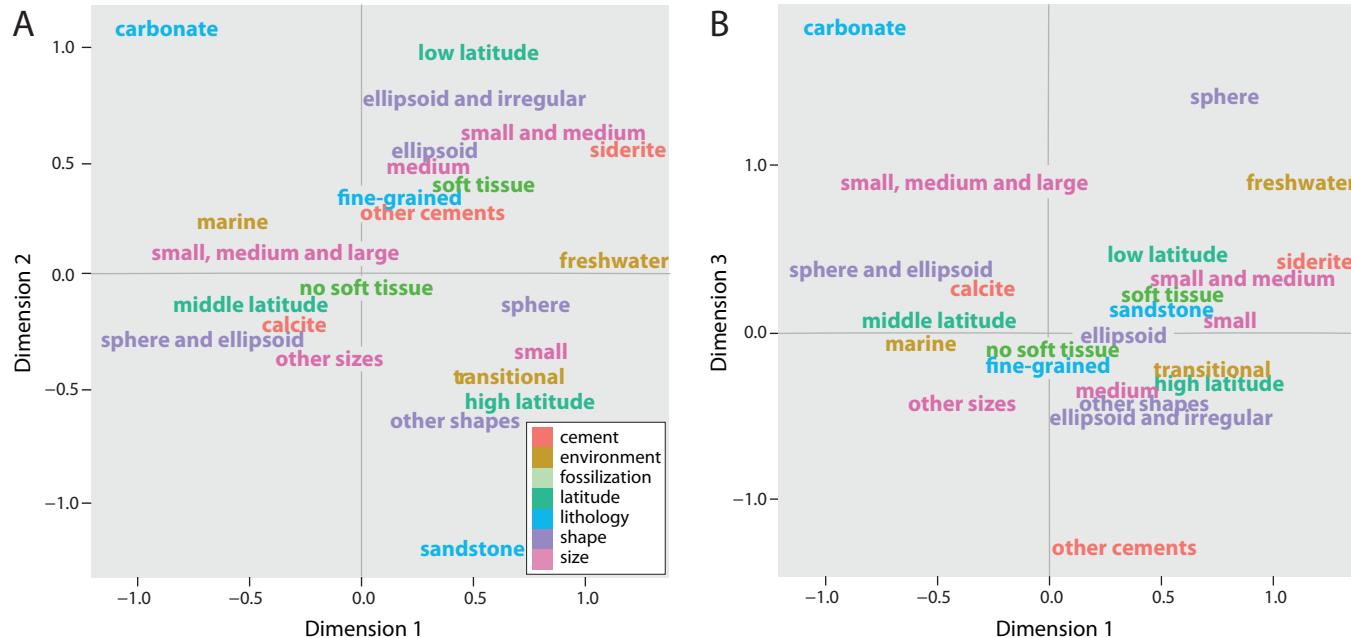


SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE 1—3D CT scan reconstruction of mineral precipitation experiments. Yellow is remaining fish tissue, blue is glass beads cemented together by authigenic mineral precipitation. Scale bar refers to both.
A) Fine grained glass beads. B) Medium grained glass beads.



SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE 2—The distribution of variable states along each Dimension. The states of each variable that contribute meaningfully to the Dimensions are plotted to show how the variables are positioned. A) Dimension 1 vs Dimension 2. B) Dimension 1 vs. Dimension 3.

