

# Provenance Identification of the Inkslab Unearthed from Liangfu Gao's Grave of the Song Dynasty (960-1279 CE) in Chengdu, Sichuan, China

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## Research article

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# Abstract

In order to infer the provenance of ancient inkslab excavated from Liangfu Gao's Grave of the Song dynasty (960-1279 CE) in Chengdu, a multi-analytical approach, including polarizing microscope, scanning electron microscope (SEM), X-ray powder diffraction (XRD), energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS), X-ray fluorescence (XRF), inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES) and inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) was used for the complete characterization of the ancient inkslab and the collected sample materials of this inkslab. The comparison of the results about mineral structure, major, trace and rare earth elements (REE) suggested that this unearthed inkslab of Song dynasty was Pu inkslab, which was famous in Pujiang County of Chengdu, and conjectured that its particular structure made it show the good inking performance. This work provided a reliable basis for the study of the historical and cultural inheritance of the Gao family, providing more direct evidence for the produce and development of the inkslab in the Song Dynasty.

## 1. Introduction

The inkslab is one of the traditional Chinese "Four Treasures of the Study". It shows a strong cultural attribute, developed with the prosperity of ancient Chinese culture. In 2018, a beautiful inkslab (as shown in Fig. 1) was unearthed in the tomb of No. 17 at the Gao family tomb of the Song Dynasty in Damian Town, Chengdu, China. It was 18.2 cm long, 12 cm wide, 2.5 cm high, and the whole inkslab was grayish green. Its surface was left with black flakes, suspected ink marks. Therefore the inkslab may have been used by the tomb's occupant when he was alive. According to the unearthed epitaph materials, the occupier of No. 17 tomb was named Liangfu Gao, and he was the grandson of Keming Gao who was a famous landscape painter of the northern Song dynasty for his extremely high painting achievements. Until now, Keming Gao's paintings were treasured by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Hence, the discovered inkslab provided significant material information for studying the development of the profound painting and calligraphy art of the Gao family, and also provided an important basis for studying the development of social culture and art in the Song Dynasty of China. However, the analysis of the provenance of this inkslab is the key to the study about the cultural exchange and the circulation of inkslab mining in Song dynasty, which is of great academic significance.

The study on the provenance of unearthed cultural relics helps us to understand the ancients' ways and means to obtain resources, to a certain extent, it also reflects the resource strategies behind their substance transactions and cultural exchanges, their influence on the process of civilization development [1, 2]. Traditional archeologists' research on the origin of unearthed cultural relics is mainly based on shape, decoration and the cultural connotation behind it. However, these methods are closely related to the subjective factors such as personal knowledge level and experience [3]. Since Wocel first proposed in the 1850s that the age and provenance of cultural relics might be related to their chemical composition, many scientists began to test the chemical composition of cultural relics with modern scientific and technological means, trying to use them as one of the main scientific evidences for the identification of cultural relics [4]. Spectrometric analysis by using scientific methods is a powerful and more necessary

tool to place unearthed historical artifacts in their real historical context and to avoid any controversy regarding their origin [5].

Among them, rare earth elements such as Th, Sc, Cr and Co are the most valuable for the analysis of source area characteristics because of their slightly solubility, which show the relative stability. These elements are only transported with the terrigenous clastic sediments, so they can reflect the geochemistry of source area [6]. M. emami et al. determined the mineral and chemical composition of these stones and their source by REE analysis of the building materials of the stele built in Pasargadae [7]. Zhang Yuyan et al. analyzed the mineral composition and REE of nephrite in the new period of Gansu province, and discussed its origin via XRD, LA-ICP-MS and other analytical methods [8]. Wen et al. attempted to test the validity of the signatures of REE as a tool to judge the effect of diagenesis on fossil teeth [9]. In 2012, Vincenzo Ferrini et al. investigated the provenance of archaeological carved slabs of the Langobard art in churches of Peligna Valley and Spoleto (Italy) through a multi-analytical approach, including petrographic characterization, chemical, carbon and oxygen isotope composition [10]. Wei et al. revealed the foundry area of bronze vessels according to the REE analysis [11]. Therefore, chemical element analysis could be one of the effective methods for the study of cultural relics.

Here, we attempted to discuss the Mineral structure and geochemical characteristics of inkslab and synthetically judged the provenance of its raw materials and the mechanism of ink formation.

## 2. Methods And Materials

### 2.1. Material background

The ancients were extremely careful about the selection of materials when making inkslab. Generally, the stone used as inkslab should be sedimentary rock or metamorphic rock with larger thickness [12]. This special material selection method provided a reliable basis for the study of raw material origin. It was speculated that the inkslab may be Pu inkslab made in Sichuan according to its color, shape characteristics and the place of its discovered. Pu inkslab was the famous traditional inkslab in China. Its name was called Pu because it was carved by Pu stone and came from Yan Jinggou in Sichuan Province. Up to now, there is still a place called "Pu Inkslab Village" in Heshan town, Pujiang country, where the Pu inkslab was abundant in the past. If this unearthed inkslab could be determined to be made of Pu stone, it will provide important physical evidence for the historical research of Pu inkslab.

### 2.2 Geological characteristics of Pu stone producing area

Pu stone was mined in the upper part of Xu Jiahe group of Triassic in Xiongpo anticline ( $T_3xj^2$ ), which is a coal-bearing deposit of the River-Lake and marshes (as shown in Fig. 2A). Xu Jiahe Formation was named after Xu Jiahe Village, Gongnong Town, North Guangyuan City [13]. It mainly refers to a set of strata with a combination of yellow-gray pebbled sandstone, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone intercalated coal seam from Norian to Rhaetian of Late Triassic. The deposit is thick and can reach thousands of meters. In the vertical section, sandstone and mudstone often form unequal thickness

rhythm layers dominated by sandstone. The upper layer is composed of massive conglomerate, which is hundreds of meters to nearly kilometers thick and rich in plants and bivalves fossils [14]. According to the historical materials of the Qing Dynasty "Pujiang county annals" recorded that "Pu stone in the Xiangshui River area was the top grade of all raw materials". The lithology of the Xu Jiahe group in the Xiangshui River area is composed of moderately and thickly stratified quartzite siltstone, mainly gray and yellow-gray, which includes the mudstone and coal line. (as shown in Fig. 2B).

## 2.3 Analytical methods

Smaller fragments from unearthed ink slab were selected as sample 1 and called relics sample (as shown in Fig. 1). Five samples were collected from the upper section of Xu Jiahe group ( $T_3xj^2$ ) according to the color and grain size of sample 1, which were called samples 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (samples 2–6), respectively (as shown in Fig. 1). They were served as the control groups and temporarily used to be the "source rock" of ink slab for matching analysis. The matching analyses mainly include phase analysis, microstructure observation, determination of the major element, trace element and rare earth element. Among them, microstructure was observed by polarizing microscope, SEM and EDS. The major element were measured by XRF, and the trace element, REE were measured by ICP-AES and ICP-MS, respectively.

## 3. Results And Discussion

### 3.1 Mineral structure characterization

- *Polarizing microscope characterization.* As shown in Fig. 3, the control samples were thin layer of siltstone with multiple strip. Their touch feeling of surface and color were similar to the unearthed relics sample, which was grayish-green. Besides, the surface were wavy and uneven with visibly horizontal layer. It could be seen that samples 1–6 were composed of silt-grade crumb, and showed their basic skeleton via the polarizing microscope. The sorting of the clastic particles was moderate, and the roundness was not well. The Fig. 3 also indicated that mineral particles minerals contained quartz, sericite, chlorite and other minerals. They showed directionality, and their plastic deformation was caused by compaction [15].
- *XRD characterization.* Figure 4 showed the XRD patterns of relics sample No.1 and control samples No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. It exhibited diffraction peaks at  $2\theta$  along 27.1, 29.2 corresponding to the sericite. It could be seen that there are common diffraction peaks at  $2\theta$  along 12.6, 25.7, which belong to chlorite. In addition, diffraction peaks at  $2\theta$  along 21.2, 36.9 were consistent with the quartz [16]. The XRD results demonstrated that the mineral types of the cultural relics samples are identical with the control samples.
- *SEM and EDS characterization.* Firstly, the surfaces of samples were sprayed with gold before testing. Then their microstructures were observed by SEM (Fig. 5) and the distributions of chemical elements on their surfaces were obtained through EDS (Fig. 6). On the one hand, it was found that both the relic sample and the control samples mostly showed micro-squama textures, mainly

containing elements such as Si, O, Al, Fe, K, Ca, C, Na, etc., and Si, O, Al elements were absolutely dominant. On the other hand, the compositions of samples suggested that inkstones mainly consist of Oxygen-containing silicate minerals, aluminosilicate minerals, and the intergranular pores are filled with carbonate minerals and clay minerals. Among them, the morphology of minerals were mainly composed of irregular flaky (such as goeschwitzite, mixed-layer illite/smectite) and thin flaky (such as montmorillonite), with fuzzy boundary and scattered distribution.

In addition, the SEM images suggested that there were many lamellar minerals on the inkslab surface and they were squama-like (Fig. 5) [17, 18]. As shown in Fig. 6, after superimposing individual elements through the EDS surface scanning, it was concluded that such minerals are mostly silicate minerals (quartz, sericite, chlorite, etc.). These minerals were arranged together, such as "blade" obliquely standing on the inkstone surface, known as "inkslab blade" [19, 20]. When grinding the ink, moving of the ink on the inkslab surface could be cut continuously by the inkslab blade to effectively meet the requirements of generating ink. Moreover, the arrangement of the fragment not only made the ink fine and symmetrical, but also effectively protected the inkslab and made the surface durable. Besides, irregular plate-like clay minerals between the minerals played a role in cementation, which not only ensured the strength requirements of the inkslab, but also made the surface smooth and mild.

## 3.2 Chemical element characterization

- *XRF characterization.* The major elements reflect the chemical composition and relative content of the minerals that make up the stones. In addition, the characteristics of the major elements show the overall properties of the rock [21]. The data results for the major elements were given in Table 1.

