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4 **A palaeogeographic context for Neoproterozoic glaciation**

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## 25 Abstract

26

27 The distributions of 77 Neoproterozoic glacigenic formations are shown on global  
28 palaeogeographic maps for 715 Ma (Sturtian), 635 Ma (Marinoan) and 580 Ma  
29 (Ediacaran), constructed on grounds independent of palaeoclimatic indicators. The  
30 meridional distribution of Sturtian and Marinoan deposits is biased in favour of low  
31 palaeolatitudes, whereas Ediacaran deposits are biased in favour of high palaeolatitudes.  
32 All carbonate-hosted glacigenic formations (n=22) fall within 35 degrees of the  
33 palaeoequator. Most (6 of 8) examples of periglacial polygonal sand-wedges occur at  
34 palaeolatitudes greater than 30 degrees, whereas most (8 of 9) occurrences of large syn-  
35 glacial Fe and Fe-Mn deposits lie within 30 degrees of the palaeoequator. Marinoan syn-  
36 deglacial cap dolostones (n=24) decline in maximum thickness with palaeolatitude,  
37 consistent with poleward ice retreat, normal meridional temperature gradients and a  
38 small-obliquity orbit. Meridional (N-S) mean orientations of giant wave ripples in  
39 Marinoan cap dolostones from different regions (n=10) and absence of zonal (W-E)  
40 orientations are consistent with zonal wind-driven waves and not with hurricanes. In  
41 general, the results support the validity of the palaeogeographic reconstructions and the  
42 pan-glacial character of Sturtian and Marinoan ice ages.

43

44 *Keywords:* Neoproterozoic; Palaeogeography; Snowball Earth; Banded iron-formation;  
45 Cap carbonate; Giant wave ripples.

46

## 47 1. Introduction

48

49 The hypothesis that Cryogenian glaciations (750-635 Ma) glaciations were more  
50 severe than any subsequent ones—possibly involving dynamic glaciers of global extent—  
51 rests heavily (but not exclusively) on palaeomagnetic data ([Embleton and Williams, 1986](#);  
52 [Kirschvink, 1992](#); [Schmidt and Williams, 1995](#); [Sohl et al., 1999](#); [Evans, 2000, 2003](#);  
53 [Trindade and Macouin, 2007](#)). For example, a pair of discrete glacigenic  
54 formations found along the margin of Laurentia from California to northwestern Canada  
55 were deposited close to the palaeoequator according to robust palaeomagnetic poles from  
56 mafic igneous suites precisely dated at 780, 723 and 615 Ma. Yet, there is confusion as  
57 well as uncertainty concerning the palaeogeographic context of the glacial intervals.  
58 Published general circulation models (GCMs), for instance, employ palaeogeographic  
59 models ranging from a polar supercontinent ([Hyde et al., 2000](#); [Peltier et al., 2004, 2007](#))  
60 to a band of fragmented low-latitude continents ([Goddéris, et al., 2003](#); [Donnadieu et al., 2004a, b](#)).  
61 With regard to the geochemical carbon cycle, the first palaeogeography should  
62 yield a globally warm climate ([Worsley and Kidder, 1991](#)) and the second a cold one  
63 ([Donnadieu et al., 2004a](#)).

64

65 [Evans \(2000, 2003\)](#), [Chumakov \(2004\)](#) and [Trindade and Macouin \(2007\)](#) have  
66 synthesized the stratigraphic, geochronologic and palaeomagnetic constraints on  
67 Neoproterozoic glaciations, which post-date the breakup of the Rodinia supercontinent.  
68 There were three main glacial episodes, commonly referred to in the current literature as  
69 Sturtian, Marinoan and Gaskiers (e.g., [Halverson, 2006](#)). Sturtian and Marinoan were  
70 originally defined as chronostratigraphic terms ([Mawson and Sprigg, 1950](#); see also

71 [Preiss, 1987](#)). Strictly speaking, the Sturtian ends stratigraphically well above the  
72 glaciogenic Sturt Formation and its correlatives. As originally defined, the Marinoan  
73 begins well below the glaciogenic Elatina Formation and continues to the end of the  
74 Precambrian. However, the internationally recognized Ediacaran and Cryogenian (when  
75 formally defined) periods will soon render Sturtian and Marinoan obsolete in their  
76 original meaning. Meanwhile, the terms have come to be used almost universally with  
77 reference to Cryogenian glacial periods of global or near global extent.

78  
79 This use has been criticized as amounting to a circular argument: global glaciation  
80 both depends upon, and is the justification for, the correlation of glacial deposits. This  
81 criticism is based on a misunderstanding. The case for global glaciation rests not on  
82 correlation, but on combined sedimentological and palaeomagnetic evidence that Sturtian  
83 and Marinoan ice sheets reached sea-level close to the palaeoequator ([Kirschvink, 1992](#);  
84 [Evans, 2000](#)), including areas where no mountains existed ([Hoffman, 2005](#)). This, and  
85 the occurrence of ice-proximal deposits conformably within thick marine carbonate  
86 successions ([Hoffman and Halverson, 2008](#); [Macdonald et al., 2009a](#)) proves that ice  
87 sheets flowed into the warmest parts of the surface ocean. If ice sheets existed at sea level  
88 in the warmest parts of the world, then higher latitudes and elevations must have been  
89 frozen as well. This, not correlation, is the rationale for global glaciation. Correlation  
90 follows from the premise; it is not a precondition.

91  
92 Gaskiers is the name of a mid-Ediacaran (582 Ma) glaciogenic formation in eastern  
93 Canada; it was never a chronostratigraphic term. Its global application is inadvisable  
94 because evidence for low-latitude glaciation at this time is weak. In this paper, we refer to  
95 the Gaskiers and other Ediacaran glaciation(s) as Ediacaran. We do not deduce that the  
96 Ediacaran glaciations were correlative although, for want of geochronological data, we  
97 plot them on a single palaeogeographic map.

98  
99 According to the best current geochronological data, Sturtian glaciation(s) occurred  
100 between roughly 726 and 660 Ma ([Bowring et al., 2007](#); [Fanning and Link, 2008](#)) and  
101 Marinoan between roughly 655 Ma and 635 Ma ([Condon et al., 2005](#); [Zhang et al., 2008](#)).  
102 There are unconfirmed reports of glaciation(s) between roughly 755 Ma and 726 Ma  
103 ([Frimmel et al., 1996](#); [Key et al., 2001](#); [Borg et al., 2003](#); [Xu et al., 2009](#)). We refer to  
104 these as pre-Sturtian.

105  
106 Recently, a new set of palaeogeographic models ([Li et al., 2008](#)) for the  
107 Neoproterozoic eon were generated as part of an international effort by the Tectonics  
108 Special Research Centre in Perth, Western Australia, established by the late Christopher  
109 McA. Powell. The reconstructions derive from a multi-disciplinary approach, utilizing  
110 geological provincial linkages, tectonostratigraphic correlations and the mantle-plume  
111 record, in addition to palaeomagnetic constraints (listed in Table 1 of [Li et al., 2008](#) and  
112 Table 1 of [Pisarevsky et al., 2008](#), with new data discussed in the next paragraph).  
113 Palaeomagnetic constraints are strongest for Australia and Amazonia in the Marinoan,  
114 and for Laurentia in the Sturtian and Ediacaran. Palaeogeographic maps representing 5-  
115 Myr time-slices were constructed by interpolation between palaeomagnetic and  
116 geological control points, including the Early Cambrian formation of Gondwanaland.

117 Importantly, the glacial record played no role in the reconstructions. In this paper, we plot  
118 the respective glacial deposits on palaeogeographic model maps for 715 (Sturtian),  
119 635 (Marinoan) and 580 (Ediacaran) Ma (Li et al., 2008). We do this as a means of  
120 comparing the three glacial episodes with each other and with other glaciations in Earth  
121 history. Further, we use specific aspects of the glacial-associated palaeoclimate record to  
122 test the palaeogeographic models themselves.

123

124 We use a revised position for East Svalbard, with respect to Laurentia, based on new  
125 palaeomagnetic results (Maloof et al., 2006). Otherwise, the model maps are the same as  
126 those in Li et al. (2008). The position of North Slope terrane of Arctic Alaska, rotated  
127 against the Arctic margin of Laurentia (Li et al., 2008), is challenged by new studies of  
128 its Neoproterozoic-Cambrian stratigraphy (Macdonald et al., 2009b). The Euler poles  
129 used in constructing the maps can be found in Appendix III of Li et al. (2008) and the  
130 Euler pole for rotating East Svalbard to Laurentia is situated at 81°S, 125°E with 68° of  
131 rotation (Maloof et al., 2006). For the 580-Ma model, we adopt the high-latitude option  
132 for Laurentia, consistent with recent palaeomagnetic results from the 590-Ma Grenville  
133 dykes (K. Buchan, unpublished data).

134

135 Following Hoffman (2009), we use the term "pan-glacial" for climate states in which  
136 continents at all latitudes have ice sheets but the extent of ocean ice-cover is unspecified,  
137 "snowball earth" for a pan-glacial state in which the oceans are covered by floating  
138 glaciers and "slushball earth" for one in which the oceans are mostly ice-free.

139

## 140 **2. Geochronology of Neoproterozoic glaciations**

141

142 We group Neoproterozoic glacial deposits into 77 formations on 22  
143 palaeocontinents (Table 1).

144

### 145 *2.1. Geochronology of Ediacaran glaciations*

146

147 Ediacaran glaciations are recognized on at least 8 palaeocontinents (Table 1, Fig. 1A),  
148 but only the Gaskiers Formation on the Avalon Peninsula of eastern Newfoundland,  
149 Canada, has been directly dated (Fig. 2). U-Pb zircon geochronology by isotope-dilution  
150 thermal-ionization mass spectrometry (ID-TIMS) of subaqueous volcanic tuff horizons  
151 below, within and above the glacial Gaskiers Formation constrains the onset of  
152 glaciation to post-date  $583.7 \pm 0.5$  (all ages cited with  $2\sigma$  uncertainties) and its termination  
153 to pre-date  $582.1 \pm 0.5$  Ma (Bowring et al., 2003; S.A. Bowring, pers. comm. 2006). The  
154 maximum allowable duration of the Gaskiers glaciation of 2.6 Myr makes it unlikely to  
155 represent a snowball earth because millions of years of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation  
156 would be required for its deglaciation (Walker et al., 1981; Caldeira and Kasting, 1992;  
157 Pierrehumbert, 2004). Accordingly, we cannot infer that Ediacaran glaciations on other  
158 palaeocontinents (Table 1) were synchronous with the Gaskiers glaciation.

