_4] \approx 3 \mu\text{mol/l}$). Higher
 447 D_{Cd} values are common for sub-thermocline dwellers (e.g. *Gr. truncatulinoides*; *Ripperger et al.*, 2008)
 448 and so this D_{Cd} value is arguably more applicable to the lower thermocline dwelling *D. venezuelana*.
 449 Hence, assuming $[\text{Ca}]_{\text{sw}} = 12 \text{ mmol/kg}$ and $D_{\text{Cd}} = 4.1$, we estimate that $[\text{PO}_4]$ increased by $\sim 0.5 \mu\text{mol/kg}$
 450 during the Mi-1 event (Figure 6 B). Although modest, this potentially equates to a shoaling of the
 451 nutricline at Ceara Rise by $\sim 100 \text{ m}$. This implies either (i) lower nutrient utilisation, or (ii) increased
 452 nutrient availability, at Ceara Rise during the Mi-1. The latter would support enhanced primary
 453 productivity. Neodymium isotope reconstructions of seawater during the OMT reveal the dominant
 454 influence of Amazon particulate material at Ceara Rise [*Stewart et al.*, 2016]. Changes in this local
 455 riverine flux of weathered detrital material is therefore a clear candidate that could potentially alter the
 456 available surface dissolved phosphate at this site.

457 The U/Ca ratio of planktonic foraminifera is commonly used as a proxy for the carbonate saturation state
 458 of surface waters [*Russell et al.*, 1996; *Russell et al.*, 2004]. However, foraminifera with high Mn/Ca
 459 ($>100 \mu\text{mol/mol}$), such as those analysed in this study, tend to have elevated U/Ca ($>10 \text{ nmol/mol}$) that
 460 cannot represent a primary surface water signal [*Lea et al.*, 2005; *Mangini et al.*, 2001; *Russell et al.*,
 461 1996]. All of our Ceara Rise samples have U/Ca values of $>40 \text{ nmol/mol}$ that are similar to values
 462 measured in benthic foraminifera at this site (Figure 1 G; *Mawbey and Lear*, 2013). This suggests that
 463 the primary U/Ca signal has been modified during or after burial. Our U/Ca values can, however, provide
 464 information on the paleo-redox state of sediments. If the concentration of dissolved oxygen is low in
 465 pore waters within sediments close to the sediment-seawater interface, then planktonic foraminiferal
 466 U/Ca values tend to be high [*Algeo and Rowe*, 2012; *Lea et al.*, 2005; *Russell et al.*, 1996]. Thus, the
 467 increase in foraminiferal U/Ca measured in Site 926 OMT sediments represents a decrease in the
 468 oxygenation of sediment pore waters. This interpretation is consistent with the early termination of the
 469 U/Ca excursion ($\sim 100 \text{ kyr}$ before the termination of the Mi-1 event) that suggests post-depositional
 470 overprinting of U by authigenic carbonate (e.g. *Thomson et al.*, 1995). Oxygen is utilised in the
 471 remineralization of organic matter, leading to lower oxygen in sediment pore waters during intervals of
 472 high organic carbon burial [*Mangini et al.*, 2001; *McManus et al.*, 2005; *Russell et al.*, 1996]. A decrease
 473 in pore water oxygen content during Mi-1 is therefore both consistent with our inferred increase in

primary productivity, caused by increased nutrient availability at Ceara Rise, and it supports the hypothesis that respiratory dissolution is responsible for lower shell weight.

5 Conclusions and wider implications

Our high-resolution records of planktonic foraminiferal Li/Ca, Mg/Ca Cd/Ca, U/Ca, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and shell weight reveal that significant environmental changes occurred at Ceara Rise during the Mi-1 event. Increased Li/Ca during intervals of glacial intensification during the Mi-1, considered together with Mg/Ca and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data, reflects an increase in the carbonate saturation state of surface seawater. More work, however, is required to develop reliable core-top/culture calibrations of Li/Ca vs. Ω in modern planktonic foraminifera.

On longer (>1 Ma) timescales, we observe an increase in Li/Ca in planktonic foraminiferal calcite from 24 to 21.5 Ma, that is interpreted to represent an increase in the lithium concentration in seawater caused by an increase in the riverine flux of lithium. This implies that rates of silicate weathering increased across the OMT, with uplift and erosion of the Himalaya and Tibetan Plateau providing a potential source of weatherable material. Increased silicate weathering may have triggered a period of extended drawdown of CO_2 and the initiation of widespread glacial expansion at 23 Ma (*e.g. DeConto et al., 2008*).

