



## **The 1997-1998 El Niño signal recorded in a stalagmite from Central China**

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An oxygen isotope ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) record was recovered from a stalagmite (SI2) which was obtained from Qinling-Bashan Mountains in Central China. SI2 was active when it was collected in 2004, which was supported with  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  and  $^{230}\text{Th}$  dating methods. The top of SI2 consists of distinct layers, making it possible to reconstruct an annual  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record for the last 20 years. It's clear that the SI2  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record illustrates a notable positive excursion during the 1997-1998 El Niño event. This event was also documented by changes in the SI2 growth rate and precipitation from nearby weather station. These results imply that speleothem  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records from Central China have the potentiality to be used for reconstruction of past El Niño activity.