

Reply to *Interactive comment on “Cretaceous Oceanic Anoxic Events prolonged by phosphorus cycle feedbacks” by Sebastian Beil et al.*

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This paper aims to illustrate the potential role of P-cycle feedbacks in prolonging OAE 1a and OAE 2. The paper contains useful data and some excellent diagrams but is rather densely written, skips over some important problems, switches tenses a lot when describing geological phenomena, and ignores some relevant literature. The fundamental point that the low P/TOC ratios in the OAE sediments points definitively to phosphorus recycling (and nutrient re-supply to planktonic biota) during these events tends to be easily lost. The issue of P recycling during OAEs has, of course, been made previously, including from a modelling perspective (e.g. Mort papers; Nederbragt et al). The value of the account lies in the fact that the sections described are stratigraphically very expanded and give superb detail as to changes in the carbon cycle before, during and after OAEs.

[First of all, we would like to sincerely thank Hugh Jenkyns for his insightful and constructive feedback. Following his comments, we revised and streamlined the manuscript to improve readability and highlight the main findings of our study. We also addressed important questions, which were not previously touched upon, and we included missing essential references.](#)

Abstract and beyond: the statement that the evolution of the carbon-isotope curve of the two OAEs, as classically defined, shows remarkable similarities needs to be qualified.

[We discuss in more detail the similarities and dissimilarities in the evolution of the carbon-isotope curves of the two OAEs in the revised manuscript. We modified the abstract and expanded section 3.1 \(lines 277-298\).](#)

The defining characteristic of OAE 2 is the overarching positive excursion; for OAE 1a it's the negative excursion. Many OAE 2 sequences (e.g. Eastbourne, UK) show no negative excursion, although its absence is probably due to the presence of the sub-plenus erosion surface in the case of the English section. More needs to be made of all this because the apparently more stratigraphically complete Tarfaya record of OAE 2 clearly offers a unique perspective. The New Zealand record of Gangl et al. (EPSL, 518, 172–182) and Japanese record of Nemoto and Hasegawa (Palaeo-cubed, 309, 271–280) may also show this negative excursion but it is certainly not everywhere apparent.

[To address this comment, we inserted a new paragraph in section 4.2.2 of the discussion \(lines 532-544\).](#)

As regards OAE 1a, as illustrated in Fig. 4, the main positive excursion extends higher than the C6 segment (i.e. post OAE 1a - unless C6 is extended higher in the section). Do we need a total redefinition of OAE 1a, as implied here? If so, all of this needs to be made clear as perhaps we have been biased by the records of the Cison and Piobbico cores. But there is a problem: where are the abundant black

shales that correspond to the C6 and C7 relatively heavy carbon-isotope segments, given that the original OAE definition is rooted in the quasi-coeval organic-rich record on a global basis?

We agree that this issue needs to be further discussed. We expanded the discussion on the discrepancy between the stratigraphic extension of OAE1a black shale occurrences and the positive carbon isotope excursion (section 4.2.1; lines 579-511).

Line 21: not clear which events are being referred to with 'respectively'

We deleted this word and revised the sentence (lines 17-20).

Lines 23–25: nutrients may have been supplied by basalt–seawater interaction, probably involving LIPs. (Mentioned later in the text but not here)

We now mention this possible nutrient source in lines 21-24.

Line 55: cite original paper by Scholte and Arthur (1980)

We added this reference in line 61.

Line 66: Are these Mort papers the appropriate references for discussion of transgression? See Jenkyns (1980)

We included the primary citation of Jenkyns (1980) and we extended the sentence to include the additional source of increased terrestrial weathering (lines 68-73).

Line 92: rewrite as: 'A variety of phosphorus species are discriminated against in these sediments.'

We revised the sentence as suggested.

Line 98: change 'In contrast' to 'By contrast'

We revised the sentence as suggested.

Line 131: hyphenate 'intermediate-resolution' to read as written here

Changed

Line 164: do you mean nannofossils and planktonic foraminifera? 'Shells' rather implies macrofossils.

We revised the sentence in lines 172-174.

Line 189: hyphenate 'metal-free' to read as written here

Changed

Line 271: change 'In contrast' to 'By contrast'

Changed

Line 280: state in which segments of the OAE 1a record the cooling events have been identified. Do they conform to those illustrated in Jenkyns, 2018 (Phil .Trans

Roy. Soc.) from multiple localities, namely: C3, C4 and C6? Which cooling events in the OAE 2 record correspond with the Plenus Cold Event? Are these multiple events registered anywhere else? Do they relate to the fact that Tarfaya was a palaeo-upwelling site with upward movements of cooler water or are they global? The largest positive oxygen- isotope shift (Fig. 2) seems to predate the rise in carbon isotopes: i.e. before major global carbon burial was registered, which is not as stated in the text (line 284).

The major cooling events that occurred during C4 and C6 correspond to the global events illustrated by Jenkyns (2018). A minor cooling of probable regional character (Jenkyns, 2018) is also evident during stage C3. We expanded section 3.2 and added relevant references (lines 300-317).

Line 318: it would be worth looking at the C-segment durations given by Scott , 2016: (Barremian–Aptian–Albian carbon isotope segments as chronostratigraphic signals: numerical age calibration and durations. *Stratigraphy*, 13, 21–47) to see how they compare with your data.

We have compared our newly reconstructed durations with those from Scott (2016). This comparison is included in Table 2.

Line 329: hyphen not necessary in 'orbitally tuned'
Removed

Lines 343–345 and Fig. 2 and Fig. 5: it might be useful to label the features on the OAE 2 carbon-isotope profile (a,b,c,d), as illustrated by Voigt et al., 2017, *EPSL*. 53, 196–210.

We included the nomenclature of Voigt et al. (2007) in the text and figures to facilitate comparison with global records.

Line 465: 'prevail' - this is present tense and is but one example where past tense should be used for geological narrative. There are many instances of this error in the text. It's also important to maintain clarity when moving from description of an isotope curve to inferences about the environment.

We checked and corrected the manuscript appropriately.

Line 500: compare with the durations given by Scott (see above)

The detailed comparison of the durations of the specific C-stages in section 4.2.1 now includes the durations of Scott (2016) in table 2 and lines 512-522.

Line 504: change 'In contrast' to 'By contrast'

Changed

Line 552: change 'In contrast' to 'By contrast'

Changed

Lines 579: Mention needs to be made of the key paper by Handoh and Lenton, 2003 (*Global biogeochemical Cycles*, 17, 1092, who also discuss the cycling of phosphorus to maintain productivity during OAEs. This paper draws on the important papers of Föllmi (*Geology*, 1995, 23, 503-506; *Earth-Science Reviews*,

1996, 40, 55–124) that discuss the long-term stratigraphy of phosphorus in the stratigraphic record.

We added these references in section 4.4 in line 622.

Line 581: say how synthesized from atmospheric nitrogen. This will involve a brief discussion on cyanobacteria and papers by Kuypers et al. (Geology, 2004), and others

A short explanation with appropriate references has been added to section 4.4 in lines 622-624.

Page 615: is 'largest' the right word? Most significant?

We revised the text in lines 668-671.

Line 622: given that the durations of the carbon-isotope plateau phases are so different, is their causality different as well? We know that the plateau phase of OAE 2 corresponds with maximum organic-carbon burial, at least in the Tethys–Atlantic region - but there is no such evidence for OAE 1a (except possibly Shatsky Rise). So what is going on?

We addressed this fundamental question by rewriting and expanding sub-section 4.2.1 (lines 479-511).

Reply to *Interactive comment on “Cretaceous Oceanic Anoxic Events prolonged by phosphorus cycle feedbacks”* by Sebastian Beil et al.

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Dear Babette, dear Sebastian and co-authors,

let me first say that I don't tend to write reviews that I haven't been invited to. I do not mean to make the authors' lives harder than they already are. However, the topic your nice manuscript is about is quite close to my heart, and I have therefore decided to add a few comments that might help to widen the perspective of the manuscript and put into context of a few publications that the authors might have missed. As it happens, some of these publications are (co-) authored by me and my review could be understood as shameless self-promotion. This is not my intention, but the editor might have a different view on this and may therefore decide to ignore my comment.

The manuscript prepared by Beil et al. is an impressive data set on an impressive number samples from two locations that resolve two OAEs (1a and 2) in very high temporal resolution. I have read the comment by Hugh Jenkyns, which focuses on the definition/duration/isotopic expression of the OAEs, and I will not go into any detail on those. Instead, my comment refers to the phosphorus side of the story.

I applaude the authors for having generated a very nice P speciation data set, for re- porting the recovery of their extractions relative to total P, and for a very detailed method description in the appendix. In the broadest sense, I also agree with the interpretation of the authors that P recycling from the seafloor during much of OAE2 has potentially led to higher primary productivity, fueling an anoxia-productivity feedback loop that has been previously suggested to extend the "lifetime" of OAEs.

My comments, which are all included in the attached PDF as annotations, relate to the (a) a more precise distinction between different redox conditions (namely ferrugi- nous versus euxinic) and (b) the weathering regime. The main reason for raising these issues is that Poulton et al. (2015) conducted a study on the onset of OAE2 from a different Tarfaya core, with a focus on the potential effects of weathering conditions on land on ocean redox, and the related response of the P cycle to these redox changes. Since this manuscript is using very similar methods and proxies on samples from effectively the same location, I think it would be an omission and a missed opportunity to not refer to the published manuscript, and put the new data into context. My comments in the PDF are hopefully self-explanatory, but please feel free to ask for clarificaton.

[We would first of all like to thank Christian März for helpful, detailed comments that helped us to clarify and improve our manuscript.](#)

[We included a short discussion on the problematic definition of ferruginous in the context of the Cretaceous in section 4.4 \(lines 646-658\). This point was fully discussed by Scholz et al. \(2019\), who compared iron-speciation proxies in Cretaceous and modern OMZ sediments \(Peruvian margin\).](#)

I hope the authors will take my relatively minor comments in the good spirit of scientific exchange, and I am looking forward to seeing the final version of the manuscript published in *Climate of the Past*.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.clim-past-discuss.net/cp-2019-118/cp-2019-118-SC1-supplement.pdf>

lines 77-78: Which environments does this refer to? Typically, in sediments underlying most of the oxygenated parts of the world ocean see a "sink switching" not only from organic matter, but also from oxide-bound P to authigenic apatite (see Ruttenger and Berner, 1993).

[As suggested, we revised the text and now include authigenic apatite \(Ca-P\) \(lines 81-91\). We also refer to supplementary material S1 for further information.](#)

line 81: I am not sure I would quote this reference as an estimate that is still being used - Ruttenger's work and especially the discovery of pervasive authigenic apatite formation has superseded this earlier estimate, and I don't think this is being argued with by anyone in the current community.

[We acknowledge that the more recent data of Ruttenger \(2003\) are now widely accepted. We included the older publication of Broecker and Peng \(1982\) to underline the point that until recently estimates of the residence time of phosphorus were highly variable. These estimates may still change, as there appear to be imbalances in the phosphorus budget.](#)

lines 93-94: I do not disagree with this statement, but I think the authors should be a bit more cautious regarding the term "anoxic". The increased recycling of P relative to OC from sediments under oxygen-depleted waters is well-documented in many parts of the ocean (nice review paper by Algeo and Ingall, 2001). The formation of phosphorites in the upwelling areas off Peru and Namibia, on the other hand, occurs under quite specific conditions and with the support of specific microbial communities - and most importantly, under dominantly sulfidic conditions (although the fast changes in bottom water/seafloor redox might also play an important role in enriching P in these shallow environments).

In addition, a third line of thought exists regarding the behaviour of P under anoxic, non-sulfidic conditions, which suggests that P can be sequestered into the seafloor under these ferruginous conditions (co-precipitated with Fe minerals or as Fe(II) phosphates). This has been hypothesized for Cretaceous black shales, but also for modern lake sediments, and for subsurface sediments where no sulfide but some dissolved Fe is available. The author won't be surprised that I am raising this point, but I think it is an important one that is well documented in the literature and should be mentioned (even if the authors may come to the conclusion that it is irrelevant in their study).

[We agree that complexities of the phosphorus cycle are commonly underestimated. We do not want to discuss in detail the reasons for phosphorus depletion during Cretaceous OAEs, as this would require more extensive data sets. The main aim of this manuscript is to document the availability of the essential nutrient phosphorus and to underline its role in maintaining increased productivity over extended periods of time. A detailed discussion of the mechanisms for increased phosphorus remobilization or non-deposition is beyond the scope of this publication and will be addressed in a future study focused on redox-trends in the Tarfaya Basin \(Scholz et al., in prep.\).](#)

lines 194-200: Could the authors provide some quality control data for the elements determined (accuracy based on reference materials, precision based on repeat analyses)? I am sure the data are fine, but just to stick to good practice.