Supplementary Table 1. Data Used in Analyses

Formation	Age	Variable state [†]												References
		latitude	cement	pyrite	size	shape	environment	lithology	soft tissue preservation*	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend	
Doushantuo	Ediacaran	3	3	1	2	4	3	2	1	?	?	?	?	Zhu et al., 2005; Dong et al., 2008
Lion Mountain sandstone	Cambrian	1	2	0	4	2	2	3	0	1	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	McBride, 1988
Upper Cambrian beds, St Tudwal's Peninsula	Cambrian	3	2	?	4	3	2	2	0	?	?	?	?	Raiswell, 1971
Rastrites Shale	Silurian	1	2	1	5	1	3	2	0	2	1 (0)	2 (1)	3	Morad and Eshete, 1990; Mozley and Burns, 1993
Wenlock Series	Silurian	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	?	?	?	?	Briggs et al., 1996; Orr et al., 2000; Sutton, 2001
Kellwasser beds	Devonian	3	2	?	2	?	3	2	0	?	?	?	?	Becker et al., 2004; Meyer-Berthaud et al., 2004
Geneseo Formation	Devonian	2	2	1	5	3	3	2	0	0	3 (1)	2 (0)	1	Dix and Mullins, 1987; Wilson and Brett, 2013
Windom Member	Devonian	2	2	1	5	3	3	2	0	0	0 (1)	2 (0)	2 (0)	Dix and Mullins, 1987; Wilson and Brett, 2013

Formation	Age	Variable state [†]												References			
		latitude	cement	pyrite	size	shape	environment	lithology	soft tissue preservation*	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend				
Butternut Member	Devonian	2	2	1	5	3	3	3	0	0	1	2	0	Dix and Mullins, 1987; Wilson and Brett, 2013	(2)	(0)	(1)
Chittenango Member	Devonian	2	2	1	5	3	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	Dix and Mullins, 1987; Wilson and Brett, 2013	(1)	(0)	(0)
Union Springs Member	Devonian	2	2	1	5	3	3	2	0	0	1	2	2	Dix and Mullins, 1987; Wilson and Brett, 2013	(0)	(0)	(0)
Ivy Point Member	Devonian	2	2	1	5	3	3	3	0	1	1	2	2	Dix and Mullins, 1987; Wilson and Brett, 2013	(0)	(1)	(1)
Kettle Point Formation	Devonian	1	2	1	4	3	3	2	0	0	3	2	1	Coniglio and Cameron, 1990	(1)	(0)	(0)
Woodford Shale	Devonian	1	2	1	4	4	3	2	1	?	?	?	?	Feldmann and Schweitzer, 2010			
Gogo Formation	Devonian	1	2	0	2	5	3	2	1	0	?	2	?	Long and Trinajstic, 2010			
English Coal Measures-other cement	Carboniferous	1	3	1	?	1	3	2	0	0	1	2	?	Coleman et al., 1993; Wilson and Almond, 2001	(?)	(0)	(0)
English Coal Measures-siderite	Carboniferous	1	1	1	?	2	2	2	0	1	?	2	?	Coleman et al., 1993; Wilson and Almond, 2001	(0)	(0)	(0)
Hepworth sequence	Carboniferous	1	1	1	3	2	3	2	0	1	?	?	?	Pearson, 1979			

Formation	Age	Variable state [†]												References		
		latitude	cement	pyrite	size	shape	environment	lithology	soft tissue preservation*	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend			
Upper Cattletown Formation	Carboniferous	1	2	1	2	2	?	1	0	?	?	?	?	Dickson and Barber, 1976		
Francis Creek Shale, Mazon Creek Braidwood	Carboniferous	1	1	1	2	5	1	2	1	2	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	Woodland and Stenstrom, 1979; Baird et al., 1985a; Baird et al., 1985b; Baird et al., 1986		
Francis Creek Shale, Mazon Creek Essex	Carboniferous	1	1	1	2	5	2	2	1	1	1 (0)	2	1	Woodland and Stenstrom, 1979; Baird et al., 1985a; Baird et al., 1985b; Baird et al., 1986		
Montceau les Mines	Carboniferous	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	?	?	?	?	Rolfe et al., 1982; Charbonnier et al., 2008		
Dugger Formation	Carboniferous	1	1	1	5	?	2	2	0	?	?	?	?	Maples, 1986		
Iowa equivalent to Francis creek Shale,	Carboniferous	1	1	1	3	5	1	2	0	?	?	?	?	Archer et al., 1995		
Orzesze beds	Carboniferous	1	1	1	3	2	1	?	1	?	?	?	?	Filipiak and Krawczynski, 1996		
Dwyka and Ecca groups	Permian	3	2	1	4	3	1	2	0	0	3	1	1	Abdala et al., 2006; Herbert and Compton, 2007		

