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1 *A Manuscript Celebrating the Centennial of the American Mineralogist*

2

3 **The Third Isotope of the Third Element on the Third Planet**

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9

10 **Abstract**

11

12 The third isotope of the third element, ^{17}O , records indispensable information on
13 the origin and operation of Earth, the third planet. The measured uniformity in
14 fractionation of ^{16}O , ^{17}O and ^{18}O in rocks and minerals over the whole of geologic time,
15 from Hadean to Recent, records the existence of a global magma ocean prior to the
16 formation of continents. New techniques of high-resolution mass spectroscopy and of
17 femtosecond X-ray diffraction are leading towards a deep understanding of the origin of
18 kinetic isotope fractionation effects during metabolism. Analysis for the rare molecule
19 $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$, distinguished by the substitution of two heavy isotopes, in combination with data
20 on $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$, provides an insight into the mechanism whereby plants produce oxygen.
21 Given the skills of American Mineralogist readers in three-dimensional visualization of
22 complex crystalline and molecular structures and the talents of biogeochemical
23 colleagues in measuring isotope fractionation by organisms in nature, there is every

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24 reason to expect extraordinary advances in understanding the cycling of life's elements, H,
25 C, N, O, and S between the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere.

26

27

Introduction

28

29 Oxygen, the third most abundant element in the Solar System, after hydrogen and
30 helium, occupies most of the volume of silicate and oxide minerals in Earth's crust and
31 mantle. Investigations of the atomic structure of minerals published in *America*
32 *Mineralogist* use techniques of X-ray diffraction and transmission electron microscopy to
33 locate the positions of oxygen atoms in relation to other chemical elements composing a
34 crystal. That oxygen dominates the volume in minerals is obscured, however, by the
35 conventional representation of atomic structures by coordination polyhedra. Oxygen is
36 consigned to the corners of polyhedra enclosing silicon, aluminum, iron and other
37 elements. The volume occupied by each oxygen atom in relation to its nearest neighbors
38 in a crystal structure is difficult to visualize in the mind's eye from textbook
39 representations. Oxygen is visible as "bumps" in electron density maps made in the
40 analysis of the atomic structure of minerals with X-ray diffraction, but, because of its
41 lower capacity to scatter X-rays, oxygen does not appear to fill space to the same extent
42 as implied by its atomic radius in coordination polyhedra. Do mineralogical studies
43 inadvertently downplay the importance of oxygen? Has oxygen been relegated to a
44 supporting role as a bit-player merely serving to maintain electrical neutrality and
45 minimize mutual repulsion between cations in minerals? Acknowledging decades of
46 success by mineralogists in seeking to understand atomic structures in minerals, is there

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47 more to be learned about minerals' formation processes from oxygen? In what follows, I
48 would like to celebrate the central significance of oxygen's third isotope in understanding
49 Earth.

50

51 The third isotope of oxygen, ^{17}O , is quite rare in rocks and minerals, amounting to
52 barely 0.04% of total oxygen with the balance made up by ^{16}O , 99.75% and ^{18}O , 0.21%.

53 The third isotope of oxygen was ignored for decades by stable isotope geochemists
54 because it was thought to trail behind the more abundant ^{18}O with values of $\delta^{17}\text{O}$
55 approximately 1/2 that of measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ owing to the dependence of isotopic
56 fractionation on mass differences. According to this view, nothing could be learned from
57 measuring $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ that could not be discovered by measuring the more abundant $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$.

58 There was little interest in measuring $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ until the discovery of non-mass dependent
59 fractionations in meteorites (Clayton et al. 1973). Elements with three or more stable
60 isotopes, like oxygen's ^{16}O , ^{17}O , and ^{18}O , afford deeper insights into Earth's origin and
61 evolution because measurement of two, or more, isotope ratios of an element illuminates
62 the contrasting controls of reaction-specific fractionation vs. initial composition.

63 Measuring multiple isotope ratios of a multi-isotope element requires patience, care, and
64 a rigorous technique. The single-substituted isotopologue, $^{16}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$, is 10^{-4} less abundant
65 than the predominant $^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ yet measurements are made routinely with a precision in
66 $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ of 0.1 ‰, or better. Measurement of $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ in minerals requires high
67 mass-resolution ion microprobes or specialized mass spectrometers with the use of
68 hazardous chemicals such as fluorine in sample preparation: little more than a dozen labs

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69 around the globe are currently active in analysis. Despite these difficulties, the third
70 isotope is crucially decisive in geochemical, atmospheric, and cosmochemical research.

71

72 The measurement of elements with two stable isotopes in Earth studies is widely
73 applied. Ratios of D/H record rainfall from the equator to poles. Variations in $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$
74 distinguish inorganically precipitated from photosynthetic carbon. Nitrogen isotope ratios,
75 $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$, trace food consumption from plants to grazers to predators. Insights gained from
76 these isotopes are unquestionably significant but their analysis inevitably offers a limited,
77 "one-dimensional" mapping of origins vs. processes. Ambiguity in understanding arises
78 because ranges of characteristic ratios are not unique. Different carbon fixation
79 mechanisms in plants, for example, produce overlapping $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratios. The meteoric
80 water cycle can be tracked by either of the ratios D/H or $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ but definitive
81 conclusions are achieved when both sets of isotopes are measured: two "one-
82 dimensional" discriminants gain clarity when both are used together "two-dimensionally".
83 Measuring the abundances of the three stable oxygen isotopes and their isotopologues
84 adds "multi-dimensionality" to geochemical investigations.

85

86 Doubly substituted molecules such as $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ are even less abundant than single-
87 substituted ones, only 10^{-6} relative to $^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$. While more difficult to analyze,
88 measurement of two "clumped" oxygen isotopologue ratios such as $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ and
89 $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ leads to understanding the competition between equilibrium isotopic
90 exchange vs. irreversible kinetic isotope fractionation. Equilibrium isotope exchange is
91 driven by small differences in zero point energies between doubly-substituted molecules

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92 (Eiler and Schauble, 2004). Kinetic isotope fractionations arise from a variety of causes:
93 of current interest are isotope fractionations controlled by the atomic topography of
94 catalytic enzymes secreted by living organisms.

95

96 The determinative role played by ^{17}O in understanding Earth will be illustrated in
97 this review by discussing two examples, one involving the singly-substituted
98 isotopologues $^{17}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ the other concerning the doubly-substituted
99 isotopologues $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ and $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$. The first example traces $^{17}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ back in
100 time for 4.3 billion years to a molten globe recovering from the shock of a giant impact.
101 The second example considers the distinctive behaviors of $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ and $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ during
102 photosynthesis as it is occurring presently.

103

104 **The Third Isotope And Early Earth History**

105

106 Earth's record of O-isotope fractionation has remained remarkably the same over
107 the entirety of its geological history. Ocean island basalts (OIB) less than 1 million years
108 in age overlap the $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of a detrital zircon crystal 4,374 (+/- 6) million
109 years old (Fig. 1; Valley et al. 2014; Starkey et al. 2016). Analyses of some 650 rocks
110 and minerals define a linear trend passing through the compositions of the OIB's and the
111 Hadean zircon (Fig. 1). Values of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ vary over 24 ‰, those of $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ over 12 ‰
112 encompassing the known ranges for analyzed igneous and metamorphic rocks. The
113 samples are representative of isotope fractionation effects taking place between multiple
114 minerals or between minerals and magmas over temperatures of approximately 400 to

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115 1200 °C. To fully appreciate the data plotted in Fig. 1 it is worth asking: Are there other
116 geochemical parameters maintaining such invariant behavior over 4 billion years? How is
117 such a consistent behavior achieved?

118

119 To answer these questions I turn to a comparison of the behavior of oxygen and
120 other light elements with three or more stable isotopes. The elements O, Mg, Si, make up
121 important rock-forming silicate minerals in Earth's crust and mantle. Sulfur is the
122 essential ingredient of ore-bearing sulfide minerals. Isotopes of the light elements O, Mg,
123 Si, and S are more strongly fractionated by processes such as magmatic differentiation or
124 weathering than elements of higher atomic weight. The magnitude of isotopic
125 fractionation for these elements depends not only on mass differences between isotopes
126 but also on the mineral structures into which they are substituted as well as temperature
127 (Schauble 2004). Numerous studies seek to correlate their fractionation patterns with
128 specific chemical and mechanical processes thus providing much data for comparisons.

