



Reconstructing Neoproterozoic seawater chemistry from early diagenetic dolomite

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- 14
- 15 Abstract
- 16 The pairing of Ca and Mg isotopes ($\delta^{44/40}$ Ca, δ^{26} Mg) has recently emerged as a useful tracer to
- 17 understand the environmental information preserved in shallow marine carbonates. Here we
- 18 apply a Ca and Mg isotopic framework, with analyses of C and Li isotopes, to late Tonian
- 19 dolostones, to infer seawater chemistry across this critical interval of Earth history. We
- 20 investigated the ca. 735 Ma Coppercap Fm. in northwestern Canada, a unit that preserves large
- shifts in carbonate δ^{13} C values that have been utilized in global correlations and have canonically
- 22 been explained through large shifts in organic carbon burial. Under the backdrop of these δ^{13} C
- 23 shifts, we observe positive excursions in $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^7 Li values that are mirrored by a negative
- 24 excursion in δ^{26} Mg values. We argue that this covariation is due to early diagenetic
- 25 dolomitization of aragonite through interaction with contemporaneous seawater under a
- 26 continuum of fluid- to sediment-buffered conditions. We then use this framework to show that
- 27 Tonian seawater was likely characterized by a low δ^7 Li value of ~13‰ (~18‰ lower than
- 28 modern seawater), a consequence of a different Li cycle than today. In contrast, δ^{13} C values
- 29 across our identified fluid-buffered interval are similar to modern seawater. These observations

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30 suggest that factors other than shifts to global seawater chemistry are likely responsible for such
31 isotopic variation.

32 Introduction

33 Developing a record of seawater chemistry for the majority of Earth's past is dependent 34 on estimating seawater composition from shallow-water (often dolomitized) carbonates. 35 Extracting such global information requires consideration of local processes that decouple 36 shallow-water environments from the global ocean, as well as diagenetic alteration (Banner and 37 Hanson, 1990; Boudreau, 2003; Swart, 2008, Hoffman and Lamothe, 2019). Despite progress 38 identifying characteristic isotopic markers of early marine diagenesis in carbonates (Higgins et 39 al., 2018; Ahm et al., 2018), ancient strata that show coherent geochemical stratigraphic 40 variability are rarely interpreted within alternative diagenetic frameworks. One interval of Earth history known for high amplitude δ^{13} C variations is the Tonian Period. Based on the apparent 41 42 preservation of these variations in multiple successions of the same age, the canonical 43 interpretation is that they record contemporaneous shifts to global marine dissolved inorganic 44 carbon (DIC) (Och and Shields-Zhou, 2013). However, this view has recently been challenged 45 by a comprehensive isotopic dataset spanning the Otavi carbonate platform and slope succession in Namibia which shows significant spatial heterogeneity in δ^{13} C values across platform to basin 46 47 transects, suggesting inner platform records may often better reflect local processes versus global 48 seawater (Hoffman and Lamothe, 2019).

One approach to further understand the geochemical information in dolomites such as
those referenced above, is coupled Ca and Mg isotopes (Higgins et al., 2018; Ahm et al., 2018;
Fantle and DePaolo, 2007; Fantle and Higgins, 2014). Early diagenetic Ca isotopic variability in
carbonates predominantly arises due to sensitivity to water-rock ratios, precipitation rate and

53	degree of recrystallization or neomorphism. While additional factors, such as temperature and
54	salinity also impact Ca isotope fractionation between minerals and solution, in general, aragonite
55	and calcite precipitated rapidly (e.g., relevant timescales to the water column) are depleted in
56	44 Ca relative to seawater Ca by ~1.5‰ and ~0.9‰, respectively (cf. Gussone et al., 2005).
57	However, slow rates of recrystallization and neomorphism that are characteristic of early marine
58	diagenesis do not significantly fractionate Ca isotopes (Fantle and DePaolo, 2007). In contrast,
59	dolomite is ~2‰ more depleted in ²⁶ Mg than dolomitizing solutions (Higgins and Schrag, 2010;
60	Fantle and Higgins, 2014). As a result, depending on Mg availability in pore-fluids, Mg can be
61	isotopically distilled during dolomitization. Together these systems offer the ability to
62	discriminate between Mg-replete fluid-buffered conditions (high $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca, low δ^{26} Mg; where the
63	chemistry of the carbonate mineral is dictated by the chemistry of the diagenetic fluid) and Mg-
64	poor sediment-buffered conditions (low $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca, high δ^{26} Mg, where the chemistry of the
65	carbonate mineral is dictated by the chemistry of the sediment) of dolomite formation. Recently,
66	results from Dellinger et al. (2020) suggests that this diagenetic framework can be extended to
67	Li. Here, we apply this approach to reconstruct aspects of Tonian seawater chemistry with
68	implications for the interpretation of shallow marine carbonate records.

69 Materials and Methods

We analyzed samples from the Coppercap Formation (Fm.) of the Windermere Supergroup (base of section at 64°37'49.2"N 129°42'56.8"W) in northwestern Canada (Fig. 1; Aitken, 1981; Data Repository). The study area exposed ~100 m of a ~125 m section, consisting of dolomitic carbonates dominated by matrix-supported debris flow deposits with cm-scale intraclasts (dolofloatstone) and doloturbidite facies with m-scale fining-upward cycles, deposited in a km-scale fault-bound sub-basin (Fig. 1). In total, 62 $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and 66 δ^{26} Mg measurements

76	along with trace element analyses were performed at Princeton University following methods of
77	Higgins et al. (2018), 58 δ^7 Li measurements were performed in the Yale Geochemistry Center
78	following methods of Dellinger et al. (2020), and 67 δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O measurements were
79	performed at McGill University following methods of Wörndle et al. (2019) (Data Repository).
80	Results
81	Basal section δ^{13} C values begin at -5 % V-PDB but rise to 0% by 45 m, likely correlating
82	with the Russøya anomaly (Halverson et al., 2018). Values stay at 0‰ until ~100 m where they
83	progress toward +4‰. At the same time, $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca values display >1‰ of variation with values as
84	low as -1.33% (relative to modern seawater) in the lower part of the section (e.g., at 40.5 m),
85	increase to -0.25% (at 72.6 m), and then return to values near -1% at the top of the section (Fig.
86	1). A similar pattern in $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca is observed for δ^7 Li values but with a range of ~12‰, beginning
87	at ~ +1‰ (relative to L-SVEC) at the base of the section, increasing to almost +13‰ at 80 m and
88	then declining to +6‰ (Fig. 1). Spanning ~1.4‰, δ^{26} Mg values mirror $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^{7} Li trends,
89	beginning at -1.2% (relative to Dead Sea Mg; DSM-3), decreasing to -1.8% in the middle of
90	the section and then increasing toward the top of the section (Fig. 1).

91 **Discussion**

Stratigraphic covariation between δ^{44/40}Ca, δ²⁶Mg and δ⁷Li values in the Coppercap
Fm. (Data Repository) could either result from synchronous shifts to global Li, Ca, and Mg
cycles, or from variability in the style and extent of diagenesis. While it is possible the
residence times of Ca, Mg and Li were similar across this interval, leading to covarying shifts
in these systems, this is unlikely given their large differences today (Ca ~0.5-1 Ma, Fantle and
Tipper, 2014; Mg ~10 Ma, Higgins and Schrag, 2015; Li ~1.2 Ma, Misra and Froelich, 2012).
Moreover, mechanisms to explain the amplitude of observed signals and covariation between

99 any two systems, fail to explain all three. For $\delta^7 \text{Li}$, possible global mechanisms include: 1) 100 changes to congruency of continental silicate weathering (Dellinger et al., 2014), 2) varying 101 clay particle-fluid interactions in Li sinks (Li and West, 2014), 3) changes in the flux ratio 102 between high and low temperature hydrothermal fluids (Chan et al., 2002), and 4) changes in 103 carbonate polymorph of primary precipitates (Marriott et al., 2004). However, all of these 104 mechanisms to explain δ^7 Li trends fail to explain covariation with, and the magnitude of, coeval $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^{26} Mg values. This is clearly demonstrated through δ^{26} Mg values, where 105 106 assuming that dolomite formation was secondary, the majority of Mg must have been 107 incorporated after primary precipitates formed and should display variation independent of δ^7 Li and $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca trends. 108

109 The above arguments motivate alternative explanations for stratigraphic trends in the 110 Coppercap Fm. Field observations favor an early-marine over late-stage diagenesis 111 interpretation. For example, no heterogeneity in sedimentary facies that may have facilitated late-112 stage diagenetic fluid flow are apparent in the study area. Moreover, geochemical variability in 113 the Coppercap Fm. occurs over tens of meters and not broader spatial scales characteristic of 114 late-stage diagenesis (James and Jones, 2015). In addition, the scale of geochemical stratigraphic variability and the observation of heavy $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca values are unlikely features produced through 115 116 late-stage diagenesis. Therefore, we interpret observed geochemical signals in the context of 117 early marine diagenesis and apply a numerical model following Ahm et al. (2018), to constrain 118 the boundary conditions of the alteration.

