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1 **Late Pleistocene slip rate of the central Haiyuan fault**
2 **constrained from OSL, ¹⁴C, and cosmogenic isotope**
3 **dating and high resolution topography**

4
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22

23 **ABSTRACT**

24 To better constrain the long-term millennial slip-rate of the Haiyuan fault in its central
25 part, we revisit the site of Daqing (or Sangedun at 102.7°E in Gaudemer et al., 1995).
26 We used terrestrial LiDAR to build a high-resolution DEM and Uncrewed Aerial
27 Vehicle to build an aerial photomosaic with ~0.1 m resolution to survey the offset
28 terraces, their geomorphology and the fault trace. We refine the geomorphological
29 interpretation of the site, measure terrace riser offsets and determine their relation to
30 terrace formation. The well-constrained age of the highest terrace T3 at 13.7 ± 1.5 ka
31 determined from the combination of surface and sub-surface OSL, ^{14}C , and terrestrial
32 in situ ^{10}Be cosmogenic radionuclide (CRN) dating, associated with an offset of 88 m,
33 yields a late Pleistocene minimum slip-rate of 6.5 ± 1 mm/yr. The less well
34 constrained offset ($<72 \pm 3$ m) and age ($>9.3 \pm 0.6$ ka) of terrace T2 yield a maximum
35 slip rate of 7.7 ± 0.6 mm/yr. The smallest offset of a gully incised into T1 of 6.0 ± 0.5
36 m is potentially associated with the most recent slip event that occurred in the last
37 millennia. The Daqing site provides a well constrained slip rate of the Haiyuan fault
38 that is consistent with geodetic estimates. Overall, the high-resolution topography and
39 precise chronology at the same site makes it possible to reveal the geomorphic
40 complexities of terrace riser offsets and post-depositional evolution, and to show how
41 previous geological rates along the fault were both under- and over-estimated.

42

43 **Keywords:** Haiyuan fault, northern Tibetan Plateau, slip rate, LiDAR, cosmogenic
44 nuclide dating

45

46

47 **INTRODUCTION**

48 How strain is distributed in the Tibetan-Himalayan orogen is important to
49 understand how continental orogens deform (Tapponnier and Molnar, 1977; England
50 and Molnar, 1997). The Haiyuan left-lateral strike-slip fault, whose eastern part
51 ruptured in 1920 AD for a length of about 230 km (Deng et al., 1984), is a major
52 strike slip fault at the northeastern margin of the Tibetan Plateau. This fault plays an
53 important role in accommodating eastward motion of the northern Tibet plateau
54 relative to the Gobi-Alashan to the north (Tapponnier and Molnar, 1977; Gaudemer et
55 al., 1995; Tapponnier et al., 2001a).

56 Overall, decadal geodetic and millennial geological slip-rate studies mostly agree
57 to a rate of 4-10 mm/yr, implying that the Haiyuan fault is the major active fault at the
58 rim of Tibet at this longitude (Li et al., 2009; Daout et al., 2016; Jiang et al., 2017).
59 However, higher slip rates have been documented (Zhang et al., 1988a; Gaudemer et
60 al., 1995; Lasserre et al., 1999, 2002), as well as lower ones (Yuan et al., 1998; Li et
61 al., 2009; He et al., 2010; Jiang et al., 2017; Matrau et al., 2019). Because it has been
62 suggested that the fault slip rate might vary over time, thus, it is valuable to find
63 multiple slip-rate constraints at a single site to constrain possible temporal slip-rate
64 variation (e.g., Sieh and Jahns, 1984; Van der Woerd et al., 1998, 2002).

65 Terrace risers have commonly been used as markers of fault displacement to
66 constrain slip rates along strike slip faults (e.g., Lensen, 1968; Weldon and Sieh, 1985;
67 Berryman, 1990; Knuepfer, 1992; Van der Woerd et al., 1998, 2002; McGill et al.,
68 2013). However, terrace risers can be seldom directly dated. One may infer
69 displacement started to be recorded since the time of upper terrace abandonment, or
70 upon abandonment of the lower terrace (Van der Woerd et al., 2002; Mériaux et al.,
71 2004, 2005; Cowgill, 2007; Zhang et al., 2007). In general, the upper terrace
72 constraints yield a minimum slip rate, while the lower terrace constraint yields a
73 maximum slip rate. Ideally, when terrace ages are not too different, a combination of

74 upper and lower age constraints may be used to bracket the riser age (Mériaux et al.,
75 2005; Cowgill, 2007).

76 The precision of a late Quaternary slip rate depends upon displacement
77 accumulation and its uncertainty, as well as the reliability of the corresponding dating
78 (Sieh, 1981; Weldon and Sieh, 1985; Van der Woerd et al., 1998, 2006; Cowgill,
79 2007; Zhang et al., 2007; Cowgill et al., 2009; Gold et al., 2009; Le Béon et al., 2012;
80 Mériaux et al., 2012). Across the Qilian Shan-Hexi Corridor, loess covers late
81 Quaternary surface broadly. Researchers have often used optically stimulated
82 luminescence (OSL) or radiocarbon ages of materials collected within the basal loess
83 to date the end of terrace emplacement (e.g. Li et al., 2009; Jiang et al., 2017; Liu et
84 al., 2018). In this area several studies indicate that loess deposition started just prior to
85 the Holocene (~13-10 ka) (Stokes et al., 2003; Küster et al., 2006). Thus, loess
86 deposition age is a minimum age for the terraces. Because terraces capped by loess
87 usually consist of coarse gravels, if one could correct for the shielding effect due to
88 loess cover, in-situ cosmogenic nuclides should be an appropriate dating method,
89 ideally complemented by OSL and ^{14}C dating of loess capping materials (e.g., Hetzel
90 et al., 2004, 2019; Perrineau et al., 2011).

91 High-resolution topographic data make it possible to image subtle landforms and
92 deformation features due to active tectonics, and to make reproducible and precise
93 measurements, improving understanding of rupture history and slip along faults (e.g.
94 Hudnut et al., 2002; Oskin et al., 2007; Arrowsmith and Zielke, 2009; Zielke et al.,
95 2010, 2015). Satellite or aerial photography offers two-dimensional imagery which is
96 often used to trace fault line and look for offset markers (e.g., Tapponnier and Molnar,
97 1977; Peltzer et al., 1989; Meyer et al., 1998; Lasserre et al., 1999; Klinger et al.,
98 2011; Middleton et al., 2016). Studies have applied Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS)
99 data to map fault-zone features (e.g., Hudnut et al., 2002; Oskin et al., 2007;
100 Arrowsmith and Zielke, 2009; Liu-Zeng et al., 2013), to survey coseismic surface
101 ruptures (Oskin et al., 2012; Clark et al., 2017; Langridge et al., 2018) or to determine

102 paleo-earthquake slip distributions (Zielke et al., 2010, 2012; Thackray et al., 2013;
103 Chen et al., 2015). Recently, this technique has also been used to measure the most
104 recent rupture traces and offsets along the eastern Haiyuan fault (Chen et al., 2014,
105 2018; Ren et al., 2016).

106 Based on new high-resolution topography data and high precision dating, we
107 revisit the Daqing site (also named Sangedun site in the study of Gaudemer et al.,
108 1995), a location with multiple marker offsets, to reassess the slip rate of the Haiyuan
109 Fault. We constrain the slip rate at this site with new offset measurements and a
110 combination of absolute age dating approaches.

111

112 **GEOLOGIC SETTING**

113 The Haiyuan fault extends for ~1000 km from Hala Hu within the Qilian Shan in
114 the west to the Liupan Shan in the east (Figure 1) (e.g., Tapponnier and Molnar, 1977;
115 Gaudemer et al., 1995). Thermochronological data indicate that the Haiyuan fault
116 initiated along its western section, then propagated eastward to the Liupan Shan area
117 (Zheng et al., 2006; Duvall et al., 2013). The fault is characterized by left-lateral
118 strike slip with oblique-slip components along some strands (Tapponnier and Molnar,
119 1977; Burchfiel et al., 1989; Gaudemer et al., 1995; Lasserre et al., 1999; Zhang et al.,
120 1988a). Six major 70 to 300 km-long sections are distinguished and delimited by
121 major step-overs or branches (Figure 1). Half-way along the Haiyuan fault, a major
122 branch, the Gulang-Zhongwei fault, splays off the Haiyuan fault at the junction of the
123 Lenglong Ling and Jinqiang He sections. It turns back towards the Haiyuan fault east
124 of 106°E in the Liupan Shan section. Large historical earthquakes, such as the 1709
125 AD Zhongwei M7.5, the 1920 AD Haiyuan Mw7.8-8.3 and the 1927 AD Gulang
126 M8.0 earthquakes, ruptured these two faults (Deng et al., 1984; Gaudemer et al.,
127 1995).

128 Several field studies along the Haiyuan fault have been carried out during the last
129 30 years. For instance, paleoseismic investigations along the Haiyuan (e.g. Zhang et

130 al., 1988b, 2003; Ran et al., 1997; Xiang et al., 1998; Min et al., 2001; Liu-Zeng et al.,
131 2015) and Maomao Shan (e.g. Yuan et al., 1998; Liu-Zeng et al., 2007) sections show
132 that earthquakes can rupture single or several sections together, and cluster temporally.
133 High-resolution deposition sequences in trenches also provided evidence of
134 magnitude 6 to 7 earthquakes (Liu-Zeng et al., 2015). Six events are documented on
135 the Lenglong Ling section from which the most recent may be related the 1927
136 Gulang M8.0 earthquake (Guo et al., 2019; Gaudemer et al., 1995).

137 Geological slip rates determined along the Haiyuan fault differ greatly, from a
138 few mm/yr to more than 1 cm/yr, due to different dating approaches and slip
139 reconstruction models. For example, Lasserre et al. (2002) proposed a slip rate for the
140 Lenglong Ling segment based on a ~200 m offset of a lateral moraine dated with
141 cosmogenic radionuclide (CRN) of 19 ± 5 mm/yr with a lower bound of 11 ± 3
142 mm/yr. Along the same Lenglong Ling section, He et al. (2000) argued for a lower
143 slip rate of 3.3-4.1 mm/yr based on older OSL dates. Recently, Jiang et al. (2017)
144 estimated a left-lateral slip rate of 6.6 ± 0.3 mm/yr along the eastern section of the
145 Lenglong Ling segment based on late Pleistocene ^{14}C and OSL ages of stream offsets.
146 Along the Maomao Shan segment, Lasserre et al. (1999) determined a slip rate of 12
147 ± 4 mm/yr, while Yuan et al. (1998) estimated lower slip rates of 4.1-5.4 mm/yr. Yao
148 et al. (2019) recently reassessed the offsets and age control for sites of Lasserre et al.
149 (1999) and updated the slip rate here to 5-8.9 mm/yr over the late Pleistocene –
150 Holocene. Further east, the Haiyuan segment, which ruptured in the 1920 Haiyuan
151 earthquake, was assigned a slip rate of 8 ± 2 mm/yr by Zhang et al. (1988b). Li et al.
152 (2009) updated this value to $\sim 4.5 \pm 1$ mm/yr by dating offset alluvial terraces.
153 Combining ^{10}Be CRN ages from surface and subsurface depth profiles in a set of
154 terraces, Matrau et al. (2019) constrained a minimum slip rate of 3.2 ± 0.2 mm/yr
155 along one of the fault strands crossing the Hasi Shan restraining bend, within the
156 western section of the 1920 Haiyuan earthquake rupture.

157 The Jinqiang He section (3) and the Maomao Shan section (4) are nearly parallel
158 and linked across a 6 km-wide left step by a N45°E-striking and east dipping normal
159 fault, which bounds the Tianzhu half-graben or pull-apart basin in the west
160 (Gaudemer et al., 1995; Figure 2). The Jinqiang He section fault of striking N110°E
161 offsets alluvial fans and ridges along the northern side of the Jinqiang He valley.
162 There is no evidence of large earthquake during at least the past eight centuries along
163 these two fault sections, which are considered together as “the Tianzhu seismic gap”
164 (Gaudemer et al., 1995).

165 The site of Daqing (or Sangedun site in Gaudemer et al., 1995; Tapponnier et al.,
166 2001b) is located along the eastern part of the Jinqiang He section, north of the
167 Honggeda village, and ~80 km east of the sites investigated by Lasserre et al. (2002)
168 (Figure 2). The mountain range immediately to the north is locally called Leigong
169 Shan, with the highest peak reaching 4326 m. Traces of the last glaciation, in the form
170 of fresh glacial cirques, are preserved above 3700 m on the southern flank of the
171 mountain range (Gaudemer et al., 1995). Streams incising the steep southern flank of
172 the mountains feed boulder-bearing fluvio-glacial fans that are cut near the apex by
173 the Haiyuan fault. Here, glacial moraines are absent, but to the west in the Lenglong
174 Ling area, glacial landforms are common (Meyer et al, 1998; Lasserre et al., 2002;
175 Owen et al., 2003). OSL and CRN ages of glacial deposits in the Lenglong Ling area
176 indicate that the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) took place at 18-21 ka, in agreement
177 with the timing of global LGM (Owen et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2013). Following the
178 cold and arid glacial period, fans and terraces are emplaced in the late Pleistocene and
179 early Holocene, due to increase runoff and glacial melting as the climate became
180 warmer (e.g., Meyer et al., 1998; Van der Woerd et al., 2002; Hetzel, 2013). Climatic
181 index analysis at a site on the northern flank of the Leigong Shan suggested that it
182 was warm and wet in the early Holocene (9.6-9.0 ka B.P.), and the most arid period
183 during the Holocene occurred between 9.0-8.7 ka B.P., when loess was deposited at
184 the site (Wu et al., 1998). At a regional scale, loess deposition was common but

185 spatially unevenly distributed in the Qilian Shan during the Holocene (Meyer et al.,
186 1998; Küster et al., 2006; Zhang et al., 2015).

187 At the Daqing site, a stream that flows down from a high catchment
188 (elevation >4000 m asl) and perpendicular to the main fault has abandoned a set of 3
189 main terrace levels along its west bank (Figure 3). The terraces are cut and offset by
190 the Haiyuan fault. Based on fieldwork, aerial-photo interpretation, and topographic
191 leveling with a theodolite, Gaudemer et al. (1995) determined that the three main
192 terraces are respectively offset horizontally by 143 m, 89 m, and 35 m and vertically
193 by 18 m, 11 m, and 4 m. Assigning an abandonment age of 13.5 ± 2 ka to the highest
194 terrace based on the assumption that it was deposited and abandoned during the wetter
195 and warmer period following the last glacial maximum, they proposed a slip-rate of
196 11 ± 4 mm/yr.