129

130 ***Sulfur***

131 Sulfur consists of the stable isotopes ^{32}S (94.93%), ^{33}S (0.76 %), ^{34}S (4.29 %), and
132 ^{36}S (0.02%). Hulston and Thode (1965) sought evidence to distinguish stellar
133 nucleosynthetic effects from terrestrial chemical processes by analyzing sulfur isotopes in
134 meteorites and terrestrial samples. They predicted that injections of isotopically
135 heterogeneous material of stellar origin into the solar nebula would introduce offset
136 trends or mixing lines distinct from the pattern of Fig. 1. If linear plots of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ vs $\delta^{33}\text{S}$
137 and of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ vs $\delta^{36}\text{S}$ were found, however, resembling the linear trend of Fig. 1, this would

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138 indicate equilibrium and kinetic fractionation effects taking place during terrestrial
139 chemical processes such as magmatic differentiation and crystallization. Analyses of both
140 terrestrial and meteorite samples fell on the same trend with $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ (x-axis) vs $\delta^{33}\text{S}$
141 showing a slope of approximately 0.5 and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ (x-axis) vs $\delta^{36}\text{S}$ a slope of 1.9. These are
142 the effects predicted theoretically for equilibrium or kinetic isotope fractionation during
143 chemical reactions as the slopes correspond to the mass differences $(^{33}\text{S} - ^{32}\text{S})/(^{34}\text{S} - ^{32}\text{S})$
144 $= 1/2$ and $(^{36}\text{S} - ^{32}\text{S})/(^{34}\text{S} - ^{32}\text{S}) = 2$. Linear trends in co-varying isotope ratios such as
145 those of Fig. 1 are, accordingly, termed mass-dependent fractionation (see reviews: Bao
146 et al. 2016; Dauphas and Schauble, 2016). Mass-independent (or non-mass dependent)
147 fractionation data in plots of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ vs $\delta^{33}\text{S}$ would define trends independent of the mass
148 differences between isotopes. Hulston and Thode concluded that there was no evidence
149 of sulfur isotope heterogeneities in solar system samples due to stellar nucleosynthesis.
150 With improvements in analytical techniques since the work of Hulston and Thode,
151 meteorites are now known to have anomalies in $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ ranging over 0.25‰ (where $\Delta^{33}\text{S} =$
152 $\delta^{33}\text{S} - 1000((\delta^{34}\text{S}/1000 + 1)^{0.515} - 1)$, Labidi et al. 2017).

153

154 Subsequent research on terrestrial Archean rocks and minerals found large
155 departures from the mass-dependent trends of Hulston and Thode (1965). Farquhar et al.
156 (2000) analyzed sedimentary samples 2.5 billion years or older discovering both positive
157 and negative deviations in ^{33}S and ^{36}S spanning some 10‰ in $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ ($\Delta^{33}\text{S} = \delta^{33}\text{S} -$
158 $1000((\delta^{34}\text{S}/1000 + 1)^{0.515} - 1)$). Mass-independent fractionation of sulfur isotopes in
159 ancient rocks is caused by photolysis of volcanic SO_2 by solar UV photons. If oxygen had
160 been present in the Archean atmosphere, the formation of ozone would have shielded SO_2

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161 from photolysis. Mass-independent fractionation of sulfur isotopes demonstrates the
162 presence of an oxygen-free atmosphere.

163 ***Magnesium***

164 Magnesium stable isotopes, ^{24}Mg (79%), ^{25}Mg (10%), and ^{26}Mg (11%), measured
165 in terrestrial samples resemble the behavior of oxygen isotopes. Values of $\delta^{26}\text{Mg}$ (x-axis)
166 plotted vs. $\delta^{25}\text{Mg}$ lie along a linear trend with a slope of approximately 1/2, given by the
167 ratio of mass differences $(^{25}\text{Mg} - ^{24}\text{Mg}) / (^{26}\text{Mg} - ^{24}\text{Mg})$ (see review Teng, 2017).
168 Magnesium isotopes in primitive meteorites do not follow a mass dependent trend,
169 however. The short-lived radioactive isotope ^{26}Al produced during supernovae and
170 injected into the solar nebula decays to ^{26}Mg with a half-life of 7×10^5 years. The decay
171 of ^{26}Al leaves a residue of excess ^{26}Mg in meteorites dating from the earliest history of
172 the solar system provided that the ancient stones have not been processed by subsequent
173 planetary events (see review Young and Galy, 2004).

174

175 ***Silicon***

176 Silicon has three stable isotopes, ^{28}Si (92.2%), ^{29}Si (4.7%), and ^{30}Si (3.1%). Plots
177 of $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ (x-axis) vs. $\delta^{29}\text{Si}$ analytical data for terrestrial samples define a linear array with
178 slope approximately = 1/2 (see review, Poitrasson 2017). Analyses of both chondritic and
179 achondritic meteorites show no deviations from the mass dependent linear fractionation
180 trend of terrestrial samples (Pringle et al. 2013).

181

182

183 **Oxygen**

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184 Given the univariant behavior of oxygen isotope data in Fig. 1, it is not surprising
185 that early geochemical research focused on measuring $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, alone. If $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ values follow
186 the mass-dependent rule of Fig. 1, there is no need to measure the variable because its
187 value can be calculated from an analysis for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, ie $\delta^{17}\text{O} = 0.52 * \delta^{18}\text{O}$ (approximately).
188 Neglecting $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ analysis became untenable, however, when large deviations in oxygen
189 isotope compositions from the plot of fig. 1 were found in meteorites (Clayton et al.
190 1973). The linear trend of terrestrial rocks and minerals shown in Fig. 1 was recognized
191 at this time and adopted as the "TFL", the terrestrial fractionation line, to serve as a
192 benchmark for reporting meteorite anomalies. The metric $\Delta^{17}\text{O} = 0.52 * \delta^{17}\text{O} - \delta^{18}\text{O}$ was
193 chosen for reporting deviations from the TFL. Positive values of $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ identify samples
194 plotting above the TFL, negative values those plotting below the TFL. Subsequent
195 systematic surveys of meteorite samples found different petrographic classes of
196 meteorites to plot along linear arrays as in Fig. 1 but offset from one another (Clayton
197 and Mayeda, 1983). The eucrites, now associated with the asteroid 4 Vesta (Drake 1981),
198 with negative $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$, traced a mass dependent trend 0.3 ‰ below the TFL (Figure 2B).
199 Triple oxygen isotope analyses of shergottite, nakhlite, and chassignite meteorites, now
200 known to have Mars as their parent body (Bogard et al. 1984), plotted 0.3 ‰ above the
201 TFL. It was suggested by Clayton and Mayeda (1983) that each of the groups of
202 meteorites whose $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ values plot on a mass-dependent fractionation line
203 originated on separate planetary bodies and underwent magmatic differentiation on those
204 bodies before being hurled into earth-crossing orbits by impacting meteorites. As many
205 as 110 separate parent bodies are now known based on O-isotope analyses of meteorites

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206 (Greenwood et al. 2016). Oxygen isotopes in primitive meteorites unprocessed by
207 planetary chemistry and in the solar wind are fractionated mass independently with plots
208 of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ vs $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ lying on a linear trend with slope of 1. The O-isotope heterogeneity of
209 the solar system ranges over 250 ‰ in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and 100 ‰ in $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ (McKeegan et al. 2011;
210 Sakamoto et al. 2007). Oxygen's isotopic heterogeneity predates the oldest solid objects
211 in the solar system, the calcium-aluminum inclusions of primitive meteorites. Mass
212 independent fractionation in the solar nebula was caused by ultra-violet photodissociation
213 of CO molecules in molecular clouds during ignition of the Sun (Lyons and Young,
214 2005).