119 Our application of the model is influenced by observations from a modern carbonate 120 platform (Henderson et al., 1999; Higgins et al., 2018; Dellinger et al., 2020) and simulates the 121 dissolution of primary Ca carbonate and re-precipitation as dolomite along a flow path with an

evolving fluid composition. Due to the susceptibility of carbonate δ^{18} O values to reset through 122 123 any fluid interaction, they are less likely to constrain early marine diagenesis and are omitted 124 from further consideration. Model outputs are presented as fields in isotopic cross-plot space 125 between end-member compositions defined by the geochemistry of the primary sediment and the 126 diagenetic dolomite, and between sediment-buffered and fluid-buffered trajectories—of the 127 isotopic systems plotted—that connect end-member compositions (Fig. 2). Model solutions are 128 achieved through estimating the Ca, Li and Mg concentrations and isotopic compositions of the 129 primary sediment and then finding the diagenetic fluid composition required for the most 130 consistent fit to the measured dolomite data across all phase-spaces (Fig. 2; Data Repository). 131 Departures of data points from the predicted model solution may indicate spatio-temporal 132 heterogeneity in the geochemistry of the primary sediment or of the dolomitizing fluid, which is 133 not resolved by the model. Importantly, because the model does not explicitly account for several 134 C-fractionating processes (e.g., aerobic/anaerobic respiration of organic matter or methanogenesis), it is not expected to capture the entire distribution of observed $\delta^{13}C$ variability 135 136 in sediment-buffered carbonates.

137 Based on our model fit to the data (Fig. 2), we argue that results best reflect diagenetic processes rather than global seawater variation (Data Repository). From minimum $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca 138 139 values and the range of observed δ^7 Li values, we surmise that the initial carbonate mineral was 140 aragonite, which was then altered by a dolomitizing fluid (Blättler and Higgins, 2017; Marriott et 141 al., 2004). However, we argue that the geochemistry of the dolomitizing fluid was different for 142 the lower portion of the section versus middle and upper portions. Above ~50 m, dolomitization 143 by Tonian seawater (i.e., the same fluid from which the original aragonite formed) places the 144 measured data on model arrays that are well explained by a continuum of fluid- to sediment-

145 buffered conditions that display similar diagnostic isotopic systematics to modern carbonates that 146 have undergone early marine diagenesis (Higgins et al., 2018; Dellinger et al., 2020). Seawater 147 as the dolomitizing fluid is consistent with the Coppercap Fm.'s foreslope-like environment, 148 which has a high potential for open-system fluid-buffered diagenesis by seawater (Hoffman and 149 Lamothe, 2019). The fluid-buffered samples (~50-90 m) suggest that Tonian seawater had a $\delta^7 Li$ value of ~13‰, a near-modern $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca value (0‰), and enough Mg that dolomitization did not 150 151 appreciably distill Mg isotopes (Fig. 2). The isotopic composition of the sediment-buffered 152 interval (~90-125 m) is consistent with aragonite that precipitated from the proposed Tonian 153 seawater, followed by dolomitization during early marine diagenesis under relatively closed-154 system conditions that allowed for Mg drawdown and Mg-isotopic distillation in the diagenetic 155 fluid.

156 Data from the lower half of the section (~0-50 m) fall off the arrays that explain the variation in the upper half of the section, displaying lower $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^7 Li values (Fig. 2). The 157 158 isotopic composition of these samples is well-explained by sediment-buffered diagenesis of 159 aragonite that formed out of Tonian seawater, by a dolomitizing fluid that was a mixture of 160 brackish groundwater and Tonian seawater (Fig. S7). We suggest that groundwater flow through 161 the carbonate sediments on the shelf and slope resulted in a relatively Mg- and Li-poor, CaCO₃-162 saturated solution, the mixing of which with the proposed Tonian seawater, produces a 163 dolomitizing fluid that well explains the lower half of the section (Data Repository). It seems less 164 plausible that the dolomitizing fluid of the lower half of the section was purely seawater of a 165 different chemical and isotopic composition, given the required changes in the concentrations 166 and/or isotopic compositions, and the time available to affect these changes (Data Repository).

167 Although we contend that chemostratigraphic variability in the Coppercap Fm. reflects 168 variable diagenetic conditions and not variations in seawater chemistry, this analysis still yields 169 important insights into late Tonian Li and C cycles. Across the fluid-buffered interval, δ^7 Li 170 values approach ~13‰, which we argue is likely a close approximation of the δ^7 Li composition 171 of late Tonian seawater (Dellinger et al., 2020). A δ^7 Li of ~13‰ is significantly different from 172 modern seawater (31%; Tomascak, 2004), possibly a consequence of lower riverine δ^7 Li values 173 due to more congruent continental silicate weathering before the rise of land plants (Kalderon et 174 al., 2016) and potentially analogous to extreme weathering intervals of the Phanerozoic such as 175 the Permian-Triassic extinction (Sun et al., 2018). Additionally, the Precambrian ocean would 176 have been silica-rich (Drever, 1974) due to the absence of silicifying marine organisms, favoring 177 authigenic clay formation (Isson et al., 2020). Since authigenic clay formation in marine 178 sediments and during off-axis alteration are the major Li sinks (Misra and Froelich, 2012), 179 increased clay formation would likely result in a lower seawater Li concentration. Lower 180 seawater Li concentrations would favor near-quantitative Li uptake in marine sediments and off-181 axis hydrothermal systems, muting the effect of preferential ⁶Li uptake in these environments (Chan et al., 2002), with the net effect of lowering Tonian δ^7 Li values compared to Cenozoic 182 183 seawater (Misra and Froelich, 2012).

The fluid-buffered interval of the Coppercap Fm. can constrain the Tonian marine DIC reservoir, too. Carbonate δ^{13} C values across these intervals are indistinguishable from modern DIC at ~0‰ (Fig. 1). In contrast, large variability (-5‰ to +4‰) is observed across sedimentbuffered intervals. Given the isotopic evidence for diagenetic alteration of major constituents of the carbonate rock (Ca, Mg), it seems reasonable that C would have been subjected to a similar diagenetic fate. Variation of δ^{13} C values in the sediment-buffered intervals may have resulted from organic matter remineralization or methanogenesis in the sediments or from variable
degrees of local C-isotope distillation of DIC across the platform (Swart, 2008; Geyman and
Maloof, 2019). In contrast, the fluid-buffered intervals may offer a more robust picture of Tonian
seawater carbonate chemistry.

194 Evaluation of local versus global controls on chemostratigraphic records in shallow 195 marine carbonates may be achieved by wider application of the paired Ca-Mg isotope 196 framework. This evaluation may be best executed by targeting environments with the greatest 197 potential to record seawater-buffered early marine diagenesis (i.e., the flanks of carbonate 198 platforms and slopes; Hoffman and Lamothe, 2019). If identified fluid-buffered intervals display geochemical variability (e.g., δ^{13} C, δ^{7} Li, $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca, δ^{26} Mg) similar to sediment-buffered intervals, 199 200 then this will provide confidence in shallow marine carbonate archives as records of seawater 201 geochemical evolution. However, if a significant offset between fluid- and sediment-buffered 202 intervals is the norm, a more thorough screening of the existing shallow marine carbonate record 203 to identify fluid-buffered intervals will be necessary to reconstruct the secular evolution of 204 seawater chemistry. In the case of the Coppercap Fm., results suggest that Tonian marine DIC 205 δ^{13} C may not have varied to the degree that is suggested by shallow marine carbonate archives, 206 adding to a growing call for a reinterpretation of such records.

