# 28. CENOZOIC PLANKTONIC BIOSTRATIGRAPHY AND PALEOCEANOGRAPHY OF THE TROPICAL WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

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# ABSTRACT

Eight sites drilled during DSDP Leg 24 in the tropical western Indian Ocean provide a nearly complete record of major Cenozoic and paleoceanographic events. Sites 231, 232, and 233 in the Gulf of Aden penetrated Neogene hemipelagic calcareous oozes; these expanded sections are of special interest for investigation of planktonic events. Sites 234 and 235 in the Somali Basin lay close to or below the CCD throughout the time of deposition and are not well suited for biostratigraphic investigation. Sites 236, 237, and 238 in the central western Indian Ocean recovered Pleistocene through Oligocene calcareous oozes and Eocene and Paleocene chert-bearing chalk. The occurrence of well-preserved calcareous and siliceous microfossils in the late Neogene and Eocene of Sites 238 and 237, respectively, permits the direct comparison and correlation of zonation schemes based on the two microfossil types for these time intervals.

Sediment-based contacts were penetrated, and basal sediment ages determined, at four sites. The opening of the Gulf of Aden predates 13 m.y. The sundering of the Chagos and Saya de Malha regions is at least as old as 32-34 m.y. B.P. The basement age at Site 235 (65-67 m.y. B.P.) implies the presence of a discontinuity between this site and the magnetic lineations identified to the east, and of an offset of the magnetic anomalies to the north. A discrepancy between the biostratigraphic age of the basal sediments (57-58 m.y. B.P.) at Site 236 and the magnetic age of basement (10 m.y. older according to the prevailing paleomagnetic time scale) is consistent with similar discrepancies noted at other DSDP sites. This finding supports the adjustments proposed for the Heirtzler et al. (1968) paleomagnetic scale, including a reduction of the ages for the early Cenozoic.

Similar tropical planktonic assemblages recovered at the various sites reflect a common oceanographic history throughout the Cenozoic. Prior to the late Paleocene, a thick sequence accumulated rapidly (68 m/m.y.) at Site 237 in upper bathyal depths, with an added influx of displaced neritic sediments from nearby shallow banks. After the deepening of this site in the late Paleocene, normal pelagic sedimentation proceeded at a rate about one-sixth as fast, similar to contemporaneous rates at Site 236. An interval of much-reduced accumulation or nondeposition spans the Paleocene/Eocene boundary at both sites.

In the late Eocene-early Oligocene, when Antarctic Bottom Water moved northward into the Indian Ocean, the accumulation rate and preservation of calcareous ooze decreased. Preservation of planktonic foraminifera remained poor during the Oligocene and early Miocene, and hiatuses or condensed series occurred during this interval. A change in the circulation system occurred by middle Miocene time. When India moved north of the equator, the development of the modern south equatorial circulation pattern resulted in higher surface productivity, reflected in the late Neogene sequences by a higher content of siliceous microfossils and by sedimentation rates about three times as high as those prevailing during the preceding Oligocene and early Miocene. An episode of reworking in the early late Miocene, following a 2-m.y. interval of reduced sedimentation spanning the middle/late Miocene boundary, suggests the advent of large-scale bottom current activity in the central western Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden, and Arabian Sea.

# INTRODUCTION

During Leg 24 of the Deep Sea Drilling Project, eight sites were drilled in the western Indian Ocean in three distinct geographic areas: the Gulf of Aden, the northwestern Somali Basin, and the Mascarene Plateau/Central Indian Ridge/Chagos-Laccadive Ridge complex area (Figure 1, Table 1). Continuous coring and a high rate of recovery at most sites have provided a record of Cenozoic planktonic, sedimentary, and paleooceanographic events in the tropical Indian Ocean.

The sediments recovered at these sites represent a virtually complete section of the Cenozoic (Figure 2). Of special interest is the occurrence of well-preserved calcareous and siliceous microfossils in the late Neogene of Site 238 and the Eocene of Site 237. These sequences permit direct comparison and correlation of zonation schemes based on the two microfossil types for these time intervals.

Age assignments and estimates of sedimentation rates were made according to the correlation and time relationships presented in Figures 3 and 4. The correlation of Blow's (1969) planktonic foraminiferal zones with those of Martini (1971) for calcareous nannoplankton, and the assignment of absolute ages to the zone boundaries, are from Berggren (1973) and Berggren and Van Couvering (1974) for the late Neogene and from Berggren (1972) for the Paleogene and early Miocene.<sup>1</sup> The correlation of the early Eocene *Discoaster sublodoensis* and *D. lodoensis* nannofossil zones with foraminiferal equivalents, however, has been slightly modified from Berggren (1972) to accommodate data from Bystricka (1971) and Gibson (personal communication). Calcareous planktonic zonation schemes developed by various authors (Bukry, 1974b; Gartner, 1974; Roth, 1973, this volume) whose data are used in this paper are correlated to Martini's (1971) zonation. The ages recognized for the Neogene radiolarian zone boundaries are those proposed by Theyer and Hammond (1974), who recently calibrated the standard equatorial Pacific radiolarian zonation (Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, 1971) to the paleomagnetic reversal stratigraphy. The correlation of Paleogene radiolarian zones (Foreman, 1973; Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970; Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1973) with those of the other microfossil groups is modified from Berggren (1972) according to data presented in Table 2, which shows the location of radiolarian zonal boundaries with respect to calcareous fossil zones as observed at various DSDP sites in the Indian and Pacific oceans. The relationship of the tropical Indian Ocean diatom zones (TID) defined by Schrader (this volume) to radiolarian zones is discussed below.

Biostratigraphic results for the principal Cenozoic microfossil groups are presented in preceding chapters of this volume and have been integrated in Figures 5 to 12. In these figures, and in the discussion of the site summaries, calcareous nannoplankton data provided by Bukry and by Roth have been combined, but the nomenclature of Roth's zonation is utilized. The sedimentation rate curves in Figures 5 to 12 were drawn according to plots of calcareous plankton zones. Neogene radiolarian events are shown as well. Paleogene radiolarian and diatom events are plotted on the sedimentation rate curve at their depth of occurrence.

#### SITE SUMMARIES

# Gulf of Aden

#### Geologic and Lithologic Setting

The Gulf of Aden is a young and mobile basin of intermediate depth bisected from east to west by Sheba Ridge, a seismically active zone which marks the spreading center (Matthews et al., 1967). Sheba Ridge is offset by several minor transform faults, and near its eastern end by a linear NNE-trending cleft, the 5360-meter-deep Alula-Fartak Trench. Three sites were drilled in this region. Site 231 is located in the inner Gulf of Aden, south of Sheba Ridge and 80 km north of Somalia and within the "Half Degree Square," an area extensively surveyed by Laughton et al. (1970). The site is located beyond magnetic Anomaly 5, southwest of a small fracture zone which offsets Sheba Ridge. Sites 232 and 233 were drilled on opposite sides of the Alula-Fartak Trench, a structure which has been the site of sedimentation since at least the late middle Miocene (Ramsay and Funnell, 1969). Site 232 lies on the western edge of the Trench northeast of the Sheba Ridge rift zone, above a basement with a magnetic age about 10 m.y. Site 233, on the eastern side of the Trench, is southwest of the rift, near magnetic Anomaly 3.

Since the completion of the manuscript for this paper, minor modifications have been made by Berggren and Van Couvering to the middle Miocene portion of their time scale (Van Couvering and Berggren, in press). These authors corrected the time span for paleomagnetic Epochs 10 and 11, which they had previously misinterpreted. They have altered the early/middle Miocene boundary (Orbulina Datum) from 14 to 15 m.y. B.P. and made minor adjustments in the ages of the zonal boundaries as a result of the correlation made by Theyer and Hammond (1974). According to the time scales of Van Couvering and Berggren (in press) and of Theyer and Hammond (1974), the time span of Epoch 11 is 10.7-11.6 m.y. and of Epochs 12 to 16, 11.6-17.6 m.y. The ages of the contemporaneous radiolarian zonal boundaries are: Cannartus pettersoni/Ommatartus antepenultimus, 10.7-10.8 m.y. (top of Epoch 11); Dorcadospyris alata/C. pettersoni, 11.3-11.4 m.y. (base of Epoch 11); and Calocycletta costata/D. alata, 15.5-15.6 (late Epoch 16).

Van Couvering and Berggren (in press) placed the Oligocene/ Miocene boundary at 23-23.5 m.y. within foraminiferal Zone N4 and the early portion of the *Triquetrorhabdulus carinatus* zone of Martini (NN 1). The base of N4 is thus lowered to 25 m.y. and placed within the *Sphenolithus ciperoensis* Zone (NP 25).

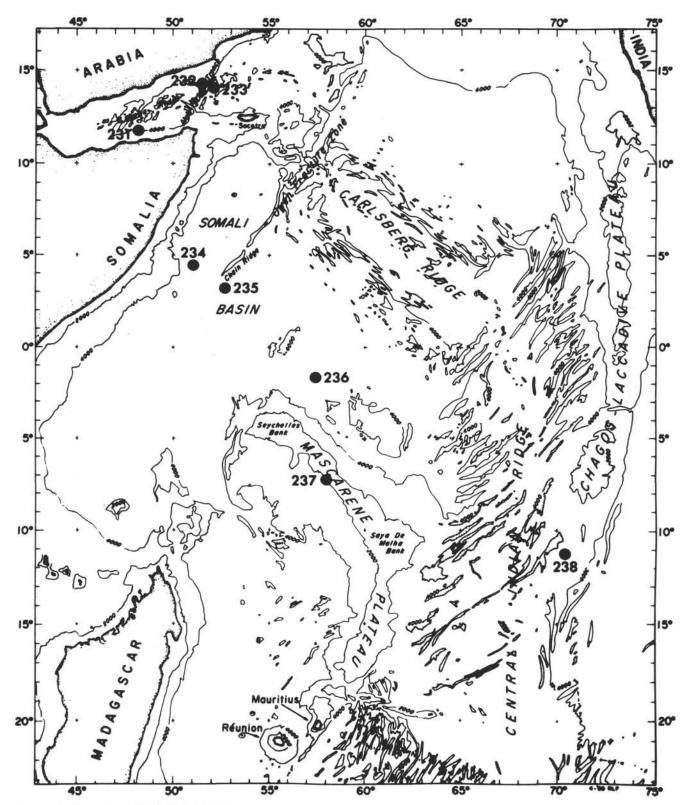


Figure 1. Location of DSDP Leg 24 sites.

TABLE 1 Location of DSDP Leg 24 Sites

Site	Latitude	Longitude	Water Depth (m)
231	11°53.41'N	48°14.71'E	2161
232	14°28.93'N	51°54.87'E	1758
233	14°19.68'N	52°08.11'E	1860
234	04°28.96'N	51°13.48'E	4738
235	03°14.06'N	52°41.64'E	5146
236	01°40.62'S	57° 38.85'E	4504
237	07°04.99'S	58°07.48'E	1640
238	11°09.21'S	70°31.56'E	2844

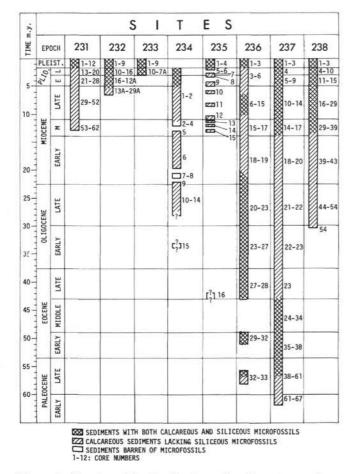


Figure 2. Stratigraphic distribution of sediments cored on DSDP Leg 24.

Good recovery was obtained from continuous coring at all three sites. Site 231 reached igneous basement (approximately 13 m.y. old), whereas Sites 232 and 233 (two holes were drilled at the same location at these two sites) were terminated for technical reasons after reaching "acoustic basement," a massive quartzose sandstone at Site 232, and a diabase sill at Site 233.

The sedimentary sequences recovered at the three sites are similar and consist of late Neogene hemipelagic nannofossil oozes which accumulated at a high rate. The calcium carbonate content ranges from 30% to 60% at Site 231, 5% to 60% at Site 232, and 40% to 70% at Site 233. Sediments are fine grained and contain a small proportion of sand-size particles (< 20%) except in sandy horizons. Intercalated sandy layers containing transported neritic material are common in the Pliocene and Pleistocene of Site 231 and occur occasionally throughout Site 232 and in the upper Pliocene sediments of Site 233.

Five lithologic units were distinguished at Site 231 on the basis of the presence or absence of sandy horizons. A sixth unit represents basaltic rocks with inclusions of recrystallized nannofossil chalk. At Site 232 sediments were divided into six lithologic units based on different proportions of clastic terrigenous components, and at Site 233 eight lithologic units were differentiated on the basis of variations in the abundance of micarb.

A significant terrigenous fraction, presumably airborne, is common in all samples and increases with age. Volcanic ash horizons occur in the Pliocene at all three sites. Pyrite is common to very abundant in some horizons; its abundance increases with depth.

# Abundance and Preservation of Microfossils

Calcareous nannofossils are common to abundant and slightly etched throughout the sedimentary sequences. They are considerably altered, however, in the basalt inclusions at Site 231.

Foraminifera are abundant and moderately well preserved in the Pleistocene, where they are the dominant component of the coarse sediment fraction. They are less abundant in older sediments and show a significant degree of dissolution, whereas terrigenous components, pyrite, and/or radiolarians become common. Planktonic species dominate the Pleistocene foraminiferal assemblages and constitute over 90% of the total foraminiferal farina. The relative frequency of these forms is lower in older sediments (30% in some horizons), while the percentage of benthonic foraminifera increases. The decrease with age in abundance of planktonic foraminifera, and the concomitant decrease in test preservation, are related to calcium carbonate dissolution. A decrease in calcium carbonate solution in the Pleistocene is also reflected by the common presence of pteropods in Pleistocene sediments. Benthonic foraminifera characteristic of bathyal environment are common throughout the sections. Shallow-water species, however, are frequently found in association with skeletal debris of pelecypods gastropods, echinoderms, and bryozoans in the Pleistocene and upper Pliocene sandy layers of Site 231, suggesting slumping from shelf areas.

Radiolarians are common to abundant and well to moderately well preserved throughout most of the sequences at Sites 232 and 233 and in the uppermost sediments at Site 231. These forms are present but poorly preserved in the remainder of the section at the latter site. Fish debris occurs commonly in sediments at Site 231.

#### Stratigraphic Boundaries

The Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary was drawn at all three sites on the basis of nannofossil data. This boundary, placed at the highest occurrence of *Discoaster brouweri* 

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	. m.y.	covcu	LUND.	PLANK. FORAM ZONES			CALCAREOUS NANNOPL	ANKTON ZONES	_		RADIOLARIAN ZONES Riedel and	DIATO ZONES Schrad
- 51/1	TIME	5	5	BLOW (1969)	M	artini (1971)	Gartner (1974)	Roth (1973, this vol.)		Bukry (1973)	Sanfilippo (1971)	
153					NN21 NN20	E. huxleyi G. oceanica	<u>E. huxleyi</u> Gephyrocapsa	E. huxleyi		E. huxleyi		TID
CIVILIA D	-	DI ETCTOCENE	INCENE	N23	MAZO	G. Oceanica	uppigrocupsu	G. oceanica		G. oceanica	"QUATERNARY"	
NAME OF CAL	1-	DIETO	LLEIS	N22	NN19	P. lacunosa	Р. Гасипова	G. caribbeanica P. lacunosa	G. doro-	G. caribbeanica E. annula		
		_			NN18	D. brouweri		C. macintyrei		C. maointyrei		
	2-				NN17	D. pentaradiatus	D. brouweri		wer		P. prismatium	
	-	N	LATE	N21	NN16	D. surculus	D. surculus	D. pentaradiatus D. tamalis	. browneri	D. pentaradiatus D. tamalis		TID
	3-	C E	Н		NN15	R. pseudoumbilica	R. pseudoumbilica	D. tamaits	Dum D.	D. tamaiis D. asymmetricus		
	-	0			NN14	D. asymmetricus	-	R. pseudoumbilica	A pseudoum	S. neoabies	S. pentas	
	4 -	L J	EARLY	N20-N19	NN13	С. гидовив	D. авут. С. rugoвив	C. rugosus	atus A.	С. гидовив		
	1	Р		N18				C. acutus <sup>a</sup>	tricomiculatus	C. acutus <sup>a</sup>		TID
	5-				NN12	C. tricorniculatus	C. tricorniculatus	C. tricorniculatus	C. tricor	Т. гидовив	S. peregrina	TID
	6- 7- 8-		TE	N17	NN11	D. quinqueramus	D. quinqueramus	C. primus	guinqueramus	C. primus	0. penultimus	TID
	9- 9-	E N E	LA	N16			D. neohamatus	D. berggrenii	D. qui	D. berggrenii	0.antepenultimus	
ľ								D. neohamatus	-a-	D. necerectus		
		0 C		une .	NN10	D. calcaris		D. bellus	D. neoh matus	D. bellus		TID 2
	11-	I W	E	N15 N14	NN9	D. hamatus	D. hamatus	D. hamatus		D. hamatus	C. petterssoni	
ľ	14		DLE	N13	NN8	C. coalitus	C. coalitus	C. coalitus		C. coalitus		
ł	-		D D		NN7	D. kugleri	D///-	D. kugleri	D. 1118	D. kugleri		
			-	N12 N11	NN6	D. exilis	D. exilis	D. exilis	Dati	C. miopelagicus		
	13-		W	N10 N9	NN5	S. heteromorphus		5. heteromorphus	s	. heteromorphus	D. alata	unzon
	15-		EARLY	N8 N7	NN4	H. ampliaperta	5. heteromorphus	H. ampliaperta	a H. ampliaperta			

Figure 3. Time relationship and correlation of paleomagnetic epochs and late Neogene planktonic microfossil zones. See text for explanation. See references for generic abbreviations.

