22. PALEOCENE FORAMINIFERA FROM DSDP SITE 283, SOUTH TASMAN BASIN

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INTRODUCTION

Thirty-six species of agglutinated Paleocene foraminifera were recovered from eight cores of the lowermost 400 meters of sediments encountered at Site 283. South Tasman Basin (Figure 1). Site 283 is located at lat. 43°54.60'S and long. 154°16.96'E and the stratigraphic interval investigated lies between 4948 and 5309 meters below sea level. Lithologies from Cores 9 and 11 consist of mottled greenish-gray and brownishgray silty clay (Unit 3) whereas lithologies from Cores 12 to 17 (Unit 4), consist of an olive black pyritic silty clay and silty claystone (Table 1). An arbitrary lithological boundary of Units 3 and 4 was established between Cores 11 and 12. The sedimentary sequence cored overlies an altered pillow lava, or pillow breccia.

FORAMINIFERA

Thirty-six species of foraminifera were recovered from the 37 10-cc samples investigated. Most samples are characterized by a high abundance of tests and very low species diversity. Greatest diversity of 21 species was encountered in the lowermost samples (i.e., 17-5, 38 cm and 17, CC) (Table 1). Lower diversities are apparent in the upper part of Unit 4 and the overlying Unit 3.

Dominant taxa in Units 4 and 3 are Bathysiphon cylindrica (Glaessner), Ammodiscus cretaceus (Reuss), Glomospira charoides (Parker and Jones), Kalamopsis grzybowskii (Dylazanka), Lituotuba lituiformis (Brady), Rzehakina epigona (Rzehak), Recurvoides deflexiformis (Noth), and Bolivinopsis spectabilis (Grzybowski). Stratigraphically important taxa such as Gaudryina whangaia (Finlay) and Conotrochammina whangaia



Figure 1. Map of Tasman Sea showing location of Site 283.

Finlay are extremely rare. Preservation is particularly good with only a small proportion of the tests deformed. In most instances the chambers are empty, but a few cases of pyrite in-filling were noted. There is no trace of calcareous taxa or the internal casts of calcareous taxa. There appears to be no downhole contamination in this interval at this site.

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Rhabdammina cf. linearis (Brady) (Plate 1, Figure 1)

Rare in seven of the samples investigated. The test wall material is siliceous with a smooth, shiny, exterior finish, therefore differing from Brady's coarser-grained Recent specimens. *Rhabdammina annulata* (Grzybowski) from the Eocene-Oligocene of the Polish Carpathians is superficially similar, but it is possible that Grzybowski's material represents the uniserial portion of *Lituotuba*, or some similar genus. The material from Site 283 consists only of the swollen chamber, and two (broken) radiating arms.

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TABLE 1 Distribution of Foraminifera Recovered From Cores 9 to 17

¹Presently Chairman, Department of Geology Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Rhizammina algaeformis (Brady) (Plate 1, Figure 2)

A small sinuous tube, open at both ends, and not displaying a branching habit. Test wall constructed of finely agglutinated sand and silt. Present only in Samples 16, CC and 17-5, 38 cm.

Rhizammina sp.

(Plate 1, Figure 3)

A single specimen occurs in Sample 16, CC. The test is a simple nonseptate tube but with minor dislocations along its length. It has a test wall of very fine agglutinated silica and clay.

Bathysiphon cylindrica (Glaessner) (Plate 1, Figure 4)

The most common of the simple monothalamous taxa present at Site 283. The test consists of a simple tube with slight constrictions in places. The test wall is composed of quartz grains up to 0.1 mm diameter.

Bathysiphon cf. nodosariaformis (Subbotina) (Plate 1, Figure 5)

Single specimens occur in Samples 15, CC, 17-5, 38 cm and are tentatively referred to this taxon. The Site 283 material shows greatest similarity to *Bathysiphon nodosariaformis* (Subbotina) from the Late Cretaceous of Moravia (Hanzlikova, 1972: p. 31, pl. 1, fig. 10, 11; pl. 2, fig. 102). The robust test is constructed of finely agglutinated quartz and is characterized by numerous transverse constrictions. There is a superficial similarity to *Thomasinella*, but the branching habit of that genus is not apparent here.

Saccammina placenta (Grzybowski) (Plate 1, Figure 6)

Rare, restricted to one or two specimens in each of three samples. The test is a simple flask-shaped chamber with the aperture produced on a neck. In some instances the neck may be broken away at its base. The test wall consists of extremely fine silica giving a smooth and shiny exterior.

