10-1 - CO₂PIP— A COMMUNITY PROJECT TO ADVANCE AND STANDARDIZE APPROACHES TO PALEO-CO₂ RECONSTRUCTION AND TO BUILD THE NEXT-GENERATION PHANEROZOIC RECORD



Abstract

Atmospheric CO₂ is a fundamental variable in the Earth system as it impacts and responds to a range of processes that regulate planetary function. CO₂ has a primary control on Earth's climate, driving massive shifts between greenhouse and icehouse worlds. It directly affects marine and terrestrial ecosystems through its control on climate and seawater acidity, and is thought to have profoundly influenced the evolution of life. CO2 levels respond to hightemperature processes occurring in the Earth's crust and mantle as well as to lowtemperature processes occurring at the Earth's surface. CO₂ is thus a primary link between the subdisciplines of the Earth Sciences. Yet our quantitative knowledge of CO₂ variations in Earth's past is surprisingly limited. Whereas Cenozoic CO₂ and its uncertainties are increasingly better constrained (paleo-CO2.org), CO2 levels in deeper time are highly uncertain. Here we introduce a new community project CO₂PIP(CO₂ Proxy Integration Project) that will advance the science of paleo-CO₂ reconstruction and build a statistically robust multi-proxy atmospheric CO₂ record for the Phanerozoic. Building on the efforts of the Research Coordination Network 'Improving reconstructions of Cenozoic CO2 change', we focus on 1) compiling and updating proxy records for the Paleozoic and Mesozoic, 2) developing improved strategies for quantitative integration of diverse proxy data throughout the geological record.

We seek to engage the broader scientific community to collaborate on modernizing existing pre-Cenozoic CO₂ proxy records, which are dominated by paleosol- and fossil leaf-based data. Based on recently developed community criteria, the vast majority of these records do not meet current standards for completeness. The CO₂PIP vision is to work as a community to add key measurements and metadata for these record, building a FAIR paleo-CO₂ proxy data repository and digital infrastructure for presenting and archiving an interactive proxy data compilation. We will further develop quantified representations (forward proxy system models) of the conditions and processes that govern the CO₂ signal in several of the most commonly used proxies. Integration of the new proxy models with vetted and modernized CO₂ proxy records will generate a robust, quantitative reconstruction of Phanerozoic CO₂ concentrations. We aspire to produce fully accessible products that will facilitate future scientific discovery and analysis by researchers over a wide array of geoscience disciplines and inform the public.

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