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- **303 Figure Captions:**
- 304 Figure 1. Map adapted from Crockford et al. (2016) and sedimentary facies stratigraphically
- 305 plotted with geochemical data. Errors on measurements are in the lower right corner of panels. In
- 306 black is a Re-Os date measured on a different Coppercap Fm. section (Rooney et al., 2014). In
- 307 blue are U-Pb dates correlated from the Ogilvie Mts. (upper date; Macdonald et al., 2010) and
- 308 Ethiopia (MacLennan et al., 2018).

- 310 Figure 2. δ^{26} Mg, δ^{7} Li and $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca cross-plots with model solutions. Grid lines represent %
- 311 alteration in 10% increments. Red stars represent the primary aragonite and blue lines represent
- 312 the final diagenetic product. Blue diamonds are proposed Tonian seawater.
- 313
- 314 Fig. 1



- 316
- 317 Fig. 2



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321 GSA Data Repository:

Reconstructing Neoproterozoic seawater chemistry from early diagenetic dolomite

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- 335

336 Supplementary Information

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337 338

338 Isotopic notation339

- 340 All isotopic measurements are presented in delta notation following equation S1:
- 341 342

(S1) $\delta^{i}M = ((R_{sample}/R_{standard}) - 1) \times 1000$

Where superscript *i* represents 44/40, 26, 13, 18, 7 and *M* represents elements C, O, Mg, Ca, Li and R represents isotopic ratios ${}^{44}Ca/{}^{40}Ca$, ${}^{26}Mg/{}^{24}Mg$, ${}^{13}C/{}^{12}C$, ${}^{18}O/{}^{16}O$, and ${}^{7}Li/{}^{6}Li$.

- 347 Carbon and oxygen isotopes
- 348

343

In total, 66 samples were measured for carbon (δ^{13} C) and oxygen (δ^{18} O) isotopes from 349 350 the Coppercap Fm. Samples were first cut and then fresh surfaces were drilled with efforts made 351 to avoid small veins. With a Nu-Carb device, between 100-140 µg of drilled powders were then 352 dissolved in glass vials through the addition of H_3PO_4 at 70°C. Liberated $CO_{2(g)}$ was then 353 cryogenically isolated and analysed in dual-inlet mode on a Nu Perspective isotope ratio mass 354 spectrometer at McGill University. Isotopic ratios were measured against an in-house reference 355 gas and results are reported on the Vienna-Pee Dee Belemnite (V-PDB) scale. Uncertainty on 356 measurements (1 σ) based on the long-term analyses of NCM and UQ-6 standards is < 0.05%. 357

- 358 Calcium and magnesium isotopes
- 359
- 360 Sample preparation

361

In total, 61 samples were measured for calcium isotopes ($\delta^{44/40}$ Ca) and 66 samples were measured for magnesium isotopes (δ^{26} Mg) in the Coppercap Fm. Carbonate powders from the same aliquots utilized for carbon and oxygen isotopes were first weighed into 5 mg portions and

365 placed into cleaned 15 mL Corning centristar tubes. Samples were then dissolved into 0.1 N 366 buffered acetic acid ammonium hydroxide solution over four hours in a sonicator. Samples were 367 then centrifuged and aliquots of the supernatant were transferred into cleaned 15 mL Corning 368 centristar tubes. Aliquots of the bulk supernatants were then diluted ~30 times and calcium and magnesium were separated in different runs via a Thermo-Dionex ICS-5000+ ion chromatograph 369 370 equipped with a fraction collector. Resultant calcium separates were then dried down and 371 redissolved into concentrated distilled nitric acid. Samples were then dried down and taken back 372 up into a volume of 2% nitric acid with the aim of having final solutions with a calcium 373 concentration of 2 ppm.

- 374
- 375 Mass spectrometry
- 376

377 Calcium and magnesium isotopic ratios were measured at Princeton University using a 378 Thermo Neptune plus multi collector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (MC-379 ICPMS). Samples were introduced via an ESI Apex-IR sample introduction system. For calcium isotopes, ⁴⁴Ca/⁴²Ca isotopic ratios were measured through sample-standard bracketing and were 380 performed in medium resolution mode to avoid isobaric ⁸⁷Sr²⁺ and ArHH⁺ interferences. Under 381 an assumption of no radiogenic ⁴⁰Ca excess (Caro et al., 2010), ⁴⁴Ca/⁴⁰Ca isotopic ratios were 382 383 calculated utilizing established kinetic fractionation laws (2.05; Young et al., 2002) and are 384 presented relative to modern seawater. Based on the long-term measurement of SRM-915b (n = 385 199) we report an external reproducibility (2σ) on measurements of 0.14‰ and obtained a value 386 for SRM-915b of 1.15‰ that is within error of previously published results (Heuser and Eisenhauer, 2008). Magnesium isotope ratios ($^{26}Mg/^{24}Mg$) were measured in low resolution 387 388 mode and were also performed using sample standard bracketing. Results are presented relative 389 to Dead Sea Magnesium (DSM-3). Long term external precision (2σ) on magnesium isotope 390 results was determined through repeated measurements of the Cambridge-1 standard (-2.59 +/-391 0.07% n = 19) and modern seawater (-0.82 +/- 0.14 ‰ n = 21). Both magnesium and calcium 392 isotopic results are presented as delta values and all results were plotted in three isotope space $({}^{26}Mg/{}^{24}Mg \text{ vs. } {}^{25}Mg/{}^{24}Mg \text{ and } {}^{44}Ca/{}^{42}Ca \text{ vs. } {}^{43}Ca/{}^{42}Ca)$ to confirm that isotopic values fell 393 394 within typical mass-dependent variability.

- 395
- 396 *Lithium isotopes*397
- 398 Sample preparation
- 399

400 The sample preparation and column chemistry for lithium isotope analysis were performed in a PicoTrace class-10 clean laboratory at Yale University. Blank lithium levels for 401 402 each batch of samples were monitored and found to be negligible, at 0.00 % of the lithium in 403 samples and standards. Approximately 375 mg of carbonate powder from samples was utilized 404 for Li isotope measurements. Powders were first leached in 1M ammonium acetate and washed 405 twice in 2X MQ2 H₂O to remove the lithium adsorbed or bound to secondary minerals. Powders 406 were then dissolved in three steps (4h, 2h and 10 minutes) into a 0.05N hydrochloric acid 407 solution, each time the sample being centrifuged for 5 minutes at 4000 rpm. Each supernatant 408 was then extracted into Teflon beakers, dried on a hot plate and redissolved in 6N HCl. Acid 409 splits were dried down and then dissolved in 1ml of 0.2N HCl before being loaded directly onto 410 2.7 ml Bio-Rad AG50W-X12 (200-400 mesh) cation exchange resin pre-cleaned with 6N HCl

- 411 and 2X MQ2 H₂O and preconditioned with 0.2N HCl. Lithium was released from the cation
- 412 exchange resin through the addition of 0.2N HCl. After drying samples down, 5% HNO₃ was
- 413 added to the samples by first adding distilled HNO₃ (left sealed on a hotplate at 60 °C for 30
- 414 minutes) and then diluting it down with 2X MQ2 H_2O to the desired strength. A split of 100µl
- 415 was taken out and then 900 μ l of 2X MQ2 H₂O was added to the splits and these solutions were
- 416 used for lithium and sodium concentration checks in post column solutions.
- 417
- 418 Mass spectrometry
- 419

420 The lithium and sodium post column concentrations and the lithium isotopic composition 421 were measured with a Thermo Finnigan Neptune Plus ICP-MS at Yale University. Lithium 422 isotope data was collected at low resolution in 1 block, 50 cycles per block and 5 second 423 integrations per cycle. For these measurements we used the standard-sample-standard bracketing 424 technique using the L-SVEC standard and then calculated sample values based on the bracketing 425 standard values. In order to monitor the long-term reproducibility of our procedure, standards 426 were processed with each set of samples. A typical standard error of a single measurement is 427 0.16 %. Unprocessed standard was employed as a drift monitor throughout each run giving a long-term external precision of 0.2 % (1 σ), *n*=147. Column duplicates of samples typically fall 428 429 within 0.26 ‰ (n=19). Geostandards after column chromatography give the following values: L-430 SVEC = 0.08 ± 0.52 ‰ (2 σ) (*n*=19), BHVO-2 = 4.46 ± 0.55 ‰ (2 σ) (*n*=18) and Atlantic 431 Seawater = $31.25 \pm 0.51 \% (2\sigma) (n=13)$. Given that most of the samples had very low lithium 432 concentrations and the standards were prepared to match those concentrations, the observed error

- 433 is higher than maximum achievable in high concentration samples.434
- 435 Data Correlation
- 436

437 Throughout the main text we refer to δ^{26} Mg, $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^{7} Li values covarying. We 438 arrive at this description through performing a Spearman rank correlation test. This test is a non-439 parametric measure of the dependence of two variables. We specifically performed a Spearman 440 test and not a Pearson test because we did not assume a Gaussian distribution of our data. In all 441 cases, we found a statistically (95% CI) significant correlation between δ^{26} Mg, $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^{7} Li 442 values, which is why we use the term covariation in the main text.