Saccammina sphaerica Sars (Plate 1, Figure 7)

A single specimen was recovered from Sample Core 15, CC. The test composed of finely agglutinated quartz. It is finer-grained than New Zealand Late Cretaceous (Haumurian) and Paleocene (Teurian) specimens.

Ammodiscus pennyi Cushman and Jarvis (Plate 1, Figure 8)

This species is moderately common. The test is smaller and composed of finer agglutinated material than New Zealand specimens.

Ammodiscus cretaceus (Reuss) (Plate 1, Figure 9)

A common species in the lower part of the succession at Site 283. The test is always smaller than *Ammodiscus pennyi*. It also resembles *A. glabratus* (Cushman and Jarvis) from the Lizard Springs Marl of Trinidad.

Arenoturrispirillina micra (Subbotina) (Plate 1, Figures 10, 11)

This is quite common in the lower part of the succession (i.e., between Samples 16-3, 17 cm, and 17, CC. The test consists of three or four whorls of a simple, undivided agglutinated tube arranged in a conical fashion. This material closely resembles Subbotina's species from the upper Eocene of the northern Caucasus. This taxon has not been reported so far from the New Zealand Paleocene and Eocene.

Glomospira charoides (Jones and Parker) (Plate 1, Figure 12)

Common throughout most of the succession.

Glomospira gordialis (Jones and Parker) (Plate 1, Figures 13, 14)

Rare.

Glomospira serpens (Grzybowski) (Plate 1, Figure 15)

This species is confined to the lower part of the succession (Core 17).

Ammolagena clavata (Jones and Parker) (Plate 1, Figure 16)

Rare, found attached mostly to Ammodiscus pennyi and Lituotuba lituiformis.

Lituotuba lituiformis (Brady) (Plate 1, Figure 17)

Common throughout the succession. Only one intact specimen was found. More commonly, the irregularly coiled initial chambers and uniserial rectilinear chambers are separated. It seems probable that each portion has been given separate names by earlier workers. For instance, it seems almost certain that such taxa as *Trochamminoides acervulatus* (Grzybowski) are nothing more than the initial portion of *Lituotuba*. The rectilinear uniserial chambers have been referred to various species of *Reophax* and *Nodellum*.

Kalamopsis gryzbowskii (Dylazanka) (Plate 1, Figures 18, 19)

This species is distributed through much of the succession, being particularly common between 15, CC and 17, CC. Occurs as undivided tubes and tubes subdivided by septa. A conspicuous constriction marks the location of the septa. Many of the tests are flattened. Siliceous with a shiny external finish.

Hormosina ovulum (Grzybowski) (Plate 2, Figures 1, 2)

Common through most of the succession but better represented between Samples 15-4, 36 cm and 17, CC. Small, shiny, opaque, siliceous tests.

Reophax duplex (Grzybowski) (Plate 2, Figure 3)

A single specimen was recovered from Sample 17-1, 36 cm. It is unclear whether one or more chambers have been broken away. If this had occurred there would be a likeness to *Reophax pilulifer* (Brady) and *Hormosina trinitatensis* (Cushman and Renz).

Rzehakina epigona (Rzehak) (Plate 2, Figures 4, 5)

Abundant through most of the succession. In Samples 12, CC and 14, CC, there are a few tests in which the early coiling plane differs from that of the later whorls. Scott (1961) placed such tests in his "gamma group" of *Rzehakina epigona* and noted that this group was present in the Paleocene (Teurian) sediments of southern Hawke's Bay and Raukumara Peninsula, New Zealand.

Haplophragmoides kirki (Wickenden) (Plate 2, Figures 6, 7)

Smallest of the three species of *Haplophragmoides* recognized here. Common in Core 17, and occurring only sporadically above this level. Tests very small (0.30 mm axial diameter). With a fine-grained siliceous test wall, and five chambers in the final whorl. Reported from the Late Cretaceous (Haumurian) of New Zealand (Webb, 1971) and Late Cretaceous-Paleocene of Trinidad (Beckmann 1960).

