

**Appendix Table DR1.** Average composition of Early Cambrian sulfide marker bed (n=8) and black shale host sequence at the Huangjiawan mine, South China. Analysis by combined X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (XRF), gas chromatography (GC), neutron activation analysis (INA), inductively-coupled plasma spectrometry (ICPMS), inductively-coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICPMS), atomic absorption spectrometry/cold-vapor FIMA (AAS-H), prompt gamma neutron activation analysis (PGNA), thermal ion mass spectrometry (TIMS).

|                                |       |     | Mo-Ni-rich sulfide marker bed |       |       |       |        |       |       |       | Black shale (n=10) |       |      |      |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|------|------|
|                                |       |     | ZH-1                          | ZH-2  | ZH-5  | Z-6   | Z-11   | Z-12  | ZG-1  | ZG-2  | Mean               | 1SD   | Mean | 1SD  |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>               | XRF   | %   | 16.8                          | 20.8  | 21.7  | 13.9  | 17.0   | 22.4  | 21.2  | 20.8  | 19.3               | 3.0   | 63.0 | 7.5  |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>               | XRF   | %   | 0.190                         | 0.165 | 0.236 | 0.176 | 0.142  | 0.275 | 0.236 | 0.211 | 0.2                | 0.0   | 0.26 | 0.01 |
| Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | XRF   | %   | 3.50                          | 3.11  | 4.50  | 2.97  | 2.80   | 4.87  | 4.36  | 3.99  | 3.8                | 0.8   | 6.06 | 0.21 |
| MnO                            | XRF   | %   | 0.020                         | 0.016 | 0.007 | 0.003 | <0.001 | 0.091 | 0.024 | 0.037 | 0.0                | 0.0   | 0.02 | 0.01 |
| MgO                            | XRF   | %   | 1.35                          | 0.830 | 1.48  | 0.300 | 0.930  | 4.95  | 1.79  | 2.99  | 1.8                | 1.5   | 1.79 | 0.17 |
| CaO                            | XRF   | %   | 2.34                          | 4.71  | 5.82  | 4.78  | 3.54   | 10.6  | 4.25  | 6.08  | 5.3                | 2.5   | 2.45 | 0.30 |
| Na <sub>2</sub> O              | XRF   | %   | 0.14                          | 0.05  | 0.26  | 0.07  | 0.15   | 0.31  | 0.20  | 0.26  | 0.2                | 0.1   | 0.37 | 0.02 |
| K <sub>2</sub> O               | XRF   | %   | 0.780                         | 0.590 | 1.14  | 0.742 | 0.625  | 1.20  | 1.01  | 0.932 | 0.9                | 0.2   | 2.06 | 0.06 |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>  | XRF   | %   | 0.920                         | 3.52  | 3.35  | 3.52  | 1.95   | 2.66  | 1.74  | 1.95  | 2.4                | 1.0   | 0.14 | 0.07 |
| C tot                          | GC    | %   | 12.7                          | 10.2  | 11.4  | 7.3   | 12.0   | 11.7  | 11.4  | 12.1  | 11.1               | 1.7   | 9.2  | 0.1  |
| N                              | GC    | %   | 0.18                          | 0.13  | 0.19  | 0.12  | 0.20   | 0.17  |       |       | 0.2                | 0.0   | 0.14 | 0.03 |
| H                              | GC    | %   | 1.39                          | 1.17  | 1.09  | 1.18  | 1.07   | 0.89  |       |       | 1.1                | 0.2   |      |      |
| FeS <sub>2</sub>               | XRF   | %   | 31.8                          | 32.0  | 27.8  | 46.4  | 37.4   | 18.6  | 30.6  | 24.6  | 31.2               | 8.3   | 5.76 | 1.69 |
| AsS                            | INA   | %   | 3.23                          | 1.66  | 1.83  | 2.00  | 1.86   | 1.27  | 2.00  | 2.17  | 2.0                | 0.6   |      |      |