Table 1  
Major (mass %) elements of relics sample (1) and control samples (2,  
3, 4, 5, 6)

Chemical composition	1	2	3	4	5	6
SiO <sub>2</sub>	64.38	58.14	57.80	53.09	61.75	63.65
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	15.68	15.86	16.08	20.37	14.04	13.18
MgO	2.17	2.35	2.33	2.58	2.07	1.90
CaO	0.38	4.17	4.65	2.41	4.55	4.73
TFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	7.09	7.15	6.52	7.10	5.93	5.02
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.81	0.71	0.70	0.84	0.67	0.64
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.85	0.30	0.17	0.12	0.67	0.62
K <sub>2</sub> O	3.24	2.97	3.17	4.13	2.42	2.18
LOI(1000 °C)	4.49	7.91	8.18	8.97	7.65	7.57
Σ	99.09	99.38	99.6	99.61	99.75	99.49

There were many existential forms of iron element, and the TFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> mainly included Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and FeO. However, the content largely influenced by the material provenance. Additionally, aluminum, sodium and potassium were mainly found in clay minerals mica and other minerals. It was found that Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> mainly existed in the crystal voids in the form of clay minerals via the EDS (Fig. 6) [22]. The chemical composition of major elements was presented in Table 1. In Fig. 7 are plotted the contents of major elements of the archaeological sample (1) and control samples. On the whole, the main elements of the two groups of samples have similar change rules, and quartz is taken as the main framework of rock, which is consistent with the observation results of polarizing microscope. In addition, the relics sample of contents of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MgO, TFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O were all in the change ranges of the corresponding control group [23]. The ratio of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>) represented the ratio of all aluminum-containing minerals (mica, clay minerals, etc.) to quartz [24, 25]. Therefore, the calculation results showed that the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> of the relics sample was 0.24, while ranges of the control groups was 0.21 ~ 0.38 with an average of 0.27. The relics samples were in the variation range of the control group and close to the average value, indicating that the correlations were consistent between the aluminum-containing minerals and quartz. In a word, it is concluded that the cultural relics samples are well matched with the control samples from the perspective of major elements.

- *ICP-AES and ICP-MS characterization.* What's more, in order to avoid the experimental error caused by rock weathering, trace elements and rare earth elements were analyzed. The trace elements and rare earth elements are relatively stable and have high homogenization characteristics, which determines that they can provide relatively accurate geochemical parameters for sedimentological provenance analysis. Incompatible elements, such as La, Zr, Hf, Co, Sc, Nb, Th (inert elements), show stable properties under various geological processes of surface and are less or not affected by the deposition process. Despite the transformation effect during the deposition process, geochemistry is still dominated by provenance, which is used as an indicator of the composition characteristics of crop sources. During the process of practice apply, a more stable ratio of trace elements (La/Sc, La/Co, Th/Sc, Th/Co, Th/Cr) is often adopted to indicate the source stability instead of the absolute values in order to exclude the influence of particle size and other factors. The data results of trace and rare earth elements were listed in Table 2.

Table 2  
Contents of trace, rare earth ( $\mu\text{g/g}$ ) elements in relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

element	1	2	3	4	5	6
La	39.4	36.4	36.3	48.4	34.4	34.9
Ce	79.0	73.8	72.7	97.1	70.4	71.5
Pr	9.10	8.23	8.54	10.65	7.94	8.29
Nd	34.8	32.8	33.2	39.3	31.4	32.9
Sm	6.61	6.21	6.47	6.85	6.35	6.90
Eu	1.27	1.40	1.37	1.44	1.26	1.52
Gd	5.16	5.23	5.82	5.03	5.17	6.24
Tb	0.90	0.92	0.87	0.85	0.83	0.85
Dy	4.67	4.75	4.88	4.53	4.51	4.77
Ho	1.00	0.99	1.08	0.97	0.96	1.06
Er	2.65	3.02	3.06	2.84	2.52	2.71
Tm	0.42	0.44	0.46	0.45	0.40	0.43
Yb	2.77	2.80	3.01	3.02	2.51	2.55
Lu	0.39	0.42	0.45	0.44	0.35	0.36
Rb	144.0	139.0	153.5	198.0	116.0	105.0
Ba	432	487	599	656	400	412
Th	14.00	13.50	13.70	17.50	12.20	12.00
U	3.01	3.24	3.20	4.04	2.74	2.74
Nb	14.1	13.4	13.7	16.2	12.6	12.2
Ta	1.00	0.98	0.90	1.08	0.84	0.82
La	39.40	36.40	36.30	48.40	34.40	34.90

LREE = La + Ce + Pr + Nd + Sm + Eu

HREE = Gd + Tb + Dy + Ho + Er + Tm + Yb + Lu + Y

$\sum$ REE = LREE + HREE

$\delta\text{Eu} = \text{EuN}/(\text{SmN} + \text{GdN}) * 2$

$\delta\text{Ce} = \text{Ce} / (\text{LaN} + \text{PrN}) * 2$

element	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ce	79.00	73.80	72.70	97.10	70.40	71.50
Co	15.20	14.10	54.70	22.80	10.00	15.80
Cr	77	84	91	113	73	64
Pb	55.8	24.8	93.9	57.3	20.7	23.7
Pr	9.10	8.23	8.54	10.65	7.94	8.29
Sr	59.70	136.00	152.00	110.00	144.00	159.00
Nd	34.80	32.80	33.20	39.30	31.40	32.90
Zr	201.00	172.00	176.00	175.00	181.00	197.00
Hf	5.70	4.70	4.50	4.60	4.70	4.70
Sc	12.50	14.00	13.80	16.30	11.50	10.40
Sm	6.61	6.21	6.47	6.85	6.35	6.90
Eu	1.27	1.40	1.37	1.44	1.26	1.52
Ti	4855.95	4256.45	4196.5	5035.8	4016.65	3836.8
Gd	5.16	5.23	5.82	5.03	5.17	6.24
Tb	0.90	0.92	0.87	0.85	0.83	0.85
Dy	4.67	4.75	4.88	4.53	4.51	4.77
Yb	2.77	2.80	3.01	3.02	2.51	2.55
Y	26.7	28.6	30.1	28.1	28.0	28.6
Ho	1.00	0.99	1.08	0.97	0.96	1.06
Er	2.65	3.02	3.06	2.84	2.52	2.71
Zr	201.00	172.00	176.00	175.00	181.00	197.00
$\sum \text{REE}$	188.14	177.41	178.21	221.87	169.00	174.98
LREE	170.18	158.84	158.58	203.74	151.75	156.01
LREE = La + Ce + Pr + Nd + Sm + Eu						
HREE = Gd + Tb + Dy + Ho + Er + Tm + Yb + Lu + Y						
$\sum \text{REE} = \text{LREE} + \text{HREE}$						
$\delta \text{Eu} = \text{EuN} / (\text{SmN} + \text{GdN}) * 2$						
$\delta \text{Ce} = \text{Ce} / (\text{LaN} + \text{PrN}) * 2$						

element	1	2	3	4	5	6
HREE	17.96	18.57	19.63	18.13	17.25	18.97
LREE/HREE	9.48	8.55	8.08	11.24	8.80	8.22
La <sub>N</sub> /Yb <sub>N</sub>	1.34	1.23	1.14	1.51	1.29	1.29
δEu	1.02	1.15	1.05	1.15	1.03	1.09
δCe	0.99	1.01	0.98	1.01	1.01	1.00
La/Co	2.59	2.58	0.66	2.12	3.44	2.21
La/Sc	3.15	2.60	2.63	2.97	2.99	3.36
Th/Sc	1.12	0.96	0.99	1.07	1.06	1.15
Th/Co	0.92	0.96	0.25	0.77	1.22	0.76
Th/Cr	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.17	0.19
LREE = La + Ce + Pr + Nd + Sm + Eu						
HREE = Gd + Tb + Dy + Ho + Er + Tm + Yb + Lu + Y						
$\sum \text{REE} = \text{LREE} + \text{HREE}$						
$\delta\text{Eu} = \text{EuN}/(\text{SmN} + \text{GdN})^*2$						
$\delta\text{Ce} = \text{Ce} / (\text{LaN} + \text{PrN})^*2$						

The Primitive-mantle normalized incompatible element diagrams of samples 1–6 were shown in Fig. 8b. It could be seen that the results of relics sample (1) obtained in this study for most of the elements, such as Nb/Ta/Zr/Hf, are in good agreement with the positions overlap of control samples (2,3,4,5,6), indicating the similar overall characteristics between relics samples and the control samples [26, 27]. The calculated ratios of La/Sc (2.60 ~ 3.36), La/Co (0.66 ~ 3.44), Th/Sc (0.96 ~ 1.15), Th/Co (0.25 ~ 1.22) and Th/Cr (0.15 ~ 0.19) in Table 2 illustrated the source stability of samples 1–6, with the average of 2.91, 2.20, 1.05, 0.79 and 0.16 for each other. Obviously, the trace element ratios of the cultural relic sample 1 and control groups 2–6 were similar, and the average values of the former was close to the latter.

According to previous studies, the main factor controlling REE composition in sediments is provenance [28]. Therefore, the characteristics of REE partition model curve are one of the reliable indicators for provenance analysis [29]. The standardization of REE used in different rock types is distinguishing. North American Shales (NASC) could better reflect the geochemical characteristics of sedimentary rocks than other standardization. In this study, NASC was used as the standard to standardize the data of REE in sample 1–6 and the NASC standardized partition pattern of REE was obtained Fig. 8a [30]. The

normalized REE patterns indicated that the overall correlation of samples 1–6 is consistent, and the regularity is evident, without the separation of curves. The control samples 2–6 were characterized by  $\sum$ REE, LREE and HREE contents (the average content being 184.29, 165.78 and 18.51, severally) [31, 32]. The results proved that changes of  $\sum$ REE, LREE and HREE contents were 169 ~ 221.87, 151.75 ~ 203.74 and 17.25 ~ 19.63, respectively.

As can be seen from Table 2, the average values of  $\sum$ REE, LREE and HREE of samples 1–6 were higher than the NASC standard values. Among them, sample 1 and samples 2–6 showed a similar trend, and the former was within the range of the latter [33, 25]. On one hand, the higher the LREE/HREE value is, the more concentrated the LREE are, while the HREE are relatively scarce [33, 34]. On the other hand,  $\text{La}_N/\text{Yb}_N$  value is the slope of the distribution curve in the standardized diagram of REE, showing the degree of inclination of the curve. When the  $\text{La}_N/\text{Yb}_N$  value exceeds 1 or not, the curve inclines toward the right or left, which belongs to LREE concentrated type or LREE deficit type; when the value is equal to 1, the curve is horizontal [35]. Higher REE concentrations suggested that the dominant REE carrier phase might be a detrital mineral, which was consistent with the results of SEM characterization [36–38]. There is a consistent value of about 1.34, 1.23, 1.14, 1.51, 1.29, 1.29 for  $\text{La}_N/\text{Yb}_N$  and LREE/HREE ratios for samples 1–6, indicating a slight LREE enrichment in relation to the average shale NASC [39].