443

Table S1: Spearman r correlation test

	Ca vs. Mg	Ca vs. Li	Li vs. Mg
r	-0.3971	-0.5192	0.6449
95% CI	-0.5964 to -0.1518	-0.6910 to -0.2919	0.4449 to 0.7837
P (two-tailed, approximate)	0.002	<.001	<.001
significant? (alpha = 0.05)	Yes	Yes	Yes
number of XY pairs	60	57	52

⁴⁴⁴

445 Description of diagenetic model

447 To constrain the origin of geochemical signatures in the Coppercap Fm., we model 448 carbonate diagenesis and dolomitization using a numerical model of Ahm et al., (2018). Since 449 the geochemistry of the original carbonate precipitates of the Coppercap Fm. is not known and 450 because the initial model did not include Li, we modified the code of Ahm et al., (2018) to: 1) 451 ensure the chemistry of initial precipitates is consistent with our proposed seawater composition 452 and 2) added Li and Li isotopes into this modelling framework partially based on recent results 453 from the Bahamas by Dellinger et al., (2020) (see Taylor et al., 2018 for an alternative view on 454 the Li isotope fractionation factor into dolomite). This model provides predictions for the 455 geochemistry of the diagenetic fluid. It arrives at such predictions by finding model solutions 456 that provide the best fit to isotopic data from natural samples which we describe in more detail 457 below.

458 The model simulates early marine carbonate diagenesis through the dissolution of 459 primary calcium carbonate and re-precipitation of dolomite along a flow path. Again, a slight 460 modification to the code of Ahm et al., (2018) was made to ensure that original precipitates form from a hypothesized seawater composition, which forms the basis of the diagenetic fluid that the 461 462 original precipitates recrystallize and diagenetically alter within. Based on observations from modern carbonate platforms, we assume that the Coppercap Fm. was dolomitized during early 463 464 marine diagenesis within 100,000 yrs and use a reaction rate of 0.01% kyr⁻¹ and a fluid-flow rate 465 of 0.1 m yr⁻¹ (Table S2; Higgins et al., 2018). However, since we evaluate our model output in cross-plot space, our model results are not significantly affected by changes in either reaction 466 467 rates or flow rates. Importantly, the model results with respect to lithium are sensitive to the 468 choice of Li partition coefficient into dolomite which to date has not been experimentally 469 determined at low temperatures. To achieve our best model fit we tuned this parameter finding a 470 value of 0.0005, however, increasing it up to ≈ 0.0015 still provided good fits to the data. This 471 'best fit' partition coefficient range is potentially quite different from results of Dellinger et al., (2020) whose data could suggest a value closer to 0.008 in the Bahamas. While there are many 472 473 possibilities for this potential difference including differences in seawater chemistry (or 474 chemistry of the diagenetic fluid), temperature or partitioning calculations (cf., Langer et al., 475 2015; 2020), these results highlight the much-needed continued effort to constrain environmental 476 controls on the lithium partition coefficient into dolomite.

477 The model outputs isotopic trajectories that represent mixtures of primary carbonates 478 (with a calculated composition from the prescribed seawater composition; see Table S2) and 479 diagenetic dolomites spanning a range of fluid- to sediment-buffered compositions. As a result, 480 the model output is a ternary phase-space between pairs of geochemical proxies that is defined 481 by the geochemistry of the primary sediment and fluid-buffered and sediment-buffered 482 trajectories, which terminate at 100% diagenetically altered end-member solutions. By 483 identifying the fluid- and sediment-buffered end-members that are consistent with data from 484 100% recrystallized samples (100% dolomite), we can use the model to infer the composition 485 of the diagenetic fluid and, therefore, of the primary sediment. That is, we overlay data from 486 the Coppercap Fm. and explore model solutions that can provide the best fit to the data, which 487 then allow us to explore the geochemistry of the diagenetic fluid. To ensure consistent 488 predictions of different proxies, the position and shape of the model phase space is constrained 489 by visually optimizing the percentage of alteration (+/- 20%) across all phase spaces. For example, samples that fall into the 100% dolomitized phase-space of $\delta^{4\bar{4}/40}$ Ca versus δ^{26} Mg 490 values, should also near 100% dolomitization in the phase-space $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca versus δ^7 Li values. 491

492 Samples that are less than 100% recrystallized in model phase spaces are interpreted to 493 only be partially altered during early marine diagenesis (Higgins et al., 2018). These samples are 494 subsequently stabilized during later burial diagenesis in conditions that are sediment-buffered 495 (i.e., much lower water-rock ratios), thus preserving the geochemical signals associated with 496 early marine diagenesis. That is, our model does not assume that samples do not undergo 497 subsequent diagenetic recrystallization during burial, simply that this recrystallization must have 498 been sediment-buffered and would therefore preserve the geochemical signature of early marine 499 diagenesis and not further alter the chemistry of the carbonate away from this early diagenetic 500 composition.

501 An important final note, overlaying data from natural samples on model solutions will not 502 yield perfect agreement. In other words, given the specified chemical and isotopic compositions 503 of the original mineral and a diagenetic fluid, the idealized model predictions will not always 504 agree with fine details in the data. For example, minor differences are expected in the degree of 505 alteration of specific samples between isotope cross-plots. More major departures from 90-100% 506 dolomitization contours of samples that are known to be fully dolomitized suggest that 507 alternative explanations should be explored. This is an additional strength of this approach as it 508 allows for the identification of samples or sample-intervals that may have been subjected to 509 either different conditions, or additional processes that the model is unable to capture in a single 510 simulation.

- 511
- 512 Table S2: All model parameters.
- 513

Parameter	Definition	Value used in model	References
$lpha_{Ca-Dol}$	Ca isotopic fractionation factor for dolomitization	1.000	Jacobsen and Holmden, 2008; Fantle and DePaolo, 2007
α _{Mg-Dol}	Mg isotopic fractionation factor for dolomitization	0.9980	Fantle and Higgins, 2014
$lpha_{C ext{-Dol}}$	C isotopic fractionation factor for dolomitization	1.0025	Horita, 2014
α _{Li-Dol}	Li isotopic fractionation factor for dolomitization	1.000	Dellinger et al., 2020
K _{Li-Dol}	Li/Ca partition coefficient into dolomite	0.0005	-
άCa-Arag	Ca isotopic fractionation factor for aragonite	0.9985	Gussone et al., 2020
$lpha_{Mg-Arag}$	Mg isotopic fractionation factor for aragonite	0.9993	Wang et al., 2013
άC-Arag	C isotopic fractionation factor for aragonite	1.0027	Romanek et al., 1992
$lpha_{ ext{Li-Arag}}$	Li isotopic fractionation factor for aragonite	0.988	Marriott et al., 2004; Dellinger et al., 2018; Pogge von Strandman et al., 2019
K _{Li-Arag}	Li/Ca partition coefficient into aragonite	0.003	Dellinger et al., 2020