159

### 160 *2.2. Geochronology of Marinoan (younger Cryogenian) glaciations*

161

162 Despite their great age, Marinoan glacial deposits are the most widespread in  
163 Earth history, occurring on at least 15 palaeocontinents (Table 1, Fig. 1B). The Ghaub  
164 Formation in Namibia is directly dated by U-Pb (ID-TIMS) at  $635.6 \pm 0.5$  Ma (Hoffmann  
165 et al., 2004), the Fiq Formation in Oman by the same method at  $640 \pm 10$  Ma (Bowring  
166 et al., 2007) and the Nantuo Formation in South China by 'sensitive high-resolution ion  
167 microprobe' (SHRIMP) at  $636.3 \pm 4.9$  Ma (S. Zhang et al., 2008). In South China, zircons  
168 from a tuff at the top of the syndeglacial 'cap' dolostone give a U-Pb (ID-TIMS) age of  
169  $635.2 \pm 0.4$  Ma (Condon et al., 2005), constraining the glacial termination, while a U-Pb  
170 (SHRIMP) age of  $654.5 \pm 3.8$  Ma (S. Zhang et al., 2008) from a tuff near the top of the  
171 Datangpo Formation, which underlies the Nantuo Formation, is interpreted as a  
172 maximum bound on the glacial onset (Fig. 3). Accordingly, the maximum duration of the  
173 Nantuo glaciation is 23.5 Myr. However, the Nantuo Formation itself appears to have  
174 been deposited over a much shorter time interval near the end of the glacial period (Fig.  
175 4). Glaciations on other palaeocontinents (Table 1) are correlated with the Ghaub and  
176 Nantuo glaciations based primarily on isotopic and lithological similarities between their  
177 respective 'cap' dolostones (Dunn et al., 1971; Kennedy et al., 1998; James et al., 2001;  
178 Allen et al., 2005a; Shields, 2005; Hoffman et al., 2007).

179

### 180 2.3. Geochronology of Sturtian (older Cryogenian) glaciations

181

182 Sturtian glaciation(s) was almost as widespread as Marinoan, being recognized on at  
183 least 14 palaeocontinents (Table 1, Fig. 1C). However, there is considerably more  
184 uncertainty regarding the number and duration of glacial episodes (Fig. 5). Syn-glacial U-  
185 Pb ages have been reported from three palaeocontinents:  $723^{+16/-10}$  Ma (SHRIMP) and  
186  $711.5 \pm 0.3$  Ma (TIMS) for the Gubrah Formation in Oman (Brasier et al., 2000; Bowring  
187 et al., 2007),  $686 \pm 4$  Ma (SHRIMP) for the Scout Mountain Member of the Pocatello  
188 Formation in southern Idaho, USA (Fanning and Link, 2008),  $685 \pm 7$  and  $684 \pm 4$  Ma  
189 (SHRIMP) from the Edwardsburg Formation of central Idaho, USA (Lund et al., 2003),  
190 and  $659.7 \pm 5.3$  Ma for the Wilyerpa Formation in South Australia (Fanning and Link,  
191 2008). The minimum 56-Myr spread between these ages has understandably caused many  
192 to question the existence of a single synchronous glaciation during this interval.  
193 However, some of the ages themselves are open to question. Zircons from the Gubrah  
194 Formation dated at  $723^{+16/-10}$  Ma could be detrital in origin (Brasier et al., 2000) and  
195 were extracted from the same horizon subsequently dated more precisely at  $711.5 \pm 0.3$   
196 Ma (Bowring et al., 2007). The  $686 \pm 4$  Ma age for the Scout Mountain Member (Fanning  
197 and Link, 2008) is from a sample reported earlier as  $709 \pm 4$  Ma (Fanning and Link, 2004)  
198 that is not exposed in contact with glacial strata. The ages from central Idaho (Lund et  
199 al., 2003) come from a tectonized paraconglomerate within a roof pendant of the Idaho  
200 Batholith (Cretaceous) and its glacial origin is unproved. The  $659.7 \pm 5.3$  Ma age from  
201 South Australia (Fanning and Link, 2008) is from a silt- and sand-dominated unit  
202 (Wilyerpa Formation) with rare limestones that separates glacial diamictites of the  
203 Sturt Formation from thick transgressive shale of the Tapley Hill Formation. Strictly  
204 speaking, it represents a minimum age constraint on the Sturtian glaciation, but would be  
205 close to the glacial termination in age if the Tapley Hill transgression is related to  
206 glacioeustatic flooding. A Re-Os isochron age of  $643 \pm 2.4$  Ma (Kendall et al., 2006) was  
207 obtained from black shale of the Tindelpina Member at the base of the Tapley Hill

208 Formation and an age of  $657.2 \pm 5.4$  Ma (Kendall et al., 2006) by the same method was  
 209 determined for the broadly correlative Aralka Formation in the subsurface of central  
 210 Australia. The age of  $659.7 \pm 5.3$  Ma (Fanning and Link, 2008) for the Sturtian glacial  
 211 termination leaves little time for the deposition of thick shelfal successions found  
 212 between the Sturtian and Marinoan glaciations in Australia and elsewhere. In northern  
 213 Namibia, for example, the Chuos and Ghaub formations (Table 1) are separated by 500-  
 214 800 m of platformal carbonate strata.

215

216 We consider the Gubrah age of  $711.5 \pm 0.3$  Ma (Bowring et al., 2007) to be the the best  
 217 currently available for Sturtian glaciation, but acknowledge that multiple and/or a very  
 218 prolonged ( $\geq 53$  Myr) glaciation cannot be ruled out. We take  $726 \pm 1$  Ma (Bowring et al.,  
 219 2007) and  $659.7 \pm 5.3$  Ma (Fanning and Link, 2008) as the best maximum and minimum  
 220 constraints, respectively.

221

222 The case for pre- $726 \pm 1$  Ma glaciation rests on the validity and stratigraphic  
 223 interpretation of a U-Pb (SHRIMP) age of  $752 \pm 6$  Ma (Borg et al., 2003) from the Port  
 224 Nolloth Group of southwest Namibia, a similar age of  $735 \pm 5$  Ma (Key et al., 2001) from  
 225 the Katanga Supergroup of Zambia, and a Pb-Pb zircon evaporation age of  $741 \pm 6$  Ma  
 226 (Frimmel et al., 1996) from the Rosh Pinah Formation of southwest Namibia. The  
 227 structural geology in both areas is complex and primary stratigraphic relations between  
 228 glacial units and the dated horizons require further study. Recently, U-Pb (SHRIMP)  
 229 ages of  $740 \pm 7$  and  $725 \pm 10$  Ma (Xu et al., 2009) were obtained from volcanic beds within  
 230 diamictites of the Bayisi Formation of northwest China. A glacial origin for the Bayisi  
 231 diamictites remains uncertain (Norin, 1937; Xiao et al., 2004; Xu et al., 2009).

232

### 233 3. Palaeogeography of Neoproterozoic glaciations

234

235 In Fig. 6, we plot the locations (stars) of established glacial formations (Table 1)  
 236 on the palaeogeographic model maps for 580, 635 and 715 Ma (Li et al., 2008). The stars  
 237 are colour-coded according to the dominant sedimentary lithology of the immediate pre-  
 238 glacial succession: blue for carbonate, green for mixed carbonate-siliciclastic, yellow for  
 239 siliciclastic, and white for volcanic successions or where there is a major hiatus beneath  
 240 the glacial formation. Stars with heavy black outlines indicate glacial formations  
 241 containing polygonal sand wedges and stars outlined in red connote formations  
 242 containing synglacial sedimentary iron- or iron-manganese deposits.

243

244 The lithologic character of pre-glacial successions provides an independent test of the  
 245 palaeogeographic reconstructions (Li et al., 2008). Because of the 'reverse' solubility of  
 246  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and  $(\text{CaMg})\text{CO}_3$  (i.e., degree of saturation decreases with cooling and pressure,  
 247 and increases with warming), Phanerozoic shallow-water carbonate deposition occurred  
 248 mainly within  $35^\circ$  of the palaeoequator (Blackett, 1961; Opdyke, 1962; Briden and  
 249 Irving, 1964; Briden, 1970; Ziegler et al., 1984; Kiessling, 2001), the same as in the  
 250 Recent (Rodgers, 1957). This was particularly true for non-skeletal carbonates (Opdyke  
 251 and Wilkinson, 1990); so-called 'cool-water' carbonates depend on the ability of certain  
 252 skeletal animals, notably bryozoans and certain molluscs and foraminifers, to precipitate  
 253 carbonate from undersaturated waters. The meridional range of shallow-water carbonates

254 did not vary perceptibly between warm and cool periods of the Phanerozoic (KieSSLing,  
 255 2001). This is because the distribution of carbonate deposition depends on the relative,  
 256 not the absolute, temperature, and perhaps also because the flux of alkalinity into the  
 257 ocean (which ultimately drives carbonate production) was augmented by glacial action  
 258 during cool periods, when rainfall and therefore weathering rates were somewhat  
 259 diminished.

260

261 The occurrence of Neoproterozoic carbonate-dominated and mixed carbonate-  
 262 siliciclastic successions at palaeolatitudes  $<35^\circ$  (Fig. 6) validates the palaeogeographic  
 263 reconstructions for 715, 635 and 580 Ma (Li et al., 2008). And it provides additional  
 264 support for a poleward decrease in palaeotemperatures and therefore a low-obliquity  
 265 orbital configuration (Evans, 2006). As expected, siliciclastic-dominated sequences occur  
 266 at all palaeolatitudes (Fig. 6).

267

### 268 *3.1. Meridional distribution of glacial formations*

269

270 Evans (2000, 2003) gives histograms of the frequency of occurrence of glacial  
 271 formations over time as a function of palaeomagnetically-constrained palaeolatitude. The  
 272 histograms are limited by the relatively small number of reliable palaeomagnetic  
 273 determinations for Proterozoic glacial formations. In Fig. 7, we plot histograms of  
 274 Neoproterozoic glacial formations as a function of palaeolatitude based on the  
 275 palaeogeographic maps (Fig. 6) compiled by Li et al. (2008). Although the maps are  
 276 subject to numerous uncertainties, the histograms nonetheless reveal striking differences  
 277 between the Cryogenian and Ediacaran glaciations.

278

279 Sturtian and Marinoan glacial formations plot disproportionately at middle and  
 280 low palaeolatitudes ( $<45^\circ$ ), with maxima at equatorial palaeolatitudes ( $<15^\circ$ ). None are at  
 281 palaeolatitudes  $>60^\circ$ . According to Li et al. (2008), only West Africa (at 715 Ma) and  
 282 Baltica (at 635 Ma) had as much as half their respective areas at latitudes  $>60^\circ$ .  
 283 Nevertheless, the sparse distribution of glacial deposits on the most poleward  
 284 continents may reflect conditions so cold and dry that ice sheets failed to thicken  
 285 sufficiently to be dynamic and transport rock debris. The 635 Ma distribution (Fig. 7B)  
 286 displays a secondary minimum in the subtropics, similar to the distribution of  
 287 precipitation minus evaporation related to the Hadley circulation, a not unreasonable  
 288 predictor of ice-sheet mass-balance on an ice-covered planet.