Besides,  $\delta\text{Eu}$  and  $\delta\text{Ce}$  values, the third geochemical indices, were used to illustrate the degree of Eu-anomaly and Ce-anomaly [40, 41]. The consistent values of samples 1–6 about 1.03 ~ 1.15 for  $\delta\text{Eu}$  and 0.98 ~ 1.01 for  $\delta\text{Ce}$  (Table 2), indicating positive anomaly of Eu and no anomaly for Ce, which also suggesting the similar degree of anomaly between relics sample (1) and control samples (2,3,4,5,6) [42]. As the above discussions, the relics sample 1 and the control samples 2–6 exhibited strong identities from the aspects of slope the distribution-curve slope, differential degree and degree of differentiation and deficit degree. It could be demonstrated that the unearthed inkslab and the control samples come from the same geological provenance.

## 4. Conclusion

Geochemical characteristics, could provide qualitative and quantitative information about the provenance of the unearthed inkslab, avoiding researchers' subjective factors. Meanwhile, the mineral structural characteristics made the conclusion more reliable. This work first demonstrated that the inkslab unearthed in the tomb of Song dynasty was Pu inkslab, and conjecture that its particular structure made it show the good inking performance. Additionally, Gao family, as one of the most famous families in Sichuan during the period of the Song dynasty, took Pu inkslab as daily stationery and burial objects, demonstrating that Pu inkslab was popular and its trade flow was very convenient at that time.

The significance of this work was that not only provided precious objective information for the Pu inkslab and enriched its historical evolution, but, more importantly, explored potential cultural information of the value might be underestimated nowadays. Overall, the combination of archaeology and geochemistry will

form an effectively analytical method and provide a choice for infer the provenance of other precious culture heritages.

## Abbreviations

CE: Common Era; REE: rare earth elements; LREE: light rare earth elements; HREE: heavy rare earth elements; SEM: scanning electron microscope; XRD: X-ray powder diffraction; EDS: energy dispersive spectroscopy; XRF: X-ray fluorescence; ICP-AES: inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry; ICP-MS: inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry; LOI: loss on ignition; NASC: North American shales.

## Declarations

### Authors' contributions

TW carried out the experiments and drafted the manuscript. YG conducted the excavation and supplied archaeological data for the tomb. SW designed research and proofread the manuscript; LX and TY provided support and contributed to data analysis and processing. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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### Availability of data and materials

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article.

### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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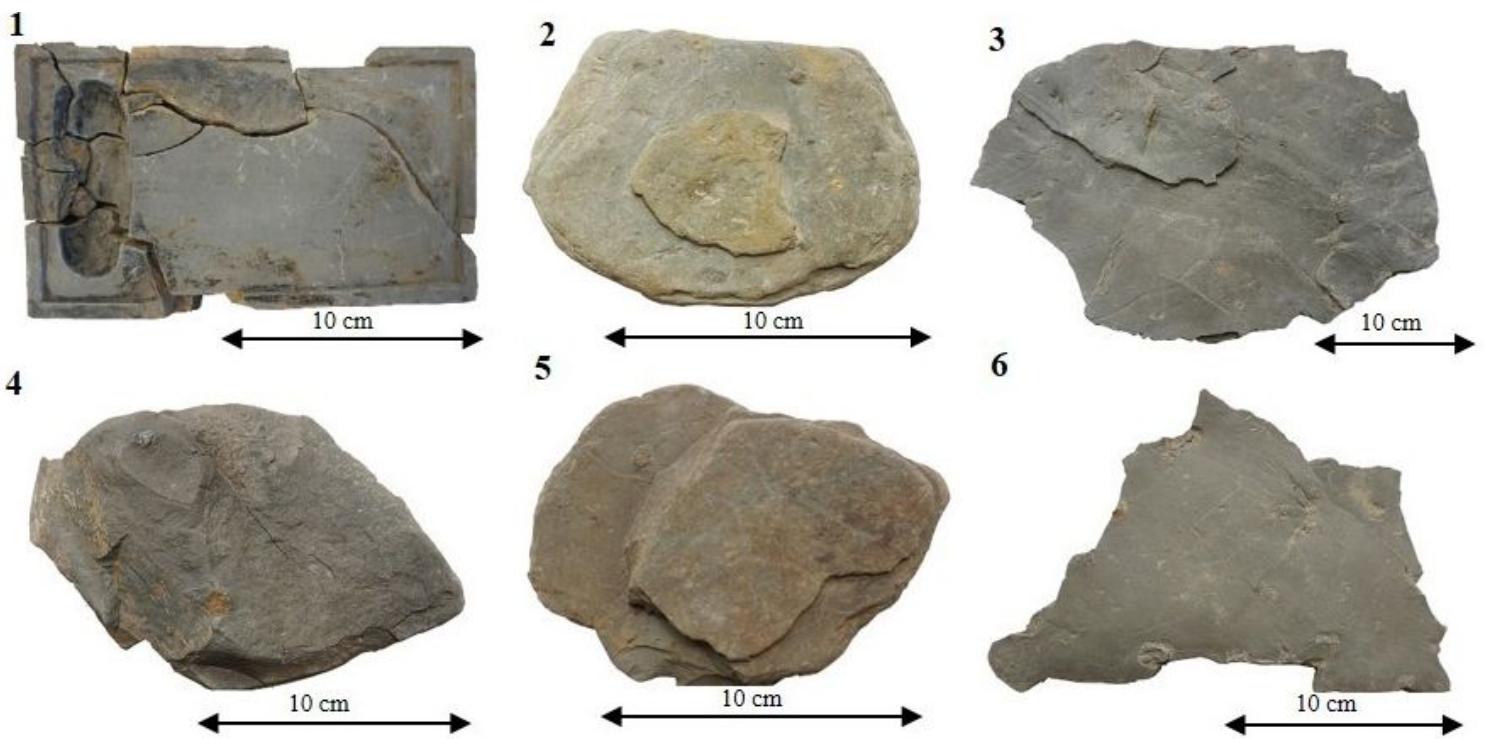
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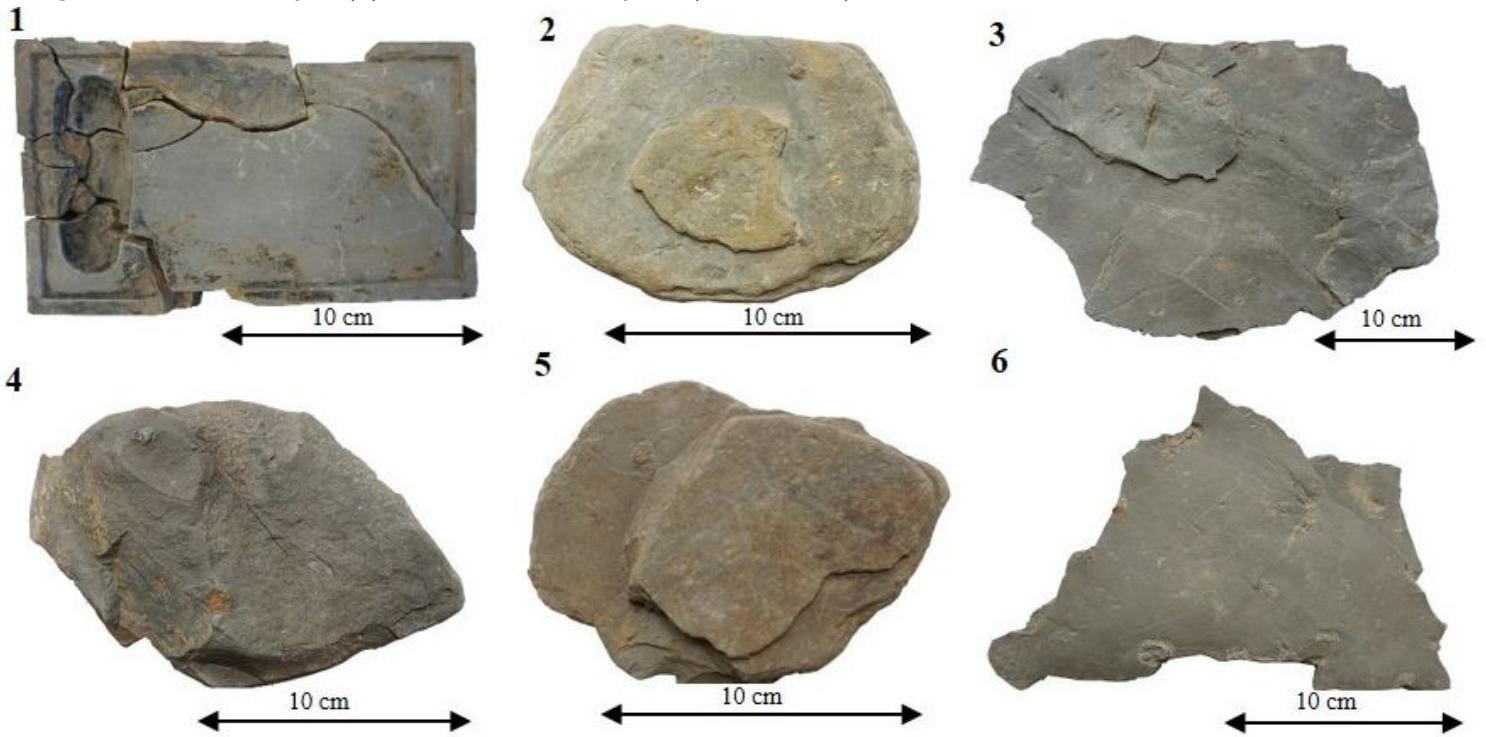
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## Figures