Increases in planktonic foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and Cd/Ca during the Mi-1 event may be indicative of enhanced primary production boosted by greater nutrient supply to Ceara Rise surface waters during this interval. Evidence for an increase in organic carbon burial at this time is found in reduced oxygenation of sediment pore waters, and an extended interval of respiratory dissolution of carbonates on the seafloor. Considered together, our findings suggest that while enhanced silicate weathering may have preconditioned the system for glaciation at this time, the majority of cooling at the Mi-1 (and hence rapid return to pre-excursion global temperatures and glacial extent) was a result of drawdown of CO_2 caused by a short-lived increase in organic carbon burial rates.

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511 Figure captions and tables

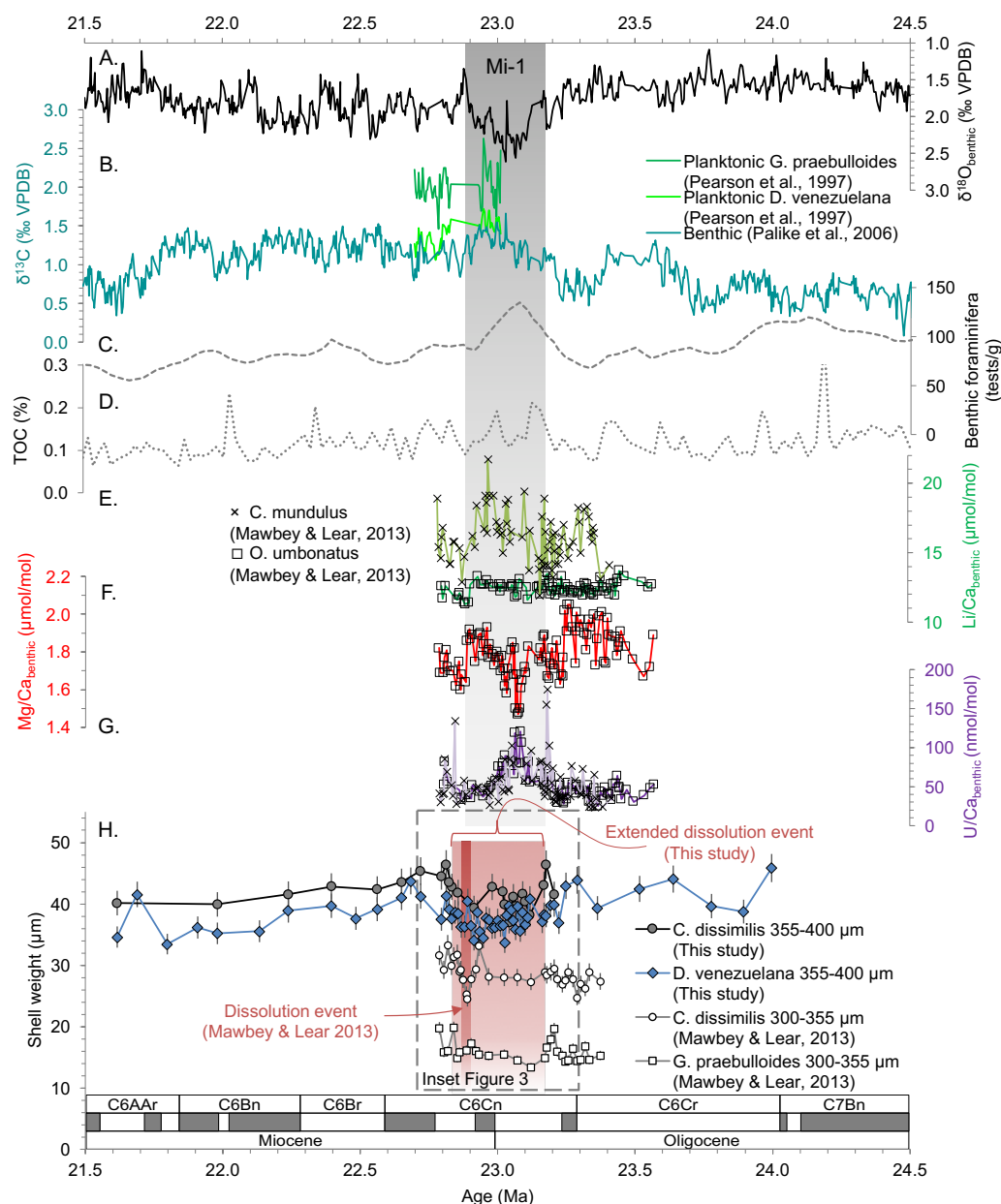


Figure 1: Previous proxy records of carbon cycling and deep water temperature and new planktonic foraminifera shell weight data from ODP Site 926 across the OMT. **A.** & **B.** benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ [Palike et al., 2006], highlighting the Mi-1 excursion (vertical grey bar). **B.** also includes planktonic foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records from Pearson et al. [1997]. **C.** & **D.** benthic foraminiferal tests per gram sediment (5% Gaussian smoothing) and percentage total organic carbon [Diester-Haass et al., 2011]. **E.** **F.** & **G.** benthic foraminiferal Li/Ca, Mg/Ca and U/Ca records for *C. mundulus* (epifaunal) and *O. umbonatus* (shallow infaunal) [Mawbey and Lear, 2013]. **H.** Planktonic foraminiferal shell weight records from Mawbey and Lear [2013] and this study. Vertical red bars highlight inferred dissolution intervals.