215

216 Mass-independent oxygen isotope anomalies are produced on Earth when
217 atmospheric oxygen is photolyzed by solar UV photons. The resulting ozone is
218 anomalously enriched in both ^{17}O and ^{18}O relative to ^{16}O (Mauersberger et al. 2003;
219 Thiemens 2006). Apart from its role in shielding Earth from UV radiation, ozone's
220 isotopic anomalies are valued as tracers of interactions between the atmosphere and
221 Earth's surface mineralogy. The ^{17}O and ^{18}O enrichments in ozone are transferred to
222 sulfate, nitrate, and perchlorate anions by atmospheric reactions. These anomalies
223 accumulate in aerosols, falling to the surface, where they react with wind-blown sea salt
224 or calcite dust. The minerals so formed, anhydrite, CaSO_4 , or soda niter, NaNO_3 , are
225 water soluble but persist in arid desert regions. The $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ anomalies of these minerals are
226 positive and range over ten's of per mil (Bao et al. 2000; Michalski et al. 2003). The
227 atmospheric anomalies, although large in magnitude, do not effect Earth's bulk crust and
228 mantle composition because they are ephemeral and easily diluted by rainfall.

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229 *Comparison of O-, S-, Mg- and Si-isotopes*

230

231 Oxygen shares a characteristic feature with other rock-forming elements having 3
232 or more isotopes: mass dependent fractionation. The isotopes of O, S, Mg, and Si in
233 terrestrial rocks and minerals plot on linear trends following the predictions of Huston
234 and Thode (1965) for isotope fractionation during equilibrium or kinetically controlled
235 chemical processes such as magmatic differentiation, metamorphism, diagenesis, surface
236 weathering, or the metabolism of living organisms. Oxygen and sulfur isotopes share a
237 vulnerability to mass independent fractionation in Earth's atmosphere by reactions
238 induced by solar UV photolysis (Bao et al. 2000; Farquhar et al. 2000). Magnesium
239 isotopes in primitive meteorites show small enrichments in ^{26}Mg owing to the decay of
240 short-lived radioactive ^{26}Al in the very early history of the solar system. The reservoirs
241 sequestering these anomalies are of limited extent relative to Earth's crust and mantle.

242

243 Now let me return to Fig. 1 for it is the 4 billion-year-old terrestrial fractionation
244 of oxygen isotopes that remains the focus of the present discussion. The foregoing
245 comparisons demonstrate the prevalence of mass dependent fractionation in rock-forming
246 elements that have three or more elements, at least in those that are not vulnerable to UV
247 photodissociation. Planetary processes such as magmatic differentiation and
248 crystallization are effective in driving isotope distributions towards equilibrium, mass
249 dependent fractionations. Oxygen stands apart from S, Mg, and Si, however in the large
250 range in its isotopic heterogeneity in the solar system. The solar system was
251 homogeneous in Mg, Si and S isotopes prior to planetary accretion. It was heterogeneous

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252 in oxygen isotopes. If Earth were built up of accreting planetesimals with as wide a
253 heterogeneity in O-isotopes as is presently measured in meteorites and if there had been
254 no mixing process to homogenize the aggregate, a single linear trend as in Fig. 1 would
255 not be observed. In its place, a plot of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ vs. $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ would show a myriad of mutually
256 parallel mass dependent fractionation lines each recording localized isotopic equilibration
257 or domains failing to equilibrate retaining the primordial slope 1 line of the nebula. Fig.
258 2a,b shows what Earth might have looked like at an early stage in its history, prior to
259 homogenization.

260

261 The meteorite NWA 5232 records both early global melting on the eucrite parent
262 body but also subsequent disruption by colliding carbonaceous chondrites. The meteorite
263 consists of gray eucrite fragments decorated with exotic, angular clasts of black CM
264 carbonaceous chondrites (Fig. 2A; van Drongelen et al. 2016). The black clasts are easily
265 visible, up to several millimeters in diameter, and embedded in a groundmass of
266 brecciated eucrite (Fig. 2A). The oxygen isotopic compositions of the CM chondrite
267 clasts lie far below the TFL and scatter along a trend with a slope of approximately 1.0 on
268 a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ vs. $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ plot (Fig. 2B). Spot analyses of eucritic breccia fragments plot along a
269 mass dependent fractionation line with slope of approximately 0.52 located 0.26 ‰
270 below the TFL (Fig. 2B). The distinction between the O-isotope relationships of a
271 globally homogenized vs. a heterogeneous planetary body is clearly seen by comparing
272 Figs. 1 and 2. Oxygen isotope compositions of NWA 5232 do not lie along a single mass
273 dependent fractionation trend derived from a homogeneous parent body. Some 650 O-
274 isotope analyses of Earth's rocks and minerals, in contrast, define a single line as is

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275 expected from the homogenization of a parent body by melting. Robert et al. (1992)
276 concluded that Earth had become a well-mixed body by 3.5 billion years. Rumble et al.
277 (2013) and Valley et al. (2014) measured mass dependent fractionation lines in Hadean
278 and Archean rocks and argued that Earth experienced an episode of O-isotope
279 homogenization caused by global melting prior to 4.35 billion years.

280

281 Readers should evaluate these conclusions by considering alternative views.
282 Javoy et al (2010) have proposed that Earth was built up from parent bodies closely
283 similar in O-isotopes to the present terrestrial composition. If their hypothesis is correct,
284 no homogenization is required. Dauphas (2017) reviewed evidence for the accretion of
285 Earth from enstatite chondrites and aubrites. Fitoussi et al. (2016) considered Earth to
286 have been assembled from a mixture of meteorite types including chondrites as well as
287 differentiated achondrites. The question of proto-Earth's heterogeneity or homogeneity
288 remains open.

289

290 The most probable cause of Earth's oxygen isotope homogenization is global
291 melting generated by a series of impacts during accretion, prior to 4.3 billion years. A
292 giant, Moon-forming impact would have provided ample energy to melt both proto-Earth
293 and its impactor (Cuk and Stewart, 2012; Canup, 2012). Convection in impact-generated
294 silicate magmas combined with simultaneous isotope exchange between liquid and
295 impact-generated vapor would mix and homogenize oxygen isotopes in a mere 1000
296 years (Pahlevan and Stephenson, 2007).

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298 The third isotope of oxygen, ^{17}O , long recognized by cosmochemists as an
299 indispensable means of distinguishing between extraterrestrial parent bodies of meteorites,
300 now plays an important role in understanding Earth's earliest history. The remarkable
301 consistency of a linear trend in plots of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ vs. $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ for Earth's rocks and minerals over
302 most of Earth history (Fig. 1) is caused by (1) a tendency towards isotopic equilibration
303 resulting in mass dependent fractionation; and (2) an episode of oxygen isotopic
304 homogenization prior to 4.3 billion years. Measurements of $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$, from rocks ranging
305 in age from as old as 4.3 billion years to less than 1 million years, give permissive
306 evidence of homogenization during a Hadean magma ocean.

307

308 **The Third Isotope of Oxygen and Photosynthesis**

309

310 The fossilization of plants creates fascinating mineralogy with faithful
311 preservation of the forms of leaves and cell walls. Plant fossils from Jurassic blue-schist,
312 lawsonite-bearing rocks of New Zealand offer worthy objects of study for mineralogists
313 as evidence of ancient photosynthesis (Galvez et al. 2012). Fossil evidence of
314 photosynthesis is rare, however in the ancient geological record. Deformation and
315 metamorphism effectively erase plant fossils in older rocks.

316

317 Isotopic fossils, however, such as distinctive isotopic compositions diagnostic of
318 photosynthesis, may afford a more durable record in ancient Earth. Biomarkers or
319 isotopic proxies of photosynthesis must first be validated by study of modern processes
320 before application in a search for the history of photosynthesis. Please bear in mind that

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321 every weathered sulfide mineral, every soil horizon, every plant, shell, bone, tooth, and
322 fleshy part of the biosphere that interacted with the atmosphere contains oxygen produced
323 by photosynthesis. Given the distinctive isotopic signatures discussed below, each
324 weathering rind, each fossil carries a potential record of the evolution of photosynthesis.
325 An important challenge for mineralogists is discerning the most favorable mineralogical
326 archives in which geological atmospheric and biological history can be read. This
327 centennial review is written in hopes of recruiting new colleagues in the search for
328 geological records of "soft" processes poorly recorded in Earth's history. An inspiring
329 example of what is needed is the discovery of anomalous fractionations of the four stable
330 isotopes of sulfur isotope in Archean sulfide and sulfate minerals demonstrating Earth's
331 ancient, oxygen-free atmosphere, (Farquhar et al. 2000). A record of ozone produced by
332 photolysis of oxygen by ultraviolet light was found in the non-mass dependent
333 fractionation of three oxygen isotopes in sulfate minerals as old as the Tertiary (Bao et al.
334 2000). Searching the geological record for isotopic evidence of ephemeral atmospheric
335 and biological processes, such as photosynthesis, will be amply repaid by gaining deeper
336 insights into the history of life on Earth.

