ペルム紀/三畳紀境界における地球外³Heフラックスの増加イベント Enhanced flux of extraterrestrial ³He across the Permian-Triassic boundary

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The Solar System contains abundant submillimetre interplanetary dust particles (IDPs) that are enriched in ³He. ³He concentrations in ancient deep-sea sediments have been used to constrain the flux of IDPs onto the Earth for at least the last 100 Myr. However, the use of ³He in detecting IDP flux is often compromised by the diffusional loss of ³He in sedimentary rocks, with the exception of some Ordovician samples that record a period of unusually high extraterrestrial ³He (³He_{ET}) flux. In this study, we report for the first time the preservation of extra-terrestrial ³Hein deep-sea bedded chertfrom a continuous Permian-Triassic boundary (PTB) section at Waidani in Japan, which was deposited in the Panthalassa superocean.

High ${}^{3}\text{He}/{}^{4}\text{He}$ ratios (up to 150 Ra; 1Ra = the atmospheric ratio) were detected from acid-insoluble residues from the uppermost Permian deposits, which suggests the existence of extraterrestrial He hosted mainly in IDPs. The estimated extraterrestrial fraction of ${}^{3}\text{He}$ across the PTB reveals that ${}^{3}\text{He}_{ET}$ concentrations are higher in the topmost ${}^{\sim}1.5$ m of the studied Permian deposits, which is 4–5 times greater than that measured in the overlying Triassic unit. Based on the ${}^{3}\text{He}_{ET}$ concentration and sedimentary mass accumulation rate of the PTB section at Waidani, we calculated ${}^{3}\text{He}_{ET}$ flux across the PTB. The data document the presence of an up to 4-fold increase in IDP flux for the last 500 kyr interval of the Permian. This unusual signal suggests a significant increase in the influx of interplanetary dust particles, likely related to an asteroid showerin the inner Solar System. High-resolution stratigraphy indicates that peak IDP flux occurred during the final 500 kyr of the Permian, concurrent with a pre-extinction decline in radiolarian diversity.

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