Haplophragmoides suborbicularis (Grzybowski) (Plate 2, Figures 8, 9)

Common in Cores 16 and 17, but occurring only sporadically above this level. Characterized by a highly inflated subspherical test outline with very wide final chambers. Test wall finely siliceous. Quite common in the New Zealand Late Cretaceous (Haumurian) (Webb, 1971). Common in Cores 16 and 17, and occurring only sporadically above this level. Test finely siliceous and translucent. Walls compressed, periphery subacute. Externally similar to *Cyclammina amplectans* (Grzybowski).

Recurvoides deflexiformis (Noth)

(Plate 2, Figure 12)

Common throughout the succession.

Trochamminoides irregularis (White) (Plate 2, Figure 13)

As noted above, it is debatable whether this form should be regarded as a distinct taxon because it is possibly the initial portion of *Lituotuba lithiformis* (Brady).

Trochamminoides proteus (Karrer)

(Plate 2, Figure 14)

Rare. This material also shows some resemblance to *Trocham*minoides elegans (Grzybowski).

Cyclammina elegans Cushman and Jarvis (Plate 2, Figures 15, 16)

A few specimens are distributed through 8 of the 37 samples. The uppermost occurrence is in Sample 13-5, 36 cm. Recognition of the alveolar chamber walls is difficult or impossible in some instances, and a few specimens might be more correctly referred to *Haplophragmoides* glabra (Cushman and Waters). Common in New Zealand Late Cretaceous and Paleocene (Haumurian-Teurian) (Webb, 1971). Test wall components in Site 283 material are much finer than those encountered in New Zealand specimens.

Cyclammina amplectans (Grzybowski)

Single specimens in Samples 11-2, 23 cm, and 12-1, 107 cm, are referred to this taxon. Both are small compressed siliceous tests with the simple secondary chamber extension in the walls. In New Zealand this taxon (known originally as *Cyclammina grangei* [Finlay], but revised by Webb(1970) as *C. amplectans* [Grzybowski]) ranges between the Waipawan and Bortonian Stages (latest Paleocene to mid Eocene), with a few occurrences in the Teurian Stage (Paleocene).

Ammomarginulina stephensoni (Cushman) (Plate 2, Figure 17)

A single specimen was recovered from Sample 15-1, 86 cm. Very common in the much shallower facies of the New Zealand Late Cretaceous, and Paleocene (Haumurian-Teurian) (Webb, 1971, 1973a).

Bolivinopsis spectabilis (Grzybowski) (Plate 3, Figures 1-3)

Abundant throughout the succession. This is a particularly difficult taxon to subdivide and it is recognized that there are almost certainly two species present and possibly more. For the moment they are grouped under a single name. The greater proportion can safely be referred to *B. spectabilis*. In several samples there are tests which resemble *B. compta* (Finlay), a species characterized by a smaller test than *B. spectabilis*, and a megalospheric test in which the whorl is about the same width as the succeeding biserial chambers. The test maintains a uniform width from initial to terminal ends. In New Zealand *B. compta* ranges through the Paleocene and mid Eocene (Teurian-Bortonian).

Textularia cf. plummerae (Lalicker) (Plate 3, Figure 4)

A common member of Late Cretaceous-Paleocene assemblages in New Zealand.

Conotrochammina whangaia (Finlay) (Plate 3, Figures 5, 6)

Rare single specimens in Samples 14-2, 36 cm, and 16-3, 17 cm. A particularly diagnostic species for the Teurian Stage (Paleocene) in New Zealand. This is the second reported occurrence of this species outside the New Zealand land area. Webb (1973b) reported a single specimen in Teurian sediments at Site 208 on the Lord Howe Rise. It is much more abundant in the shallower water, more inshore facies, now outcropping along the east coast of New Zealand. Test wall components are always coarse grained.

Trochammina altiformis (Cushman and Renz) (Plate 3, Figures 7-9)

Rare, present as single specimens in Samples 17-1, 36 cm and 17-3, 22 cm. The specimens available seem identical to Cushman and Renz's Lizard Springs Formation species.

Gaudryina whangaia (Finlay) (Plate 3, Figure 10)

Present as a few specimens in six samples. More common in Core 17, but with a single occurrence as high as Sample 12, CC. The illustrated specimen has a length of 0.6 mm, which is rather smaller than its counterpart in New Zealand. A common member of New Zealand Paleocene assemblages, and a diagnostic species for the Teurian Stage. The triserial portion makes up about one-third of the length of the test, while the biserial portion consists of three or four chambers usually twisted about the long axis. Wall components of the Site 283 specimens are finer than their New Zealand counterparts. Webb (1973b) reported *Gaudryina whangaia* from the Teurian (Paleocene) of Site 208, Lord Howe Rise.