| MoS <sub>2</sub>               | XRF   | %   | 11.85                         | 4.84  | 8.14  | 6.41  | 10.86  | 6.37  | 7.04  | 9.03  | 8.1                | 2.4   |      |      |
| NiS                            | XRF   | %   | 5.71                          | 5.36  | 7.39  | 6.28  | 7.58   | 4.61  | 8.09  | 6.57  | 6.4                | 1.2   |      |      |
| ZnS                            | XRF   | %   | 0.49                          | 0.39  | 0.36  | 0.85  | 0.56   | 0.55  | 0.96  | 0.71  | 0.6                | 0.2   |      |      |
| Sum                            |       | %   | 93.33                         | 89.57 | 96.63 | 96.97 | 98.65  | 91.49 | 94.85 | 92.43 | 94.2               | 3.1   | 91.3 |      |
| S                              | GC    | %   | 22.50                         | 20.60 | 19.40 | 29.20 | 25.60  | 13.40 |       |       | 21.8               | 5.4   | 3.53 | 0.77 |
| Ag                             | ICP   | ppm | 87.2                          | 66    | 54.5  | 49.5  | 75.3   | 39.1  | 60.5  | 61.6  | 61.7               | 15.0  | 0.98 | 0.41 |
| As                             | INA   | ppm | 22600                         | 11600 | 12800 | 14000 | 13000  | 8900  | 14000 | 15200 | 14013              | 3957  | 52   | 25   |
| B                              | PGNA  | ppm | 12                            | 15    |       |       |        |       |       |       | 13.5               | 2.1   |      |      |
| Ba                             | XRF   | ppm | 543                           | 964   | 731   | 620   | 486    | 791   | 558   | 612   | 663                | 157.1 | 1577 | 1288 |
| Be                             | ICP   | ppm | <1                            | <1    | <1    | 3     | <1     | <1    | <1    | 1     | 2.0                | 1.4   | 1.9  | 0.3  |
| Bi                             | ICP   | ppm |                               |       | 36    | 43    | 58     | 27    | 52    | 46    | 43.7               | 11.1  |      |      |
| Cd                             | ICP   | ppm | 66.5                          | 86.9  | 47.5  | 162.1 | 71.9   | 47.5  | 117   | 74.9  | 84.3               | 38.5  | 21   | 23   |
| Co                             | INA   | ppm | 160                           | 215   | 170   | 199   | 182    | 121   | 216   | 181   | 181                | 31.3  | 16   | 5    |
| Cr                             | INA   | ppm | 90                            | 124   | 66    | 62    | 53     | 71    | 83    | 56    | 75.6               | 23.3  | 47   | 10   |
| Cs                             | ICPMS | ppm | 8.10                          | 4.41  | 7.19  | 6.79  | 9.57   | 6.72  | 6.41  | 7.45  | 7.1                | 1.5   | 5.1  | 0.9  |
| Cu                             | XRF   | ppm | 2390                          | 2420  | 2670  | 1800  | 2640   | 1960  | 3160  | 2680  | 2465               | 432   | 110  | 47   |
| Ga                             | XRF   | ppm |                               |       | 19    | 21    | 18     | 18    | 16    | 19    | 18.5               | 1.6   | 9.8  | 1.3  |
| Hf                             | ICPMS | ppm | 0.184                         | 0.131 | 1.06  | 1.20  | 0.955  | 1.11  | 1.40  | 1.08  | 0.9                | 0.5   | 1.95 | 0.35 |
| Hg                             | AAS-H | ppm | 14.7                          | 8.96  | 13.1  | 14.6  | 15.3   | 10.9  | 9.89  | 13.2  | 12.6               | 2.4   | 0.42 | 0.28 |
| Mn                             | XRF   | ppm | 154                           | 123   | 54    | 23    | <10    | 701   | 185   | 285   | 218                | 230   | 195  | 150  |

