13. ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY OF LOWER CRETACEOUS SEDIMENTS FROM SITE 535, LEG 77, FLORIDA STRAITS¹

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ABSTRACT

At Site 535, the four lithologic units of Cretaceous age are controlled by two types of sedimentologic facies: (1) the massive light-colored limestones or marly limestones in which the total organic carbon (TOC) content is low and the organic matter more or less oxidized and (2) laminated dark facies in which the TOC content is higher and associated with a well-preserved organic matter of Type II origin. Very little typical Type III organic matter occurs in the whole series from late Berriasian to Aptian and Cenomanian. Fluctuations from oxidizing to reducing environments of deposition are proposed to account for the variations in properties of the Type II organic matter between the different facies. Dark laminated layers are good but immature potential source rocks: petroleum potential is often higher than 2 kg HC/t of rock.

INTRODUCTION

Site 535, drilled during Leg 77 and located in the Straits of Florida at a water depth of 3455 m (Fig. 1), allows the study of the Lower Cretaceous formations in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Five lithologic units were described on board (Fig. 2) with few postcruise modifications in their age. Because the sediments are mainly calcareous, with generally more than 50% and sometimes up to 99% CaCO₃, the lithologic basis for the division of Cretaceous into Units II, III, IV, and V are relatively subtle. The main characteristics of the lithology consist of rhythmic alternations of carbonates: light bioturbated limestones, dark and more or less laminated limestones, and dark marly limestones, which were interpreted on board as "... fluctuations of the anaerobic bottom conditions coupled with plankton productivity..." (see site chapter, Site 535, this volume).

During the Berriasian to Cenomanian, the Blake-Bahama and the Hatteras formations were deposited in the North Atlantic Ocean. Many similarities exist between the alternations of the Blake Bahama Formation as they were defined at Sites 105 and 391 and those of the Units III, IV, and V at Site 535. The lithologic change between a calcareous set and a noncalcareous one, which in central North Atlantic makes the difference between the Blake-Bahama and the Hatteras formations, doesn't exist at Site 535. This dissimilarity could be partly due to a relatively shallow paleobathymetry above the calcite compensation depth (CCD) at Site 535 (presently Site 535 is 3455 m deep) compared to the depths at which the Blake-Bahama and the other formations were deposited: Sites 105, 367, and 391 (where the present bathymetry is approximately 4500-5000 m).

The geological "El Event" (de Graciansky et al., 1982), which in the central North Atlantic corresponds to the change from Blake-Bahama Formation to Hatteras Formation, is not indicated at Site 535 by a variation of lithofacies. However, near the top of Unit III, a great condensation (perhaps a hiatus) occurs. Only four of eight Aptian foraminiferal zones were recovered, including two of late Aptian and two of early Aptian age, but none from the middle Aptian; most if not all of the Barremian is missing (see Site 535 report, this volume).

SAMPLING AND METHODS

More than 120 samples were collected, 71 of them representative of the Cretaceous lithofacies in Cores 18 to 75 and 55 others in a detailed sequence along a single core (Sections 535-64-3 to 535-64-5).

Organic carbon was determined in acid-treated samples with a LECO apparatus, after which Rock-Eval pyrolysis assays were performed for all 126 samples (Espitalié et al., 1977).

Espitalié and others (1980) showed that the mineral matrix of rocks, especially clays, induced retention of hydrocarbons during pyrolysis. Accordingly, the hydrogen index (HI) of a rock is lower than the HI obtained for the demineralized fraction (kerogen) of the same rock. In order to estimate the petroleum potential of organic matter, we must know the quantity of hydrocarbons held on the mineral matrix during the pyrolysis of the studied rock. The activity of the mineral matrix is determined from mixing the carbonate-free sample (previously pyrolyzed under O_2) and the standard rock. The comparison between the quantity of hydrocarbons released during a Rock-Eval pyrolysis from this mixture with those of the standard rock alone allows determination of the activity of the mineral matrix of the studied rock (Espitalié et al., in press). Thus we obtain the "corrected hydrogen index" (HI'), which is more representative of the organic matter than the uncorrected index (HI). Such a correction was carried out for samples from Site 535 whenever there was ambiguity about the type of organic matter.

Elemental analysis of the kerogen was done for 12 samples, and 20 samples were extracted with chloro-

¹ Buffler, R. T., Schlager, W., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP*, 77: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office).