Eggerella sp. (Plate 3, Figure 11)

Rare, single specimens in Samples 17-3, 22 cm, and 17, CC. The available specimens were compared with the New Zealand Teurian index *Eggerella columna* (Finlay) and it is possible that the Site 283 material represents an early ontogenetic stage of this species.

Karreriella conversa (Grzybowski) (Plate 3, Figure 12)

Quite common in 13 of the samples. Not present above Sample 13-2, 11 cm. Carpathian workers have generally referred this species to *Plectina*, a genus defined as having a rounded areal aperture with a small valvular tooth. This structure has not been recognized in the present material and the genus *Karreriella* is preferred.

Marsonella oxycona (Reuss) (Plate 3, Figure 13)

A single large specimen occurs in Sample 12, CC.

AGE AND CORRELATION

No refined biostratigraphic subdivision of this succession can be attempted on foraminifera. Most taxa are long-ranging, i.e., Late Cretaceous to Oligocene. On the available foraminiferal evidence the interval from Sample 12-2, 20 cm to Sample 17, CC is Paleocene, and can be correlated with the New Zealand Teurian Stage. The interval from Sample 9, CC to Sample 12-1, 107 cm, is probably late Paleocene to Eocene. This two-fold foraminiferal subdivision coincides approximately with the lithologic subdivision established for the site.

The Teurian (Paleocene) age for Unit 4 is based on the occurrence of *Gaudryina whangaia* in Samples 12, CC to 17, CC (Table 1), and *Conotrochammina whangaia* (Finlay) in Samples 14-2, 36 cm, and 16-3, 17 cm. As

noted above, "gamma" variants (Scott, 1961) of *Rzehakina epigona* (Rzehak) are present, and support the Paleocene age proposed here. *Bolivinopsis compta* (Finlay) appears to be present in small numbers among the *B. spectabilis* (Grzybowski) group. The former species appears in the Teurian and ranges up into the Bortonian (Eocene).

Only a very approximate indication of the age of Unit 3 is provided by foraminifera. The marked drop in species diversity, when compared with the underlying Unit 4 faunas, is striking, and can be interpreted as indicating a radical change in bottom conditions, and probably the presence of a hiatus in this part of the column. The Teurian (early-middle Paleocene) indicators mentioned above do not pass up into Unit 3, and this negative evidence might be interpreted as indicating a post-Teurian (late Paleocene or younger) age for these sediments. *Cyclammina amplectans* is the only useful taxon present. This species occurs most commonly in the Waipawan to Bortonian (late Paleocene to middle Eocene) in New Zealand with only a few recorded in the Teurian.

PALEOECOLOGY

The recovery of moderately good Paleocene faunas 5000 meters below present sea level is of considerable ecological interest. Remarkably similar Recent assemblages are known from the Kuru-Kamchatka Trench and adjoining abyssal plain (Saidova, 1961a) and in the northeast Pacific at depths between 3500 and 6500 meters (Saidova, 1961b), and depths down to 6250 meters in the Peru-Chile Trench (Bandy and Rodolfo, 1964). Comparable fossil faunas, mostly Late Cretaceous to Oligocene in age have been studied in considerable detail in southern Poland (Grzybowski, 1897, 1901; Dylazanka, 1923; Geroch, 1960), Austria (Grün, 1969), and Trinidad (Cushman and Jarvis, 1928; Cushman and Renz, 1946; Beckmann, 1960). In the southwest Pacific descriptions of fossil siliceous and agglutinated faunas have been provided by Finlay (1939) Waitangi-Paleocene; Scott (1961); Brouwer (1965) Waitangi-Paleocene; and Webb (1971) Eastern Basin-Late Cretaceous in New Zealand; and Keij (1964) in Borneo. Brouwer (1965) reviewed the literature on Recent and fossil occurrences of siliceous and agglutinated microfaunas, and referred to them as "Rhabdammina" faunas. Brouwer concluded that an abyssal environment was the most likely for these assemblages. The occurrence of a Paleocene-Eocene "Rhabdammina" fauna at a present depth of 5000 meters in the South Tasman Basin (Site 283) supports this view. It is concluded, that during the Paleocene-early Eocene, sedimentation at Site 283 proceeded in an abyssal environment well below the CCD.