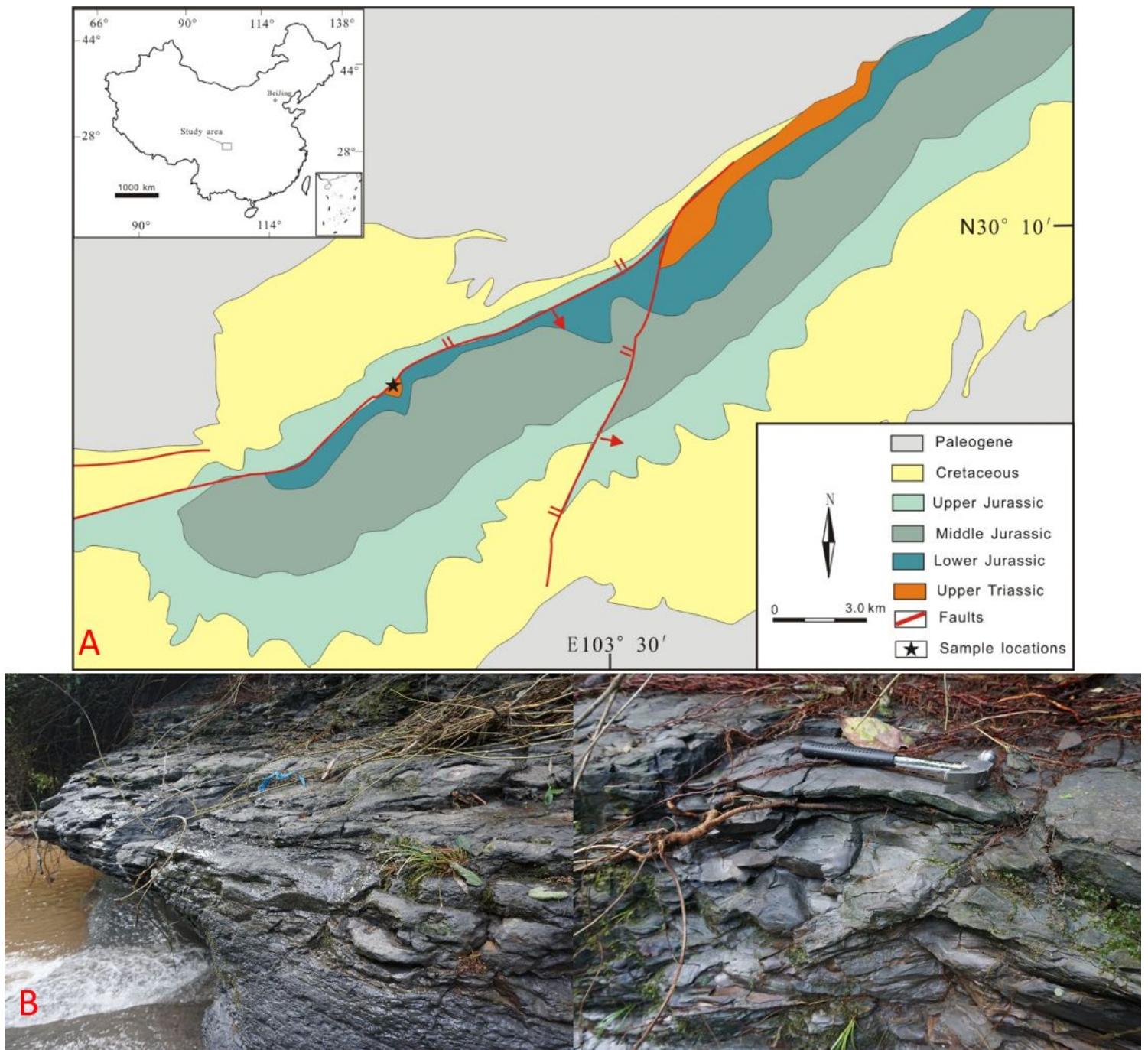
**Figure 1**

Images of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



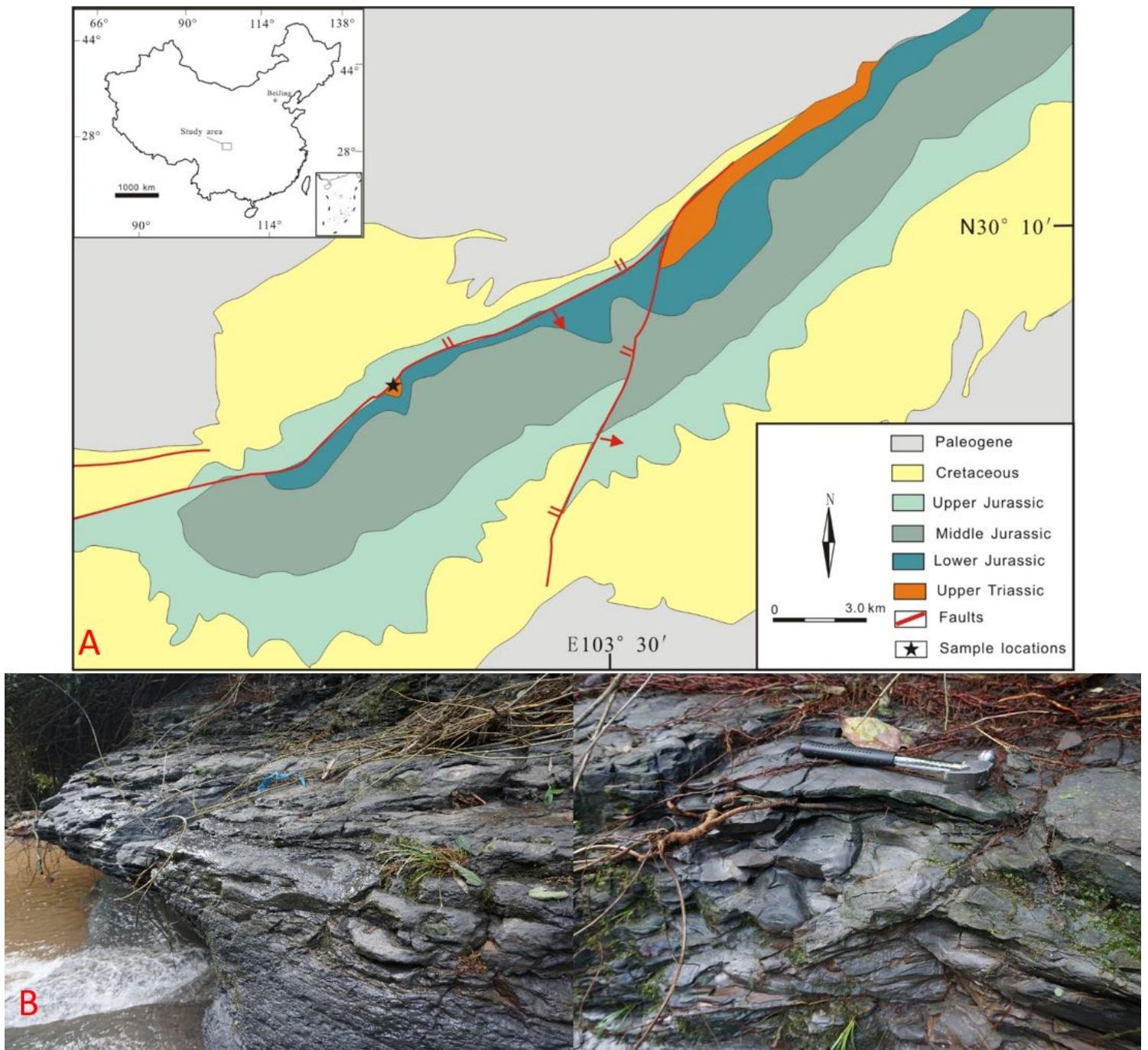
**Figure 1**

Images of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



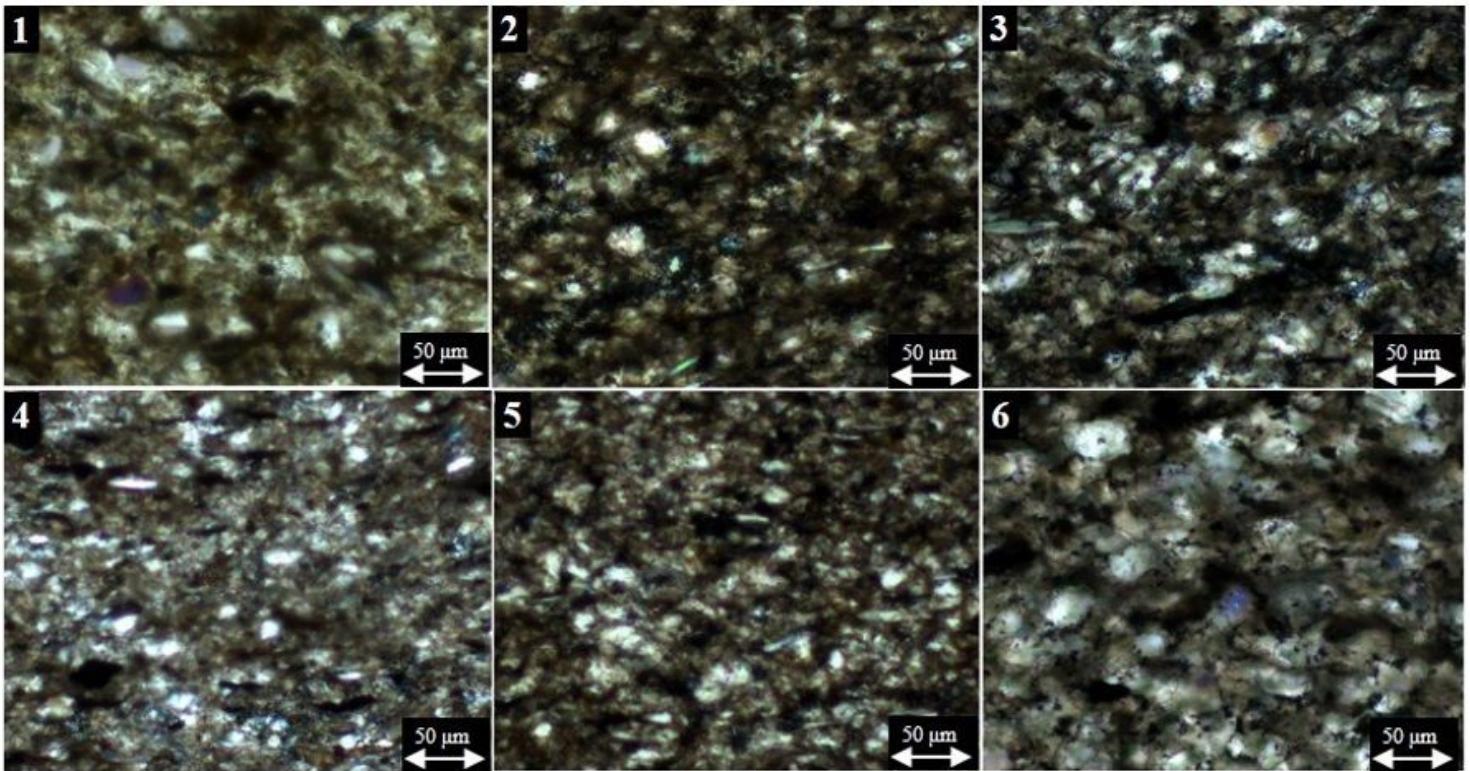
**Figure 2**

(A) Simplified geological image of the Pujiang County; (B) Partial field sampling images Note: The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Research Square concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This map has been provided by the authors.