Formation	Age	Variable state [†]												References
		latitude	cement	pyrite	size	shape	environment	lithology	soft tissue preservation*	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend	
Helongshan Formation	Triassic	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	0	?	?	?	?	Tong et al., 2006; Shuangying et al., 2007
Chanares Formation	Triassic	3	2	0	4	2	1	2	0	?	?	?	?	Rogers et al., 2001
Weser Formation equivalent	Triassic	2	2	1	1	4	1	2	0	?	?	?	?	Dzik, 2008; Bodzioch and Kowal-Linka, 2012
Chinle Formation	Triassic	1	2	?	3	?	1	2	0	?	?	?	?	Fiorillo et al., 2000
Katberg Formation	Triassic	3	2	0	3	4	2	3	0	?	?	?	?	Johnson, 1989
Ollach Sandstone Member, Bearreraig Formation	Jurassic	2	2	0	4	4	3	3	0	0	?	2	?	Wilkinson, 1991 (0)
Udairn Shale Member, Bearreraig Formation	Jurassic	2	2	0	4	4	3	2	0	2	?	2	?	Wilkinson, 1991 (0)

Formation	Age	Variable state [†]												References		
		latitude	cement	pyrite	size	shape	environment	lithology	soft tissue preservation*	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend			
Sysola Formation	Jurassic	3	1	0	?	?	2	2	0	0	?	1	?	Vetoshkina, 2006		
Oxfordian black shales, Chile	Jurassic	2	2	0	5	2	3	2	1	?	?	?	?	Schultze, 1989		
Oxford Clay	Jurassic	2	2	1	4	4	3	2	0	2	3 (1)	2 (0)	1	Hudson, 1978		
Upper Bajocian beds, Polish Jura	Jurassic	3	2	1	2	3	3	2	0	0	3 (1)	2 (0)	1	Zatoń and Marynowski, 2006		
Shelikof and Lonesome formations	Jurassic	3	2	1	?	?	3	2	0	?	?	?	?	Blome, 1984		
The Coinstone Type 1 nodules	Jurassic	2	2	1	4	5	3	2	0	0	3 (1)	2 (0)	1	Hesselbo and Palmer, 1992		
The Coinstone Type 2 nodules	Jurassic	2	2	1	4	4	3	2	0	0	3 (1)	2 (0)	1	Hesselbo and Palmer, 1992		
The Coinstone Type 3 nodules	Jurassic	2	2	0	4	2	3	2	0	0	3 (1)	2 (0)	1	Hesselbo and Palmer, 1992		
Carlile shale	Cretaceous	3	3	1	4	2	3	2	0	2	3 (1)	1	2	Coniglio et al., 2000		

Formation	Age	Variable state [†]												References		
		latitude	cement	pyrite	size	shape	environment	lithology	soft tissue preservation*	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend			
Cardium Formation	Cretaceous	3	1	1	?	?	3	2	0	2	3 (1)	1	1	Machemer and Hutcheon, 1988		
Cretaceous black shales	Cretaceous	2	1	0	1	3	3	2	0	0	?	2	?	Tasse and Hesse, 1984		
Gammon Shale	Cretaceous	3	3	1	2	2	?	2	0	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	Gautier, 1982		
Cretaceous black shales, Magdalena Valley	Cretaceous	1	2	0	5	3	3	2	0	?	?	?	?	Weeks, 1953; Weeks, 1957		
Santa Marta Formation	Cretaceous	3	2	1	4	4	2	3	0	0 (0)	?	2	?	Pirrie and Marshall, 1991		
Lopez de Bertodano	Cretaceous	3	2	1	4	3	2	2	0	0 (0)	?	2	?	Pirrie and Marshall, 1991		
Mishash	Cretaceous	2	2	0	4	3	3	3	0	0 (0)	1	2	1	Sass and Kolodny, 1972		
Bearpaw shale	Cretaceous	2	3	1	5	5	3	2	0	?	?	?	?	Feldmann et al., 1977; Cameron, 1995		
Maungataniwha sandstone	Cretaceous	3	2	1	4	2	2	3	0	?	?	?	?	Crampton and Moore, 1990		