IME			PLANK. FORAM			CALCAREOUS NANNOP	LANKTON ZONES		RADIOLARIAN ZONES Ried and Sanfilippo (1970,
.y.	EPC	осн	ZONES BLOW1969	1	Martini (1971)	Gartner (1974)	Roth (1973, this vol.)	Bukry (1973)	and Sanfilippo (1970, 1971) Foreman (1973) San filippo and Riedel (197
4		Σ	N9	NN5	S. heteromorphus		S. heteromorphus	S. heteromorphus	4
	ENE		N8 N7	NN4	H. ampliaperta	5. heteromorphus	H. ampliaperta	H. ampliaperta	D. alata
	0 0	EARLY	N6	NN3	S. belemnos	S. belemnos	S. belemnos	S. belemnos	C. costata
1	IW	B							4
20-			N5	NN2	D. druggii		D. druggii	D. druggii D. deflandrei	C. virginis
	_		N4	NNT	I. carinatus	T. carinatus	T. carinatus	D. deflandrei	1
-			P22				R. abisecta	C. abisectus	L. elongata
25-		LATE		NP25	S. cipercensis	S. cipercensis	S. cipercensis	S. cipercensis	D. ateuchus
	CENE	LA	P21	NP24	S. distentus	S. distentus	S. distentus	5. distentus	
-	0 F I C 0	X	P20 P19	NP23	S. predistentus	5. predistentus	S. predistentus	S. predistentus	T. tuberosa
-		EARLY	F19	NP22	H. reticulata		H. reticulata	g R. hillae	1
1			P18	NP21	E. subdisticha	С. forтова	E. subdisticha	R. hillae R. hillae C. formosa	
ł	1		P17	NP20	5. pseudoradians				
40- -		LATE	P16 P15	NP19	I. recurvus	D. barbadiensis	D. barbadiensis	D. barbadiensis	T. bromia
-			0.010	NP18	C. camaruensis				
1	ш		P14	NP17	D. saipanensis		C. grandis	.g D. saipanensis	P. goëtheana P. chalara
57	E	ILE	P13	NP16	D. tani nodifer	C. grandis	C. solitus	D. saipanensis	P. mitra
1	J	MIDDLE	P12				N. fulgens	g C. staurion	P. ampla
	Е 0		P11 P10	NP15	C. alatus	N. alata	C. gigas	≥ vy C. staurion C. gigas D. strictus	T. triacantha
1	ł	$\vdash$	P9	NP14	D. sublodoensis	D. sublodoensis	D. sublodoensis	R. inflata D. kuepperi	T. mongolfieri
-0			P8	NP13	D. lodoensis	D. lodoensis	D. lodoensis	D. lodoensis	T. cryptocephala
1		EARLY	P7	NP12	M. tribrachiatus	T. orthostylus	T. orthostylus	T. orthostylus	P. striata B. clinata
1		"	P6b	NP11	D. binodosus	D. diastypus	D. diastypus	D. diastypus	
-	1	$\square$	P6a	NP10	M. contortus			S C. eodela	1
5-			P5	NP9	D. multiradiatus	D. multiradiatue	D. multiradiatus	C. eodela G. bidens	B. bidarfensis <sup>a</sup>
]		LATE		NP8	H. riedeli	D. mohleri	D. nobilis	D. nobilis	1
	N	-	P4	NP7 NP6	D. gemmeus H. kleinpelli	H. kleinpelli	D. mohleri H. kleinpelli	D. mohleri H. kleinpelli	
]	U C		P3	NP5 NP4	F. tympaniformis E. macellus	F. tympaniformis	F. tympaniformis	F. tympaniformis	1
50-	AL	P2	NP3	C. danicus	C. robusta	C. tenuis	C. tenuis	unzoned	
1		EARLY		NP2	C. tenuis	C. teruis	<i></i>	u. venube	
-			P1		M. astroporus				
				NP1	as non oporno				

Figure 4. Time relationship and correlation of early Miocene and Paleogene planktonic microfossil zones. See text for explanation. See references for generic abbreviations.

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TABLE 2 Position of the Observed Paleogene Radiolarian Zonal Boundaries Within Cores and Within Calcareous Plankton Zones at Various DSDP Sites of the Indian and Pacific Oceans

			Leg 23					Leg	24
		Site 22	0		Site 219			Site	237
Radiolarian Zonal Boundaries <sup>a</sup> ,b,c,d	Coret	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>g</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>h</sup>	Core <sup>e,f</sup>	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>g</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>h</sup>	Core <sup>e,i</sup>	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>J</sup> , <sup>k</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>l</sup>
Calocycletta virginis/Lychnocanoma elongata									
L. elongata/Dorcadospyris atenchus									
D. atenchus/Theocyrtis tuberosa	8, CC to 9-1		S. ciperoensis to S. predistentus						
T. tuberosa/thyrsocyrtis bromia	10, CC to 11-1		S. predistentus- H. reticulata						
T. bromia/Podocyrtis goetheana						-			
P. goetheana/podocyrtis chalara									
P. chalara/podocyrtis mitra									_
P. mitra/podocyrtis ampla				19-6 to 19, CC	P14 to P11	D. saipanensis to C. staurion	26-1 to 27-1	P11	D. bifax/ C. staurion bdry
P. ampla/Thyrsocyrtis triacantha				20-5 to 20-6	Early P11	C. staurion	28-1 to 29-1	P11	C. staurion
T. triacantha/Theocampe mongolfieri	14-3 to 14, CC	Early P10	D. strictus- R. inflata	below 21, CC	P10 or older	C. staurion or older	30-1 to 32-2	P10-P9	C. gigas/ D. strictus bdry
T. mongolfieri/Theocotyle cryptocephala cryptocephala	16-2 to 16, CC	Late P8	ca D. kuepperi/ D. lodoensis bdry						
T. cryptocephala cryptocephala/phormocyrtis striata striata									
P. striata striata/Buryella clinata									
B. clinata/Bekoma bidarfensis							37-1 to 38-1	P8 to P6	T. orthostylus/ D. diastypus bdry
Oldest recognized B. bidarfensis							42-1	P5-P4	D. mohleri

					Leg 10				
		Site 94			Site	95		Site 9	6
Radiolarian Zonal Boundaries <sup>a,b,c,d</sup>	Core <sup>c,d,e</sup>	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>q</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>r</sup>	Core <sup>c,d,e</sup>	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>q</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>r</sup>	Core <sup>c,d,e</sup>	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>q</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>I</sup>
Calocycletta virginis/Lychnocanoma elongata									
L. elongata/Dorcadospyris atenchus					18				
D. atenchus/Theocyrtis tuberosa				2, CC to 3-1	P21	ca S. ciperoensis/ S. distentus bdry	2-5 to 2-6	P22	S. ciperoensi
T. tuberosa/thyrsocyrtis bromia	13, CC to 14-2	P20 to P16	S. predistentus to D. barbadiensis	5, CC to 6-1	P20 to P15	S. predistentus to D. barbadiensis			
T. bromia/Podocyrtis goetheana									
P. goetheana/podocyrtis chalara									
P. chalara/podocyrtis mitra									
P. mitra/podocyrtis ampla	17, CC to 18-1	P11	ca R. umbilica/ N. quadrata bdry						
P. ampla/Thyrsocyrtis triacantha	18, CC to 19-1	P11	N. quadrata	7-3 to 7-4	P11	N. quadrata			
T. triacantha/Theocampe mongolfieri	20, CC to 21-2	P10	N. quadrata						
T. mongolfieri/Theocotyle cryptocephala cryptocephala	24-3 to 24-4	P10	D. sublodoensis						
T. cryptocephala cryptocephala/phormocyrtis striata striata	26-3 to 26-4	P10	D. sublodoensis						
P. striata striata/Buryella clinata	28, CC to 29, CC	P10 to P7	D. lodoensis						
B. clinata/Bekoma bidarfensis	31, CC to 32, CC	P6	D. lodoensis to C. eodela						
Oldest recognized B. bidarfensis							3, CC	P6	C. codela

<sup>a</sup>Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970. <sup>b</sup>Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1971. <sup>c</sup>Foreman, 1973. <sup>d</sup>Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1973.

eGiven are the pair of core sections between which events or zone boundaries occur. fNigrini (this volume). gFleisher (1974). hBukry (1974).

<sup>I</sup>Sanfilippo and Riedel (this volume). JHeiman, Frericks, and Vincent (this volume). <sup>K</sup>Vincent, Gibson, and Brun (this volume). <sup>I</sup>Roth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation. <sup>QMCNeely</sup> (1973).

			Leg 22					Leg 10	
		Site 216			Site 217			Site 86	
Radiolarian Zonal Boundaries <sup>a,b,c,d</sup>	Core <sup>1,m</sup>	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>n,0</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>p</sup>	Core <sup>1,m</sup>	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>n,0</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>p</sup>	Core <sup>c</sup> ,d,e	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>q</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>r</sup>
$Calocycletta virginis/Lychnocanoma\ elongata$	8-2 to 8, CC	N4	S. belemnos- T. carinatus				5-3 to 5-3	P21	S. distentus
L. elongata/Dorcadospyris atenchus	8, CC to 9-1	N4	T. carinatus/ S. ciperoensis bdry				5, CC to 6, CC	P21 to P16	S. distentus to D. mohler
D. atenchus/Theocyrtis tuberosa	12-1 to 12-2	P22-P21	S. distentus	7, CC to 8-1	ca P22/ P21 bdry	Early S. ciperoensis			
T. tuberosa/thyrsocyrtis bromia	14, CC to 15, CC	P20 to P18	S. distentus to D. barbadiensis	9-3 to 9-5	P16/P15 bdry	S. predistentus- C. formosa			
T. bromia/Podocyrtis goetheana								-	
P. goetheana/podocyrtis chalara									
P. chalara/podocyrtis mitra									
P. mitra/podocyrtis ampla				10-3 to 10-4	ca P12/ P11 bdry	C. grandis			
P. ampla/Thyrsocyrtis triacantha				10-6 to 10, CC	P11 to P4	C. grandis			
T. triacantha/Theocampe mongolfieri									
T. mongolfieri/Theocotyle cryptocephala cryptocephala									
T. cryptocephala cryptocephala/phormocyrtis striata striata									
P. striata striata/Buryella clinata									
B. clinata/Bekoma bidarfensis									
Oldest recognized B. bidarfensis									

		Leg 32	
		Site 313	
Radiolarian Zonal Boundaries <sup>a,b,c,d</sup>	Core <sup>0,8</sup>	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>t</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>u</sup>
Calocycletta virginis/Lychnocanoma elongata			
L. elongata/Dorcadospyris atenchus			
D. atenchus/Theocyrtis tuberosa			
T. tuberosa/thyrsocyrtis bromia			
T. bromia/Podocyrtis goetheana			
P. goetheana/podocyrtis chalara			
P. chalara/podocyrtis mitra			
P. mitra/podocyrtis ampla			
P. ampla/Thyrsocyrtis triacantha			
T. triacantha/Theocampe mongolfieri			
T. mongolfieri/Theocotyle cryptocephala cryptocephala			
T. cryptocephala cryptocephala/phormocyrtis striata striata			
P. striata striata/Buryella clinata			
B. clinata/Bekoma bidarfensis	12-1 to 12-2	P6	T. orthostylus
Oldest recognized B. bidarfensis	13-6	P6	D. diastypus

<sup>a</sup>Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970. <sup>b</sup>Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1971. <sup>c</sup>Foreman, 1973. <sup>d</sup>Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1973. Roth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation.
mJohnson (1974).
nBerggren, Lohmann, and Poore (1974).
OMcGowran (1974).

PGartner (1974). 9McNeely (1973). TBukry (1973). \$Foreman, personal communication. \$Luterbacher, personal communication. UBukry, personal communication.

# TABLE 2 – Continued

(Pseudoemiliana lacunosa/Cyclococcolithina macintyrei zonal boundary) falls 30 to 60 meters below the youngest occurrence of *Pterocanium prismatium* and the N22/N21 boundary. The latter is placed at the earliest common occurrence of *Globorotalia truncatulinoides*.

The early/late Pliocene boundary, placed at the base of the Discoaster tamalis Zone, falls in latest N20-N19 (Sites 231 and 232) and within the Spongaster pentas Zone (Site 232). The Miocene/Pliocene boundary drawn at the base of the Ceratolithus acutus Zone, falls within the Stichocorvs peregrina Zone at Site 232 and approximates the base of the N18 Zone at Site 231. The boundary, however, could not be identified on the basis of foraminifera at Site 232 because forms intermediate between Globorotalia tumida tumida and Globorotalia tumida plesiotumida (the diagnostic species of Zones N18 and N17, respectively) were commonly found throughout the lower 30 meters of the section. Specimens attributable to G. tumida tumida occurred here well below the Miocene/Pliocene boundary as defined by nannofossils. The middle/late Miocene boundary was placed at Site 231 between the Discoaster neohamatus and Discoaster bellus zones, although the foraminiferal zonation indicates a higher position for this level (Figure 5).

#### Age of Lowest Sediments

At Site 231 sediments at 567.4 meters above the basalt, and below the altered volcanic ash, belong to foraminiferal Zone N12, and the chalk inclusions in the basalt at 567.8 and 569.4 meters contain nannofossils characteristic of the *Sphenolithus heteromorphus* Zone. These data permit a reliable age assignment of approximately 13 m.y. for the basalt/sediment contact.

The lower 37 meters of the section at Site 232 could not be dated because of poor recovery and the lack of sufficiently diagnostic fossils. The highest occurrence of *Discoaster quinqueramus* (at the *Ceratolithus primus/C. tricorniculatus* zonal boundary) and the highest occurrence of *Ommatartus antepenultimus* (in the early *Stichocorys peregrina* Zone), however, at 340 and 330 meters, respectively, allow an estimate to be made of the accumulation rate for the lower sediments.

These floral and faunal events have been calibrated with paleomagnetic reversal stratigraphy and have both been dated at approximately 5.7 m.y. in magnetic epoch 5 (Gartner, 1973; Theyer and Hammond, 1974). The good agreement between the position of these two fossil events in this section permits an age assignment of 5.7 m.y. for the sediments at about 335 meters, and implies that the sedimentary sequence between 273 and 335 meters accumulated over a time interval of approximately 0.7 m.y. Assuming a constant accumulation rate for sediments in the lower part of the section, an age of approximately 6.7 m.y. (late late Miocene) is estimated for the bottom of the hole at 434 meters.

At Site 233 sediments just above the diabase at 235 meters belong to the *Discoaster tamalis*, N21, and *Spongaster pentas* zones, and are therefore of early Pliocene age. They are younger than 3.5 m.y., the extinction datum of *S. pentas* (Theyer and Hammond, 1974), as this species was not found here. The highest occurrence (at 163 meters) of

Stichocorys peregrina, a species known to become extinct at about 2.5 m.y. B.P. (Theyer and Hammond, 1974), suggests a sedimentation rate of approximately 117 m/m.y. for the upper Pliocene sediments between 81 and 163 meters. If this rate remained constant during the late Pliocene, sediments above the diabase are approximately 3 m.y. old (earliest late Pliocene).

#### Sediment Accumulation Rates

High rates of accumulation were calculated for the hemipelagic nannofossil oozes recovered in the Gulf of Aden (Table 3). At Site 231 the average accumulation rate for the entire sedimentary sequence is 43.7 m/m.y. The increased rate during the Pleistocene and late Pliocene (average of 59.3 m/m.y.) reflects the input of transported shallow-water material.

Pleistocene accumulation rates at Sites 232 and 233 (43.6 and 45 m/m.y., respectively) are comparable to the average typical values obtained at Site 231. Higher rates, however, were obtained at both of these sites for older sediments. At Site 233 a high value of 117 m/m.y. was calculated for the upper Pliocene, while at Site 232 average accumulation rates increase with age, reaching 88.6 m/m.y. for the upper Miocene. It has been suggested that the siltstone and sandstone units in the upper Miocene at this site were emplaced by slumping and represent massive fault or slide blocks. There is no repetition of faunal events, however, and the fossil evidence indicates no juxtaposition of older rocks over younger sediments.