337

338 Plants produce oxygen from the water in which they grow by photosynthesis.
339 Photosynthesis does not achieve oxygen isotope exchange equilibrium between substrate
340 H₂O and O₂: The isotopic composition of photosynthetic O₂ approaches that of the H₂O
341 from which it is derived (Guy, Fogel, & Berry, 1983). Given that mid- to high-latitude
342 meteoric water has a negative $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, photosynthesis produces O₂ depleted in ¹⁶O¹⁷O and
343 ¹⁶O¹⁸O. Plant respiration, preferentially consuming ¹⁶O¹⁶O, in contrast, enriches residual

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344 O₂ in ¹⁶O¹⁷O and ¹⁶O¹⁸O, reversing the photosynthetic trend. Successive measurements of
345 oxygen isotope compositions in the atmosphere of a closed terrarium experiment show
346 steady depletions in ¹⁸O/¹⁶O as long as light is available to drive photosynthesis,
347 approaching the ¹⁸O/¹⁶O of substrate water. Once the lights are turned off, however,
348 ¹⁸O/¹⁶O ratios begin to rise in terrarium O₂ as it is consumed by dark respiration. The
349 same effects are seen in ¹⁷O/¹⁶O for analyses of oxygen in closed terrariums (Fig. 3,
350 plotted from Luz & Barkan, 2005). The ramifications of these effects are profound.
351 Atmospheric O₂ is not in isotopic exchange equilibrium with seawater, a condition
352 termed the "Dole Effect", after its discoverer (Dole, 1952). The current steady state
353 composition of the atmosphere, δ¹⁸O_{VSMOW} = +23‰, is a balance between the tendency
354 of photosynthesis to drag down its ¹⁸O/¹⁶O towards that of meteoric or sea water vs.
355 enrichment in ¹⁸O/¹⁶O by both plant and animal respiration (Bender et al. 1994; Luz &
356 Barkan, 2005; Young et al. 2015)

357

358 ***Double-substituted Isotopologues and Photosynthesis***

359

360 The third isotope of oxygen, ¹⁷O, substitutes not only in oxygen molecules like
361 ¹⁶O¹⁷O but also in the molecules ¹⁷O¹⁷O and ¹⁷O¹⁸O. The latter two molecules are termed
362 "doubly-substituted" or "clumped" because two rare, heavy isotopes are present in each.
363 The investigation of isotopically doubly-substituted molecules was pioneered by Eiler &
364 Schauble (2004) and Wang, Schauble & Eiler (2004). These authors presented original
365 data on the clumped isotopologue ¹³C¹⁸O¹⁶O in the atmosphere. It was predicted that
366 analysis of doubly-substituted isotopologues in gases, liquids, and solids would reveal

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367 distinctive fractionation patterns, both equilibrium and kinetic, with great potential for
368 understanding processes in nature such as carbonate diagenesis, diffusion, gravitational
369 settling, metabolism, and photochemistry. Their prediction has been borne out by a
370 cornucopia of fascinating research results. In this brief review, research on ^{17}O
371 substituted in $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ (and also $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$, lacking in ^{17}O) will be discussed, emphasizing the
372 advantages of measuring two doubly-substituted isotopologues in the same gas species
373 (Yeung et al. 2015; 2016)

374

375 The abundances of the doubly-substituted isotopologues, $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ and $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ in O_2
376 gas, are expressed as Δ_{35} (in ‰) = $[(^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O})_{\text{measured}}/(^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O})_{\text{stochastic}}]-$
377 $1]*1000$, and Δ_{36} (in ‰) = $[(^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O})_{\text{measured}}/(^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O})_{\text{stochastic}}]-1]*1000$
378 (Yeung et al. 2012). Because $^{17}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$ is 10 times less abundant than $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$, and
379 correspondingly more difficult to measure, it will not be considered further. The ratios
380 $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ (^{35}R) and $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ (^{36}R) are measured in an unknown sample
381 relative to a calibrated O_2 reference gas as well as the single-substituted ratios
382 $^{16}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ (^{33}R) and $^{16}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ (^{34}R) using conventional reference-unknown-
383 reference comparison in a dual inlet, multi-collector gas source mass spectrometer.
384 Single-substituted ratios are used to estimate the bulk oxygen isotopic composition of
385 each unknown from which its stochastic isotopologue distribution is calculated. The
386 calculated stochastic ^{35}R and ^{36}R values are then used to calculate Δ_{35} and Δ_{36} . Note,
387 especially, that the $^{35}\text{R}_{\text{stochastic}}$ and $^{36}\text{R}_{\text{stochastic}}$ values refer to the unknown, not to the
388 reference gas.

389

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390 Please consider a comparison between analytical reporting conventions for single-
391 substituted and doubly-substituted isotopologues. For $^{16}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{16}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$,
392 data are reported as $\delta^{17}\text{O}_{\text{VSMOW}}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VSMOW}}$ in relation to the composition of an
393 internationally recognized calibration of seawater, "VSMOW", ie "Vienna Standard
394 Mean Ocean Water". For $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$, analytical data is reported in relation to the Terrestrial
395 Fractionation Line, TFL (Fig. 1). The calibrated reference is distinct from the unknown
396 under investigation. Doubly-substituted isotopologues Δ_{35} and Δ_{36} , however, are reported
397 in relation to a self-referencing calibration, the stochastic distribution calculated uniquely
398 for each bulk ^{16}O - ^{17}O - ^{18}O composition of O_2 . It is well to keep in mind that a quantitative
399 enumeration of the distribution of isotopologues in a specific gas is necessarily self-
400 referencing because each gas isotopic bulk composition has its own unique stochastic
401 distribution. While the use of a calculated stochastic reference unique for each unknown
402 sample as a benchmark for isotopic enrichments and depletions may be unfamiliar, the
403 convention is also used to describe the distribution of ^{16}O - ^{17}O - ^{18}O in ozone isotopologues
404 (Mauersberger et al. 1999).

405

406 To gain deeper understanding of doubly-substituted isotopologues it is helpful to
407 consider the ordering and disordering of stronger and weaker bonds between heavier and
408 lighter isotopes in molecules. Readers of the *American Mineralogist* are familiar with
409 order-disorder distributions of chemical elements on sites in crystalline phases. Cation
410 exchange reactions between sites within minerals are analogous to isotope exchange
411 reactions between gas molecules in that they are both driven by changes in temperature
412 without necessarily changing bulk chemical or isotopic compositions. In crystals, heating

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413 to just below melting stimulates thermal vibrations of atoms and may lead to elemental
414 exchange between crystallographically defined sites. An ordered low temperature
415 distribution of atoms arranged on sites to minimize potential energy may give way to a
416 random distribution upon heating. Consider the distribution of Al and Si on the
417 tetrahedral sites of potassium feldspar. High temperature sanidine found in rhyolites has a
418 randomized, stochastic distribution of Al and Si; its tetrahedral sites are indistinguishable
419 chemically from one another. Orthoclase from granite of lower crystallization
420 temperature, however, features non-stochastic Al/Si ratios ordered on distinct tetrahedral
421 sites (Thompson, 1969, Fig. 3, p. 359). The comparison must not be carried too far: for
422 potassium feldspar, the energy associated with ordering includes elastic contributions
423 from substituting the larger Al for Si (e.g. Carpenter 2000) as well as the avoidance of Al
424 substitution in adjacent tetrahedra (Lowenstein 1954). There are no such constraints in
425 isotope exchange reactions between gas molecules because different isotopes of the same
426 element have the same size and same configuration of electrons. The order-disorder
427 behavior of isotopes is therefore expected to follow the Bragg-Williams model (Bragg
428 and Williams, 1934) for order-disorder in alloys that only considers the energetic
429 contributions of nearest-neighbor interactions and does not include the long-range effects
430 found in minerals such as feldspars.

