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Supporting Information for

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5 **Magnetic fingerprints of modern sediments in the South China Sea resulting from**

6 **source-to-sink processes.**

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29 **Introduction**

30 The supporting information reported here provides the description of the laboratory
31 procedures used to obtain the data discussed in the article. It also contains one figure
32 showing the detailed result of the interpretation of the FORC diagram using the
33 VARIFORC software. Finally, a table in .xlsx format contains all the numerical data
34 discussed in the article and reported in the figures.

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36 **Text S1: Laboratory methods**

37 The low-field magnetic susceptibility was measured with a MS2B Bartington sensor.
38 The measurements were made over a 10 seconds integration time. The mass susceptibility
39 (χ) was obtained by dividing volume magnetic susceptibility by the density of the sample.

40 The anhysteretic remanent magnetization (ARM) was imparted to the same samples
41 using a 50 μ T direct current (DC) field superimposed to a 100 mT alternating field (AF).
42 The susceptibility of ARM (χ_{ARM}) was calculated as the DC field-normalized ARM. The
43 ARM was stepwise demagnetized up to 80 mT in 10 successive steps (5, 10, 15, 20, 25,
44 30, 35, 40, 60, 80 mT) using an AGICO LDA-3A-demagnetizer with a tumbling sample
45 holder. Finally, the median destructive field of ARM (MDF_{ARM}) and the percentage of
46 magnetization remaining after demagnetization at 80 mT with respect to the initial value
47 ($\% \text{ARM}_{80\text{mT}} = 100 \times \text{ARM}_{80\text{mT}} / \text{ARM}_{0\text{mT}}$) were calculated.

48 Subsequently, the isothermal remanent magnetization (IRM) was stepwise acquired
49 on the same samples with 6 successive steps up to 1 T using an Applied Physics pulse
50 magnetizer. This $\text{IRM}_{1\text{T}}$ then was stepwise AF demagnetized using the same steps as for
51 the ARM. In the same way as for ARM, MDF_{IRM} and $\% \text{IRM}_{80\text{mT}}$ were determined. The S-
52 ratio was calculated after applying a 0.3 T backfield ($\text{IRM}_{0.3\text{T}}$) to the $\text{IRM}_{1\text{T}}$ and using the
53 definition ($= -\text{IRM}_{0.3\text{T}} / \text{IRM}_{1\text{T}}$) of King and Channell (1991).

54 The hysteresis loops were performed on a few milligrams of dry sediment using an
55 AGM (Micromag 2900) between +1 and -1 T (150 milliseconds averaging time).
56 Saturation magnetization (M_s), remanent saturation magnetization (M_{rs}), and coercive
57 force (B_c) were determined after high field slope correction calculated on the 0.7 to 1T
58 interval. The remanent coercive force (B_{cr}) and S-ratio were determined by applying

59 increasing back-fields after saturation at 1 T. The S-ratio derived from the hysteresis
60 measurements made on dry samples were similar to those obtained on the wet cubic
61 samples indicating that no change occurred in the magnetic mineralogy upon drying.
62 High-resolution IRM acquisition curves were decomposed into cumulative log Gaussian
63 (CLG) curves (Robertson & France, 1994) using the software proposed by Kruiver et al.
64 (2001). The different coercitive families (CLG_#) are defined by their half saturation IRM
65 field ($B_{1/2}$), the percentage of their contribution to the total IRM and their dispersion
66 parameter (DP) after minimizing the sum of squared residuals.

67 The thermal behavior of the samples was characterized with stepwise thermal
68 demagnetizations of 3-axes IRM between room temperature and 650°C - 690°C (Lowrie,
69 1990). Samples with cubic shapes were first dried and fields of 1 T, 0.3 T, and 0.1 T were
70 successively applied, each along one axis of the cubes, using an Applied Physics pulse
71 magnetizer. The samples then were demagnetized using a zero-field PYROX furnace
72 keeping the temperature gradient lower than 3-4°C at high temperatures over the interval
73 in which the samples are placed. After heating, the samples were pushed into an air-
74 cooled chamber where the residual field was < 2 nT.

75 All remanent magnetizations (IRM, ARM, 3-axes IRM) were measured using a 2G-
76 755R cryogenic magnetometer (sensitivity 10^{-11} Am²) equipped with high-homogeneity
77 pick-up coils and placed together with the zero-field furnace and the AGICO LDA-3A
78 AF demagnetizer within the μ metal shielded room at LSCE.