|    |         |     |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |      |      |
|----|---------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| Mo | XRF     | ppm | 71000 | 29000 | 48800 | 38400 | 65100 | 38200 | 42200 | 54100 | 48350 | 14348 | 111  | 21   |
| Nb | ICPMS   | ppm |       |       | 4.44  | 3.08  | 2.84  | 5.03  | 4.59  | 3.89  | 4.0   | 0.9   | 5.54 | 0.62 |
| Ni | XRF     | ppm | 36900 | 34700 | 47800 | 40600 | 49000 | 29800 | 52300 | 42500 | 41700 | 7731  | 166  | 89   |
| Pb | XRF     | ppm | 679   | 329   | 432   | 241   | 506   | 311   | 386   | 444   | 416   | 135   | 53.7 | 21.7 |
| Rb | ICPMS   | ppm | 27.4  | 21.0  | 40.4  | 27.6  | 24.0  | 41.8  | 36.6  | 33.6  | 31.5  | 7.7   | 50.1 | 7.5  |
| Re | NTIMS   | ppm |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 11.2  | 0.9   | 0.2  |      |
| Sb | INA     | ppm | 650   | 365   | 404   | 369   | 573   | 332   | 487   | 594   | 472   | 121   |      |      |
| Sc | ICPMS   | ppm | 4.1   | 4.8   | 5.5   | 4.8   | 3.2   | 5.9   | 5.8   | 5.6   | 5.0   | 0.9   | 6.17 | 0.61 |
| Se | INA     | ppm | 1500  | 1810  | 1650  | 1830  | 2120  | 1210  | 1960  | 2130  | 1776  | 315   | 9.1  | 8.6  |
| Sn | XRF     | ppm |       |       | 6     | 9     | 5     | 9     | 11    | 7     | 7.8   | 2.2   | 1.2  | 0.2  |
| Sr | ICPMS   | ppm | 140   | 344   | 236   | 208   | 140   | 287   | 153   | 176   | 211   | 74.4  | 50.4 | 28.1 |
| Ta | INA/ICP | ppm | <0.5  | <0.5  | 0.23  | 0.18  | 0.14  | 0.22  | 0.19  | 0.16  | 0.2   | 0.0   | 0.35 | 0.19 |
| Th | ICPMS   | ppm | 4.34  | 4.82  | 5.01  | 3.65  | 3.08  | 5.37  | 3.96  | 3.58  | 4.2   | 0.8   | 7.42 | 0.91 |
| U  | ICPMS   | ppm | 71.0  | 320   | 221   | 293   | 126   | 187   | 116   | 108   | 180   | 91.3  | 46.4 | 9.9  |
| V  | XRF     | ppm | 373   | 363   | 1269  | 508   | 904   | 545   | 469   | 467   | 612   | 315   | 580  | 316  |
| W  | XRF     | ppm | 37    | <3    | 35    | 31    | 55    | 29    | 45    | 38    | 38.6  | 8.9   | 4.0  | 3.9  |
| Y  | ICPMS   | ppm | 25.2  | 234   | 109   | 199   | 63.8  | 110   | 62.1  | 77.7  | 110   | 71.6  | 25.2 | 5.63 |
| Zn | XRF     | ppm | 3260  | 2650  | 2410  | 5690  | 3730  | 3710  | 6430  | 4730  | 4076  | 1429  | 260  | 239  |
| Zr | XRF/IC  | ppm | 51    | 34    | 53.1  | 52.6  | 40.4  | 58.7  | 59.2  | 50.6  | 50.0  | 8.7   | 60.4 | 13.6 |
