

35 –34億年前と27 –22億年前の地球表層の酸素増加

The rise of oxygen in the Earth surface at 3.5–3.4 Ga and 2.7–2.2 Ga

*海保 邦夫¹、片山 悠真¹、川瀬 智大¹、Altermann Wladyslaw ³、Van Kranendonk Martin ⁴、小宮 剛²、齊藤 諒介¹

*Kunio Kaiho¹, Yuki Katayama¹, Tomohiro Kawase¹, Wladyslaw Altermann³, Martin Van Kranendonk⁴, Tsuyoshi Komiya², Ryosuke Saito¹

1.東北大学大学院理学研究科、2.東京大学、3.プレトリア大学、4.ニューサウスウェールズ大学

1.Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, 2.University of Tokyo, 3.University of Pretoria, 4.University of New South Wales

Great oxidation event (GOE) on Earth occurred approximately 2.3 billion years ago (Ga) based on iron redox state and sulfur isotopes. However, the age of first oxidation of the Earth's surface is controversial. Presence of small amount of O₂ in the environment at 2.5 Ga has been suggested by redox sensitive elements and sulfur isotopes and at 2.7 Ga by nitrogen isotopes. We analyzed hydrocarbon-derived geochemical parameters diagnostic for sedimentary redox conditions, i.e., the pristane/phytane ratio (Pr/Ph), from shallow marine sedimentary rocks in Labrador, Canada, Western Australia, and South Africa. Here, we show that anoxic shallow sea at >3.95 Ga was followed by intermediate conditions at 3.5–2.9 Ga, local oxic conditions at 2.7 Ga, and subsequently global oxidation at 2.6–2.2 Ga. These results indicate that the rise of oxygen in the Earth surface occurred at 3.5–3.4 Ga and 2.7–2.2 Ga.

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