197

198 **LEVELING AND GEOCHRONOLOGY METHODS**

199 We used a combination of terrestrial LiDAR (TLS), Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle
200 (UAV) and kinematic GPS to survey the landforms of the Daqing site. For terrestrial
201 LiDAR, we used a Riegl VZ-1000, with an effective scan range of ~1400 m and a
202 precision of ~5 mm. Three successive scans were needed to cover all the studied area.
203 A Trimble real-time kinematic (RTK) Global Position system (GPS) surveyed the
204 position and elevation of each scanning base. These positions were used to register
205 the different point cloud datasets together. Because some places cannot be scanned by
206 the TLS due to topographic roughness, we used a DJI[®] Phantom 2 drone equipped
207 with a fixed focus camera to capture aerial imagery vertically and obliquely to
208 generate an ortho-photo mosaic of the site by Structure-from-Motion techniques (e.g.
209 James and Robson, 2012; Bemis et al., 2014) (Figures 3 and 4). The drone took more
210 than 120 photos at a height of about 50 m above ground surface. The flight paths are
211 parallel to the fault trace with a swath of 30-50 m. We set up 6 ground control points
212 (GCP) distributed evenly at the terrace surfaces before collecting photos. The

213 positions of GCPs were recorded by GPS-RTK. Agisoft[®] Photoscan was used to
214 process the aerial photos and generate the ortho-photo covering the studied site. We
215 projected the DEM derived from the TLS point cloud in the same coordinates as the
216 ortho-photo (Figures 3 and 4). Three topographic profiles were leveled in the field
217 using the Trimble RTK-GPS system described above along the various terrace risers.
218 We also extracted topographic profiles from the high-resolution DEM as single
219 profiles or swath profiles. The profiles were projected either perpendicular or parallel
220 to the fault trace (Figures 4 and 5).

221 At the Daqing site, the terrace conglomerates in the piedmont of the Leigong
222 Shan are deposited as debris flows originating from the catchment up slope. The
223 clasts within these conglomerates may have been mobilized from moraines upstream,
224 which remnants are still visible in the upper part of the catchment (Figure 3).
225 Sediments mostly comprise granite, gneiss and metasedimentary rocks. Large
226 boulders 0.5-2 m in diameter armor the surface of the terraces, some of them are
227 partially buried due to loess accumulation and soil development. Quartz-rich rock
228 samples for terrestrial cosmogenic radionuclide (CRN) dating were collected from the
229 top of boulders using chisel and hammer (Figures 4 and 6). In addition, a pit was dug
230 into the highest terrace (T3) for sub-surface sampling (Figures 4A and 7). The upper
231 1.1 m of the profile consist of 80 cm thick dark brown to black silty soil topping a 30
232 cm silty (loess) layer mixed with sparse gravels and pebbles of less than 1 cm in grain
233 size. In these upper layers we sampled 2 radiocarbon samples of bulk soil at 62 and 77
234 cm depths, and 2 OSL samples at 82 and 104 cm depths (Tables 1 and 2). In the lower
235 conglomeratic part of the profile, we collected 8 samples of amalgamated quartz-rich
236 gravels and pebbles (size < 5 cm) down to 3 m depth for cosmogenic isotope dating.
237 All sample locations were recorded using a portable GPS and elevations were
238 adjusted with the topography data from the TLS (Figure 4; Table 3).

239 Radiocarbon samples were analyzed by Beta Analytic with accelerator mass
240 spectrometry (AMS) and calibrated using Calib 7.1 (Stuiver et al., 1993) (Table 1).

241 The two OSL samples were processed and analyzed following Aitken (1998) and Lu
242 et al. (2007). Coarse-grained quartz was purified from samples through chemical
243 separation using 30% H₂O₂, 10% HCl, and 40% HF, and magnetic separation. The
244 ratio of Infra-red Stimulated Luminescence (IRSL) to Blue Light Stimulated
245 Luminescence (BLSL) has been checked to be lower than 45% to make sure the
246 quartz is clean. A Risø TL/OSL-DA-20 reader was used for irradiation, heating and
247 luminescence measurements (Table 2 and Figure 8). All dose rates were calculated
248 using a central age model (Galbraith et al., 2012).

249 The samples analyzed for ¹⁰Be cosmogenic nuclide were pre-processed at the
250 Key Laboratory of Crustal Dynamics, China Earthquake Administration. We crushed
251 the gravels and pebbles, purified the 250-500 μm fraction with acid leaches to obtain
252 pure quartz, then used hydrofluoric acid to dissolve about 30 g of quartz to which a
253 Beryllium-9 carrier solution was added. We isolated beryllium hydroxide (BeOH₂)
254 using cation exchange chromatography, which was then heated to 700°C to form
255 beryllium oxide (BeO). Final targets were prepared at the Cosmogenic isotope
256 Laboratory of Institut de Physique du Globe de Strasbourg (CNRS, University of
257 Strasbourg) and processed at the ASTER-AMS facility of Centre Européen de
258 Recherche et d'Enseignement des Géosciences de l'Environnement (Aix-en-Provence,
259 France) for measurement (Table 3).

260

261 **RESULTS**

262 **Horizontal and vertical cumulative slip determination**

263 Combining the DEM with a resolution of ~0.1 m computed from point clouds
264 acquired by TLS, the RTK-GPS topographic profiles, and the aerial orthophoto
265 mosaic acquired by UAV, we produce a geomorphic map of the Daqing site (Figure
266 4). Overall, our mapping and leveling are consistent with previous interpretation of
267 the site by Gaudemer et al. (1995). Three main terrace levels are abandoned and
268 preserved on the west bank of the Daqing stream. These are offset both horizontally

269 and vertically due to oblique fault slip. The trace of the main Haiyuan fault can be
270 clearly followed along the steepest part of the topographic scarp trending N110°E.
271 The fault trace is also marked by roughly aligned large blocks across the active stream
272 bed, as already noted by Gaudemer et al. (1995), which are clearly visible on the
273 aerial photo and in the field (Figure 3).

274 The terrace levels are well defined and separated by steep risers (Figures 4 and 5;
275 Table 4). The terrace surfaces slope southward 14° to 8° from oldest to youngest,
276 reflecting progressive incision and lower depositional gradient of younger deposits
277 (Figures 4 and 5). The highest terrace level T3 is located to the west of the active
278 riverbed. It is cut and offset by a 15-19 m-high south facing scarp. The intermediate
279 terrace level is subdivided between older and higher standing parts, labeled T2, which
280 are characterized by sparse outcropping boulders, and down to 6 m-deep channels,
281 labeled T2', locally stranded by small terrace remnants designated T2'' (Figures 4 and
282 5). The lowest terrace level T1 stands a few meters above the active riverbed. At
283 places, gullying and riser-slope instabilities have added some disturbance to the
284 overall simple geomorphological setting. The height and width of the fault scarp is
285 larger on the older terraces than on the younger ones, due to additional accumulated
286 deformation and progressive degradation of the steep fault scarp (Figures 3 and 4)
287 (e.g., Tapponnier et al., 1990; Zinke et al., 2015). In addition, due to relative vertical
288 motion on the fault, terrace-riser height is larger upstream than downstream with no
289 significant average slope change (Figure 5).

290 Because of lateral stream erosion and local degradation of terrace risers, terrace
291 edges are not linear features, which lends uncertainty to reconstruction of their
292 geometry prior of being offset. Downstream risers T3/T2' and T2/T1 are curved near
293 the fault trace (Figures 3 and 4), which suggests that displacement of the risers started
294 to accumulate before the lower terrace levels were completely abandoned. A number
295 of studies have addressed the interaction between geomorphic processes and tectonic
296 movement to determine whether terrace riser or channel offsets are true tectonic

297 offsets (e.g., Lensen, 1964; Gaudemer et al., 1989; Van der Woerd et al., 2002;
298 Cowgill, 2007; Mériaux et al., 2012; Reitman et al., 2019). To address the difficulty
299 of offset determination from geomorphic features we thus determined multiple offsets
300 for each riser, using both far- and near-field projections to the fault, and both the top
301 and bottom edges (Figure 9).

302 We determined displacement values by fitting far-field riser edges (more than
303 100 m-long and several 10s of m away from fault trace) and near-field riser edges (a
304 few 10s of m-long and near the fault trace) across the fault. Terrace risers reach up to
305 20 m height and display slopes of 10-40°, so that offsets related to riser top and
306 bottom are also specified, especially offsets of curved risers near fault trace (Figures 4
307 and 9; Table 4). It is worth pointing out that the far-field displacements of risers (e.g.,
308 D3t, D3b, D2t, D2b) are likely related to the abandonment of the adjacent upper
309 terrace, while near-field displacements (e.g., d3t, d3b, d2t, d2b) (Figure 9F) are likely
310 related to the adjacent lower terrace.

311 For the terrace riser top T3/T2', its upstream nonlinear part may be fit in two
312 ways. Either the piercing line fits tangentially the two lower convexities to the east or
313 the higher concavities to the west (Figure 4A). Downstream, the far-field piercing line
314 is perfectly linear about 60 m away from the fault. Far-field piercing lines of riser
315 base T3/T2' are almost parallel to the top on both side of the fault. Correlating riser
316 top piercing lines yield displacements of 82 ± 3 to 94 ± 3 m (this latter measurement
317 being similar to the 101.5 m of Gaudemer et al., 1995) or, on average, 88 ± 9 m.
318 Piercing lines at base of riser constrain an offset of 72 ± 3 m. The near-field riser
319 T3/T2' is curved both upstream and downstream of the fault. We can match riser top
320 (d3t) and base (d3b) with similar values of 25 ± 2 and 28 ± 2 m (Figure 4, Table 4).

321 West of T2, the eastern limit of channel T2', or the base of riser T2/T2' is only
322 determined in the near-field. Its offset of 29 ± 2 m is similar and consistent with d3b
323 (28 ± 2 m) (Figure 4, Table 4). East of T2, far-field riser top T2/T1 is linear upstream
324 of the fault and about 30 m downstream of the fault. The far-field riser base is almost

325 parallel to the riser top. The offsets of riser T2/T1 top and base are 35 ± 2 m and $27 \pm$
326 2 m, respectively, or on average 31 ± 4 m. The near-field riser T2/T1 is curved,
327 particularly downstream of the fault, and its near-field riser top (d2t) and base (d2b)
328 are similarly offset 6.5 ± 1 m (d2t and d2b, Figure 4, Table 4). A small incision in the
329 middle of terrace T1 is also offset by 6.0 ± 0.5 m (Figures 4 and 10). Near the fault,
330 riser T1/T0 does not preserve lateral slip, even though T1 and T0 have been ruptured
331 in the past as indicated by the vertical offset of T1 and the visible fault trace across T0
332 (Figures 3C and 4). Away from the fault, the far-field riser T1-T0 seems left-laterally
333 offset by several meters, although lateral erosion from the still active stream cannot be
334 excluded (Figures 4 and 9).

335 In summary, both sets of terrace risers T3-T2' and T2-T1 show a similar pattern
336 where far-field riser top offsets are much larger than near-field riser base offsets,
337 79-97 m versus 23-30 m and 33-37 m versus 5.5-7.5 m (Figure 4A). This observation
338 suggests that far-field riser top offset ages are close to the age of the upper terrace,
339 although it remains a maximum age and that the near-field riser base offset ages are
340 close to the age of the lower terrace. Therefore, 88 ± 9 m can be defined as a lower
341 bound for the horizontal offset of T3. The bounds of the offset of T2 range between
342 72 ± 3 m and 35 ± 2 , but probably closer to the upper bound because the channel T2'
343 offset is well constrained at $28-29 \pm 2$ m. Finally, the offset of T1 is well constrained
344 at $6-6.5 \pm 1$ m from the similar values of the near-field riser base offset and the
345 incision across T1 (Table 4).

346 In addition to left-lateral horizontal slip, the Haiyuan fault exhibits a vertical
347 component of slip at this site (Figures 3, 4 and 5). The scarp height measured along
348 the swath profile C1-C1' in the middle of terrace T3 (19 ± 2 m) is larger than the
349 height from the profile C-C' following the terrace edge (15 ± 2 m) (Figures 4 and 5).
350 This discrepancy is due to lateral displacement of the oblique slope terrace T3 relative
351 to the fault trace (e.g., Peltzer et al., 1988; Gaudemer et al., 1995; Rodgers and Little,
352 2006; Chevalier et al., 2016). Correcting the measured offset of 19 ± 2 m (V_i) by

353 taking into account the slope of terrace T3 (on average 3.1° to west parallel to
354 N110°E striking fault trace, see profiles D2, E1-3 in Figure 5) and a horizontal offset
355 of 88 m yields a corrected vertical offset of 14 ± 2 m (V_r) similar to the value of $15 \pm$
356 2 m from the offset-riser top. Maximum slopes of terrace T2 on both sides of the fault
357 are similar and oriented perpendicular to fault trace, so that no correction is needed
358 for T2 and its vertical throw is 10 ± 1 m (Figure 5, Table 4). The terrace level T2'
359 slopes on average perpendicular to the fault trace and its vertical offset ranges from
360 5.7 ± 1 m (profile B1-B1') to 6.4 ± 1 m (profile B-B'), thus on average $6.0 \pm 1.5 \pm$
361 (Figure 5, Table 4). The slopes of T1 are similar upstream and downstream and the
362 height of the fault scarp across T1 is 1.3 ± 0.2 m (Figure 5).

363 To summarize, the 4 terraces T3, T2, T2' and T1 at the Daqing site have
364 horizontal and vertical offsets of 88 ± 9 m, 33-75 m, 28.5 ± 2 m, 6.0 ± 0.5 m and $15 \pm$
365 2 m, 10 ± 1 m, 6.0 ± 1 m, 1.3 ± 0.2 m, respectively (Table 5). These values display a
366 consistent vertical to horizontal ratio that ranges from 0.170 to 0.211 (average $0.191 \pm$
367 0.018; Table 5) testifying of a constant slip vector overall (Figure 11).

