The Shipboard Scientific Party1



-Figure 1. Location map of DSDP Sites and Glomar Challenger sites in the Sea of Japan. From map: "Topography of North Pacific," T. E. Chase, H. W. Menard, and J. Mammerickx, Institute Marine Resources, Geol. Data Center, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 1971. Contour depths in kilometers. Scale 1:6,500,000.

SITE DATA

Position: 41°03.75'N; 134°02.86'E

Water Depth (from sea level): 3520 corrected meters (echo sounding)

Bottom Felt At: 3521 meters (drill pipe)

Penetration: 497 meters

Number of Holes: 1

Number of Cores: 20

Total Length of Cored Section: 183.5 meters

Total Core Recovered: 49.9 meters

Percentage of Core Recovery: 27.2%

Oldest Sediment Cored:

Depth below sea floor: 497 meters Nature: Clayey diatomite Age: Earliest Pliocene

Principal Results: Site 301 was drilled in the east central portion of the Japan Abyssal Plain in hopes of obtaining objectives originally planned for abandoned Site 300 drilled to the northeast. Stratigraphic section consists of 240.5 meters of Pleistocene distal turbidites, fine sands, silts, silty clays, and clays underlain by 256 meters of Pliocene clayey diatomite and diatomaceous claystone with a few sand interbeds representing two of the later stages of filling of this basin. Unfortunately, the site had to be abandoned before completing objectives due to critically high ethane/methane ratio similar to that found at Site 299.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The premature and unexpected abandonment of Site 300 forced the selection of an alternate unscheduled site in the Japan Abyssal Plain which would hopefully allow the original objectives of Site 300 to be fulfilled. Coarse clastics found in surface and near-surface layers at Site 300 presented striking evidence of the extensive nature of major distributaries from the Toyama Trough. It was decided that an alternate site would be sought in an area to the west along latitude 41°N at a sufficient distance to escape the coarser debris of this major channel-fan system.

Vema-28 (LDGO) seismic records were again used to locate Site 301 and a favorable area was found about 200 km southwest of Site 300, due west of the Yamato Rise (Figures 1 and 2). All indications pointed to the protected nature of this particular area, and both Vema records as well as Glomar Challenger underway and onsite sonobouv records demonstrated that the area is underlain by about 1.45 sec (1400 m) of sediment (Figures 3 and 4). The sedimentary column was again clearly divisible into an upper 400-500 meter thick reflective unit representing probable Plio-Pleistocene turbidites with a thicker underlying transparent unit beginning at 0.6 to 0.7 sec. The latter is assumed to represent diatomrich pelagic sediments of Miocene age (Figure 5). Significantly, this latter unit can be traced onto the Yamato Rise, where it emerges from beneath the cover

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Figure 2. Bathymetry (in uncorrected meters) in the vicinity of Site 301 updated from Chase and Menard (1969) using Glomar Challenger and LDGO (Vema-28) data. Note subtle moat at the foot of the Yamato Rise. Heavy track line is illustrated on Figure 4.

of basin-bottom turbidites and forms a draped pelagic blanket ultimately penetrated at Site 302 (Figure 3).

Objectives and other background information for Site 301 remained the same as outlined in Chapter 11 for abandoned Site 300, namely, dating of acoustic basement, and recovery of a section representative of sedimentologic, paleontologic, and paleoclimatic events in this major basin.

OPERATIONS

Site 300 was abandoned because of the very coarse and unstable surficial sediments. *Glomar Challenger* thus headed west along the northern flank of the Yamato Rise to another location in the Japan Basin Figure 2). The new site, located along a Lamont-Doherty profile (*Vema-28*, 2095-0430), was chosen on the basis of two criteria: first, this area appeared to be furthest from any of the major channels feeding the abyssal plain; and second, this site would put us in position to drill on the Yamato Rise in what time remained if Site 301 had to be abandoned for any reason. Depth to acoustic basement was on the order of 1500 meters, but the lack of reflectors below the 4-500 meter thick turbidite interval suggested that drilling rates should be reasonably high and that the hole conditions would remain favorable.

The ship headed to a point on the ridge flank south of the site in order to profile the basin and follow the basement reflector. However, faulty and noisy hydrophone streamers prevented a good profile recording of this reflector (Figure 4). When the basement reflector became lost on the record, the course was changed to steam directly for the approximate site location determined from the LDGO profile (Figure 3). The speed was decreased to 6 knots, and a 16-kHz beacon was dropped on the first pass over the geographic coordinates. Because of a weak beacon signal and the receiving of a new satellite fix, which altered the dead-reckoning location, it was decided to drop a second, 13-kHz, beacon at that position.

Hole 301 was spudded in a water depth of 3521 meters (drill pipe length) at 2130 30 July. After taking a surface punch core and preparing to interval core, the interfacing between the computer and the stabilizing gyro malfunctioned. Positioning was switched to the semiautomatic mode, requiring that the bottom-hole assembly be buried before further coring was attempted. After the second core was cut at 117 meters, the first of three heat-flow measurements was taken. Two others followed cores at 174-183.5 meters and 212-221.5 meters.

Between 33% and 50% of the section was cored through the first 400 meters of the hole. At 400 meters the ethane content of the generally gassy cores began to increase, and between 400 and 460 meters the methane/ethane ratio decreased sharply. Both these parameters remained about constant during the last three cores, which were cut continuously, but the decision was made to terminate drilling at 497 meters (Table 1). The hole was then plugged with 150 barrels of heavy mud and capped with 40 barrels of cement. The ship left the site toward a favorable location on the lower flank of the Yamato Rise which had been observed along the profile from Site 299 to Site 300.