431

432 Order-disorder in oxygen gas is controlled by the increasing bond strength of the
433 six isotopologues, in order $^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$, $^{16}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$, $^{16}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$, $^{17}\text{O}^{17}\text{O}$, $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$, and $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$, from
434 weakest to strongest bonding. Isotopic exchange between isotopologues minimizes the
435 potential energy of the molecular aggregate. The distribution for a given bulk ^{16}O - ^{17}O -

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436 ^{18}O composition is determined by temperature or, in the event equilibrium is not achieved,
437 by reaction kinetics. An additional factor in determining the abundances of doubly-
438 substituted isotopologues has been found: the nature of the reservoir or reservoirs from
439 which isotopes are drawn to form molecules. Combinatorial statistics may have a strong
440 effect on isotopically-substituted molecules (Yeung et al. 2015; Yeung 2016; Rockmann
441 et al. 2016). An example of combinatorial effects in photosynthetic O_2 is given below.

442

443 A calculated equilibrium curve for Δ_{35} vs. Δ_{36} in O_2 gas, contoured in $^\circ\text{C}$, shows
444 Δ_i values decreasing with increasing temperature to a value of zero, fully stochastic, at
445 1000 $^\circ\text{C}$ (Fig. 4, heavy black line with T $^\circ\text{C}$ labels; after Wang et al. 2004). The
446 temperature dependence comes about because the ordered distribution of doubly-
447 substituted molecule at low temperature achieved by substituting heavier isotopes is
448 gradually overtaken by thermal agitation as O_2 gas is heated. Values of Δ_{35} and Δ_{36} are
449 independent of pressure because the molecular volumes of the oxygen isotopologues are
450 closely similar. Gases of any bulk composition in $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ follow the same curve
451 because the stochastic reference frame is always calculated in respect to the bulk
452 composition of each gas sample. Every unknown gas is referred to itself, to its own
453 stochastic isotopologue distribution, when calculating Δ_{35} and Δ_{36} . The quantities Δ_{35} and
454 Δ_{36} are thus quite advantageous in their potential for gas phase thermometry: they are
455 "universally" applicable to all O_2 samples provided the bulk $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios of
456 a gas sample remain unchanged throughout the sample's thermal history. This same
457 advantage, however gives rise to a vulnerability in that any process that changes the bulk
458 composition of a gas, with or without changing the number and distribution of its

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459 clumped isotopologues, will change the calculated stochastic distribution and,
460 consequently, change Δ_{35} or Δ_{36} . Consider the mixing at room temperature of two O₂
461 gases differing in bulk composition and having equilibrated at different temperatures.
462 Isotope exchange reactions are sluggish at room temperature so mixing the two gases
463 produces a gas with the same number and distribution of clumped isotopologues, but with
464 a different bulk composition. The sample's calculated values of $^{35}R_{\text{stochastic}}$ and
465 $^{36}R_{\text{stochastic}}$ will be changed and Δ_{35} and Δ_{36} will be altered. The resulting mixture will no
466 longer provide accurate geothermometry as signaled by its failure to plot on the
467 equilibrium curve of Fig. 4 (cf. Young et al. 2016, Fig. 12, p. 9).

468

469 The geothermometric potential of measuring O₂ isotopologues suggests
470 applications in atmospheric chemical and physical investigations. To fully exploit these
471 research opportunities, however, requires experimental verification that isotopic
472 exchange equilibria has been achieved between O₂ isotopologues. Measuring two doubly-
473 substituted isotopologues from the same gas sample provides a two-stage verification of
474 equilibration. If one of the isotopologues were prevented from equilibrating by an
475 irreversible reaction in the experiment, then Δ_{35} and Δ_{36} would no longer plot on the
476 equilibrium curve. Laboratory investigations of isotope exchange reactions in O₂ gas
477 during electrolysis with a Tesla coil and photolysis with ultraviolet irradiation shows that
478 catalysis by O(³P) + O₂ isotope exchange tends towards equilibration at controlled
479 temperatures (Fig. 5; Yeung et al. 2016; Yeung et al. 2014; Yeung and Young 2012).
480 Analysis of atmospheric O₂ demonstrates persistent values of $\Delta_{36} = 1.96 \pm 0.07 \text{ ‰}$ and
481 $\Delta_{35} = 1.0 \pm 1.0 \text{ ‰}$ lying on the equilibrium curve (Fig. 5; Yeung et al. 2016).

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482

483 Photosynthesis, in contrast to the isotope equilibrium of atmospheric reactions
484 catalyzed by $O(^3P) + O_2$, does not achieve isotopic equilibrium, neither in single-
485 substituted nor in doubly-substituted isotopologues (compare Fig. 5; Fig. 6). Oxygen
486 produced by photosynthesis in the light departs increasingly from equilibrium
487 distributions of $^{17}O^{18}O$ and $^{18}O^{18}O$. Over the course of a year's time, abundances of
488 doubly-substituted molecules decrease continually towards stochastic values, in some
489 cases reaching negative, "anti-clumping", values (Fig. 6). In contrast, abundances of
490 $^{17}O^{18}O$ and $^{18}O^{18}O$ in residual O_2 increase during plant respiration, returning towards
491 equilibrium, in a dark, closed terrarium.

492

493 Please take a second look at Figure 6. That a closed photosynthetic system
494 operating at room temperature produces oxygen with Δ_{35} and Δ_{36} distributions surpassing
495 those of equilibrium at 1000 °C is quite surprising. How is such an anomalous result to be
496 explained? It is known that plants take up substrate water, split two H_2O molecules to
497 obtain $4H^+$ for their metabolism, and discard unwanted oxygen as O_2 . The protein
498 Photosystem II is responsible for converting H_2O to hydrogen ions and O_2 . Suppose the
499 two waters split by Photosystem II do not have equal $^{18}O/^{16}O$ and $^{17}O/^{16}O$. The
500 combinatorial formulas used in calculating stochastic distributions customarily assume
501 that ^{16}O , ^{17}O , and ^{18}O isotopes are drawn randomly from a homogeneous reservoir of
502 oxygen isotopes. Yeung et al. (2015) realized, however, that drawing isotopes randomly
503 from two reservoirs, that is, two H_2O sites, differing in $^{17}O/^{16}O$ and $^{18}O/^{16}O$, requires a
504 different combinatorial formula. Using a corrected formula gives negative values for Δ_{35}

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505 and Δ_{36} like those measured: Δ_{36} (photosynthesis) = $\{[\alpha_A\alpha_B/0.25(\alpha_A+\alpha_B)^2]-1\}$, where α_A
506 and α_B denote two separate water reservoirs, A and B with $\alpha_A = [({}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}_{\text{bound}}$
507 $\text{water})/({}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}_{\text{substrate water}})]$ not equal to α_B (Yeung 2016; Roeckmann et al. 2016).

508

509 The results on photosynthesis are important because they suggest the atomic
510 structure of Photosystem II, the enzyme responsible for O_2 production, may directly
511 control the isotopic composition of photosynthetic oxygen. The two water sites may only
512 have different ${}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}$ if their atomic coordination environments are different. If all the
513 water molecules are coordinated to identical atomic nearest neighbors there would be no
514 energetic advantage in substituting more or less ${}^{18}\text{O}$. If, however, waters are coordinated
515 differently, it would be possible, in principle, to stabilize Photosystem II by substituting
516 different ${}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}$ in H_2O sites (Fig. 7). Femtosecond x-ray diffraction of the oxygen
517 evolving complex (OEC) embedded in Photosystem II shows four H_2O molecules, two
518 (W1 & W2) coordinated to Mn (Mn4A) and two (W3 & W4) coordinated to Ca atoms
519 (Fig.7; Suga et al. 2015 Fig. 1d, p. 100). Each pair of H_2O sites is coordinated to
520 different cations, Ca and Mn. The coordination of pairs of H_2O molecules to different
521 cations satisfies the requirement for each pair to have different ${}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}$. The hypothesis of
522 Yeung et al. (2015) on the existence of at least two different H_2O reservoirs in
523 Photosystem II is thus confirmed.