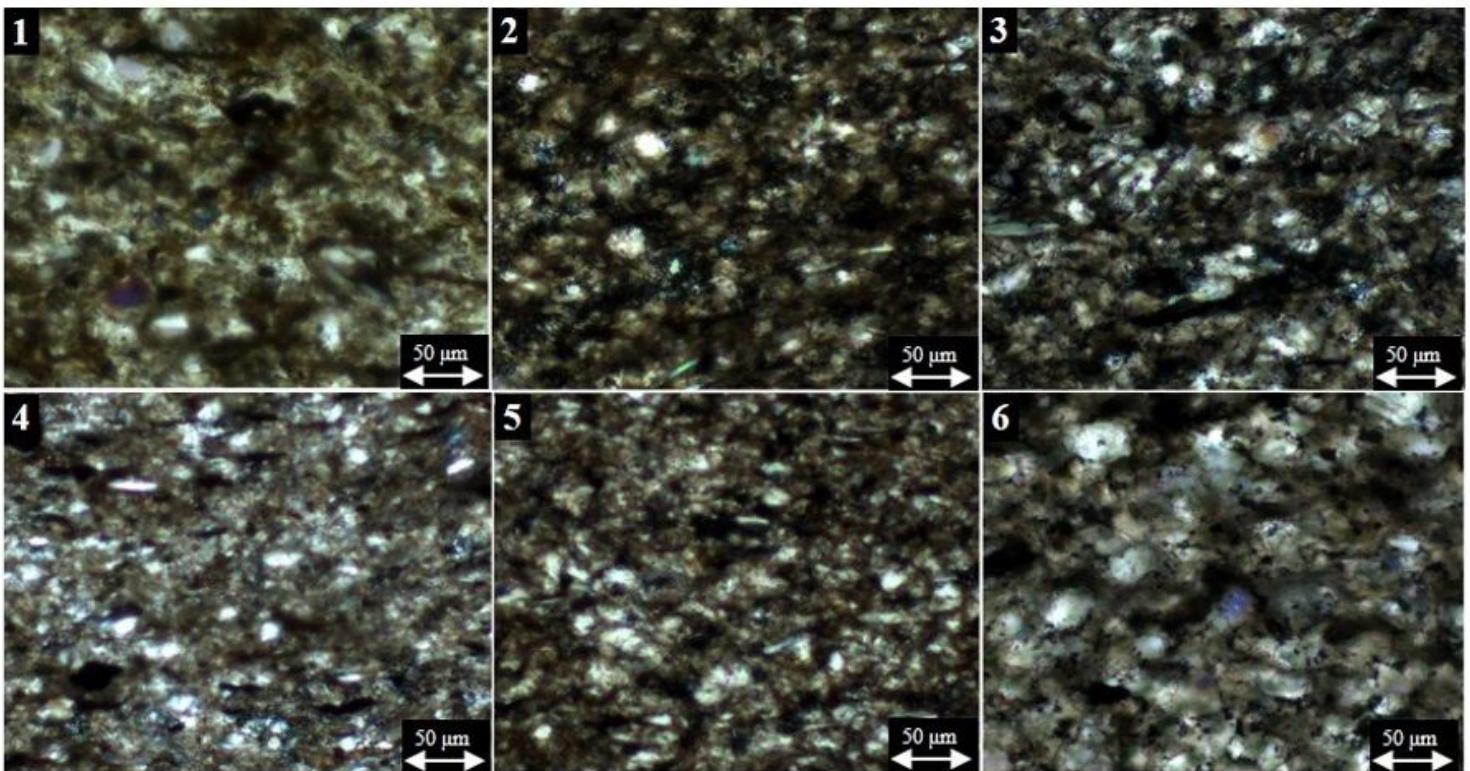
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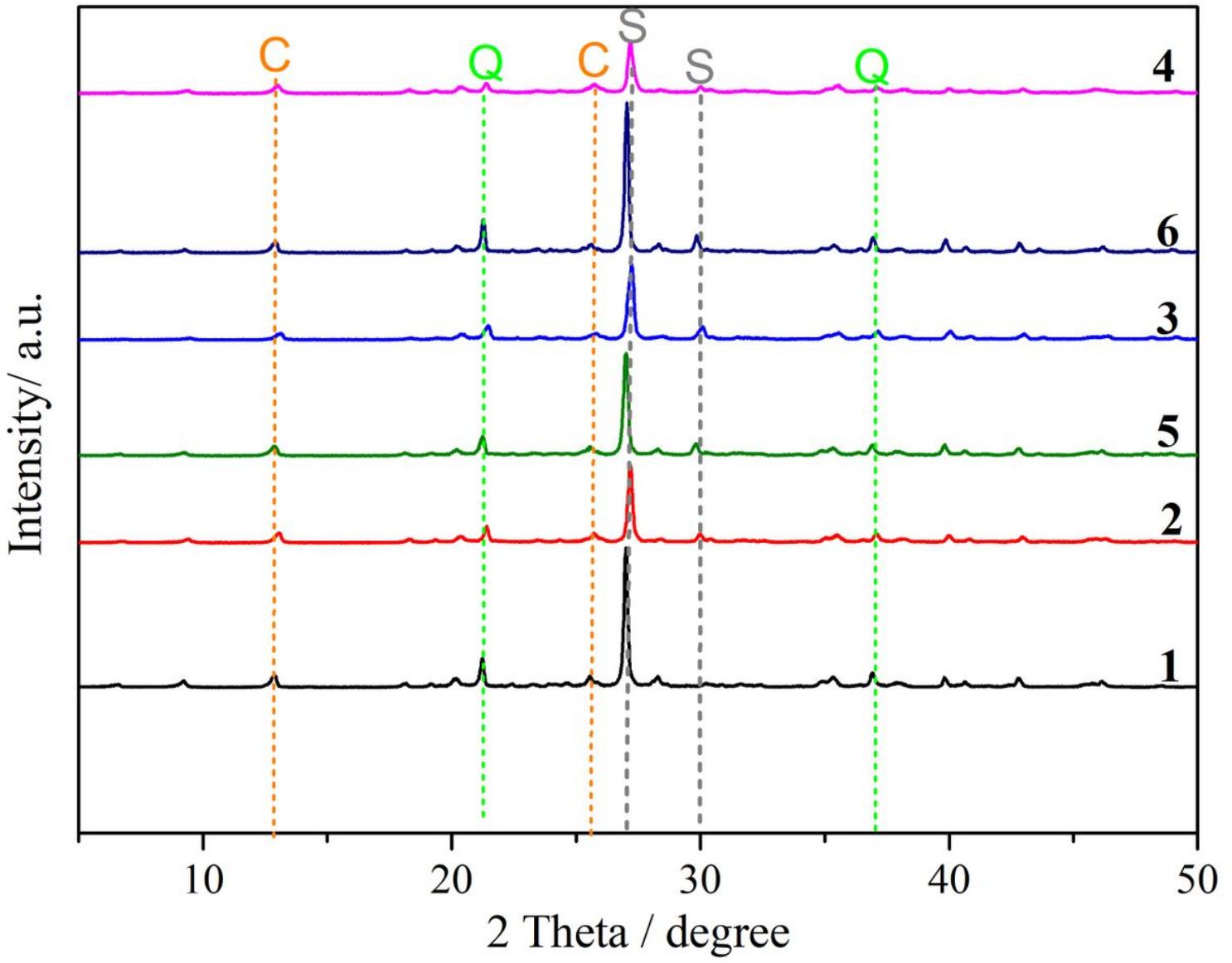
**Figure 3**