LITHOLOGY

Site 301 was drilled on the abyssal plain of the Japan Basin in a water depth of 3521 meters. Lithologic analysis of the sediment section recovered indicates that two units may be designated, as shown in Figure 5 and Table 2. The boundary between these units is transitional. Lithologic features found in the cores are noted in Figure 6.

Unit 1

Unit 1 is found in Cores 1-7 (0-240.5 m). It is primarily composed of clay and silty clay. The clay may be silt bearing or rich. Minor lithologies include interbedded silt, sand and silty sand, and volcanic ash zones or beds.

The color of Unit 1 is predominantly in the greengray, olive-gray, and olive-green hues, with the color variations distinguishing bedding in the unit; bedding thicknesses vary from 1 to 40 cm. The silty clays and clays contain 65%-95% clay-sized particles and 50%-80% clay mineral content. Microfossils include diatoms, radiolarians, sponge spicules, and silicoflagellates in respective order of abundance. The sandy interbeds generally have varying contents of clay and silt. They show poor to good grading. The volcanic ash occurs as isolated zones or as thin interbeds which include 70%-95% volcanic ash. The age of the unit is Pliocene to late Pleistocene-Holocene.

Unit 2

Unit 2 is approximately 256 meters thick occurring in Cores 8 through 20 (240.5-497 m). The dominant lithology is a clayey diatomite or diatomaceous claystone with minor amounts of sand beds in the lower



Figure 3. Glomar Challenger seismic reflection profiles approaching and departing Site 301. Note continuity of deeper pelagic section with the pelagic section on the flank of the Yamato Rise.

four cores. The colors are predominantly dark greenishgray and olive-gray.

In the clayey diatomites or diatomaceous claystones, the clay mineral content varies from 30% to 54% and the diatom content, 30%-50%. The olive-gray lithology generally has a higher clay mineral content and a relatively lower diatom content. The olive-gray diatomite also tends to be more indurated and less well bedded, compared to the greenish-gray lithology. Volcanic ash beds are rare. Bioturbation was locally moderate to intense. The micronodule content reached 7% in some cores; they are believed to be pyritic nodules formed within diatom chambers and released upon decay or breakup. Zeolites and carbonate-replaced zeolites occur.

The second lithology occurring in Unit 2 consists predominantly of graded sand-silt-clay and silty sand beds. This lithology first appears interbedded with the diatom claystone in Core 17 (450 m, late Miocene). The maximum concentration of these units is in Core 18 and decreases through Cores 19 and 20. Characteristically these clastic units contain sand-size feldspar (plagioclase), quartz, mica, heavy minerals (pale green augite dominates), and lithic fragments (polycrystalline quartzmicroquartzite). Occasional quartzite pebbles were noted in the sand beds, as well as in interbedded diatom claystones. The sand beds contain well-rounded claystone clasts, show sharp basal contacts, and poor to good size grading.

The age of Unit 2 is late Miocene to late Pliocene.

Lithologic Interpretations

The terrestrial clays and silts of Site 301 were probably deposited by grain by grain settling, or from a nepheloid layer from the continental masses surrounding the Japan Sea. Favorable paleooceanographic conditions supported a rich siliceous biota (mostly diatoms) in the water column above the site from late Miocene to late Pliocene. The marked decrease in the proportion of siliceous organisms during the Pleistocene is probably due to dilution by terrestrial sediments.

The poorly sorted sands and silts of Units 1 and 2 were apparently deposited by turbidity currents. The (generally) distal turbidites of Site 301 are consistent with accumulation on the abyssal plain. Some of the coarser, thicker beds may be deposits of small distributary channels. The quartzite and volcanic glass suggest that the turbidites were derived from a varied source terrain which could encompass Asia, Japan, or possibly the Yamato Rise. The Yamato Rise is currently too deep to have been a significant source area even during periods of lowered sea level. However, this feature cannot be eliminated completely as a potential sediment source since it may have had an earlier history of emergence. GDR profiles both approaching and leaving the site (Figure 3) indicate a gentle apparent slope (1/2000) from Asia, suggesting that Pleistocene-Holocene density current deposits were derived from the west.

The Toyama submarine channel currently bypasses the Yamato Basin and feeds directly onto the Japan Abyssal Plain. Since this condition has existed only during the Pleistocene, the Mio-Pliocene turbidites at the site could not have come from Japan via this route. Until more definitive evidence is available, it is assumed that the turbidites were derived from the Asian continent, less than 170 km distant.

Turbidite sands and silts are most abundant in the Pleistocene (Cores 1-7), followed by a secondary maxima in the late Miocene (Cores 18 and 19). Lower sea level, increased precipitation, and increased erosion rates help to explain the Pleistocene turbidites influx. A similar sequence of events associated with the late Miocene global refrigeration may account for the secondary turbidite maxima.



Figure 4. Vema 28 (Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory) seismic reflection profile across the Yamato Rise and DSDP Site 301. Note flattish acoustic basement which probably marks a volcaniclastic section rather than basalt.

Figure 5. Hole summary diagram, Site 301.