368

369 **Terrace ages**

370 To constrain the age of abandonment of T3, we dug a 3 m-deep pit in the
371 downstream tread of terrace T3 (Figure 3). The upper 1.1 m of the profile exhibit a 30
372 cm sandy-loessic layer overlain by an 80 cm-thick dark brown silty soil, which partly
373 developed by incorporating wind-blown loess and sand. Below 1.1 m depth, the
374 profile penetrates the conglomeratic terrace deposit consisting of boulders, cobbles,
375 gravels and sand. Two OSL samples from the loess layer yield ages of 12.2 and 8.7 ka
376 in stratigraphic order (Figure 7, Table 2). Two radiocarbon samples from the lower
377 part of the soil yield ages of 7.7 and 7.6 ka, also in stratigraphic order (Figure 7, Table
378 1). Whether the loessic layer is of aeolian origin or reworked loess in overbank
379 deposits cannot be confirmed. In any case, the 1.1 m-thick top layer of the terrace
380 indicates deposition processes incompatible with the presence of an active stream and

381 thus it indicates that the underlying conglomerate has been abandoned prior to
382 deposition of these upper layers, i.e., prior to 12.2 ka. To better constrain the age of
383 abandonment of the terrace, we modeled the ^{10}Be concentration with depth for 8
384 amalgamated samples of gravel and pebbles collected from the conglomeratic terrace
385 deposit (Figure 7, Table 3). To take into account the shielding effect of the loess and
386 soil we propose 3 end-member models (Figure 12A). The first one (model 1) is a
387 maximum-shielding or maximum-age model, for which despite knowledge of the
388 loess and soil ages from other methods (OSL and ^{14}C), we consider that loess and soil
389 were deposited immediately after the abandonment of the conglomerate forming T3
390 (Figure 12A). Considering the respective density of 2.0 for sandy-loess and of 1.2 for
391 soil, the best fit of the ^{10}Be data is obtained with an exposure age of 21.6 ± 4.6 ka (t_{1-1})
392 (Figure 12D). Clearly, given the age of the lowermost OSL sample of 12.2 ka, this
393 age is not realistic and implies stepwise or progressive emplacement of the
394 sandy-loess and soil layers, which we consider in the following models. A second
395 model (model 2) takes into account the oldest ages of the sandy-loess and soil deposit
396 as the moment when these layers were deposited (Figure 12B). This model has thus 3
397 exposure phases, a first one corresponding to the abandonment of the conglomerate
398 without shielding (between t_{2-1} and t_{2-2}); a second one, with 30 cm of sandy-loess
399 shielding starting at 12.2 ka (t_{2-2}); and a third one, with the additional 80 cm of soil
400 shielding starting at 7.7 ka (t_{2-3}). The sandy-loess and soil layers are assumed to have
401 been deposited instantaneously. Model 2 gives a time of exposure of the conglomerate
402 without shielding of 2.7 ka, thus an abandonment age of 14.9 ka (t_{2-1}) (Figure 12E). A
403 third model (model 3), is similar to model 2 but instead of considering an
404 instantaneous deposition of the sandy-loess and soil layers, it considers progressive
405 deposition of the shielding layers: 30 cm of loess deposited between 12.2 ka and 7.6
406 ka, (6.5 cm/ka) and 80 cm-thick soil deposited between 7.6 ka until today (10.5 cm/ka)
407 (Figure 12C). Model 3 is a minimum shielding model or minimum age model and
408 gives an abandonment age of 13.7 ka (t_{3-1}). The result of the third model is compatible

409 with all age data, and we thus suggest an abandonment age for terrace T3 of $13.7 \pm$
410 1.5 ka (Figure 12F).

411 For terraces T2 and T1, we collected surface exposure samples made of pieces of
412 the top of large, 0.8 to 2 m in diameter, well embedded boulders (Figures 4 and 6,
413 Table 3). As visible on sample field views in Figure 6, the boulders are variable in
414 size, in height above soil surface and also in overall shape ranging from well-rounded
415 to angular. Despite inspection of the boulders it cannot be ascertained that they have
416 not suffered alteration or spallation. We thus sampled a large number of boulders and
417 selected the best-preserved parts at the top of the boulders (Figure 6, Table 3). Seven
418 samples were collected on terrace T2 south of the fault; six samples were collected on
419 terrace T1, three to the north and three to the south of the fault (Figure 4, Table 3).
420 Both ^{10}Be concentration distributions of the samples collected on T2 and T1 indicate a
421 large scatter in the data, with overlapping values between terraces (Figure 12G). This
422 scatter may be related to unevenly distributed and large inheritance among the
423 boulders and/or variable erosion affecting the protruding large boulders at the surface
424 of the terraces (e.g., Ritz et al., 2006; Ryerson et al., 2006; Le Dortz et al., 2011).
425 Such ^{10}Be concentration scatter is a common feature of boulders originating from
426 small size high-mountain glacial catchments where accumulation and transport vary
427 with climate changes (e.g., Putkonen and Swanson, 2003; Heimsath and McGlynn,
428 2008; Heyman et al., 2011). Boulders may have sat at various depths in moraines
429 upstream at high elevation during a large part of the Pleistocene, before being
430 transported episodically, thanks to increased moist periods and during brief flash
431 floods. Unlike large catchments with deep valley fill, most of the conglomerate
432 forming part of fans and terraces at the outlet of the upper valley across the fault zone
433 were probably never buried deep enough to be shielded completely from cosmic rays.
434 The deepest gravels in the T3 depth profile have concentrations representing about 20
435 to 30% of the surface samples, which represent a significant amount of inherited ^{10}Be
436 acquired upstream. This amount of inheritance may be indicative of the intermittent

437 stream dynamics and evidence of sediment accumulation in the catchment.
438 Inheritance may be distributed differently in amalgamated gravels and large boulders,
439 as their mode of transport and residence time in the catchment differ greatly (e.g.,
440 Benedetti and Van der Woerd, 2014; Carretier et al., 2015). Assuming that the scatter
441 is due to inheritance, the boulders with minimal inheritance are thus closest to the true
442 surface age (e.g., Le Dortz et al., 2011; Owen et al., 2011; Prush and Oskin, 2020).
443 For terrace T2, sample HGD14-27 has the lowest ^{10}Be concentration and an exposure
444 age of 11.8 ± 1.1 ka. (Figure 12G, Table 3). Note that this age is younger but close to
445 the age of the upper terrace T3 (13.7 ± 1.5 ka) and may be considered a maximum age.
446 Additional age constraints for T2 may be given by radiocarbon dates of the overlying
447 soil from the study of Liang et al. (2018). The ages obtained in two pits in the top soil
448 of terrace T2 upstream and downstream of the fault indicate that T2 must have been
449 abandoned before 9.3 ± 0.6 ka (Figure 4, Table 1). Thus, the age of terrace T2 may be
450 bracketed between 9.3 ± 0.6 and 11.8 ± 1.1 ka.

451 For terrace T1, the scatter in ^{10}Be data of the 6 surface samples is similar as for
452 terrace T2, but the range of concentrations is lower. Making similar assumptions
453 about the origin of the scatter, the sample with the lowest ^{10}Be concentration should
454 be close to the true age of the terrace. The lowest concentrated sample is HGD14-23
455 with an exposure age of 1.2 ± 0.1 ka (Figure 12G, Table 3). In the absence of better
456 age constraints, we assume that the age of terrace T1 is close to 1.2 ± 0.1 ka.

457

458 **Slip rate**

459 Dividing the lower bound of the cumulative displacement of terrace T3, defined
460 by the terrace T3/T2' riser top offset of 88 ± 9 m by the abandonment age of T3 of
461 13.7 ± 1.5 ka yields a minimum left-lateral slip rate of 6.5 ± 1 mm/yr. The bounds of
462 the offset of terrace T2 of 72 ± 3 m and 35 ± 2 m accumulated after 9.3 ± 0.6 - $11.8 \pm$
463 1.1 ka yield a rate of 5.7 ± 2 mm/yr. T2' channel offset of 28.5 ± 2 m remains undated

464 in the absence of ages for T2'. And taking the age of 1.2 ± 0.1 ka for terrace T1 and
465 its 6.0 ± 0.5 m offset yields a slip rate of 5.0 ± 0.9 mm/yr (Figure 13; Table 5).

466 The observation of a near constant slip vector at the Daqing site (Figure 11) and
467 using the better determined vertical offset of the terraces (Table 5), we may estimate
468 the age of terrace T2' from its vertical offset of 6.0 ± 1.5 m and the age of T3,
469 yielding 5.4 ± 1.0 ka. Similarly, the age of T1, vertically offset 1.3 ± 0.2 m, may
470 be estimated at about 1.2 ± 0.2 ka, concordant with our assumption that it may be
471 dated with the youngest surface boulder age (1.2 ± 0.1 ka; Table 3). The same
472 relations may be used to further constrain the loosely determined horizontal offset of
473 terrace T2, which is thus likely offset about 51 m, an offset not preserved at the
474 Daqing site, probably due to lateral erosion of the lower terrace.

475

476 **DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATION**

477 **Diachronous riser formation**

478 Geologic slip rate reflects faulting behavior over the long term. Geologic rates are
479 a basic datum for understanding strain accommodation through a system of faults and
480 also one of the most important indicators for earthquake potential of a fault.
481 Considerable efforts have been devoted to determining the slip rate on active faults in
482 and around the Tibetan Plateau. Although determination of a geologic fault slip rate is
483 simple in principle, it is subject to considerable uncertainty. The difficulty lies in the
484 fact that the duration of offset accumulation is often approximated by a surrogate age.
485 Indeed, terrace risers are commonly used as offset features in slip rate determination
486 of faults in northern Tibet, including the Haiyuan, the Altyn Tagh and the Kunlun
487 faults (e.g., Peltzer et al., 1989; Meyer et al., 1996; Van der Woerd et al., 1998, 2000,
488 2002; Lasserre et al., 1999; Mériaux et al., 2004, 2005, 2012; Kirby et al., 2007;
489 Cowgill, 2007; Cowgill et al., 2009). These are erosive features, which likely form
490 diachronously, starting to record offset after the abandonment of the upper terrace and
491 sometimes before the abandonment of the lower terrace (e.g., Ryerson et al., 2006;

492 Harkins and Kirby, 2008; Gold et al., 2009; Mériaux et al., 2012). For a given terrace
493 riser offset, the abandonment age of the upper terrace surface provides the maximum
494 age of slip accumulation, thus the lower bound of the true slip rate. Accordingly, the
495 lower terrace surface age represents the minimum age of slip accumulation and thus
496 the upper bound of the slip rate.

497 Terrace riser preservation results from the interaction between river erosion and
498 displacement by the fault. In general, a terrace riser on the left bank of a river crossing
499 a left-lateral fault is protected, i.e., continuous left-lateral slip moves the downstream
500 section of the riser away from the stream center and is less frequently refreshed, thus
501 more likely to record offset before the abandonment of the lower terrace (e.g.,
502 Cowgill, 2007). On the contrary, left-lateral slip on the fault is moving the
503 downstream part of the right bank riser toward the center and in alignment with the
504 upstream channel. This configuration favors more frequent riser refreshment and
505 obliteration of offset before the abandonment of the lower terrace (e.g., Van der
506 Woerd et al., 1998; Tapponnier et al., 2001a, b). However, our investigation at the
507 Daqing site shows incomplete riser refreshment and slip accumulation before the
508 lower terrace is abandoned. Our mapping and offset measurements of the sequentially
509 abandoned terrace surfaces suggest that the right-bank terrace risers, i.e., erosive side,
510 are subject to incomplete riser refreshment and partial preservation of riser offset.
511 Several reasons may explain this situation at the Daqing site. First, the obliquity in
512 slip vector and the accumulation of vertical displacement on the fault induces more
513 incision in the upstream parts of the terraces (Figures 4 and 5), increasing channeling
514 upstream and possibly less erosion downstream. Second, the main river trunk may
515 have reduced its width progressively with time and remained channeled on the eastern
516 side of the terraces, thus favoring preservation of the accumulated offsets.

517

518 **Upper and lower bounds of the slip rate**

519 The differences between geological slip rates from previous studies along the
520 Haiyuan fault stem mainly from this uncertainty of using upper terrace surface versus
521 lower terrace surface ages as the surrogate for the true offset age of the terrace riser.
522 On one hand, Lasserre et al. (1999) reported a rate of 12 ± 4 mm/yr on the eastern
523 Maomao Shan section of the Haiyuan fault. They used the lower terrace age, i.e., the
524 minimum age for offset accumulation, thus provided an upper bound for the slip rate.
525 On the other hand, much lower slip rates were reported, such as 3.1-5.8 mm/yr on the
526 Laohu Shan section (Yuan et al., 1998; Liu et al., 2018). These lower rates are based
527 on the upper terrace surface age for slip accumulation, and thus provide a lower
528 bound of the slip rate. As the many slip-rates of the Haiyuan fault shows, studies
529 finding a rate of ≤ 5 mm/yr are mainly based on an upper terrace reconstruction. In
530 only a few cases both the upper and lower terraces were dated (Li et al., 2009; Zheng
531 et al., 2013). If the lower terrace reconstruction scenario is considered in these studies,
532 an upper bound in the range of 4.5-22 mm/yr is implied, even though this upper
533 bound is not mentioned. An objective evaluation of these two previous studies shows
534 that their authors sampled the loess cover (either OSL or ^{14}C dating) of the upper
535 terrace surface, which likely postdates the abandonment of the terrace surface. The
536 implication is that even though the upper terrace constrains the maximum age of
537 offset accumulation, the loess cover age shifts the terrace age towards lower values.
538 Therefore, several slip rates documented in previous studies have in fact larger
539 uncertainties than asserted.

540 Strictly speaking, the true slip rate of the Haiyuan fault should lie between the
541 ranges of upper and lower bounds. It is helpful to resolve the variability to explicitly
542 distinguish the lower and upper bounds when reporting the rate. At the Daqing site in
543 this study, the upper and the lower bounds of the slip rate, constrained by the offset of
544 the T3/T2 terrace riser and the respective upper and lower terrace ages, are similar,
545 6.5 ± 1 mm/yr and 7.7 ± 0.6 mm/yr. This is because the ages of T3 (13.7 ka) and T2
546 (9.3-11.8 ka) are relatively close in time.

547 The terrace riser T2/T1 offset of 35 m provides a much larger uncertainty and
548 looser constraint on the slip rate (3.3-29.1 mm/yr) (Figure 13). The contrast in slip
549 rates bracketed by T3/T2 and T2/T1 at the same site highlights again that one should
550 not favor the upper or the lower terrace reconstruction scenarios, without additional
551 information. If we use the upper terrace age as the offset age, the offset of T3/T2 riser
552 suggests a slip rate of 6.5 mm/yr (since 13.7 ka), whereas the offset of T2/T1 riser
553 suggests 3.3 mm/yr (since 9.3-11.8 ka), only half as much. This difference at the same
554 site could be interpreted as a temporal change in slip rate, as has been suggested
555 elsewhere for the Haiyuan or other faults (e.g., Weldon et al., 2004; Gold et al., 2011b,
556 2017a; Liu et al., 2018). In reality, the rates may be simply the lower and upper
557 bounds, rather than the true slip rates. The rate difference may be an indication of the
558 variable initiation time of riser offset record after the abandonment of the upper
559 terrace, thus the uncertainty in slip rate determination, rather than an indication of
560 temporal change in slip behavior. Comparison between short- and long-term slip rates
561 for a number of large strike-slip faults globally suggests that the slip rate does not
562 change significantly through time (Cowgill et al., 2009; Meade et al., 2013; Tong et al,
563 2014).