Polarization images of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



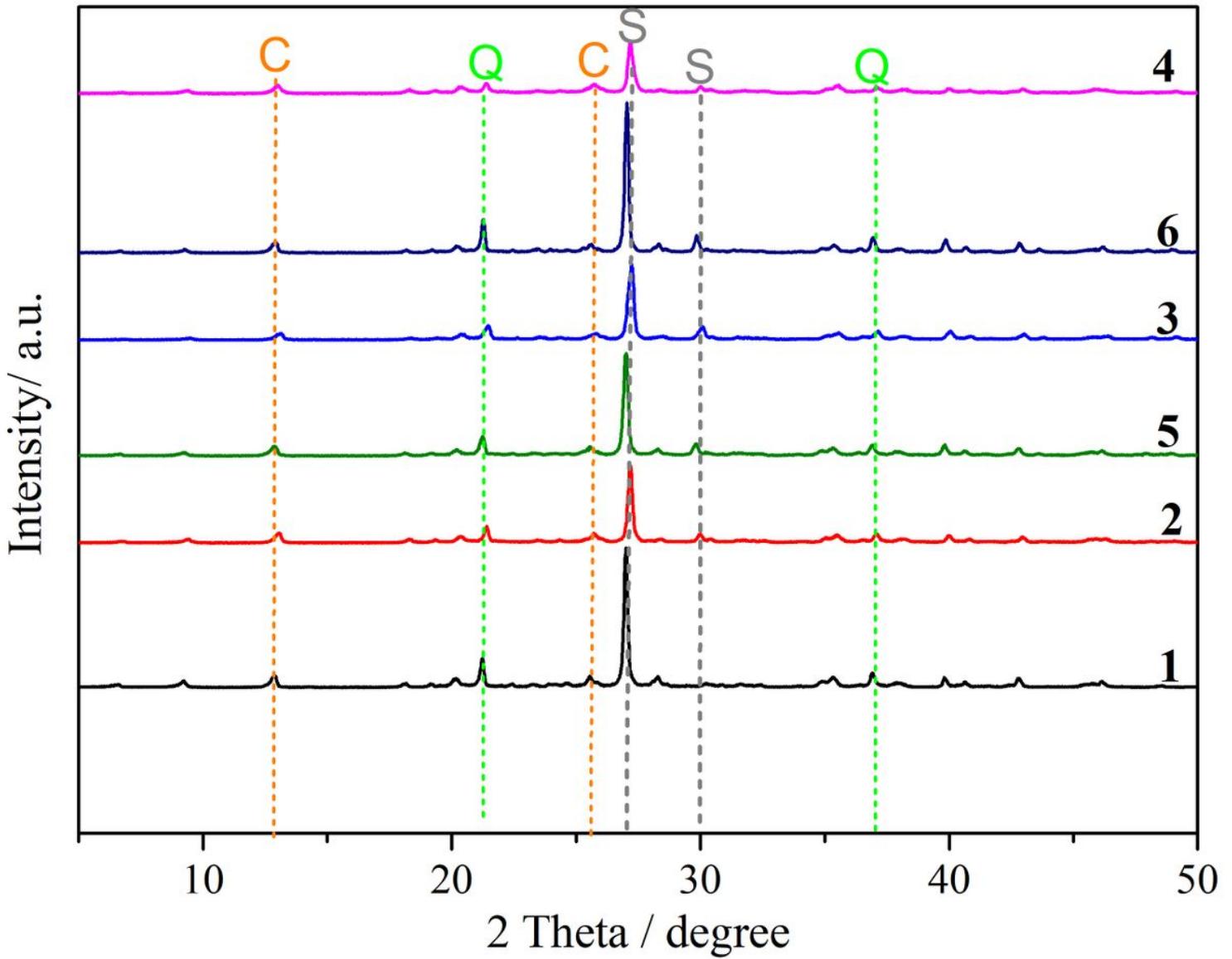
**Figure 3**

Polarization images of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



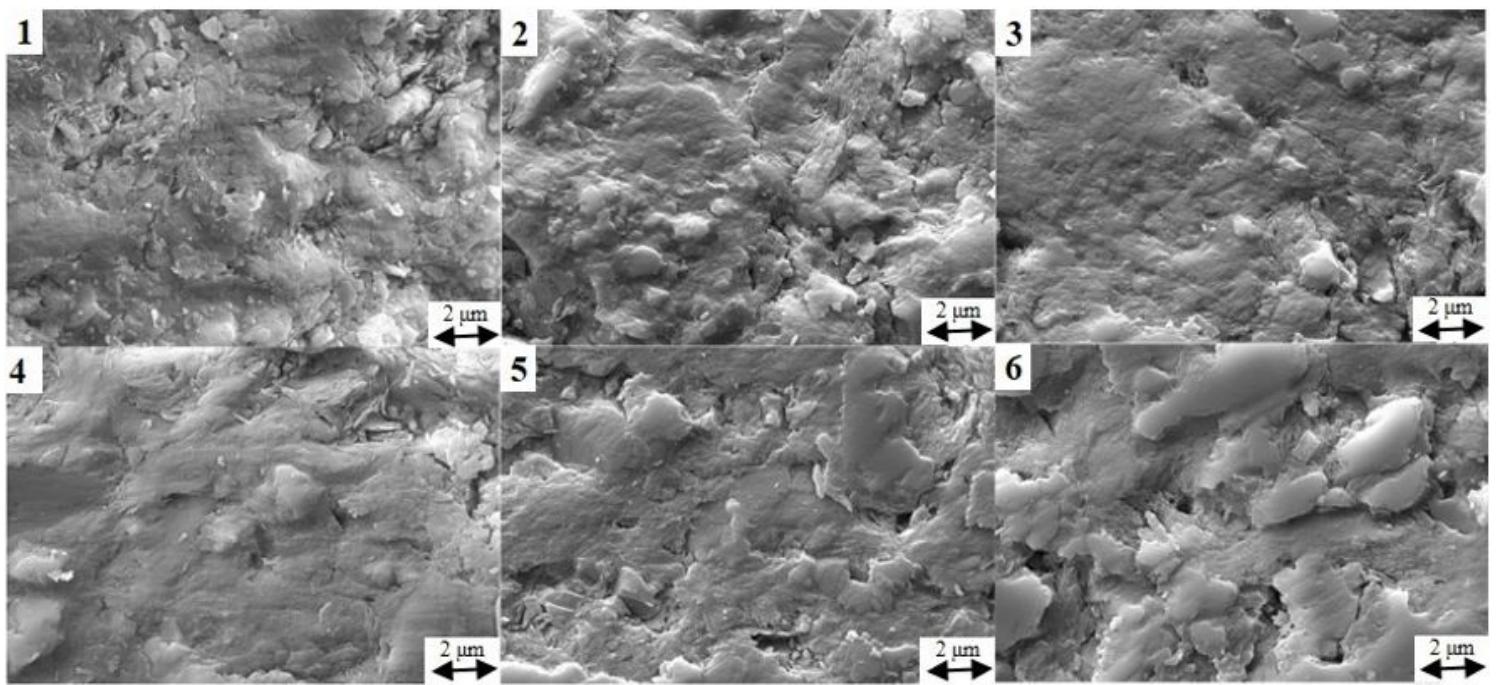
**Figure 4**

The XRD patterns of the relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (S-sericite, C-chlorite, Q-quartz)



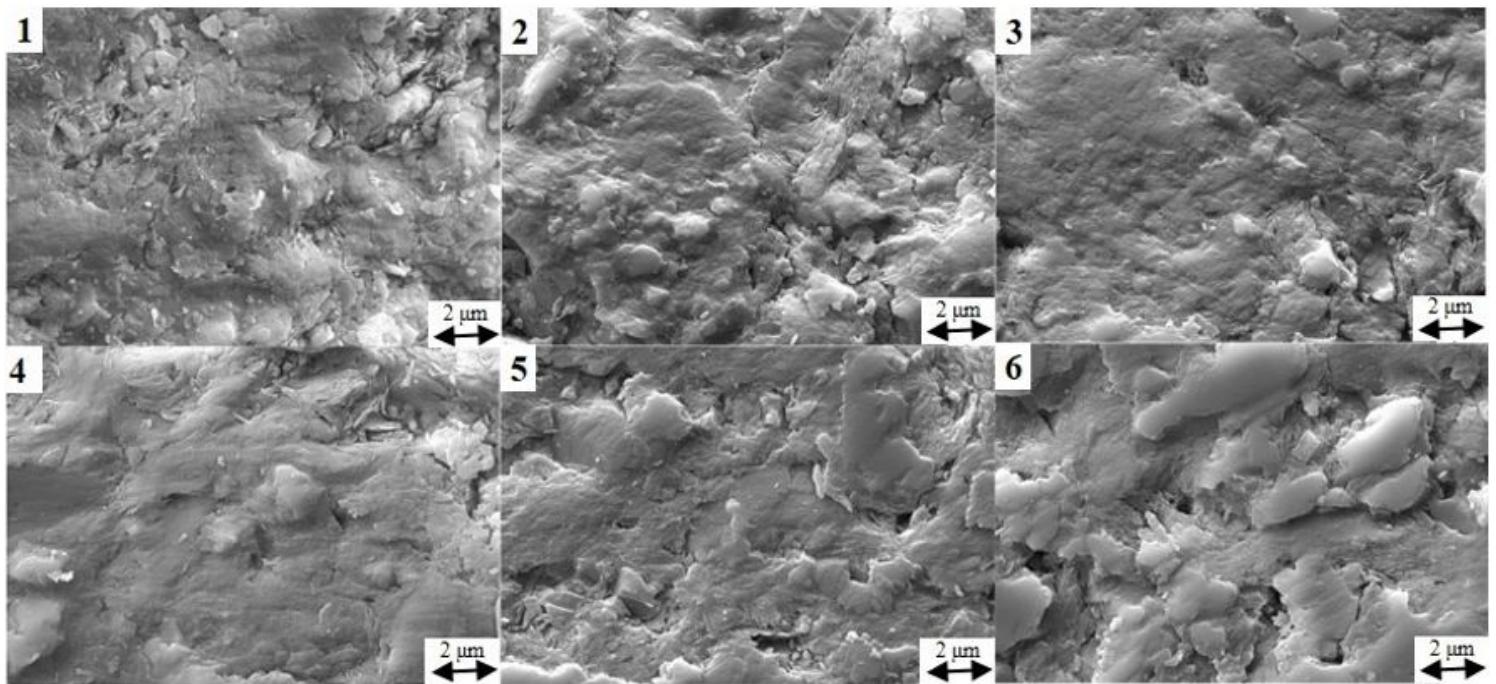
**Figure 4**

The XRD patterns of the relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (S-sericite, C-chlorite, Q-quartz)



