

Making the case for a sixth major mass extinction—the end-Guadalupian event

Life on Earth has diversified into countless forms over the course of billions of years, but it hasn't always been a smooth ride. At least five major mass extinctions have occurred within the past 450 million years, each of which wiped out at least two-thirds of all species on the planet and left permanent marks in the geological and fossil records.

Now, a team of scientists propose adding a sixth major mass extinction: The end-Guadalupian event, also known as the end-Capitanian event, which occurred 260 million years ago.

This mass die-off is “in the same category with the other major mass extinctions,” [according to a new paper](#) in the journal Historical Biology that outlined the findings of several studies into the end-Guadalupian, and countered [recent research that downplays](#) the severity of the event.

At least half of marine life on the planet perished during the period, according to the researchers.

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[Researcher Michael] Rampino and co-author Shu-zhong Shen, an Earth scientist at Nanjing University, built on several studies linking the end-Guadalupian event to major volcanic activity that persisted for more than a million years.

Read full, original post: [There's a Weird Mass Extinction Everyone Forgets, Scientists Say](#)