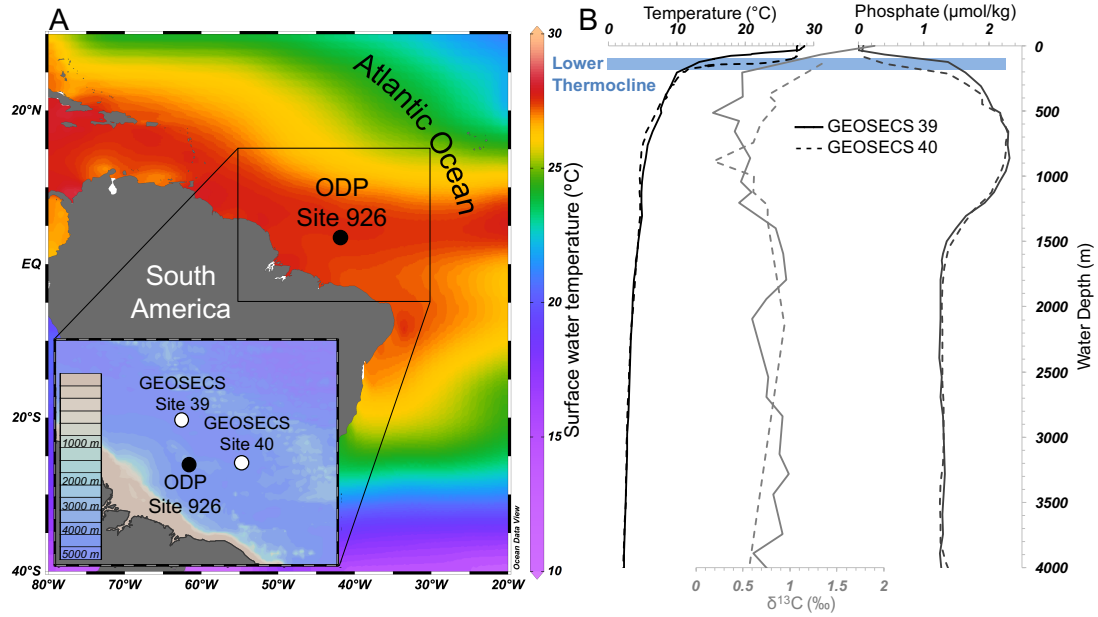


Figure 2: Location and modern hydrography of ODP Site 926 on Ceara Rise. Panel A: Average surface water temperature [Locarnini *et al.*, 2013] and bathymetry of study site (inset). Panel B: Temperature, carbon isotope, and phosphate profiles measured at GEOSECS sites proximal to Ceara Rise [Bainbridge, 1980].

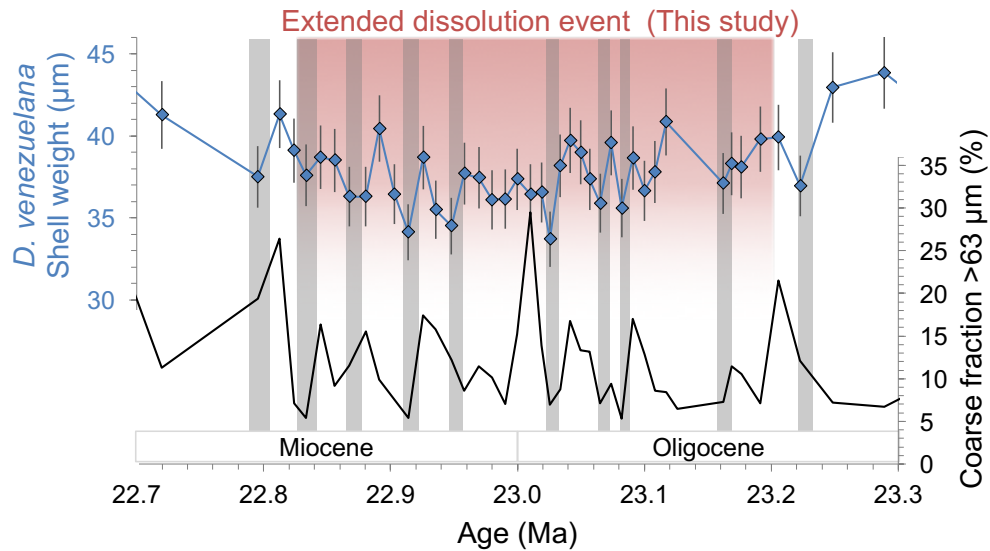


Figure 3: High resolution interval of *D. venezuelana* shell weight record during the peak Mi-1 compared to percentage coarse fraction data (this study). Vertical red bar shows inferred 400 kyr extended dissolution interval and grey bars show shell weight minima.