# Somali Basin

# Geologic and Lithologic Setting

The ponded sediments, 2 to 3 km thick, in the western Somali Basin, appear similar in aspect on widely separated reflection profiles, with an acoustically transparent layer separating the upper and lower stratified (partly turbidite) sequence (Bunce et al., 1967). Two sites were intermittently cored on either side of the Chain Ridge, in areas where deeper sediments onlap basement slopes beneath thinning younger layers and where it was hoped to reach and date basement. Site 234 is located east of Chain Ridge. Two penetrations were made, but the second was abandoned for technical difficulties after a single core at 247 meters. Site 235, on the eastern flank of Chain Ridge, reached basement of Late Cretaceous age at 647 meters.

Sediments recovered at both sites are very fine-grained and consist of nannofossil oozes, nannofossil clays, and clays which yielded only a very small sand-sized fraction. Calcium carbonate content ranges from 0% to 45% at Site 234 and from 2% to 80% at Site 235. Six and three lithologic units were defined at Sites 234 and 235, respectively, on the basis of variations in calcium carbonate content and color changes.

# Abundance and Preservation of Microfossils

Only a few horizons contain a significant biogenic content at Site 234, which must have been close to the calcite compensation depth throughout the time of deposition of the recovered sediments. Poorly preserved nannofossils are present at a number of horizons, but are absent in others.

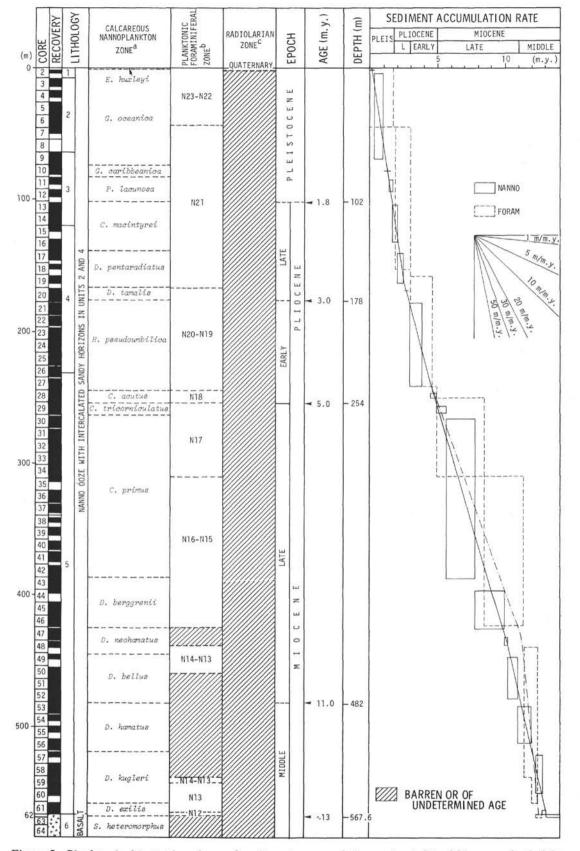


Figure 5. Planktonic biostratigraphy and sediment accumulation rate at Site 231. a = Roth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation; b = Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume); and c = Sanfilippo and Riedel (this volume).

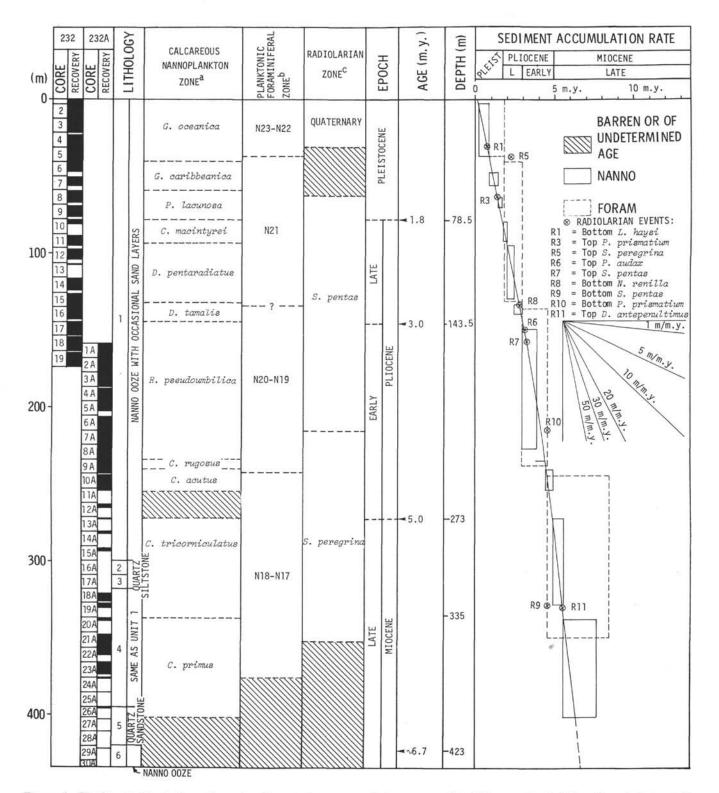


Figure 6. Planktonic biostratigraphy and sedimentation accumulation rate at Site 232. a = Roth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation; b = Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume); and c = Sanfilippo and Riedel (this volume).

Average Accumulation Rates (m/m.y.)												
Sequences	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238				
Pleistocene	56.7	43.6	45.0		25.0	10.6	14.2	21.1				
Upper Pliocene	63.3	54.2	117.1	1.0	65.4		7.9	44.6				
Lower Pliocene	38.0	64.8		1.0	77.5	8.9	23.8	23.8				
Upper Miocene	38.0	88.6			24.2	14.3	7.0	21.8				
Middle Miocene	47.8			20.0	53.3	8.5	11.3	30.7				
Lower Miocene				10.6		2.2	3.4	5.0				
Upper Oligocene						4.3	1.5	12.7				
Lower Oligocene						5.8	1.5					
Upper Eocene						1.7	1.2					
Middle Eocene						17.4						
Lower Eocene						7.5						
Upper Paleocene						33.8						
Lower Paleocene						68.2						

TABLE 3 Average Accumulation Rate of Stratigraphic Sequences at Leg 24 Sites

Poorly preserved foraminifera showing signs of intense dissolution are present in the upper 10 meters; they are rare or absent below this level. Sponge spicules and poorly preserved radiolarians, predominantly pyritized, are present in the upper 38 meters, but are almost totally absent below. Among other biogenic components are echinoderm debris and fish teeth. The latter are common in the lowermost part of the section where they are concentrated by dissolution.

Biogenic components are more frequent at Site 235. Nannofossils are moderately well to well preserved. While they are common throughout the upper 500 meters, they are absent below this level, except for rare and poorly preserved specimens in sediment inclusions in the basalt. Foraminifera are also rare and poorly preserved and show significant dissolution throughout the section. Some horizons, however, contain common to abundant uniformly minute well-preserved foraminifera. This fauna, which is composed mainly of planktonic species (> 99%) and is associated with pteropods and bivalve debris, may represent the distal parts of turbidites. Radiolarians are abundant and well preserved in the upper 76 meters, but they are less common and poorly preserved or absent below. Diatoms and sponge spicules are present throughout the section.

The high calcium carbonate content and sediment accumulation rates, the relatively good preservation of calcareous fossils, and the presence in some horizons of pteropods and bivalve debris at Site 235 evince displacement of sediments into much deeper water (from either Chain Ridge or Carlsberg Ridge) and rapid burial at the site.

#### Stratigraphic Boundaries and Accumulation Rates

Because of the paucity and poor preservation of microfossils in the Somali Basin, biostratigraphic investigations could not be conducted at all recovered horizons. Epoch boundaries which fall within undated intervals were located on the basis of sedimentation rates.

#### Site 234 (Figure 8)

A minimum of 11 m.y. is condensed in the upper 11 meters, indicating an average accumulation rate of 1 m/m.y. over that interval. The slow sedimentation was conducive to the formation of manganese nodules at the sediment surface. The biostratigraphy of this condensed series cannot be well defined, and mixing is shown by the discrepancy between foraminiferal and nannofossil zonations. The Pliocene and late Miocene were therefore not differentiated.

The middle/late Miocene and early/middle Miocene boundaries, both of which fall within intervals lacking biostratigraphic data, were inferred on the basis of sedimentation rate, whereas the Oligocene/Miocene boundary was placed at the *Triquetrorhabdulus carinatus/Helicopon*tosphaera reticulata zonal boundary.

The presence of the Discoaster druggii Zone at approximately 78 meters indicates that most of the early Miocene (from 14 to about 20 m.y.) is condensed and that sediments accumulated at an average rate of 1 m/m.y. over this interval. During the earliest Miocene (20 to 22.5 m.y.) the average rate was considerably higher (33.5 m/m.y.). The average rate for the entire lower Miocene series is 10.6 m/m.y., and the average rate for the middle and lower Miocene is 13 m/m.y.

The oldest dated sediments, in Core 13, are late Oligocene in age, possibly representing the *Sphenolithus distentus* Zone and indicate an average accumulation rate of at least 7 m/m.y. for the late Oligocene. Assuming a constant rate of accumulation for the lower sediments, the maximum age at the base of the section, at 242 meters, would be early Oligocene (approximately 34 m.y.).

### Site 235 (Figure 9)

The Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary was drawn, as in the Gulf of Aden, on the basis of nannofossil data at approximately 45 meters. The youngest occurrence of *Pterocanium prismatium*, however, and the oldest appearance of *Globorotalia truncatulinoides*, both of which occur above the extinction of *Discoaster brouweri* in the Gulf of Aden, occur here below it. Because the initial appearances of *Lamprocyrtis haysi* and *Pterocorys hertwigii* and the extinction of *P. prismatium* occur in the same sequential order as in the Gulf of Aden, it is possible that the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary here lies at about 76 meters below the highest occurrence of *D. brouweri*. The early/late Pliocene boundary was placed at the *Discoaster tamalis/Reticulofenestra pseudoumbilica* and N21/N20-N19 zone boundaries.

The average rate of accumulation for the upper Pliocene and Pleistocene series is 41.2 m/m.y. The location of the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary, as recognized from radiolarian and foraminiferal data, indicates a constant rate of sedimentation for that interval, whereas the nannofossil data imply an accumulation rate 2.5 times higher for the upper Pliocene than for the Pleistocene.

The Miocene/Pliocene boundary, between the Ceratolithus rugosus and C. primus zones, and between N18 and N17, and the middle/late Miocene boundary, between the

#### CENOZOIC PLANKTONIC BIOSTRATIGRAPHY AND PALEOCEANOGRAPHY OF THE TROPICAL WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

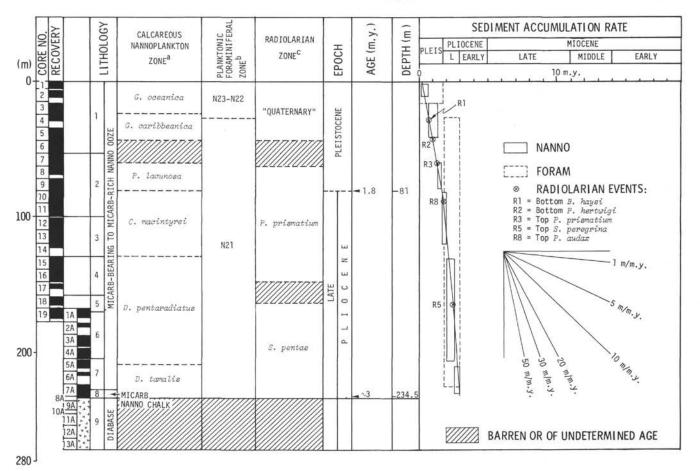


Figure 7. Planktonic biostratigraphy and sediment accumulation rate at Site 233. a = Roth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation; b = Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume); and c = Sanfilippo and Riedel (this volume).

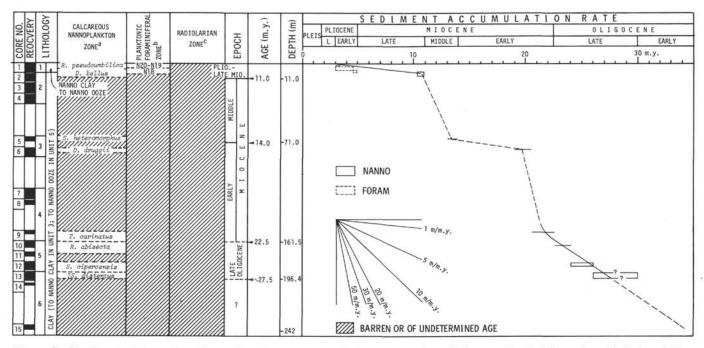


Figure 8. Planktonic biostratigraphy and sediment accumulation rate at Site 234. a = Roth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation; b = Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume); and c = Sanfilippo and Riedel (this volume).

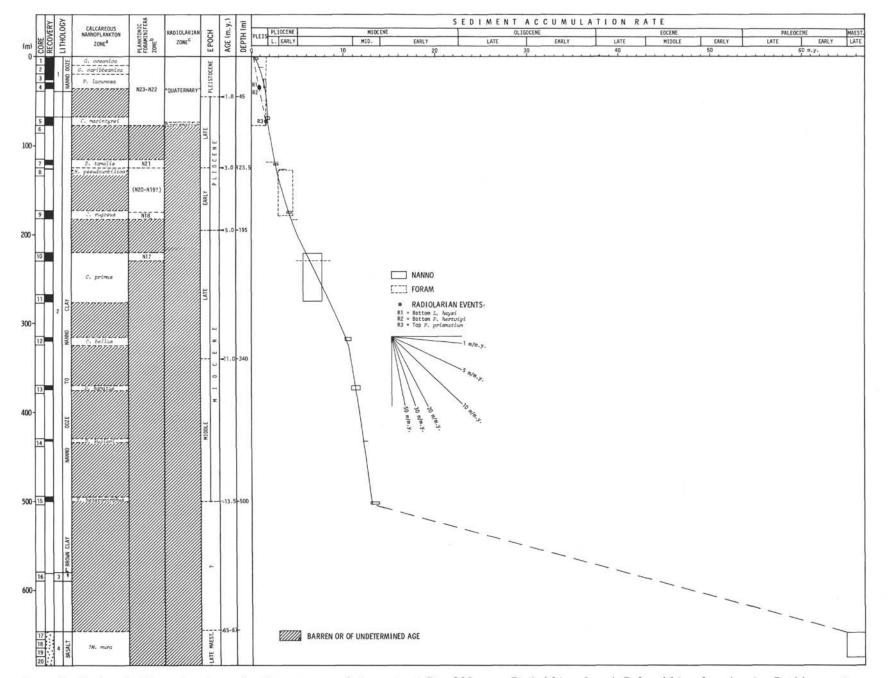


Figure 9. Planktonic biostratigraphy and sediment accumulation rate at Site 235. a = Roth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation b = Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume).

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Discoaster bellus and D. hamatus zone, were both placed in unrecovered intervals on the basis of sedimentation rates. The lowest dated sediments above the basalt, at 500 meters (Core 15), are earliest middle Miocene in age (13-14 m.y., Sphenolithus heteromorphus Zone). The lower Pliocene and upper Miocene accumulation rates are 27.5 and 24.2 m/m.y., respectively, while the middle Miocene rate has a much higher value of 53.3 m/m.y.

Sediments between 500 and 647 meters are of undetermined age; the only core recovered in this interval yielded no fossils. Sediment inclusions in the basalt (662-665 m), however, indicate a late Maestrichtian age (65-67 m.y. B.P.). The lower 147 meters of the sedimentary sequence thus correspond to an interval of time at least 51 m.y. in duration, indicating an average accumulation rate for this interval of 0.4 m/m.y. This low value clearly indicates breaks in sedimentation during that interval.

# **Central Western Indian Ocean**

# Geologic and Lithologic Setting

Three sites were drilled in the central western Indian Ocean in the Mascarene Plateau/Central Indian Ridge/ Chagos-Laccadive Ridge complex area, a region extensively studied by Fisher et al. (1967, 1968, 1971). Site 236 is located in the outermost foothills southwest of the Carlsberg Ridge, 270 km northeast of the Seychelles Islands. This site lies on a smooth sea floor 60 miles north of magnetic Anomaly 28, the oldest lineation of a magnetic anomaly pattern trending west-northwest, more or less paralleling the present or ancestral Carlsberg Ridge (Fisher et al., 1968, 1971; McKenzie and Sclater, 1971). Site 237 was drilled on the Mascarene Plateau in the saddle joining the granitic Seychelles Bank to the volcanic Saya de Malha Bank, in a fault-bounded region of nondescript magnetic patterns. Site 238 is located at the extreme northeast end of the Argo Fracture Zone, within a partly buried transformfault cleft crossing the seismically active and spreading Central Indian Ridge in an area where no magnetic interpretation is available.

Sites 236 and 238 reached basement at 305 and 500 meters respectively, while Site 237 was terminated short of basement of technical reasons at 693 meters. The sedimentary sequences recovered at the three locations are pelagic in nature and consist of nannofossil oozes in the Neogene (intercalated with clays in the lower and middle Miocene at Site 236), nannofossil chalks in the Oligocene, and nannofossil chalks with chert in the Eocene and Paleocene. The thick (340 m) Paleocene section at Site 237 is strongly lithified and partly silicified and contains some glauconitic horizons.