	Cored Interval Below Bottom	Cored	Recov	ered	Remarks ^a						
Core	(m)	(m)	(m)	(%)							
1	0.0-3.0	3	0	0	Punch Core Heat flow at 117 m						
Wash	3.0-117.0										
2	117.0-126.5	9.5	8.6	91.0							
Wash	126.5-136.0	1010-2	1								
3	136.0-145.5	9.5	2.1	22.0							
Wash	145.5-155.0										
4	155.0-164.5	9.5	6.1	64.0							
Wash	164.5-174.0			1000							
5	174.0-183.5	9.5	6.7	71.0							
Wash	183.5-193.0				Heat flow at 183.5 m						
6	193.0-202.5	9.5	0 (CC)	0.0							
Wash	202.5-212.0										
7	212.0-221.5	9.5	0.3	3.0							
Wash	221.5-240.5	10.00	2505	8-512-	Heat flow at 221.5 m						
8	240.5-250.0	9.5	3.4	36.0							
Wash	250.0-269.0										
9	269.0-278.5	9.5	0.5	5.0	Heat flow						
Wash	278.5-297.5				50 bbls mud						
10	297.5-307.0	9.5	0.3	3.0							
Wash	307.0-316.5		1.0424	PCT IN							
11	316.5-326.0	9.5	1.8	19.0							
Wash	326.0-335.5	38,750	100000000000								
12	335.5-345.0	9.5	0 (CC)	0.0							
Wash	345.0-354.5	14927-2									
13	354.5-364.0	9.5	1.2	13.0							
Wash	364.0-373.5	0.0		1000							
14	373.5-383.0	9.5	1.0	11.0							
Wash	383.0-392.5			A-95511-6							
15	392.5-402.0	9.5	2.7	28.0							
Wash	402.0-421.0				1						
16	421.0-430.5	9.5	0.8	8.0							
Wash	430.5-449.5	(
17	449.5-459.0	9.5	1.3	14.0							
Wash	459.0-468.5										
18	468.5-478.0	9.5	4.5	47.0							
. 19	478.0487.5	9.5	5.2	55.0							
20	487.5-497.0	9.5	3.4	36.0							
Total	497.0	183.5	49.9	27.0							

TABLE 1 Coring Summary, Site 301

^aSee Figure 5 for graph of drilling rates and lithologies.

	T	ABLE 2				
Unit Descriptions,	Depths,	Thicknesses,	and	Ages,	Site	301

U	nit and Descriptions	Depth (m)	Thickness (m)	Age			
1	Silty clay, clay with interbedded silt, sand, silty sand, ash	0-240.5	240.5	Late Pleistocene to Holocene			
2	Clayey diatomite/ diatomaceous clay- stone with graded sand-silt clay and silty sand beds	240.5-497.0	≅256	Late Miocene to late Pliocene			

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

The gas content in these cores resulting in many large and small expansion cracks made it difficult to carry out any physical properties measurements. For that reason vane-shear and sonic-velocity measurements were not made; however, a restricted number of GRAPE measurements and thermal-conductivity readings was attempted. It was impossible to obtain a properly filled syringe for water-content measurements. Seven interstitial water samples were collected, and from these the water content was determined.

Figure 6. Lithologic features noted in Cores at Site 301.

Density, Porosity, and Water Content

The GRAPE analog records are very irregular due to the voids which makes it difficult to judge which values should be used for density. Most core sections had a slight difference between top and bottom. Very often the middle portion was too broken up to allow the analog recorder to respond properly. The readings are presented in Figure 5. A scattering of the limited number of points precludes positive interpretation, but by eliminating the GRAPE readings from Core 5, it can be seen that a minor increase in density occurs in a downward direction.

The laboratory analyses on density and porosity reveal a wide scattering. It is certain that their reliability is out of proportion, due to the inaccuracies obtained when filling the syringes. The water contents consequently also reveal a wide scattering.

Thermal Conductivity

The high gas content which made the cores porous and full of cracks also precluded many attempts to make reliable needle contact for thermal-conductivity measurements. Since most of the sediments obtained an enormous porosity due to hydraulic release of the enclosed gas, no proper syringe samples could be taken for water-content determinations. Therefore, thermalconductivity measurements derived from water-content ratios may not be any more reliable than the values obtained from needle-probe measurements. The few results obtained are presented in Table 3 and in Figure 7.

Heat-Flow Measurements

Terrestrial heat-flow values at Site 301 represent the product of thermal conductivity and the geothermal

TABLE 3 Thermal-Conductivity Measurements at Site 301

Sample	Hole	Thermal Conductivity (10 ⁻³ cal/cm sec °C)										
(Interval in cm)	Depth (m)	Needle Probe	Average	From Water Content								
2-2, 34	119	1.71										
2-2, 78	119	1.65	1.68									
2-3, 144/150	121			1.95 ± 0.11								
2-4, 115	122	1.81	1.68									
2-4,66	122	1.55										
3-2, 10	157	1.61	1.56									
3-2, 141	157	1.51										
4-3, 144/150	159			3.21 ±0.22								
5-6,45	183	2.04	1.91									
5-6, 112	183	1.78										

°C) versus depth for Site 301.

gradient. The thermal conductivity was measured from the cores by the needle-probe method and from the geothermal gradient. The geothermal gradient is derived from subbottom temperature measurements using the DHI temperature probe. Three lowerings of the DHI probe were made at subbottom depths of 126.5, 184.5, and 224.5 meters; however, measurements were obtained only at the first two subbottom depths.