564

565 **Reducing uncertainty in slip rate estimate from terrace riser offsets**

566 Terrace riser offsets may be measured in several ways to reduce uncertainties in
567 slip rate. Although we can adopt both upper and lower terrace models to bracket a
568 conservative slip rate range instead of seeking a true rate (Cowgill, 2007; Cowgill et
569 al., 2009), large differences in the ages of the upper and lower terrace can produce
570 wide range of slip rates (e.g., Mériaux et al., 2012; Gold et al., 2017b). One way of
571 reducing the uncertainty in slip rate is to lower the uncertainty in displacement bounds.
572 In general, one measures offset riser paired tops (e.g., Hubert-Ferrari et al., 2002;
573 Rizza et al, 2011; Gold et al, 2011a) or middle parts (e.g., Mason et al., 2006; Carne
574 et al, 2011) because of poor preservation of riser bases, which are locations of debris

575 accumulation (Stewart et al., 2018), or use full displacement range from top, middle
576 and base of riser (Gold et al, 2017b). In all cases, dividing such displacements by the
577 ages of the lower terraces yields the high upper bounds of the slip rate.

578 The offset of the riser base is sometimes smaller than the offset of the riser top,
579 like at our Daqing site and observed elsewhere (e.g., Gold et al. 2017b). In this case,
580 rates determined by correlating the offset riser top and base with the ages of the upper
581 and lower terraces, respectively, are more consistent, implying a vertical diachronicity.
582 As illustrated in Figure 9G, the near-field offset is preserved after abandonment of the
583 lower terrace when the stream has not totally refreshed the riser. The age of the lower
584 terrace is close to or older than the time when the near-field displacement starts to
585 accumulate. The rate between the near-field offset and the age of the lower terrace
586 abandonment may be close to the true slip rate although strictly a lower bound (e.g.
587 Mason et al., 2006; Zinke et al., 2017).

588 The advantage of multiple paired offset terraces to resolve such issues has long
589 been demonstrated (e.g., Lensen, 1964; Sieh and Jahns, 1984; Weldon, 1986;
590 Gaudemer et al, 1995; Van der Woerd et al., 1998, 2002). Considering a set of
591 independently determined slip-rates at a single site makes it possible to average the
592 variability of river incision or lateral erosion with time. At the Daqing site, the set of 4
593 terrace levels allow such approach. In our study, due to difficulties in determining the
594 precise age of all the terrace levels, we nevertheless constrained their relative ages
595 using one well-determined terrace age and their respective horizontal and vertical
596 offsets.

597 Finally, to avoid the ambiguity in correlating terrace surface ages with their
598 upper or lower risers, the offset of the terrace itself may be determined (e.g., Lensen,
599 1964; Peltzer et al., 1988, 2020). In general, this is possible when the terraces bear
600 particular syndepositional geomorphic markers at their surface (channels, ridges) or if
601 the terraces have specific inherited shapes (fan shapes, slopes) that enables
602 unambiguous geometric reconstructions.

603

604 **Stable slip vector with time**

605 The assumption of uniform slip rate over time implies that the average slip
606 vector should be temporally stable. Thus, the ratio of vertical and horizontal offsets
607 should also be constant for all terraces (Figure 11; Table 5). The vertical offset of 15
608 ± 2 m and the minimum horizontal offset of 88 ± 9 m on T3 imply a maximum ratio
609 of 0.170 ± 0.029 . The ratios are 0.185 ± 0.068 , 0.211 ± 0.05 and 0.2 ± 0.07 for T2, T2'
610 and T1, respectively. We consider an average ratio of 0.191 ± 0.018 consistent with
611 the range of ratios for the four terraces (Figure 11). This is larger than the ratio of
612 0.125 ± 0.025 estimated by Gaudemer et al. (1995) at this site, due to a determination
613 of a larger total horizontal displacement of the upper terrace (T3, 145 m) based on the
614 geometrical reconstruction of the terrace from a small number of topographic profiles.
615 Our terrace reconstruction, based on more exhaustive and high-resolution topographic
616 data, suggests a smaller total horizontal offset for terrace T3 and a larger average ratio,
617 consistent with the other terrace offsets (Table 5). When combining the ratio of 0.191
618 ± 0.018 and the vertical offset of 10 ± 1 m of T2, we can estimate the total horizontal
619 displacement of T2 to about 51 ± 10 m, an offset larger than the T2/T1 riser offset (35
620 ± 2 m), but smaller than the T3/T2' riser offset (72 ± 3 m). Although both the age and
621 horizontal offset of T2 are not well determined, the fact that a 51 m offset is not
622 preserved further supports lateral erosion of the T2/T1 riser after abandonment of T2
623 but prior to abandonment of T1.

624 Following the assumption of a temporally constant slip vector, our summary of
625 measured offsets versus corresponding ages (Figure 13) is compatible with a
626 temporally uniform strike slip rate of 5-8 mm/yr at this site (Table 5). The tightly
627 constrained age of T3 and the far-field offset of the lower riser top (solid rectangle in
628 Figure 13) strongly constrain this rate better than the other less well determined data
629 (dashed rectangles in Figure 13).

630

631 **Comparison with geodetic rates**

632 It is tempting to favor the lower bound estimates for the Haiyuan fault slip rate, as
633 it is closer to the geodetic rates from GPS data data (4-5 mm/yr; Li et al, 2009) or
634 from InSAR data (4-8 mm/yr; Cavalié et al., 2008; Jolivet et al., 2013; Daout et al.,
635 2016), as for the Altyn Tagh fault (Cowgill, 2007; Zhang et al., 2007; Gold et al.,
636 2009, 2011a). However, higher GPS or InSAR rates of 8.6 mm/yr were also reported
637 on the Haiyuan fault (Gan et al., 2007) and along the central section (Daout et al.,
638 2016). Furthermore, discrepancies between geologic and geodetic slip rate were found
639 on other faults, such as the San Andreas fault (Chuang et al, 2011; Johnson, 2013) and
640 the Lazio–Abruzzo fault zone in Central Italy (Papanikolaou et al., 2005).

641 These results remind us that the current GPS data is not targeted for optimal
642 determination of fault slip rate, because instrumented sites are still sparse, and thus
643 the strain rate across single faults must be estimated by collapsing measurements
644 within a wide (often 100 km wide) swath. When doing so, the effects of fault
645 geometry changes or fault interactions along strike are not taken into account. Overall,
646 the best determined rate at the Daqing site (6.5 ± 1 mm/yr) falls within the range of
647 geodetic rates (4-9 mm/yr) estimated for the Haiyuan fault system.

648

649 **Earthquake rupture implication**

650 The youngest faulted terrace T1 with its inferred age of 1.1 ± 0.1 ka implies that
651 the age of the most recent rupture at this site is even younger. At Daqing site, if
652 terrace T1 and the stream bed T0 experienced only one rupturing event, as also
653 speculated by Gaudemer et al. (1995), with the scarp across T0 being almost
654 completely eroded, the offset of $\sim 6 \pm 0.5$ m of the abandoned stream channel present
655 on T1 and also the smallest lateral offset measured at the Daqing site may be
656 considered as representative of the coseismic lateral slip of the last event. Combining
657 the long-term slip rate of 5-8 mm/yr and this coseismic offset, the recurrence interval
658 for such event would be 1100 ± 300 a.

659 Previous paleoseismological work along fault segments adjacent to Jinqiang He
660 segment concluded to similar values for large earthquake recurrence. For the
661 Lenglong Ling section west of our site, mean Holocene recurrence intervals of $1430 \pm$
662 140 years (Jiang et al., 2017) and 1640 ± 570 years (Guo et al., 2019) are derived
663 from trench investigations. To the east of our site, paleoseismological investigations
664 showed that the Laohu Shan section seemingly ruptures every ~ 1000 years (Yuan et
665 al., 1997; Liu-Zeng et al., 2007). However, only one event (after 3500 ± 200 years
666 B.P.) was identified in a trench along the Jinqiang He section (Yuan et al., 1997).
667 While more paleoseismological investigations are necessary to identify and date
668 precisely the last large rupturing events along the Jinqiang He section of the Haiyuan
669 fault, existing data and our inference from terrace T1 at Daqing site, concur to the
670 occurrence of a large event in the last 1000 years and possible return times of
671 1000-2000 years for large earthquakes.

672 The Jinqiang He section is about 55 km long. If this section ruptures entirely the
673 magnitude could reach up to $M_w 7.1$, or if a maximum coseismic displacement of 6 m
674 is considered, the magnitude could reach up to $M_w 7.4$ according to empirical
675 relationship between surface rupture length, maximum displacement and magnitude
676 (Wells and Coppersmith, 1994). If the rupture breaches the 6 km wide Tianzhu
677 stepover and propagates to the western part of the Maomao Shan section, the rupture
678 length could reach 120 km and the maximum magnitude $M_w 7.5$ (Wells and
679 Coppersmith, 1994). Although breaching such stepovers may be difficult (e.g.,
680 Wesnousky, 2006; Yikilmaz et al., 2015), cascading stepping ruptures are not unusual
681 (e.g., Tocheport et al., 2006; Xu et al., 2008; Hamling et al., 2017; Fletcher et al.,
682 2014). Thus, the Jinqiang He and adjacent sections could be ripe for rupture in a
683 future great earthquake. Precise seismic risk assessment demands further detailed
684 paleoseismological investigations be carried out to define the rupture history along the
685 central Haiyuan fault.

686

687 **CONCLUSION**

688 High resolution topography data derived from terrestrial LiDAR and
689 Structure-from-Motion photogrammetry enable us to investigate in great detail of the
690 offset features at the Daqing site along the Jinqiang He section of the Haiyuan fault.
691 Terraces T1, T2', T2 and T3 were carefully mapped from field observations,
692 orthophotos, and topographic data to produce a detailed geomorphic map of the site.
693 Far- and near-field, top and base, of the various riser offsets have been measured as
694 well as the vertical offset of the terraces. Horizontal offsets range from 6 to 97 m,
695 vertical offsets range from 1 to 17 m. The smallest horizontal offset of 6.0 ± 0.5 m
696 may be associated with the most recent coseismic slip. Terrestrial cosmogenic
697 nuclides dating combined with ^{14}C and OSL dating were used to constrain the age of
698 the highest terrace T3 at 13.7 ± 1.5 ka. Together with the total offset of terrace riser
699 T3/T2 of 88 ± 9 m, it yields a left-lateral slip rate of 6.5 ± 1 mm/yr. The offset of $72 \pm$
700 5 m of the riser T3/T2 base, using the minimum age of the lower terrace (9.3 ± 0.6 ka),
701 yields a rate of 7.7 ± 0.6 mm/yr. Overall these bounds bracket a geologic slip rate of
702 5-8 mm/yr for the Haiyuan fault that is consistent with the bounds estimated from
703 geodetic data. Overall, compared to pre-existing geological rates, our rate falls in
704 between the lower and higher estimates. At the Daqing site, the ratio of vertical and
705 horizontal offsets of all terraces (about 1:5.2) is consistent with a uniform slip vector
706 over time. The Daqing site provides an example that the right-bank terrace risers on a
707 left-lateral fault, i.e., erosive side, are subject to incomplete riser refreshment and
708 partial preservation of riser offsets.

709

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Figures caption:

Figure 1. (A) Active faults map of northeastern Tibetan plateau. Seismicity from 780 BC to 2006 AD. Historical earthquakes from Division of Earthquake Monitoring and Prediction, State Seismologic Bureau (1995), instrumental seismicity from China Earthquake Networks Center (<http://www.cenc.ac.cn/>). White star indicates study site, dashed box is figure 1B. Haiyuan fault is subdivided into six sections separated by black arrows, from west to east: (1) Halahu, (2) Lenglong Ling, (3) Jinqiang He, (4) Maomao Shan, (5) Jingtai, (6) Haiyuan, and (7) Liupan Shan. Inset is location map showing tectonic framework of the Tibetan plateau. (B) Active faults along Jinqiang He section that extends from Lenglong Ling-Gulang-Jinqiang (LGH) fault triple junction to the west, to Tianzhu pull-apart basin (TB) to the east, left-stepping to Maomao Shan section. Upper Jinqiang He valley is fed mostly by north-south tributaries flowing down from Leigong Shan to the north and crossing the Haiyuan fault at high angle. LLL: Lenglong Ling.

Figure 2. GF-1 satellite imagery (pixel ~ 2 m) of Jinqiang He section of Haiyuan fault near Daqing site (white rectangle) upstream from Honggeda village. Light shading delimits Tianzhu half pull-apart basin.

Figure 3. (A) Uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) derived photo mosaic with ~ 0.2 m resolution of Daqing site. Fault trace is clear across stream bed T0 and terraces T1 to T3 to the west. Red arrows point to fault trace. (B) West-looking panoramic field view of faulted terraces at Daqing site. (C) Oblique close-up view showing fault trace across T0, T1 and T2.

Figure 4. (A) Geomorphic map of Daqing site from field observations, UAV photo mosaic interpretation, and high-resolution DEM analysis. Contours with 1 m interval derived from ~ 0.1 m resolution terrestrial LiDAR DEM. Dashed lines are topographic profiles shown in Figure 5. Pit and sample position for dating are indicated. Purple lines are terrace riser piercing lines for horizontal offset measurements. (B) Hill shading and (C) slope map of DEM highlighting terrace surface morphology, distinct terrace risers and fault scarp.

Figure 5. Topographic profiles across and along terraces at Daqing site. Locations shown in Figure 4. Gray dots are measurement points, solid black lines along slopes are fitting lines. AA', BB' and CC' are field GPS-RTK profiles, others are swath profiles extracted from LiDAR-DEM. Dashed line in swath profiles represents mean elevation value. Small sketch illustrates correction applied to apparent vertical offset of T3 due to oblique orientation of its sloping surface. V_r , corrected vertical offset, is function of V_i vertical throw measurement from perpendicular fault profile C1-C1', h

is horizontal offset of terrace, α is angle of terrace slope parallel to fault (in profiles E1, E2, E3) (see also Gaudemer et al., 1995).

Figure 6. Field photographs of surface boulders sampled for cosmogenic dating from terraces T2 (A) and T1 (B). See position in Figure 4 and analytical details in Table 3.

Figure 7. (A) Field view of samplings pit in terrace T3 (position in Figure 4). (B) Stratigraphic description of pit. Eight gravels and pebbles samples were collected from below 80 cm to 3 m depth for cosmogenic isotope dating (details in Table 3). Open circles are sandy loess samples collected for OSL dating (Table 2), solid triangles are bulk soil samples for ^{14}C dating (Table 1).