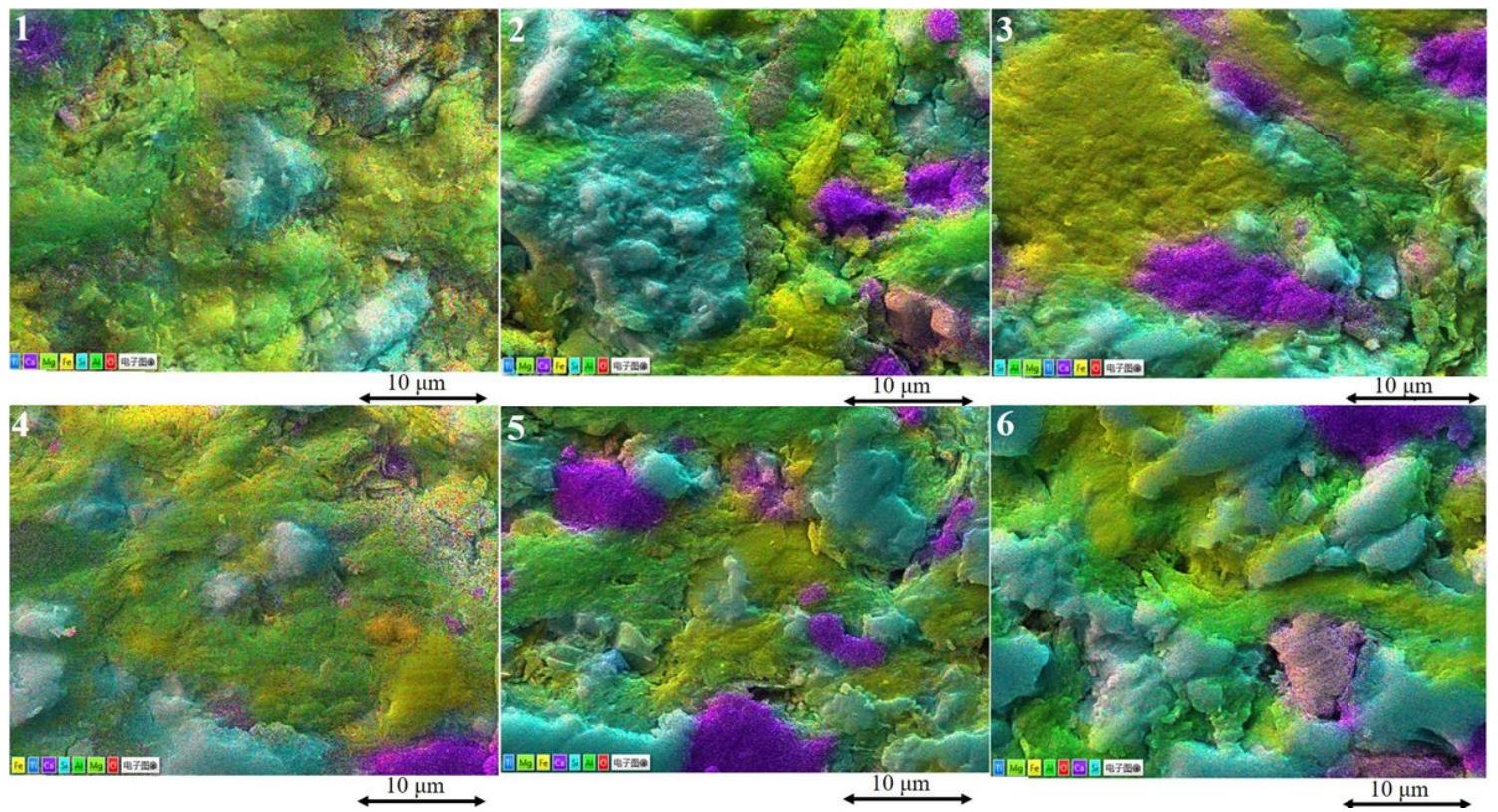
**Figure 5**

SEM images of relict sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



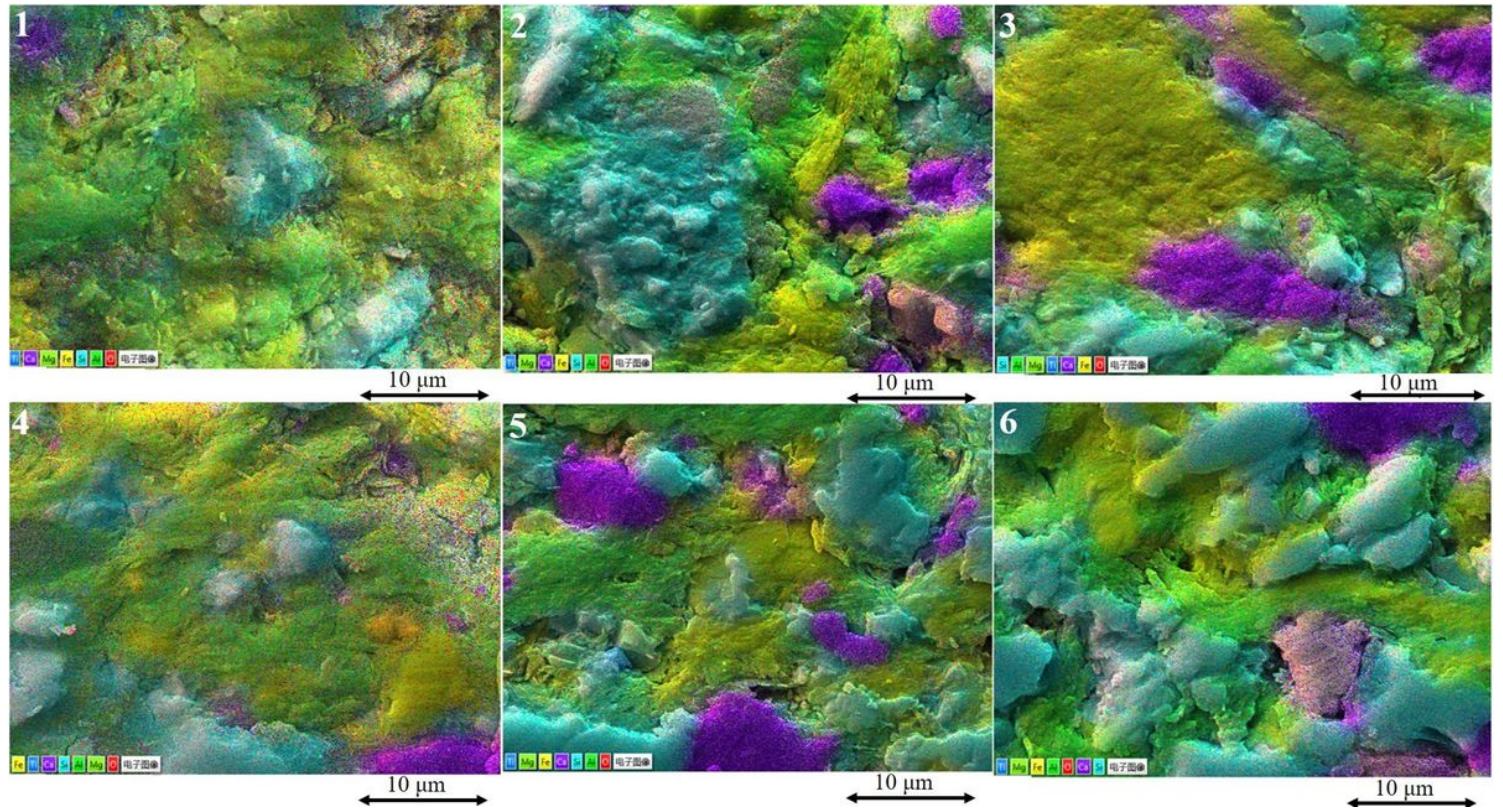
**Figure 5**

SEM images of relict sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



**Figure 6**

EDS images of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



**Figure 6**

EDS images of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

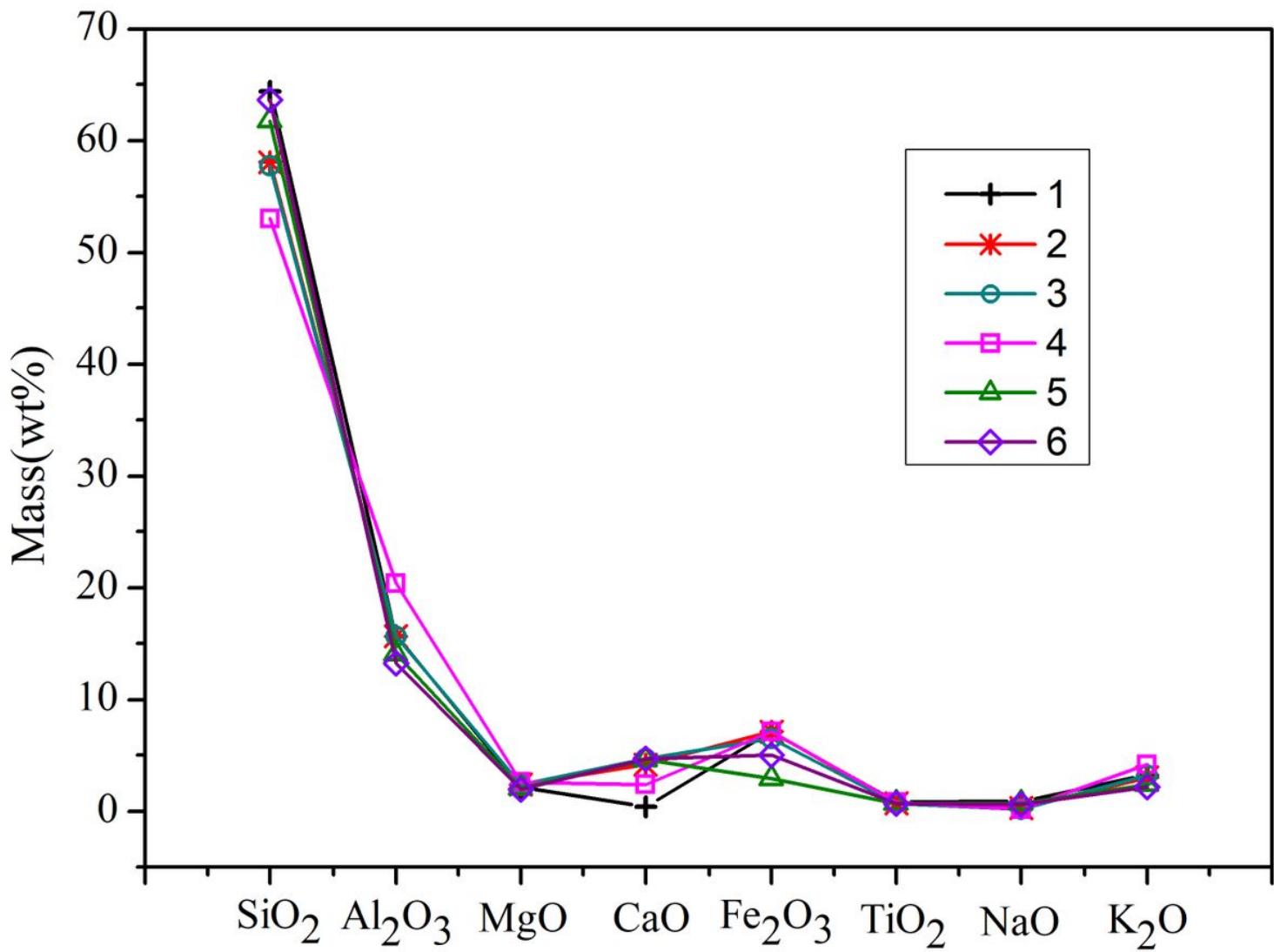


Figure 7

The patterns of the Major elements of the relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