126.5 Meters

A good quality of data was attained (Figure 8). The temperature value is 15.5°C, when considering the effect of the initial temperature disturbances due to probe penetration.

184.5 Meters

During this measurement, seawater leaked into the thermistor probe. The record obtained indicates a very high frequency and a low load resistance. The frequency data are shown in Figure 8. Although it may seem erroneous, a test was made to reduce the true temperature value from the record that was apparently affected by seawater. The following four assumptions are made for the data reduction: (1) the frequency of the DHI oscillator is proportional to the square root of the load resistance (R); (2) the effect of the water that leaked in can be replaced by a resistance (Re) parallel to the probe thermistor (R_T); (3) at 126.5 meters, the record shows a remarkable stable temperature until 6 min before the probe did hit bottom (this temperature condition is also applicable to this lowering at 184.5 m); and (4) the record of the above-mentioned stable temperature can be represented by the solid line as shown in Figure 8. However, if this temperature did last throughout the operation, the expected frequency record should be represented as the broken line shown in Figure 8.

Using the assumptions cited, values for R, Re, RT, and the temperature are 0.874 kohms, 1.069 kohms, 4.787 kohms, and 22.4°C, respectively. The possible error on the temperature should be within 3°C.

Summary

In addition to the above temperature records obtained, it is known that the bottom-water temperature in the Japan Sea is very stable, both periodically and regionally, with a value around $0.3 \pm 0.1^{\circ}$ C. From the temperature values obtained, the subbottom temperature distribution is shown in Figure 9. The preliminary geothermal gradient is $1.20 \pm 0.10 \times 10^{-3}^{\circ}$ C/cm. The thermal conductivity obtained by averaging all the measured values, resulted in a value of 1.68×10^{-3} cal/cm sec°C. The heat-flow value is 2.0 ± 0.3 HFU.

GEOCHEMICAL MEASUREMENTS

Alkalinity

The average alkalinity of the seven samples is 2.28 meq/kg. All values are higher than the surface seawater reference value of 2.28 meq/kg. Very high values occur

Figure 8. Heat-flow measurements at Site 301: (a) 126.5 meters; (b) 184.5 meters.

in Core 2, Section 3 and Core 4, Section 3. Two cores (Core 18, Section 3, Core 20, Section 4) show significant low values of 7.23 and 6.84, respectively (Table 4).

Figure 9. Heat-flow profile for Site 301.

pН

The average pH values in the cores obtained by punch-in and flow-through methods were all below that of the seawater reference at the site (8.06 and 8.07). The four punch-in pH values averaged 7.52, while the seven flow-through values averaged 7.79 (Table 4).

SITE 301

Salinity

Seven salinity measurements averaged $31.6^{\circ}/_{00}$. A decrease in salinity with depth is present, except for variability in Cores 11, 15, and 18. All seven values and the average were below the overlying seawater reference value of $34.1^{\circ}/_{00}$ (Table 4).

PALEONTOLOGIC SUMMARY

Introduction

Increasing presence of ethane gas ultimately forced abandonment of Site 301 after penetrating 497 meters of Pleistocene through early Pliocene sediments. Cores 1, 2, 4, and 6 contain both calcareous and siliceous microfossils, but sediments below Core 6 (202.5-497 m), contain only siliceous microfossils, with diatoms being the chief component.

The late Pleistocene/early Pleistocene boundary is placed between Cores 2 and 3 (126.5-136 m) based on diatom and silicoflagellate zonations. Calcareous nannofossils belonging to the late Pleistocene *Emiliania huxleyi* and *Gephyrocapsa oceanica* Zones occur within Core 2 (124 m), and an assemblage belonging to the Pleistocene G. caribbeanica Subzone occurs in Core 4 (164.5 m).

The Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary cannot be determined precisely due to sparse diatom floras within the critical interval. Nevertheless, this boundary is thought to occur somewhere within the interval represented from the base of Core 5 through Core 7 (183.5-221.5 m). Interestingly, a lithologic change from a silty clay and clay turbidite unit, to an underlying diatomaceous clay with turbidites occurs close to the Plio-Pleistocene boundary between Cores 7 and 8 (221.5-240.5 m).

Cores 8 through 12 (133.0-218.5 m) are late Pliocene in age according to diatom zonation, with Cores 13 through 15 (228-275.5 m) being placed in the early Pliocene. Sediments in Cores 16 through 20 (351.5-497.0 m) would normally be placed within the late Miocene following the traditional view of Japanese biostratigraphers and based on study of Neogene marine sediments exposed in central and northern Honshu. However, if recent reevaluations of North Pacific Neogene diatom biostratigraphy by Burckle

		pł	ł			
Sample (Interval in cm)	Depth Below Sea Floor (m)	Punch-in	Flow- through	Alkalinity (meq/kg)	Salinity $(°/_{\circ\circ})$	Lithologic Units
Surface seawater	reference	8.06	8.07	2.28	34.1	
2-3, 144-150 4-3, 144-150	121.5 178.0	7.44 7.64	7.62 7.90	43.60 47.80	33.0 33.3	Unit 1
8-2, 147-150 11-1, 144-150 15-3, 144-150 18-3, 144-150 20-4, 144-150	243.5 318.0 396.5 473.0 493.5	7.71 7.29 -	7.89 7.92 7.57 7.68 7.84	21.11 18.96 17.79 7.23 6.84	29.7 31.9 31.1 30.8 31.1	Unit 2
Average		7.52	7.79	2.28	31.6	

TABLE 4 Summary of Shipboard Geochemical Data, Site 301

(1971) and Schrader (1973) are followed, then this same interval should be assigned to the early Pliocene. This latter view is arbitrarily followed in this report.