Figure 2. Schematic log and section of Site 535 (water depth = 3455.5 m). MCU = mid-Cretaceous unconformity; MCCPM = mid-Cretaceous carbonate platform margin.

form. A quantitative estimate of saturate, aromatic, and heteroatomic compounds was made with a IATROSCAN analyzer. With this device, the different components are fractionated by thin-layer chromatography on silicagelcoated rods and then passed through a flame-ionization detector in order to measure their abundances. Ten micrograms of total extracts are required for this destructive method.

RESULTS

In order to give a wider statistical geochemical characterization of the Cretaceous sequence under study, and because of the accuracy of the Rock-Eval data whatever the apparatus, the 43 Cretaceous samples analyzed on board by L. B. Magoon and J. W. Patton will be discussed again in this study (see site chapter, Site 535, this volume).

Analysis of Carbon and Organic Matter

We will first discuss carbon and pyrolysis data for a detailed sequence in Unit IV and then for every lithologic unit in geologic order. Because carbonate lithofacies along the whole series are diverse, each lithofacies is designated with a particular symbol (Table 1).

Detailed Analysis of a Sequence in Unit IV (Fig. 3)

An interval of 3.65 m was sampled in Core 64 to examine a representative lithologic sequence, from a massive light-colored limestone through finely laminated and progressively darker limestones to another massive lightcolored limestone. The lithologies will be discussed below in the order of the sedimentation (from bottom to top).

The white and light gray marly limestones at the base of the sequence (535-64-5, 76 cm to 535-64-4, 128 cm) are rich in carbonate contents (87-94%) and have TOC values ranging from 0.0 to 0.5%. Slight TOC enrichments (0.8%) are observed in Sample 535-64-4, 141 cm and in a thin level of laminated gray marly limestones at

Table 1. Symbols for lithofacies.

CaCO3 (%)	Lithofacies	Symbol	Color
95-100	Limestones	☆	White (5Y8/1-5Y8/2) Pale yellow gray (5Y8/4)
	Marly limestones	© ∳0 Ø	White (5Y8/1-5Y8/2) Pale yellow gray (5Y8/4) Light gray (5Y7/1-5Y7/2) Dark gray (5Y4/1)
65-95	Laminated marly limestones	山中政政中	White (5Y8/1-5Y8/2) Pale yellow gray (5Y8/4) Gray (5Y5/1-5Y6/1) Dark gray (5Y4/1) Dark olive gray (5Y3/2)
	Marls	×	Dark gray (5Y4/1) Very dark gray (5Y3/1)
<65	Laminated marls	× E	Dark gray (5Y4/1) Dark olive gray (5Y3/2)

Sample 535-64-5, 23 cm. At the top of the light marly limestone gray set, a level of laminated gray marly limestones with 0.7% TOC represents the contact with the laminated dark gray marly limestones (535-64-4, 90-121 cm). In the latter, the TOC increases abruptly, with a range of 1.8-3.6% as the carbonate decreases from 80 to 69%. When the very dark gray marls are reached (535-64-4, 56-70 cm), the carbonate content falls to 56 and 44% and TOC values reach 5.7% (even 13.2% for a shipboard analysis). A negative correlation between the carbonate content and the TOC is clearly apparent (Fig. 4A) in this interval. An abrupt change is observed in the laminated gray marly limestones: from 535-64-4, 20-49 cm, the carbonate contents reach 78-90% and the TOC values 0.6-0.9%. At the top, however, 535-64-4, 1-16 cm, one slight TOC enrichment (1.2-1.7%), related to a relatively poor carbonate content of 71-74% is observed. Above it, in laminated pale yellow gray marly limestones (535-64-3, 139-145 cm), where the hues become lighter, the carbonate contents regularly increase (75-84%) and the TOC decreases (1.0-0.6%). That trend ends at Sample 535-64-3, 135 cm, where a white marly limestone-characterized by the same high carbonate contents (84-90%) and low TOC contents (0.0-0.4%), as at bottom of this sequence-begins.

In summary, this examination shows for a complete sequence a progressive passage from massive, light-colored to laminated, darker deposits. This macroscopic change is accompanied by a decrease of carbonate contents and increase of TOC contents. The maximum TOC enrichment occurs at top of the darker facies, a decrease occurs for the overlying laminated deposits, whereas the white marly limestone at the top are nearly devoid of organic carbon. From bottom to top, abrupt changes in TOC content occur from the lower massive member to the laminated one (535-64-4, 122-128 cm) and from dark to light-colored laminae between 535-64-4, 56 cm and 535-64-4, 49 cm. On the other hand, a progressive change characterizes the passage from the laminated to the upper massive member at 535-64-3, 135-139 cm.