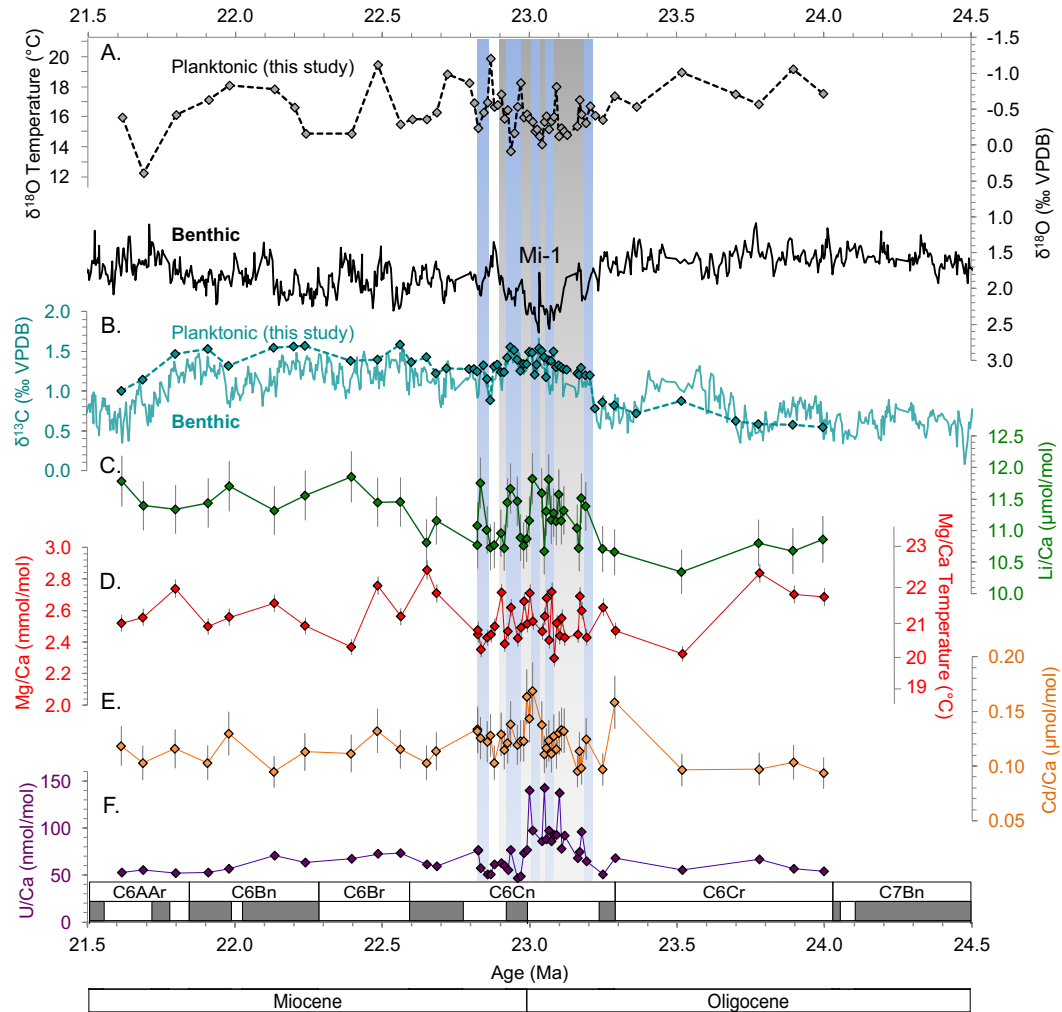


Figure 4: Planktonic foraminiferal trace element and isotopic records from ODP Site 926. Plots A. & B. *D. venezuelana* (this study) and benthic [Pälike *et al.*, 2006] foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (scale inverted) and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. Vertical grey bar highlights Mi-1 event and narrow blue bars show short-term (<100 kyr) benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ maxima during the O/M interval. Records of Li/Ca, Mg/Ca, Cd/Ca, and U/Ca measured in *D. venezuelana* are shown in plots C. to F. Mg/Ca and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ temperature scales based on Anand *et al.* [2003] and Bemis *et al.* [1998] (see text). Error bars represent 2σ external reproducibility.