Formation	Age	Variable state [†]												References		
		latitude	cement	pyrite	size	shape	environment	lithology	soft tissue preservation*	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend			
Fox Hill	Cretaceous	3	3	1	?	4	2	3	0	0	?	2	?	Waagé, 1964; Carpenter et al., 1988	(0)	
Peace River Formation	Cretaceous	3	1	1	?	4	2	3	0	2	0	1	0	Bloch, 1990	(1)	(1)
Krasnojarkovskaja 1	Cretaceous	2	1	0	?	?	2	2	0	?	?	?	?	Alabushev, 1995		
Krasnojarkovskaja 2	Cretaceous	2	2	0	?	?	2	2	0	?	?	?	?	Alabushev, 1995		
Romualdo Member, Santana Formation	Cretaceous	2	2	0	2	3	2	2	1	?	?	?	?	Mabesoone and Tinoco, 1973		
Aptian beds, Shilovka	Cretaceous	3	1	?	1	?	3	?	1	?	?	?	?	Larisa and Harry, 2005		
Pierre shale	Cretaceous	3	3	?	4	5	3	2	0	?	?	?	?	Bishop, 1981		
Turonian marls and limestones	Cretaceous	1	2	0	?	2	3	1	0	0	3	2	3	El Albani et al., 2001	(1)	(0)
Otway and Strzelecki groups	Cretaceous	3	2	0	5	1	1	3	0	2	1	1	3	Gregory et al., 1989; Martin, 2009		

Formation	Age	Variable state [†]												References		
		latitude	cement	pyrite	size	shape	environment	lithology	soft tissue preservation*	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend			
Otway and Strzelecki groups	Cretaceous	3	1	0	5	1	1	3	0	?	?	1	?	Gregory et al., 1989; Martin, 2009		
Cretaceous Marine Sediments, Zululand	Cretaceous	3	2	0	2	4	3	2	0	?	?	?	?	Kennedy and Klinger, 2009		
London Clay	Paleogene	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	0	2	1	2	0	Huggett, 1994; Huggett, 1995; Huggett et al., 2000	(0)	(1)
Sakamena Group	Paleogene	3	?	?	2	4	2	3	0	?	?	?	?	Olsen, 1984		
Moeraki Formation	Paleogene	3	2	1	4	1	2	2	0	2	1	2	2	Thyne and Boles, 1989	(0)	(0)
Rio Foyel Formation	Paleogene	2	2	?	3	4	3	2	0	?	?	?	?	Crawford, 2008		
Huitrera Formation	Paleogene	3	?	?	1	2	1	3	1	?	?	?	?	Báez and Pugener, 2003		
Alamenca Formation	Paleogene	2	2	1	?	?	3	2	0	?	?	?	?	Feldmann et al., 1997		
Sediment, Calico Mountains	Neogene	2	2	0	1	4	1	2	1	0	2	2	3	Degens et al., 1962	(0)	(0)

Formation	Age	Variable state [†]										References		
		latitude	cement	pyrite	size	shape	environment	lithology	soft tissue preservation*	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend	
Sediments, West Haven	Quaternary	2	2	0	3	5	2	3	1	0	2 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	Waage et al., 2001

* Soft tissue preservation was used as a supplemental variable in the MCA and a response variable in regression analyses.

† Variable states for regression analyses are listed in parentheses where they differ from those used in the MCA.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 1—Data used in multiple correspondence (MCA) and regression analyses. For key to variable states see Supplementary Table 2.