The nature of the organic matter (OM) deduced from the hydrogen index (HI) versus oxygen index (OI) diagram of pyrolysis is as follows:

1) The base of the laminated member, 535-64-4, 95-121 cm, is characterized by a typical Type II marine OM (HI = 426 to 642, HI' = 524 to 699, OI \leq 65). These characteristics of pyrolysis were soon reached in the light gray marly limestones at Sample 535-64-4, 141 cm (HI = 591, HI' = 763, OI = 69).

2) Higher concentrations of TOC corresponding to the same type of OM occurs in the overlying dark gray marls (HI = 480 to 578, HI' = 632, OI = 25 to 44).

3) In the other laminated sediments, 535-64-4, 49 cm to 535-64-3, 139 cm and at the bottom (Sample 535-64-4, 122 cm), the OM is also of marine origin (HI = 313 to 455, HI' = 383 to 681) but the higher OI (71 to 142) would imply a relative enrichment in oxygenated compounds.

4) In the massive, light-colored members, the relative enrichment of OI continues to increase (150 to 200) and



Figure 3. Vertical distribution of geochemical data in Sections 535-64-3 through 535-64-5. See Table 1 for key for symbols.

the related HI' decreases (344 to 172), except for layers at 535-64-5, 17 cm and 535-64-5, 23 cm (HI' = 489 to 548), which also belong to Type II marine OM.

5) The other samples located beneath evolution Path III (Fig. 4B) belong to white marly limestone with very poor TOC contents ($\leq 0.2\%$); their pyrolysis data are not reliable enough to indicate the nature of OM.

In order to complete the results obtained with the pyrolysis method, some kerogen elemental analyses were done on laminated sediments of Core 535-64. These results, discussed in the section on kerogen fractions, confirm the Type II origin of the OM contained in the laminated pale yellow gray, the laminated gray, and the laminated dark gray marly limestones that was indicated by the homogeneous values of the corrected hydrogen indices (HI') in the laminated part (Fig. 3).

According to sedimentologic analyses, the bioturbated light-colored carbonates are derived from well-oxygenated environments, whereas the laminated darker sediments are associated with oxygen depletion (lack of bio-



Figure 4. Carbonate versus total organic carbon content diagram (A) and pyrolysis diagram (B) for Sections 535-64-3 through 535-64-5. See Table 1 for key to symbols. Numbers represent core-section, level in cm.

turbation). Such alternations between the two environments would explain the variations for both HI and OI.

The phenomenon of OI increases simultaneous to the HI decreases suggests the alteration of the OM. Such a phenomenon was observed along a core of Toarcian shales collected in a quarry of the Paris Basin; at the bottom of the core, a well-preserved OM reveals high HI and low OI, but progressively towards the surface, low HI and high OI correspond to the same but weathered and oxidized OM. Such a phenomenon could exist in a synsedimentary process between two environments with one more oxygenated than the other.

Analysis of the Lithologic Units

Unit V: Core 535-79 to Section 535-68-5 (Fig. 5)

The oldest unit cored at this site is of late Berriasian to Valanginian age. It consists of alternating massive, bioturbated to poorly laminated white limestones and marly limestones with few dark gray or dark olive gray marls, both laminated and unlaminated.

White limestones contain 96% $CaCO_3$ and 0.1-0.2%TOC and white marly limestones have 76-94% $CaCO_3$ and 0.1-0.3% TOC (Fig. 5A). Both contain organic matter of undetermined origin; their unreliable pyrolysis data are located outside of Paths II and III (Fig. 5B).

Laminated white marly limestones, with 82-91% CaCO₃, reach 0.4-0.6% TOC, whereas the laminated dark olive gray marly limestones (Sample 535-72-4, 87 cm) contain only 74% CaCO₃ with 2.3% TOC. Both laminated lithofacies show organic matter of predominantly marine Type II (HI = 304 to 339, HI' = 385 to 460) (Fig. 5B, Appendix).

Dark gray marls, laminated dark gray marls, and dark olive gray marls reveal lower carbonate contents (41– 60%) and higher TOC contents (1.6–2.8%) (Fig. 5A). Higher values of HI are obtained in the laminated facies of dark gray marls (Sample 535-69-1, 115 cm) or dark olive gray marls (Sample 535-71-3, 122 cm) with HI = 425 to 439, whereas in the unlaminated facies (Sample 535-73-1, 93 cm) HI doesn't exceed 306. However, the corrected hydrogen indexes reach 563 to 594 (Appendix), a value that is characteristic of marine Type II organic matter.