[The missing values for accuracy and precision based on standards and repeated](#)

measurements are now provided in lines 231-232.

lines 363-366: Are any of these fish remains, nodule, or crusts visible in the core, or do they crop up in the XRF scanning data? If they are, they should be highlighted clearly as diagenetic features in the data plots - otherwise, it should be mentioned that they were not observed.

We added a sentence clarifying that no fish remains or nodules were visible on the core surfaces nor obvious in the XRF data in lines 375-377.

lines 370-374: 89 percent is what I would expect as recovery from the chosen extraction technique. But could the authors provide a downcore plot of recovery rates in the Supplement? I am just curious whether this might reveal something about organic P that, even in these old sediments, can still reside in organic matter (after all, the organic matter is still there, in some intervals quite a lot, so it should contain some P as well).

We added a reference to Supplementary Material Figure S7.1 in line 382 with the $P_{\text{react}}/P_{\text{total}}$ ratio. The overall high ratio of $P_{\text{react}}/P_{\text{total}}$ and the increased maturity of sediments from the Tarfaya Basin imply diagenetical sink-switching from organic matter into the more stable phosphorus pools of Ca- and Al/Fe-bound phosphorus.

lines 382-385: Here I would be a little careful regarding anoxic and euxinic conditions. It has been shown by Poulton et al. (2015) that OAE2 at Tarfaya experienced periodic ferruginous conditions; and also Wallmann et al. recently showed independently that ferruginous conditions could be generated in the Cretaceous North Atlantic. In their study, they did not see an increased sequestration of P by Fe-P minerals (different to what Maerz et al., 2008, observed for OAE3 on Demerara Rise). The reasoning behind this might be quite complex but is related to continental weathering as well as redox conditions and the Fe-C-S cycling on the Tarfaya shelf. I would encourage the author to engage more with that manuscript, especially since it is on material from Tarfaya as well.

See previous reply above concerning the problematic definition of ferruginous in the context of the Cretaceous in section 4.4.

line 425: Shouldn't $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ be used here?

$C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{total}}$ was intentionally included in Supplementary Figure S7.1 to show the similar pattern to $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$, when using total phosphorus concentrations.

lines 471-472: This is at odds with the arrow in Figure 2, which points into the wrong direction for intensified weathering (it's correct in Figure 3).

We corrected the arrow in Figure 2.

lines 475-476: How do you infer that the response to orbital forcing is reduced? There is still a lot of variability in the K/Al record (which is in agreement with the K/Al record in Poulton et al., 2015, who state that orbital pacing is not recorded as clearly in Tarfaya due to the potential for discontinuous sedimentation in shallow waters). It would further be interesting, especially given the very high resolution XRF scanning record, to check if changes in K/Al are correlative with subtle changes in redox conditions, as indicated, for example, by P speciation of the TOC/ P_{react} ratio.

Figure 2 shows low amplitude variability of the weathering proxy $\text{Log}(K/Al)$ during the main phase of OAE2, especially in comparison to the preceding interval, implying low hydrological variability. This dampening suggests a weak response of the hydrological cycle to orbital forcing. Enhanced variability during the plateau phase possibly suggests enhanced response during recovery of the climate-carbon cycle system. We agree that discontinuous sedimentation could erase cyclic pattern in marine sediments, but no obvious hiatuses are evident in Core SN°4, which would account for the loss of cycles with wavelengths of multiple meters.

lines 587-590: Similar to comment before, this should be visible in the core or other XRF scanning parameters, shouldn't it?

We deleted this sentence, as a discussion on the influence of major sea level variations would be beyond the scope of this manuscript.

lines 607-609: This statement was also made by Poulton et al. (2015), notably during both euxinic and ferruginous intervals that occurred in the early phases of OAE2 at Tarfaya. So apparently no formation of Fe-P minerals that sequestered P during ferruginous intervals on the deeper Demerara Rise.

The high resolution study of Poulton et al. (2015) focused on the onset, peak and early plateau phase of OAE2. By contrast, our lower resolution data set over the mid Cenomanian to early Turonian interval in Core SN°4 allows comparison of background variability with changes occurring during the MCE and OAE2. Our extended data set shows that phosphorus depletion in the Tarfaya Basin exclusively occurred during carbon isotope excursions, which correspond to periods of drastically enhanced organic carbon burial on a global scale. This long-term perspective allows fresh insights into the role of the essential nutrient phosphorus for maintaining increased organic carbon burial over extended periods of time.

Kind regards, Christian Maerz

Reply to *Interactive comment on “Cretaceous Oceanic Anoxic Events prolonged by phosphorus cycle feedbacks”* by Sebastian Beil et al.

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The manuscript presents an impressive dataset of P-speciation data and high resolution XRF core scans, which help build on earlier works regarding i) the duration of OAEs, and ii) the hypothesis for P-cycling as an important feedback mechanism for OAE development. The work involved in this manuscript could feasibly represent two papers, if the authors saw fit, as the cyclo-stratigraphy aspect over-shadows the P speciation and the data presentation become very lengthy. I have read through the detailed comments from Hugh Jenkyns and Cristian Maerz and agree with their inputs. I will try to give additional contributions, rather than repeating their observations. Generally, this is an impressive dataset and it shouldn't take much work to address these comments.

We would like to thank Matthew Clarkson for his helpful, constructive comments and suggestions, which we have followed as much as possible.

General Comments:

I think there is a missed opportunity here in that one of these cores has been extensively studied previously by the authors (Scholz et al., 2019), with Fe-speciation, redox sensitive metals (Mo, V) and N isotopes. The new P-speciation data would complement this previous study very nicely and more could be made of integrating the two datasets. This could be valuable for the discussion of redox and P cycling through OAE2 and would help give more contextual information, particularly with reference to the evolving nature of redox conditions through the core. I think it would be very useful to the community to examine P-speciation results within the context of the established redox framework that varies locally from nitrogenous to euxinic, and compare this to intervals of ferruginous and euxinic deposition elsewhere (Poulton et al., 2015), and so I am somewhat mirroring a comment made by Dr. Maerz.

A preliminary discussion of the long-term redox change in the Tarfaya Basin was included in Beil et al. (2018). We feel that a more detailed discussion of redox-conditions is beyond the scope of the present paper, which focuses on a synthetic comparison of OAE1a and OAE2. However, a detailed discussion of redox-changes is in preparation (Scholz et al., in prep.) with principal aim to reconstruct redox-variability at high resolution in the Tarfaya Basin.

Minor comments:

Line 93: 'oceanic anoxia'

Changed

Line 114: The MCE is referred to frequently as it appears in the records, however not much background is given on the significance of this event. Please detail if this is a local feature or a global event comparable to the other OAEs studied.

We added a short paragraph about the MCE to the introduction (lines 40-47).

Line 160: As a disclaimer, I am not so familiar with XRF core scanning techniques, but I would be suspicious of using Fe as a terrestrial element, included in the logTerr/Ca proxy, as there is likely redox-dependent behaviour in these settings that would obscure or bias trends in terrestrial elements if Fe is included. It might be that Fe is lost from the sediment due to reduction in the pore-waters (thereby removing any Fe cycles), or that Fe has been enriched through Fe-shuttling across the basin. It would be possible that the stepped increase in Terr/Ca could be caused by an increase in Fe, due to enrichment of highly reactive Fe-phases (e.g. at the onset of OAE1a). It is also possible that this could create apparent cyclicity, analogous to the cyclicity in FeHR/FeT in other Tarfaya data (Pouillon et al, 2015). If Fe is plotted separately or removed from this measure, do you see any behaviour that might be indicative of local redox changes dominating the record?

This could be an opportunity to add additional information on redox systematics. Can you pull out Fe/Al from the XRF data to aid comparison to the Fe-speciation cyclicity observed by Pouillon et al., 2015 in the other Tarfaya core and the previous Fe-speciation data of Scholz et al., 2019?

We added a short sentence to the introduction (lines 177-179) and figure S2.1 to the supplementary material showing Log(Terr/Ca) calculated with (red) and without (black) iron for OAE1a and OAE2. This figure reveals no major deviations between datasets.

No significant influence of redox-variability implies a predominantly detritic reservoir for iron. Fe/Al (not shown) is therefore controlled by the composition of deposited terrigenous material and cannot be used as a proxy for redox changes in both basins. A detailed discussion of redox-conditions is beyond the scope of the present paper, but a detailed discussion of redox-changes is in preparation with principal aim to reconstruct redox-variability at high resolution in the Tarfaya Basin.

Also, what about the dilution effect of Ca from high organic carbon production, would this potentially create cycles or stepped changes through the OAEs. There seems to be cycles in TOC from just looking at the linescan photograph, so how much of the cyclicity in logTerr/Ca can be explained by simply changing CaCO₃ concentration?

Yes, Log(Terr/Ca) is a proxy for carbonate content and shows a good correlation with carbonate content as shown in Beil et al. (2018). We assume that most of this variability is rooted in the fluctuating terrigenous input associated with changing conditions on land.

Could you also please clarify what NGR represents in terms of sedimentary components that drives the cyclicity, and how this links to the orbital pacing mechanisms.

We expanded section 2.2 (lines 148-154) for a brief discussion of the influence of the different sedimentary components on the NGR records in the South Province and Tarfaya Basins.

Line 196: is smoked the correct term for this? asked?

Smoked is the correct terminology: the liquid was minimized by evaporation.

Line 280: the PCE is often associated with faunal changes that represent different water mass movements or local re-oxygenation. I think it is a bit

misleading to focus on the extinction aspect. More could be done to reference other studies here.

We expanded chapter 3.2 (lines 304-310) to include the most important of the environmental changes registered worldwide.

Cretaceous Oceanic Anoxic Events prolonged by phosphorus cycle feedbacks

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Abstract. Oceanic Anoxic Events (OAEs) document major perturbations of the global carbon cycle with repercussions on the Earth's climate and ocean circulation that are relevant to understand future climate trends. Here, we compare the onset and development of Cretaceous OAE1a and OAE2 in two drill cores with unusually high sedimentation rates from the Vocontian Basin (southern France) and Tarfaya Basin (southern Morocco). OAE1a and OAE2 exhibit remarkable similarities in the evolution of their carbon isotope ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) records with long-lasting negative excursions preceding the onset of the main positive excursions, supporting the view that both OAEs were triggered by massive emissions of volcanic CO_2 into the atmosphere. However, there are substantial differences notably in the durations of individual phases within the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ positive excursions of both OAEs. Based on analysis of cyclic sediment variations, we estimate the duration of individual phases within OAE1a and OAE2. We identify: (1) a precursor phase (negative excursion) lasting ~430 kyr for OAE1a and ~130 kyr for OAE2, (2) an onset phase of ~390 and ~70 kyr, (3) a peak phase of ~600 and ~90 kyr, (4) a plateau phase of ~1340 and ~200 kyr and (5) a recovery phase of ~380 and ~440 kyr. The total duration of the positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion is estimated as 2700 kyr for OAE1a and 790 kyr for OAE2 and that of the main carbon accumulation phase as 980 and 180 kyr. The long-lasting peak, plateau and recovery phases imply fundamental changes in global nutrient cycles either (1) by submarine basalt-sea water interactions, (2) through excess nutrient inputs to the oceans by increasing continental weathering and river discharge or (3) through nutrient-recycling from the marine sediment reservoir. We investigated the role of phosphorus on the development of carbon accumulation by analysing phosphorus speciation across OAE2 and the mid-Cenomanian Event (MCE) in the Tarfaya Basin. The ratios of organic carbon and total nitrogen to reactive phosphorus ($\text{C}_{\text{org}}/\text{P}_{\text{react}}$ and $\text{N}_{\text{total}}/\text{P}_{\text{react}}$) prior to OAE2 and the MCE hover close to or below the Redfield ratio characteristic of marine organic matter. Decreases in reactive phosphorus resulting in $\text{C}_{\text{org}}/\text{P}_{\text{react}}$ and $\text{N}_{\text{total}}/\text{P}_{\text{react}}$ above the Redfield ratio during the later phase of OAE2 and the MCE indicate leakage from the sedimentary column into the water column under the influence of intensified and expanded oxygen minimum zones. These results suggest that a positive feedback loop, rooted in the benthic phosphorus cycle, contributed to increased marine productivity and carbon burial over an extended period of time during OAEs.