| La | ICPMS   | ppm | 33.5  | 178   | 57.7  | 106   | 37.3  | 65.4  | 37.2  | 61.4  | 72.1  | 48.8  | 17.9 | 3.21 |
| Ce | ICPMS   | ppm | 44.4  | 244   | 96.4  | 138   | 63.1  | 105   | 65.5  | 85.9  | 105   | 63.0  | 38.7 | 7.08 |
| Pr | ICPMS   | ppm | 4.43  | 32.2  | 11.8  | 21.5  | 7.59  | 12.7  | 7.55  | 9.70  | 13.4  | 9.2   | 4.45 | 0.87 |
| Nd | ICPMS   | ppm | 17.0  | 133   | 50.4  | 92.0  | 32.2  | 54.5  | 31.9  | 39.3  | 56.3  | 38.1  | 18.5 | 3.69 |
| Sm | ICPMS   | ppm | 3.25  | 24.0  | 9.93  | 17.0  | 6.27  | 10.4  | 6.23  | 7.15  | 10.5  | 6.8   | 3.57 | 0.74 |
| Eu | ICPMS   | ppm | 0.663 | 4.99  | 2.68  | 3.80  | 1.74  | 2.65  | 1.61  | 1.84  | 2.5   | 1.4   | 0.91 | 0.26 |
| Gd | ICPMS   | ppm | 2.84  | 26.6  | 10.9  | 19.5  | 6.86  | 11.2  | 6.65  | 8.08  | 11.6  | 7.8   | 4.18 | 0.99 |
| Tb | ICPMS   | ppm | 0.394 | 3.45  | 1.50  | 2.63  | 0.949 | 1.53  | 0.904 | 1.07  | 1.6   | 1.0   | 0.77 | 0.18 |
| Dy | ICPMS   | ppm | 2.44  | 20.4  | 9.26  | 16.3  | 5.90  | 9.51  | 5.60  | 6.52  | 9.5   | 6.0   | 3.99 | 0.86 |
| Ho | ICPMS   | ppm | 0.490 | 4.03  | 1.88  | 3.37  | 1.23  | 1.98  | 1.13  | 1.35  | 1.9   | 1.2   | 0.80 | 0.19 |
| Er | ICPMS   | ppm | 1.37  | 10.4  | 5.17  | 8.86  | 3.28  | 5.28  | 3.02  | 3.62  | 5.1   | 3.1   | 2.40 | 0.48 |
| Tm | ICPMS   | ppm | 0.177 | 1.10  | 0.606 | 0.984 | 0.384 | 0.617 | 0.364 | 0.422 | 0.6   | 0.3   | 0.43 | 0.08 |
| Yb | ICPMS   | ppm | 1.05  | 5.51  | 3.32  | 4.87  | 2.02  | 3.37  | 1.93  | 2.33  | 3.1   | 1.5   | 2.27 | 0.40 |
| Lu | ICPMS   | ppm | 0.149 | 0.665 | 0.422 | 0.612 | 0.255 | 0.453 | 0.250 | 0.323 | 0.4   | 0.2   | 0.36 | 0.08 |
| Ir | ICPMS   | ppb | 5.38  | 4.03  | 4.07  | 3.75  | 3.58  | 2.40  | 4.03  | 4.37  | 4.0   | 0.8   | <1   |      |
| Pd | ICPMS   | ppb | 419   | 412   | 421   | 379   | 421   | 267   | 463   | 385   | 396   | 58.0  | 28   |      |
| Pt | ICPMS   | ppb | 358   | 347   | 337   | 340   | 349   | 226   | 405   | 383   | 343   | 52.7  | 30   |      |
| Rh | ICPMS   | ppb | 17.3  | 16.4  | 16.7  | 15.4  | 16.7  | 10.6  | 18.7  | 14.3  | 15.8  | 2.5   | <1   |      |
| Ru | ICPMS   | ppb | 12.0  | 8.92  | 5.78  | 7.00  | 9.63  | 3.78  | 7.12  | 4.36  | 7.3   | 2.8   | <1   |      |
| Os | ICPMS   | ppb | 135   | 109   | 127   | 115   | 130   | 114   | 157   | 147   | 129   | 16.8  | 3    |      |
| Au | INA     | ppb | 280   | 360   | 282   | 529   | 432   | 269   | 540   | 457   | 394   | 112   | 10   |      |

