



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

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An oxygen isotope (delta-18O) 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 210Pb and 230Th dating methods. The top of SI2 consists of distinct layers, making it possible to reconstruct an annual delta-18O record for the last 20 years. It's clear that the SI2 delta-18O 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-18O records from Central China have the potentiality to be used for reconstruction of past El Niño activity.