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| hat gelöscht: ³ Janne Lorenzen, Christian-Albrechts-University, Ludwig-Meyn-Str. 10-14, D-24118 Kiel, Germany ⁴ |
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1 Introduction

70 The Cretaceous period was characterized by high atmospheric CO₂ levels and temperatures and by episodic deposition of
sediments with extremely high organic carbon content, referred to as Oceanic Anoxic Events (OAEs; e.g., Schlanger and
Jenkyns, 1976; Jenkyns, 1980). These events represent prolonged and intense perturbations of the global carbon cycle (e.g.,
Arthur et al., 1985) associated with widespread anoxia in most ocean basins. Oceanic Anoxic Events are also characterized by
positive carbon isotope ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) excursions that have been related to globally enhanced rates of organic carbon burial (e.g.,
75 Berger and Vincent, 1986; Kump, 1991). The most prominent of these events were OAE1a during the early Aptian and OAE2
at the Cenomanian/Turonian boundary. Smaller-scale events of probably more regional extent were also identified in several
ocean basins (e.g., OAE 1b, c, d and OAE3). Another such event, the mid-Cenomanian event (MCE; Coccioni and Galeotti,
2003), appears to represent a less intense precursor event of OAE2. However, detailed records of the MCE are still sparse with
most studies focusing on the higher amplitude events (OAE1a, b, c, d and OAE2). Records of the MCE until now are
80 predominantly from the North Atlantic and Tethys region (e.g., Umbria Marche Basin (Coccioni and Galeotti, 2003); English
Chalk (Gale, 1989; Jenkyns et al., 1994); Western Interior Seaway (Keller et al., 2004); Blake Nose (Ando et al., 2009),
displaying a positive isotope excursion during the *Thalmaninella reicheli* foraminiferal zone. In shelf areas of the global
ocean, major sea level changes associated with the cycles Ce2.1 and Ce3 of Gale et al. (2002) may have caused long lasting
hiatuses obliterating evidence of the MCE.

85 The triggering mechanisms and internal processes that were essential for sustaining high primary productivity over extended
periods of time during OAEs remain enigmatic. One of the limitations for understanding the driving mechanisms and dynamics
of OAEs is the uncertainty about the duration of OAEs and individual phases within these events. Previous estimates vary
substantially (Table 1), partly due to differing definitions of the onset and end of OAEs, based on the extent of organic-rich
sediment accumulation or the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion. For instance, the positive shift in the initial part of the excursion is considered
90 to represent the entire OAE1a (e.g., Li et al, 2008; Moullade et al., 2015), whereas the return to background values (e.g.,
Sageman et al., 2006) or the end of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ plateau (e.g., Eldrett et al., 2015) are included into the definition of OAE2.

Carbon isotope excursions associated with OAEs often display an initial negative excursion, which has been attributed to the
rapid release of a large volume of ^{13}C -depleted carbon either as methane and CO₂ from organic material in terrigenous soils
and sediments, dissociation of submarine methane hydrates, or direct volcanic exhalation of CO₂ and thermal combustion of
95 organic-rich sediments driven by volcanic heat flux (e.g., Dickens et al., 1995; Jenkyns, 2003; Erba, 2004; Turgeon and
Creaser, 2008; Du Vivier et al., 2014). The ensuing positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion is generally attributed to enhanced burial rates of
 ^{12}C enriched organic carbon in marine organic-rich shales and/or in terrestrial peat and coal deposits (e.g., Scholle and Arthur,
1980; Jenkyns, 1980; Schlanger et al., 1987; Arthur et al., 1988). Key constraints on the subsequent feedback mechanisms of
nutrient and carbon cycles are the rates at which the carbon was released and buried. Fast release rates are consistent with
100 catastrophic events, such as methane hydrate dissociation or thermal combustion of organic-rich sediments, whereas slower

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rates implicate other processes. Burial rates influenced the balance between continuing release of ¹³C-depleted carbon and the relative impact of sequestration through enhanced biological productivity and globally intensified and expanded ocean anoxia. Different hypotheses have been put forward to explain the enhanced accumulation of organic matter (e.g., Arthur et al., 1988; Jenkyns, 2010) and the processes triggering and maintaining global anoxia and enhanced primary productivity during Cretaceous OAEs. These include fertilization by nutrient input into the ocean system in association with the activity of large igneous provinces (LIPs) (e.g., Schlanger et al., 1981; Larson, 1991; Trabucho-Alexandre et al., 2010), sea level controlled remobilization of nutrients from flooded low altitude land areas associated with major marine transgressions (e.g., Jenkyns, 1980; Mort et al., 2008), increased phosphorus input resulting from intensified weathering on land (e.g., Larson and Erba, 1999; Poulton et al., 2015), or release of phosphorus as a main limiting nutrient from sediments into the water column under anoxic bottom water conditions (e.g., Ingall and Jahnke, 1994; Slomp and Van Cappellen, 2007). However, the extent and the conditions under which phosphorus was available to act as a fertilizer for marine productivity as well as the mechanisms and internal feedbacks that sustained OAEs for several hundred thousand years remain controversial. Primary production in the modern marine environment is mainly limited by the availability of nitrogen, iron and phosphorus with the latter considered the ultimate limiting nutrient on longer geological timescales (Holland, 1978; Broecker and Peng, 1982; Smith, 1984; Codispoti, 1989; Tyrell, 1999; Filipelli, 2008). It has been suggested that the phosphorus budget of the modern ocean is imbalanced, since input fluxes from riverine, aeolian and ice-rafted sources do not fully match phosphorus burial in marine sediments and the hydrothermal removal of dissolved phosphate from the deep ocean (e.g., Wallmann, 2010). The main source for phosphorus in the oceans is the terrigenous discharge from rivers in the form of dissolved inorganic phosphorus (DIP) and organic phosphorus (DOP), particulate inorganic phosphorus (PIP) and particulate organic phosphorus (POP). The delivery rate of POP and immediately bioavailable, reactive DIP and DOP is mainly controlled by continental weathering and seasonal riverine discharge (Ruttenberg, 2003; Li et al., 2017a) and, thus, closely linked to variations in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations and the hydrological cycle. Most sedimentary rocks and sea floor sediments are characterized by low concentrations of phosphorus <0.13 % (Riggs, 1979) and shallow marine environments are considered to be the main phosphorus sinks (Ruttenberg, 1993). Exposure to well-oxygenated water masses on the shelf and slope leads to almost complete remineralisation of organic matter and precipitation of authigenic phosphorus minerals (Ruttenberg, 1993). In deep-sea sediments underlying well-oxygenated bottom water masses, phosphorus remains mainly bound to manganese- and iron-oxides and -hydroxides and as authigenic calcium-bound phosphorus (Supplementary Material S1), which typically exhibits C:P below the Redfield ratio. Excess phosphate is released from shelf and continental margin sediments deposited in low oxygen environments, resulting in elevated sedimentary C:P. Today, estimates of residence time vary between 10 and 17 kyr (Ruttenberg, 2003) and 80 kyr (Broecker and Peng, 1982), depending on estimated burial rates within the different marine phosphorus sinks, in particular in shallow seas and along continental margins (Ruttenberg, 2003). During Cretaceous OAEs, the extent and burial efficiency of these sinks must have varied substantially, due to sea-level and redox oscillations affecting marginal seas (e.g., Danzelle et al., 2018).

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There are conflicting views on the influence of expanded Oxygen Minimum Zones (OMZs) or oceanic anoxia on the phosphorus cycle and, in particular, whether OMZ sediments serve as a phosphorus source or sink. It has been argued that oxygen depleted bottom waters favour phosphorus release from the sediment to the water column (Ingall and Jahnke, 1994) and stimulate primary production in surface waters (Wallmann, 2003). This in turn results in increased organic carbon export flux, leading to higher oxygen demand, OMZ expansion and intensification and a positive feedback with benthic phosphorus release (Slomp and Van Cappellen, 2007; Wallmann, 2010). By contrast, other studies suggested that intensified phosphorus burial occurs under anoxic conditions in shallow water environments, based on observations of calcium fluorapatite (CFA) precipitation in present-day shallow water oxygen-depleted upwelling areas (Schulz and Schulz, 2005; Arning et al., 2009a, b; Goldammer et al., 2010; Ingall, 2010; Cosmidis et al., 2013). On the long-term, the formation of CFA is approximately in balance with enhanced phosphorus release from anoxic sediments, implying that the dissolved oceanic phosphorus inventory is largely unaffected by regional changes in oxygen concentrations (Delaney, 1998; Anderson et al., 2001; Roth et al., 2014). However, this equilibrium may have been disturbed during periods of deep-water anoxia, as in the Mediterranean Sea during sapropel formation (Slomp et al., 2004) and in the Cretaceous ocean during OAEs (e.g., Mort et al., 2007, 2008). Observations and model simulations indicated that global warming enhances the terrestrial input of biologically reactive phosphorus to the marine environment, leading to increased production and burial of organic carbon in marine sediments (Mackenzie et al., 2002).

In this study, we focus on the two most intense OAEs, OAE1a and OAE2, which occurred during intervals of extreme greenhouse gas forcing within the Cretaceous period. We analyse extended, continuous sediment successions from two drill cores in the Vocontian Basin (southern France) and Tarfaya Basin (southern Morocco) (Fig. 1). Time series analyses of high-resolution X-Ray fluorescence (XRF) scanning elemental and natural gamma-ray (NGR) borehole logging data provide constraints on the duration of individual phases within these carbon isotope excursions and new insights into the response of the ocean-climate system to these extreme carbon cycle perturbations. In addition, we analyse phosphorus speciation across the mid-Cenomanian carbon isotope event (MCE) and OAE2 to investigate relationships to changing sea level, OMZ intensity and carbon burial and to test the hypothesis of redox controlled phosphorus release as a nutrient source initiating and/or enhancing carbon burial during OAEs.

2 Material and Methods

2.1 Sediment cores

Core SN°4 (27°59'46.4'' N, 12°32'40.6'' W) was retrieved in the Tarfaya Basin (southern Morocco), 40 km east of the town Tarfaya, close to the road to Tan Tan. The 350 m long marine sediment succession in Core SN°4, which provides an expanded record of OAE2, was deposited in an outer shelf setting within a subsiding basin on a passive margin during the Late Cretaceous. Late Albian to Turonian stable isotope and geochemical records were previously presented by Beil et al. (2018) and Scholz et al. (2019). High-resolution XRF-scanner, bulk sediment stable isotope and carbon records across the onset of

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295 OAE2 were provided by Kuhnt et al. (2017). Here, we complement these records with phosphorus speciation data and time-series analysis of logging natural gamma ray and high resolution XRF-scanner elemental distribution data across OAE2. Cores LB1 (43°14'37'' N, 5°34'12'' E; 70 m long) and LB3 (43°14'42'' N, 5°34'52'' E; 56 m long) were drilled near Roquefort-La Bédoule, 16 km southeast of Marseille in southern France. During the Aptian, the coring sites were located within an isolated intrashelf basin, the South Provence Basin, on the North Provençal carbonate platform, where an expanded
300 succession of marine sediments including OAE1a accumulated. Details of the drilling operation were published by Flögel et al. (2010), lithologic descriptions, biostratigraphy and intermediate-resolution carbonate and stable isotope measurements were provided by Lorenzen et al. (2013) and Moullade et al. (2015). Here, we present new high-resolution bulk carbonate isotope data across the precursor, onset and peak phases of OAE1a as well as time-series analysis of logging natural gamma ray and XRF-scanner elemental distribution data from a spliced composite record of LB1 and LB3. The tie point between both cores
305 is at a depth of 49.4 m (Section 34, 3 cm section depth) in LB3 and 10.83 m (Section 8, 95 cm section depth) in LB1, below bed 170, identified by Moullade et al. (2015) as a prominent correlating feature. The tie point was selected at the base of a prominent, extended maximum in XRF-scanner derived Log(Terr/Ca) (Section 2.3), identified in both cores.