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PLATE 1

(All specimens from Site 283)

Figure 1	Rhabdammina cf. linearis (Brady) Sample 17, CC: $\times 60$.
Figure 2	Rhizammina algaeformis (Brady) Sample 17-5, 38 cm: ×60.
Figure 3	Rhizammina sp. Sample 16, CC: \times 30.
Figure 4	Bathysiphon cylindrica (Glaessner) Sample 15, CC: ×30.
Figure 5	Bathysiphon cf. nodosariaformis (Subbotina) Sample 15, CC: ×45.
Figure 6	Saccammina placenta (Grzybowski) Sample 17, CC: ×60.
Figure 7	Saccammina sphaerica (Sars) Sample 15, CC: ×60.
Figure 8	<i>Ammodiscus pennyi</i> (Cushman and Jarvis) Sample 12, CC: ×60.
Figure 9	Ammodiscus cretaceus (Reuss) Sample 17, CC: ×60.
Figures 10, 11	Arenoturrispirillina micra (Subbotina) Sample 17, CC: ×60.
Figure 12	Glomospira charoides (Jones and Parker) Sample 17, CC: ×80.
Figure 13	Glomospira gordialis (Jones and Parker) Sample 17, CC: $\times 60$.
Figure 14	Glomospira gordialis (Jones and Parker) Sample 14, CC: ×80.
Figure 15	Glomospira serpens (Grzybowski) Sample 16, CC: ×40.
Figure 16	Ammolagena clavata (Jones and Parker) Sample 11, CC: ×40.
Figure 17	Lituotuba lituiformis (Brady) Sample 15, CC: \times 60. Note: attached to Ammologena clavata (Jones and Parker), as above.
Figure 18	Kalamopsis grzybowskii (Dylazanka) Sample 17-1, 36 cm: \times 60.
Figure 19	Kalamopsis grzybowskii (Dylazanka) Sample 16, CC: ×60.



PLATE 2

(All specimens from Site 283)

Figure 1	Hormosina ovulum (Grzybowski) Sample 17, CC: ×120.
Figure 2	Hormosina ovulum (Grzybowski) Sample 16, CC: ×120.
Figure 3	Reophax duplex (Grzybowski) Sample 17-1, 36 cm: ×80.
Figure 4	Rzehakina epigona (Rzehak) Sample 14, CC: ×60.
Figure 5	Rzehakina epigona (Rzehak) Sample 14, CC: ×60.
Figures 6, 7	Haplophragmoides kirki (Wickenden) Sample 15, CC: ×120.
Figures 8, 9	Haplophragmoides suborbicularis (Grzybowski) Sample 16, CC: ×80.
Figures 10, 11	Haplophragmoides walteri (Grzybowski) Sample 17, CC: ×80.
Figure 12	Recurvoides deflexiformis (Noth) Sample 17, CC: ×120.
Figure 13	Trochamminoides irregularis (White) Sample 17, CC: $\times 60$.
Figure 14	Trochamminoides proteus (Karrer) Sample 17-2, 10 cm: ×40.
Figures 15, 16	Cyclammina elegans (Cushman and Jarvis) Sample 17, CC: ×60.
Figure 17	Ammomarginulina stephensoni (Cushman) Sample 15-1, 86 cm: ×40.



PLATE 3

(All specimens from Site 283)

Figure 1	Bolivinopsis spectabilis (Grzybowski) Sample 17, CC: ×120.
Figure 2	Bolivinopsis spectablis (Grzybowski) Sample 17, CC: ×90.
Figure 3	<i>Bolivinopsis spectablis</i> (Grzybowski) Sample 17, CC: ×90.
Figure 4	Textularia cf. plummerae (Lalicker) Sample 16, CC: \times 60.
Figures 5, 6	Conotrochammina whangaia (Finlay) Sample 16-3, 17 cm: ×60.
Figures 7-9	Trochamminia altiformis (Cushman and Renz) Sample 17-1, 36 cm: $\times 60$.
Figure 10	Gaudryina whangaia (Finlay) Sample 12, CC: ×120.
Figure 11	<i>Eggerella</i> sp. Sample 17, CC: ×120.
Figure 12	Karreriella conversa (Grzybowski) Sample 17, CC: ×120.
Figure 13	Marssonella oxycona (Reuss) Sample 12, CC: ×60.





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