Figure 8. Equivalent dose (D_e) distributions, natural OSL decay curve and growth curves for samples HGDOSL-1501 (A and B) and HGDOSL-1502 (C and D), respectively.

Figure 9. Offset terrace reconstructions. (A)-(E) diagrams of different stages during river downcutting, lateral erosion and displacement accumulation. Simplified risers are vertical. (F) sketch of offset terraces at Daqing site. All measurement results are shown in Table 4. (G) shows how near-field (d_{3t} , d_{3b} , d_{2t} and d_{2b}) and far-field displacements are related.

Figure 10. Field details of smalls stream offset on terrace T1. Red arrows indicate top of fault scarp across T1.

Figure 11. Ratio of vertical to horizontal offsets. Average ratio is 0.191 ± 0.018 by T3, T2, T2' and T1.

Figure 12. Exposure age constraints at Daqing site. (A), (B) and (C) are proposed stepwise evolution of deposit for terrace T3 ^{10}Be depth profile modeling in (D), (E) and (F). t_{1-1} , t_{2-1} and t_{3-1} are corresponding terrace abandonment ages for models 1, 2 and 3; R-squared is statistical assessment of ^{10}Be data with respect to best fit, without outliers (black circles). Integrated density (blue line) and average inheritance indicated. (A and D) model 1: assumes all layers deposited in one step (I). (B and E) model 2: exposure in three steps: (I) terrace conglomerate only ($t_{2-1} - t_{2-2}$), (II) with 30 cm-thick sandy-loess ($t_{2-2} - t_{2-3}$), and (III) with 80 cm-thick soil ($t_{2-3} - 0$). All layers are deposited instantaneously. (C and F) model 3: same as model 2 but layers are deposited progressively, as constrained by OSL and ^{14}C dates. (G) ^{10}Be concentrations of surface samples from terraces T1 ($n=6$) and T2 ($n=7$) represented as Gaussian distributions. Scatter of distributions mostly attributed to inheritance (see

text). Samples in bold (HGD14-23 and HGD14-27) are samples with lowest ^{10}Be concentration in each distribution.

Figure 13. Summary of terrace offsets at Daqing He site as a function of age. Solid rectangle is best determined rate from terrace T3. Dashed rectangles are less well determined. Gray shaded area is preferred range of the slip rate.

TABLE 1. Radiocarbon analytical results of samples from terraces T3 and T2.

Sample	Lab ^a	Depth (m)	Fraction		D ¹⁴ C		14C Age		2σ calibrated age	
			Modern	±	(‰)	±	(B.P.)	±	(B.P.) ^b	
HGD-C14-01	414950	0.77	0.4236	0.0016	-576.4	1.6	6900	30	Cal 7790 - 7675	
HGD-C14-02	414951	0.62	0.4414	0.0016	-558.6	1.6	6570	30	Cal 7555 - 7545	
L-01 ^c		0.89					8630	90	Cal 9900 - 9474	
L-02 ^c		0.82					8180	140	Cal 9475 - 8715	

a: All samples were AMS dated at Beta Analytic;

b: Calibration with Calib 7.1 (Stuiver et al., 1993), did not include probability distribution of range < 0.1;

c: L-01, L-02 are from Liang et al. (2018), Fraction Modern and D¹⁴C information not known.

TABLE 2. Analytical results of OSL samples from terrace T3.

Sample No	Lab. no ^a	Depth (m)	Water content ^b (%)	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	K (%)	Cosmic dose rate (Gy/ka)	Grain size (μm)	Dose rate ^c (Gy/ka)	Equivalent dose ^d (Gy)	Age ^e (ka)
HGDOSL-1502	15-64	0.82	2.6	2.71±0.1	14.4±0.39	2.18±0.06	0.32±0.02	90-125	4.06±0.15	35.3±1.3	8.7±0.5
HGDOSL-1501	15-63	1.04	8.04	2.45±0.1	12.8±0.36	2.12±0.06	0.31±0.02	90-125	3.61±0.13	44.2±0.8	12.2±0.5

a: All samples were processed at Zhejiang Zhongke Institute of Luminescence Testing Technology;

b: Measured water content;

c: Concentrations of U, Th and K were measured by neutron activation analysis at the China institute of atomic energy;

d: All equivalent dose values conform to normal distribution;

e: Calculated with the central age model (Galbraith et al., 2012).

TABLE 3. ¹⁰Be analytical data at Daqing site

Samples	Mass quartz (g)	Be carrier (mg)	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Altitude (m)	Depth (cm)	Thickness (cm)	Sample type	Height above surface/size (m)	¹⁰ Be/ ⁹ Be	¹⁰ Be/ ⁹ Be error (%)	¹⁰ Be ± error (atom/g)	Exposure age ± uncertainty (yr)
Terrace T1													
HGD14-08	30.107	0.2461	37.259544	102.696663	3441	0	2.5	boulder/granite	1.2/2	1.11247E-12	3.1680	608254 ± 19269	13344 ± 1205
HGD14-09	26.9599	0.2699	37.259254	102.696609	3432	0	2.5	boulder/granite	0.5/1.3	5.23986E-13	3.0904	350879 ± 10843	7705 ± 693
HGD14-10	25.7075	0.241	37.259041	102.696503	3426	0	2.5	boulder/gneiss	1/1.5	7.61713E-13	3.1744	477641 ± 15162	10529 ± 951
HGD14-16	30.0079	0.2458	37.256313	102.695001	3369	0	2.5	boulder/granite	1.6/3.5	3.02524E-13	3.1761	165752 ± 5264	3956 ± 357
HGD14-22	29.8354	0.25	37.256969	102.695702	3389	0	2.5	boulder/granite	0.1/0.8	6.77539E-13	3.1746	379748 ± 12055	8594 ± 776
HGD14-23	29.972	0.2517	37.257381	102.695984	3393	0	2.5	boulder/granite	0.2/1.2	8.62754E-14	3.5217	48462 ± 1706	1165 ± 106
Terrace T2													
HGD14-18	30.0132	0.2901	37.255253	102.694336	3351	0	2.5	boulder/granite	0.2/0.8	1.11507E-12	3.0821	720924 ± 22219	16489 ± 1486
HGD14-19	24.5073	0.2253	33.255444	102.69445	3354	0	2.5	boulder/granite	0.2/1.1	1.41835E-12	3.4983	872173 ± 30511	21606 ± 1982
HGD14-20	30.0075	0.2495	2 m south of sample 19			0	2.5	boulder/granite	0.2/1.1	2.79689E-12	1.9939	1555499 ± 31016	36437 ± 3185
HGD14-25	30.0081	0.2555	37.256226	102.694389	3371	0	2.5	boulder/granite	0.2/1	1.37277E-12	3.0506	781814 ± 23850	17590 ± 1584
HGD14-26	25.0845	0.2432	37.257112	102.69458	3388	0	2.5	boulder/granite	0.1/1.3	1.23744E-12	3.0546	802483 ± 24512	17877 ± 1610
HGD14-27	30.0488	0.2546	37.257439	102.694618	3391	0	2.5	boulder/granite	0.5/1.5	9.21578E-13	3.1078	522297 ± 16232	11788 ± 1062
HGD14-28	30.0016	0.253	37.257252	102.69455	3393	0	2.5	boulder/gneiss	1/1.5	1.12670E-12	3.1186	635531 ± 19820	14360 ± 1295
Terrace T3 depth profile													
HGDT3-01	31.4296	0.2592	37.257061	102.693886	3389	85	5	gravels	0.02-0.05	1.30104E-12	2.4296	717695 ± 17436	See model
HGDT3-02	29.9764	0.2484	37.257061	102.693886	3389	100	5	gravels	0.02-0.05	2.05011E-12	2.6603	1136327 ± 30229	/
HGDT3-03	25.1784	0.2563	37.257061	102.693886	3389	115	5	gravels	0.02-0.05	8.73919E-13	3.1803	595039 ± 18923	/

HGDT3-04	32.0859	0.2514	37.257061	102.693886	3389	145	5	gravels	0.02-0.05	7.71630E-13	3.2954	404402 ± 13326	/
HGDT3-05	30.1135	0.2566	37.257061	102.693886	3389	175	5	gravels	0.02-0.05	5.80584E-13	3.0688	330913 ± 10154	/
HGDT3-06	29.3054	0.254	37.257061	102.693886	3389	205	5	gravels	0.02-0.05	6.24376E-13	3.0946	361981 ± 11201	/
HGDT3-07	30.0178	0.2501	37.257061	102.693886	3389	245	5	gravels	0.02-0.05	6.97878E-13	3.5702	388926 ± 13885	/
HGDT3-08	30.041	0.2549	37.257061	102.693886	3389	285	5	gravels	0.02-0.05	4.62999E-13	3.2264	262778 ± 8478	/

Note: All samples were processed at Key Laboratory of Crustal Dynamics, China Earthquake Administration and AMS measurements performed at ASTER in Centre de Recherche et d'Enseignement de Géosciences de l'Environnement (CEREGE), Aix-en-Provence, France. Surface boulder model ages for terraces T3 and T2 calculated with the CRONUS 2.3 calculator (Balco et al., 2008; <http://hess.ess.washington.edu/>), with Time-dependent Lal (1991) / Stone (2000) scaling scheme for spallation, with density of 2.7 and assuming no erosion and no inheritance.

TABLE 4. Terrace geometry, vertical terrace offsets and horizontal terrace riser offsets

	Marker	Parameter	Value (m)	Error (m)	Note
Tread widths	T1 upstream	W1u	61	4	
	T1 downstream	W1l	34	2	
	T2' upstream		42	2	
	T2' downstream west		9	2	
	T2' downstream east		22	2	
	T2 tread	W2u	135	5	
	T2 tread	W2l	89	3	
Riser heights	T1-T0	R1u	6	1	upstream
		R1d	2.5	0.5	downstream
	T2'-T1		10-11	1	upstream
			5-6	1	downstream
	T2''-T2'		2	1	upstream
	T2-T2'		6	1	upstream
			1.5-2.5	0.5	downstream
	T2-T1	R2u	16-17	1	
		R2d	7.5	1	downstream
	T3-T2'		16-21	1	upstream
			3.1-4.2	0.5	downstream
	T3-T2	R3u	10-15	1	upstream
R3d		1.4-1.7	0.3	downstream	
Vertical terrace offsets	T1 A-A'	Sc1	1.3	0.2	slop 10°/9.5°
	T1 A1-A1'		1.3	0.2	slop 9°/9°
	T2' B1-B1'		5.7	1	slop 8.9°/8.5°
	T2' B-B'		6.4	1	slop 10.5°/10.5°
	T2 B1-B1'	Sc2	9	1	slop 9.9°/7.5°
	T2 B-B'		10	1	slop 10.5°/9.5°
	T3 C1-C1'	Sc3	19	2	slop 11.7°/7.5°
T3 C-C'		15	2	slop 13.7°/9.5°	
Horizontal riser offsets	Stream	Ds	6.0	0.5	
		D2t	35	2	
		D2b	27	2	
	T2/T1	d2t	6.5	1	
		d2b	6.5	1	
		D3t	94	3	
	T3/T2		82	3	
		D3b	72	3	
		d3t	25	2	
		d3b	28	2	
T2'	d2'b	29	2		

TABLE 5. Summary of slip rates at Daqing site

	T1	T2'	T2	T3	Average
Horizontal offset (m)	6.5 ± 1	28.5 ± 2	$35 \pm 2-72 \pm 3/(54 \pm 19)$	$>88 \pm 9$	
Vertical offset (m)	1.3 ± 0.2	6 ± 1.5	10 ± 1	15 ± 2	
Ratio (Vertical/ Horizontal)	0.2 ± 0.07	0.211 ± 0.05	0.185 ± 0.068	$<0.170 \pm 0.029$	0.191 ± 0.018
Age (ka)	$<1.2 \pm 0.1$ (bound)	5.4 ± 1 (estimated)	$9.3 \pm 0.6-11.8 \pm 1.1$ (bounds)	13.7 ± 1.5	
Horizontal slip rate (mm/yr)	$>5 \pm 0.9$	5.5 ± 1.4	5.7 ± 2	$> 6.5 \pm 1$	5-8
Vertical slip rate (mm/yr)	$>1.1 \pm 0.2$	1.1 ± 0.5	1 ± 0.3	1.1 ± 0.3	1.1 ± 0.3

102°36'

102°40'

102°44'

Figure 2

102°48'

102°52'

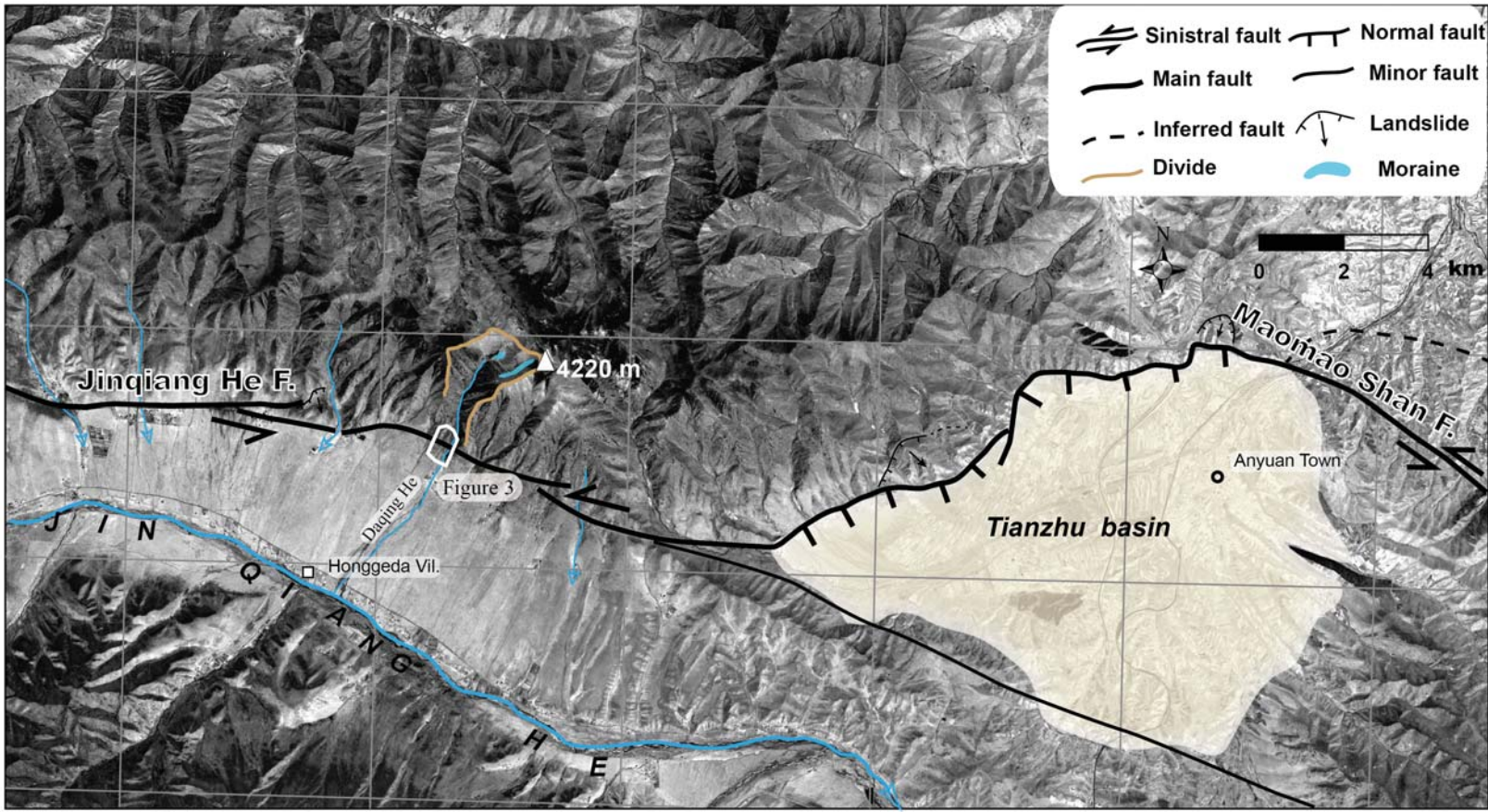
102°56'

37°21'

37°18'

37°15'

37°12'



- Sinistral fault
- Normal fault
- Main fault
- Minor fault
- Inferred fault
- Landslide
- Divide
- Moraine

0 2 4 km

Jinqiang He F.