2.2 NGR-logging

Wireline borehole logging of the SN°4 drill hole was carried out by Geoatlas (Laayoune, Morocco) using a Century geophysical logging system with natural gamma ray (NGR) sensor. Detailed information on NGR logging of SN°4 is given in
310 Beil et al. (2018). For borehole logging of the LB1 and LB3 drill holes, an Antares Aladdin logging system with GR5 sensor probe was deployed. All logging operations were conducted shortly after completion of the drilling operation in boreholes without metal casing, and NGR data are presented as American Petroleum Institute radioactivity units in counts per second (cps) with vertical resolutions of 0.1 m for SN°4, 0.05 m for LB1 and 0.025 m for LB3. The intensity of natural gamma
315 radiation is predominantly influenced by the concentration of three different elements: Potassium (K), Uranium (U) and Thorium (Th). All three elements are bound to clay minerals with uranium also adhesively enriched in organic matter. In environments with low terrigenous input and high organic matter accumulation as in Core SN°4, NGR is predominantly controlled by the concentration of organic matter. By contrast, clay accumulation mainly controlled NGR in Cores LB3/LB1, where the organic matter content of the sediment is low.

2.3 XRF-scanning and line scan imaging

Detailed descriptions of XRF-scanning of Core SN°4 are provided in Kuhnt et al. (2017) and Beil et al. (2018). Sections were scanned with a second generation Avaatech X-ray fluorescence scanner at the Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel. Surfaces were covered with a 4 µm thick Ultralene foil after cleaning with fine-grained sandpaper. Data for this study are from the 10
320 kV dataset scanned with a spatial resolution of 1 cm (vertical slit of 1 cm, horizontal slit of 1.2 cm) measured with 10 kV, 750 µA, no filter and 10 s acquisition time. Sections of Cores LB1 and LB3 were polished with fine-grained sandpaper and covered with 4 µm thick Ultralene foil prior to scanning with the Avaatech XRF scanner at the Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel.

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The XRF-data from the 10 kV dataset presented in this study were measured with a spatial resolution of 1 cm with the tube setting of 10 kV, 250 μ A and no filter with 15 s acquisition time.

Raw XRF spectra of all three cores were converted with the iterative least-square package *Win Axil batch* (Canberra Eurisys) and the 10 kV Kiel model into element specific area counts. The Jai CV-L 107 3 CCD color line scan camera installed in the

355 Avaatech XRF-scanner at the Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel, was used to obtain core images with a downcore resolution of 143 ppm for Cores SN^o4, LB1 and LB3. We used the logarithmic ratios of elemental counts to eliminate XRF-scanning specific effects such as matrix-effect, grain size effect or variations in rock density (Weltje and Tjallingii, 2008).

Log(Terr/Ca) is used as a proxy for terrigenous, clastic material vs. marine biogenic carbonate. Elements of typically terrigenous origin (Terr) detected with the 10 kV settings are aluminium (Al), iron (Fe), potassium (K), silicon (Si) and titanium

360 (Ti) (e.g., Peterson et al., 2000; Calvert and Pedersen, 2007; Mulitza et al., 2008; Tisserand et al., 2009; Govin et al., 2012).

The variability of Fe closely matches the variability of the other terrigenous elements (Supplementary Material S2), thus appearing not to be influenced by changing redox conditions. Calcium (Ca) is of marine origin, mainly from calcareous nanno- and microplankton. Log(K/Al) is widely used to characterize the composition of clay mineral assemblages (Weaver, 1967, 1989; Niebuhr, 2005). The ratio is primarily controlled by variations in the amount of the potassium-rich illite and thus reflects

365 the intensity of physical/chemical weathering in the source area (Calvert and Pedersen, 2007).

2.4 Stable Isotopes

Organic and bulk carbonate stable isotope data from Core SN^o4 were compiled from the high-resolution record over the onset of OAE2 (Kuhnt et al., 2017) and from the lower resolution record over the entire core (Beil et al., 2018). Bulk carbonate samples were analysed with the Finnigan MAT 251 and MAT 253 mass spectrometers at the Leibniz Laboratory for

370 Radiometric Dating and Stable Isotope Research at the Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel. The accuracy for carbon isotopes was ± 0.05 ‰ and ± 0.08 ‰ for oxygen isotopes. Organic carbon stable isotopes were analysed at the GeoZentrum Nordbayern (Erlangen) with a Flash EA 2000 elemental analyzer coupled to a Thermo Finnigan Delta V Plus mass spectrometer on samples with a spacing between ~ 0.1 and ~ 2.3 m. Measurement accuracy was ± 0.06 ‰. Results are reported on the delta scale as $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{carbonate}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ against the Vienna PeeDee belemnite standard (VPDB).

375 Initial stable isotope data from Cores LB1 and LB3 were presented in Lorenzen et al. (2013) and Moullade et al. (2015). Published data have a spacing of ~ 20 cm in LB1 and ~ 40 cm in LB3. New samples were analysed to increase the resolution to ~ 5 cm during the early part of OAE1a between 18 and 41.5 m in Core LB1. Stable isotopes of bulk carbonate samples were analysed at the Leibniz Laboratory for Radiometric Dating and Stable Isotope Research at the Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel, with a Finnigan MAT 251 mass spectrometer. Analytical uncertainty for stable carbon isotopes was ± 0.04 ‰ and ± 0.07

380 ‰ for stable oxygen isotopes. Results are reported on the delta scale as $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{carbonate}}$ against the Vienna PeeDee belemnite standard (VPDB).

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2.5 Total organic carbon, carbonate and nitrogen content

Aliquots of samples for determination of major and trace elements and phosphorus speciation in Core SN⁴ were analysed for total organic carbon (TOC), carbonate and nitrogen content. Replicates of 8-10 mg sample material were pulverized, homogenized and sealed into tin capsules for the determination of Total Carbon (TC) and Nitrogen (N) and into silver capsules followed by decarbonatization with 0.25 N hydrochlorid acid (HCl) to measure TOC. Different weights of Acetanilid (10.36 % N, 71.09 % C) and of the certified soil standard BSTD1 (0.216 % N, 3.5 % C) were sealed and measured for calibration and for monitoring of long-term stability. All capsules were measured with a Carlo Erba Proteinanalyzer NA1500 at the Geomar Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research, Kiel. Carbonate content (TIC) was calculated as $TIC = (TC - TOC) * 8.3333$.

2.6 Time series analysis

The package *astrochron* (Meyers and Sageman, 2007; Meyers et al., 2012a; Meyers, 2014) for R (R Core Team, 2017) was used to perform frequency analysis on the NGR and XRF Log(Terr/Ca) datasets. The NGR datasets were linearly interpolated to a spatial resolution of 0.1 m for Core SN⁴ and 0.025 m for the spliced dataset of Cores LB₁ and LB₃. XRF-scanner derived Log(Terr/Ca) from LB₃/LB₁ was linearly interpolated to a spatial resolution of 0.01 m. Long-term variability of >20 m wavelengths was removed from the NGR dataset by using a Gaussian kernel smoother with the function *noKernel* of *astrochron*.

Dominant frequencies in Cores LB₁ and LB₃ were extracted with the robust red noise MTM analysis of Mann and Lees (1996) using the function *mtmML96* (Patterson et al., 2014) of *astrochron* with five 2π prolate tapers. Visualization and checks were performed with the *eha*-function of *astrochron* with three 2π prolate tapers and a window of 6 m over the frequency range between 0 and 4 cycles/m for the spliced record of LB₁ and LB₃. Identical intervals and frequency ranges were used to check results with the complementary XRF-scanner derived Log(Terr/Ca) (Supplementary Material S3.1).

An age model for Core SN⁴ was derived by correlating the NGR record to that of the neighbouring Core S13 (Meyers et al., 2012a) following Kuhnt et al. (2017). A total of 14 tiepoints delimiting characteristic features of both cores were used (Supplementary Material S4). The age model of Meyers et al. (2012a) was transferred into chronological ages by anchoring the Cenomanian/Turonian boundary at the top of cycle 3 to the chronological age of 93.9 Ma (Meyers et al., 2012b). Periodicities for precession, obliquity and eccentricity are based on the orbital solution La04 (Laskar et al., 2004). Additional periodicities for eccentricity were extracted from the orbital solutions La10a-d (Laskar et al., 2011a) for the Cenomanian and Aptian intervals and La10a-d and La11 (Laskar et al. 2011a, b) for the Cenomanian interval using the *astrochron*-function *mtmML96* (Patterson et al., 2014). The analysis of orbital parameters for OAE1a was limited to the Aptian interval between 113 and 126 Ma and to the Cenomanian interval between 93 and 99 Ma for OAE2 (Supplementary Material S5). Ratios were calculated for the main frequencies. Periodicities and ratios of the different orbital cycles are presented in Supplementary Material S5.1 and S5.2 for the Aptian and in Supplementary Material S5.3 for the Cenomanian interval.

hat gelöscht: 2.5 Phosphorus speciation and analysis of major and trace elements¶

The distribution of major and trace elements and phosphorus speciation were determined on new samples from Core SN⁴, mainly taken close to the published organic stable isotope samples (Beil et al., 2018). Samples cover the interval between 42.11 m (Section 18, Segment 3, 23-24 cm) and 305.77 m (Section 111, Segment 2, 29-31 cm). The core was sampled every ~2.4 m with increased resolution of ~1.2 m over the global isotope excursions OAE2 and MCE. The surface of samples was cleaned with a metal- free porcelain knife and ground down with a rotary mill with agate balls to prevent metallic contaminations. The powdered material was subdivided into aliquots for major and trace elements analysis and material for determination of phosphorus speciation. A further aliquot was used for carbonate and organic carbon measurements for samples not close to the already published organic isotope samples. Additional samples from high carbonate content intervals were prepared and measured to determine the influence of low clay and organic content.¶

2.5.1 Analysis of major and trace elements¶

Aliquots of 100 mg were weighed into PTFE vessels. Each sample was treated with 2 cm³ ml HF, 2 cm³ ml HNO₃ and 3 cm³ ml HClO₄, sealed and heated for 8 hours at 185 °C. The acid was subsequently smoked off at 190 °C. The almost dry residue was dissolved again...

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2.7 Phosphorus speciation and analysis of major and trace elements

The distribution of major and trace elements and phosphorus speciation were determined on new samples from Core SN⁴, mainly taken close to the published organic stable isotope samples (Beil et al., 2018). Samples cover the interval between 42.11 m (Section 18, Segment 3, 23-24 cm) and 305.77 m (Section 111, Segment 2, 29-31 cm). The core was sampled every ~2.4 m with increased resolution of ~1.2 m over the global isotope excursions within OAE2 and the MCE. The surface of samples was cleaned with a metal-free porcelain knife and ground down with a rotary mill with agate balls to prevent metallic contamination. The powdered material was subdivided into aliquots for major and trace elements analysis and material for determination of phosphorus speciation. A further aliquot was used for carbonate and organic carbon measurements for samples not close to the already published organic isotope samples. Additional samples from high carbonate content intervals were prepared and measured to determine the influence of low clay and organic content.

2.7.1 Analysis of major and trace elements

Aliquots of 100 mg were weighed into PTFE vessels. Each sample was treated with 2 ml HF, 2 ml HNO₃ and 3 ml HClO₄, sealed and heated for 8 hours at 185 °C. The acid was subsequently smoked off at 190 °C. The almost dry residue was dissolved again in 1 ml HNO₃, smoked off and dissolved again in 5 ml ultrapure water and 1 ml HNO₃ to be heated again for 2 hours in sealed vessels. The solution was finally transferred and diluted with 10 ml HNO₃ in volumetric flasks. The solutions were measured with a VARIAN 720-ES ICP-OES for major elements and an Agilent Technologies 7500 Series ICP-MS for trace elements at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel. Accuracy for phosphorus concentrations based on repeated measurements of the standard MESS-3 (National Research Council of Canada) was 2.2 % (n=15). Precision based on duplicate measurements of samples was on average 0.9 % (n=15).

2.7.2 Phosphorus speciation

Samples for the measurement of phosphorus speciation were aliquots from samples used for the analysis of major and trace elements. A modified CONVEX extraction method (Oxmann et al., 2008; **Supplementary Material S6**) was used to extract Ca-bound and Al/Fe-oxyhydroxide bound phosphorus. The sample material (250 mg) was subsequently treated with 3.75 ml KCl/EtOH, decanted and supernatants discarded three times. Al/Fe-bound phosphorus was extracted from the centrifuged residue with the addition of first 3.75 ml NaOH/Na₂SO₄ (incubated for 1 h at 25 °C), then 3.75 ml NaOH/Na₂SO₄ (incubated for 2 h at 99 °C) and finally 7 ml Na₂SO₄. Solutions were centrifuged and decanted after each of the three treatment steps and stored for measurement. The centrifuged residue was decarbonated for 8 h with 3.75 ml H₂SO₄. The Ca-bound phosphorus fraction was extracted by adding further 3.75 ml H₂SO₄ (incubated for 2 h at 99 °C) and twice Na₂SO₄ (3.75 and 7 ml). Each of the three steps was followed by centrifugation and decanting of the solution. Supernatants of each step were again mixed and stored for measurements. Details are provided in **Supplementary Material S6.1**.