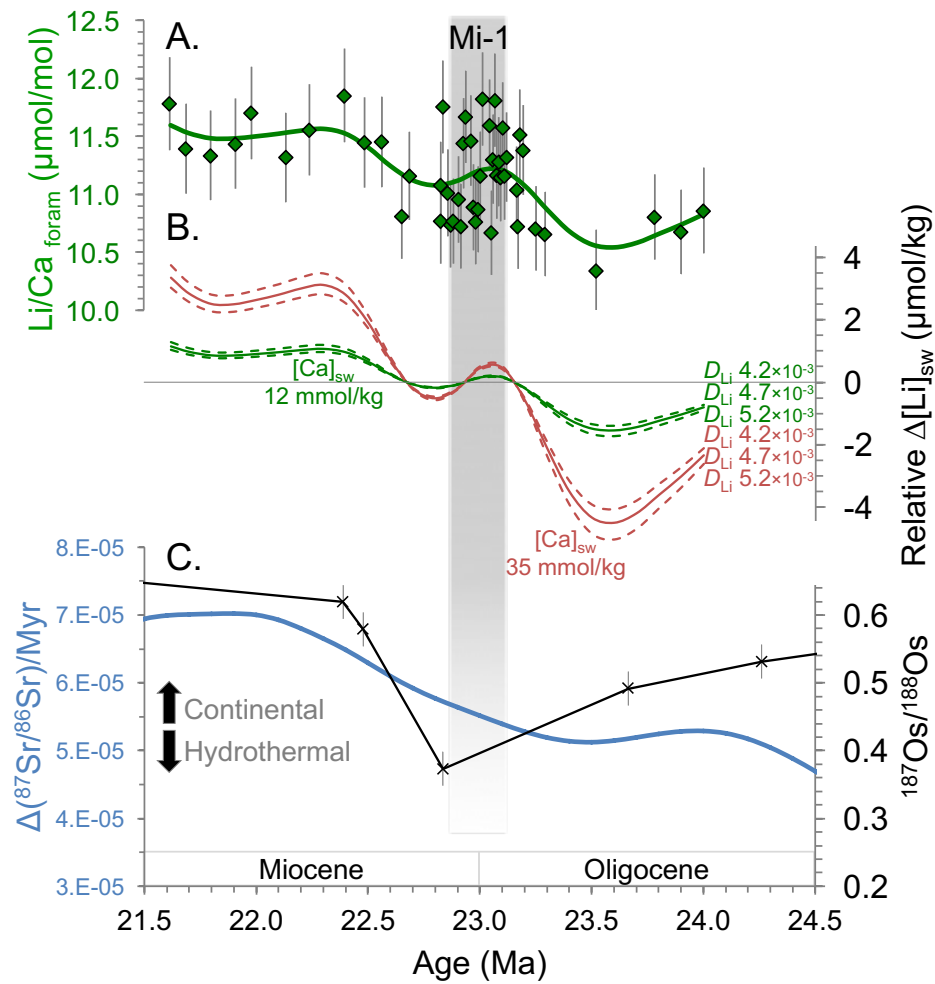


Figure 5: **A.** Smoothed fit to Li/Ca ratios for *D. venezuelana* (“Smoother” tool JMP software 9.0). **B.** Reconstructions of the relative change in $[\text{Li}]_{\text{sw}}$ from smoothed Li/Ca_{foram} data for various $[\text{Ca}]_{\text{sw}}$ and D_{Li} (see text for details). **C.** Seawater osmium [Peucker-Ehrenbrink and Ravizza, 2000] and strontium [McArthur, 2004] isotope records, for comparison. Sr isotope data are shown as the rate of change of seawater $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$, and show that OMT is characterised by a more rapid increase in weathering rate relative to the Early Oligocene and Late Miocene.