4220 m

Figure 3

Daqing He

Honggeda Vil.

Tianzhu basin

Maomao Shan F.

Anyuan Town

JIN
QIANG
HE

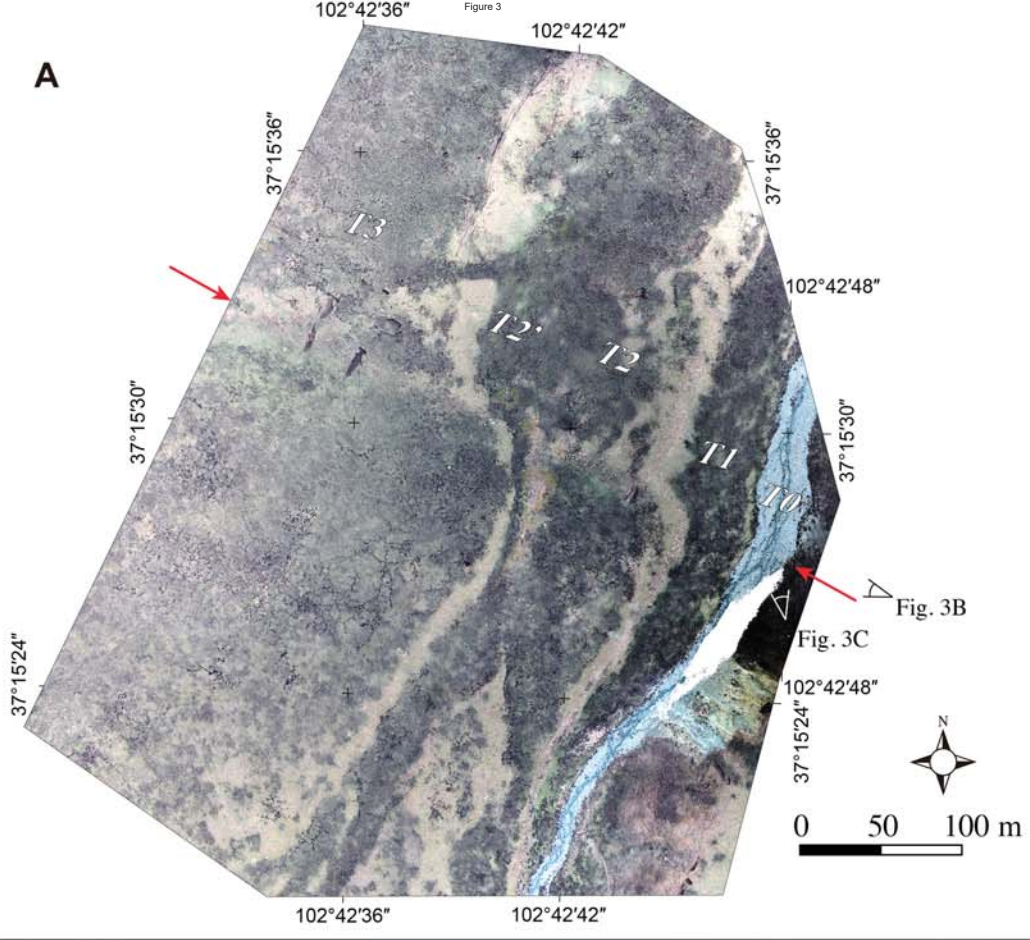
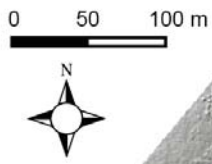


Figure 4B C

B



C

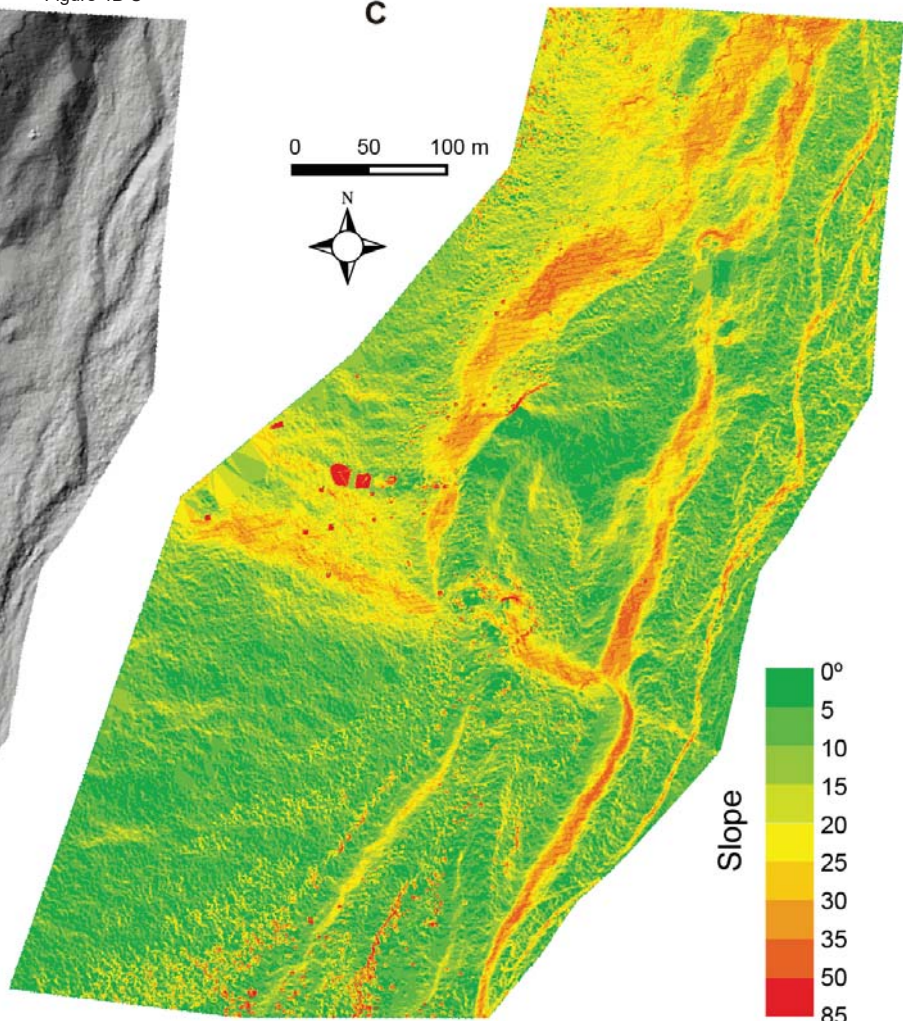
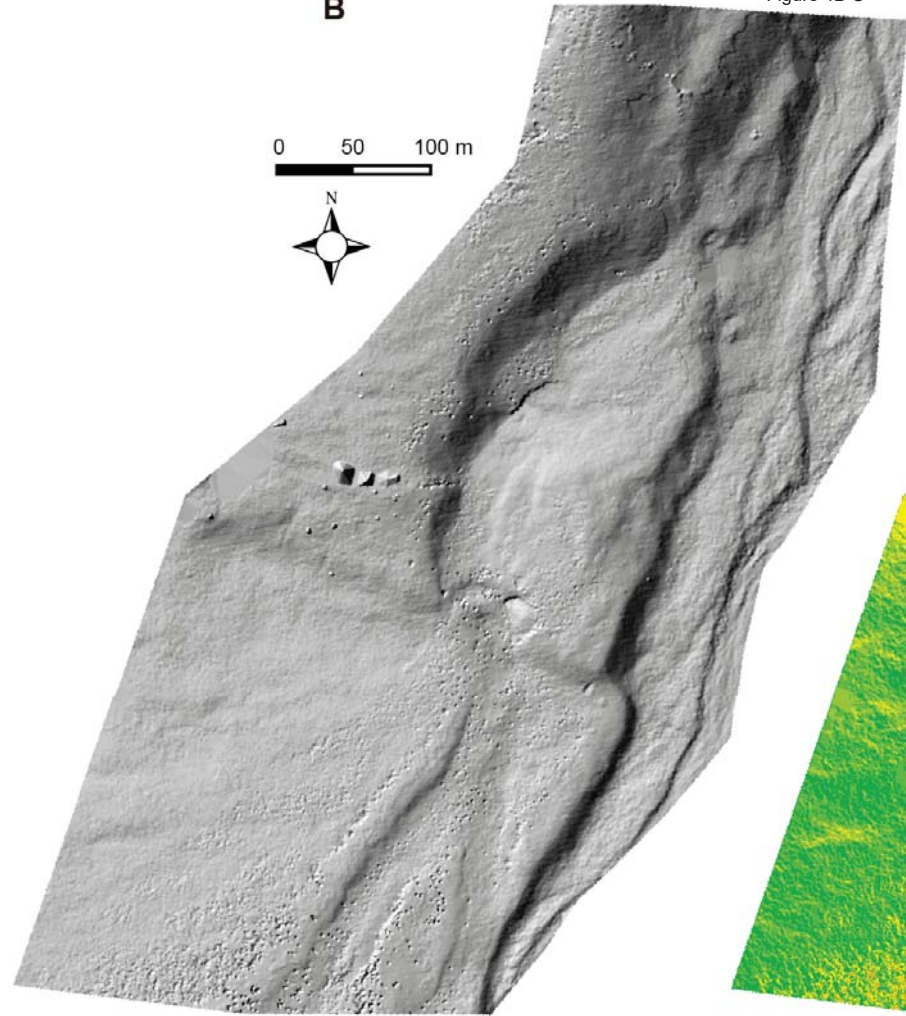
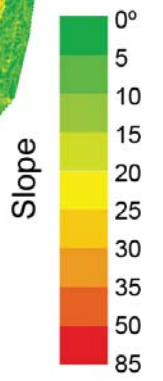
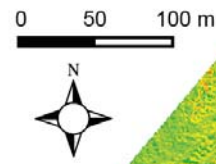
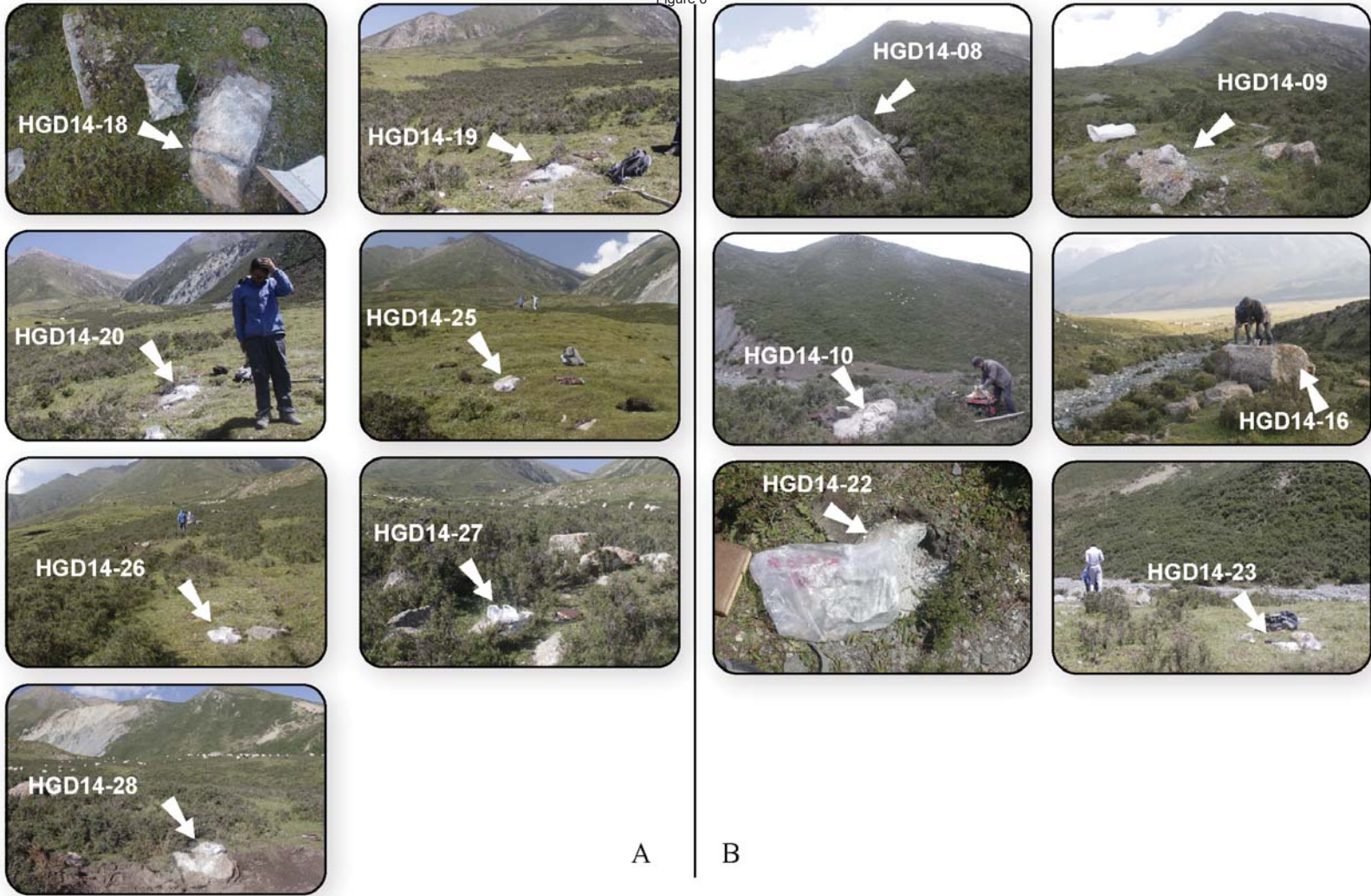