289

290 The distribution of Ediacaran glacial formations (Fig. 7A) is quite different. They  
 291 occur disproportionately at high palaeolatitudes ( $>45^\circ$ ). This reflects the preponderance  
 292 of high-latitude palaeocontinents and is consistent with regional-scale glaciation like the  
 293 late Paleozoic and late Cenozoic. However, there are also four purported glacial  
 294 formations at low palaeolatitudes, two of which occur in carbonate-bearing successions.  
 295 The Luoquan Formation, on the southern margin of the North China craton bordering the  
 296 Qinling orogenic belt (early Mesozoic), includes ice-contact tillites, glaciomarine  
 297 diamictites, rhythmites with dropstones, outwash conglomerates and sandstones, and  
 298 striated pavements and clasts (Guan et al., 1986). However, direct palaeomagnetic  
 299 constraints are lacking (Zhang et al., 2006) and the palaeolatitude of the Luoquan

300 glaciation could be greater than shown in Fig. 6. The Croles Hill diamictite in  
301 northwestern Tasmania occurs within a succession of mafic and felsic terrestrial  
302 volcanics (Calver et al., 2004). Diamictites are notoriously difficult to interpret in such  
303 settings because of the many volcanic-related processes that can produce matrix-  
304 supported diamictites (e.g., lahars) and because of the potential for mountain glaciers  
305 unrelated to global temperature minima. However, the proximity of its age of 582 Ma to  
306 that of the Gaskiers glaciation (Fig. 2) suggests that it did form at a time of glaciation.  
307 Perhaps the best candidates for low-latitude Ediacaran glaciation are the carbonate-  
308 associated Egan (Corkoran and George, 2001) and Hankalchough (Xiao et al., 2004)  
309 glaciations.

310

### 311 3.2. Polygonal sand-wedges

312

313 Polygonal fracture networks caused by thermal contraction cracking of frozen ground  
314 form poleward of 17° latitude on Earth and Mars today (Leffingwell, 1915; Lachenbruch,  
315 1962; Black, 1976; Mellon, 1997). In the Neoproterozoic, periglacial sand-wedges occur  
316 in the Sturtian Port Askaig Formation (Spencer, 1971), the Marinoan Wilsonbreen  
317 (Chumakov, 1968; Harland et al., 1993), Smalfjord (Edwards, 1975), Jbéliat (Deynoux,  
318 1982), Elatina (Williams and Tonkin, 1985; Williams, 1986, 2000; Schmidt and  
319 Williams, 1995), Storeelv (Hambrey and Spencer, 1987) and Bakoye (Deynoux et al.,  
320 1989) formations, and in the Ediacaran Moelv (Nystuen, 1976) and Luoquan (Guan et al.  
321 1986) formations. These formations are identified on the palaeogeographic maps (Fig. 6)  
322 as stars with heavy black lines. With two exceptions, they all occur at palaeolatitudes  
323 greater than 30°, consistent with seasonal temperature change as the ultimate cause of the  
324 thermal stresses.

325

326 One exception is the Marinoan Elatina glaciation (Fig. 6B) in South Australia, where  
327 a permafrost block field, developed on Mesoproterozoic quartzite on the Stuart Shelf of  
328 the Gawler Craton, is overlain by a synglacial aeolian sand sheet, the Whyalla Formation  
329 (Williams, 1998). Wedges composed of Whyalla sandstone taper downwards into the  
330 block field to an average depth of ~2.5 m and a second generation of wedges is  
331 developed within the sand sheet near its base (Williams and Tonkin, 1985; Williams,  
332 1986). Reliable palaeomagnetic data from the Elatina Formation and its cap dolostone,  
333 the Nuccaleena Formation, place the sand-wedges at less than 15° palaeolatitude  
334 (Embleton and Williams, 1986; Schmidt and Williams, 1995; Sohl et al., 1999; Raub and  
335 Evans, 2006). Because seasonality close to the equator is weak with small orbital  
336 obliquity, the existence of the Elatina sand-wedges provides empirical support for the  
337 hypothesis that preferential low-latitude glaciation in the Neoproterozoic was a response  
338 to a large orbital obliquity at that time (Williams, 1975; Schmidt and Williams, 1995;  
339 Williams, 2000). The large-obliquity hypothesis, which requires a rapid decrease in  
340 obliquity before the Cambrian, has been criticized on the grounds of orbital mechanics  
341 (Néron de Surgy and Laskar, 1997; Pais et al., 1999) and the meridional distribution of  
342 climate-sensitive sedimentary indicators (Evans, 2006; see also sections 3.0 and 4.1 of  
343 this work). Alternatively, Maloof et al. (2002) suggest that the Elatina sand-wedges  
344 formed in permanently frozen ground as a result of diurnal temperature oscillations, with



345 the depth of crack propagation greatly exceeding the depth of the thermal fluctuations  
346 because of extremely brittle soil behaviour under the conditions of a snowball earth.

347

348 The other exception is the Ediacaran Luoquan Formation (Fig. 6A) in North China,  
349 where wedges of fine gravel and sand ~1.0 m deep are described in one section (Guan et  
350 al., 1986). As the Ediacaran glaciation is unlikely to have been a snowball earth because  
351 of its short duration (Fig. 2), the explanation of Maloof et al. (2002) should not apply.  
352 The Ediacaran palaeolatitude of North China is not well constrained (Zhang et al., 2006),  
353 however, and may have been greater than shown in Fig. 6.

354

### 355 3.3. *Syn-glacial iron- and iron-manganese formations*

356

357 The occurrence of extensive Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-MnO<sub>2</sub> deposits, uniquely associated in  
358 the post-Palaeoproterozoic sedimentary record with Cryogenian glaciomarine deposits,  
359 has long been viewed as supporting the existence of an ice-covered ocean (Martin, 1965;  
360 Kirschvink, 1992; Klein and Beukes, 1993; Canfield and Raiswell, 1999; Hoffman and  
361 Schrag, 2002; Klein and Ladeira, 2004; Kump and Seyfried, 2005). Even assuming that  
362 air-sea gas exchange through cracks in dynamic sea-ice maintained equilibrium with  
363 respect to CO<sub>2</sub> on geological time-scales, the rate of O<sub>2</sub> uptake was likely insufficient to  
364 offset O<sub>2</sub> consumption related to the discharge of reduced species at hydrothermal vents.  
365 Consequently, deep waters would become anoxic, allowing reduced Fe to be transported  
366 widely in solution. Fe-rich waters would be possible if H<sub>2</sub>S production was low because  
367 of diminished input of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> from the glaciated continents (Raiswell and Canfield, 1999)  
368 and because of lowered S:Fe ratios in hydrothermal vent fluids due to the fall in  
369 hydrostatic pressure resulting from glacioeustatic drawdown (Kump and Seyfried, 2005;  
370 Hoffman et al., 2007, Hoffman, 2008). Canfield et al. (2008) have recently suggested that  
371 ocean deep waters were Fe-rich during most of late Neoproterozoic time, but this begs  
372 the question why no banded Fe-formations occur in non-glacial sequences of that age.

373

374 The occurrence of Fe- and Fe-Mn-deposits within glaciomarine sequences, including  
375 ice-proximal sequences (Martin, 1965; Whitten, 1970; Young, 1976; Klein and Beukes,  
376 1993; Trompette et al., 1998; Klein and Ladeira, 2004), suggests that precipitation of the  
377 Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> precursor and MnO<sub>2</sub> occurred close to ice grounding-lines. The O<sub>2</sub> responsible for  
378 their precipitation could have been supplied by subglacial meltwater discharges  
379 (Hoffman, 2005), assuming that the contemporary atmosphere and therefore air bubbles  
380 in glacial ice contained significant concentrations of O<sub>2</sub>. If atmospheric O<sub>2</sub> was drawn  
381 down during glaciation by subaerial volcanic emissions, then hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)  
382 entrained in glacial ice as a result of ultra-violet irradiation could have supplied the  
383 oxidant for Fe- and Fe-Mn deposits (Liang et al., 2006).

384

385 Sedimentary Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> deposits occur within the Sturtian Rapitan and Surprise  
386 diamictites of the North American Cordillera, the Kaigas of Namibia and the Tany of the  
387 Urals; Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + MnO<sub>2</sub> deposits within the Sturtian Sturt, Chang'an and Chuos diamictites  
388 of Australia, South China and Namibia, respectively, and the Marinoan Puga diamictite  
389 of Brazil. Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> deposits also occur in the glacial Rizu Formation of central Iran. Its  
390 age is uncertain but we tentatively assign it to the Marinoan because of the presence of a

391 cap dolostone that is strongly depleted in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  (Kianian and Khakzad, 2008). Eight of  
 392 the nine deposits lie within  $30^\circ$  and half within  $15^\circ$  of the palaeoequator (Fig. 6). Thus  
 393 they all occur where subglacial meltwater production should have been greatest.  
 394 Although local sources of volcanogenic Fe have been invoked by some authors (Young,  
 395 1976, 2002), volcanic rocks are rare or absent in the glacial formations hosting Fe or  
 396 Fe-Mn deposits. No Fe or Fe-Mn deposits are associated with Ediacaran glaciations,  
 397 consistent with a limited extent of sea-ice at that time.

398

### 399 *3.4. Syn-glacial sand seas*

400

401 Marinoan syn-glacial aeolian sand seas (ergs) are well described by Deynoux et al.  
 402 (1987) from the Bakoye Formation of Mali and by Williams (1998) from the Whyalla  
 403 Sandstone (Elatina glaciation) of South Australia (Fig. 6B). Reliable palaeomagnetic data  
 404 place the Elatina within  $15^\circ$  of the palaeoequator (Embleton and Williams, 1986; Schmidt  
 405 and Williams, 1995; Sohl et al., 1999; Raub and Evans, 2006), in the northern  
 406 hemisphere in conventional reconstructions (Williams, 1998; Li et al., 2008). There are  
 407 no reliable Cryogenian palaeomagnetic data for West Africa and its declination and  
 408 palaeolatitude  $\sim 40^\circ$  S (Fig. 6B) rest on the questionable assumption that the Rockelide  
 409 orogen connecting it to Amazonia was sutured by 635 Ma (Li et al., 2008).

410

411 Palaeowind directions inferred from aeolian foreset inclinations were from the  
 412 northwest in South Australia (Williams, 1998) and southeast in Mali (Deynoux et al.,  
 413 1989) assuming the reconstruction (Fig. 6B) to be correct. Neither wind direction would  
 414 be predicted from the palaeogeography. Easterly trade winds would be predicted for  
 415 tropical South Australia given open water to the east; mid-latitude westerlies would be  
 416 predicted for West Africa given open water in that direction (Fig. 6B). We tentatively  
 417 suggest that katabatic winds prevailed in both areas and that their directions were dictated  
 418 by the descent of cold air off the adjacent ice sheets, which were centered over  
 419 northwestern Australia (Perry and Roberts, 1968; Preiss, 1987) and northern West Africa  
 420 (Deynoux et al., 1989), respectively.