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590 For measurement of Ca-bound phosphorus, an aliquot of 0.1 ml was diluted with 4.9 ml MilliQ. Concentrations of Al-Fe-bound phosphorus were measured on 4.5 ml of sample solution equilibrated with the addition of 0.5 ml of sol7 (Supplementary Material S6.2) to pH of ~1. Concentrations of Al/Fe- and Ca-bound phosphorus were calibrated with the PO₄-Merck Standard (1000 mg PO₄/l) diluted to specific concentrations. The ammonium molybdate solution (0.1 ml; Supplementary Material S6.3) was added 30 min before measurements. For samples close to the photometric saturation level a new aliquot was diluted to lower concentration within the measurement range. A detailed list with used chemicals and respective concentrations is available in Supplementary Material S6.2.

595 The atomic ratio of organic carbon to P_{reactive} (defined as the sum of loosely absorbed, organic, authigenic and iron bound phosphorus) was interpreted by Anderson et al. (2001) as a proxy for marine paleoproductivity. Due to sink switching (transfer to different phosphorus pools) between the different phosphorus species, especially during early diagenesis, the authors assumed that phosphorus in the different pools was originally derived from the remineralization of organic material and could therefore be considered equivalent to P_{org}. Here, P_{react} is calculated by summing up the two CONVEX-derived P-pools CaP (seen as equivalent to P_{auth}) and AlFeP. Both loosely absorbed and organic P were not measured. It is assumed that the concept of Andersen et al. (2001) is applicable, as both extracted P-pools (CaP and AlFeP) contain the majority of P_{total} (mean = 89 %; Supplementary Material S7.1).

605 **2.7.3 Phosphorus and organic carbon accumulation rates in Core SN^o4**

Bulk sediment mass accumulation rates (MAR) were calculated by multiplication of linear sedimentation rates (LSR; derived from the age model of Core SN^o4) with an average dry bulk density (DBD) of 2.1 g cm⁻³. Mean density for the interval encompassing OAE2 (600-2000 kyr) in neighbouring Core S13 (Meyers et al., 2012a) is 2.08 g cm⁻³ (StDev 0.12 g cm⁻³). Phosphorus accumulation rates (PAR) were calculated by multiplying MAR with phosphorus concentrations from discrete measurements. Organic carbon accumulation rates (TOCAR) were calculated using the organic carbon concentrations from Kuhnt et al. (2017) and Beil et al. (2018).

3 Results

615 **3.1 Temporal evolution of bulk carbonate and organic carbon δ¹³C across OAE1a and OAE2**

The high-resolution δ¹³C record of OAE1a in Core LB3/LB1 allowed correlation to the Aptian isotope stages C2 to C8 proposed by Menegatti et al. (1998). We also identified prominent carbon isotope maxima a-c (following Voigt et al., 2007) in the SN^o4 record of OAE2. We determined five phases (precursor, onset, peak, plateau and recovery) in the δ¹³C records of both OAE1a and OAE2 (Figs. 2, 3 and Supplementary Material S8). The interval preceding both OAEs is characterized by a long-term mean without discernible trends and low variability. A precursor phase of two to four distinct δ¹³C minima (negative excursions) precedes the onset of the positive carbon isotope excursion (segment C3 of the Aptian carbon isotope curve of

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Menegatti et al., 1998). The onset phase encompasses the entire interval of increasing $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ towards the first prominent peak (peak a of OAE2 following Voigt et al., 2007). This interval corresponds to segment C4 of the Aptian carbon isotope curve of Menegatti et al., 1998. The peak phase is defined as the interval starting with maximal values (first peak) to the end of the second peak (peak b of OAE2 following Voigt et al., 2007). A characteristic plateau phase (interval of relatively constant $\delta^{13}\text{C}$) follows the second peak of the carbon isotope excursions (C6 and lower part of C7 of Menegatti et al., 1998). The recovery phase encompasses the return of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -values to background levels following the OAE excursions (upper part of C7 and C8 of Menegatti et al., 1998).

The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ decreases during the precursor phase have comparable amplitudes with 0.7 ‰ for OAE1a and 0.4 ‰ for OAE2 (Figs. 2 and 3). The most positive values of the OAE2 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ isotope excursion are reached at the first peak (peak a following Voigt et al., 2007) at 103.22 m with -24.2 ‰. By contrast, values continue to increase during OAE1a with highest values of 4.9 ‰ during the plateau stage at 40.11 m. The difference between the last minimum of the precursor phase and the first maximum (peak a for OAE2) of the peak phase is 2.4 ‰ for the carbonate $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record of OAE1a and 4.6 ‰ for the organic carbon $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record of OAE2. Considering the differing trend of OAE1a, with further increases during the plateau stage, the total amplitude of OAE1a is 3.6 ‰. Differences in mean values between the background levels before and after the OAE are 0.3 ‰ for OAE2 (from -28.5 ‰ (StDev 0.3 ‰) before to -28.2 ‰ (StDev 0.2 ‰) after OAE2) and 0.8 ‰ for OAE1a (from 1.9 ‰ (StDev 0.1 ‰) before to 2.7 ‰ (StDev 0.2 ‰) after OAE1a) indicating a general increase in background $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ after the OAEs.

3.2 Temporal evolution of bulk carbonate $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ across OAE1a and OAE2

The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ curves share common trends, except for the cyclic lithological changes in the upper part of the sedimentary record of OAE1a in LB3. Transient cooling events, identified by $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ increases in LB3/LB1 and SN⁴, occur during the early phases of both OAE1a and OAE2 (Figs. 2, 3 and Supplementary Material S9). A first prominent cooling event prior to the onset of OAE2 in Core SN⁴ (Kuhnt et al., 2017), which is not identified at other localities, was probably associated with local upwelling of cooler deep water masses in the Tarfaya Basin. Cooling during OAE2 occurred in three main steps, starting within the onset phase of the positive carbon isotope excursion. The most intense cooling, associated with the Plenus Cold Event, occurred during the peak phase of the excursion (in the trough between the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ peaks a and b). The Plenus Cold Event is globally recorded (e.g., Forster et al., 2007; Sinninghe Damsté et al., 2010; Jarvis et al., 2011; Jenkyns et al., 2017) and coincided with invasion of boreal species in the European Chalk Sea (Gale and Christensen, 1996; Voigt et al., 2003), extinction of the planktic foraminifer *Rotalipora cushmani* (e.g., Kuhnt et al., 2017) and re-oxygenation of bottom water masses (e.g., Eicher and Worstell, 1970; Kuhnt et al., 2005; Friedrich et al., 2006). OAE1a shows a similar response of global temperatures to enhanced organic carbon burial (Kuhnt et al., 2011; Jenkyns, 2018): the main $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ increase during the latter part of segment C4 in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ curve of Menegatti et al. (1998) also occurs during the onset phase. A further cooling event within segment C6 follows transient warming during the peak phase. Jenkyns (2018) recognized these transient coolings, also recorded in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean (Naafs and Pancost, 2016), Italy (Bottini et al., 2015), Turkey (Hu et al., 2012)

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and in the Pacific Ocean (Dumitrescu et al., 2006), as global events. Similarities in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records across both OAEs imply a similar response of the ocean-climate system to lowered atmospheric $p\text{CO}_2$ levels due to excess carbon drawdown associated with burial of vast amount of organic material on a global scale.

860 **3.3 Regional differences in terrigenous input during OAE1a and OAE2**

The different paleogeographic settings and depositional environments of the Tarfaya Basin (Core SN⁴) and South Provence Basin (Cores LB1 and LB3) result in important differences in terrigenous sediment input. The XRF-derived Log(Terr/Ca) (Fig. 2) in the Tarfaya Basin exhibits low variability throughout with lowest values during OAE2. By contrast, Log(Terr/Ca) (Fig. 3) shows higher amplitude variability during OAE1a. A major increase in Log(Terr/Ca) from -1.69 to -0.87 during the onset of OAE1a (68.09-67.99 m) indicates either a decrease in carbonate deposition or an increase in terrigenous input. Following this increase, the NGR and Log(Terr/Ca) records exhibit high amplitude and high frequency variability during C4 to C6 (26-23.29 m) and during the latter part of C7 and C8 (49.7-0 m) (Figs. 3, 4 and Supplementary Material S3.1).

3.5 Duration of OAE1a estimated from time series analysis of NGR and XRF-scanner data

The spliced NGR record of LB1 and LB3 across OAE1a was subdivided into five intervals of relatively consistent orbital periodicities (N1 to N5), based on EHA-analysis (Fig. 4, Supplementary Material S3). The recognition of cyclic patterns in the NGR record during OAE1a allowed correlation of major frequencies with orbital periodicities (Laskar et al., 2004, 2011a, 2011b) and calculation of mean sedimentation rates (Fig. 4, Supplementary Material S3.2 S3.3 and 5.2). Comparison with durations proposed by Malinverno et al. (2010) and Scott (2016) for the different C-stages of Menegatti et al. (1998) is shown in Table 2. A strong response to variations in obliquity and precession is evident in the latest part of stage C2, which precedes the onset of OAE1a (Fig. 4, Supplementary Material S3.1 and S3.2). The NGR and Log(Terr/Ca) time series (Fig. 4 and Supplementary Material S3.1) also exhibit precession-paced variations during the middle and later part of stage C7, and C8, which persist after OAE1a. This trend corresponds to pronounced lithological changes between carbonate-rich and clay-rich beds that are also apparent in the core images and the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{carbonate}}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ profiles (Fig. 3).

Sedimentation rates (Supplementary Material S3.3) increase from C3 and C4 (1.4 cm kyr⁻¹) to the recovery phase C8 (5.4 cm kyr⁻¹). The relatively stable ratio between terrigenous and carbonate content (Log(Terr/Ca)) suggests a continuous increase in both carbonate and terrigenous input (Fig. 3).

3.6 Duration of OAE2 estimated from time series analysis of NGR data

EHA-analysis of NGR data reveals a marked response to obliquity (mainly o1, 48 kyr) and short eccentricity (e2/e3, 100 kyr) during the positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion (Fig. 5). Following this interpretation, the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion of OAE2 in Core SN⁴ lasted for ~790 kyr including the recovery phase (~360 kyr without the recovery phase). The response to orbital forcing was more pronounced during the peak phase (~90 kyr) and the recovery phase (~440 kyr) than during the plateau phase (~200 kyr).

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Sedimentation rates before the onset of OAE2 **were** 8.2 cm kyr⁻¹, dropping to 4.1 cm kyr⁻¹ during the positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion and recovering to ~ 8 cm kyr⁻¹ in the upper part of the plateau phase (Supplementary Material S4.1), which is comparable to levels prior to OAE2.

Four $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ minima (precursor phase) occur over a period of ~ 130 kyr prior to the positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion of OAE2 (Fig. 2, Supplementary Material S4.1). The onset phase of OAE2 (~ 70 kyr), defined as the interval between the centre of the last $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ minimum and the first $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ maximum of OAE2, is subdivided into three phases: the initial steep increase lasted ~ 31 kyr, the intermediate plateau ~ 14 kyr and the final rise to the first peak (peak a of Voigt et al., 2007) of the carbon isotope excursion ~ 24 kyr. The time interval between the two maxima in $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ (peak phase) **was** ~ 90 kyr. The duration of the plateau phase defined as the period between the second maximum and the end of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ plateau **was** ~ 200 kyr. The recovery phase between the end of the plateau and the return to background values after OAE2 **lasted** ~ 440 kyr. A comparison with durations proposed by Li et al. (2017b) and Gangl et al. (2019) is provided in Table 3.

3.7 Comparison of the durations of OAE1a and OAE2

The precursor phase of OAE1a (C3 of Menegatti et al., 1998), which consists of an extended interval of low $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{carbonate}}$ (<1.75 ‰) and encompasses two prominent $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ minima (<1.5 ‰), **lasted** ~ 434 kyr. The precursor phase of OAE2 is characterized by **four** nearly equally spaced $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ minima (<28.5 ‰) and **lasted** ~ 126 kyr. The last two prominent minima immediately precede the onset of OAE2 and **lasted** for ~ 75 kyr. The onset phase of the positive isotope excursions **had** a duration of ~ 388 kyr for OAE1a (C4 of Menegatti et al., 1998) and ~ 68 kyr for OAE2. The peak phase **lasted** ~ 596 kyr in OAE1a (C5 and C6) and ~ 86 kyr in OAE2, the plateau phase **extended** over ~ 1343 kyr in OAE1a (C7) and ~ 204 kyr in OAE2 and the final recovery phase **had** a duration of ~ 377 kyr for OAE1a (C8) and ~ 435 kyr for OAE2. The precursor, onset and peak phases **were** consistently ~ 5 times longer in OAE1a than in OAE2, **whereas** the plateau phase **was** more than ~ 7 times longer. The recovery phases **had** the same duration for both OAEs, taking into account uncertainties in defining change points at the end of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion.

