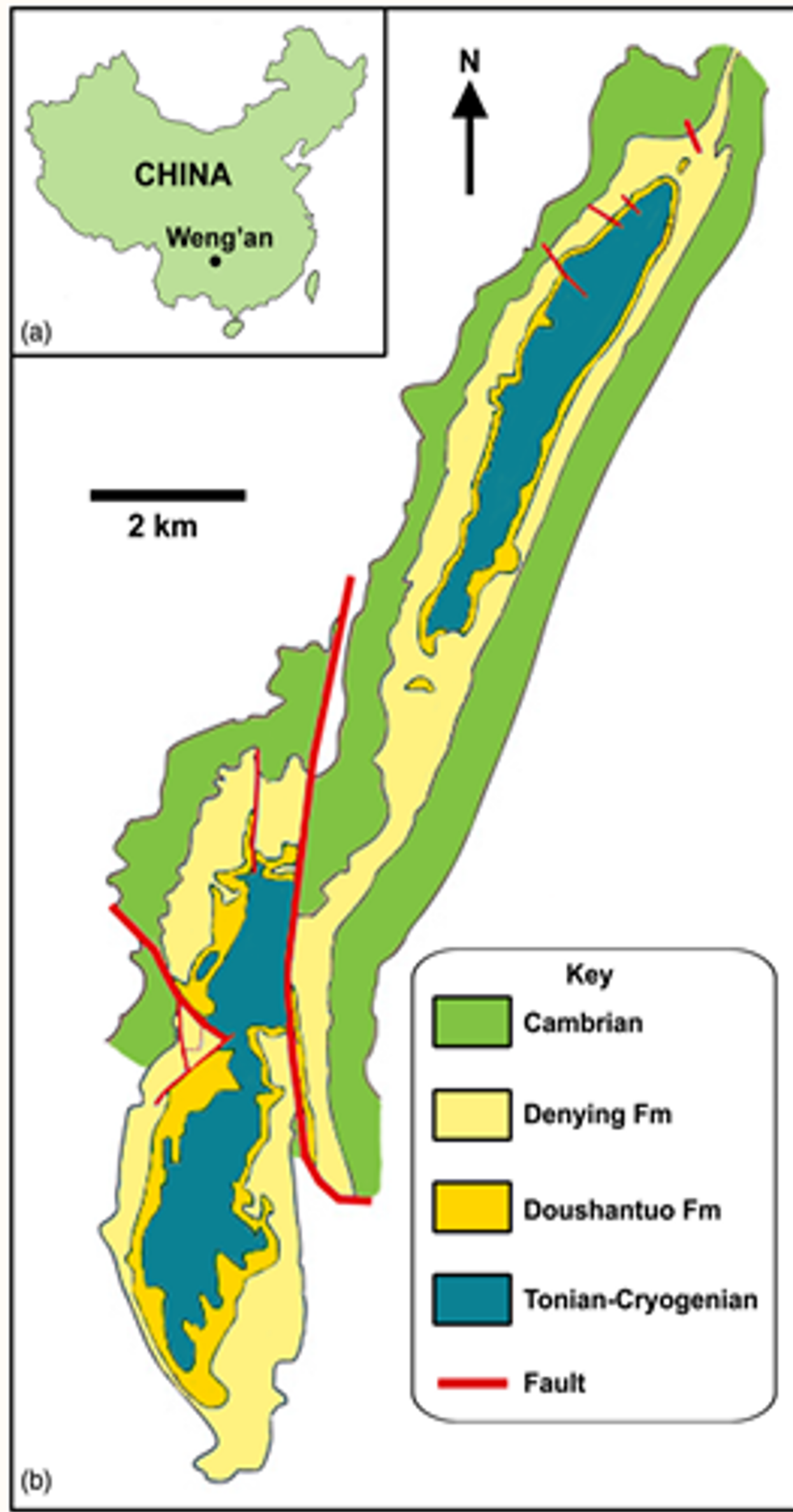


The Doushantuo Formation

The border between the Ediacaran and the Cambrian



The location and geological setting of the Weng'an Biota. (a) Map of China showing the location of Weng'an. (b) Geological map of the Weng'an area.¹