421

## 422 **4. Palaeogeography of post-glacial cap carbonates**

423

### 424 *4.1. Syn-deglacial 'cap dolostones'*

425

426 A unique feature of the Marinoan glaciation was the deposition globally of  
 427 transgressive 'cap dolostones' (Kennedy, 1996) during the glacioeustatic flooding of  
 428 continental margins and inland seas as ice-sheets receded (Hoffman et al., 2007). These  
 429 pale yellowish or pinkish dolostones are typically well-laminated and were deposited as  
 430 sand- and silt-sized peloids and micropeloids (James et al., 2001; Xiao et al., 2004).  
 431 Characteristic sedimentary structures include low-angle cross-lamination, giant wave  
 432 ripples (Allen and Hoffman, 2005a) and stromatolite bioherms containing 'geoplumb'  
 433 (paleovertical) tubes filled by laminated micropeloidal sediment and/or void-filling  
 434 cement (Cloud et al., 1974; Corsetti and Grotzinger, 2005). Cap dolostones in West  
 435 Africa and South China are top-truncated by subaerial exposure surfaces and contain  
 436 'tepee' structures and 'tepee breccias' (Assereto and Kendall, 1971, 1977; Kendall and

437 Warren, 1987) with early diagenetic crustose barite cement (Jiang et al., 2006; Shields et  
 438 al., 2007a, b). The lack of accommodation space in West Africa and South China likely  
 439 stems from an absence of tectonic subsidence during the glacial period (Hoffman and  
 440 Schrag, 2002). Cap dolostones have a global average thickness of ~18 m and their  
 441 deposition on the timescale of ice-sheet melting implies sedimentation rates on the order  
 442 of 1.0 cm.yr<sup>-1</sup> (Hoffman et al., 2007). The alkalinity flux responsible for cap dolostone  
 443 sedimentation is attributed to carbonate weathering (Higgins and Schrag, 2003)  
 444 augmented by glacioeustatic effects on carbonate saturation (Kennedy, 1996; Ridgwell et  
 445 al., 2003), and anaerobic methane oxidation (Kennedy et al., 2001). Transgressive cap  
 446 carbonates, as distinct from high-stand cap carbonates, are not found above Sturtian  
 447 glacial deposits, suggesting that critical oversaturation was not achieved until after  
 448 those ice-sheets had completely disappeared (Hoffman and Schrag, 2002).

449

450 In Fig. 8, we plot the thickness of Marinoan cap dolostones (based on data compiled  
 451 in Table 1 of Hoffman et al., 2007) as a function of palaeolatitude. Despite considerable  
 452 scatter, there is a discernable correlation of maximum thickness with palaeolatitude. All  
 453 those thicker than 12 m, ranging from 24 to 175 m, were deposited at palaeolatitudes  
 454 lower than 27°. Conversely, all those deposited at palaeolatitudes higher than 37° are less  
 455 than 6 m thick. The correlation could be explained in different ways. First, the rate of  
 456 sedimentation and therefore the thickness should be a function of temperature because of  
 457 the temperature-dependence of dolomite (or calcite) saturation: the stronger dependence  
 458 on pressure would not be a factor for these shallow-water deposits. Second, on the  
 459 assumption that ice-sheets receded poleward during deglaciation, middle-latitude areas  
 460 should have been ice-free for a shorter time interval before the end of the glacioeustatic  
 461 transgression compared with low-latitude areas. This effect should have been particularly  
 462 important given the absence of high-latitude continents in the Cryogenian (Fig. 6). And  
 463 third, the ice-free fraction of the glacioeustatic rise should have been greatest close to the  
 464 palaeo-equator, thereby maximizing accommodation at low latitudes and minimizing it at  
 465 high latitudes.

466

467 According to all three explanations, the observed correlation (Fig. 8) argues against a  
 468 reverse meridional temperature gradient (i.e., equator colder than the poles) due to large  
 469 orbital obliquity, hypothesized to account for low-latitude glaciation (Williams, 1975;  
 470 Williams and Schmidt, 2004). Our data therefore support the conclusion of Evans (2006),  
 471 based on the palaeolatitudes of evaporite deposits over geologic time, that the Earth has  
 472 had a normal meridional temperature gradient and therefore a low (<54 degrees) orbital  
 473 obliquity since Palaeoproterozoic time.

474

#### 475 4.2. Azimuthal orientations of giant wave ripples

476

477 Distinctive sedimentary bedforms in Marinoan cap dolostones are 'giant wave ripples'  
 478 (Allen and Hoffman, 2005a). These strongly aggradational structures have trochoidal  
 479 profiles (i.e., curved troughs and sharp, near-symmetrical crests) with bidirectional cross-  
 480 stratification in their crestral regions. Their synoptic relief, crest-to-trough, is 20-40 cm  
 481 and the crestlines are spaced 1.5-5.5 m apart (see data in Allen and Hoffman, 2005a).  
 482 Individual ripple trains aggrade through a stratigraphic thickness of <1.4 m. They initiate

483 from a plane bed and die out by onlap or truncation. The crests develop sigmoidally,  
484 climbing obliquely near the base, vertically in the main stage and obliquely again near the  
485 top. Although they were originally described as tepee structures, their crestlines in plan  
486 view are consistently straight and parallel (Aitken, 1991; James et al., 2001), not  
487 polygonal like those of true tepee structures (Assereto and Kendall, 1971, 1977; Kendall  
488 and Warren, 1987), which originate by lateral expansion due to the force of  
489 crystallization of evaporative cements precipitated in supratidal settings. In addition,  
490 synsedimentary breccias and associated void-filling cements, which are diagnostic  
491 features of true tepee structures (Assereto and Kendall, 1971, 1977; Kendall and Warren,  
492 1987), are not associated with giant wave ripples. As noted above, true tepee structures  
493 and tepee breccias do occur in cap dolostones in West Africa (Hoffman and Schrag,  
494 2002; Shields et al., 2007a, b) and South China (Jiang et al., 2006), but they are quite  
495 distinct from the giant wave ripples found elsewhere.

496  
497 Gammon et al. (2005) interpreted tepee structures in the Nuccaleena cap dolostone at  
498 Parachilna Gorge, South Australia, in terms of syn-sedimentary faulting because of  
499 decreases in apparent fault displacement up-section. However, the faults are oriented  
500 perpendicular to bedding and could not therefore have formed in response to bedding-  
501 parallel extension or contraction. Fault slip was probably at a high angle to the plane of  
502 the outcrop (i.e., strike-slip if syndepositional), in which case the 2-dimensional analysis  
503 (Gammon et al., 2005) is inappropriate for the 3-dimensional displacement problem:  
504 uniform displacement of warped strata could easily result in variable offsets up-section.  
505 Moreover, most intrastratal wave structures in the Nuccaleena Formation are not  
506 associated with faults (Fig. 9).

507  
508 Allen and Hoffman (2005a) relate the bedforms to surface gravity waves and attribute  
509 their near-symmetrical form, trochoidal profile, bidirectional internal cross-stratification  
510 and chevron-type upbuilding in the crestal region to oscillatory flow with flow separation  
511 over the bedform crest with each half-cycle of the wave motion. Their hydrodynamic  
512 analysis suggests that the bedforms formed at water depths of 200-400 m under the  
513 influence of long-period (maximum 21-30 seconds) waves generated by sustained wind  
514 velocities exceeding  $20 \text{ m.s}^{-1}$  in basins of unlimited fetch (Allen and Hoffman, 2005a). In  
515 comparison, zonal wind velocities in today's oceans (e.g., trade winds) average  $\sim 7 \text{ m.s}^{-1}$ .  
516 As giant wave ripples are observed in cap dolostones on at least 8 palaeocontinents  
517 (Table 2), but have not been reported elsewhere in the stratigraphic column, Allen and  
518 Hoffman (2005a) ascribe their occurrence to extraordinary meteorological conditions  
519 during ice-sheet retreat following a snowball Earth. Jerolmack and Mohrig (2005), in  
520 contrast, suggest that giant wave ripples formed at depths of 20-40 m under the influence  
521 of hurricanes. Because hurricanes are small in areal extent, successive hurricanes should  
522 intersect a coast at different locations, producing variable wind and wave conditions in  
523 successive events. In contrast, Allen and Hoffman (2005b) noted that where successive  
524 ripple trains are observed, their crestal azimuths do not differ by more than  $15^\circ$ . This  
525 observation supports an origin by sustained zonal winds.

526  
527 In Fig. 10, we test the zonal wind hypothesis by plotting the azimuthal orientations of  
528 giant wave ripple crests (Table 2) on the palaeogeographic map for 635 Ma (Li et al.,

2008). We summarize the results in rose diagrams representing the individual measurements (n=68) and the mean orientations for each region (n=12). As there are no independent (i.e., palaeomagnetic) data constraining the orientation of the Tuva-Mongolia microcontinent, we do not include the data (Table 2) from that region in our compilation. The overall mean azimuths are 001-181° (95% confidence interval = 20°) and 173-353° (95% confidence interval = 48°). Notably absent are azimuths between 056-236° and 121-301° (Fig. 10). Assuming the ripple crests are oriented perpendicular to the oscillation directions in the water column incited by the surface winds, the observed orientations are consistent with zonal (easterly) winds, given that most of the data come from palaeolatitudes below 30° (Fig. 10). Individual measurements show little evidence of wave refraction (crests are typically orientated at high angles to inferred shorelines and slope contours), so the dispersion in the data may reflect a combination of palaeotopographic effects on surface winds, Ekman forcing in subsurface waters and errors in the palaeogeographic reconstruction. Ekman forcing might possibly account for the deviation from a N-S orientation (i.e., 173-353°) of the regional means given the strong southern-hemisphere bias in their palaeogeographic distribution (Fig. 10). In any event, the non-random distribution of azimuthal orientations is more consistent with zonal winds than with hurricanes as the agent responsible for the giant wave ripples.

547

#### 548 *4.3. Facies of cap-carbonate sequences*

549

550 'Cap-carbonate sequences' (Hoffman and Schrag, 2002) refer to depositional  
551 sequences initiated by glacioeustatic flooding and ultimately accommodated by syn-  
552 glacial erosion and subsidence. Cap dolostones are the transgressive tracts of cap-  
553 carbonate sequences. The maximum flood and highstand tracts of cap-carbonate  
554 sequences are variable in facies, carbonate and/or siliciclastic (Hoffman and Schrag  
555 2002). In Fig. 11, we categorize the maximum flood and lower highstand facies of  
556 Marinoan cap-carbonate sequences globally: distinguishing organic-rich and organic-  
557 poor siliciclastic- and carbonate-dominated facies. The siliciclastic- and carbonate-  
558 dominated designations differ from those in Fig. 6, which relate to the pre-glacial  
559 successions. We acknowledge that some sequences have likely been misclassified  
560 because of surficial weathering causing organic degradation. The Masirah Bay  
561 Formation, for example, is organic-poor in outcrop, but a significant petroleum source  
562 rock in the subsurface. Perhaps this is why the distribution of organic-rich and organic-  
563 poor cap carbonates makes little sense (Fig. 11). The only meaningful correlation appears  
564 to be the limitation of carbonate-rich sequences to palaeolatitudes less than 35°, similar to  
565 their distribution in pre-glacial successions (Fig. 6).