At Sites 237 and 238 sediments are texturally sands in the late Neogene and become finer with age, while at Site 236 the sediments are fine-grained, with many intercalated thin coarse-grained layers. Calcium carbonate content varies from 0% to 95% at Site 236 and is greater than 85% at Site 238. Six, five, and three lithologic units were differentiated at Sites 236, 237, and 238, respectively, based on changes in the proportion of major components and in calcium carbonate content. A seventh unit was recognized at Site 236, and a fourth at Site 238, representing basaltic rocks with sediment inclusions.

### Abundance and Preservation of Microfossils

Continuous coring (except for the lower 100 m at Site 237 where alternate joints were cored), with good recovery in the Oligocene and Neogene sections and poorer recovery in the cherty Paleocene and Eocene sequences, provided excellent material for planktonic biostratigraphic studies. Dissolution of calcareous components is common, however, in some parts of the sections, especially in the condensed lower Miocene and Oligocene series. Calcareous plankton is abundant throughout most of the sedimentary sequence at the three locations (except in the lower and middle Miocene clay horizons of Site 236), and siliceous microfossils are common in upper Neogene and Eocene sediments.

At Site 236, Quaternary to upper Eocene sediments contain moderately well preserved nannofossils, but foraminifera are poorly to moderately preserved with significant fragmentation. Foraminiferal preservation varies, however, depending on the lithology. The fine-grained ooze contains planktonic foraminifera which are more poorly preserved than those found in the coarse-grained ooze layers. The latter may be derived from transported sediments, a suggestion supported by variations in the relative abundance of benthonic species which constitute 10% or more of the foraminiferal populations in most of the horizons, but decrease to less than 1% in many layers. Radiolarians are common to abundant, and poorly to well preserved, in the upper Miocene through Pleistocene and in the Paleogene. They dominate the coarse fractions of lower Oligocene and upper Eocene sediments, but are absent in the lower and middle Miocene. Diatoms are common and well to moderately preserved in the upper 15 meters, but absent below. Fish remains are common in middle and lower Miocene and uppermost Oligocene sediments where calcium carbonate dissolution is pronounced and diluting components have been dissolved.

At Site 237 nannofossils are common throughout the sequence, well preserved in the Quaternary and Pliocene, and moderately preserved below. Secondary overgrowth increases toward the bottom of the section in the lower Paleocene. Foraminifera are abundant and well preserved in upper Neogene sediments and are common and poorly to moderately preserved in the lower Miocene, Oligocene, and upper and middle Eocene. In lower Eocene and Paleocene sediments, foraminiferal tests are often recrystallized and silicified, particularly in the lower part of the section. Planktonic species dominate the foraminiferal assemblages; benthonic species do not exceed 1% of the foraminiferal population except in some Paleocene horizons.

Calcareous nannoplankton is well to moderately well preserved throughout the section at Site 238. Foraminiferal preservation is similarly good throughout the late Neogene, although in some horizons they show a high degree of fragmentation. In older sediments foraminifera are moderately well preserved and less diversified, but show a lower degree of fragmentation; they are often of small size. Radiolarians are common to abundant and moderately to well preserved in the middle Miocene through Pleistocene sequence, but are absent below. Diatoms are common to abundant in the upper Miocene through Pleistocene section and are absent below; they are moderately to well preserved in the upper 215 meters and moderately to poorly preserved in the 215-293 meter interval.

# Stratigraphic Boundaries and Accumulation Rates

# Site 236 (Figure 10)

The Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary was placed at the extinction of *Discoaster brouweri* about 3 meters below the initial appearance of *Globorotalia truncatulinoides* and the top of *Pterocanium prismatium*. The early/late Pliocene boundary based on foraminiferal data would lie in the upper part of Core 5, whereas the nannofossil evidence suggests that it should be placed between Core 3, Section 3 and Core 4, Section 1. The latter interpretation implies condensation of the late Pliocene. Because of this discrepancy between floral and faunal calcareous zonations and because reworking of older radiolarians and planktonic foraminifera is common in Pliocene assemblages, the late and early Pliocene were not differentiated.

The Miocene/Pliocene boundary was placed at the base of the N18, between the *Ceratolithus rugosus* and *C. tricorniculatus* zones. The *C. acutus* Zone was not recognized at this site. The middle/late Miocene boundary was placed at the *Discoaster bellus/D. hamatus* zonal boundary, although this level falls within N13. The boundary based on foraminiferal data, therefore, would lie slightly higher (between Core 13, Section 6 and Core 15, Section 3). A similar discrepancy was observed at Site 231 in the Gulf of Aden (Figure 5).

In contrast to upper Neogene (middle Miocene through Pleistocene) sediments, which accumulated at an average rate of 11.3 m/m.y., the lower Miocene, Oligocene, and upper Eocene series are very condensed. These accumulated at an average rate of 3.6 m/m.y. Within that interval, epoch boundaries were placed on nannofossil data. These determinations are in good agreement with foraminiferal data, although precise foraminiferal boundary definitions were impossible in a number of intervals with mixed faunas.

A lacuna representing the entire middle Eocene occurs between Cores 28 and 29 (between the *Discoaster barbadien*sis and *D. sublodoensis* zones), and another hiatus of approximately 5 m.y. spans the Paleocene/Eocene boundary (*Discoaster lodoensis/D. multiradiatus* zones and P4/P7). The age of the oldest sediment immediately overlying basement at 305 meters is 57-58 m.y. B.P. (P4 and *Discoaster mohleri* zones). Lower Eocene sediments accumulated at approximately 12.6 m/m.y., while upper Paleocene sediments accumulated at a slower rate - 5.3 m/m.y.

Faunal assemblages of many horizons at this site include reworked older elements (radiolarians and foraminifera), often in such high proportions as to obscure the autochtonous component. This significant amount of reworking is likely related to the displacement of the coarse-grained ooze layers into the fine-grained autochtonous ooze.

#### Site 237 (Figure 11)

The Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary is not well defined because of an unrecovered interval near the boundary. *Globorotalia truncatulinoides* first occurs in Sample 3, CC, and the boundary was therefore drawn between Cores 3 and 4 (approximately 25 m) below the unrecovered interval. The boundary as so defined implies the absence of the uppermost Pliocene. If the presence of *G. truncatulinoides*  in Sample 3, CC is due to downhole contamination, however, and if a constant sedimentation rate is assumed for the Pleistocene and late Pliocene, then the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary would lie at about 18 meters.

The early/late Pliocene boundary was placed at the base of N21 and the Discoaster tamalis Zone and the Miocene/ Pliocene boundary at the base of the Ceratolithus acutus Zone, which approximates the base of N18. The middle/ late Miocene boundary, set at the Discoaster bellus/D. hamatus boundary, falls within an interval of mixed foraminiferal faunas bounded by assemblages of N17 and N13 age. A slight discrepancy between the foraminiferal and nannofossil zonations in the middle Miocene is shown by the lower sedimentation rate curve drawn on the basis on foraminifera. A similar discrepancy was found at Site 238 (Figure 12). The early/middle Miocene boundary drawn between the Sphenolithus heteromorphus and Helicopontosphaera ampliaperta zones, lies between foraminiferal Zones N13 and N6. (Intermediate foraminiferal zones were not recognized but may be condensed between Core 17, Section 5 and Core 18, Section 2.)

A change in sedimentary regime, similar to that observed at Site 236, occurs at the early/middle Miocene boundary. Upper Neogene sediments accumulated at an average rate of 11.3 m/m.y., a value identical to the average rate at Site 236 for the same interval, while lower Miocene, Oligocene, and upper Eocene sequences are very condensed. The latter accumulated at an average rate of only 2 m/m.y. The Oligocene and upper Eocene series are especially condensed (1.4 m/m.y. average), and a number of fossil zones in this interval were not observed.

The Oligocene/Miocene boundary was placed between the *Discoaster druggii* and *Reticulofenestra abisecta* zones; the foraminiferal zonation, however, indicates that the boundary should be placed somewhat higher. Below this level good agreement was found between foraminiferal and nannofossil zonations.

The late Eocene is extremely condensed and was recognized only in the lower part of Core 23. The early/middle Eocene boundary was placed between the *Chiasmolithus* gigas and *Discoaster sublodoensis* zones, within an undifferentiated P10-P9 interval, and between the *Theocampe* mongolfieri and Buryella clinata radiolarian zones at about 320 meters (on the basis of sedimentation rates). The Paleocene/Eocene boundary, within the Bekoma bidarfensis radiolarian Zone,<sup>2</sup> lies within an unrecovered interval, and on the basis of sedimentation rates falls at about 354 meters.

Between 43 and 49 m.y. B.P. (middle Eocene) and 53.5 and 57.6 m.y. B.P. (latest Paleocene, younger than the *Discoaster mohleri/Heliolithus kleinpelli* zonal boundary), sediments accumulated at an average rate of 17.4 m/m.y. and 11.1 m/m.y., respectively, while between 49 and 53.5 m.y. B.P. lower Eocene sediments accumulated at a reduced rate of 7.5 m/m.y. A higher rate of 68.2 m/m.y. was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The author spent part of her life near the town of Bidart (southern France) from which the name *Bekoma bidarfensis* Riedel and Sanfilippo (1971) was derived, and would like to point out the *lapsus calami* involved in this species name.

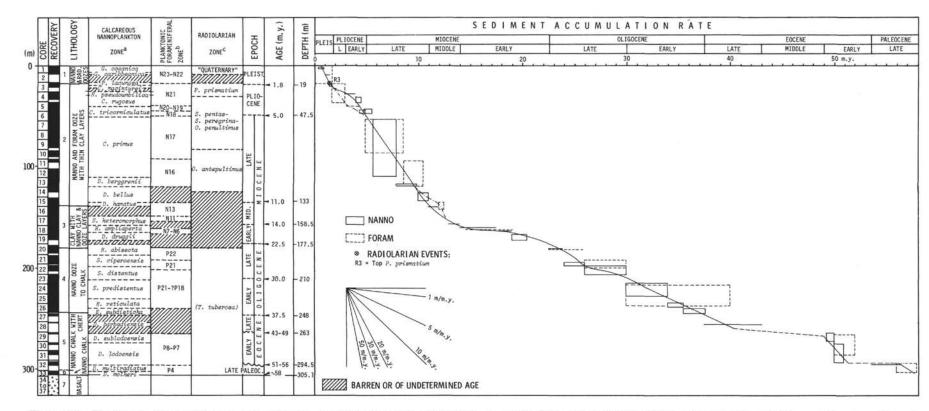


Figure 10. Planktonic biostratigraphy and sediment accumulation rate at Site 236. a = Roth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation; b = Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume); Heiman, Frerichs, and Vincent (this volume); c = Sanfilippo and Riedel (this volume).

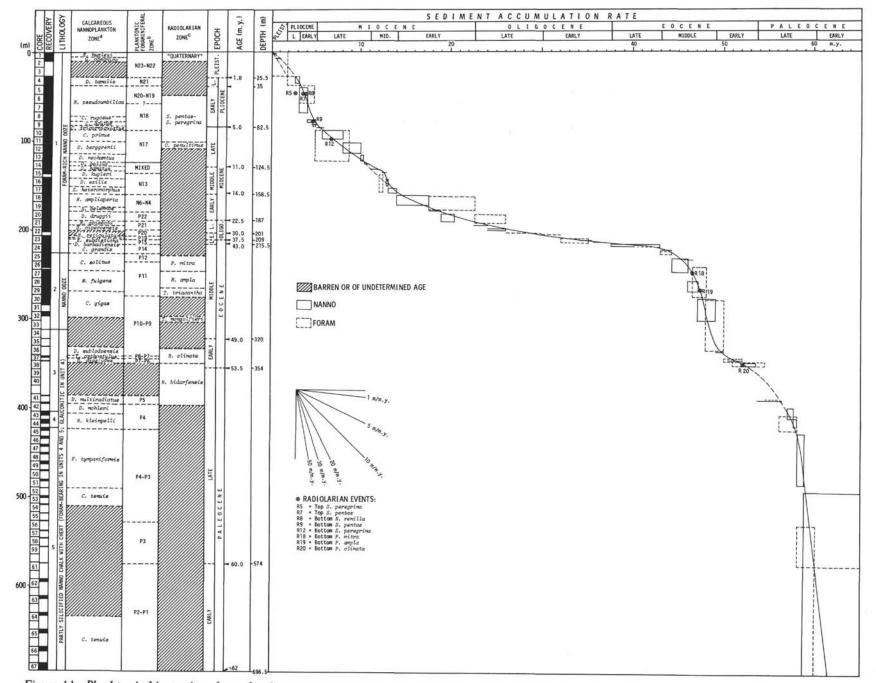


Figure 11. Planktonic biostratigraphy and sediment accumulation rate at Site 237. a = Roth (this volume); b = Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume); Heiman, Frerichs, and Vincent (this volume); Vincent, Gibson, and Brun (this volume).

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determined for the early late Paleocene (between 57.6 and 60 m.y., between the *D. mohleri/H. kleinpelli* and the P3/P2 boundaries).

The hole was terminated at 696.5 meters in sediments of early Paleocene age (*Cruciplacolithus tenuis* Zone and P1). If the accumulation rate of 68.2 m/m.y. remained constant during the early Paleocene, then sediments at the bottom of the hole are approximately 62 m.y. old. If it is also assumed that about 100 meters of additional sediments are present between hole bottom and the igneous basement (Chapter 8, this volume), the age of the sediment/basement contact is approximately 63 m.y. B.P. (early Paleocene).

### Site 238 (Figure 12)

The top of the sedimentary sequence (Core 1, Sections 1 to 4) includes mixed modern and reworked early Pleistocene and Pliocene faunas. The Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary is not well defined because an interval (between Core 4, Section 1 and Core 7, Section 1) with reworked sediments occurs at the boundary. The displaced material, which includes lower Pliocene and lower upper Pliocene microfossils (nannofossils, foraminifera, and radiolarians), is more probably reworked into younger Pliocene than into Pleistocene sediments because the Pleistocene species Globorotalia truncatulinoides, Lamprocyrtis haysi, and Pterocorvs hertwigii are absent in this interval. The Pliocene/ Pleistocene boundary was therefore placed at the lowest occurrence of G. truncatulinoides, just above the reworked interval at about 38 meters (upper Core 4), a level slightly below the extinction horizon of Pterocanium prismatium. Some of the data, however, conflict with this interpretation. The first appearance of the radiolarian Theocorythium trachelium, which at other Leg 24 sites approximates the extinction level of P. prismatium, occurs considerably lower here (Core 11, Section 1). Early Pleistocene calcareous nannoplankton occurs in Core 6, Section 2 below the boundary (Bukry, this volume), and the diatom species Pseudoeunotia doliolus, known to evolve at the Pliocene/ Pleistocene boundary in the Pacific Ocean (Burckle, 1969; Schrader, 1973), first occurs here below the boundary (Core 6, Section 4). The diatom event, however, appears to be unreliable in the tropical Indian Ocean, because it occurs at different levels compared to radiolarian events (see discussion below).

The early/late Pliocene boundary, placed at the base of the Discoaster tamalis Zone, lies within N20-N19, and the Spongaster pentas and TID 10 zones; the Miocene/Pliocene boundary, at the base of N18 and the Ceratolithus acutus Zone is located within the Stichocorys peregrina and TID 13 zones. The early/late Miocene boundary, placed below the Discoaster bellus Zone, approximates the Ommatartus antepenultimus/Cannartus pettersoni Zone boundary and the base of TID 21 (within an interval of mixed foraminiferal faunas of questionable N17 age).

Slight discrepancies were observed between the nannofossil and foraminiferal zonations below the upper Miocene. Because of the dissolution of foraminiferal zonal markers in this part of the section, boundaries were drawn on nannofossil data. The early/middle Miocene was placed at the base of the *Sphenolithus heteromorphus* Zone, somewhat lower than is indicated by the foraminiferal and radiolarian zonations. The Oligocene/Miocene boundary was drawn at the base of the *Triquetrorhabdulus carinatus* Zone; the foraminiferal zonation, however, indicated that the boundary should be placed somewhat lower in the section. The sediments just above the basalt are latest early Oligocene in age (*S. predistentus* and P19 zones), approximately 32 m.y. old.

Sediment accumulation rates are higher at Site 238 than at Sites 236 and 237 for the equivalent intervals. They show, however, a similar change at the early/middle Miocene boundary. Sediments younger than 14 m.y. in age accumulated at an average rate of 25.9 m/m.y. (a higher late Pliocene value of 44.6 m/m.y. results from the influx of displaced sediments at this time), while lower Miocene and Oligocene sediments accumulated only one-third as rapidly, at an average rate of 8.7 m/m.y.