Age and Location

The Doushantuo Formation (Weng'an Biota) is located in Weng'an county, Southern China¹

The site is famous for its abundance and quality of preserved fossils dating 570-609 myr old¹

Fossils

Marine life microfossils and macrofossils have been found. This includes 21 total taxa^{3,4}, such as:

- Multicellular Algae
- Acritarchs
- Bacteria
- Animal Eggs and Embryos

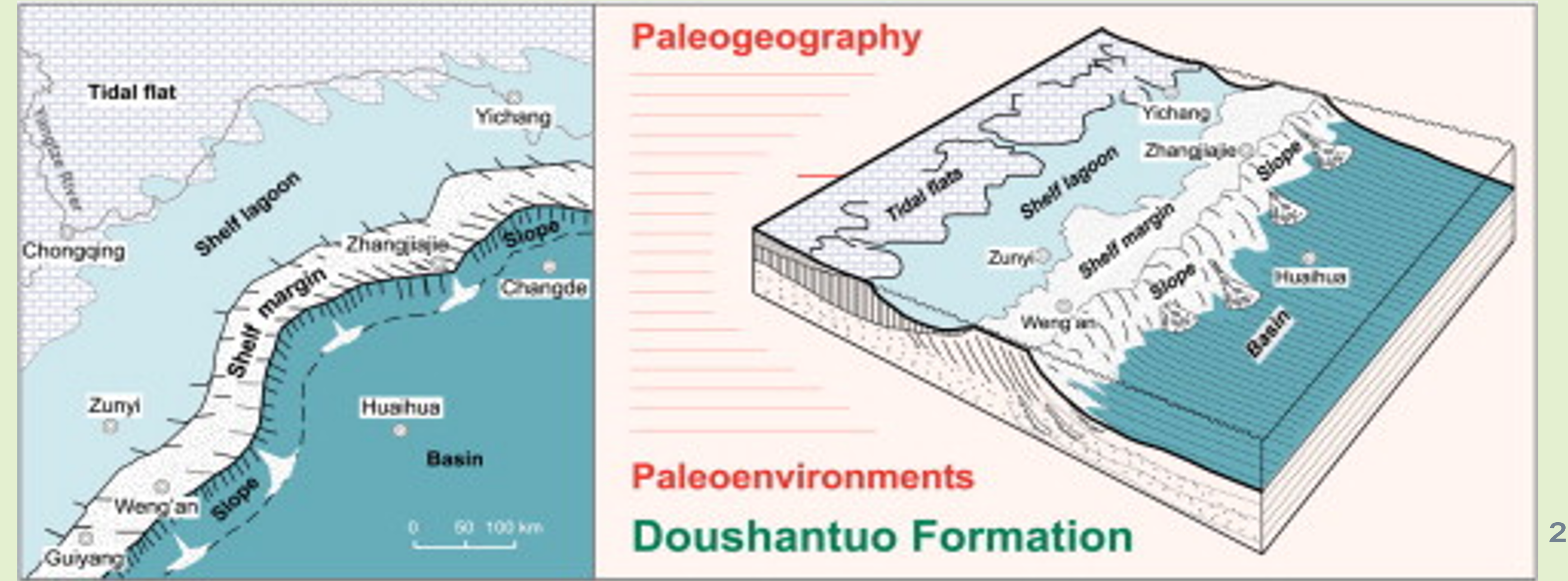
Importance

- Has a record of some of the oldest animal fossils
- Recorded geochemical changes in the later Precambrian world.
- Is a Lagerstätte (easily preservable environment)
- Shows oxidation of Proterozoic oceans occurred in episodes³

Paleoenvironment

Various stratigraphic methods imply the formation was once a shelf lagoon protected from the open ocean by a shelf margin shoal complex²

Analysis of this formation relies heavily on two distinct marker beds ("cap carbonate at the base and organic-rich black shale at the top")²



Cool Fact!

The Doushantuo Formation shares similarities with sites in Oman, South Australia, Newfoundland, and the United States²