3.8 Sedimentary phosphorus

Total phosphorus (P_{total}) concentrations in Core SN^o4 (Fig. 6) are overall below 5 mg g⁻¹ except during two periods of enrichment peaking at 220.19 m with 16.61 mg g⁻¹ and at 104.4 m with 7.53 mg g⁻¹. Corresponding peaks in $P_{\text{total}}/\text{Al}$ give a weight ratio of 1.07 at 220.19 m and 1.20 at 104.4 m. Concentrations and variability of P_{total} are low in the lowermost (305–267 m) and uppermost (67.51–42.11 m) parts of the studied interval with means of 0.54 mg g⁻¹ (StDev 0.19 mg g⁻¹) and 0.86 mg g⁻¹ (StDev 0.3 mg g⁻¹), respectively. The origin of the phosphorus is difficult to assess, as the different species extracted are defined by the CONVEX method (Oxmann et al., 2008). Earlier studies found finely distributed fish debris and fecal pellets in Cenomanian sediments of the Tarfaya Basin (e.g., El Albani et al., 1999), partially reprecipitated as phosphate nodules during early diagenesis (e.g., Leine, 1986; Kuhnt et al., 1997). Phosphatic particles were not observed on the core surfaces and were

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not apparent in the XRF data of Core SN⁴. They were only encountered as minor components in the residues of micropaleontological samples. The dissolution of phosphorus fixed in iron-aluminum crusts and the degradation of organic matter followed by reprecipitation as calcium bound phosphorus further complicate reconstruction of the initial source of phosphorus.

3.9 Phosphorus speciation

Concentrations of reactive phosphorus (P_{react} ; Fig. 7) in Core SN⁴, calculated by summing up Al/Fe- and Ca-bound phosphorus, are on average ~89 % of the total phosphorus (P_{total} ; Figs. 6 and Supplementary Material S7.1) measured with ICP-OES. Organic-matter-bound phosphorus was not considered due to methodological limitations (Golterman, 2001) and to remineralization/precipitation (sink-switching) into more stable Al/Fe- and Ca-bound phosphorus species during early diagenesis. Differences between P_{react} and P_{total} are caused by not extractable phosphorus bound in insoluble minerals or adhesively bound phosphorus extracted and discarded during the first step with KCl/EtOH (Supplementary Material S6.1). Concentrations of phosphorus bound to aluminum- or iron-oxyhydroxides (AlFeP; Fig. 6) are low (median 0.014 mg g⁻¹). Increased concentrations (mean 0.027 mg g⁻¹) are determined for the lowermost interval between 305 and 272.58 m, followed by an interval with lower average concentration (mean 0.014 mg g⁻¹) and lower variability (StDev 0.006 mg g⁻¹) until 72.09 m. The uppermost interval is again characterized by increased variability (StDev 0.008 mg g⁻¹). Calcium-bound phosphorus (CaP; Fig. 6) is the dominant species in the studied interval of Core SN⁴. Concentrations are below 4 mg g⁻¹ except for two periods of enrichment peaking at 220.19 and 104.4 m with 15.76 and 6.62 mg g⁻¹, respectively. Both maxima coincide with maximum enrichment of total phosphorus. The redox influence on Al/Fe-bound phosphorus in Core SN⁴ is addressed in the Supplementary Material S10.

The atomic ratios of C_{org} and N_{total} against P_{react} show very similar trends except for the lower part between 305.77 and 258.35 m that is characterized in $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ by increased values (median 5.9) and in $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ by low values and low variability (median 77.6, StDev 34.9), albeit in an interval with low resolution (Fig. 7). Afterwards both ratios show similar characteristics of low values (median of $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 89.1 and of $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 3.5) and low variability (StDev of $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 67.1 and of $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 1.9) until 104.4 m, punctuated by short-lived maxima during the MCE (average of $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 170 and of $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 7.5). OAE2 is again characterized by markedly increased ratios (maxima of $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 1123.8 and of $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 29.6) and the uppermost part exhibits increased values (median of $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 242.6 and of $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ 7.3). The ratio of CONVEX-extracted AlFeP to P_{total} (Fig. 7) shows increased values (mean 0.058) in the lower part between 305 and 272.58 m followed by low ratios (mean 0.014) to the top of the sampled interval in Core SN⁴.

3.10 Temporal changes in P-species concentrations and accumulation rates

Two maxima in P_{total} in the Cenomanian interval of Core SN⁴ coincide with maxima in $P_{\text{total}}/\text{Al}$ (Fig. 6). The more prominent of these phosphorus enrichments (peaking at 220.19 m) precedes the onset of the MCE by ~3.04 m. The second maximum at

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| hat gelöscht: The overall low and nearly constant concentrations of Al/Fe-bound phosphorus in Core SN ⁴ (Fig. 6) imply either constant anoxic or euxinic conditions causing desorption of phosphorus bound to aluminium- and iron-oxyhydroxides during deposition or early diagenesis or early diagenetic conversion of Al/Fe-bound phosphorus into authigenic phosphorus-carbonates. Previous studies postulated that phosphorus burial might be enhanced under ferruginous conditions, which could possibly |
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104.4 m occurs during the onset phase of OAE2 and coincides with a transient $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ minimum, approximately halfway towards the first $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ maximum at 103.22 m (Figs. 6 and Supplementary Material S9.1).

The ratio of Ca-bound to Al/Fe-bound phosphorus (Fig. 6) is characterized by three prominent peaks at 220.19, 143.51 and 104.40 m. The maxima at 220.19 and 104.40 m also exhibit high P_{total} concentrations and $P_{\text{total}}/\text{Al}$ maxima. The first peak at 220.19 m precedes the first $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ increase of the MCE, and the second peak at 104.4 m occurs within the onset phase of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ excursion of OAE2. Both peaks of CaP/AlFeP and P_{total} coincide with minima in the $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{total}}$ -ratio (Supplementary Material S7.1), suggesting an inorganic source for phosphorus or enhanced recycling of organic carbon and reprecipitation of the organic-bound phosphorus as Ca-bound phosphorus.

The increase in the atomic $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{total}}$ -ratio (Supplementary Material S7.1) during OAE2 postdates the increase in the atomic $C_{\text{org}}/N_{\text{total}}$ -ratio, interpreted by Beil et al. (2018) as enhanced cycling of nitrogen rich organic matter within a dysoxic or anoxic water column. The increase in $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{total}}$ starts immediately above the prominent peak in Ca-/AlFe-bound and total phosphorus and coincides with the first $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ maximum of OAE2 (Figs. 6 and 7). The highest $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{total}}$ ratio is determined at 90.78 m within the plateau phase of OAE2. This peak coincides with minima in P_{total} and $P_{\text{total}}/\text{Al}$, implying remobilization either synsedimentary due to preferential recycling of phosphorus in the water column and/or in the sediment. This decrease in P_{total} -content is paralleled by a decrease in C_{org} (Fig. 6), suggesting enhanced remobilization of phosphorus as well as organic matter. The atomic ratios of $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ and $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ (Fig. 7) are always lower or close to the Redfield ratio (C:N:P = 106:16:1, Redfield, 1958, 1963), except during the MCE and OAE2, when $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ is equal to or higher than 106:1 and $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ is close to the predicted ratio of 16:1. Both ratios surpass predicted values at the first $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ peak of OAE2, decrease slightly during the Plenus Cold Event and show a large increase during the plateau phase. The remaining interval is characterized by increased values above background level as in the lower part of Core SN⁴ prior to the onset of OAE2.

Phosphorus accumulation rates (AR) decline during the onset, peak and plateau phase of OAE2 (Fig. 8) with P_{total} AR, P_{react} AR and CaP AR declining by ~75% and AlFeP AR by ~40%. Phosphorus accumulation recovers after the end of the plateau phase and increases for P_{total} by ~230%, for P_{react} and CaP by ~250% and for AlFeP by ~210%.

4 Discussion

4.1 Influence of paleogeographic setting and weathering regime

Changes in the weathering regime of the source area during OAE1a, as shown by the XRF-scanner derived Log(K/Al), influenced the sedimentary record of Cores LB1 and LB3 (Fig. 3). Increased Log(K/Al) and higher $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ suggest predominantly physical weathering and/or intensified erosion, characteristic for drier conditions, and/or markedly seasonal rainfall prior to OAE1a (C2 and early C3) (Figs. 3 and 4). A decrease in Log(K/Al), synchronous with a shift to carbonate-depleted sediments, indicated by Log(Terr/Ca), coincides with an increase in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ associated with the first transient cold event within the onset phase of OAE1a (C4). This major cooling event in the South Provence Basin was probably of global character (e.g., Jenkyns

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hat gelöscht: Fig. S17...upplementary Material S7.1) during OAE2 postdates the increase in the atomic $C_{\text{org}}/N_{\text{total}}$ -ratio, interpreted by Beil et al. (2018) as enhanced cycling of nitrogen rich organic matter within a dysoxic or anoxic water column. The increase in $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{total}}$ starts immediately above the prominent peak in Ca-/AlFe-bound and total phosphorus and coincides with the first $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ maximum of OAE2 (Figs. 6 and 7). The highest $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{total}}$ ratio is determined at 90.78 m within the plateau phase of OAE2. This peak coincides with minima in P_{total} and $P_{\text{total}}/\text{Al}$, implying remobilization either synsedimentary due to preferential recycling of phosphorus in the water column and/or at

hat gelöscht: are shown in... ..ig. 7) and compared to the respective Redfield ratio (Redfield, 1958; Redfield et al., 1963) representative of the mean composition of marine phytoplankton assumed to represent the main source of organic matter and sedimentary phosphorus to the sediments. Both ratios ...re always lower or close to the Redfield ratio (C:N:P = 106:16:1)

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535 2018). The covariance of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\text{Log}(\text{K}/\text{Al})$, in combination with published palynological and geochemical data (e.g.,
 Masure et al., 1998; Hochuli et al., 1999; Keller et al., 2011; Föllmi, 2012; Cors et al., 2015), suggests that the La Bédoule
 area was located at the northern edge of the subtropical high pressure desert belt and shifted into the northern hemisphere
 westerlies with increased rainfall during OAE1a. An equatorward contraction of the sub-tropical high-pressure belt also
 occurred in East Asia during the mid-Cretaceous warm period (Hasegawa et al., 2012). The paleo-location of La Bédoule
 540 (Cores LB1 and LB3) close to 30°N (Masse et al., 2000) would predispose the area for latitudinal changes of the Hadley cell
 with drier conditions in times of an expanded high-pressure belt and increased rainfall resulting from an equatorward contracted
 Hadley cell. Strengthening fluctuations between drier and wetter climate conditions are recorded during the onset, main and
 early plateau phase. After a stabilization during the plateau phase, wet conditions prevailed after OAE1a.
 The evolution of the weathering regime across OAE2 differed substantially in the Tarfaya Basin (Fig. 2), probably due to the
 545 lower paleolatitude and different paleoceanographic setting in a coastal upwelling area. The period prior to OAE2 was
 characterized by low sea surface temperatures and high mean $\text{Log}(\text{K}/\text{Al})$ exhibiting high variability, suggesting orbital forcing
 of a monsoonal hydrological cycle and weathering regime. A first prominent temperature decrease occurred during the late
 precursor and early onset phase of OAE2, similar to the global temperature decrease during OAE1a (Fig. 3; Jenkyns 2018). A
 shift to lower mean $\text{Log}(\text{K}/\text{Al})$, indicative of stronger chemical weathering and/or reduced monsoonal seasonality in the source
 area coincided with low sea surface temperatures during the precursor phase and suggests increased upwelling intensity and
 550 intensified monsoonal wind forcing. A shift back to higher $\text{Log}(\text{K}/\text{Al})$ indicating weaker chemical weathering in the source
 area occurred at the end of the plateau phase of OAE2. The main interval of OAE2 (onset, peak and plateau phase) was
 characterized by intense chemical weathering and a weaker response of the hydrological cycle to orbital forcing, suggesting
 that the hinterland of the Tarfaya Basin was more or less permanently under the influence of tropical convective rainfall. The
 555 recovery phase and the immediate post-OAE2 period was once more characterized by weaker chemical weathering and a
 stronger response to orbital forcing, typical for a monsoonal regime at the northern edge of the seasonal swing of the ITCZ.
 Persistently high temperatures (O'Brien et al., 2017) in the recovery and post-OAE2 phase, as indicated by low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in $\text{SN}^\circ 4$,
 suggest that the equatorward shift of the monsoonal zone and southward expansion of the high-pressure desert belt occurred
 during a period of global warming. Changes in the weathering regime during the carbon isotope excursion may, thus, have
 560 been linked to major fluctuations in atmospheric CO_2 associated with increased carbon burial and enhanced response to local
 insolation forcing in the late onset and peak phase of OAE2 (Fig. 5).