Calcareous Nannofossils

Cold-water conditions are reflected in the sparse nannofossil recovery, which is similar to the other sites in the Sea of Japan. However, an assemblage containing the Holocene-late Pleistocene species *Emiliania huxleyi* was recovered from Core 2, Section 5, and an assemblage referable to the late Pleistocene *Gephyrocap*sa oceanica Zone was recovered from Sample 2, CC. Core 4 contains nannofossils, which place the sample in the early Pleistocene *Gephyrocapsa caribbeanica* Subzone. A nannofossil assemblage, containing *Reticulofenestra pseudoumbilica*, which can probably be best correlated with the late early Pliocene *R. pseudoumbilica* Zone, was recovered from Core 6.

Foraminifera

Foraminifera are rare with the only common and well-preserved specimens found in Core 2. These assemblages are dominated by sinistral coiling populations of "*Globigerina*" *pachyderma* and constitute a subarctic biofacies of probable late Pleistocene age. Rare specimens of poorly preserved benthonic and planktonic species occur in Cores 4, 7, 9, and 13. Framboidal pyrite is present in most samples and is again interpreted as evidence of anaerobic bottom conditions.

Radiolarians and Silicoflagellates

Moderately well-preserved, but generally rare to few, radiolarians were found in samples at Site 301. Initial appearance of *Stylochlamydium venustum* was observed within Core 2. Core 2 through Core 11 presumably encompasses early Pleistocene to late Pliocene ages, and only long-ranging species were recognized. The latest occurrence of *Thecosphaera japonica* was found in the core-catcher sediments of Core 11, and the upper limit ranges from middle Miocene to early Pliocene in age, with their most frequent occurrences within the mid and late Miocene.

Core 2 contains the silicoflagellate Dictyocha subarctios, which suggests that the enclosing sediments are slightly older than the Bruhnes-Matuyama paleomagnetic boundary. This species occurs continuously from Core 2 through Sample 4, CC, and this entire interval is placed within the Dictyocha subarctios Zone. The youngest occurrence of Ammodochium rectangulare is within Core 8. Therefore, the Pliocene-Pleistocene boundary probably falls within the Core 5 through 7 interval. The latest occurrence of Ebriopsis antiqua is in Core 10 and is likely marking the top of the E. antiqua Zone. However, the occurrence of Cannopilus hemisphaericus is too sparse to establish the lower boundary of this zone.

Diatoms

A good subarctic late Pleistocene through late Miocene (?) diatom biostratigraphic section was observed. Pleistocene species which are accompanied by many sublittoral and fresh-water species occur throughout Cores 2 through 5. The boundary between the early and late Pleistocene is placed between Cores 2 and 3 by the upward extinction of *Actinocyclus oculatus* at this level.

Samples 5, CC through 6, CC contain very rare, poorly preserved specimens, and samples from Core 7 are barren. The Plio-Pleistocene boundary is placed in this interval because the occurrences of *Coscinodiscus pustulatus*, *Stephanophyxis innermis*, and *Thalassiosira antiqua* in Samples 5, CC and 6, CC are regarded as reworked specimens of these species. This is based on the presence of many other reworked and living species in these samples, as well as because of the final occurrence of these index species in Core 8.

Since Denticula seminae var. fossilis and D. kamtschatica occur together in Cores 13 through 16, sediments of this interval are considered as early Pliocene age. Cores 17 through 20 are characterized by assemblages composed dominantly of Denticula kamtschatica, Coscinodiscus marginatus, Thalassiosira antiqua, and T. nidulus, and the age interpretation of this interval is the same as in the case of Core 35 at Site 299.

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATIONS

Summary

Site 301 was located in the east central area of the Japan Abyssal Plain (Japan Basin) in hopes of completing the objectives originally sought at Site 300. Drilling at this site penetrated 497 meters into the estimated 1400 meters of sediment blanketing the floor of the abyssal plain. Unfortunately, increasing amounts of ethane gas occurred between 155 meters and 497 meters at this site, ultimately forcing abandonment of the hole prior to penetrating the entire sedimentary column and without reaching acoustic basement. The highest concentrations of ethane occurred at about the same stratigraphic horizon as that at which gas was found at Site 299, specifically, the transition between the seismically reflective unit representing terrigenous clastics and the underlying pelagic blanket as delimited on reflection profiles at both sites.

A major lithologic change was encountered in Core 7 (240.5 m) allowing the sedimentary column to be divided into two discrete units. Unit 1 is 240.5 meters thick, and is composed predominantly of terrigenous clay and silty clay with some sandy interbeds and volcanic ash. These deposits are likely the product of nepheloid layer transport from the adjacent Asian continental mass along with occasional deposition of coarser debris in the form of turbidites. Common diatoms within these sediments indicate Unit 1 ranges in age from late Pliocene through Pleistocene/Holocene.