Supplementary Table 2. Key to Variable States

	0	1	2	3	4	5	?
Latitude (at time of deposition)	Low latitudes (−30° to 30°)	Middle latitudes (−60° to −30°, 30° to 60°)	High latitudes (−90° to 90°, −60° to 60°)				Unknown
Cement composition	Siderite	Calcite	Other				Unknown
Pyrite	Absent	Present				Unknown	
Concretion size	Small (<10 cm)	Medium (10–50 cm)	Small and medium concretions	Other size combinations	Small, medium and large (>50 cm)	Unknown	
Concretion shape	Spherical	Elliptical	Spherical and elliptical	Other shape combinations	Elliptical and irregular	Unknown	
Environment	Freshwater	Transitional	Marine				Unknown
Host lithology	Carbonate	Fine-grained	Sand				Unknown
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend (from center to edge)	No trend	Decreasing	Constant	Increasing			
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend (from center to edge)[†]	Constant	Non-constant					
$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend (from center to edge)	No trend	Decreasing	Constant	Increasing			
$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ trend (from center to edge)[†]	Constant	Non-constant					

	0	1	2	3	4	5	?
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (PDB)	Negative values	Positive values	Both negative and positive values				Unknown
$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (SMOW)	Small values (<10)	Large values (>10)	Small and large values				Unknown
Soft tissue preservation	Absent	Present					Unknown

[†] Variable states used exclusively for regression analyses

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 2—Key to variable states for multiple correspondence (MCA) and regression analyses.

Supplementary Table 3. Data from Decay Experiments

	Seawater (0.1 g)			Seawater (0.2 g)				Seawater (0.3 g)			Fine beads (0.2 g)				Medium beads (0.2 g)				Coarse beads (0.2 g)						
Day	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
1	11.60	14.07	13.54	12.27	15.85	16.17	14.49	18.01	19.43	18.93	2.99	3.46	0.69	3.70	2.82	2.32	2.22	2.60	9.59	9.88	11.61				
3	38.47	40.62	43.56	42.87	56.73	60.84	59.29	68.69	72.89	90.71	1.17	1.07	0.29	1.52	1.83	1.87	1.86	1.62	18.60	19.25	22.19				
6	59.43	48.91	59.38	105.88	90.61	109.88	129.22	190.33	182.19	178.16	1.00	0.93	0.37	1.11	11.60	7.69	12.57	6.84	29.47	33.49	41.03				
8	98.19	79.61	103.54	161.85	127.55	188.76	199.63	185.36	207.82	178.56	1.77	1.80	0.69	3.79	26.97	24.49	43.82	38.76	55.14	48.60	72.98				
9	129.71	111.84	143.00	198.48	181.50	254.05	232.03	244.05	X	187.43	3.58	3.53	1.66	9.31	51.92	49.60	59.61	61.50	74.07	78.40	90.38				
14	135.09	123.15	147.26	198.22	152.50	161.21	131.85	158.14	128.11	145.05	6.76	8.05	5.14	22.09	88.85	84.61	109.78	84.86	97.42	105.40	127.31				
15	153.08	136.14		190.73	160.16	171.91		169.39	148.59		11.37	12.79		32.99	105.80	102.96		141.86	109.42	109.70					
16	88.80	74.08		98.15	73.96	82.48		73.27	68.68		7.61	8.74		35.09	65.35	63.03		168.39	65.36	64.80					
17	125.78	105.89		129.74	111.79	116.67		104.30	77.04		15.27	17.52		62.88	99.04	95.29		197.27	100.90	103.80					
18	64.13	57.15		60.48	58.74	54.68		60.18	48.94		9.71	10.11		35.16	49.95	X		88.02	51.35	51.85					
20	53.43	47.70		39.28	45.70	37.27		42.24	36.50		10.26	10.42		20.40	48.02	30.87		63.54	50.20	49.15					
24	52.49	56.12		42.43	38.01	26.67		30.55	29.59		14.88	17.36		15.45	58.83			46.01	64.83	60.08					
27	27.15	55.17		23.16	24.74	18.02		19.89	21.73		12.57	17.04		10.90	52.21			34.25	62.42	50.91					
29	44.67	68.91			28.29	22.90		4.47	3.97			24.73		13.42				37.46		63.64					
31	35.40	55.32			22.23	20.57		3.93	3.29			25.33		10.75				31.82		57.99					

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 3—Data from decay experiments. Values represent milliliters of carbon dioxide produced per hour per gram of fish. X = no data recorded. Underline indicates when replicates were terminated; those terminated after 27 days were CT scanned to investigate mineral precipitation.

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