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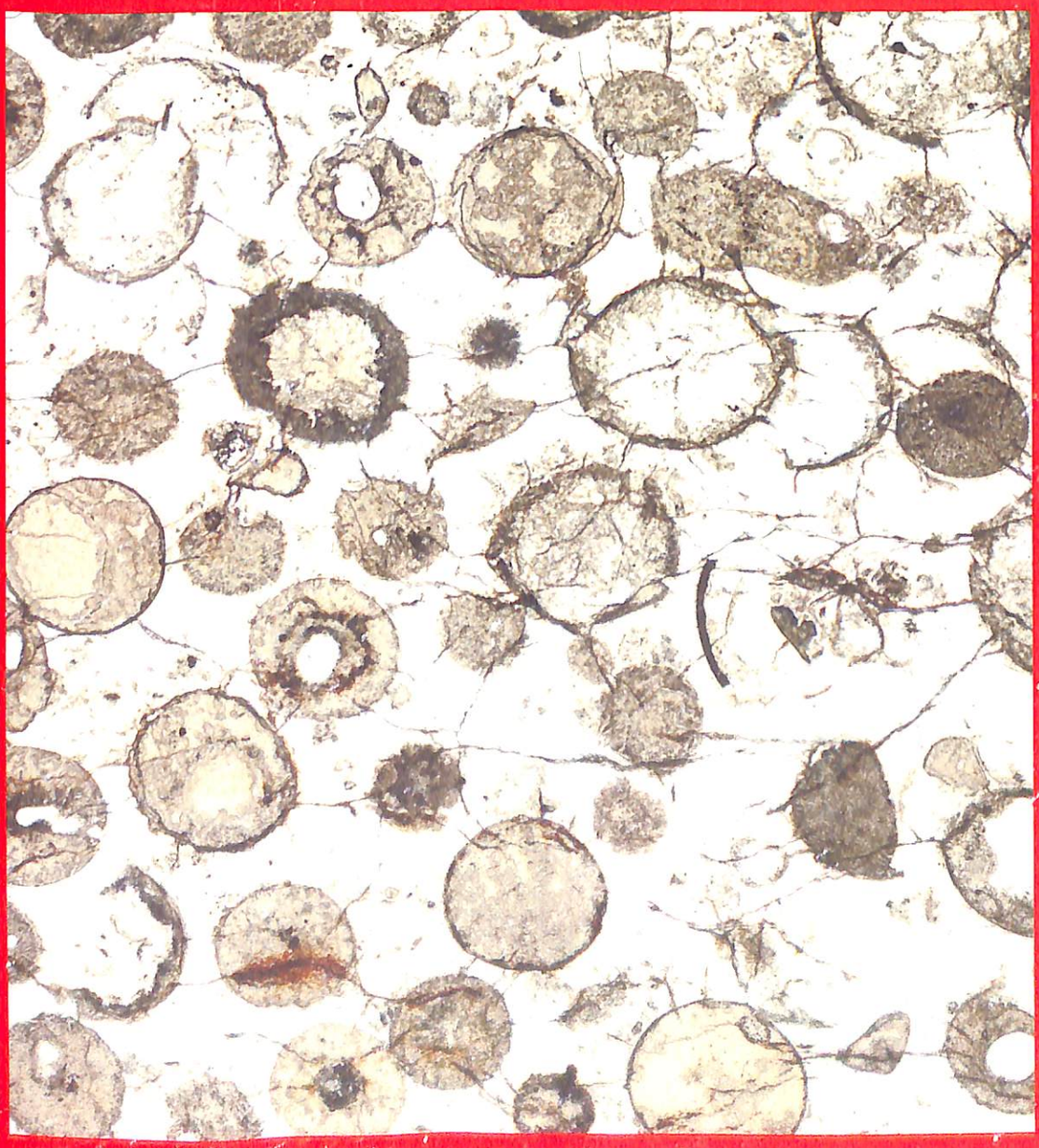

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Volume 224 CONTENTS January 2013

(Abstracts/contents lists published in Am. Geol. Inst. Bibliogr.; Abstr. Bull. Signaletique; Chem. Abstr.; Curr. Contents; Phys. Chem. Earth Sci., Geo Abstr.; Mineral Abstr.)

(Contents continued on BM III)

CAPTION FOR COVER PHOTOGRAPH

3,243 million-year-old spherules in the Fig Tree Group, Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa, formed as a result of large meteorite impacts on the early Earth. The 35-cm-thick spherule bed (S3) is composed of nearly pure spherules produced during the condensation of an impact-produced rock vapor cloud. The estimated diameter of the bolide was 20–50 km. The spherules, 0.5–1.5 mm in diameter in the photo, include silica-(clear), phyllosilicate- (gray), and rutile/anatase-rich (black) varieties; massive and layered types; and a few originally hollow spherules. This is one of four spherule layers in the Barberton Belt, ranging from 3,470–3,243 Ma, that represent the oldest known impact deposits and provide direct evidence for a significant flux of large impactors as late as 3.2 Ga. Photograph: D.R. Lowe

(Contents continued from back cover)