566

## 567 **5. Conclusions**

568

569 Cryogenian glacial deposits occur at palaeolatitudes <60° and disproportionately  
570 at <45°, where most of the palaeocontinents then resided (Fig. 12). Ediacaran diamictites  
571 occur predominantly at palaeolatitudes >45° and some closest to the palaeoequator may  
572 be non-glacial in origin or mislocated. Glacial formations within carbonate-dominated  
573 and carbonate-bearing successions all formed within 35° of the palaeoequator, supporting  
574 the validity of the palaeogeographic maps (Li et al., 2008), which were constructed

575 strictly according to non-climatological criteria. Most glacial Fe and Fe-Mn deposits  
 576 occur at palaeolatitudes  $<30^\circ$ , whereas most polygonal sand-wedges formed at  
 577 palaeolatitudes  $>30^\circ$ . The maximum thicknesses of syn-deglacial cap dolostones decrease  
 578 with palaeolatitude, which along with the meridional distribution of carbonate-bearing  
 579 successions generally supports a low-obliquity orbit with warmer tropics and colder  
 580 poles. Meridional (N-S) mean orientations of the crestlines of giant wave ripples in cap  
 581 dolostones and the absence of zonal (W-E) orientations supports their formation by zonal  
 582 wind-driven waves and not by hurricanes. The palaeogeographic maps (Li et al., 2008),  
 583 although lacking palaeotopography, provide a suitable starting point for general  
 584 circulation models of Neoproterozoic palaeoclimate.

585

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1086

1087 **Figure captions**

1088

1089 Fig. 1. Present distribution of Ediacaran, Marinoan and Sturtian glacigenic formations  
1090 (see Table 1). Raisz's 'armadillo' projection.

1091

1092 Fig. 2. U-Pb zircon radiometric age constraints on Ediacaran glaciation. Shaded area  
1093 indicates the possible age range of glaciation.

1094

1095 Fig. 3. U-Pb zircon radiometric age constraints on Marinoan glaciation. Shaded area  
1096 indicates the possible age range of glaciation. Symbolology as in Fig. 2.

1097

1098 Fig. 4. U-Pb zircon radiometric age constraints on the Nantuo Formation and the Nantuo  
1099 glaciation, plotted against (A) stratigraphic depth and (B) time. Note that the Nantuo  
1100 Formation may only represent the final stages of the Nantuo glaciation.

1101

1102 Fig. 5. U-Pb zircon radiometric age constraints on Sturtian glaciation(s). \*The  $686 \pm 4$  Ma  
1103 age for the Scout Mountain Member (Fanning and Link, 2008) was previously reported  
1104 as  $709 \pm 5$  Ma (Fanning and Link, 2004). Shaded area indicates possible age range of  
1105 glaciation. Symbolology as in Fig. 2.

1106

1107 Fig. 6. Palaeogeographic maps (Li et al., 2008) for (A) 580 Ma, (B) 635 Ma and (C) 715  
1108 Ma, showing the distribution of Ediacaran, Marinoan and Sturtian glacigenic formations  
1109 (stars), respectively. Stars are colour-coded by pre-glacial succession: blue for carbonate,  
1110 green for mixed carbonate-siliciclastic, yellow for siliciclastic, and white for volcanic  
1111 successions or where there is a major hiatus beneath the glacigenic formation. Stars with  
1112 heavy black outlines contain polygonal sand-wedges and those outlined in red contain  
1113 sedimentary Fe or Fe-Mn deposits. For abbreviations of palaeocontinents see Table 1.

1114

1115 Fig. 7. Palaeomeridional distribution of (A) Ediacaran, (B) Marinoan and (C) Sturtian  
1116 glacigenic formations based on palaeogeographic reconstructions (Fig. 6). See Table 1  
1117 for abbreviations of formation names and present locations. Grey lines indicate a random  
1118 distribution. Note bias in favour of high palaeolatitudes in (A), and low palaeolatitudes in  
1119 (B) and (C).

1120

1121 Fig. 8. Thickness of syn-deglacial Marinoan cap dolostones as a function of  
1122 palaeolatitude. Note decrease in maximum thickness withn increasing palaeolatitude. The  
1123 linked open and closed circles refer to Australian poles from the Elatina Formation (open  
1124 circles) used by [Li et al. \(2008\)](#) to construct Fig. 6B and poles from the Nuccaleena  
1125 Formation cap dolostone from [Raub and Evans \(2007\)](#), which imply that the Elatina poles  
1126 have experienced a degree of inclination flattening due to compaction. Accordingly,  
1127 palaeo-latitudes based on the Elatina poles (open circles) may be too low by ~8 degrees.  
1128 Fig. 9. Giant wave ripple in Marinoan cap dolostone (Nuccaleena Formation) near Elatina  
1129 Creek (31°21.474'S, 138°37.054'E), central Flinders Ranges, South Australia. Note  
1130 underformed strata above and below the wave ripple (a and b, correlative layers), and  
1131 absence of a fault or void-filling cement. Linear ripple crests (n=23) in the vicinity have a  
1132 mean azimuth of 009.22°, which was close to true north at 635 Ma (Fig. 6B). Hammer is  
1133 32.5 cm long.  
1134

1135 Fig. 10. Azimuthal orientations of the crests of giant wave ripples (red bars) in Marinoan  
1136 cap dolostones (see Table 2). Rose diagrams for individual directions (left) and regional  
1137 mean directions (right) exclude data from Tuva-Mongolia (orange bars), for which no  
1138 independent palaeomagnetic data are available. Note near-meridional (N-S) mean  
1139 directions and lack of zonal (W-E) directions, consistent with formation of giant wave  
1140 ripples by zonal wind-driven waves ([Allen and Hoffman, 2005](#)).  
1141

1142 Fig. 11. Palaeogeographic map for 635 Ma ([Li et al., 2008](#)) showing colour-coded  
1143 distribution of post-glacial cap-carbonate sequences.  
1144

1145 Fig. 12. Distribution of (A) Marinoan and (B) Sturtian glacigenic deposits on  
1146 palaeogeographic maps for 635 and 715 Ma ([Li et al., 2008](#)).  
1147

**Table 1. Neoproterozoic glacigenic formations****Ediacaran (590-570 Ma)**

<i>Paleocontinent</i>	<i>Sym.</i>	<i>Formation</i>	<i>Sym.</i>	<i>Succession/Basin</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Amazonia	Am	Serra Azul	Az	Alto Paraguay	Alvarenga et al. (2007)
Australia	Au	Egan	Eg	Kimberleys	Corkeron and George (2001)
Avalonia	Av	Gaskiers	Ga	Conception	Eyles and Eyles (1989)
		Squantum	Sq	Boston Bay	Sayles (1914)
Baltica	Ba	Mortensnes	Mt	Verstertana	Edwards (1984)
		Moelv	Mo	Sparagmite	Nystuen (1976)
		Vilchitsy	Vi	Eastern Europe	Chumakov (2004)
		Churochnaya	Cn	Urals	Chumakov (2004)
Cadomia	Ca	Granville	Gr	Brittany	Graindor (1964)
Laurentia	Laur	Loch na Cille	Lo	Dalradian	McCay et al. (2006)
North China	NC	Luoquan	Lq	Qinling	Guan et al. (1986)
Tarim	Tm	Hankalchough	Ha	Quruqtagh	Xiao et al. (2004)
<sup>1</sup> Tasmania	Ta	Croles Hill	Cr	Kanunnah	Calver et al. (2004)

**Marinoan (655-635 Ma)**

Amazonia	Am	Puga	Pu	Alto Paraguay	Alvarenga and Trompette (1992)
Arabia	Ar	Fiq	Fi	Huqf	Allen et al. (2004)
		Shareef	Sh	Mirbat	Rieu et al. (2007)
Australia	Au	Elatina	El	Adelaidean	Williams et al. (2008)
		Olympic	Ol	Amadeus	Wells (1981)
		Landrigan	La	Kimberleys	Coats and Preiss (1980)
Baltica	Ba	Smalfjord	Sm	Verstertana	Edwards (1984)
Congo	Co	Petite	Pe	Katangan	Cahen and Lepersonne (1981)
		Ghaub	Gh	Otavi	Hoffman and Halverson (2008)
		Supérieure	Sp	West Congolian	Schermerhorn and Stanton (1963)
		Bondo	Bo	Fouroumbala	Poidevin (2007)
Laurentia	Laur	Wildrose	Wr	Death Valley	Prave (1999)
		Vreeland	Vr	Rocky Mtns	McMechan (2000)
		Ice Brook (Stelfox)	Ib	Mackenzie Mtns	Aitken (1991)
		Storeelv	St	East Greenland	Hambrey and Spencer (1987)
		Wilsonbreen	Wb	East Svalbard	Harland et al. (1993)
		Stralinchy-Reelan	Re	Dalradian	McCay et al. (2006)
India	In	Blaini	Bl	Lesser Himalaya	Holland (1908)
Iran	Ir	Rizu	Ri	Lut	Hamdi (1992)
Kalahari	Ka	Numees	Nu	Gariiep	Frimmel et al. (2002)
		Blässkranz	Bk	Witvlei	Miller (2008)
São Francisco	SF	Palestina	Pa	Bambuí	Misi et al. (2008)
Siberia	Si	Dzemkukan	Dz	Patom	Sovetov (2008)
		Marnya	Ma	Sayan	Sovetov and Komlev (2005)
		Pod'em	Pd	Yenisey	Sovetov (2008)
South China	SC	Nantuo	Na	Yangtze	Wang and Li (2003)
Tarim	Tm	Tereeken	Te	Quruqtagh	Xiao et al. (2004)
<sup>1</sup> Tasmania	Ta	Cottons	Co	King Island	Calver and Walter (2000)

Tuva-Mongolia TM		Khongoryn	Kg	Dzabkhan	Macdonald et al. (2009a)
West Africa	WA	Jbéliat	Jb	Taoudéni (Adrar)	Deynoux (1985)
		Bakoye	Ba	Taoudéni (Mali)	Deynoux et al. (1991)
		Kodjari	Ko	Volta	Trompette (1981)

