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New data on the chronology of the Second Termination based on the isotopic study of a stalagmite from Closani Cave (South Carpathians, Romania)

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The stalagmite C6 from Closani Cave (Southern Carpathians, Romania) was accurately dated by U-series thermal ionization mass-spectrometry (TIMS) method. The eight dates showed that the speleothem grew continuously between *c*. 183 ka and *c*. 39 ka. The highest growth-rate was recorded between the base and *c*. 103 ka, allowing a high resolution of the isotopic sampling for the time-range corresponding to MIS 6 to 5c. The isotopic profile (40 samples) is representative for the transition to the Eemian in Romania and shows that the onset of the 2nd Termination may be placed as early as 155 ka, well in advance of the SPECMAP chronology. A short and rapid cooling recorded at *c.* 132 ka suggests that the deglaciation may have been followed the “two-step” pattern known for the Zeiffen-Kattegat episode. As compared with the LFG profile from Litophagus cave in the Western Carpathians, the climatic oscillations corresponding to interstadials 5d and 5b appear surprisingly large, indicating that the Carpathian Range acted as a barrier between two different sources of atmospheric circulation on the Romanian territory.