Precambrian Research 225 (2013) iv–v

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Precambrian Research

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

Contents

Special Issue
Biogeochemical changes across the Ediacaran–Cambrian transition in South China

Guest Editors:
Graham Shields-Zhou, Maoyan Zhu

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Precambrian Research

http://www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

ELSEVIER

Volume 226 March 2013

CONTENTS

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Precambrian Research 227 (2013) iv–v

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Precambrian Research

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Contents

Special Issue
Precambrian Accretionary Orogens

Guest Editors:
M. Jayananda, M. Santosh, Bor-ming Jahn

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Precambrian Research

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ELSEVIER

Volume 228 CONTENTS May 2013

(Abstracts/contents lists published in Am. Geol. Inst. Bibliogr.; Abstr. Bull. Signaletique; Chem. Abstr.; Curr. Contents; Phys. Chem. Earth Sci., Geo Abstr.; Mineral Abstr.)

(Contents continued on BM I)

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(Contents continued from back cover)

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Precambrian Research

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

Contents

Special Issue
Evolving Early Earth

Guest Editors:
Steve Beresford, Ian Tyler, Hugh Smithies

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Precambrian Research

http://www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

ELSEVIER

Volume 230 CONTENTS June 2013

(Abstracts/contents lists published in Am. Geol. Inst. Bibliogr.; Abstr. Bull. Signaletique; Chem. Abstr.; Curr. Contents; Phys. Chem. Earth Sci., Geo Abstr.; Mineral Abstr.)

(Contents continued on BM I)

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0301-9268(2013)6[I-VIII]

(Contents continued from back cover)

Precambrian Research

http://www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

ELSEVIER

Volume 231 CONTENTS July 2013

(Abstracts/contents lists published in Am. Geol. Inst. Bibliogr.; Abstr. Bull. Signaletique; Chem. Abstr.; Curr. Contents; Phys. Chem. Earth Sci., Geo Abstr.; Mineral Abstr.)

(Contents continued on BM I)

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Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

SciVerse ScienceDirect

(Contents continued from back cover)

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Precambrian Research

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

Contents

Special Issue
Paleoproterozoic tectonic assembly of the western Canadian shield: new findings and implications for the reconstruction of Laurentia/Nuna

Guest Editors:
Robert G. Berman, Kathryn M. Bethune

Precambrian Research

http://www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

ELSEVIER

Volume 233 CONTENTS August 2013

(Abstracts/contents lists published in Am. Geol. Inst. Bibliogr.; Abstr. Bull. Signaletique; Chem. Abstr.; Curr. Contents; Phys. Chem. Earth Sci., Geo Abstr.; Mineral Abstr.)

(Contents continued on BM I)

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0301-9268(/01)08)233;1-3

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

SciVerse ScienceDirect

(*Contents continued from back cover*)

Precambrian Research 234 (2013) iv-v

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Precambrian Research

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

Contents

Special Issue
Crossing of Neoproterozoic orogens

Guest Editors:

M. Satish-Kumar, Tomokazu Hokada

Precambrian Research

http://www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

ELSEVIER

Volume 235 September 2013

CONTENTS

(Abstracts/contents lists published in Am. Geol. Inst. Bibliogr.; Abstr. Bull. Signaletique; Chem. Abstr.; Curr. Contents; Phys. Chem. Earth Sci., Geo Abstr.; Mineral Abstr.)

(Contents continued on BM I)

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0301-9268(20130)235;1-0

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(*Contents continued from outside back cover*)

Precambrian Research

http://www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

ELSEVIER

Volume 236 CONTENTS October 2013

(Abstracts/contents lists published in Am. Geol. Inst. Bibliogr.; Abstr. Bull. Signaletique; Chem. Abstr.; Curr. Contents; Phys. Chem. Earth Sci., Geo Abstr.; Mineral Abstr.)

(Contents continued on page 304)

CAPTION FOR COVER PHOTOGRAPH

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0301-9268(201310)236;1-5

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

(*Contents continued from back cover*)

Precambrian Research

http://www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

ELSEVIER

Volume 237 October 2013

CONTENTS

(Abstracts/contents lists published in Am. Geol. Inst. Bibliogr.; Abstr. Bull. Signaletique; Chem. Abstr.; Curr. Contents; Phys. Chem. Earth Sci., Geo Abstr.; Mineral Abstr.)

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0301-9268(201310)237;1-4

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Precambrian Research

http://www.elsevier.com/locate/precamres

ELSEVIER

Volume 238 November 2013

CONTENTS

(Abstracts/contents lists published in Am. Geol. Inst. Bibliogr.; Abstr. Bull. Signaletique; Chem. Abstr.; Curr. Contents; Phys. Chem. Earth Sci., Geo Abstr.; Mineral Abstr.)

(Contents continued on BM I)

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0301-9268(201311)238;1-2

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

(*Contents continued from back cover*)

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Precambrian Research

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Contents

Special Issue
JEBEL

Guest Editors:
Victoria Pease, Ghaleb H. Jarrar, Khalid Kadi, Mahmoud H. Shalaby