### Sturtian (726-660 Ma)

Akaska-Chukot AC		Hula Hula	Hu	Sadlerochit	Macdonald et al. (2009b)
Arabia	Ar	Gubrah	Gu	Huqf	Le Guerroué et al. (2005)
		Ayn	Ay	Mirbat	Rieu et al. (2006)
		Tambien	Ta	Nubia	Stern et al. (2006)
Arequipa	Aq	Chiquerío	Cq	Chiquerío-Antafalla	Chew et al. (2007)
Australia	Au	Sturt	St	Adelaidean	Preiss (1987)
		Areyonga	Ar	Amadeus	Wells (1981)
Baltica	Ba	Tany	Ty	Urals	Chumakov (2004)
Congo	Co	<sup>2</sup> Grand	Gr	Katangan	Cahen and Lepersonne (1981)
		Chuos	Ch	Otavi	Hoffman and Halverson (2008)
		Inférieure	In	West Congolian	Schermerhorn and Stanton (1963)
		Akwokwo	Ak	Lindian	Poidevin (2007)
Laurentia	Laur	Surprise	Su	Death Valley	Prave (1999)
		Pocatello	Po	Idaho	Link (1983)
		Toby	To	Windermere	Aalto (1981)
		Rapitan	Ra	Mackenzie Mtns	Young (1976)
		Tindir	Ti	Tindir	Allison et al. (1981)
		Ulvesø	Ul	East Greenland	Hambrey and Spencer (1987)
		Petrovbeen	Pb	East Svalbard	Harland et al. (1993)
		Port Askaig	Pt	Dalradian	Spencer (1971)
		Konnarock	Kn	Blue Ridge	Miller (1994)
Kalahari	Ka	<sup>2</sup> Kaigas	Ka	Gariép	Frimmel et al. (2002)
		Blaubekker	Bb	Witvlei	Miller (2008)
Kazakhstan	Kz	Baykonur	Br	Kazakh	Chumakov (1978)
São Francisco	SF	Jequitaiá	Je	Bambuí	Rocha-Campos and Hasui (1981)
Siberia	Si	Kharlukhtakh	Kh	Patom	Sovetov (2008)
		Chivida	Cv	Yenisey	Sovetov (2008)
South China	SC	Jiangkou	Ji	Yangtze	Wang and Li (2003)
Tarim	Tm	<sup>2</sup> Bayisi	By	Quruqtagh	Xiao et al. (2004)
<sup>1</sup> Tasmania	Ta	Julius River	Ju	Kanunnah	Calver (1998)
Tuva-Mongolia TM		Maikhan Ul	Mk	Dzabkhan	Lindsay et al. (1996)

<sup>1</sup>Possibly part of the Australian rifted margin

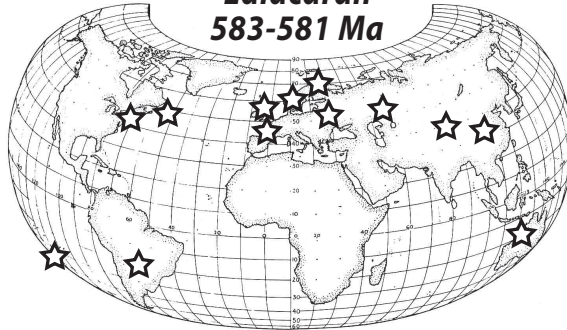
<sup>2</sup>Possibly pre-Sturtian (i.e., pre-726 Ma)

**Table 2. Azimuthal orientations of giant wave ripple crests in Marinoan cap dolostones**

Palaeocontinent	Location	Name	Area	Azimuths
Amazonia	SW Brazil	Mirassol	Mirassol d'Oeste	170°
Arctic Alaska	NE Alaska	Nularvik	<sup>1</sup> Sadlerochit Mtns	172°, 175°
Australia	South Australia	Nuccaleena	<sup>1</sup> Brachina Gorge	005-015° (n=6; average 010°)
			Elatina Creek	000-015° (n=16; average 006.7°)
				013-018° (n=7; average 015°)
	Kimberleys, WA	Landrigan	Louisa Downs	030±10°
Congo	NC Namibia	Keilberg	Otavi Mountains	075°, 170°
	NW Namibia	Keilberg	Kaokoveld	110°, 119°, 126°, 133°, 140°
	NW Namibia	Keilberg	Fransfontein slope	085°, 092°, 100°, 118°, 120°
Kalahari	SW Namibia	Bloeddrif	<sup>1</sup> Namaskluft	092-115° (n=9; average 101.2°)
				107-120° (n=6; average 105.7°)
				97°
Laurentia	NW Canada	Ravensthoat	Arctic Red River	048°, 052°, 057°
			Cranswick River	005°
			Stoneknife River	010°
			Twitya River	030-050° (n=5; average 040°)
			Shale Lake	010-030° (n=4; average 22.5°)
			Stelfox Mountain	015°, 020°, 095°, 097°, 100°
			Ravensthoat River	075°
	East Svalbard	Dracoisen	Svaenor	085°
Tasmania	King Island	Cumberland Ck	Yarra Creek	000-015° (n=3; average 007°)
Tuva-Mongolia	SW Mongolia	Ol	<sup>1</sup> Dzabkhan	59°, 65°, 100°, 100°

<sup>1</sup>Data courtesy of Francis A. Macdonald (unpublished)

**Ediacaran**  
**583-581 Ma**

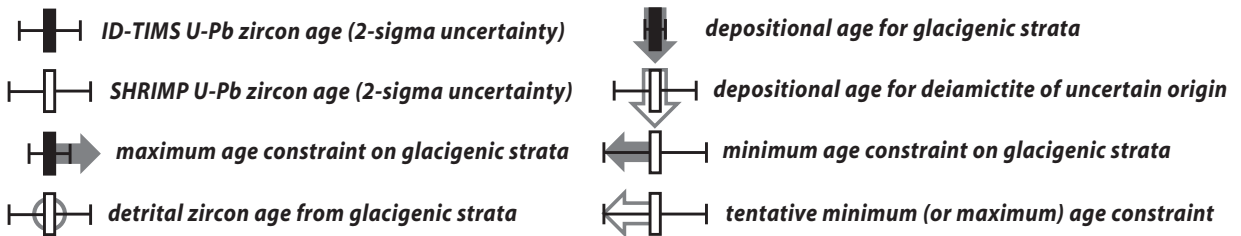
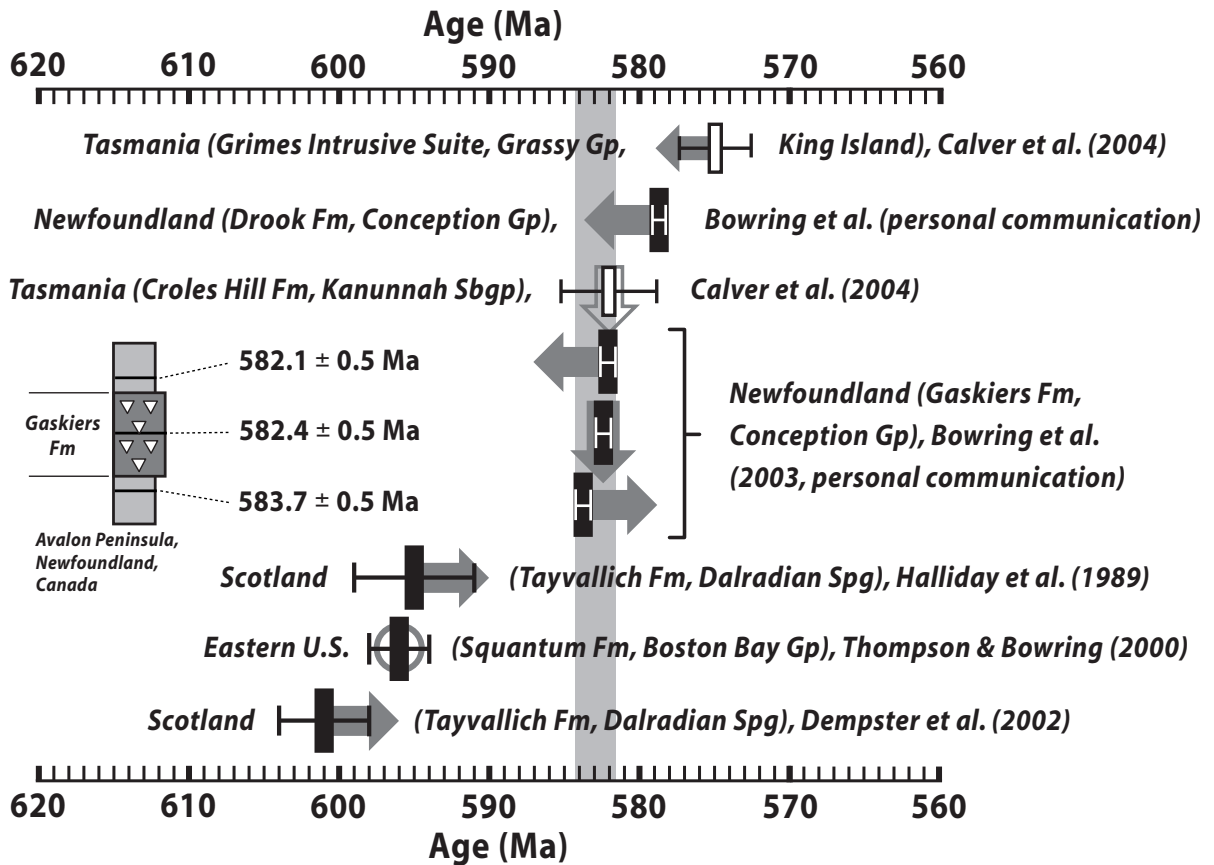