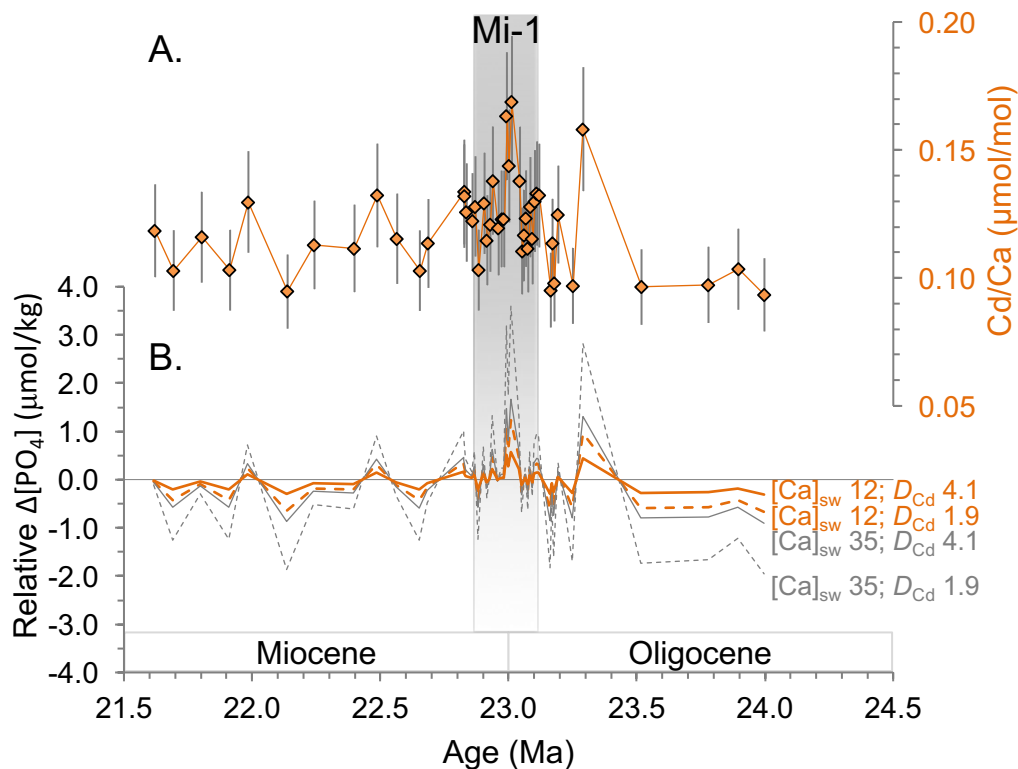


Figure 6: **A.** Cd/Ca ratio of *D. venezuelana*. Grey bar represents the position of the Mi-1 event. **B.** Relative change in thermocline [PO₄] derived from foraminiferal Cd/Ca data, for various [Ca]_{sw} and D_{Cd} values (see text for details).

Table 1: Literature values for partition coefficients of trace elements ($D_X = (X/Ca)_{\text{calcite}}/(X/Ca)_{\text{sw}}$) into inorganic and foraminiferal calcite. Data from: D_{Li} [Delaney et al., 1985; Hathorne and James, 2006; Marriott et al., 2004a; Marriott et al., 2004b], D_{Mg} [Anand et al., 2003; Baker et al., 1982; Dekens et al., 2002; Lea et al., 2000; Sexton et al., 2006], D_{Cd} [Delaney, 1989; Havach et al., 2001; Lorens, 1981; Mashiotto et al., 1997; McCorkle et al., 1995; Ripperger et al., 2008; Rosenthal et al., 1997], D_{U} [Meece and Benninger, 1993; Russell et al., 2004; Russell et al., 1994].

	D_{Li}	D_{Mg}	D_{Cd}	D_{U}
Inorganic calcite	2×10^{-3}	2×10^{-2}	$2 \times 10^{+1}$	2×10^{-1}
Planktonic foram calcite	5×10^{-3}	6×10^{-4}	3×10^0	7×10^{-3}
Benthic foram calcite	7×10^{-3}	6×10^{-4}	2×10^0	2×10^{-2}

Supplementary info data table

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Table S 1: Coarse fraction and planktonic foraminifera trace element, stable isotope, and shell weight data from ODP Site 926B.

Sample ages are calculated from the astronomically tuned age model of Palike et al. [2006].