Unit 2 is composed of 256 meters of earliest Pliocene through late Pliocene clayey diatomite and diatomaceous claystone. Bioturbation is moderate to intense, with pyritic nodules common in some horizons. Graded sand-silt-clay and silty sand beds containing well-rounded claystone clasts and occasional quartzite pebbles occur interbedded with claystones in Cores 17 through 20 (450-497 m) at the base of the hole. The diatomaceous sediments of Unit 2 reflect the extremely high rates of primary productivity in the Sea of Japan, and a relative lack of diluting terrigenous debris in this more isolated portion of the abyssal plain during the interval represented. Volcanic ash forms a minor constituent throughout Unit 2, whereas sands occurring in the early Pliocene portion of the unit apparently mark an earlier pulse of turbidite-contourite deposition.

Only late Pleistocene sediments at this site contain both calcareous and siliceous microfossils, with diatoms providing the principal biostratigraphic control throughout the hole.

Interpretation

The premature abandonment of Site 301 prior to penetrating the full stratigraphic column unfortunately precludes definitive statements regarding the earliest phases in the evolution of this portion of the Japan Sea. However, the two-phase sedimentary sequence sampled provides a detailed view of more recent events in the filling of the Japan Abyssal Plain area, as well as, providing an excellent record of early Pliocene through Pleistocene diatom floras in this part of the sea.

The earliest Pliocene sediments encountered include coarse terrigenous clastics of turbidite origin which likely represent an expression of lowered sea level and consequent increased rate of sediment transport from the shelf margins during the waning stages of a widely recognized late Miocene interval of polar refrigeration (Ingle, 1967; Bandy, 1968; Kennett, 1968). In fact, evidence of subarctic surface temperatures in the Sea of Japan during the latest Miocene-earliest Pliocene interval was previously reported by Asano et al. (1969).

Relatively undiluted diatomaceous sediments continued to accumulate in this area at a rate of about 100 m/m.y. (Figure 10) until the latest Pliocene, when a thin prograding wedge of terrigenous sediments began to cover the underlying biogenous material and dilute the coincident rain of diatom frustules. The rate of sedimentation is somewhat less (85 m/m.y.) during preglacial conditions of higher sea level in the early Pleistocene, but increasing amounts of terrigenous material seriously diluted diatom frustules. A major increase in rate of sedimentation to 140 m/m.y. occurs at the beginning of the late Pleistocene period of sustained glacial climatic conditions about 0.7 to 0.9 m.y.B.P. (Figure 10) in concert with a similar increase noted in the Toyama Trough-Yamato Basin area (Site 299). Again, one can appeal to the initiation of severe climatic effects in terms of lowered sea level, baring of insular and mainland shelves, along with vigorous erosion to explain the relative increase in rates of transport and deposition in the abyssal plain area during this time.

The consistent lack of calcareous microfossils in most pre-late Pleistocene sediments at Site 301 offers supporting evidence of dissolution below an apparently shallow carbonate compensation depth (CCD) within the Sea of Japan as proposed by Ujiié and Ichikura (1973). Depth of deposition at this site has remained at or below 3520 meters for the interval represented, and these latter workers have presented evidence that the CCD is currently at a depth of 2100 meters. Thus, the few calcareous fossils present in the late Pleistocene

Figure 10. Estimated rate of sedimentation at Site 301 based upon correlation of diatom zonation with the radiometric and paleomagnetic time scales (Koizumi, this volume). Note that maximum rate of deposition is coincident with the 0.9 m.y.B.P. late Pleistocene period of severe sustained refrigeration.

deposits at Site 301 most likely owe their existence to rapid deposition of masking terrigenous debris and resultant protection from aggressive bottom water.

Arctic and subarctic diatom floras characterize the early Pliocene through Pleistocene sequence penetrated, attesting to the continual presence of a cool temperate to cold water mass on the western side of the Japan Sea during this period. Scanty late Pleistocene planktonic foraminiferal faunas substantiate the arctic character of surface waters, and point to mean surface temperatures significantly lower than present. In this regard, it is important to note that sea ice currently forms in the marginal northern portion of the Japan Sea in the winter season. Thus, fully glacial conditions can be expected to have created a truly arctic setting in this marginal sea during the late Pleistocene and possibly earlier during the late Miocene.