K _{Mg-Arag}	Mg/Ca partition coefficient for aragonite	0.0019	Ahm et al. 2018		
R	Reaction rate	1x10 ⁻⁵ yr ⁻¹	Higgins et al., 2018; Swart et		
			al., 1987		
u	Fluid advection rate	0.01 m yr ⁻¹	Henderson et al., 1999		
M _f	Chemical composition of	Ca = 19.1, Mg = 43.2, Li = 0.002	Best-fit estimate in this		
	diagenetic fluid (mmol/kg)		study		
Ms	Chemical composition of	Ca = 39.5%, C = 12%, Mg =	Best-fit estimate in this		
	primary solid (aragonite)	1.03%, Li = 0.03 ppm	study		
$\delta_{\!f}$	Isotopic composition of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = 0.0‰, δ^{26} Mg =	Best-fit estimate in this		
	diagenetic fluid	0.1‰, δ ⁷ Li = 13‰	study		
δ_{s}	Isotopic composition of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -1.5‰, δ^{26} Mg = -	Best-fit estimate in this		
	primary solid (aragonite)	0.6‰, δ ⁷ Li = 1‰	study		

515 *Model fit to data from the Coppercap Fm.* 516

517 Our ability to fit diagenetic model solutions with geochemical data (see main text) 518 provides a compelling case for early marine diagenesis driving the majority of geochemical 519 variability observed in the Coppercap Fm. This is seen in Fig. 2 of the main text, which is also 520 replotted here as Fig. S1. In Fig. S1 it is shown that the upper and middle portions of the 521 Coppercap Fm. predominantly plot within the 80-100% diagenetically altered contours between 522 fluid and sediment buffered end-members, with the middle portion of the section clustering toward the fluid buffered end-member and the top of the section clustering toward the sediment 523 buffered end-member in δ^{26} Mg - δ^{7} Li, δ^{26} Mg - $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^{7} Li - $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca cross-plot space. 524 525 However, many lower section samples do not fall within the >80% diagenetically altered 526 (dolomitized) field (Fig. S1). This observation of the lower samples can be explained by one of 527 three different possibilities: 1) samples in the lower portion of the section are not completely 528 dolomite and retain some of their original geochemistry and thus plot closer to the initial 529 aragonite, 2) lower samples underwent a slightly different diagenetic history than samples above 530 due to local shifts in fluid composition, or, 3) seawater chemistry changed and thus the 531 diagenetic fluid and initial aragonite geochemistry shifted between the lower samples and the 532 samples above. We can immediately rule out the first scenario, as all samples in the Coppercap 533 Fm. are dolomite (Table S9). Below, we explore the second and third scenarios outlined above in 534 detail.

535





Figure S1: Figure 2 from the main text with δ^{26} Mg - δ^7 Li, δ^{26} Mg - $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^7 Li - $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca cross-plots of both model solutions and data from the Coppercap Fm. The colours of data points represent stratigraphic height. The primary

540 mineral (aragonite) is represented by the red star, the blue line corresponds to the diagenetic product (dolomite) and 541 the light blue diamond represents the composition of Tonian seawater. Upper black curves on the left two panels and 542 the left curves on the right-most panel represent sediment buffered trajectories. Lower black curves on the left two 543 panels and the right curve on the right most panel represents fluid buffered trajectories. Grey contours represent % 544 recrystallization from the primary mineral to the diagenetic product. In the case of the Coppercap Fm. this corresponds 545 to aragonite at 0% and stoichiometric dolomite at 100%, with minor element compositions corresponding to aragonite 546 that precipitated from our prescribed seawater composition and dolomite geochemistry from the Coppercap Fm. The 547 peach-coloured field highlights data points from the lower portion of the Coppercap Fm., which are dolomite but do 548 not plot close to the diagenetic (dolomite) end-member mineral composition. Such a model-measurement misfit 549 requires exploration of alternative explanations.

550

551 Changes in seawater chemistry on the required timescale are unlikely. We first consider the

552 possibility that global seawater geochemistry shifted between the time of deposition of the lower 553 samples to the time of deposition of the middle and upper samples in the Coppercap Fm. A

554 change in seawater chemistry would have shifted the composition of the diagenetic fluid as well

555 as shifted the original composition of the aragonite that we assume precipitated from it.

556 Exploring diagenetic model phase spaces, we are able to generate solutions consistent with

557 samples in the lower section (i.e., we can capture sample geochemistry within >80% dolomitized

558 fields) by altering element concentrations in the diagenetic fluid (seawater) as well as its isotopic

559 composition (Fig. S2). The most dramatic changes to fluid chemistry required are either through a reduction in [Ca] and/or a reduction in $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca values of the diagenetic fluid that dolomitized 560 561 lower samples compared to the diagenetic fluid composition required for model solutions for

samples in the middle and upper portions of the section (Table S3). We primarily focus on Ca in 562 563 the discussion below, as much less significant shifts in diagenetic fluid [Mg], [Li] and δ^{26} Mg 564 values are required to achieve model fits.

565



566 567

Figure S2: δ^{26} Mg - δ^{7} Li, δ^{26} Mg - $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^{7} Li - $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca cross-plots of both model solutions and data from the 568 lower portion of the Coppercap Fm. The colours of data points represent stratigraphic height which corresponds to the 569 colour legend to the right of the figure. Model solutions correspond to parameters presented in table S3, which was a 570 scenario to explore changing diagenetic fluid (seawater) element concentrations to seek out a model fit to the lower 571 Copper cap samples.

573	Table S3: Mod	lel parameters to ex	xplain geochemis	ry of lower s	samples through	changes in	the chemical	composition
574	of seawater.	-		-		-		-

Parameter	Definition		Value used in model
M _f	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 3.0, Mg = 32.4, Li = 0.002
	diagenetic fluid (mmol/kg)		
Ms	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 38%, C = 12%, Mg = 0.5%,
	primary solid (aragonite)	Li = 0.13 ppm	

$\delta_{\rm f}$	Isotopic	composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = 0.0‰, δ^{26} Mg = 0.1‰,
-	diagenetic f	luid		δ ⁷ Li = 13‰
δs	Isotopic	composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -1.5‰, δ^{26} Mg = -
	primary solid (aragonite)			0.8‰, δ ⁷ Li = 1‰

576 Although permissible in our calculations, the required shift in seawater [Ca] would be 577 from 3 mmol/kg in the lower section to 19 mmol/kg in the middle section (compare Tables S2 578 and S3). Because sedimentary facies do not dramatically change from the lower section to the 579 middle section, we estimate the time captured across this transition by calculating a uniform 580 deposition rate between previous geochronological constraints on the Coppercap Fm. and age-581 equivalent units and apply this depositional rate to the transition between lower samples and 582 middle samples (Macdonald et al., 2010; Strauss et al., 2014; Rooney et al., 2014; MacLennan et 583 al., 2017). With these constraints in place, it can be estimated that < 2 Myr is captured across this 584 transition. Such a shift in [Ca] over the required timescale would not occur without significant 585 implications for other aspects of the Earth system, which we discuss below.

586 The main sources of Ca to seawater is continental weathering of carbonate and silicate 587 rocks and off-axis seafloor weathering reactions. The main removal mechanism of Ca from 588 seawater is carbonate burial. An increase in the [Ca] of seawater could occur in response to an 589 increase in Ca sources via enhanced weatherability or enhanced weathering rates, or a decrease 590 in carbonate burial. Simply enhancing seawater [Ca] through increasing Ca input from 591 continental or seafloor weathering (i.e., increasing weatherability) would lead to net CO_2 592 drawdown and a reduction in global temperature which would buffer against increasing marine 593 [Ca] through the slowing of weathering rates, and we can rule out such a scenario.

594 Alternatively, maintaining a constant Ca input to the oceans, we can estimate the 595 reduction in carbonate burial needed to cause a 16 mmol increase in seawater [Ca]. Taking 596 modern input and burial values and an initial [Ca] of 3 mmol/kg, an approximate 50% reduction 597 in carbonate burial would be required to induce the required 16 mmol/kg shift in [Ca] over < 2598 Myrs. However, invoking a reduction in carbonate burial would ultimately lead to an increase in 599 ocean alkalinity and drawdown of atmospheric CO₂, which would, in turn, reduce weathering 600 rates and throttle the Ca supply. Therefore, this mechanism would require a CO₂ source 601 concurrent with the reduction in carbonate burial. A massive injection of CO₂ into the ocean by large-scale organic matter respiration (δ^{13} C ~-25‰) or extreme volcanic outgassing (δ^{13} C ~-6‰) 602 would cause a negative excursion in marine carbonate δ^{13} C values, inconsistent with the 603 604 sedimentary record. Together these arguments weaken the case for a severe reduction in 605 carbonate burial as a mechanism to increase seawater [Ca].