# **REMARKS ON RADIOLARIAN EVENTS**

Sedimentation rates for the expanded hemipelagic sequences at Sites 232 and 233 serve as the basis for the age estimate of late Neogene horizons in this region. *Pterocanium prismatium* became extinct about one-half m.y. later than *Discoaster brouweri* in the Gulf of Aden, while *Pterocorys hertwigii* and *Lamprocyrtis haysi* first appeared slightly later, at approximately 0.8-0.9 m.y. B.P. These three radiolarian events occur in the same sequential order at Sites 235 and 238 as in the Gulf of Aden; in the equatorial Pacific, however, they do not occur consistently in the same sequential order. With these exceptions, there is good agreement (Table 4, and Figures 5 to 12) between the successions of Neogene radiolarian events in the tropical Indian Ocean and the equatorial Pacific.

As a result of displacement or reworking, a number of events occur out of their usual sequence at several sites of Leg 24. Stichocorys peregrina is probably reworked into younger sediments at Site 232, and the highest occurrence of this species seems to be too young to mark the *Pterocanium prismatium/Spongaster pentas* zonal boundary at this site. Reworking here is also indicated by the presence of the late Miocene form *Stichocorys delmontensis* in Pliocene assemblages. The oldest occurrence of *Spongaster pentas* is lower at both Sites 232 and 238 than its known evolutionary appearance elsewhere; this species ranges below the base of *Pterocanium prismatium* and overlaps *Ommatartus antepenultimus* at Site 232, and ranges lower than *Acrobotrys tritubus* at Site 238.

Among the radiolarian events which occur within the Spongaster pentas Zone the extinction level of Pterocanium audax, at about 3.2-3.5 m.y.B.P., occurs very slightly above the extinction of Spongaster pentas, and appears to be a reliable biostratigraphic event, while the earliest occurrence of Nephrospyris renilla appears to vary in time. Biostratigraphic results at Site 237 indicate that the Bekoma bidarfensis Zone spans the Paleocene/Eocene boundary.

# REMARKS ON TROPICAL INDIAN OCEAN DIATOM ZONATION

The late Neogene diatom stratigraphy of the tropical Indian Ocean has been studied by Schrader (this volume) at Sites 238, 213, and 215. The last two sites, which are located on either side of the Ninetyeast Ridge (Figure 13) below the present CCD, received pelagic siliceous ooze

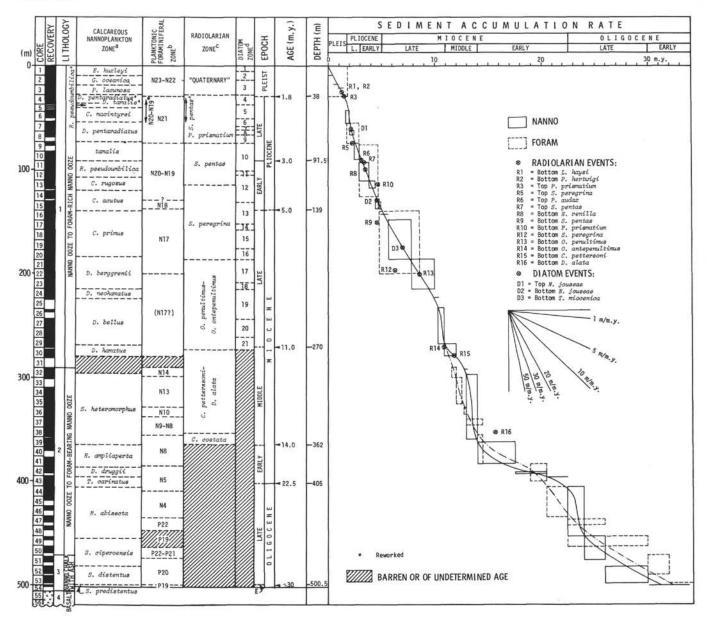


Figure 12. Planktonic biostratigraphy and sediment accumulation rate at Site 238. a = Roth (this volume); b = Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume); Heiman, Vincent, and Frerichs (this volume); c = Sanfilippo and Riedel (this volume); d = Schrader (this volume).

during Pliocene and Pleistocene time which accumulated at an average rate of 10 m/m.y. Schrader's sequence of tropical Indian Ocean Diatom (TID) zones is similar to that of Burckle (1972) for the equatorial Pacific, which has been calibrated to the paleomagnetic stratigraphy sequence (Hays et al., 1969; Burckle, 1972), but his TID zones are shorter and hence more numerous.

In order to evaluate the biostratigraphic reliability of diatoms events in the tropical Indian Ocean, the diatom zonation of Sites 238, 213, and 215 has been compared with the radiolarian zonations recognized at these sites and with the calcareous plankton zonation of Site 238 (Figure 14, Table 4). The TID zones have also been compared with the NPD (North Pacific Ocean Diatom) zones defined by Schrader (1973) in the northeast Pacific and with their correlative calcareous plankton zones (Ingle, 1973; Bukry, 1973).

The TID 5/TID 6 boundary is defined by the evolutionary appearance of *Pseudoeunotia doliolus*, an event which in the Pacific approximates the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary (base of the *P. doliolus* Zone of Burckle and of the NPD 4). Burckle (1969) showed that the lowest appearance of *P. doliolus* occurs during the Olduvai paleomagnetic event, approximately 1.7 to 1.8 m.y. in age, and Hays et al. (1969) noted that the radiolarian *Pterocanium prismatium* disappears just above the Olduvai event. In the Indian Ocean, however, *Pseudocunotia doliolus* first appears 4 meters above the last occurrence of *Pterocanium prismatium* at

TABLE 4 Position of the Observed Neogene Radiolarian Zonal Boundaries and Selected Events Within Cores and Within Other Microfossil Zones at Various DSDP Sites in the Indian and Pacific Oceans

					Leg 24			Leg 24	L	eg 23				Leg 24		
				Site 232		Site 2	233	Site 233	Sit	e 223		Site 23	5		Site	237
Radiolarian Zonal Boundaries a Selected Radiolarian Events <sup>8</sup> , <sup>1</sup>	nd	Age (m.y.) <sup>c</sup>	Corede	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>f</sup>	Zone <sup>g</sup>	Cored.e	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>f</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>g</sup>	Cored.h	Nannofossil Zone <sup>1</sup>	Cored.e	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>f</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>g</sup>	Cored.e	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>f</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>g</sup>
Bottom Lamprocyrtis haysi	R1		4.6-5.3	N23-N22	early G. oceanica	4-3 to 5-6	N21	G. caribbeanica			4-1 to 5-1		P. lacunosa- C. macintyrei			
Bottom Pterocorys hertwigi	R2					5-6 to 7-5	N21	G. caribbeanica- P. lacunosa			4-4 to 5-1	N23-N22	P. lacunosa- C. macintyrei	2-1 to 4-1	N23-N22	G. oceanica to D. tamalis
"Quaternary"/Pterocanium prismatium zone bdry	R3	1.6-1.7	5-3 to 8-3	N22-N21	G. oceanica to P. lacunosa	5-6 to 7-5	N21	G. caribbeanica- P. lacunosa	3, CC to 4-2	G. caribbeanica to D. pentaradiatus	5-1 to 5-6	N23-N22	C. macintyrei to D. tamalis			
Bottom Theocorythium trachelium	R4		5-3 to 8-3		G. oceanica to P. lacunosa	5-6 to 8-4	N21	Ġ. caribbeanica- P. lacunosa						2-1 to 6-1	N23-N22	G. oceanica to D. tamalis
P. prismatium/Spongaster pentas zone bdry	R5	2.5-2.6	4-6 to 5-3	N23-N22	G. oceanica	16-6 to 18-5	5 N21	D. pentaradiatus	5, CC to 6-2	D. tamalis- D. assymetricus				5-1 to 6-1	N20-N19	R. pseudoumbilica
Top Pterocanium audax	R6		16-3 to 17-3	Late N20-N19	D. tamalis/ R. pseudoumbilica bdry	below 7A-5	N21 or older	D. tamalis or older						5-1 to 6-1	N20-N19	R. pseudoumbilica
Top S. pentas	R7	3.5	17-3 to 18-3	N20-N19	R. pseudoumbilica				4, CC to 5-2	D. pentaradiatus- D. tamalis				5-1 to 6-1	N20-N19	R. pseudoumbilica
Bottom Nephrospyris renilla	R8		15-5 to 16-3	Late N20-N19	D. tamalis	10-6 to 11-6	6 N21	C. macintyrei						6-1 to 8-1	N20-N19	R. pseudoumbilica
Bottom S. pentas	R9	4.5-4.6	19A-1 to 20A-1	N18-N17	C. tricorniculatus/ C. primus bdry				6, CC to 7-2	D. assymetrícus to D. berggrenii				9-1 to 10-1	N18	C. rugosus
S. pentas/Stichocorys peregrina zone bdry	R10	4.8	6A-1 to 7A-1	N20-N19	R. pseudoumbilica				6, CC to 7-2	C. acutus to D. berggrenii						
Top Ommatartus antepenultimus	R11	5.7	18A-2 to 19A-1		Earliest C, tricorniculatus				11-5 to 11-6	D. berggrenii						
S. peregrina/Ommatartus penultimus zone bdry	R12	6.2-6.3	below 21A-2						8, CC to 9-1	D. berggrenii				11-1 to 12-1	N17	C. primus/ D. berggrenii bdry
O. penultimus/O. antepenultimus zone bdry	R13	8.6-8.7							11-6 to 11, CC	D. berggrenii						
O. antepenultimus/cannatartus petterssoni zone bdry	R14	ca 11							18-4 to 18-5	D. neohamatus- D. hamatus						
C. petterssoni/Dorcadospyris alata zone bdry	R15	ca 12														
D. alata/calocycletta costata zone bdry	R16	ca 16														
C. costata/calocycletta virginis zone bdry	R17	ca 18														

<sup>a</sup>Zonation of Riedel and Sanfilippo (1971). bR1, R2...: events as shown on Figures 5 to 12. <sup>c</sup>Theyer and Hammond (1974). <sup>d</sup>Given are the pair of core sections between which events or zone boundaries occur.

<sup>e</sup>Sanfilippo and Riedel (this volume). <sup>f</sup>Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume). gRoth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation.

hNigrini (this volume). <sup>i</sup>Bukry (1974).

# TABLE 4 - Continued

				Leg 24			Leg 22					Leg 22			
				Site 238		Site	215	Site 213	Site 213		Site 2	14		Site 216	
Radiolarian Zonal Boundarie: Selected Radiolarian Events	and a,b	Cored.e	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>f</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>g</sup>	Diatom. Zonel	Cored K Diatom. Zoned K		Diatom. Zonej	Cored.k	Planktonic Foraniniferal Zonel.m	Namofossi Zone <sup>fi</sup>	Cored.k	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>l</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>n</sup>	
Bottom Lamprocyrtis haysi	R1	3-1 to 3-6	N22	G. oceanica to P. lacunosa	TiD 3										
Bottom Pterocorys hertwigi	R2	3-1 to 6-1	N22-N21	G. oceanica to C. macintyrei	TiD 3 to TiD 5										
"Quaternary"/Pterocanium prismatium zone bdry	R3	3-6 to 4-1	N22/N21 bdry	P. lacunosa to D. pentaradiatus	TiD3/ TiD 4 bdry	1-4 to 1-5	TiD 4/ TiD 5 bdry	2-3 to 2-4	TiD 6	2, CC to 3-2	N23-N22	P. lacunosa			
Bottom Theocorythium trachelium	R4	11-1 to 11-6	N20-N19	R. pseudoumbilica	TiD 10	1, CC to 2-1	TiD 1 to TiD 4	3-3 to 3, CC	TiD 7	3-6 to 3, CC	N21	D. browweri			
P. prismatium/Spongaster pentas zone bdry	R5	8-2 to 9-1	N21/N20- N19 bdry	D. pentaradiatus/ D. tamalis bdry	TiD 9	2-1 to 2, CC	earliest TiD 5	3, CC to 4-2	TiD 7/ TiD 8 bdry	5-1 to 5-3	N20-N19	D. Surculus			
Top Pterocanium audax	R6	10-1 to 11-6	N20-N19	D. tamalis	TiD 10										
Top S. pentas	R7		-			3, CC to 4-1	TID 9	4, CC to 5, CC	TID 11	6-2 to 6-4	N20-N19	D. Surculus/ R. pseudoumbilica bdry			
Bottom Nephrospyris renilla	R8	11-6 to 12-1	N20-N19	R. pseudoumbilica	TiD 11										
Bottom S. pentas	R9	17-1 to 17-6	N17	C. primus	TiD 13- TiD 14	4-3 to 4-4	TiD 9/ TiD 10 bdry	6-5 to 6-6	Late TiD 12	8, CC to 9-1	N19	R. pseudoumbilica to C. rugosus			
S. pentas/Stichocorys peregrina zone bdry	R10	13-1 to 13-5	N20-N19	C. rugosus	TiD 12	5-3 to 5, CC	TiD 12/ TiD 13 bdry	7-4 to 7, CC	TiD 13- TiD 14	9-6 to 9, CC	Early N19	C. rugosus			
Top Ommatartus antepenultimus	R11														
S. peregrina/Ommatartus penultimus zone bdry	R12	20-6 to 21-1	N17	D. berggrenii	TiD 16/ TiD 17 bdry					13-3 to 13-5	N17	D. quinqueramus/ D. neohamatus bdry			
O. penultimus/O. antepenultimus zone bdry	R13	22-1 to 22-6	N17	D, berggrenii	TiD 17					14, CC to 15-2	N17 to N16	D. neohamatus	1A, CC to 2A-1	N17	D. neohamatus
O. antepenultimus/canna- tartus petterssoni zone bdry	R14	30-2 to 30-6	N17 to N14	D. lamatus						16, CC to 17-1	N16/N15 bdry	D. neohamatus	2A, CC to 3A-1	N16	D. neohamatus to C. coalitus
C. petterssoni/Dorcadospyris alata zone bdry	R15	30-6 to 32-1	N17 to N14	D. hamatus to D. exilis						18-2 to 18-3	N14	C. coalitus	3A, CC to 4A-2	N14 ? to N13	C. coalitus- D. exilis
D. alata/calocycletta costata zone bdry	R16	38-6	N8	S. heteromorphus									5A-5 to 5A, CC	N9-N8	D. exilis- S. heteromorphus
C. costata/calocycletta virginis zone bdry	R17														

<sup>a</sup>Zonation of Riedel and Sanfilippo (1971). bR1, R2...: events as shown on Figures 5 to 12. dGiven are the pair of core sections between which events or zone boundaries occur. eSanfilippo and Riedel (this volume).

<sup>f</sup>Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume). gRoth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation. JSchrader (this volume). <sup>k</sup>Johnson (1974).

<sup>1</sup>Berggren, Lohmann, and Poore (1974). <sup>m</sup>McGowran (1974). <sup>n</sup>Gartner (1974).

TABLE 4	-Con	tinued
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			Leg 22			Leg 8		Leg 9		Leg 9
			Site 21	7		Site 73	3	Site 77B		Site 77B
Radiolarian Zonal Boundarie Selected Radiolarian Events	s and a,b	Core <sup>d</sup> ,k	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>1</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>n</sup>	Core <sup>d</sup> ,e	Planktonic Foraminifetal Zone <sup>0</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>p</sup>	Cored,e	Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone <sup>q</sup>	Nannofossil Zone <sup>r</sup>
Bottom Lamprocyrtis haysi	R1				4-2 to 4-6	N21	C. macintyrei to C. rugosus	2-6 to 3-1	N22/ N21 bdry	G. doronicoides- C. macintyrei
Bottom Pterocorys hertwigi	R2				3-6 to 4-2	N21	G. dioronicoides	2-6 to 3-1	N22/N21 bdry	G. doronicoides- C. macintyrei
"Quaternary"/Pterocanium prismatium zone bdry	R3				3-4 to 3-6	N22/ N21 bdry	G. doronicoides	2-6 to 3-1	N22/N21 bdry	G. doronicoides- C. macintyrei
Bottom Theocorythium trachelium	R4				3-6 to 4-2	N21	G. doronicoides	3-1 to 3-3	N21	C. macintyrei
P. prismatium/Spongaster pentas zone bdry	R5				5-3 to 5-6	N21/N20- N19 bdry	C. macintyrei to C. rugosus	3-3 to 3-5	N21	C. macintyrei- D. pentaradiatus
Top Pterocanium audax	R6				6-1 to 6-3	N20-N19	C. macintyrei to C. rugosus	4-3 to 4-6	N21	D. pentaradiatus
Top S. pentas	R7				5-6 to 6-1	N20-N19	C. macintyrei to C. rugosus	4-3 to 5-1	N21	D. pentaradiatus to D. assymetricus
Bottom Nephrospyris renilla	R8				7-3 to 7-6	N20-N19/ N18 bdry	C. rugosus to C. tricorniculatus	7-1 to 7-2	N20-N19	S. neoabies- C. rugosus
Bottom S. pentas	R9				below 8-4	N18 or below	C. tricorniculatus or below	9-4 to 9-6	N17	C. tricorniculatus
S. pentas/Stichocorys peregrina zone bdry	R10									
Top Ommatartus antepenultimus	R11									
S. peregrina/Ommatartus penultimus zone bdry	R12	3-1 to 3, CC	N17 to N16	D. quinqueramus						
O. penultimus/O. antepenultimus zone bdry	R13	3, CC-4, CC	N16 to N5	D. quinqueramus- D. neohamatus						
O. antepenultimus/canna- tartus petterssoni zone bdry	R14									
C. petterssoni/Dorcadospyris alata zone bdry	R15									
D. alata/calocycletta costata zone bdry	R16									
C. costata/calocycletta virginis zone bdry	R17									

aZonation of Riedel and Sanfilippo (1971). bR1, R2...: events as shown on Figures 5 to 12. dGiven are the pair of core sections between which events or zone boundaries occur. eSanfilippo and Riedel (this volume).

kJohnson (1974). IBerggren, Lohmann, and Poore (1974). nBarther (1974). OBeckmann (1971). PBukry (1971).