*in italics:*

Re data from sample set by Mao et al. (2002)

PGE+Au data on black shales from Li and Gao (2000)

Reference data on seawater and bulk continental crust in Figures 1 and 2 from Nozaki (1997) and Taylor and McLennan (1985), respectively.

**Appendix Table DR2.**

Molybdenum data of five samples of the Early Cambrian sulfide marker bed from the Huangjiawan mine in Guizhou (Mao et al., 2002), six black shale samples from the host sequence of the sulfide marker bed at Ganziping, 350 km NE of Huangjiawan (Pan et al., 2004), and two black shale samples from Yuanling, 300 km ENE of Huangjiawan (Zhu et al., 2004), where the sulfide marker bed is not developed.

Mo isotope analytical procedures followed Siebert et al. (2001). The external standard reproducibility is at or better than 0.1 ‰ for the  $^{98}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo}$  ratio ( $2\sigma$ ).

See main text for discussion.

| Sample   | stratigraphic position [m] <sup>a</sup> | $\delta^{98/95}\text{Mo}$ MOMO <sup>b</sup> | $\delta^{98/95}\text{Mo}$ standard <sup>c</sup> | $2\sigma$ std.err. <sup>d</sup> | $\delta^{97/95}\text{Mo}$ standard <sup>e</sup> | Mo [ppm] |
|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| <i>Huangjiawan sulfide marker bed</i>                  |   |   |   |                                 |   |          |
| ZG-1   | 0                                       | -1.36                                       | 0.94  | 0.04                            | 0.62  | 42200    |
| ZG-2   | 0                                       | -1.25                                       | 1.05  | 0.02                            | 0.69  | 54100    |
| ZH-1   | 0                                       | -1.17                                       | 1.13  | 0.04                            | 0.75  | 29000    |
| ZH-2   | 0                                       | -1.33                                       | 0.97  | 0.02                            | 0.64  | 71000    |
| ZH-5   | 0                                       | -1.10                                       | 1.20  | 0.04                            | 0.79  | 48800    |
| <i>Niutitang Formation (black shales at Ganziping)</i> |   |   |   |                                 |   |          |
| ZG-3   | -0.7                                    | -0.80                                       | 1.50  | 0.04                            | 1.00  | 209      |
| ZG-7   | 1.5                                     | -0.40                                       | 1.90  | 0.04                            | 1.25  | 115      |
| "  |   | -0.43                                       | 1.87  | 0.04                            | 1.23  |          |
| ZG-11  | 1.8                                     | -1.05                                       | 1.25  | 0.04                            | 0.83  | 102      |
| ZG-17  | 4.5                                     | -1.49                                       | 0.81  | 0.04                            | 0.53  | 293      |
| "  |   | -1.36                                       | 0.94  | 0.06                            | 0.62  |          |
| ZG-26  | 46.5                                    | -1.08                                       | 1.22  | 0.04                            | 0.81  | 54       |
| ZG-29  | 61                                      | -1.24                                       | 1.06  | 0.04                            | 0.71  | 35       |
| <i>Niutitang Formation (black shales at Yuanling)</i>  |   |   |   |                                 |   |          |
| L-60   | 0                                       | -1.20                                       | 1.10  | 0.04                            | 0.73  | 22       |
| L-66   | 6                                       | -1.82                                       | 0.48  | 0.04                            | 0.32  | 12       |

<sup>a</sup> Stratigraphic position in m relative to the sulfide marker bed.

<sup>b</sup> Deviations of  $^{98}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo}$  in permil from Mean Ocean Molybdenum (MOMO) (Siebert et al., 2003).

<sup>c</sup> Ditto, but relative to the Bern Laboratory standard as in Siebert et al. (2003) and McManus et al. (2002).

<sup>d</sup> In-run errors denoting stability of the measurement. A better assessment of the real uncertainty is the  $2\sigma$  external standard reproducibility of samples ( $\pm 0.1$  ‰). The latter is used in text and figure.

<sup>e</sup> Deviations of  $^{97}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo}$  in permil from Rochester Laboratory standard as in Barling et al. (2001) and Arnold et al. (2004). The intercalibration of the latter two is approximated by comparable samples (seawater, recent Fe-Mn crusts).

**Additional references besides main text:**

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