606 The above arguments leave enhanced volcanic CO_2 degassing as the only conceivable 607 mechanism to dramatically increase [Ca] by ≈ 16 mmol/kg over our estimated time interval of < 2608 Myrs (higher temperature increases weathering rates). The isotopic consequences of such an injection are discussed above. Additionally, this mechanism is likely to result in dramatic 609 610 changes to other components of the Earth surface, from increases to global surface temperature 611 to changes in primary productivity and organic carbon burial. These changes would likely leave 612 unambiguous signatures somewhere in the sedimentary record. To illustrate this point, if we 613 again consider an extreme imbalance in which increases to Ca inputs do not increase Ca outputs, 614 we would need to nearly double the Ca input flux to the ocean over the < 2 Myr interval between 615 the lower and middle portions of the Coppercap Fm. Such a doubling of inputs, as discussed 616 above, can only be achieved through enhancement of global weathering rates that requires an 617 increase in surface temperature in response to increases in pCO_2 . Using estimates of the

- temperature dependence of weathering rates (e.g., Berner and Kothavala et al., 2001), such an
- 619 increase in the Ca source would require approximately a doubling of atmospheric pCO_2 . Such
- 620 large, rapid shifts in atmospheric pCO_2 would likely require an extreme event, such as the
- 621 eruption of a large igneous province (LIP). In the late Tonian a LIP eruption would be 622 particularly necessary as it has been suggested that arc-volcanism was in a steady decline at
- particularly necessary as it has been suggested that arc-volcanism was in a steady decline at this
 time (Mckenzie et al., 2016). However, geochronological constraints place the interval in
- for α question (between \approx 735 -732 Ma), after notable events in the Tonian such as Katangan
- 625 magmatism in the western Kalahari (~750 Ma), and before the eruption of the Franklin LIP
- 626 (~723 Ma), making such a mechanism unlikely (Ernst et al., 2008). Finally, arguments above
- 627 notwithstanding, it is important to note that such changes would require shifts in [Ca] to occur 1-
- 628 2 orders of magnitude faster than documented across the Phanerozoic (Lowenstien et al., 2003;
- 629 Horita et al., 2002). The above arguments make it difficult to justify invoking changes in silicate
- 630 weathering to explain dramatic changes in seawater [Ca] between lower and middle portions of 631 our section of the Coppercap Fm.
- 632

633 **Changes in seawater isotopic composition are unlikely.** Model-measurement agreement in the 634 lower section can also be achieved by varying the isotopic composition of seawater. Maintaining

635 consistent element concentrations between lower, middle and upper portions of the Coppercap

636 Fm. we can achieve model fits for the lower samples within >80% dolomitized fields by

637 lowering the $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^7 Li values of seawater by 0.6 and 7‰ respectively (Table S4; Fig.

638 S3).

639



 $\begin{array}{ccc} 640 & 0^{7}\text{L1}(\%) & 0^{44/40}\text{Ca}(\%) & 0^{44/40}\text{Ca}(\%) \\ 641 & \text{Figure S3: } \delta^{26}\text{Mg} - \delta^{7}\text{Li}, \, \delta^{26}\text{Mg} - \delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} \text{ and } \delta^{7}\text{Li} - \delta^{44/40}\text{Ca} \text{ cross-plots of both model solutions and data from the} \\ 642 & \text{lower portion of the Coppercap Fm. The colours of data points represent stratigraphic height. Model solutions} \\ 643 & \text{correspond to parameters presented in Table S4, which was a scenario to explore changing diagenetic fluid (seawater)} \\ 644 & \text{isotopic compositions to seek out a model fit to the lower Coppercap Fm. samples.} \end{array}$

646Table S4: Model parameters to explain geochemistry of lower samples through changes in isotopic compositions of
seawater.

Parameter	Definition		Value used in model	
M _f	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 19.1, Mg = 43.2, Li = 0.002	
	diagenetic fluid (mmol/kg)			
Ms	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 39.5%, C = 12%, Mg =	
	primary solid (aragonite)	1.03%, Li = 0.03 ppm		
δ_{f}	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -0.6‰, δ^{26} Mg =	
	diagenetic fluid	0.2‰, δ ⁷ Li = 6‰		
δs	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -1.5‰, δ^{26} Mg = -	
	primary solid (aragonite)	primary solid (aragonite)		

649 The needed shifts in seawater isotopic composition are potentially possible through 650 increases to congruent silicate weathering, which would suppress Li isotope fractionation during 651 continental weathering, as well as near-complete quantitative uptake of Li at the locations of Lisinks, which would suppress isotopic fractionation associated with such processes. Additionally, 652 653 a seawater δ^7 Li value as low as 7% predicts that some marine carbonates at this time would bear 654 $\delta^7 \text{Li} < 0$ %. Such low $\delta^7 \text{Li}$ values have yet to be observed. In the case of Ca isotopes, lowering seawater $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca values to -0.6% could be achieved through lowering the $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca value of Ca 655 inputs. This may be possible through weathering aragonite-dominated terrains exposed by 656 657 dramatic sea level drop or through a non-steady state scenario where Ca inputs are not balanced by outputs, thereby shifting seawater $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca values closer to the Ca input compositions. Such a 658 shift would likely occur with some indication in sedimentary facies, which is not observed in our 659 section. Furthermore, with likely $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca values of the possible sources and sinks of Ca invoked 660 to drive this change in seawater $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca values, the required fluxes of Ca are themselves 661 substantial. For example, suspending carbonate burial altogether and achieving the decrease in 662 663 seawater $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca values by weathering an aragonite platform, would increase [Ca] by almost 70%. If carbonate burial were ongoing, the time required for turnover of the marine Ca pool to 664 affect a change of -0.6‰ would be long, relative to the time available in the Coppercap Fm. 665 section. Therefore, arguments made above in the exploration of changes in [Ca] as the driver of 666 the observed changes in the isotopic composition of diagenetic dolomite also weaken an 667 explanation based on enhanced aragonite weathering. Even in a combined scenario (Table S5, 668 669 Fig. S4), where we allow seawater to evolve isotopically and compositionally, the arguments 670 presented above still apply, rendering such explanations difficult to support.



 $\begin{array}{l} 672\\ 673\\ 674\\ 10 \end{array} Figure S4: <math>\delta^{26}Mg$

648

lower portion of the Coppercap Fm. The colours of data points represent stratigraphic height. Model solutions
correspond to parameters presented in Table S5, which was a scenario to explore changing diagenetic fluid (seawater)
chemical and isotopic compositions to seek out a model fit to the lower Coppercap Fm. samples.

678	Table S5: Model parameters to explain geochemistry of lower samples through changes in the chemical and isotopic
679	compositions of seawater.

Parameter	Definition		Value used in model
M _f	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 11.1, Mg = 35.1, Li = 0.002
	diagenetic fluid (mmol/kg)		
Ms	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 39.5%, C = 12%, Mg =
	primary solid (aragonite)	1.03%, Li = 0.03 ppm	
$\delta_{\rm f}$	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -0.3‰, δ^{26} Mg =
	diagenetic fluid	0.2‰, δ ⁷ Li = 6‰	

δ_{s}	Isotopic	composition	of	δ ^{44/40} Ca = -1.5‰,	$\delta^{26}Mg$	= -
	primary solid (aragonite)			0.8‰, δ ⁷ Li = 1‰		

681 While we cannot definitively rule out the above scenarios, all make predictions for 682 extreme changes in seawater chemistry across a < 2 Myr interval that should be expressed 683 globally. Moreover, such scenarios come along with additional implications beyond the cycles of 684 Ca, Mg and Li. As it is difficult to point to any obvious causes of such dramatic shifts, we 685 explore an alternative local explanation below.