Species	ODP Sample Identification	Depth (mbsf)	Age (Ma)	Coarse fraction >63 µm (%)	Shell weight (µg)	δ ¹⁸ O (‰)	δ ¹³ C (‰)	Li/Ca (µmol/mol)	Mg/Ca (mmol/mol)	Al/Ca (µmol/mol)	Mn/Ca (µmol/mol)	Cd/Ca (µmol/mol)	U/Ca (nmol/mol)
<i>D. venezuelana</i>	926 B 46 4W 71.5-73.5	428.02	21.616	13	34.6	-0.38	1.00	11.8	2.52	34	563	0.118	52.6
	926 B 46 5W 146-148	430.26	21.689	13	41.6	0.39	1.14	11.4	2.56	24	673	0.103	55.6
	926 B 47 1W 65-67	433.05	21.798	17	33.5	-0.42	1.46	11.3	2.74	30	735	0.116	52.1
	926 B 47 3W 104-106	436.44	21.909	12	36.2	-0.63	1.53	11.4	2.50	32	661	0.103	52.7
	926 B 47 5W 25-27	438.65	21.980	8	35.2	-0.83	1.31	11.7	2.56	14	684	0.130	56.6
	926 B 48 1W 86-88	442.96	22.133	9	35.6	-0.78	1.54	11.3	2.65	50	682	0.095	70.5
	926 B 48 3W 12.5-14.5	445.23	22.201	14		-0.53	1.56						
	926 B 48 3W 122-124	446.32	22.238	7	38.9	-0.16	1.57	11.6	2.50	61	635	0.113	63.7
	926 B 48 6W 132-134	450.92	22.395	7	39.7	-0.16	1.37	11.9	2.37	29	542	0.112	67.4
	926 B 49 2W 12-14	453.32	22.484	18	37.7	-1.12	1.39	11.4	2.76	44	682	0.132	72.4
	926 B 49 3W 83-85	455.53	22.562	18	39.2	-0.29	1.58	11.5	2.56	48	860	0.115	73.3
	926 B 49 4W 45-47	456.65	22.600	2		-0.36	1.36						
	926 B 49 5W 35-37	458.05	22.650	25	41.1	-0.36	1.42	10.8	2.86	84	737	0.103	61.5
	926 B 49 5W 117.5-119.5	458.88	22.684	26	43.8	-0.46	1.22	11.2	2.71	183	821	0.113	59.6
	926 B 49 6W 55-57	459.75	22.720	11	41.3	-0.99	1.29						
	926 B 50 1W 21-24	461.61	22.795	19	37.5	-0.86	1.27						
	926 B 50 1W 71-75	462.11	22.813	26	41.3	-0.58	1.27						
	926 B 50 1W 103.5-107.5	462.44	22.824	7	39.1	-0.24	1.24	11.1	2.48	162	847	0.132	76.6
	926 B 50 1W 131-134	462.71	22.833	5	37.6			11.8	2.35	143	783	0.126	57.6
	926 B 50 2W 11.5-14	463.02	22.845	16	38.7	-0.45	1.32						
	926 B 50 2W 38-42	463.28	22.856	9	38.5	-0.59	1.15	11.0	2.43	32	680	0.122	50.9
	926 B 50 2W 65.5-69.5	463.56	22.868	12	36.3	-1.21	0.88	10.7	2.45	99	648	0.128	50.8
	926 B 50 2W 96-99	463.86	22.880	16	36.3	-0.53	1.31	10.8	2.50	76	829	0.103	61.2
	926 B 50 2W 122-124	464.12	22.891	10	40.5	-0.56	1.33						
	926 B 50 3W 0-4	464.40	22.903		36.5	-0.71	1.24	11.0	2.71	78	759	0.129	62.7
	926 B 50 3W 27-29	464.67	22.914	5	34.1	-0.37	1.24	10.7	2.39	65	767	0.115	60.3
	926 B 50 3W 57-59	464.97	22.926	17	38.7	-0.49	1.42	11.4	2.47	96	945	0.121	55.4
	926 B 50 3W 81.5-84	465.22	22.936	16	35.5	0.08	1.55	11.7	2.62	126	962	0.138	76.7
	926 B 50 3W 112-114	465.52	22.948	12	34.5	-0.17	1.51						
	926 B 50 3W 138-141	465.78	22.958	9	37.7	-0.53	1.40	11.5	2.42	64	712	0.119	46.6
	926 B 50 4W 18.5-21.5	466.09	22.970	11	37.5	-0.86	1.25	10.9	2.49	47	794	0.123	48.7
	926 B 50 4W 47-49	466.37	22.980	10	36.1	-0.38	1.34	10.8	2.66	63	856	0.123	73.1
	926 B 50 4W 76-78	466.66	22.990	7	36.2	-0.42	1.33	10.9	2.51	100	808	0.163	76.8
	926 B 50 4W 102-105	466.92	23.000	15	37.4	-0.36	1.48	11.2	2.71	170	857	0.144	139.9
	926 B 50 4W 131-134	467.21	23.010	30	36.5	-0.32	1.48	11.8	2.53	115	747	0.169	97.1
	926 B 50 5W 5.5-7.5	467.46	23.019	14	36.6	-0.19	1.21						
	926 B 50 5W 24-28	467.64	23.026	7	33.7	-0.22	1.33						
	926 B 50 5W 46-49	467.86	23.034	9	38.2	-0.12	1.54						
	926 B 50 5W 68-70	468.08	23.041	17	39.7	-0.01	1.51	11.6	2.46	130	900	0.138	85.9