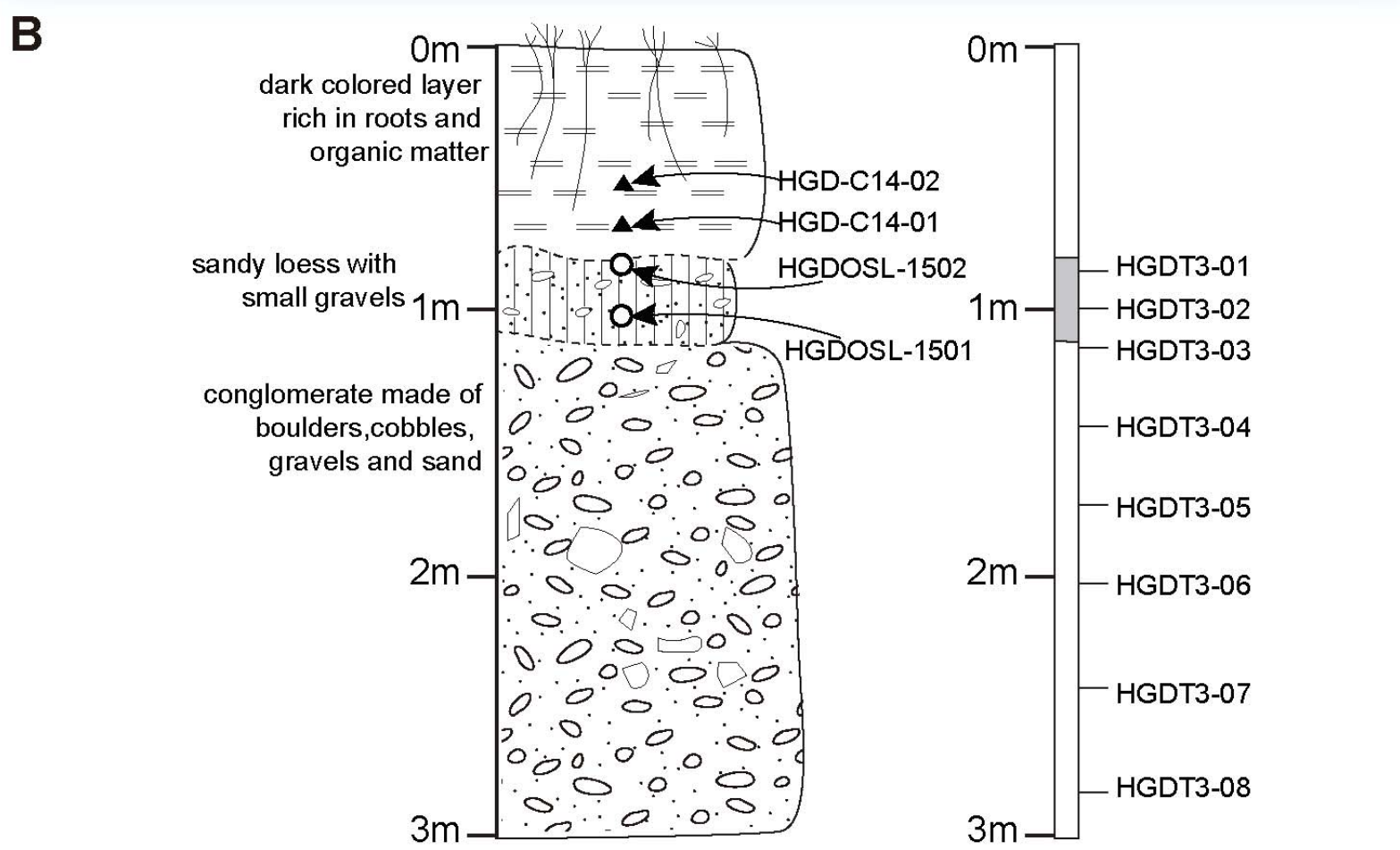
Figure 6

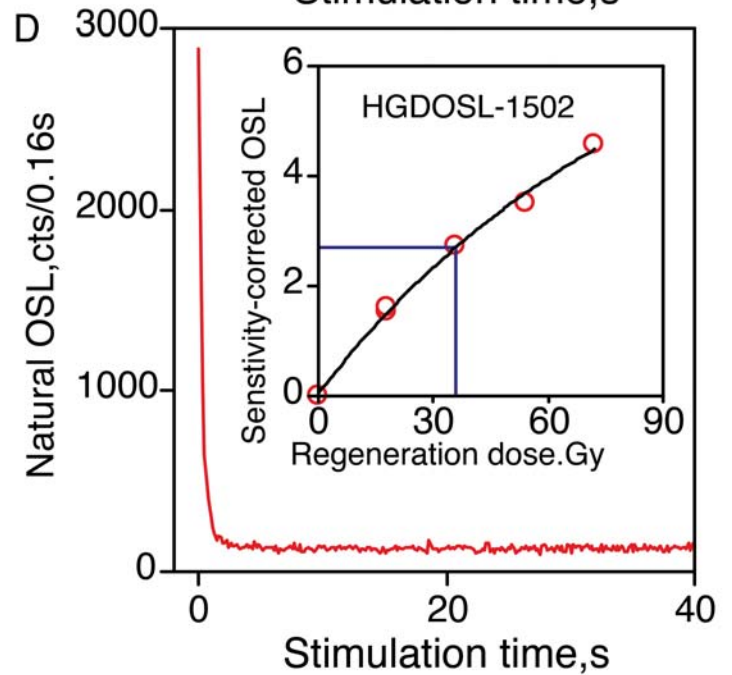
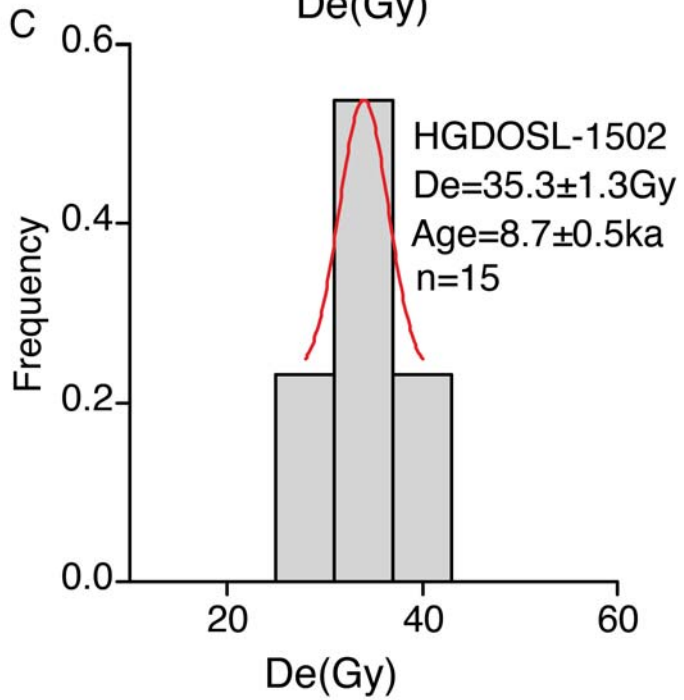
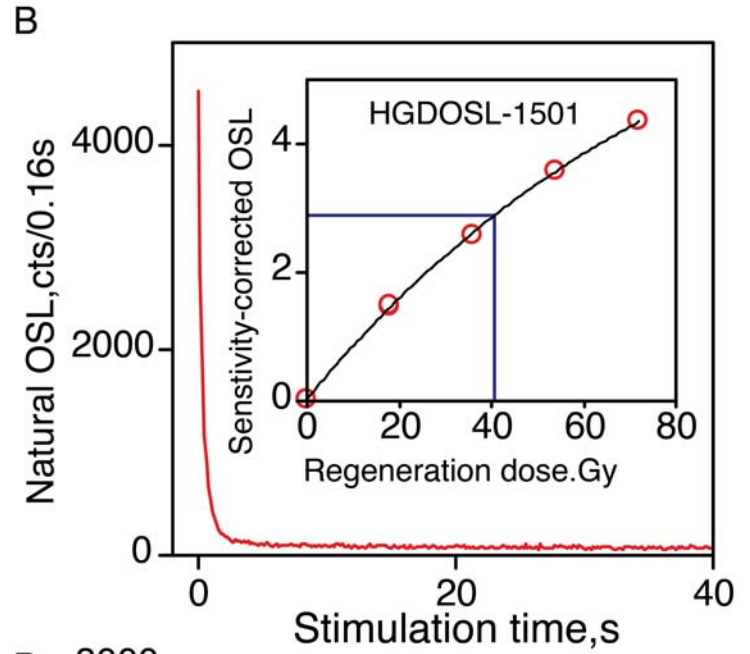
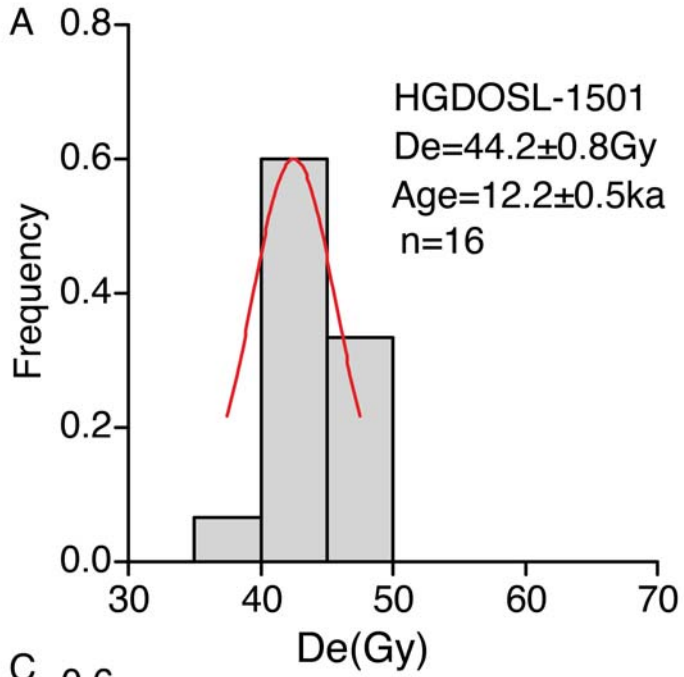