4.2 Definitions and durations of OAE1a and OAE2

The estimated durations of OAE1a and OAE2 depend on the definitions of the events (based either on the stratigraphic extent
 of organic-rich sediments or $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursions) and vary substantially from minimum estimates of 45 kyr for OAE1b to >3 Myr
 565 for OAE1a (Table 1). Whereas there is a broader consensus to define the duration of OAE2 as the entire interval between the
 onset of the positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion and the end of the recovery phase, the definition of OAE1a is commonly restricted to the

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Brassell, 2005, 2006; Dumitescu et al., 2006). Moreover, large areas of lower Cretaceous crust and sediments along the margins of the Pacific Ocean, which are likely candidates for organic matter-rich sedimentation, have been subducted, leaving less than 15 % of the lower Aptian ocean seafloor accessible today (Hay, 2007). Thus, we consider the record of global organic carbon burial documented by the positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion to be more representative for the duration of OAE1a than the stratigraphic extent of local black shales. However, this view strongly depends on the interpretation of globally elevated $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values as the result of enhanced organic carbon burial. We cannot fully exclude an influence of shallow marine and terrestrial carbonate cycles in maintaining elevated $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values in the marine dissolved inorganic carbon reservoir (Weissert et al., 1998). For example, an increase in the proportion of carbonate weathering, relative to organic carbon and silicate weathering, could have maintained long lasting positive excursions in marine $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ without substantially enhanced burial of organic carbon (Kump and Arthur, 1999).

Our estimated durations of OAE1a isotope stages agree with those of Malinverno et al. (2010) for the C6 to C8 stages (Table 2), but deviate from the reconstruction of Scott (2016). Minor differences with the estimates of Malinverno et al. (2010) are caused by differing definitions of boundaries between isotope stages in the Cismón core and the LB3/LB1 composite record and by different calculations of orbital periods. The plateau phase (C7) lasted for 1340 kyr in the LB3/LB1 record, in agreement with estimates of 1590 kyr by Malinverno et al. (2010) and of 990 kyr by Scott (2016). The duration of 315 kyr for stage C6 agrees with the 349 kyr estimate by Malinverno et al. (2010), but substantially differs from the 110 kyr proposed by Scott (2016). There are larger deviations from the estimates of Malinverno et al. (2010) and Scott (2016) for stages C5 and C4 in the LB3/LB1 record. Isotope stage C5 has a shorter duration of 280 kyr compared to 510 kyr, estimated by Malinverno et al. (2010) but agrees with the 210 kyr duration of Scott (2016). By contrast, the main increase of the positive carbon isotope excursion, corresponding to C4 (Menegatti et al., 1998), has a duration of 390 kyr in LB3/LB1, which is ~60 % longer than the estimate of 239 kyr by Malinverno et al. (2010) and ~140 % longer than the 160 kyr duration of Scott (2016). The duration of C4 in LB3/LB1 is interpreted as a response to long eccentricity (405 kyr). Strong eccentricity control during the precursor phase (C3) and during the onset phase (C4) is supported by EHA-analysis and power spectra (Figs. 4, Supplementary Material S3.1 and S3.2), suggesting that orbital eccentricity influenced the global carbon cycle and regional sedimentation. The largest differences are within the precursor phase (C3) with 440 kyr in LB3/LB1 and 46.7 kyr in the Cismón core reconstructed by Malinverno et al. (2010) and the 80 kyr estimate of Scott (2016), which is probably caused by hiatuses in the Cismón APTICORE record. Malinverno et al. (2010) and Scott (2016) did not rule out the occurrence of smaller sedimentary gaps in the OAE1a sequence of the Cismón core, which are not long enough to compromise the complete biostratigraphic succession reconstructed by Erba et al. (1999).

4.2.2 OAE2

The negative carbon isotope excursion at the onset of OAE2 is absent from many classic OAE2 sections in Europe and US Western Interior Basin due to the stratigraphic incompleteness of these records. The missing negative excursion is commonly

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Our estimated durations of OAE1a isotope stages agree with those of Malinverno et al. (2010) for the C6 to C8 stages (Table 2), but deviate from the reconstruction of Scott et al. (2016). Minor differences with the estimates of Malinverno et al. (2010) are caused by differing definitions of the boundaries between isotope stages in the Cismón core, and the in the higher resolution LB3/LB1 composite record and by different calculations of orbital periods. The plateau phase (C7) lasts for 1260 1340 kyr in the LB3/LB1 record, in agreementagreeing with estimates of the 1398 1590 kyr of by Malinverno et al. (2010) and of 990 kyr by Scott (2016)within the

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1895 associated with a short-term hiatus at the onset of the positive excursion, often expressed as a sharp lithological contact (base of the Bonarelli horizon in some of the Umbrian Scaglia sections (Italy) (Jenkyns et al., 2007; Batenburg et al., 2016) and sub-plenus erosion surface in the Eastbourne Section (UK) (Paul et al., 1999; Gale et al., 2005)). However, negative spikes preceding the onset of the positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion were documented in high resolution data sets, even in the relatively condensed Umbrian sections (e.g., Furlo section, Jenkyns et al., 2007) and in more expanded shelf sections at Wunstorf, northern Germany (Voigt et al., 2008) and Oued Mellegue, Tunisia (Nederbragt and Fiorentino, 1999). Records from expanded sections in Mexico (Elrick et al., 2009) and Japan (Nemoto and Hasegawa, 2011) also clearly exhibit the negative excursion. Recently, a high resolution $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record from the South Pacific Ocean and cyclostratigraphic age model based on magnetic susceptibility measurements indicated that the duration of the negative excursion was ~ 50 kyr (Li et al., 2017b; Gangl et al., 2019) and allowed correlation of the onset of the negative isotope shift with the beginning of LIP activity at $\sim 94.44 \pm 0.14$ Ma (Du Vivier et al., 2015). These estimates (Table 3) for the precursor phase agree with our new durations of 75 kyr for the last two prominent $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ minima in Core SN^o4. The onset phase lasted for 68 kyr in core SN^o4, broadly in agreement with 30 ± 13 kyr estimated by Gangl et al. (2019) for the Gongzha section (Tibet) and 110 ± 25 kyr for stage 3a in the Sawpit Gully section (New Zealand) of Li et al. (2017b). There is a larger discrepancy for the peak phase with 86 kyr reconstructed for the Tarfaya Basin and 170 ± 25 kyr or 200 ± 25 kyr for the sections in Tibet or New Zealand, respectively, possibly caused by undetected short-term sedimentation rate changes connected to climatic changes during the Plenus Cold Event. Estimates for the duration of the plateau and recovery phase vary widely between the three localities possibly arising from difficulties defining the inflection point at the beginning and end of the plateau phase. The plateau phase lasted for 204 kyr in the Tarfaya Basin, 370 ± 25 kyr in the Tibet and 660 ± 25 kyr in the Sawpit Gully section. The newly reconstructed duration of the recovery phase in the Tarfaya Basin is 435 kyr, contrasting the much shorter durations of the Gongzha (170 ± 25 kyr) and Sawpit Gully (40 ± 25 kyr) sections. The agreement in the cumulative length of plateau and recovery phase underlines the difficulties in the defining and reconstructing durations for the latest part of OAE2.

4.2.3. Amplitude of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursions.

1920 The amplitude of carbon isotope excursions is generally higher for organic matter than for bulk carbonate (Jenkyns, 2010). This is the case for OAE2 in the Tarfaya Basin, where the amplitude is ~ 4 ‰ for organic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and ~ 2.5 ‰ for carbonate $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ across the basin (Kuhnt et al., 1986, 1990, 2005, 2017; Kolonic et al., 2005; Tsikos et al., 2004). In the Tarfaya Basin, the high organic content is of marine origin and changes in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values, thus, mainly reflect global reservoir changes at intermediate values of local productivity (Van Bentum et al., 2012). However, marked regional differences in the amplitude of the organic and bulk inorganic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursions were also reported for OAE2 (Van Bentum et al., 2012; Wendler 2013; Kuhnt et al., 2017). Possible causes include local differences in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of dissolved inorganic carbon dependent on local productivity, oxygenation and diagenesis (Kuypers et al., 1999; Jenkyns, 2010; Van Bentum et al., 2012; Kuhnt et al., 2017). Similar differences in the amplitude of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursions are recorded for OAE1a; highest amplitudes reach or slightly exceed 4 ‰ in

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1970 both organic carbon and carbonate [from the western Tethys margin](#) (e.g., Menagatti et al., 1998), whereas at deep water localities with distinct black shale deposition of the Selli event the amplitude remains lower (~2.5 ‰, Malinverno et al., 2010). A long-term increase in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ over the Cretaceous and early Cenozoic was reported by Katz et al. (2005) and attributed to the evolution of large-celled phytoplankton and increased organic carbon burial efficiency in expanding depositional spaces (e.g., shallow shelves around the Atlantic), created during the rifting phase of the current Wilson cycle (Wilson, 1966; Worsley et al., 1986). Continuous removal of isotopically light organic carbon by deposition in shallow seas depleted the global carbon reservoir. The OAE1a and OAE2 records show differences in the background levels between the preceding intervals and after the terminations of both events with 0.8 ‰ in $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{carb}}$ for OAE1a and 0.3 ‰ in $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ for OAE2. An overall increase over OAE2 is also reconstructed for deposits of the English chalk (Jarvis et al., 2006). We assume that the long-term increase observed by Katz et al. (2005) was stepwise and to a large degree influenced by Cretaceous OAEs. The large-scale isotopic depletion of the global carbon reservoir accompanying these major disturbances of the global carbon cycle was not entirely compensated during the recovery phase and in the multimillion-year interval following these events inducing a long-term increase in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ during the Cretaceous.

hat gelöscht: Within the range of this high regional variability no systematic difference in the amplitude of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion between OAE1a and OAE2 can be recognized, which is remarkable, since this would also imply a similar amount of organic carbon removed from the ocean/atmosphere into the sedimentary reservoir.

1985 **4.3 Impact of orbital forcing on the evolution of OAE1a and OAE2**

The orbital configuration favouring enhanced marine biological productivity in low latitudes may have been different for OAE1a and OAE2. Recent studies (e.g., Batenburg et al., 2016; Kuhnt et al., 2017) tuned the onset of OAE2 to a 405 kyr eccentricity maximum that succeeded an extended period of low seasonality, caused by a 2.4 Myr eccentricity minimum, which would be associated with stronger obliquity forcing during the precursor phase. The much shorter onset phase of OAE2 suggests a faster and stronger response of the ocean-climate system to the carbon cycle perturbation, either related to a shorter and more intense initial carbon dioxide release or to different orbital configuration such as higher amplitude eccentricity cycles. Additionally, higher rates of sea level rise would [have promoted enhanced organic carbon burial in shallow shelf seas](#). These extensive dysoxic to anoxic shelf seas would [have favoured fast recycling of limiting nutrients, thereby enhancing primary production and further boosting organic carbon burial](#). Eccentricity control on both sea-level and organic carbon burial is also suggested by the ~90 and ~600 kyr durations of the peak phases of OAE2 and OAE1a (maximum organic carbon deposition and highest $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values) (Figs. 4 and 5).

hat gelöscht: The similarities in the general shape of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion of OAE1a and OAE2 (precursor, onset, peak and plateau phase) suggest similar forcing and response mechanisms. However, there are also remarkable differences in the amplitude and duration of individual phases: in particular, the higher amplitude and extended duration of the precursor phase (negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion preceding the onset of the positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursion) and the exceptionally long duration of the plateau phase of OAE1a, which in most classic localities is not associated with the deposition of organic carbon rich black shales ("Selli level"). The different durations of the precursor and plateau phases of OAE1a and OAE2 may have been linked to the magnitude and duration of the triggering volcanic exhalations. In addition, different orbital configurations may have influenced long-term marine organic carbon burial on a global scale. Furthermore, obliquity-forced intensification of monsoonal systems may have resulted in periods of enhanced tropical weathering associated with nutrient supply to the ocean and wind driven equatorial upwelling, which promoted carbon sequestration during the plateau and recovery phases. Periods of low 41 kyr variability in orbital obliquity (obliquity nodes), which occur every 1.2 Myr and are commonly associated with global cooling episodes in Cenozoic warm climate records (e.g., [Palike et al., 2006](#)), may have triggered interruptions or termination of globally enhanced carbon burial.