524

525 I dare say that I'm not the only person to be shocked at the precise and delicate
526 control exerted by atom scale enzymatic catalysis on the doubly-substituted isotope
527 distributions of O_2 produced by photosynthesis. The OEC, a miniscule but powerful

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528 cluster of 5 cations, 5 oxygens and 4 waters is embedded in a protein weighing in at 7
529 kilodaltons! And consider this: if only one of the two isotopologues, $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ or $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$,
530 had been measured, the correspondence between atomic structure and isotope effects
531 would not have been established definitively.

532

533 **In Defense of the Determination of Molecular & Crystal Structures in**
534 **Understanding Isotope Fractionations**

535

536 The first paragraph of this review was written to pique the interest of readers of
537 the *American Mineralogist*, if not to provoke them. There, crystal structural analysis of
538 oxygen in minerals was discounted to shift attention to the third isotope of oxygen. But, if
539 you have read this far, you will be gratified to have learned that determining the positions
540 of oxygen atoms in molecular structures plays a definitive role in understanding the
541 mechanisms of the photosynthetic production of oxygen with its irreversible isotope
542 fractionation effects described above.

543

544 **The Value of the Third Isotope of Oxygen**

545

546 Oxygen-17, the third isotope of the third element, more than repays in information
547 gained the effort expended in its measurement. Measurement of the ratios $^{17}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ and
548 $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ distinguishes initial compositions from fractionation effects, revealing mass-
549 dependent fractionation. Analyses of $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in rocks spanning almost the entire
550 history of Earth reveal that the silicate portion of the crust and accessible mantle were

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551 derived from a reservoir that was homogeneous in its oxygen isotope composition prior
552 to 4.3 Ga.

553

554 The measurement of clumped isotopologues provides additional parameters useful
555 in understanding isotopic exchange equilibrium, reaction mechanisms, and kinetics. The
556 third isotope, ^{17}O , plays an essential role in providing a measurable clumped molecule,
557 $^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$, to accompany analysis for the more abundant $^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$. It is quite important to
558 recognize that measuring two (or more) clumped isotopologues in the same gas species
559 serves two purposes: (1) Data on two isotopologues furnishes a criterion for validating
560 estimates of temperature of formation of gas samples by direct observation of whether or
561 not isotope exchange equilibrium is achieved. (2) The same data provide an isotopic
562 fingerprint of the kinetic isotope effects expressed during the operation of irreversible
563 reactions or processes.

564

565

Future Perspectives

566

567 Structural analysis of minerals by x-ray diffraction is a notable triumph for the
568 mineralogical community. Our cousins in the structural biology community are
569 crystallizing proteins to achieve diffraction with femtosecond bursts of X-rays from free
570 electron lasers too brief to destroy delicate organic crystals. Isotope geochemists for the
571 first time are able to measure the subtle effects recorded by doubly-substituted
572 isotopologues. It may seem improbable that these subtle effects are archived over
573 geological time. I would like to encourage a partnership in the search for durable isotopic

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574 fingerprints of atmospheric and biological processes poorly preserved in the geologic
575 record. Mineralogists and petrologists, isotope geochemists, biogeochemists, structural
576 biologists and biochemists, all have talents needed to understand the geological history of
577 photosynthesis.

578

579

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Figure Captions

757 **Figure 1:** Plot of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ vs. $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ showing Terrestrial Mass Fractionation Line (TFL) with
758 VSMOW as reference. The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ vs. $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ values of planetary bodies such as Mars and 4 Vesta lie
759 on mass fractionation lines parallel to the TFL but offset above it (Mars) or below (4 Vesta, see
760 Figure 2B). Data: ¹Rumble & Yui, 1998; ²Masago et al. 2003; ³Rumble et al. 2013; ⁴Valley et al.
761 2014; ⁵Starkey et al. 2016. Uncertainties in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ & $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ are approximately 0.1 ‰, smaller than
762 the plot symbols.

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764 **Figure 2:** (A - left): Photograph of cut slab of meteorite NWA 5232 with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ values of
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767 TFL of Figure 1. Compare scattered distribution of data to linear array of Fig. 1. Uncertainties in
768 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ & $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ are approximately 0.1 ‰ and in $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$, 0.05 ‰.

769

770 **Figure 3:** Plot of variations in $\delta^{17}\text{O}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ vs. time in atmosphere of closed
771 terrarium containing living *Philodendron*, soil, micro-organisms, and water. Note
772 distinctive variations in $\delta^{17}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in the light and in the dark (data replotted from
773 Luz and Barkan, 2005).

774

775 **Figure 4:** Plot of equilibrium curve for $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ (Δ_{33}) vs $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ (Δ_{36}) contoured in T °C (after
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777 in the same sample of O₂ gas.

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779 **Figure 5:** Plot of Δ_{35} ($=\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$) vs. Δ_{36} ($=\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$) for samples of O_2 gas subjected to
780 photolysis and $\text{O}(^3\text{P}) + \text{O}_2$ catalysis. The plotted results demonstrate a tendency towards isotope
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783

784 **Figure 6:** Plot of $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ vs $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ for oxygen produced during photosynthesis in the light and
785 residual O_2 remaining after plant respiration in the dark (Yeung et al. 2015, supplementary). The
786 values of $\Delta^{17}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ vs $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ decrease as long as photosynthesis in the light continues. Once the
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788 contoured in T °C (Wang et al. 2004). Uncertainties are 0.17‰ for $\Delta^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{O}$ and 0.3‰ for
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790

791 **Figure 7:** Perspective drawing of the Oxygen Evolving Complex (OEC) embedded in the protein
792 Photosystem II. The OEC consists of 1 Ca, 4 Mn, 5 O atoms and 4 H_2O molecules. The Ca atom
793 and 3 of the four Mn lie at opposite corners of a distorted cube, separated by oxygens O1, O2, and
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796 (Fig. 1d copied from Suga et al. 2015)

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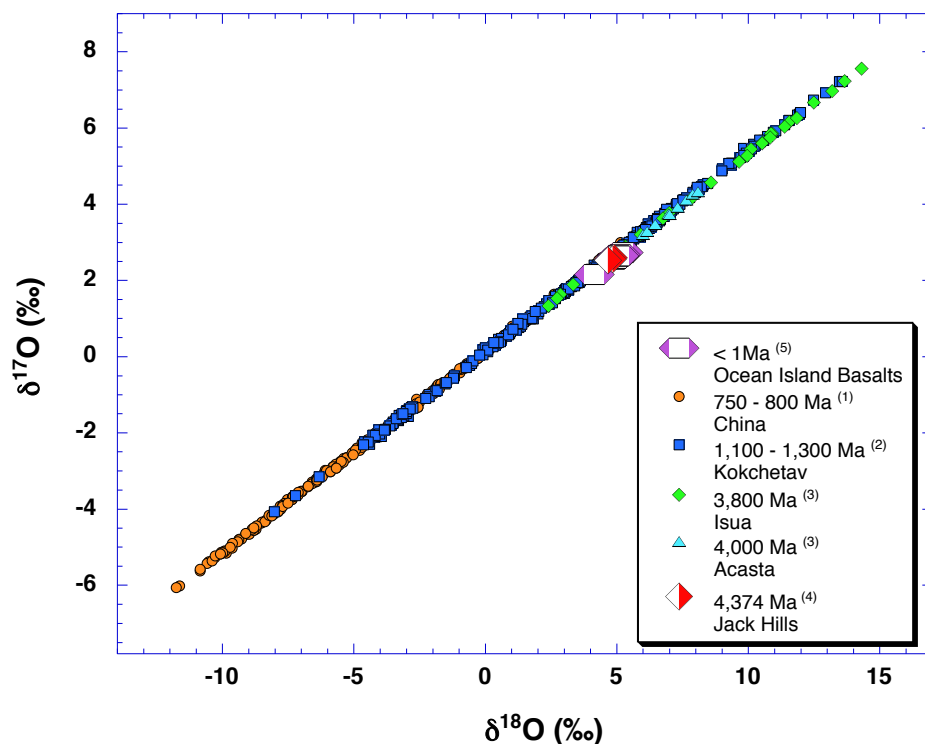
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A 4.3-billion-year record of O-isotope fractionation on Earth