<sup>q</sup>Jenkins and Orr (1972). <sup>r</sup>Bukry (1972).

CENOZOIC PLANKTONIC BIOSTRATIGRAPHY AND PALEOCEANOGRAPHY OF THE TROPICAL WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

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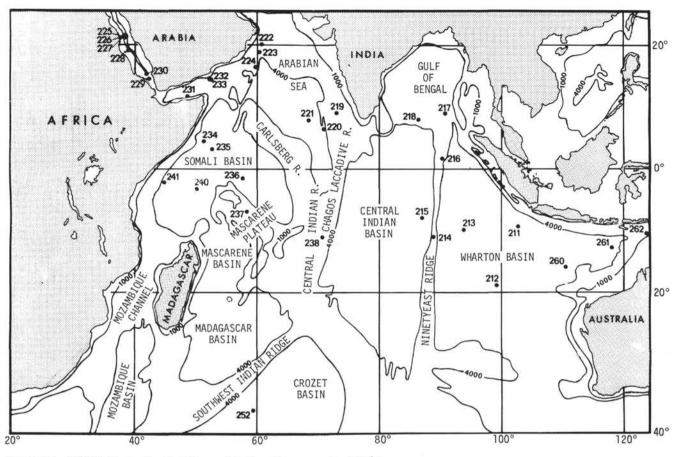


Figure 13. DSDP sites in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean north of 20°S.

Site 213, but well below it (11 and 22 m, respectively) at Sites 215 and 238.

The TID 7/TID 8 boundary is defined by the extinction of Nitzschia jouseae. This event falls within the middle part of the Rhizosolenia praebergonii Zone of Burckle(1972), in the middle Gauss Magnetic Epoch (about 2.4 m.y. B.P.). It should therefore approximate the Stichocorys peregrina extinction datum (P. prismatium/Spongaster pentas Zone boundary), one of the most reliable late Pliocene datum planes, which occurs consistently in the latest Gauss (Theyer and Hammond, 1974). The base of TID 7 correlates with the P. prismatium/S. pentas Zone boundary at Site 213, but is slightly older at Site 215 and slightly younger at Site 238. The TID 7/TID 8 boundary, equivalent to the NPD 7/NPD 8 boundary, falls within the Discoaster brouweri nannofossil Zone in both the Indian and northeast Pacific oceans, but occurs within N21 at Site 238 and within N20-N19 at Site 173.

The TID 12/TID 13 boundary is defined by the first appearance of *Nitzschia jouseae*, an event which also defines the base of the *N. jouseae* Zone of Burckle (1972) and correlates with the " $c_1$ " event of the Gilbert reversed Epoch, approximately 4.3 m.y. B.P. This boundary should therefore occur just above the *S. pentas* first appearance datum (within the early *S. pentas* Zone of Riedel and Sanfilippo), which correlates with the Gilbert " $c_2$ " event, 4.5.4.6 m.y. in age (Theyer and Hammond, 1974), and fall slightly above the Miocene/Pliocene boundary, approximately 5 m.y. B.P. (Berggren and Van Couvering, 1974). In fact, the TID 12/TID 13 boundary lies 5 and 9 meters below the *S. pentas* datum at Sites 213 and 215, respectively (Johnson, 1974). At Site 238 this diatom event is located even lower, below the *S. pentas* Zone, but radiolarians events here may be biostratigraphically unreliable; the *S. pentas/S. peregrina* Zone boundary occurs above the Miocene/Pliocene boundary as defined by calcareous plankton events, and *S. pentas* first appears in the late Miocene. The base of TID 12 at Site 238 is located slightly above the base of N18 and the *Ceratolithus acutus* Zone, the Miocene/ Pliocene boundary as recognized here. The TID 12/TID 13 and the NPD 10/NPD 11 boundaries are equivalent and the latter also approximates the base of N18.

The TID 15/TID 16 boundary (first appearance of *Thalassiosira miocenica*) is correlative with the base of Burckle's *T. convexa* Zone, which occurs late in magnetic Epoch 6 (approximately 6.2 m.y.; Berggren and Van Couvering, 1974). This horizon should therefore approximate the evolutionary appearance of *Stichocorys peregrina* at the base of the *S. peregrina* Zone (Theyer and Hammond, 1974). At Site 238 the base of TID 15 lies slightly above the *S. peregrina/O. penultimus* Zone boundary. It also falls within N17 and the *Ceratolithus primus* Zone. This diatom boundary appears to occur at a lower biostratigraphic position in the northeast Pacific than in the Indian Ocean. At

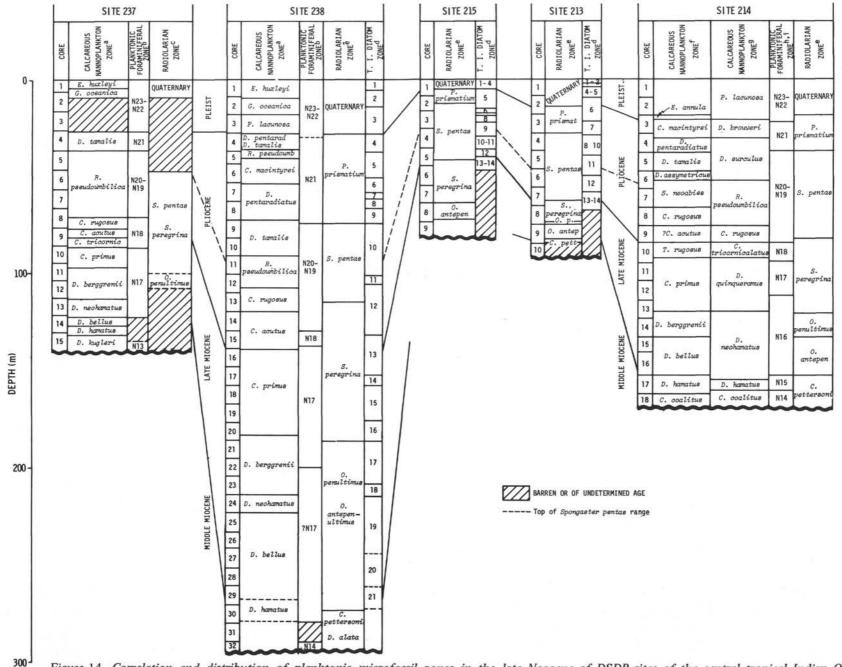


Figure 14. Correlation and distribution of planktonic microfossil zones in the late Neogene of DSDP sites of the central tropical Indian Ocean. See Figure 13 for site location. a = Roth (this volume); Bukry (this volume), using Roth's zonation; b = Vincent, Frerichs, and Heiman (this volume); c = Sanfilippo and Riedel (this volume); d = Schrader (this volume); e = Johnson (1974); f = Bukry (1974); g = Gartner (1974); h = Berggren, Lohman, and Poore (1974); i = McGowran (1974).

1135

Site 173 the base of NPD 12 (equivalent to the base of TID 15) lies near the N17/N16 boundary and within the *Discoaster variabilis* Zone, a cool-water zone which covers the interval equivalent to the *D. exilis* through *D. neohamatus* zones of tropical regions (D. Bukry, personal communication).

The TID 19/TID 20 boundary, correlative with the base of the *Nitzschia porteri* Zone of Burckle (1972), is defined by the extinction level of *Coscinodiscus yabei* and falls in the middle part of magnetic Epoch 8 (approximately 8.3-8.4 m.y. B.P.). At Site 238 the TID 19/TID 20 boundary lies within the *Ommatartus antepenultimus* (radiolarian) and *Discoaster bellus* (nannofossil) zones and co-occurs with a foraminiferal fauna of indeterminate but probably pre-N17 age. This level is earlier than the biostratigraphic position (early *O. penultimus*, NN11, and early N17) reported to correlate with the extinction level of *C. yabei* in the equatorial Pacific by Berggren and Van Couvering (1974, their fig. 3). A similar discrepancy was noted in the northeast Pacific, where the NPD 16/NPD 17 boundary is equivalent to the TID 19/TID 20 boundary.

The base of TID 21 is placed at the highest appearance of *Denticula hustedtii*, slightly above the last occurrence of *Coscinodiscus temperei*. TID 21 is correlative to Burckle's (1972) *C. yabei* Zone, whose base was not defined. The base of TID 21 at Site 238 approximates the *Discoaster bellus/D. hamatus* and *Ommatartus antepenultimus/Cannartus pettersoni* Zone boundaries and in turn the late/ middle Miocene boundary within magnetic Epoch 10 (approximately 11 m.y. B.P.; Berggren and Van Couvering, 1974). This diatom event is equivalent to the NPD 18/NPD 19 boundary, which, however, falls within calcareous plankton zones (*Sphenolithus heteromorphus* and N12) older than those associated with the base of TID 21 at Site 238.

In conclusion, the biostratigraphic position of a number of the TID zone boundaries varies from site to site (Figure 11). The locations of some of these boundaries, however, are consistent when compared to the evolutionary sequences of other microfossil groups. The TID zonal boundaries which appear most reliable are indicated in Figure 3.

The Pleistocene/Pliocene boundary is not well marked by diatom events in the tropical Indian Ocean. The youngest appearance of the radiolarian *Pterocanium prismatium*, one of the criteria defining this horizon, occurs at the TID 3/TID 4 boundary at Site 238, at the TID 4/TID 5 boundary at Site 215, and within TID 6 at Site 213. *Pseudoeunotia doliolus*, a species known to evolve during the Olduvai event in the equatorial Pacific, first appears in the tropical Indian Ocean either above or below the Pliocene/ Pleistocene boundary as defined by other fossil groups.

The Pliocene/Miocene boundary, which approximates the *Stichocorys pentas/S. peregrina* radiolarian Zone boundary, lies within TID 13 (undifferentiated TID 13/TID 14 at Sites 213 and 215), slightly below the TID 12/TID 13 boundary. The late/middle Miocene boundary correlates with the base of TID 21, but the equivalent NPD level is within the middle Miocene in the northeast Pacific.

# CONCLUSIONS ON EPOCH BOUNDARIES

A number of paleontological events which are closely associated with the Olduvai normal paleomagnetic event

(Gilsa event of Cox, 1969), approximately 1.7-1.8 m.y. B.P., have been used as criteria for defining the Pliocene/ Pleistocene boundary. These include the extinctions of the nannofossil genus Discoaster (in the form of D. brouweri), and the radiolarian Pterocanium prismatium and the evolutionary appearances of the foraminiferal species Globorotalia truncatulinoides and the diatom Pseudoeunotia doliolus (Ericson et al., 1963; Banner and Blow, 1965; Berggren et al., 1967; Glass et al., 1967, Burckle, 1969; Hays and Berggren, 1971). These events, however, are not simultaneous. It has been noted that Discoaster brouweri became extinct, and Pseudoeunotia doliolus appeared during the Olduvai event, while the Pterocanium prismatium extinction and Globorotalia truncatulinoides appearance occurred just after the Olduvai event (Burckle, 1969; Hays et al., 1969). The youngest occurrence of Discoaster brouweri has been used in this report to define the Pliocene/ Pleistocene boundary. In the deep-sea pelagic calcareous sequences of the tropical Indian ocean, such as those at Sites 214 and 236, the youngest occurrence of Discoaster and Pterocanium prismatium and the oldest occurrence of G. truncatulinoides are no more than a few meters apart, while in the expanded hemipelagic sections of the Gulf of Aden these events are separated by up to 60 meters. Pseudoeunotia doliolus was found to be of no value in defining the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary in the tropical Indian Ocean because the level of its first appearance varies with respect to the boundary as defined by other fossil groups.

The biostratigraphic value of the Globorotalia truncatulinoides evolutionary appearance may be questionable, as it has been suggested that the earliest appearance of this species is not simultaneous in various water masses (Kaneps, 1970, 1973; Kennett, 1973; Kennett and Gietzenauer, 1969; Theyer, 1973). Further difficulty in using this datum results from the application of differing interpretations of the "first appearance" of G. truncatulinoides. Some workers have placed this event at the first common occurrence of this species and others at the first appearance of isolated specimens. At the central western Indian Ocean sites of Leg 24, where the sedimentation rate is slow, G. truncatulinoides is common at the horizon of its first appearance. At the Gulf of Aden sites, in contrast, where rapid sedimentation has produced an expanded stratigraphic section, this species occurs as rare and isolated specimens for up to 60 meters below the level at which it becomes common.

The Miocene/Pliocene boundary in the Mediterranean has been correlated with the first occurrence of the nannofossil *Ceratolithus acutus*<sup>3</sup> (Bukry, 1971a). This event, which coincides with the evolutionary appearance of *Globorotalia tumida tumida* (base of N18), is within the lowermost reversed interval of the Gilbert paleomagnetic epoch, approximately 4.9 m.y. B.P. (Gartner, 1973; Saito

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Ceratolithus armatus Müller, 1974, is a senior subjective synonym of C. acutus Gartner and Bukry, in press (Bukry, personal communication). The latter taxon was a nomen nudum at the time of publication of Müller's report. This species has been referred by Gartner (1973) to C. sp., and by many authors, incorrectly, to C. amplificus. The C. acutus Subzone of Bukry (1974) and C. acutus Zone of Roth (this volume) should, therefore, be changed to the C. armatus Subzone and Zone.

et al., in press). On the basis of these data, Berggren and Van Couvering (1974) placed the Miocene/Pliocene boundary at 5 m.y. The first appearance of *Pterocanium prismatium* and thus the *Spongaster pentas/Stichocorys peregrina* Zone boundary (as defined by Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970) lies at or very near this horizon (Berggren and Van Couvering, 1974; Theyer and Hammond, 1974). Good agreement for the definition of the Miocene/Pliocene boundary was found among the various fossil groups in the tropical western Indian Ocean.

Discrepancies were found between nannofossil and foraminiferal zonations in locating the middle/late Miocene boundary. The foraminiferal zonation indicates a higher stratigraphic position for this horizon at Sites 231 and 236 than indicated by nannofossils, and a lower position at Sites 237 and 238. This inconsistency suggests that the discrepancy is not due to a relationship of the fossil zones to the time scale different from that indicated in Figure 3, but rather to contemporaneous faunal mixing and sediment reworking. An interval with mixed middle and upper Miocene foraminiferal faunas spans the boundary at all sites. The higher of the alternative sedimentation rate curves for the middle Miocene interval (Figures 5, 10, 11, and 12) indicates a decrease in sedimentation rate at about 12 m.y. B.P. Sediments accumulated only one-third as rapidly in the later part of the middle Miocene as in the early part. An increase in bottom water circulation was probably responsible for a period of nondeposition or of reworking in the whole western Indian Ocean at that time. Similar redeposition was noted above an unconformity spanning the middle/late Miocene boundary in the adjacent Arabian Sea (Fleisher, 1974).

The early Miocene, Oligocene, and late Eocene are not well suited for detailed biostratigraphic investigation because the sequence is condensed and the preservation of foraminiferal faunas is poor. Discrepancies were found between nannofossil and foraminiferal determinations of the Oligocene/Miocene boundary, which was arbitrarily based on nannofossil data. Dissolution is significant in the condensed series at Sites 236 and 237. In the more expanded section, with better preservation, at Site 238, base of foraminiferal Zone N4 (Globigerinoides datum) is somewhat lower than the Oligocene/Miocene boundary of the nannofossil zonation (base of the Triquetrorhabdulus carinatus Zone of Roth). This observation is consistent with recent reports that Globigerinoides probably evolved earlier than the stratigraphic horizon indicated by Blow (1969). Blow correlated the base of Zone N4, defined by the evolutionary appearance of G. primordius (the Globigerinoides datum), with the base of the Aquitanian, the lowermost stage of the Miocene. The Aquitanian stratotype, however, rests on a transgressive unconformity; in more complete stratigraphic sections in the Aquitanian Basin, the Globigerinoides datum occurs well below the level of the base of the stratotype (Anglada 1971; Scott, 1972). In Puerto Rico, Globigerinoides primordius has been observed to appear before Globorotalia kugleri (Seiglie, 1973), and in Barbados the Globigerinoides datum is equivalent to a level in the Sphenolithus ciperoensis (NP 25) nannofossil Zone (Lohman, personal communication).

An interval of slow or nondeposition spanning the Paleocene/Eocene boundary at Sites 236 and 237 precluded a detailed biostratigraphic investigation of the latter. Correlation of epoch boundaries between Leg 24 sites is shown in Figure 15.