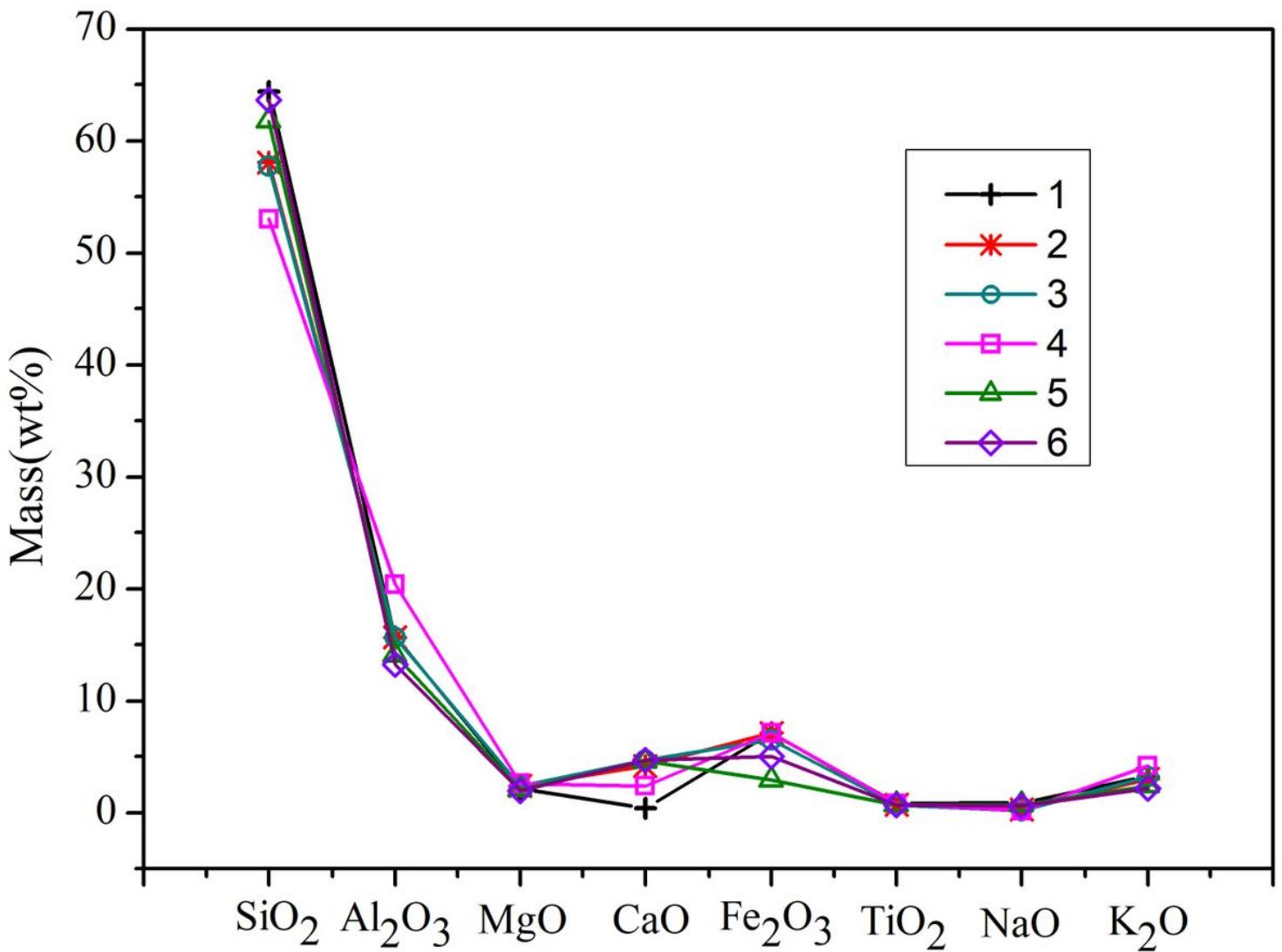
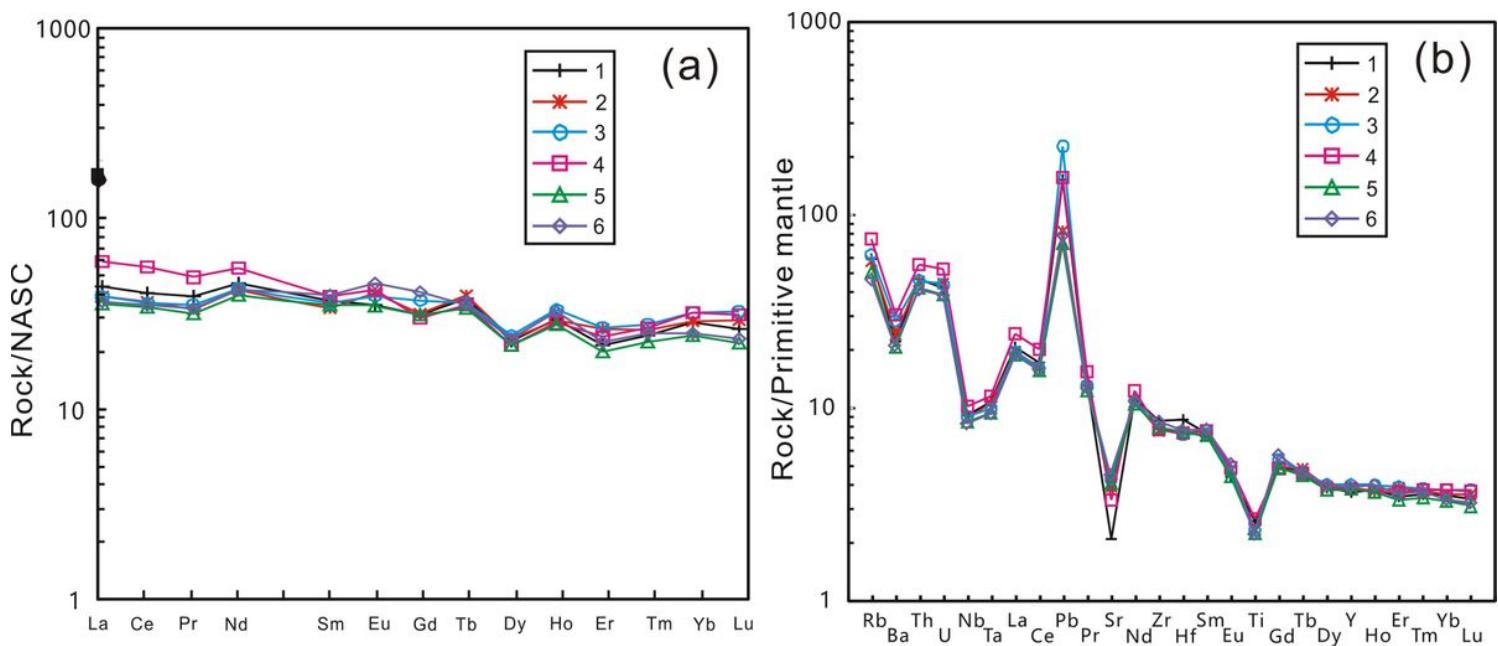


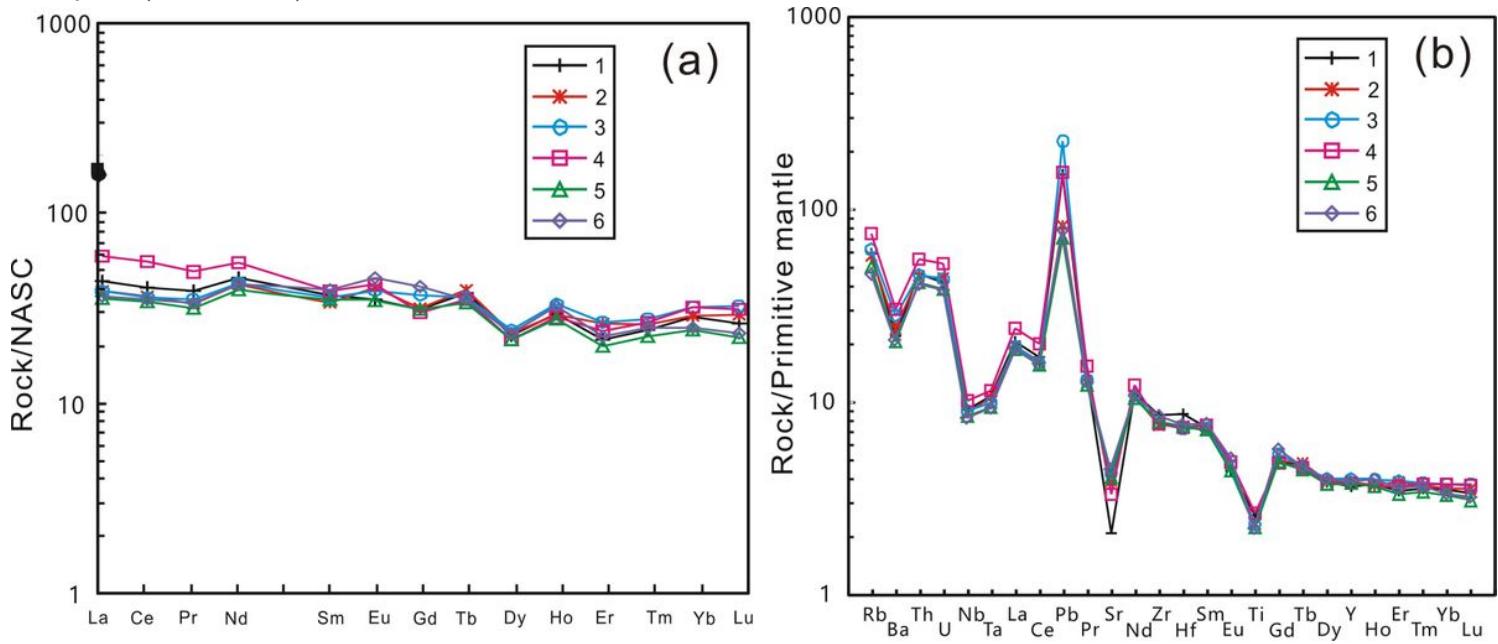
Figure 7

The patterns of the Major elements of the relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



**Figure 8**

(a) The standardized distribution patterns of REE in NASC of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6). (b) The primitive-mantle-normalized trace element spider diagram of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



**Figure 8**

(a) The standardized distribution patterns of REE in NASC of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6). (b) The primitive-mantle-normalized trace element spider diagram of relics sample (1) and control samples (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

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