	926 B 50 5W 91-95	468.31	23.050	13	39.0	-0.32	1.43	10.7	2.56	132	891	0.111	142.7
	926 B 50 5W 111-114	468.51	23.057	13	37.4	-0.40	1.17	11.3	2.68	29	835	0.117	87.7
	926 B 50 5W 134-137	468.74	23.065	7	35.9	-0.22	1.39	11.8	2.41	33	669	0.123	97.5
	926 B 50 6W 7-9	468.97	23.074	9	39.6	-0.33	1.38	11.2	2.72	74	826	0.111	85.7
	926 B 50 6W 28-30	469.18	23.082	5	35.6	-0.39	1.49	11.3	2.29	146	678	0.128	92.5
	926 B 50 6W 50-53	469.40	23.091	17	38.7	-0.81	1.30	11.1	2.52	87	706	0.115	92.7
	926 B 50 6W 72.5-74.5	469.63	23.100	13	36.7	-0.12	1.33	11.6	2.44	60	685	0.130	137.4
	926 B 50 6W 93-96	469.83	23.108	9	37.8	-0.24	1.30	11.2	2.55	47	782	0.133	77.9
	926 B 50 6W 115-119	470.05	23.117	8	40.9	-0.19	1.28	11.3	2.43	63	621	0.132	92.2
	926 B 50 6W 138-140	470.28	23.126	6		-0.14	1.27						
	926 B 51 1W 21-23	471.21	23.162	7	37.1	-0.26	1.22	11.0	2.45	69	694	0.095	68.0
	926 B 51 1W 41-43.5	471.41	23.169	11	38.3	-0.63	1.20	10.7	2.69	89	756	0.114	74.5
	926 B 51 1W 63.5-67.5	471.64	23.176	11	38.1	-0.43	1.29	11.5	2.60	29	637	0.098	95.9
	926 B 51 1W 109-111	472.09	23.191	7	39.8	-0.30	1.20	11.4	2.43	80	671	0.125	64.8
	926 B 51 2W 1.5-3.5	472.52	23.206	22	39.9	-0.54	1.20						
	926 B 51 2W 46-49.5	472.96	23.223	12	37.0	-0.41	0.78						
	926 B 51 2W 112-114	473.62	23.248	7	43.0	-0.35	0.86	10.7	2.62	120	796	0.097	51.0
	926 B 51 3W 72-74	474.72	23.289	7	43.9	-0.68	0.82	10.7	2.47	143	650	0.158	68.0
	926 B 51 4W 111-113.5	476.61	23.363	12	39.3	-0.53	0.72						
	926 B 51 6W 79-81	479.29	23.516	7	42.5	-1.02	0.87	10.3	2.33	127	737	0.096	55.4
	926 B 52 1W 141-143.5	481.91	23.638	3	44.1								
	926 B 52 3W 21-23	483.71	23.700	19		-0.71	0.62						
	926 B 52 4W 49-51	485.49	23.778	13	39.7	-0.57	0.58	10.8	2.83	96	698	0.097	66.8
	926 B 52 6W 11.5-13.5	488.12	23.895	20	38.8	-1.06	0.58	10.7	2.70	29	729	0.103	57.0
	926 B 53 1W 99-101.5	491.19	23.996	14	45.9	-0.71	0.54	10.9	2.69	48	699	0.093	54.0
<i>C. dissimilis</i>	926 B 46 4W 71.5-73.5	428.02	21.616		40.1								
	926 B 47 5W 25-27	438.65	21.980		39.9								
	926 B 48 3W 122-124	446.32	22.238		41.6								
	926 B 48 6W 132-134	450.92	22.395		42.9								
	926 B 49 3W 83-85	455.53	22.562		42.4								
	926 B 49 5W 35-37	458.05	22.650		43.6								
	926 B 49 6W 55-57	459.75	22.720		45.3								
	926 B 50 1W 21-24	461.61	22.795		44.5								
	926 B 50 1W 71-75	462.11	22.813		46.4								
	926 B 50 1W 131-134	462.71	22.833		42.8								
	926 B 50 1W 103.5-107.5	462.44	22.824		43.6								
	926 B 50 2W 38-42	463.28	22.856		41.8								
	926 B 50 3W 27-29	464.67	22.914		39.4								
	926 B 50 4W 47-49	466.37	22.980		42.8								
	926 B 50 5W 5.5-7.5	467.46	23.019		42.0								
	926 B 50 5W 24-28	467.64	23.026		39.9								
	926 B 50 5W 68-70	468.08	23.041		37.0								
	926 B 50 5W 111-114	468.51	23.057		41.2								
	926 B 50 5W 134-137	468.74	23.065		39.6								
	926 B 50 6W 28-30	469.18	23.082		38.1								
	926 B 50 6W 50-53	469.40	23.091		41.6								
	926 B 50 6W 72.5-74.5	469.63	23.100		40.4								
	926 B 50 6W 115-119	470.05	23.117		38.2								
	926 B 51 1W 41-43.5	471.41	23.169		43.1								
	926 B 51 1W 63.5-67.5	471.64	23.176		46.4								
	926 B 51 2W 1.5-3.5	472.52	23.206		41.5								

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