79 High-resolution FORC measurements (field increments: 0.5 mT) have been
80 performed with an AGM (Micromag 2900) and processed with the VARIFORC software
81 (Egli, 2013) to obtain the FORC diagram and the coercivity distributions corresponding

82 to DC demagnetization curve contained in the FORC protocol and to the central ridge of
83 the FORC diagram.

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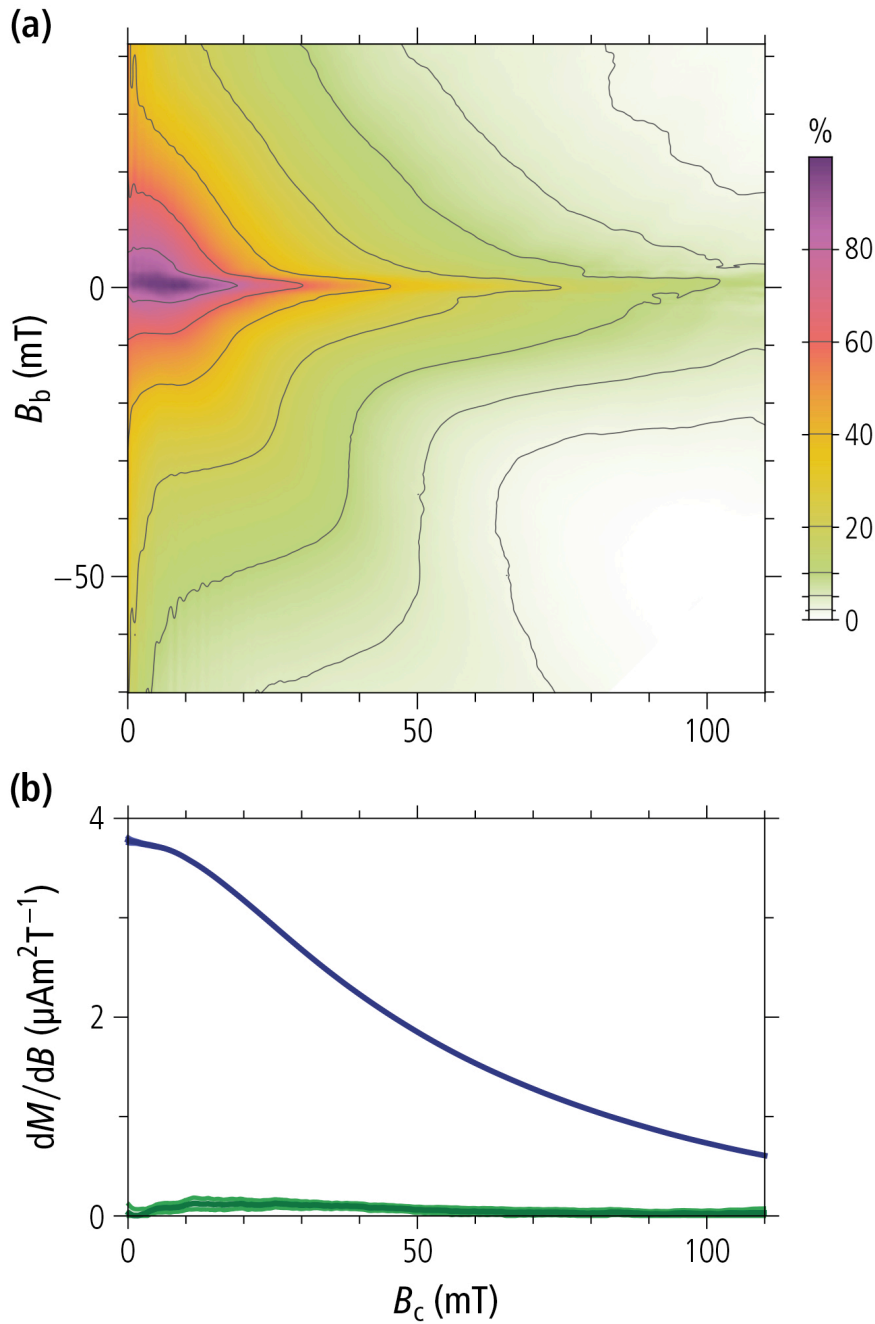
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Figure S1 :



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Figure S1: (a) FORC diagram of sample 17927 obtained from high-resolution measurements. Notice the overall triangular contour lines typical of PSD magnetite and the central ridge along $B_b = 0$, which signals the presence of a minor contribution from SD particles. (b) Coercivity distributions obtained from the subset of measurements corresponding to DC demagnetization (blue curve), and from the central ridge (green curve). Both curves are plotted with their 2σ confidence intervals.