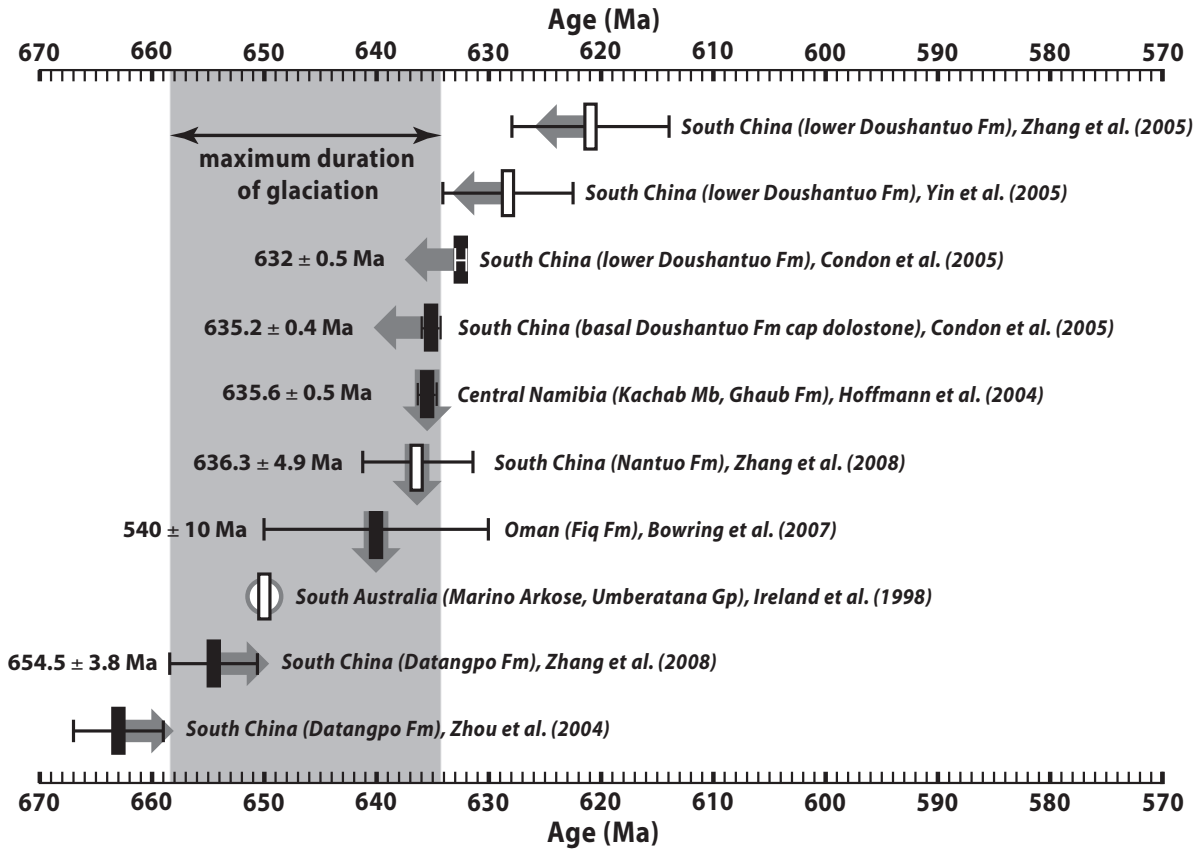
**Marinoan**  
**655-635 Ma**



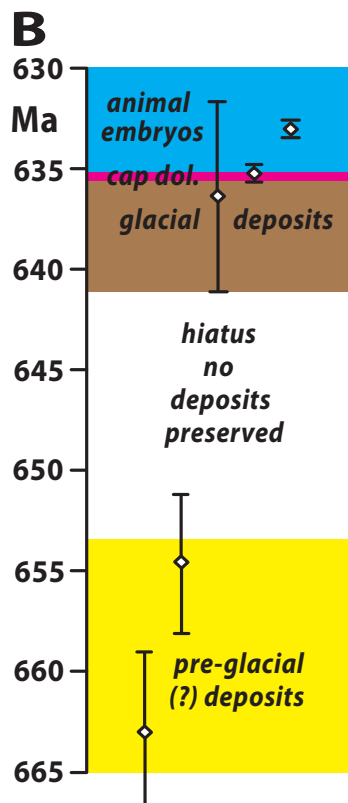
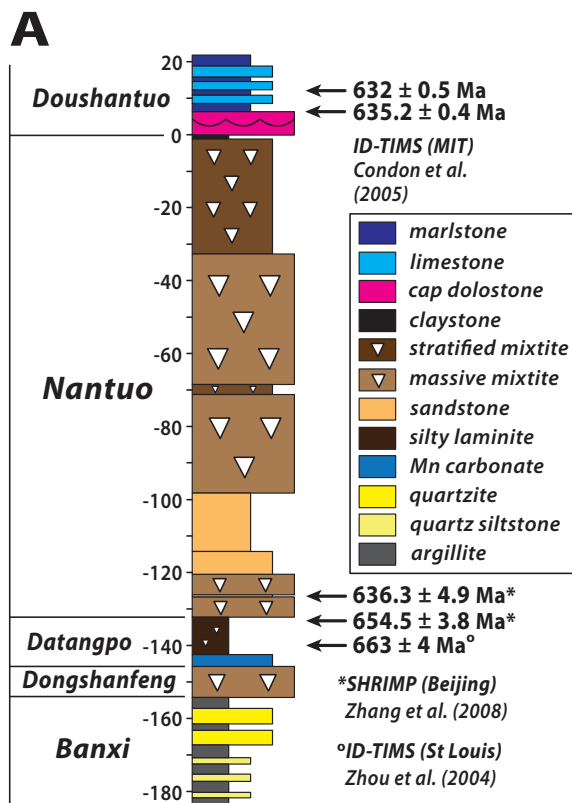
**Sturtian**  
**755-660 Ma**

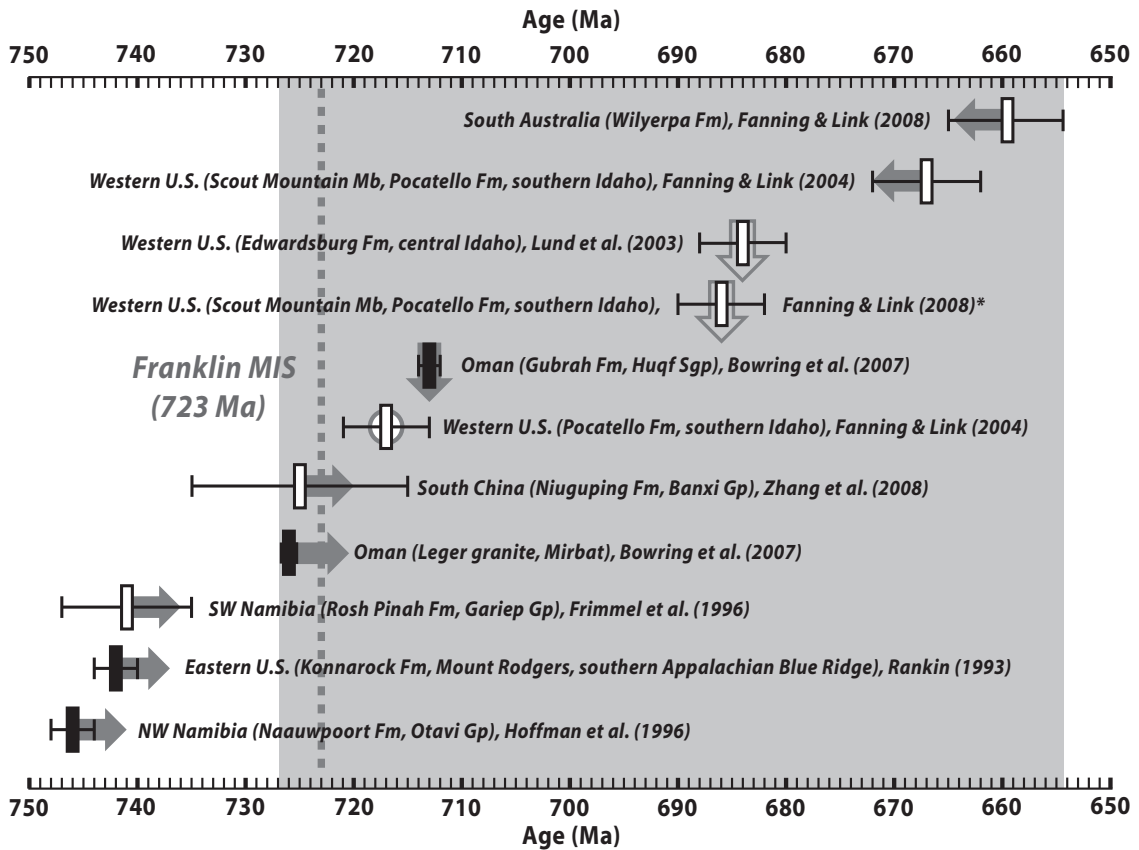


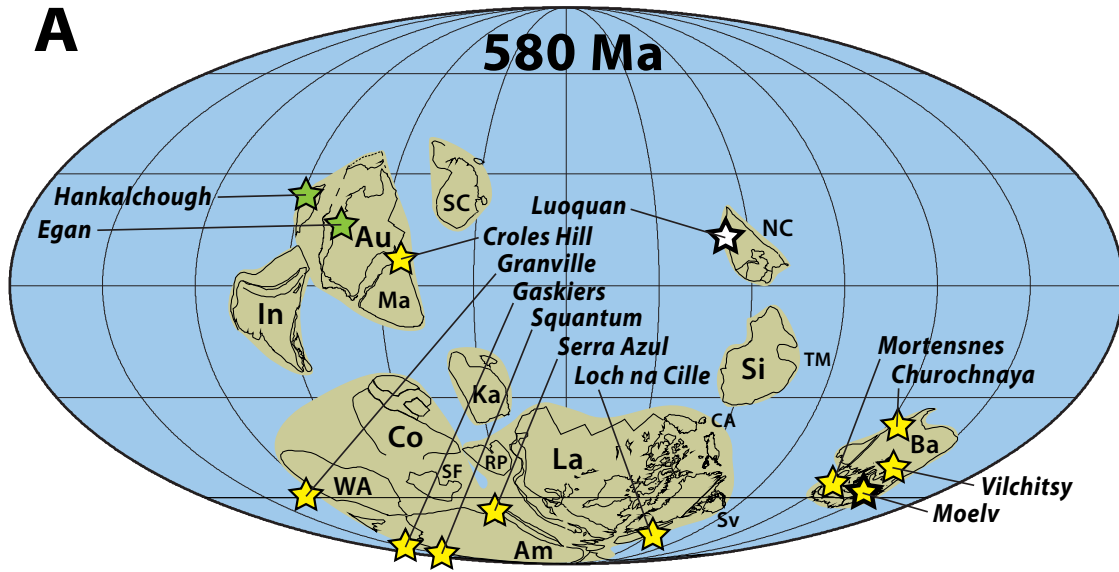
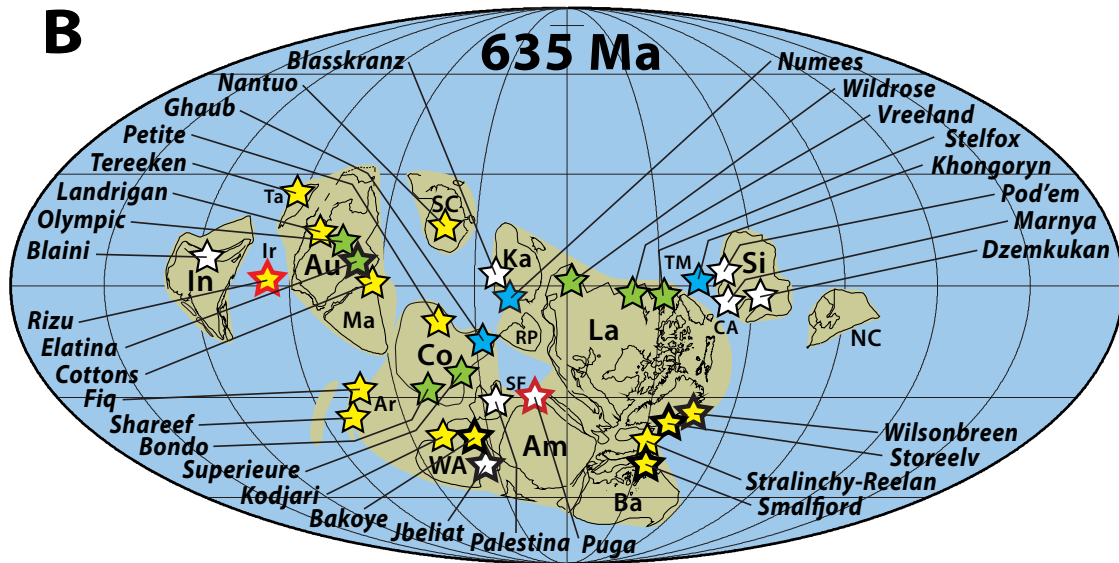
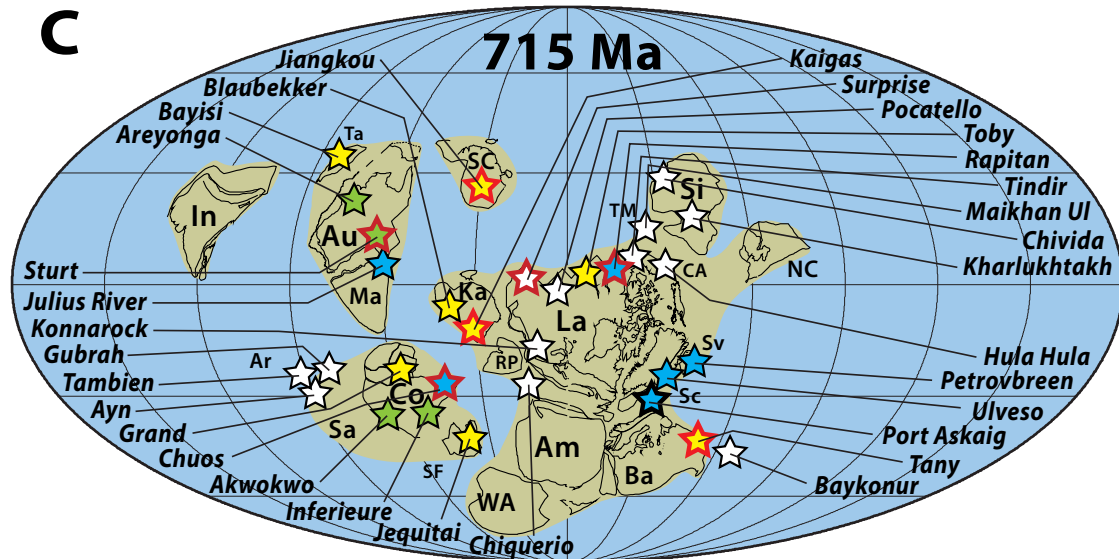