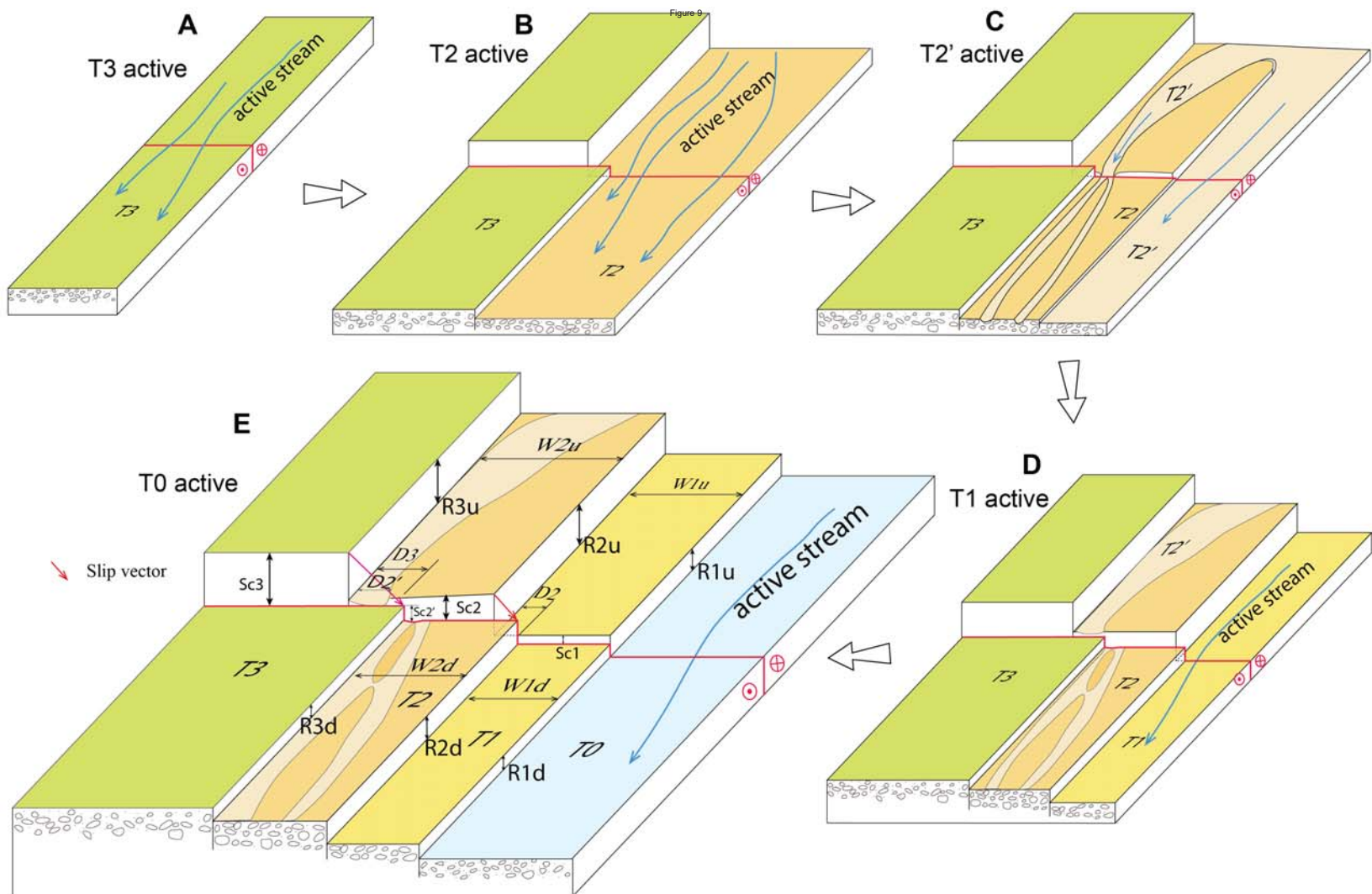
A

B

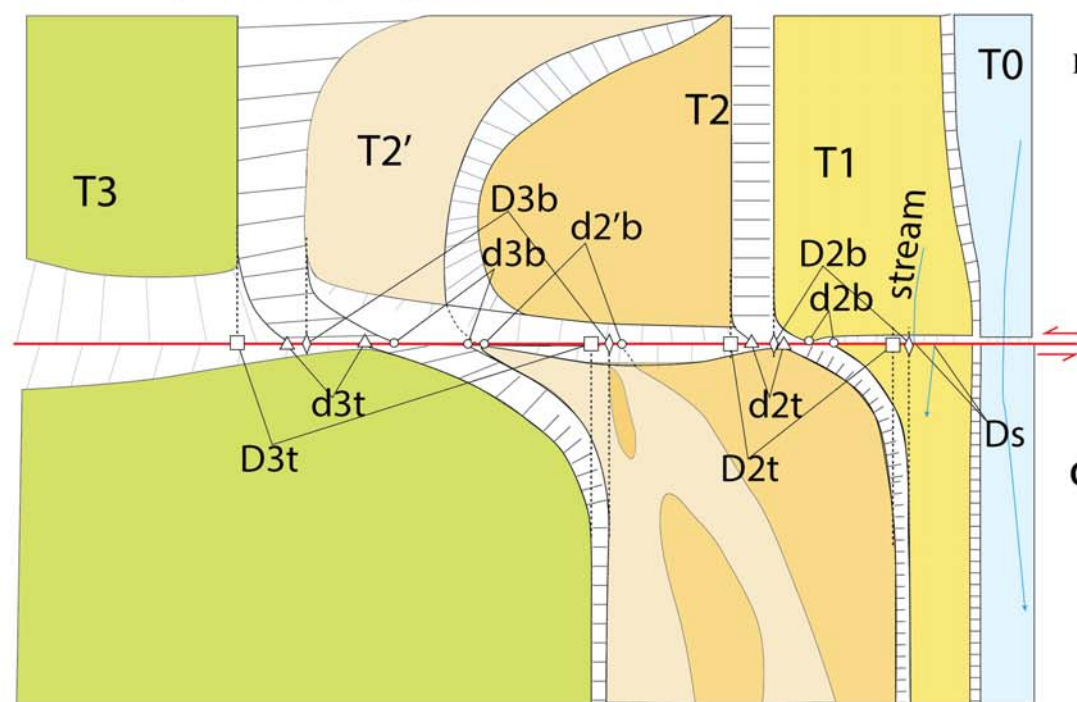
Figure 7







F Horizontal offset measurement



Horizontal measurement markers

- Far field terrace riser top, $D\#t$
- ◇ Far field terrace riser base, $D\#b$
- △ Near field terrace riser top, $d\#t$
- Near field terrace riser base, $d\#b$

G Before lower terrace abandonment **After lower terrace abandonment**

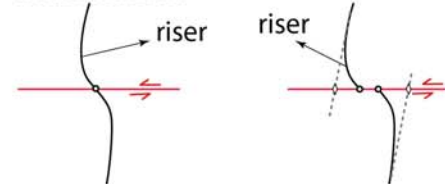


Figure 10

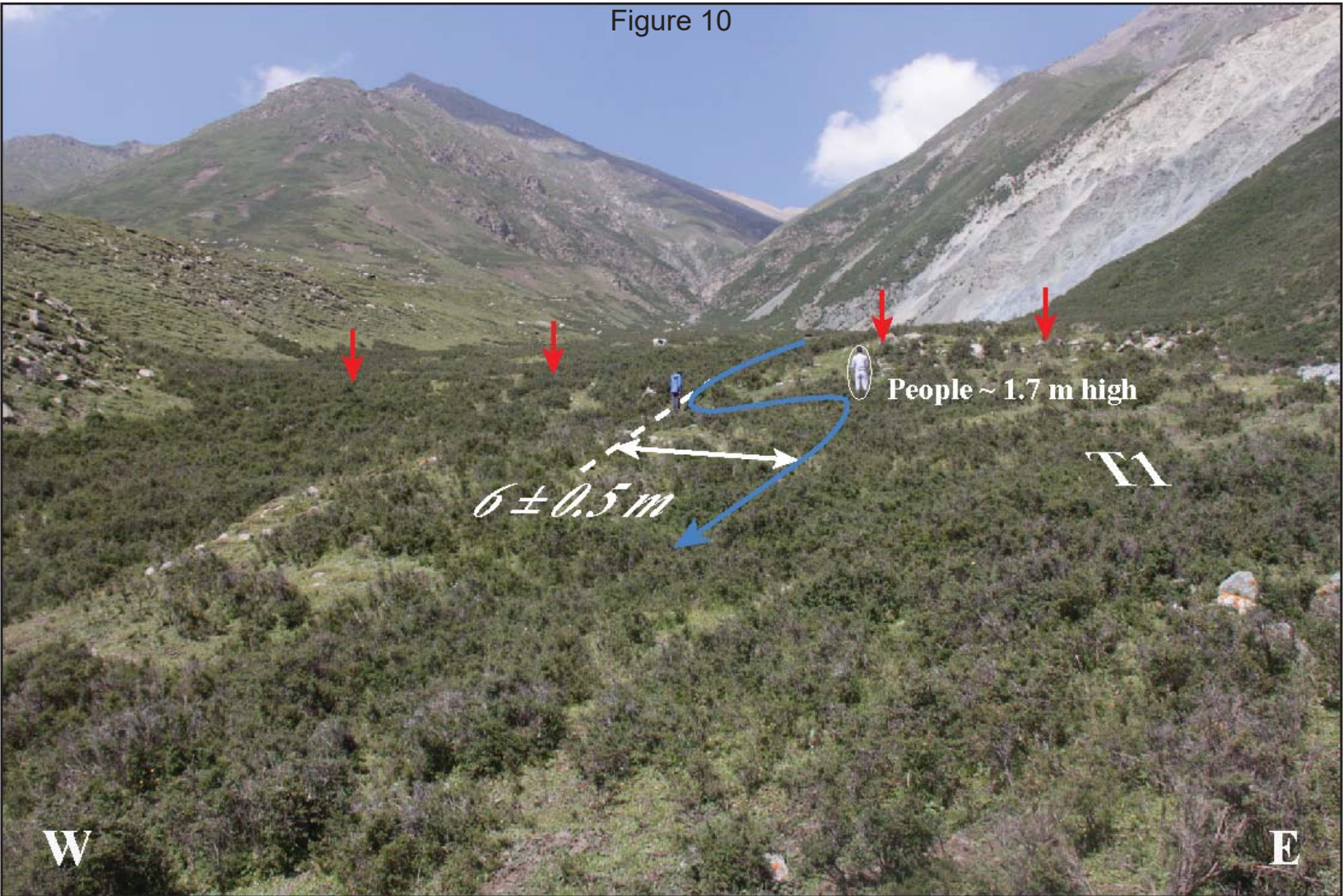
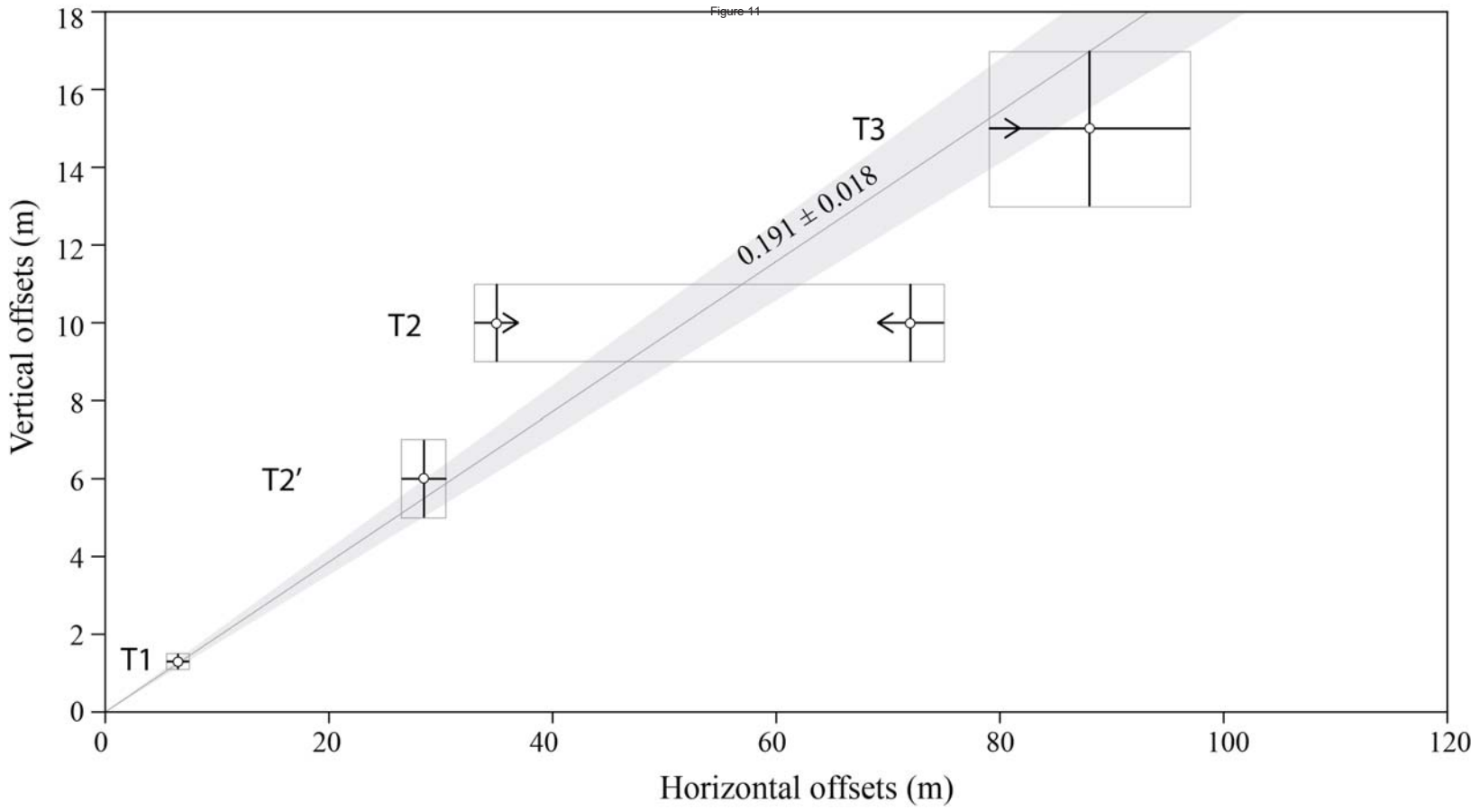


Figure 14



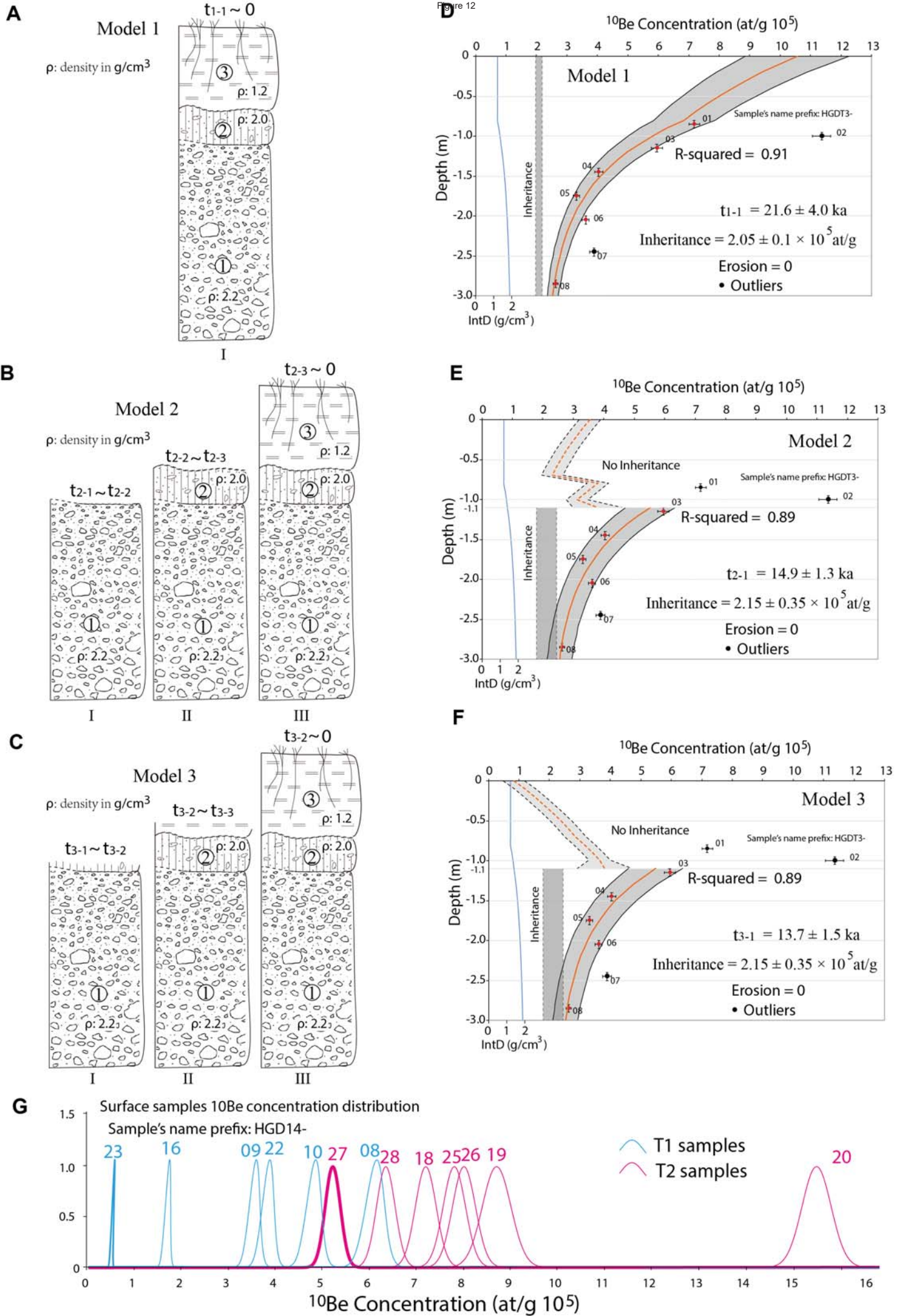


Figure 13