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Sample Depth				Bu Major	Bulk Sample jor Constituent		2-20µm Fraction Major Constituent			<: Mai	<2µm Fraction Major Constituent			Grain Siz	ze	-	Ca	rbon Carbo	nate	_
Section Floor	Floor (m)	Lithology	Age	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	(%)	(%)	(%)	Classification	(%)	(%)	(%)	Comments
301-2-3 301-2-5 301-3-1	120.2-120.8 124.0 136.9	Unit 1 Silty clays and clays with silt	Late Pleistocene to Holocene	Quar.	Mica	Plag.	Quar.	Plag.	Mica	Mica	Quar.	Mont.	85.5 2.9	0.0	15.0 21.3	Sand Silt	1.8 3.4	1.2 1.7	4 14	Pyri. in bulk, 2-20µm, <2µm (5.9, 4.6, 6.1)
301-4-2 301-4-2	157.3 157.7	sand, silty sand and ash		Quar. Quar.	Mica Mica	Plag. Plag.	Quar. Quar.	Plag. Plag.	Mica Mica	Mont. Mont.	Quar. Mica	Mica Quar.			0.000000					Pyri. in bulk, 2-20μm (1.5, 2.0%) Kaol in bulk (1.1%) Pyri, in bulk, 2-20μm, <2μm (2.4, 4.2, 1.4); Kaol in bulk (3.1%)
301-4-3 301-4-3 301-5-3 301-5-3	158.5 158.6 177.5 177.9												2.6 64.6 0.2 1.1	91.7 30.6 91.9 82.6	5.8 4.8 7.9 16.3	Silt Silty sand Silt Silt				1014 101
301-8-4	246.0	Unit 2 Clayey diatomite and diatomaceous	Late Miocene to late	Quar.	Mica	Plag.	Quar.	Mica	Plag.	Mica	Quar.	Mont.	0.1	37.6	62.4	Silty clay				Pyri. in bulk, 2-20µm, <2µm (2.7, 4.6, 1.4) Kaol. in bulk (1.0%).
301-11-1 301-13-1	317.7 355.8-356.0	claystone with sand-silt	Pliocene	Quar.	Mica	Plag.	Quar.	Plag.	Mica	Quar.	Mica	Mont.	42.5 32.8	35.9 45.8	21.6 21.4	Sand-silt-clay Sand-silt-clay	1.2	1.1	1	Pyri. in bulk, 2-20µm, <2µm (3.1, 4.2, 3.4)
301-15-2	395.4	clay and silty sand beds		Quar.	Plag.	K-Fe.	Quar.	Plag.	Mica	Mica	Mont.	Quar.								Dolo. in bulk (1.7%), Pyri, in bulk, 2-20μm, <2μm (1.8. 3.7. 3.8); Amph. in bulk (1.8), 2-20μm (2.8%).
301-17-1 301-17-1 301-17-1	450.1 450.2 450.2	- De		0	Dime	P.174	0	Dias			N	0	21.0 13.6 51.9	36.7 34.1 29.4	42.3 52.2 18.7	Sand-silt-clay Silty clay Silty sand				
301-18-3	471.6			Quar.	Flag.	K-FC.	Quar.	riag.	Mica	Mont.	міса	Quar.	45.2	30.9	23.9	Sand-silt-clay				(1.0, 5.5, 1.2)
301-18-3	474.2			Quar.	Mica	Plag.	Quar.	Plag.	Mica	Mont.	Mica	Quar.	45.0	30.7	24.3	Sand-silt-clay	0.5	0.5	0	Pyri. in bulk, 2-20µm, <2µm (1.7, 2.6, 1.1).
301-18-4	474.4			Quar.	Plag.	Mica	Quar.	Plag.	Mica	Mont.	Quar.	Mica	0.2	34.1	65.7	Silty clay	1.2	1.1	1	Pyri. in bulk, 2-20µm, <2µm (3.6, 3.6, 1.8%).
301-20-4 301-20-4	492.7 433.4												41.0	31.2	27.9	Sand-silt-clay	0.6	0.6	0	

APPENDIX A Summary of X-Ray, Grain Size, and Carbon-Carbonate Results, Site 301

Note: Complete results X-ray, Site 301, will be found in Part V. Appendix I. X-ray mineralogical legend in Appendix A, Chapter 2.