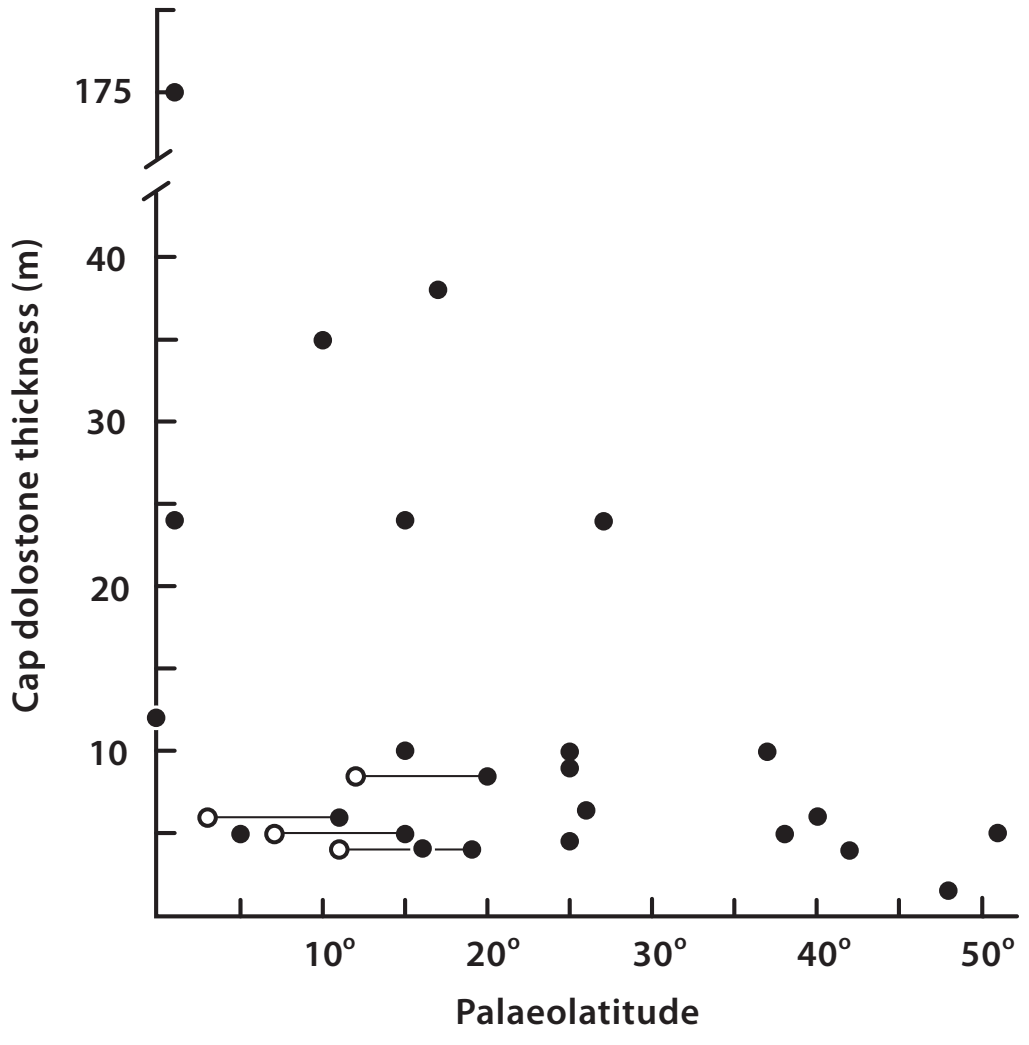




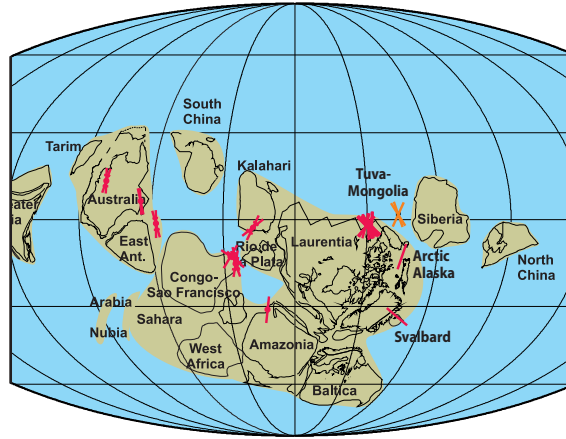
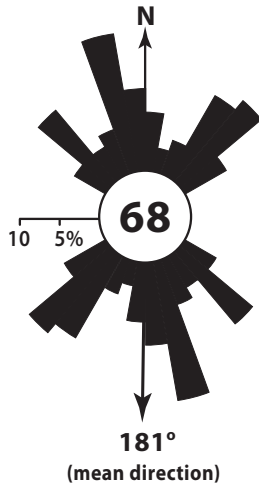


**A****B****C**

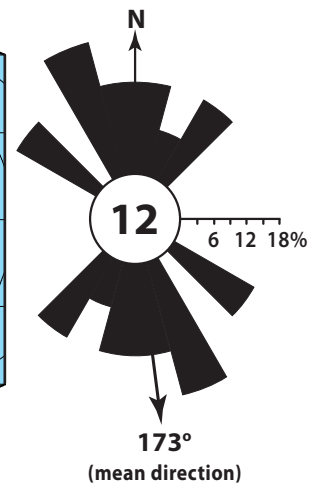


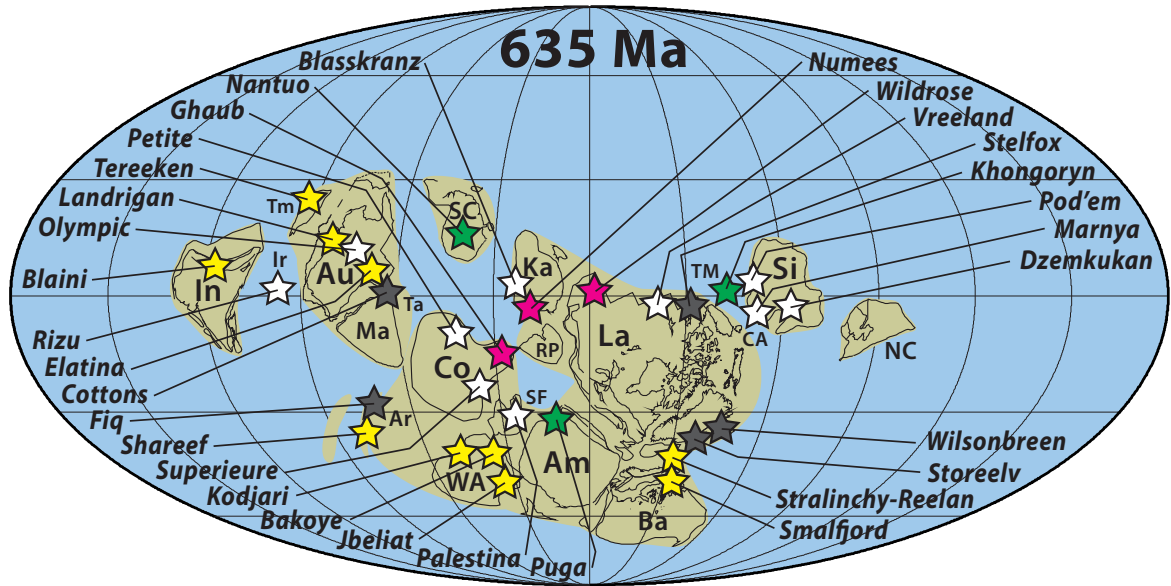






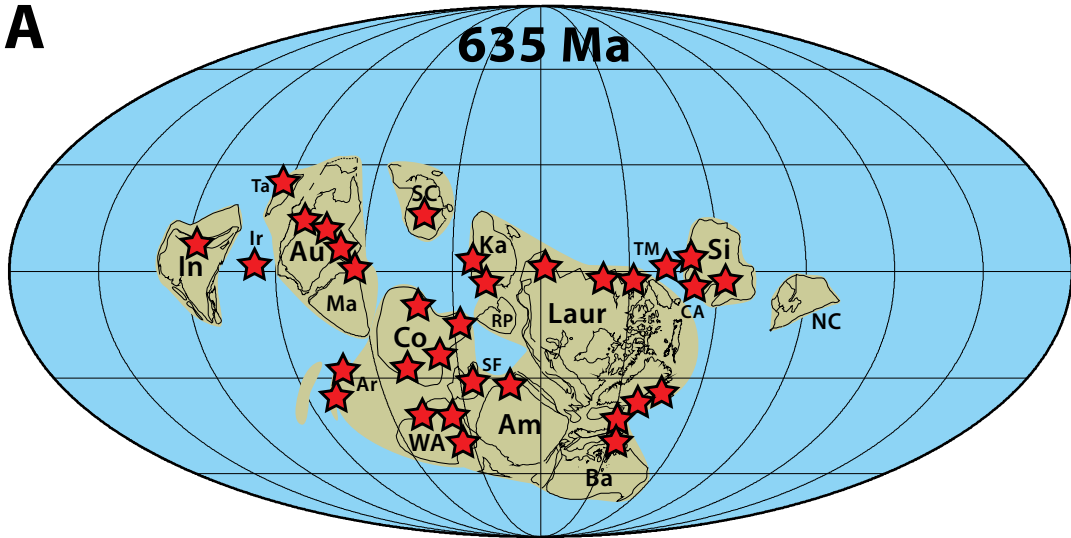
635 Ma





-   
 organic-poor clastics
-   
 organic-rich clastics
-   
 organic-poor carbonates
-   
 organic-rich carbonates



**A****B**