Supplementary Material: Bayesian multi-proxy reconstruction of early Eocene latitudinal temperature gradients

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| Figure S 1: Traceplots of a subset of the unknown model parameters. The four colours correspond to the four independent model runs. a) Traceplot of A, K-A, M, B and ; b) Traceplot of five selected ; c) Traceplot of five selected . All traceplots display mixing of the chains, and relatively quick convergence. |

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| Figure S 2: Estimated latitudinal temperature gradient using only the geochemical proxy data (yellow), showing the median (line) and 95% credible interval (shading). Symbols with vertical lines show the median and 95% credible intervals of . The blue line and shading in the background show the latitudinal temperature gradient with the geochemical and ecological proxy data, as in Figure 4. |

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| Figure S 3: Estimated latitudinal temperature gradient using only wider ecological limits for the coral data and for the *Avicennia*-Rhizophoraceae mangrove assemblage (orange), showing the median (line) and 95% credible interval (shading). The ecological limits were expanded to include of the probability density in the interval of to °C, using the minimal monthly temperature experienced by coral reefs (Kleypas et al., 1999), and a theoretical maximum derived by Jones et al. (2022). Symbols with vertical lines show the median and 95% credible intervals of . The black line and shading in the background show the latitudinal temperature gradient with the narrower ecological limits, as in Figure 4. |

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| Figure S 4: Estimated latitudinal temperature gradients for each hemisphere, showing the medians (lines) and 95% credible intervals (shadings) in the Southern (red) and Northern Hemisphere (blue). Symbols with vertical lines show the median and 95% credible intervals of the location means . Turquoise symbols in the Northern Hemisphere highlight the ecological proxy data. The grey line and shading in the background show the latitudinal temperature gradient with the data from both hemispheres combined, plotted in both hemispheres. The dotted lines show the empirical, modern gradient, averaged across bins of 1°, for both hemispheres combined (black), and for the Northern hemisphere (blue) and Southern hemisphere (red), separately. |

## EECO gradient with uncertainty on proxy observations

Most of the geochemical proxy data used in the EECO analysis (300 of 308) come with uncertainties around their temperature estimates. Due to their negligible influence on the model results, we have not included them in the main analysis, but we show a comparison between the main EECO model output (see Fig. 4) and an the results of an expanded model, including uncertainties, below.

Specifically, we took the 95 or 90% confidence intervals of the temperature estimates to calculate the standard deviation representative of this uncertainty (), which we used for the analysis. Instead of using fixed mean proxy temperature observations directly in Equation 3, we let be the function of a normal distribution with mean and standard deviation , where and are provided by the proxy data set:

where is the number of observations at each location, and denotes the number of locations.

The resulting gradient estimated with this expanded model is very similar to that estimated with the original model (Fig. S5). The uncertainty around the proxy temperatures allows the estimated location mean temperatures to be drawn closer to the gradient line, resulting in a slightly lower median residual standard deviation (4.7 as opposed to 4.9 in the original model).

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| Figure S 5: Estimated latitudinal temperature gradient with uncertainty on proxy observations (blue), compared to the original model result (black, as in Fig. 4). Gradients are depicted as medians (lines) and 95% credible intervals (shadings). Symbols with vertical lines show the median and 95% credible intervals of the location means for the geochemical data. |

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| Figure S 6: Standard deviation of temperature estimates from individual localities of the EECO geochemical proxy data from Hollis et al. (2019) with more than one sample, against the absolute latitude of the locality (n = 17). The line shows a linear regression, suggesting a moderate effect of absolute latitude on proxy data variability, with mid- and high-latitude data being more variable than low-latitude data. |