Site	301	Hole			Cor	re 1 C	ored Int	erva	al: ().0-3.0 m					Site :	301	Hole		C	ore 3	Con	d Int	erva	1:13	6.0-145.5 m		
AGE	ZONE	FORAMS	SONNAN	L TER SOLUTION	SECTION	METERS	HOLOGY	DEFORMATION	LITHO.SAMPLE		LITHOLOG	IC DESCRIP	TION		AGE	ZONE	FORAMS	SSIL	DIATONS 20	METERS	LITHOL	OGY	DEFORMATION	LITHO. SAMPLE		LITHOLOGIC	DESCRIPTION
					Cat	ore tcher					Punch core H ₂ 5 odor in	- no recove barrel.	ery; very strong							0.5	V01	D				Colors: oliv (5Y 2/1), li (5G 4/1); mc deformation:	e gray (5Y 3/2), olive black ght gray (N7), dark greenish gra derate drilling fimm.
Expla	inatory 1	Hole	in cł	hapte	r 1	-P 2 C	ored inte	Prva	a 1 •11	7 D=126 5 m						(S		B	Ag	1.0			T	*	5Y 3/2 and	SILT Smear: 1-90	
AGE	ZONE	FORAMS	SONNAN	L TER - 2001 TIS	SECTION	WETERS	HOLOGY	DEFORMATION	LITHO.SAMPLE		LITHOLOG1	C DESCRIP	TION		RLY PLEISTOCENE	ocha subarctios (ocyclus oculatus	в	в	Cm Fm	intern terr	V01			30	54 2/1 56Y 3/2	Texture 76% Silt 21% Clay 3% Sand	Composition 58% Quartz 20% Feldspar 7% Heavy minerals 5% Mica 3% Micarb 3% Micarb 3% Diatoms
			B	im Fr Fr	1	1.0		**************		5Y 3/2 5GY 4/1 5GY 4/1	Unit 1. Col dark greeni (5Y 2/1), g medium oliv irregular t deformation H ₂ S odor. SILTY CLAY Smear: 3-75 Texture	ors: domina sh gray (56 rayish oliv e brown (57 hicknesses; ; soupy, so ,CC	<pre>int olive gray (5Y 3/ SY 4/1), olive black re green (5GY 3/2) an (4/4); bedding, ; intense-moderate off to firm; strong osition</pre>	2).	Explan	Dicty Actin	B otes in	Cm chap	Ag Cm C	Core				-	5Y 3/2 5G 4/1 - 5Y 3/2 5Y 3/2	SILTY CLAY VOLCANIC ASH Grain Size 1 2.9, 75.8, 2	1% Volčanic glass 1% Radiolarians Tr% Foraminifera (Minor Lith) -90 1.3
	s (S)			Fm	2				***	5Y 2/1	57% CTay 30% Silt 3% Sand	50% C 10% F 10% F 10% Q 7% M 6% Q 4% M 3% H 2% V 2% V 1r% R	Tay minerals 'eldspar Jiatoms ticronodules Juartz ticarb teavy minerals tica folcanic glass sponge spicules tadiolaricans														
	istephanus octangulatus		Rp F	m Fr	3		ochem să	MPL	20 * 75 E	5GY 3/2	SAND Smear: 3-20 <u>Texture</u> 85% Sand 15% Clay	Tr% 6	psition eldspar Jaurtz Jay minerals Gavy minerals														
	G				4				1 ¹ 1	5Y 4/4		5% N 5% N 5% V 2% N 1% F 1% F	ficronodules ficarb Jolatoms Jolatoms Jolatoms Forance glass Radiolarians Foraminifera Glauconite														
				Rm	5					5Y 2/1	Volcanic As Smear: 4-11 Clay and Fo Smear: 5-10	h (Minor Li 1, 6-101 ram-Rich Di 4	ith) iatom Ooze (Minor Lit	h)													
			Am	Å	9			Τ	104		<u>Grain Size</u> 85.0, 0.0,	<u>3-19</u> 15.0	X-ray 3-74 (Bulk) 36.0% Quar														
PLEISTOCENE	ica bs (5) 'ostris (D)				6		/01D			5Y 4/4 5Y 3/2	Carbon Carb 1.8, 1.2, 4 Carbon Carb 3.4, 1.7, 1	onate 3-76 onate 5-103 4	19.7% Plag 6.0% K-Fe 5.9% Pyri 3 3.9% Chlo 2.0% Calc 1.9% Mont														
LATE	a ocean ubarctiv a curvir		в		0		of6	1	101	5Y 3/2			1.78 1010														
	rocaps ocha s solenic			Rm		- M-		1	-	5G 4/1 with	5Y 3/2																
	Gephy Dicty Rhizo	Cg	Fm		Ca	tcher			čč	5Y 3/2																	

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Site 301 Hole Core 18 Cored Interval: 468.5-478.0 m FOSSIL SAMPLE CHARACTER DEFORMATION METERS ZONE LITHOLOGY LITHOLOGIC DESCRIPTION AGE STLTCO. NANNOS LITHO. ORAMS RADS Colors: olive gray (5Y 4/1), light green gray (5GY 6/1), dark greenish gray (5GY 4/1); clay clasts and quartzite pebbles noted in VOID silty sand zones; lithified, chunky, bio-turbated, and slight drilling deformation. Rm Rm .0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 78 5GY 6/1 ZEOLITE SILT-RICH CLAYSTONE Smears: 1-78, 1-128, 2-124 Texture 77-85% Clay Composition 34-52% Zeolite 128 Z Z Z ... 15-20% Silt 40% Carb. unspec. 5Y 4/1 Tr- 3% Sand 4- 8% Diatoms 1-14% Feldspar 1- 4% Micronodules Zeolites altered 5GY 4/1 to carbonate. 1- 2% Heavy minerals В 1% Volcanic glass 1% Quartz 1% Glauconite 1 124 Tr-35% Clay minerals Tr% Radiolarians VOID -----DIATOMACEOUS CLAYSTONE XX Smears: 4-118, 4-138, CC Texture 85-88% Clay 10-13% Silt Composition 35-48% Clay minerals 25-35% Diatoms VOID 5Y 4/1 73 2% Sand 7-10% Feldspar VOID 5- 7% Micronodules 2% Pyrite 2- 5% Quartz (S) GEOCHEM SAMP 1- 5% Radiolarians nquange]]us 1- 2% Micarb 1- 2% Sponge spicules 1% Volcanic glass 5GY 4/1 1- 3% Mica 0 22212121 5GY-5G 4/1 SAND-SILT-CLAY qufi Ca Smear: 3-73 5Y 4/1 LATE MIOCENE Composition 25% Quartz Texture 45% Sand kamtschat S - 2 118 5G-5GY 4/1 138 31% Silt 20% Feldspar 24% Clay 11% Clay minerals Distep 10% Mica B Core 5GY 4/1 *cc 7% Diatoms ÷ Grain Size 3-70 45.0, 30.7, 24.3 Catcher 5% Micronodules 5% Heavy minerals 2% Pyrite Grain Size 3-11 45.2, 30.9, 23.9 2% Nannofossils 1% Glauconite 1% Volcanic glass 1% Radiolarians Carbon Carbonate 4-118 0.5, 0.5, 0 Carbon Carbonate 4-137 X-ray 4-117 (Bulk) 37.5% Quar 5 20.8% Mica 2 5.6% K-Fe 2.5% Chlo 1.7% Pyri 18.2% Plag 13.7% Mont <u>X-ray 4-136</u> (Bulk) 29.0% Quar 20.4% Plag 18.8% Mica 5.8% K-Fe 3.8% Chlo 3.6% Pyri 18.5% Mont

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