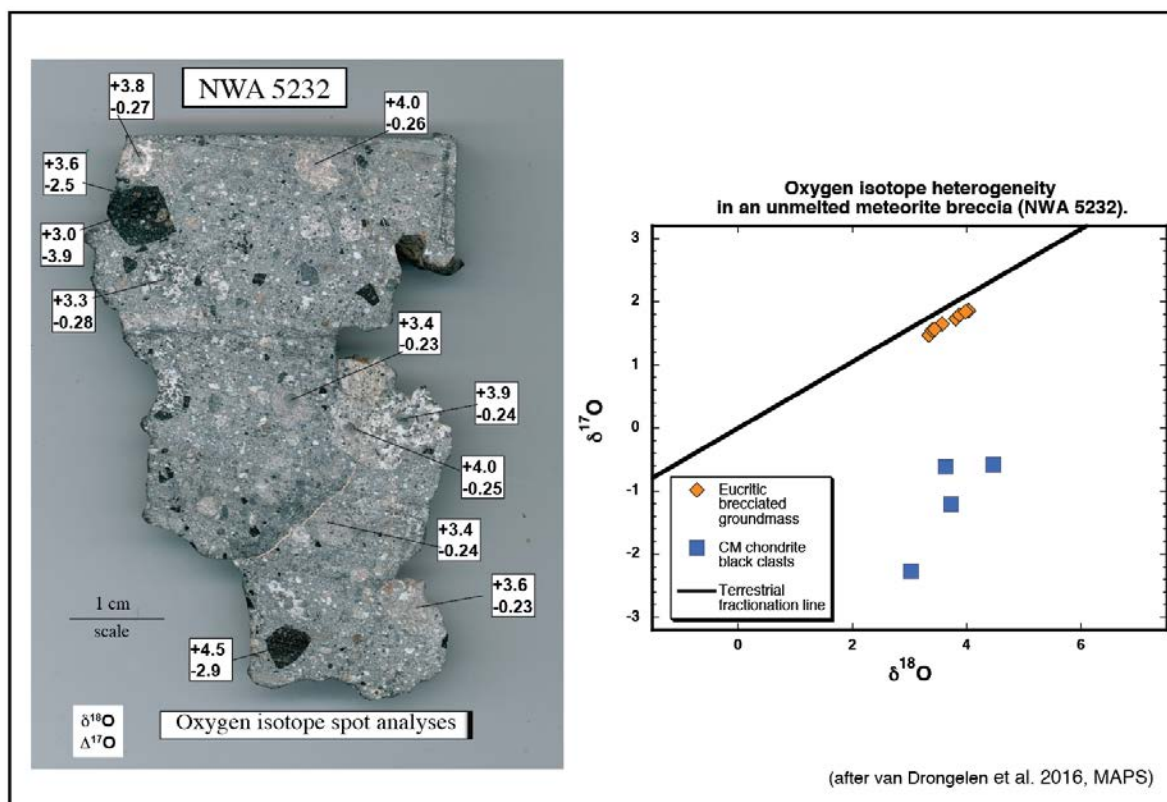
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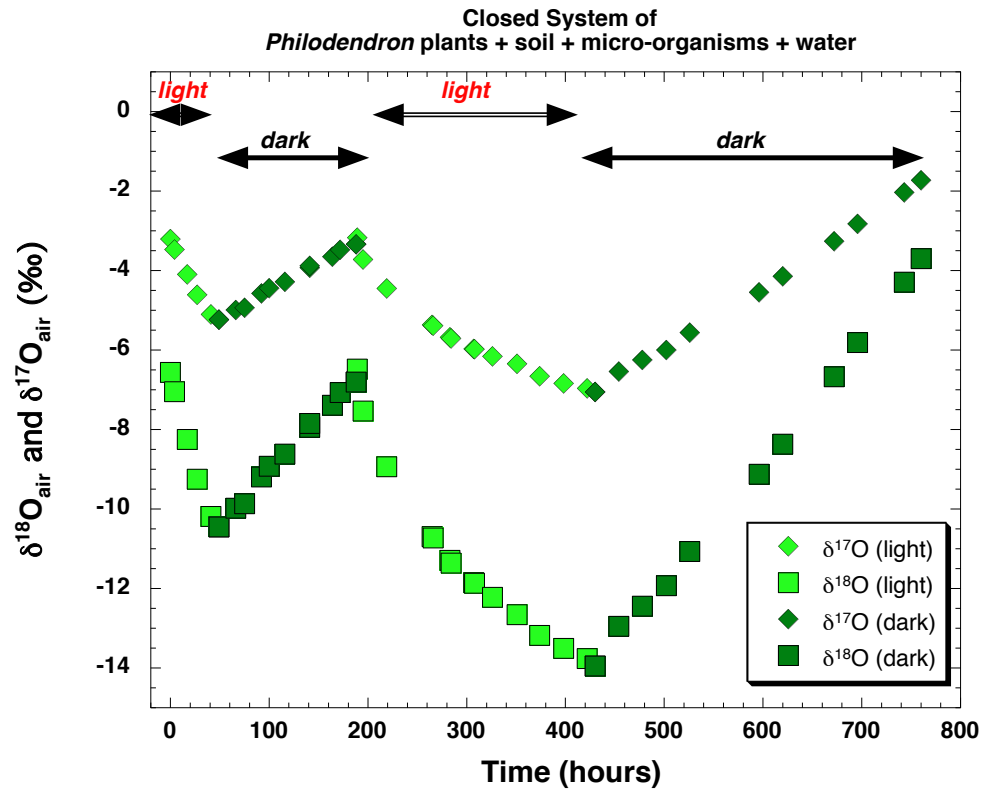
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Changes in Terrarium O₂ in the light (O₂ produced) and in the dark (O₂ consumed)