# COMPARISON BETWEEN THE MAGNETIC AND BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC AGE OF SEDIMENT-BASEMENT CONTACTS

The relationship between basement depth and age is illustrated in Figure 16; none of the Leg 24 sites at which basement was reached fits well with the theoretical curve of Sclater et al. (1971). Only Site 236 was drilled on identifiable magnetic anomalies (Figure 17), approximately 60 miles north of Anomaly 28 (67.7-68.5 m.y. B.P.; Heirtzler et al., 1968) as identified by McKenzie and Sclater (1971). Extrapolation of a spreading (half) rate of 6.5 cm/yr, as proposed by these authors, indicates that the site lies near Anomaly 27 (66.6-67.1 m.y.). In contrast, faunal evidences suggest a considerably younger basement; the sediment directly above the basalt contains fossils attributable to the Discoaster mohleri nannofossil Zone of Roth (1973) and Bukry (1974), and to the early Planorotalites pseudomenardii (P4) foraminiferal Zone (57-58 m.y. B.P.; Berggren, 1972). A similar discrepancy has been noted at all DSDP sites which have been drilled on or close to wellidentified magnetic anomalies, and at which a good contact between basement and Paleocene or early Eocene basal sediments has been observed. These include Sites 213 and 245 in the Indian Ocean, Site 19 in the Atlantic, and Sites 38 and 39 in the Pacific. The biostratigraphic age at all these sites is 5-7 m.y. less than the magnetic age. It has thus been suggested that the Heirtzler et al. (1968) paleomagnetic scale should be adjusted and ages reduced by a factor of about 7% for the early Cenozoic (Schlich, 1974; Sclater et al., 1974). The magnetic age at Site 236 would thus be 62-63 m.y. The discrepancy with the biostratigraphic age is still substantial, suggesting a depositional hiatus between basement and the basal sediment (within Core 33) at Site 236.

Magnetic lineations in the area of Site 236 are associated with the Carlsberg Ridge, or a proto-Carlsberg Ridge, the postulated spreading center responsible for the separation of the Seychelles block from India. Results from Site 236 incorporating the adjustment of the magnetic time scale indicate that these two continental blocks sundered (if indeed they were once united) later than currently believed.

Sediment inclusions in the basalt at Site 235, located east of the Owen/Chain Fracture Zone in the magnetically quiet western Somali Basin, contain a late Maestrichtian flora (65-67 m.y., *Micula mura* nannofossil Zone of Roth, 1973); this age would correspond to Anomaly 27 (66.7-67.1 m.y. B.P.; Heirtzler et al., 1968). Site 235 (Figure 17) is located, however, on the northwestward prolongation of magnetic lineations equivalent to Anomaly 25 (62.8-63.3 m.y.). The discrepancy between these two ages would be even greater if an adjusted magnetic scale for the early Cenozoic were used, as proposed by Schlich (1974) and Sclater et al. (1974). This discrepancy implies the presence of a transform fault between Site 235 and the magnetic



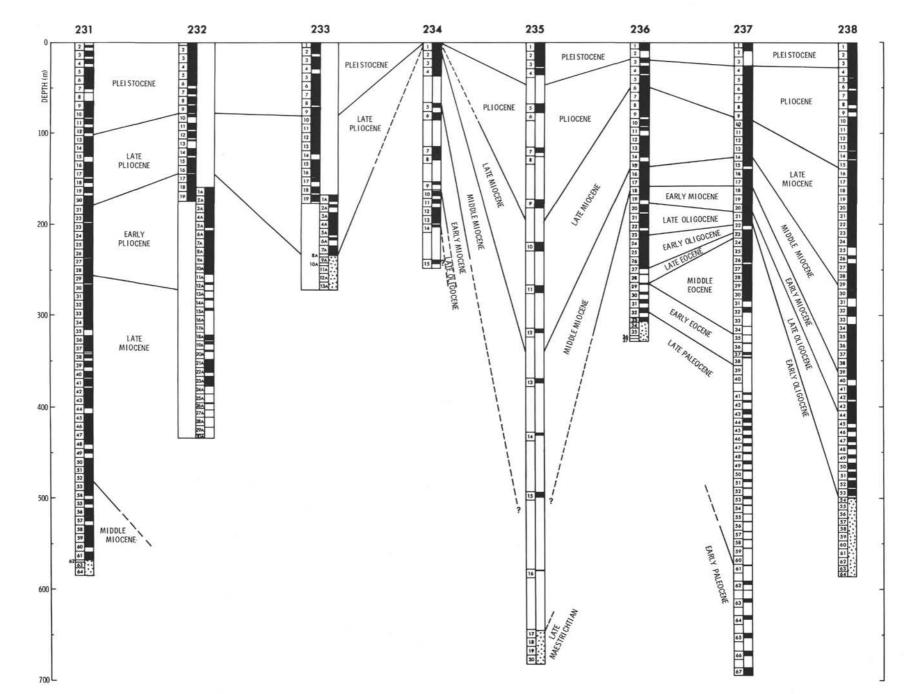


Figure 15. Correlation of epoch boundaries in Leg 24 DSDP sites.

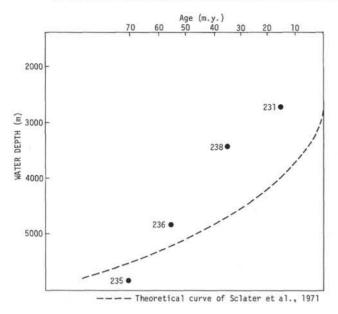


Figure 16. Basement age versus depth for Sites 231, 235, 236, and 238. Age based on biostratigraphic age of basal sediment.

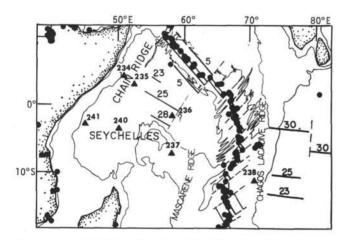


Figure 17. DSDP Leg 24 Sites 234, 235, 236, 237, and 238 and Leg 25 Sites 240 and 241 superimposed on a diagram of magnetic anomalies from McKenzie and Sclater (1971).

lineations identified to the east, and an offset of the magnetic anomalies to the north.

The biostratigraphic age of the oldest sediment at Site 238, (4.5 meters above basement) is late early Oligocene (32-34 m.y.; P. 19 and Sphenolithus distentus Zone). This age corresponds approximately to Anomalies 10-11 of the Heirtzler et al. (1968) magnetic time scale. Unfortunately, no magnetic interpretation is available for this seismically active area. As it is very likely that the oceanic crust at Site 238 formed at the Central Indian Ridge, the age of 32-34 m.y. is thus a minimum age for the spreading activity of this structure. The date of sundering of the Chagos and Saya de Malha regions (Fisher et al., 1971) is therefore at least as old as early Oligocene.

The age of approximately 13 m.y. for the sedimentbasement contact at Site 231 (Sphenolithus heteromorphus Zone for sediment inclusions in the basalt, and Zone N12 just above basement) is in good agreement with the magnetic age of the site, which is located beyond Anomaly 5 in the Gulf of Aden (Figure 18).

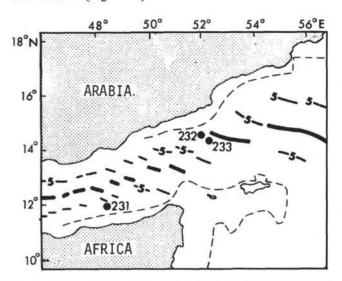


Figure 18. Magnetic anomalies of the Gulf of Aden and location of DSDP Sites 231, 232, and 233 (from Whitmarsh, 1974).

# PALEOENVIRONMENTAL DEPOSITION AND PALEOCEANOGRAPHY

Surface and Bottom Water Circulation in the Tropical Western Indian Ocean

Bottom water circulation and the productivity of surface water masses are the main factors controlling the nature and rate of accumulation of sediments and the type and distribution of microfossils. All sites drilled during Leg 24 lie under the Indian Ocean Equatorial Water mass (Sverdrup et al., 1942). The Gulf of Aden sites are situated close to the continental margin, in an area of prevalent hemipelagic sedimentation. The Indian Ocean sites, however, located within an open-ocean pelagic environment, lie beneath the high productivity belt associated with the south equatorial divergence, a region characterized by a high content of siliceous microfossils in the underlying sediments (Kozlova, 1971; Lisitzin, 1971; Riedel, 1971).

The Indian Ocean differs from other major oceanic basins in the presence of a land mass to the north. The resultant seasonal changes in wind conditions produce corresponding and marked changes in the equatorial current system. The South Equatorial Current (between about 8°S and 20°S) is a permanent feature of the circulation pattern throughout the year. From November to March, when the northeast monsoon prevails, the westward North Equatorial Current (between 2°S and 6° to 10°N) is well developed, and an Equatorial Countercurrent is present (between 8°S and 2°S). From May to September, during the period of southwest monsoons, the North Equatorial Current is replaced by an eastward Southwest Monsoon Current, and the Equatorial Counter Current disappears or becomes indistinguishable from the Monsoon Current (Figure 19).

Surface circulation in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden also varies greatly from winter to summer in response to seasonal variations in wind direction. During the northeast monsoon period the circulation pattern forms a counterclockwise gyre, while during the southwest monsoon the currents are set in a clockwise direction. During the latter period pronounced upwelling takes place all along the Arabian coast, and surface water temperatures drop considerably. The monsoonal winds are probably a prime factor influencing eolian sedimentation, which plays an important role at all sites drilled in the Gulf of Aden.

The deep-water circulation pattern of the Indian Ocean is little known. A southward deep current of highly saline, poorly oxygenated water has long been recognized (Schott, 1926; Matthews, 1927; Möller, 1929, 1933; Thomsen, 1933, 1935). This water, formed by the sinking of surface waters from the coastal regions of the Arabian Sea and neighboring gulfs and from the Red Sea, is known as North Indian Deep Water (termed Red Sea Water by Sverdrup et al., 1942). Its southern extension is not well defined although it has been detected as far south as 40°S in various parts of the Indian Ocean (Deacon, 1937; Clowes, 1950; Le Pichon, 1960) and 25°S in the Mozambique Channel (Vincent, 1972). Tchernia et al. (1951) noted that the southward movement of North Indian Deep Water is more pronounced in the west of the Indian Ocean than in the east.

Deep water from the Circumpolar Current moves northward in the Indian Ocean into the western Crozet Basin and flows east of Madagascar through the Madagascar and Mascarene basins as a typical deep western boundary current (Le Pichon, 1960; Warren, 1971, 1974; Wyrtki, 1971). Cold bottom water appears to cross the West Indian Ridge near 27°S, 60-65°E, as shown by water property distribution (Warren, 1974) as well as by the distribution in the sediments of calcium carbonate and of Antarctic diatom assemblages (Burckle et al., 1974). It is uncertain what fraction of Antarctic Bottom Water continues northward into the Somali Basin. A large part of the Antarctic Bottom Water rises to upper levels at about 10°S and mixes at intermediate depths with North Indian Deep Water and Antarctic Intermediate Water. The mixed water sinks to greater depth and returns southward (Tchernia et al., 1958). Part of the Antarctic Bottom Water, however, flows north into the Arabian Sea after having been considerably transformed. Here it rises to shoaler depth and returns southward in the intermediate current of North Indian Deep Water (Gallagher, 1966). Burckle et al. (1974) detected Antarctic diatoms as far north as 5°N in the western Indian Ocean.

The composition of the microfossil assemblages strongly reflects this pattern of surface water circulation.

All of the various fossil assemblages recovered from Leg 24 sediments are characteristic of tropical waters. Modern planktonic foraminiferal faunas at the central western Indian Ocean sites (236, 237, and 238) contain warm-water associations similar in species composition to the biocoenoses of the tropical Indian Ocean (Bé and Tolderlund, 1971; Boltovskoy, 1969; Belyaeva, 1964). The Gulf of Aden assemblages, however, are distinct from the open-ocean assemblages in that they include a higher percentage of cool

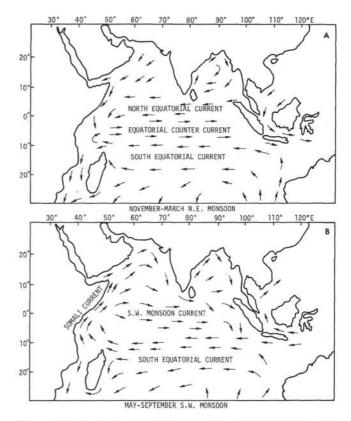


Figure 19. Surface circulation in the Indian Ocean. (a) November-March (northeast monsoon). (b) May-September (southwest monsoon).

water species. This "cooler" aspect may result in part from selective dissolution of warm-water species, as dissolution is significant in the Gulf of Aden, but the high relative abundance of *Turborotalia pachyderma* is unusual for these low latitudes. This species is as common here than in assemblages under the Indian Ocean Central Water (Swerdrup et al., 1942) at 32°S on the Madagascar Plateau (Vincent, 1972), and is present in Arabian Sea and southern Red Sea assemblages as well (Fleisher, 1974). This distribution may reflect control not only by temperature but also by special conditions of high salinity and low oxygen content in these waters.

Faunal assemblages present a "tropical" aspect throughout the recovered Cenozoic sequences and do not, therefore, reflect significant latitudinal changes at the sites.

# Fluctuations in Biogenic Components Abundance and in Productivity

Changes in sedimentation rates and fluctuations in the abundance of major biogenic constituents in the sediments provide clues to the depositional and paleoenvironmental history at these sites. Variations of the main biogenic components in the total sediments, as estimated from smear slides are shown in Figures 20 to 22, and Figures 23 to 25 illustrate variations in the relative frequency of the main pelagic components and of foraminiferal faunal composition in the sediment coarse fraction (> 63  $\mu$ ).

Increases in the abundance of silica relative to carbonate in sediments can generally be related to such factors as

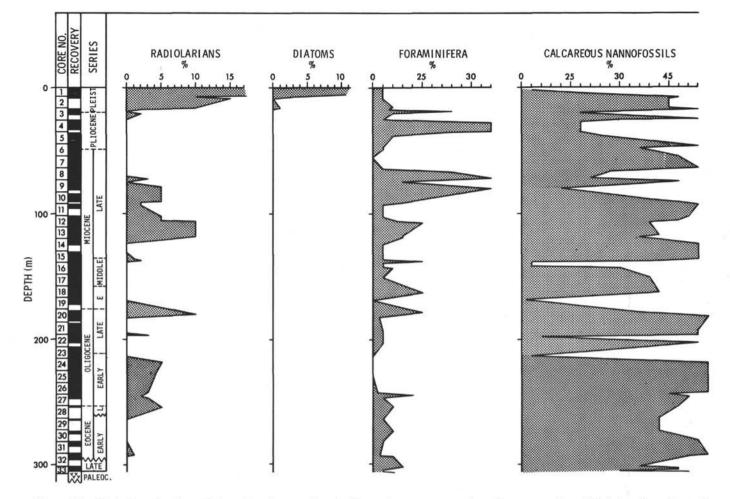


Figure 20. Variations in the relative abundance of main biogenic components in sediments at Site 236 (visually estimated from smear-slide analyses).

(1) increased dissolution of calcareous material; (2) onset of high productivity in the surface waters at a given site; or (3) transport of the site under an already existing high productivity zone (such as an equatorial belt) due to plate motion. It is not always possible to distinguish between these factors, and their effects may be combined.

The abundance of siliceous material in the central western Indian Ocean in Eocene time was probably not related to plate motion but rather to high productivity of surface waters. Chert and biogenic silica occur in contemporaneous early Cenozoic sequences of various sites in the Arabian Sea and eastern and western central Indian Ocean without apparent relation to their paleolatitudes or paleodepths. According to available tectonic reconstructions of the Indian Ocean (McKenzie and Sclater, 1971; Sclater and Fisher, 1974; Pimm, 1974; Whitmarsh, 1974), there has been little change in paleolatitudes for the western sites during much of the Cenozoic, while sites on the Ninetyeast Ridge occupied latitudes in the early Cenozoic much farther south than their modern position. The abundance of siliceous remains and chert decreases to the east in the Paleocene and Eocene sequences of the central Indian Ocean. Siliceous sediments are much more abundant in the Arabian Sea (Whitmarsh et al., 1974) and the Mascarene Plateau area than on the Ninetyeast Ridge, and are absent in the Wharton Basin (von der Borch et al., 1974). This systematic variation may possibly be related to the distinct surface circulation patterns prevailing east and west of India at that time. India during the early Paleogene occupied the middle of the Indian Ocean (McKenzie and Sclater, 1971; McElhinny, 1970), and while sites east of India were under the influence of a great gyral circulation presumably driven by the Pacific south equatorial current through a north Australian seaway (Frakes and Kemp, 1972), sites west of India were under the influence of a more regional circulation pattern favorable to siliceous production.