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687 A different diagenetic fluid may explain the isotopic composition of the lower section. To

explore a scenario where seawater chemistry did not significantly change across the deposition of the Coppercap Fm., we maintain the same initial aragonite geochemistry but alter the composition of the diagenetic fluid that dolomitized the samples in the lower portion of the section (Tables S6, S7 and S8). The best model fit to the data is achieved with a fluid with lower Ca, Mg and Li concentrations and lower $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca, δ^{26} Mg and δ^{7} Li values than the proposed Tonian seawater (Table S8).

694To deduce the origins of such a fluid we first consider the possibility that lower section695samples were diagenetically altered by a fluid that formed through the dilution of seawater with696meteoric fluids. However, since Li would only be sourced from seawater in this case, the697concentration and isotopic composition of Li in the meteoric-seawater mix do not allow698reproduction of the full range of observed δ⁷Li values in model end-products that are >80%699dolomite, as required in the case of the Coppercap Fm. samples, which are fully dolomitized.

700 In the second case we consider a scenario where lower samples were dolomitized by a 701 fluid that formed through a mixture of seawater and terrestrial groundwaters at aragonite 702 saturation (Table S6). We first envision terrestrial groundwater flowing through an aragonite 703 aquifer, reaching saturation with the aragonite and then mixing with seawater at a freshwater-704 seawater interface. We assign a Ca concentration and isotopic composition consistent with 705 aragonite dissolution until saturation is reached, and concentrations and isotopic compositions 706 of Mg and Li that reflect release from dissolving aragonite. The best-fit solution in this case is 707 also incapable of reproducing the range of observed δ^7 Li values in model end-products that are 708 >80% dolomite (Fig. S5). Even in the case where we modify the chemistry of waters that 709 flowed into the aquifer allowing for different Ca:Mg:Li ratios (inferred from modern riverine 710 measurements flowing through silicate-dominate terrains; e.g., Tipper et al., 2012), we are still 711 unable to achieve a satisfactory model fit (Fig. S6, Table S7). Specifically, even when 712 modifying [Mg] and [Li] to ≈ 0.5 mM and 0.001 mM respectively (Table S7), many data points 713 are unable to be captured in >80% dolomite fields of a model solution.

714 The final option that we consider is that lower section samples were dolomitized in a 715 fluid that formed as mixture of seawater and a less saline fluid with approximately 2-3 times 716 less Mg, Li and Ca than contemporaneous seawater and lower δ^7 Li, δ^{26} Mg and $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca 717 compositions (Table S8). Such a scenario is potentially analogous to modern settings such as 718 carbonate aquifers in Rottnest Island in Western Australia (Martin et al., 2020). Solutions 719 generated from this scenario fall close to the sediment-buffered end-member trajectory and 720 encapsulate most of the lower section data within model end-products that are >80% dolomite. 721 Given the diversity of possible sources of a solution of intermediate salinity, and the possibility 722 mixing between more than two end-member fluids, it is difficult to uniquely interpret this 723 scenario. However, allodapic carbonate facies strongly imply a marine slope environment for 724 original deposition of the lower section samples. In such an environment, the most likely

- solution with which seawater may mix is brackish transition-zone water derived in part from
- interaction of continental waters with the sedimentary aquifer. Isotopically, such continentally-
- derived fluids may resemble fluids originating from weathering of silicate-dominated terrains,
- consistent with our hypothesized fluid composition (von Strandman et al., 2008; 2010;
 - Hindshaw et al., 2013). Given its plausibility alongside its ability to fit the observations, we
- favor this scenario to explain the geochemistry of the lower portion of the Coppercap Fm.



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Figure S5: δ^{26} Mg - δ^{7} Li, δ^{26} Mg - $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca and δ^{7} Li - $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca cross-plots of both model solutions and data from the lower portion of the Coppercap Fm. The colours of data points represent stratigraphic height. Model solutions correspond to parameters presented in Table S6.

Table S6: Model parameters to explain the geochemistry of lower samples through a groundwater influence on the chemical and isotopic composition of the dolomitizing fluid.

Parameter	Definition		Value used in model
M _{fd}	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 7.0, Mg = 15.1, Li = 0.0007
	diagenetic fluid (mmol/kg)		_
$\delta_{ m fd}$	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -0.98‰, δ^{26} Mg =
	diagenetic fluid		0.1‰, δ ⁷ Li = 13.0 ‰
M _{fsw}	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 19.1, Mg = 43.2, Li = 0.002
	seawater (mmol/kg)		
Ms	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 39.5%, C = 12%, Mg =
	primary solid (aragonite)		1.03%, Li = 0.03 ppm
$\delta_{ m fsw}$	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = 0.0‰, δ^{26} Mg = 0.1‰,
	seawater		δ ⁷ Li = 13‰
δ_{s}	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -1.5‰, δ^{26} Mg = -
	primary solid (aragonite)		0.6‰, δ ⁷ Li = 1‰
M _{fgw}	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 0.5, Mg = 0.02, Li = 2 x 10 ⁻⁸
	groundwater (mmol/kg)		
δ_{fgw}	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -1.5‰, δ^{26} Mg = -
	groundwater		1.1‰, δ ⁷ Li = 1.0‰
Ratio of seawater	to groundwaters		0.35



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correspond to parameters presented in Table S7.

Table S7: Model parameters to explain the geochemistry of lower samples through a groundwater influence on the chemical and isotopic composition of the dolomitizing fluid

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Parameter	Definition		Value used in model
M _{fd}	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 7.0, Mg = 15.4, Li = 0.00135
	diagenetic fluid (mmol/kg)		
$\delta_{ m fd}$	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -0.98‰, δ^{26} Mg =
	diagenetic fluid		0.09‰, δ ⁷ Li = 6.48 ‰
<i>M_{fsw}</i>	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 19.1, Mg = 43.2, Li = 0.002
	seawater (mmol/kg)		
Ms	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 39.5%, C = 12%, Mg =
	primary solid (aragonite)		1.03%, Li = 0.03 ppm
$\delta_{\!fsw}$	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = 0.0‰, δ^{26} Mg = 0.1‰,
	seawater		$\delta^7 \text{Li} = 13\%$
δ_{s}	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -1.5‰, δ^{26} Mg = -
	primary solid (aragonite)		0.6‰, δ ⁷ Li = 1‰
M _{fgw}	Chemical composition	of	Ca = 0.5, Mg = 0.5, Li = 0.001
	groundwater (mmol/kg)		
δ_{fgw}	Isotopic composition	of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -1.5‰, δ^{26} Mg = -
	groundwater	0.2‰, δ ⁷ Li = 3.0‰	
Ratio of seawater	r to groundwaters	0.35	







- 755 756 757 758 759 Figure S7: $\delta^{26}Mg$ - $\delta^{7}Li$, $\delta^{26}Mg$ - $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ and $\delta^{7}Li$ - $\delta^{44/40}Ca$ cross-plots of both model solutions and data from the lower portion of the Coppercap Fm. The colours of data points represent stratigraphic height. Model solutions correspond to parameters presented in Table S8.

Table S8: Model parameters to explain the geochemistry of lower samples through a brackish transitional water 760 influence on the chemical and isotopic composition of the dolomitizing fluid.

Parameter	Definition	Value used in model
M _{fd}	Chemical composition of	Ca = 10.0, Mg = 26.5, Li =
	diagenetic fluid (mmol/kg)	0.00125
$\delta_{ m fd}$	Isotopic composition of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -0.83‰, δ^{26} Mg = -
	diagenetic fluid	0.08‰, δ ⁷ Li = 6.96‰
M _{fsw}	Chemical composition of	Ca = 19.1, Mg = 43.2, Li = 0.002
	seawater (mmol/kg)	
Ms	Chemical composition of	Ca = 39.5%, C = 12%, Mg =
	primary solid (aragonite)	1.03%, Li = 0.03 ppm
δ_{fsw}	Isotopic composition of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = 0.0‰, δ^{26} Mg = 0.1‰,
	seawater	δ ⁷ Li = 13‰
δ_{s}	Isotopic composition of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -1.5‰, δ^{26} Mg = -
	primary solid (aragonite)	0.6‰, δ ⁷ Li = 1‰
M _{fgw}	Chemical composition of	Ca = 7.0, Mg = 21.0, Li = 0.001
	brackish transitional waters	
	(mmol/kg)	
δ_{fgw}	Isotopic composition of	$\delta^{44/40}$ Ca = -1.1‰, δ^{26} Mg = -
	Brackish Transitional Waters	0.2‰, δ ⁷ Li = 3.0‰
Ratio of seawater	r to brackish transitional waters	0.25

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763	Data table S9:	Geochemical	results.