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817 **Figure 3:** Plot of variations in $\delta^{17}\text{O}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ vs. time in atmosphere of closed
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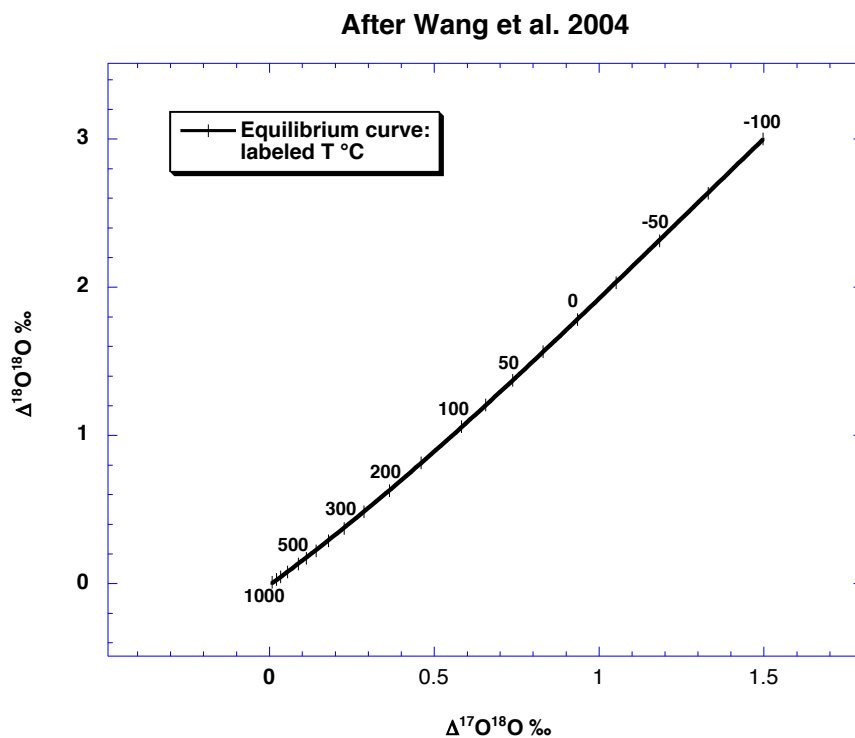
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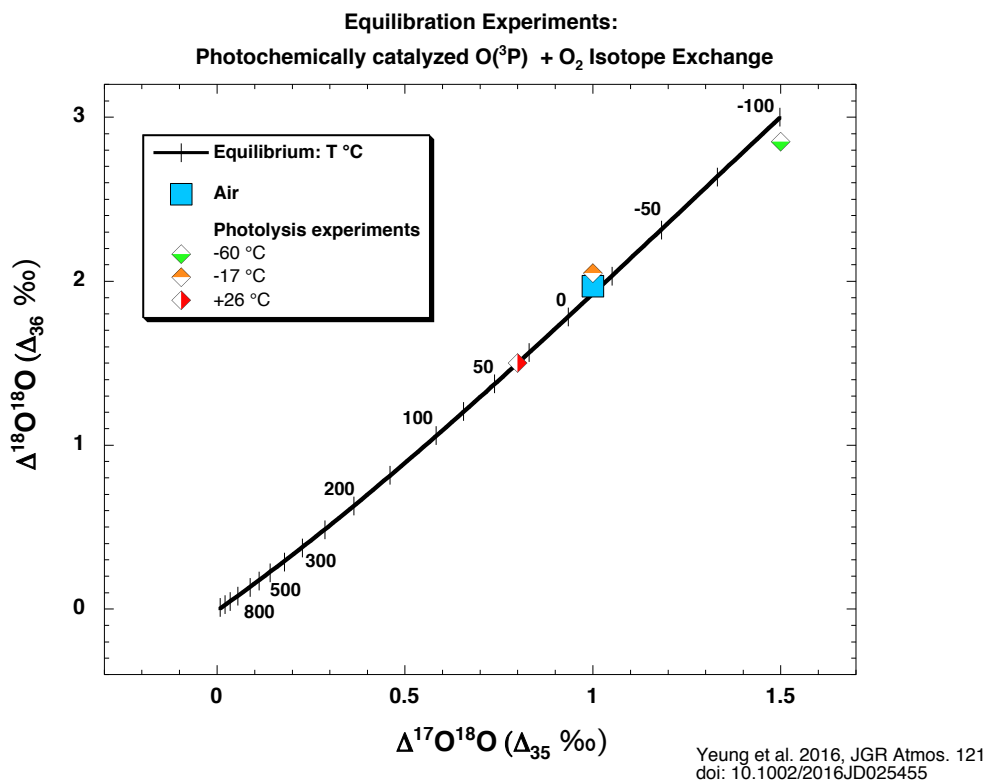
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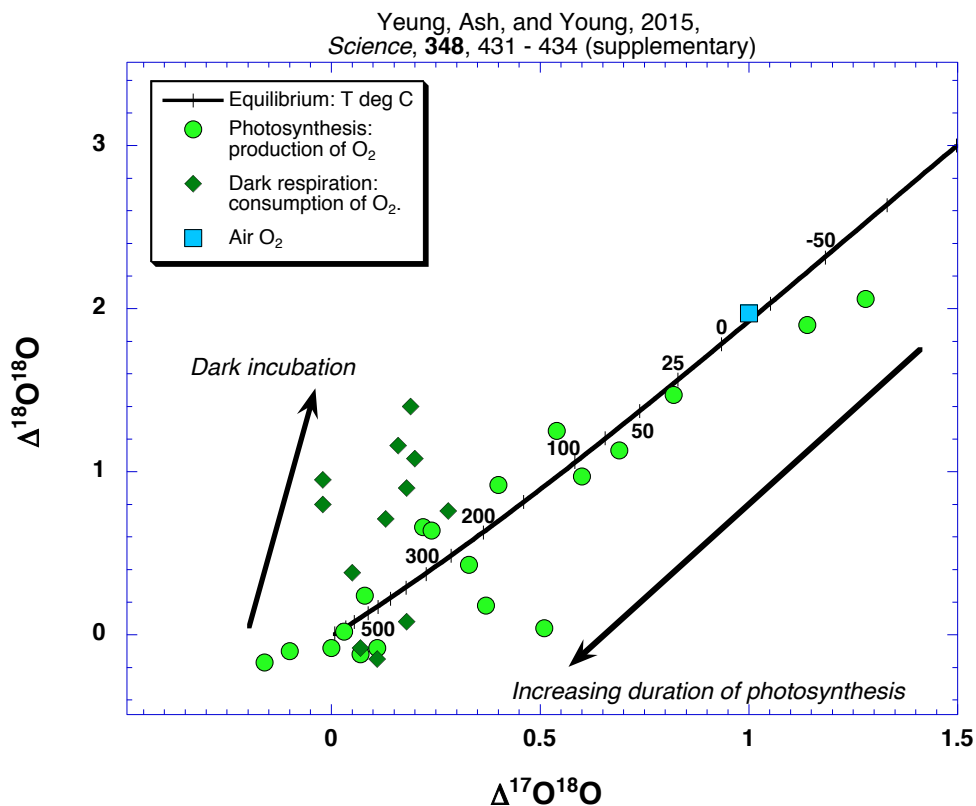
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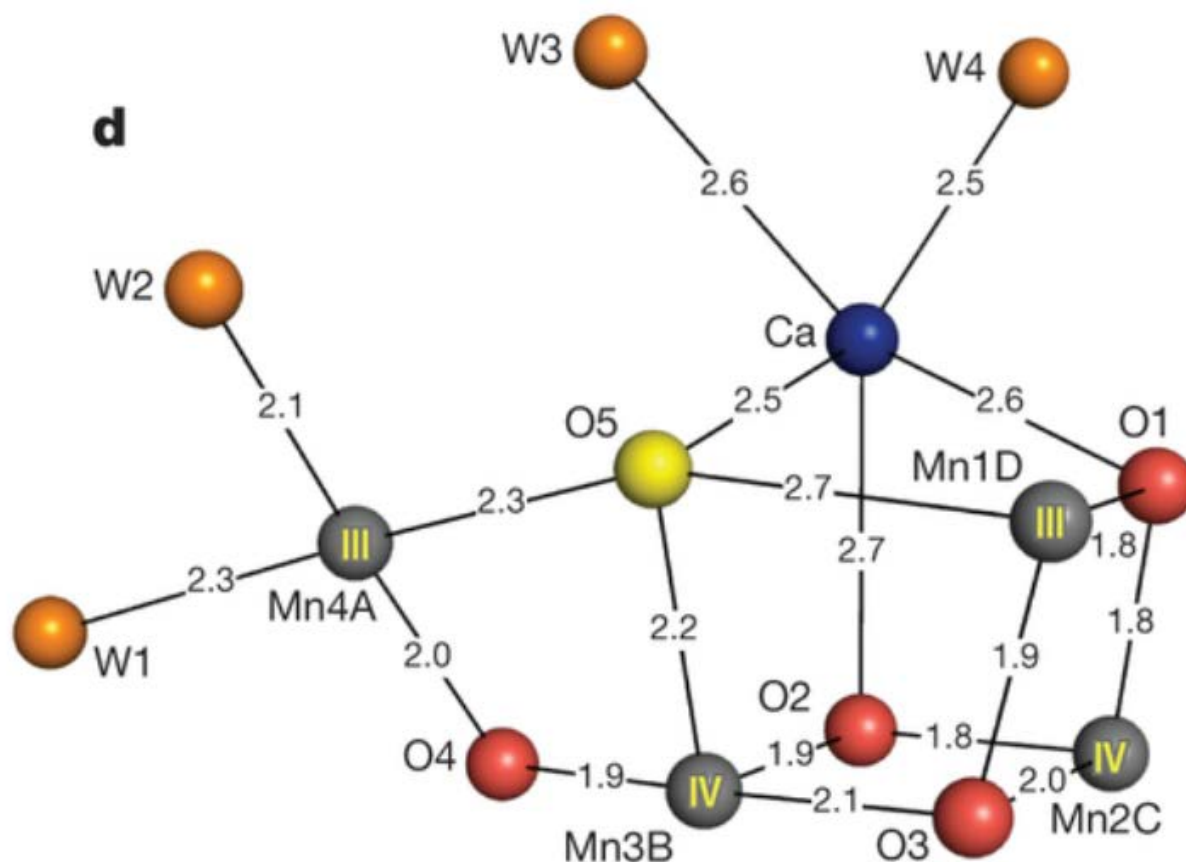


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