The abrupt decrease in skeletal siliceous components below 300 meters at Site 237 and below 260 meters at Site 236 (Figures 20, 21) correlates well with the youngest occurrence of chert in these sequences. Most of the siliceous material originally present in the sediment thus has probably been recrystallized into chert, a process described by Lancelot (1973). The presence of siliceous remains in the upper Paleocene interval between Cores 43 and 54 at Site 237 may reflect a slight decrease in postdepositional silica remobilization. Below Core 54 the disappearance of most biogenic components appear to be directly related to the strong recrystallization of both calcareous and siliceous phases. Micarb and chert become the dominant components of these sediments.

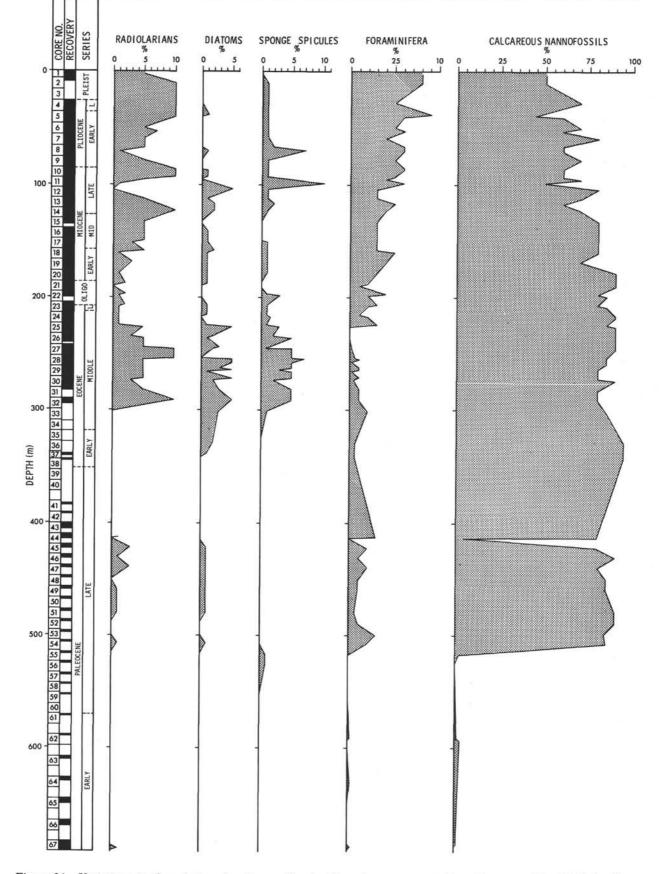


Figure 21. Variations in the relative abundance of main biogenic components in sediments at Site 237 (visually estimated from smear-slide analyses).

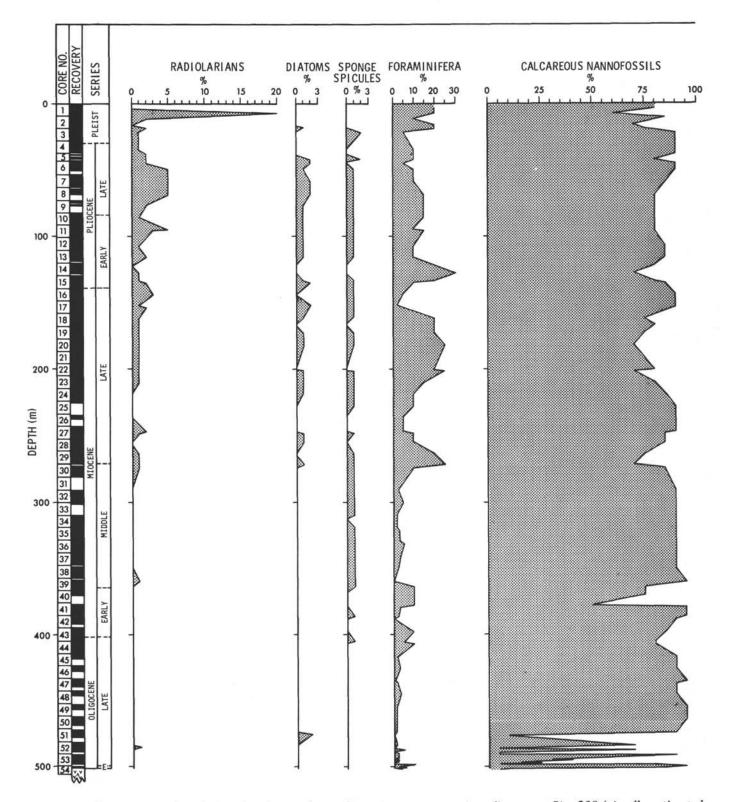


Figure 22. Variations in the relative abundance of main biogenic components in sediments at Site 238 (visually estimated from smear-slide analyses).

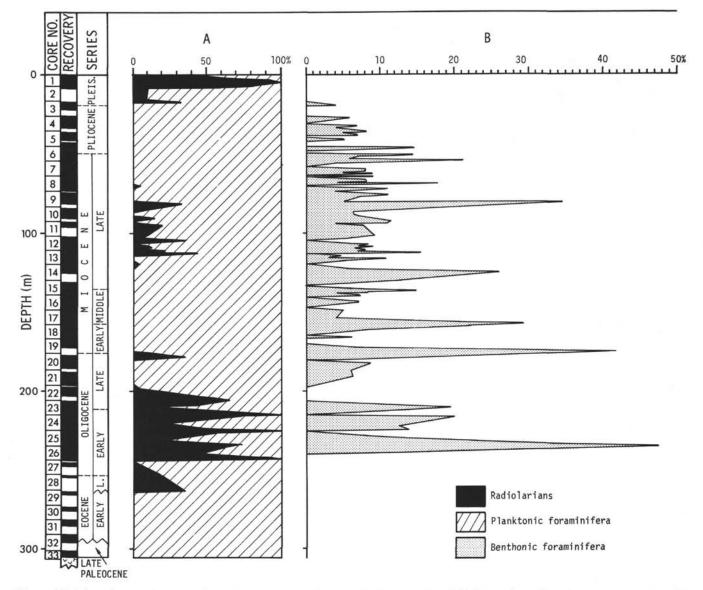


Figure 23. Faunal variations in the sediment coarse fraction (>63µ) at Site 236 (data from Thiede, this volume). (a) Relative frequency of radiolarians and planktonic foraminifera. (b) Percentages of benthonic foraminifera in the total foraminiferal populations.

The increase in radiolarian abundance and associated decrease in foraminifera in the lower Oligocene at Site 236, a pattern not observed at Site 237, is probably related to calcium carbonate solution. Paleodepth reconstruction from subsidence of oceanic crust (Sclater et al., 1971; Berger, 1973) at those Leg 24 Sites which reached basement (Figure 26) shows that Site 236 was approximately 3500 meters deep in the early Oligocene, a time when the CCD may have been shallower.

Biogenic silica and foraminifera content, as well as the overall rate of sediment accumulation, have increased throughout the late Neogene. This trend observed at all tropical sites of the Indian Ocean very probably reflects a progressive increase in the productivity of the overlying water mass. The modern equatorial circulation pattern in the Indian Ocean, with the development of a high productivity belt, thus appears to have formed at the end of the middle Miocene, when India had moved north of the Equator.

# Depth of Deposition, Displaced Faunas and Nondepositional Intervals

Benthonic foraminiferal assemblages in recovered sediments in Leg 24 are typical of present water depths at the sites and do not show significant changes throughout the sections. Neritic benthonic foraminifera, however, occur commonly in the Pliocene and Pleistocene sections of Site 231 and in the Paleocene of Site 237. In both cases they are associated with skeletal debris of calcareous algae, bryozoans, molluscs, and are slumped from nearby shelf areas (Vincent, Gibson and Brun, this volume). Abraded tests of shallow water benthonic foraminifera were also occasionally found throughout the Neogene section of Site 236.

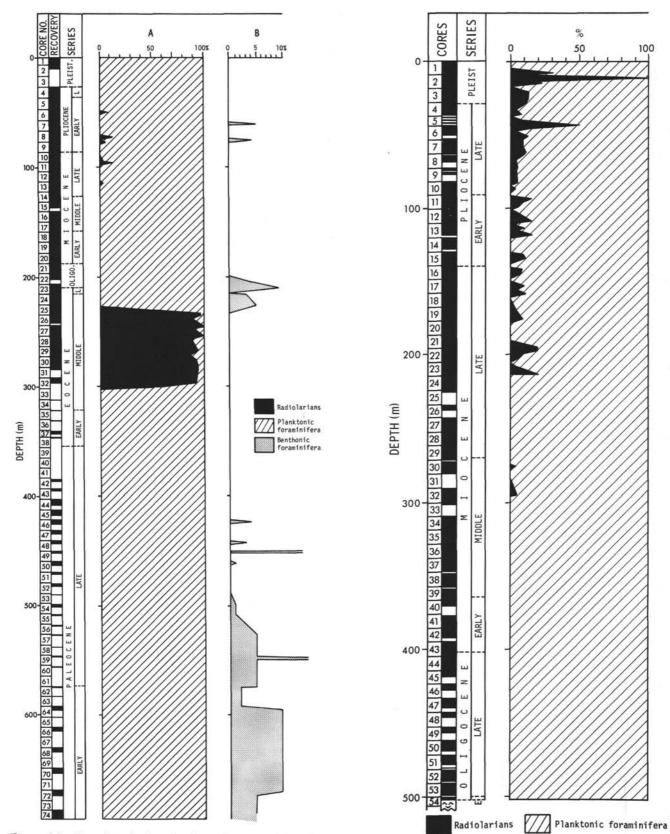


Figure 24. Faunal variations in the sediments of Site 237. Above 500 meters: variations in the sediment coarse fraction (data from Thiede, this volume). Below 500 meters: variations visually estimated in thin sections (data from Vincent, Gibson, and Brun, this volume).
(a) Relative frequency of radiolarians and planktonic foraminifera. (b) Percentages of benthonic foraminifera in the total foraminiferal populations.

Figure 25. Variations in the relative frequency of radiolarians and planktonic foraminifera in the sediment coarse fraction (>  $63\mu$ ) at Site 238 (data from Thiede, this volume).

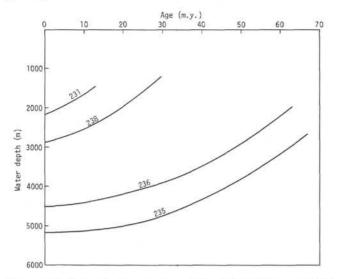


Figure 26. Paleodepths at Sites 231, 235, 236, and 238 obtained using Lohmann's (personal communication) method similar to that of Berger (1972, 1973) derived from Sclater et al., 1971.

Displacement of bathyal sediments into deeper bathyal water is difficult to detect, as allochthonous and autochthonous benthonic assemblages are similar in composition. Evidence indicating such displacement, however, may include pronounced sorting, biostratigraphic mixing, or mixing of faunas with different styles of preservation. Such displacements are apparent at several sites.

Paleodepth reconstruction at Site 235 (Figure 26) shows that this Site has probably been located below the CCD since at least early Eocene time. Results from Sites 213 and 215, on either side of the Nintyeast Ridge, suggest that the CCD was situated at depths of 3600 and 3300 meters at 51 and 53 m.y. B.P., respectively (Pimm, 1974). Wellpreserved and well-sorted calcareous faunas, however, are, present in many horizons, and probably represent turbidite fractions.

Displacement is common throughout the section at Site 236, where coarse-grained oozes are intercalated with finegrained oozes. The coarse-grained oozes, which contain better preserved foraminiferal faunas with a smaller proportion of benthonic species (Figure 23), appear to have originated at depths shallower than those prevailing at the site. The presence of occasional abraded neritic foraminiferal tests and granite grains in these layers may indicate that they originated to the south, from the Seychells block. The sedimentary record of Site 236 shows that during early Miocene time this site was probably close to the level of the CCD, which was then below 4000 meters (Figure 26), somewhat deeper than in other ocean basins at that time (Berger, 1972-1973).

Significant reworking of older sediments is notable in the Pliocene sections of Sites 236 and 238, on the present sea floor at Site 238, and in early late Miocene at all sites.

Besides turbidite displacement (as at the Somali Basin sites) or slumping from nearby shelves or shoals (as in the Gulf of Aden during Pliocene and Pleistocene time, and on the Mascarene Plateau during the Paleocene), it is probable that the significant reworking within the calcareous oozes recovered during Leg 24 is related to major bottom current activity. The major effect on bottom sediments of a deep western boundary current of corrosive Antarctic Bottom Water has been recognized in other oceans as well (Fox et al., 1968; Johnson, 1972). It seems probable, therefore, that the reworking, condensing of stratigraphic sections, and intervals of nondeposition found at Leg 24 sites are related to the northward flow of Antarctic Bottom Water.

The broadly uniform trends in the deposition of calcareous oozes in the central western Indian Ocean can be discerned from a comparison of sedimentation rates (Figures 5 to 12). From late Eocene to early Miocene times, the sections are strongly condensed, and sediment accumulated much more slowly than during preceding and succeeding intervals. Similar patterns of nondeposition or very slow sedimentation have been noted in Oligocene intervals in the eastern Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (Whitmarsh et al., 1974; von der Borch et al., 1974). This broad-scale pattern reflects a time of strong bottom current activity throughout a large part of the Indian Ocean, which is probably related to the introduction of northward-moving Antarctic Bottom Water. The formation of this water mass reflects a major global cooling induced by Antarctic glaciation of Oligocene age, which also resulted in an unconformity between Australia and New Zealand (Kennett et al., 1972). Active sedimentation resumed in the middle Miocene and remained high throughout the late Neogene. During the late Miocene, the modern south equatorial surface circulation pattern became established, with resultant high surface-water productivity. Bottom current activities are reflected by episodes of reworking, particularly in the early late Miocene following a short interval of slowed deposition between approximately 12.5 and 10 m.y.B.P.

Although the sedimentation rate curve for Site 238 is similar to those derived for Sites 236 and 237, sediments accumulated here 3 times more rapidly than at the two latter sites. This increased depositional activity possibly reflects penecontemporaneous reworking at this site, a result of its location close to the ridge crest and to an active transform fault.

A short interval of nondeposition or very slow accumulation spanning the Paleocene/Eocene boundary has been noted at various deep (236) and shallow sites (237, 219, 214, 216, 217) on the Mascarene Plateau, Chagos-Laccadive Ridge, and Ninetyeast Ridge (Whitmarsh et al., 1974; von der Borch et al., 1974). These occurrences suggest that this unconformity is related to a large-scale oceanographic activity.

# CONCLUSIONS

In light of the evidence discussed above, it is possible to recognize a number of major events in the Cenozoic sedimentary and oceanographic history of the western tropical Indian Ocean. All planktonic assemblages recovered throughout the Cenozoic are tropical in aspect, suggesting that Leg 24 sites did not undergo significant latitudinal change during the Cenozoic.

The Paleocene record prior to 58 m.y.B.P. can be interpreted only from Site 237 on the Mascarene Plateau, where 300 meters of recrystallized nannofossil chalk was recovered. This section represents a pelagic sequence deposited at upper bathyal depths, with an added influx of neritic material slumped from nearby shoals (Vincent, Gibson, and Brun, this volume). After deepening of Site 237 in the late Paleocene, normal pelagic sedimentation proceeded at a much slower rate, similar to that calculated for the equivalent interval at Site 236. A further decrease in the rate of sedimentation occurred during a 5-m.y. interval spanning the Paleocene/Eocene boundary, a period of nondeposition at Site 236. Similar hiatuses reported from the Chagos-Laccadive Ridge and Ninetyeast Ridge have been interpreted as reflection of local tectonism affecting only shallow depths (Pimm and Sclater, in press), but the deep-water unconformity at Site 236 (approximately 2800 m deep at the time) suggests the action of factors related to broad-scale oceanographic activity.

The Paleocene and Eocene are characterized by abundant siliceous material primarily in the form of radiolarians, largely remobilized to form chert in the lower Eocene and Paleocene horizons. The paleoposition of India in the middle of the Indian Ocean resulted in different surface circulation patterns west and east of the subcontinent, which may account for the difference in silica content between the eastern and western Indian Ocean sites.

In the late Eocene-early Oligocene, when Antarctic Bottom Water moved northward into the Indian Ocean, the accumulation rate and preservation of calcareous ooze decreased. During the Oligocene and early Miocene, preservation of planktonic foraminifera remained poor and hiatuses or condensed series occur during this interval. In middle to late Miocene time, when India moved north of the equator, the onset of the modern south equatorial circulation pattern resulted in higher productivity, reflected in middle Miocene to Quaternary sequences by higher sedimentation rates and higher content of siliceous microfossils.

An episode of reworking in the early late Miocene, following a 2 m.y. interval of reduced sedimentation spanning the middle/late Miocene boundary, reflects an increased large-scale bottom current activity in the central western Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden, and Arabian Sea.

This interpretation is of necessity based upon a preliminary analysis of the evidence made available from Leg 24 drilling.

The Gulf of Aden and central western Indian Ocean sites are notable in that coring is continuous and recovery good. It seems likely that further detailed study of the material recovered will provide a more complete understanding of the history of the western Indian Ocean.

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