Sample	d13C	d18O	d44/40 Ca vs SW	d26/24 Mg vs DSM 3	d7Li vs LSVEC	Mg (mol/mol Ca)	Sr (mmol/mol Ca)	Mn (mmol/mol Ca)	Li (µmol/mol Ca)
M303-6.0	-4.49	-3.50		-1.22	1.03	0.84	0.34	5.48	1.81
M303-6.8	-4.95	-3.77	-1.05	-1.24	3.19	0.84	0.42	5.37	8.78
M303-36.6	-3.24	-2.71		-1.37	5.32	0.97	0.20	0.50	1.42
M303-37.4	-3.22	-3.19	-1.26	-1.40	3.55	0.97	0.25	0.54	1.21
M303-38.3	-3.09	-3.08		-1.33	5.85	0.97	0.23	0.72	0.72
M303-40.5	-2.13	-2.82	-1.33	-1.32	3.00	1.00	0.17	0.90	7.47
M303-41.4	-2.07	-2.87	-1.27	-1.45		0.98	0.16	0.87	1.35
M303-42.5	-2.03	-2.54	-1.30	-1.37	3.16	0.96	0.18	1.56	1.15
M303-43.6	-1.64	-3.26	-1.27	-1.44	2.20	0.99	0.17	1.40	1.87
M303-44.8	-1.43	-1.82	-1.12	-1.45	4.19	1.02	0.16	1.58	1.82
M303-45.9	-0.39	-3.31	-1.28	-1.50	3.50	0.93	0.14	1.37	1.23
M303-46.7	-1.89	-0.91	-1.32	-1.56	3.42	0.99	0.16	0.77	2.14
M303-48	-0.44	-1.83	-1.28	-1.36		0.98	0.24	1.04	0.15
M303-49	0.30	-1.88	-1.26	-1.35	6.35	0.99	0.14	0.89	0.97
M303-50.3	0.37	-2.07	-1.20	-1.40		0.97	0.17	1.37	0.90
M303-51.1	-0.13	2.26	-1.18	-1.57	7.79	0.99	0.15	0.92	2.00
M303-52	0.63	0.78	-1.14	-1.50	7.88	0.97	0.15	1.33	1.65
M303-53.7	0.51	-2.08	-1.14	-1.39	8.46	1.01	0.15	1.84	2.42
M303-54.5	0.72	0.54	-1.12	-1.61	7.22	1.00	0.15	2.24	2.04
M303-55.9	0.13	0.48	-1.01	-1.95	8.92	1.00	0.13	1.27	2.05
M303-57	0.42	1.62	-0.98	-1.78	9.59	0.98	0.13	1.65	1.46
M303-57.9	0.43	1.40	-0.78	-1.66	9.51	1.00	0.12	1.34	1.15

M303-59.2	1.21	2.17	-0.86	-1.72	9.22	1.01	0.14	1.99	1.83
M303-59.9	0.60	-0.02		-1.61	9.19	1.02	0.14	1.33	1.88
M303-62.5	0.83	-1.74	-0.65	-1.67	9.73	1.00	0.12	1.31	1.28
M303-63.3	0.87	-4.16	-0.89	-1.50	8.27	1.00	0.15	1.87	1.77
M303-67.3	0.87	-0.49	-0.78	-1.59	9.62	1.01	0.12	1.81	1.90
M303-68	0.96	-3.26	-0.77	-1.41	7.91	1.00	0.13	1.92	1.70
M303-69	0.72	-2.57	-0.85	-1.68		1.04	0.18	2.32	1.76
M303-70.7	0.63	-5.62	-0.60	-1.80	8.68	1.03	0.17	1.01	1.67
M303-71.1	0.54	-4.22		-1.68	8.40	1.04	0.18	0.99	1.82
M303-72.6	0.44	-5.74	-0.25	-1.80	9.52	1.02	0.24	0.45	1.69
M303-73.6	0.96	-1.21	-0.37	-1.88	11.31	0.99	0.32	0.48	1.40
M303-74.6	1.05	-1.38	-0.55			1.01	0.28	0.67	1.56
M303-75.6	1.06	-2.52		-1.74		1.01	0.25	0.50	0.53
M303-76.6	0.86	-2.94	-0.48	-1.70	11.96	1.05	0.24	0.56	1.35
M303-77.7	0.55	-6.03	-0.82	-1.69	9.85	1.01	0.22	0.61	1.31
M303-79.3	0.86	-1.57	-0.71	-1.76	8.32	1.01	0.28	0.57	1.09
M303.80.2	0.69	-4.35	-0.61	-1.61	12.04	1.03	0.29	0.56	0.74
M303-81.6	1.14	-2.10	-0.56	-1.69	12.73	1.01	0.32	0.35	1.96
M303-83.1	1.27	-1.43	-0.41	-1.85	8.49	1.03	0.29	0.15	1.65
M303-84.4	1.14	-3.19	-0.70	-1.91	5.94	1.06	0.18	0.12	0.50
M303-86.6	-0.34	-3.23			10.68	1.00	0.23	0.20	2.29
M303-88.6	-0.26	-8.45	-0.93	-1.13	8.04	0.97	0.13	0.38	1.64
M303-90.1	-0.27	-9.85	-0.94	-1.14	6.35	0.99	0.14	0.95	1.55
M303-92.6	-0.07	-1.59	-0.85	-1.06	8.48	0.92	0.21	0.49	0.69
M303-93.6	0.90	-8.64	-0.72	-1.53	3.96	0.99	0.23	0.51	1.12
M303-94.6	1.36	-7.55	-0.55	-1.50		1.02	0.17	0.39	0.83
M303-96.2	0.67	-11.29	-0.83	-1.27	8.12	1.00	0.12	0.83	0.97
M303-97.9	0.37	-11.63	-0.94	-1.23	7.71	0.98	0.10	0.52	1.48
M303-99.5	1.09	-12.17	-1.13	-0.91		0.95	0.10	3.25	10.01
M303-100.6	1.21	-12.48	-0.90	-0.95	6.07	0.99	0.08	1.67	0.62
M303-101.9	0.70	-11.62	-0.92	-1.27	8.55	0.99	0.13	0.72	0.86
M303-102.8	0.40	-11.68	-0.85	-1.16		0.97	0.09	0.78	0.38
M303-104.3	2.49	-12.86	-1.03	-0.85	6.17	0.98	0.07	1.30	0.69
M303-105.6	3.06	-13.39	-0.77	-0.57	4.98	0.97	0.11	1.45	0.50
M303-106.3	2.70	-13.17	-1.09	-0.68		0.96	0.08	1.79	0.57
M303-107.7	2.75	-12.92	-1.07	-0.94	7.56	1.00	0.07	1.78	0.70
M303-109.4	1.26	-11.99	-0.93	-0.99	7.25	1.01	0.10	0.83	0.44
M303-110.6	1.02	-12.59	-0.90	-1.04	7.52	0.96	0.06	0.44	1.41
M303-111.5	2.24	-13.13	-1.13	-0.87	6.30	1.00	0.09	3.28	0.65
M303-113.4	3.49	-12.86	-0.97	-0.62	6.79	0.97	0.09	1.95	0.56
M303-115.6	3.84	-13.12	-1.12	-0.71	5.00	0.97	0.06	1.84	1.81
M303-117.6	3.35	-12.22	-0.83	-1.28	8.20	1.01	0.12	0.47	8.78
M303-118.8	3.51	-11.85	-0.83	-1.60	8.25	0.99	0.09	0.50	1.42
M303-123.1	0.58	-5.10	-0.96	-1.20	9.60	0.95	0.13	0.34	1.21
M303-125.1			-0.99	-1.20	7.35	0.98	0.10	0.60	0.72
M303-125.7			-0.70	-1.30	7.19	0.98	0.11	0.66	7.47

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