1995 [By contrast, a strong obliquity imprint is detected during the plateau phases \(Figs. 4 and 5\). A period of high amplitude obliquity forcing would have steepened the latitudinal temperature gradient and intensified atmospheric circulation \(Batenburg et al., 2016; Kuhnt et al., 2017\), thus helping to maintain elevated biological productivity in the tropical oceans. Obliquity-forced intensification of monsoonal systems may have resulted in periods of enhanced tropical weathering associated with enhanced nutrient supply to the ocean and wind driven equatorial upwelling, which promoted carbon sequestration during the plateau and recovery phases.](#) However, recycling of essential nutrients from buried sediments or release from new sources (e.g., flood basalts of LIPs) would have been necessary to maintain this new equilibrium state over extended periods of time.

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2035 The plateau stage lasted seven times longer during OAE1a than during OAE2, which excludes orbital forcing as a primary control on its duration. This is also supported by differences in the response to orbital forcing at the end of the plateau phases; precession and obliquity imprint during OAE1a contrast with a persistent obliquity signal during OAE2. In addition to precessional variability, changes in orbital obliquity were a critical forcing factor of climate oscillations during the recovery phase of both OAEs. Obliquity determines the summer intertropical insolation gradient, which was recently suggested as an important driver of changes in tropical and subtropical hydrology and sedimentation patterns (Bosmans et al., 2040 2015). An increased insolation gradient between the tropical summer and winter hemisphere during high obliquity leads to intensified atmospheric circulation within the Hadley cell, resulting in stronger cross-equatorial winds and intensified moisture transfer into the summer hemisphere. Continental climate proxy data and models suggest a contraction of the Hadley cell and a latitudinal shift of the subtropical high-pressure belt towards the equator during mid-Cretaceous super-greenhouse conditions (Hasegawa et al., 2012; Hay and Flögel, 2012). This climate scenario would have placed the hinterland of the Tarfaya Basin in the dry, hot subtropical desert climate zone during OAE2, whereas the La Bédoule area was likely influenced by the humid zone of the Northern Hemisphere westerlies during OAE1a. An increase of cross-equatorial winds and intensified rainfall at obliquity maxima would, thus, have affected the Tarfaya Basin by increasing upper ocean mixing and upwelling and the La Bédoule area by increased rainfall due to intensified westerlies. Periods of high amplitude 41 kyr obliquity variations last ~400-800 kyr and are separated by nodes of weak obliquity forcing with a duration of ~200-400 kyr (Supplementary Material S5.1, Laskar et al., 2004). During the recovery phase of OAEs, obliquity-forced low latitude climate oscillations may have led to periods of enhanced equatorial upwelling, which would have promoted carbon sequestration and, over several hundred thousand years, depleted the ocean's nutrient pool. A period of low variability in orbital obliquity (obliquity node), commonly associated with global cooling episodes in Cenozoic climate records (e.g., Pälike et al., 2006), may have ultimately terminated OAE1a and 2.

2055 4.4 Role of phosphorus recycling in maintaining high productivity during OAEs

Phosphorus is the primary limiting nutrient controlling marine biological productivity on longer (geological) timescales (e.g., Holland, 1978; Broecker and Peng, 1982; Smith, 1984; Codispoti, 1989) with the potential to control the occurrence of high productivity events (e.g., Föllmi 1996; Handoh and Lenton, 2003). By contrast to nitrate, which can be synthesized from atmospheric nitrogen primarily by cyanobacterial N₂ fixation under anoxic conditions (e.g., Rigby and Batts, 1986; Rau et al., 1987; Kuypers et al., 2004), the phosphorus supply to the ocean is restricted by riverine terrestrial input (Ruttenberg, 2003). This constitutes a limiting factor for increased marine primary productivity. Thus, alternative nutrient sources such as enhanced terrestrial input or recycling of marine sediments were necessary to sustain high primary productivity over the extended durations of Cretaceous OAEs (e.g., Nedebragt et al., 2004). C_{org}/P_{react} and N_{total}/P_{react} close to or above the Redfield ratio were measured within the MCE and OAE2 intervals, suggesting preservation of the initial atomic ratio of primary production, possibly even enhanced by a change in the phytoplankton community (Geider and La Roche, 2002) or depletion in P_{react}. Unusually high phosphorus values in the intervals preceding

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the MCE and during the onset of OAE2 ~~were~~ likely caused by starved sedimentation, which may be due to formation of hard grounds and condensed sections at sea-level high stands or winnowing of fine-grained sediment by intensified bottom currents. Regional changes in redox conditions towards anoxic or euxinic conditions in the lower water column would ~~have inhibited~~ fixation of remobilized phosphorus in authigenic CaP, ~~thus allowing~~ leakage of phosphorus into the water column, ~~and~~ resulting in ~~increased~~ sedimentary C:P and N:P. Intensification of oxygen depletion during the plateau phase of OAE2 is associated with increasing C_{org}/P_{react} and N_{total}/P_{react} due to reduced diagenetic phosphorus precipitation permitting phosphorus leakage from the sediment into the water column. ~~However, phosphorus~~ accumulation rates ~~started~~ to decline earlier during the precursor phase of OAE2. A trend to more reducing conditions during the plateau and recovery phase of OAE2 was also suggested by Kolonic et al. (2005), based on high accumulation rates of redox-sensitive elements. A similar sequence of events was reconstructed by Stein et al. (2011) for OAE1a in deposits from the Gorgo a Cerbara section (Umbria-Marche basin) in central Italy (~~Supplementary Material S11~~). Phosphorus accumulation and C_{org}/P_{total} increased during the precursor phase (C3 of Menegatti et al., 1998) and decreased during the onset phase (C4 of Menegatti et al., 1998), suggesting enhanced phosphorus recycling from the sediments, ~~as for~~ OAE2 in Core SN⁴ (~~Fig. 8 and Supplementary Material S11~~). Stein et al. (2011) also reported a minor increase of C_{org}/P_{total} at the base of the peak phase (C5+C6) and persistently high C_{org}/P_{total} during the late peak phase (C5+C6), ~~as for~~ OAE2 in Core SN⁴.

~~An earlier study by Poulton et al. (2015), focusing on Fe speciation proxies during the onset, peak and early plateau phase of OAE2 in nearby drill core S57, found cyclic variations between euxinic and ferruginous conditions. The stratigraphically extended interval (from the MCE to early Turonian) investigated at lower resolution by Scholz et al. (2019) is characterized by a high proportion of unpyritized reactive Fe in the total Fe pool. The results of this study are consistent with a proxy signature that is indicative of anoxic and non-sulfidic, so-called ferruginous, water column conditions throughout the studied interval (Poulton and Canfield, 2011). However, Scholz et al. (2019) argued that dissolved Fe (and hydrogen sulphide) concentrations in the water column of the Tarfaya system were unlikely higher than those observed in modern upwelling zones (e.g., Peru margin) on account the low terrigenous sedimentation rates and tropical weathering on the adjacent continent. Previous studies proposed that phosphorus burial might be enhanced under ferruginous conditions, implying a negative feedback for the oceanic phosphorus pool and primary production (e.g., März et al., 2008). However, Scholz et al. (2019) did not observe a close relationship between Fe and P burial, despite a ferruginous signature in the sediments, which supports the notion that dissolved Fe concentrations and rates of Fe oxide precipitation in the Tarfaya Basin were moderate and overall similar to modern upwelling systems (Wallmann et al., 2019).~~

The impact of oxygen depletion on the release of phosphorus into the water column was shown by recent studies on modern OMZs (e.g., Noffke et al., 2012; Schollar-Lomnitz et al., 2019) with implications for increased primary productivity through feedback mechanisms. Phosphorus recycling from the sediments may have sustained high primary productivity over extended periods of time, thus, contributing to the long duration of OAE1a and OAE2. Phosphorus remobilization under anoxic conditions from vast areas of flooded shelf sediments facilitated high organic carbon burial rates during the onset, peak and plateau phases of the three anoxic events, and may have acted as a positive feedback process, enhancing carbon burial and

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removal of light carbon isotopes from the marine dissolved inorganic carbon reservoir and resulting in positive carbon isotope excursions.

5 Conclusions

New high-resolution stable isotope and XRF-scanner data were integrated with published records from Cores LB₁ and LB₃ in the South Provence Basin (Lorenzen et al., 2013; Moullade et al., 2015) and from Core SN⁴ in the Tarfaya Basin (Kuhnt et al., 2017; Beil et al., 2018) to contrast the temporal evolution of two of the **most significant** Oceanic Anoxic Events: OAE1a and OAE2. The structure of the marine $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records suggests a similar evolution of the carbon cycle during both OAEs, although the duration of the individual phases differed substantially. Both OAEs exhibit negative excursions (precursor phase) with a duration of ~ 430 kyr (OAE1a) and ~ 130 kyr (OAE2), immediately preceding the onset of the positive carbon isotope excursion. The onset phases, lasting ~ 390 kyr for OAE1a and ~ 70 kyr for OAE2, **was** characterized by intervals of rapid $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ increase separated by small plateaus with slower $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ change. Prominent cooling events recorded as $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ increases started during the latest onset phase and extended into the peak phase (Plenus Cold Event during OAE2), which lasted ~ 600 kyr during OAE1a and only ~ 90 kyr during OAE2. The plateau phase extended over ~ 1340 kyr for OAE1a but lasted only ~ 200 kyr for OAE2. However, the durations of the recovery phases **were** similar with ~ 380 kyr (OAE1a) and ~ 440 kyr (OAE2). **The different durations of the precursor and plateau phases of OAE1a and OAE2 may have been linked to the magnitude and duration of the triggering volcanic exhalations. In addition, different orbital configurations may have influenced long-term marine organic carbon burial on a global scale.**

Phosphorus speciation data from Core SN⁴ in the Tarfaya Basin **provide new insights into the** dynamics of this essential nutrient **during the MCE and OAE2**. Phosphorus speciation shows a predominance of Ca-bound phosphorus surpassing concentrations of Al/Fe-bound P by one to two orders of magnitude. Phosphorus bound to Al- and Fe-oxyhydroxides is elevated during the early Cenomanian (305–273 m) in Core SN⁴, reflecting sedimentation in a shallower environment or less intensive redox-induced, early diagenetic cycling of iron oxyhydroxides. **Elevated ratios $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ and $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ during the MCE and OAE2 indicate a change in the water column towards more reducing conditions. Oxygen-free bottom water permitted the leakage of dissolved phosphorus from the sedimentary column and increased the ratios of C_{org} and N_{total} to P_{react} within the sediments. This change is apparently synchronous with enhanced organic carbon burial in the Tarfaya Basin. The delayed increase of $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ and $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ with respect to the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ increase suggests that the Cenomanian OAEs were not initiated by shelfal phosphorus remobilization. However, the coincidence of maximum organic carbon burial and highest $C_{\text{org}}/P_{\text{react}}$ and $N_{\text{total}}/P_{\text{react}}$ underlines the significance of phosphorus leakage from sediments for maintaining high organic carbon burial rates necessary to sustain globally recognized $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ shifts during OAEs over extended time periods.**

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Data availability

Newly acquired data from this study will be available at the Pangaea Data Repository.

2310 **Author contribution**

Sebastian Beil, Wolfgang Kuhnt and Ann Holbourn designed the study and wrote the manuscript. Wolfgang Kuhnt, Ann Holbourn and Mohamed Aquit planned and supervised the drilling of Cores LB1, LB3 and SN^o4. Data for this study were acquired by Sebastian Beil, Mohamed Aquit, Janne Lorenzen, Julian Oxmann, Florian Scholz, Klaus Wallmann, Ann Holbourn and Wolfgang Kuhnt. Time series analysis was performed by Sebastian Beil. El Hassane Chellai facilitated fieldwork and drilling. All authors read and provided comments on the manuscript.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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