Samples of marls studied by Magoon and Patton (see site chapter, Site 535, this volume) have higher TOC values (up to 6.6%) but reach the same range of HI (300 to 400) (Figs. 5A-B). They therefore contain the same type of OM.



Figure 5. Carbonate versus total organic carbon content diagram (A) and pyrolysis diagram (B) for Unit V. See Table 1 for key to symbols. Numbers represent core-section, level in cm. Solid dots are data from site chapter, Site 535, this volume.

Unit IV: Sections 535-68-2 to 535-52-2 (Fig. 6)

The detailed sequence studied above belongs to this unit, which is Valanginian in age at bottom and Hauterivian at top. It consists of numerous alternations of bioturbated and more or less laminated white, pale yellow gray, and light gray limestones or marly limestones with dark gray, dark olive gray, and black marls, both laminated and unlaminated.

The white limestone in Sample 535-63-4, 138 cm is very rich in carbonate (99%) and almost devoid of organic carbon (0.2%). White marly limestones with 84– 95% CaCO₃ and 0.0–0.4% TOC (Appendix, Figs. 4A and 6A) contain an indeterminate organic matter; the only reliable pyrolysis data for these are from Sample 535-58-5, 37 cm, where HI = 367 for a TOC of $0.4\%^{*2}$, which can be attributed to an OM of Type II origin. Pale yellow gray and light gray marly limestones show a carbonate content fluctuating between 89 and 92% with 0.2-0.8% TOC (Figs. 4A and 6A); most of these belong to the detailed sequence of Core 64 previously described with mostly indeterminate OM, except in the samples richer in TOC. The white, pale yellow gray, gray, dark gray, and dark olive gray laminated marly limestones, like the dark gray marls, have lower carbonate contents (61-85% with 0.5-3.6% TOC content) and contain an organic matter of marine origin with HI fluctuating between 276 (for the lower TOC content, 0.5% in Sample 535-66-5, 129 cm) and 642 (in Sample 535-64-4, 121 cm, for a TOC content of 3.2%) (Figs. 4B and 6B; Appendix).

Unit III: Sections 535-52-2 to 535-43-3 (Fig. 7)

The age assigned to this unit is late Hauterivian to earliest Albian; the late Barremian and Gargasian foraminiferal zones are absent. The hiatus during the Gargasian represents the El Event (de Graciansky et al., 1982), which in the central North Atlantic separates the carbonate Blake-Bahama Formation and the low-carbonate Hatteras Formation. Such a carbonate change is not observed at Site 535; Unit III consists entirely of cyclic alternations of unlaminated white limestones and marly limestones; laminated gray, dark gray, or dark olive gray marly limestones; and dark gray to very dark gray marls.

The white limestones are very rich in carbonate (96– 99%) and sometimes rich in TOC (Samples 535-47-1, 82 cm and 535-47-1, 99 cm reach respectively 0.5 and 0.8% TOC* with 99% carbonate; Fig. 7A, Appendix). Detrital components (silt, clay) are completely missing in this

 $^{^2}$ An asterisk (*) indicates that the analyses were made twice in order to verify the results.



Figure 6. Carbonate versus total organic carbon content (A) and pyrolysis diagram (B) for Unit IV. See Table 1 for key to symbols. Numbers represent core-section, level in cm. Solid dots are data from site chapter, Site 535, this volume.

facies, which consists only of $CaCO_3$ and OM. Sample 535-47-1, 99 cm is particularly interesting, because, despite a high carbonate content, its HI is 423, i.e., it derives from typical Type II OM (Fig. 7B).

The pale yellow gray limestone (Sample 535-47-1, 91 cm) is also very rich in carbonate (99%) as well as in organic matter (0.6% TOC*) (Fig. 7A, Appendix) with a typical Type II OM (Fig. 7B).

White and pale yellow gray marly limestones, like the laminated white marly limestones (89–95% CaCO₃), have the same range of TOC as the above limestones (0.2–0.6%, Fig. 7A, Appendix) and are located in the same pyrolysis field except for the laminated white marly limestones in Sample 535-49-3, 111 cm, which have slightly higher TOC contents (0.9%) and HI values (387, Fig. 7B). Laminated gray, dark gray or dark olive gray marly limestones contain 75–91% CaCO₃ and 0.7–1.8% TOC (Fig. 7A); these are all derived from Type II organic matter with HI values between 256 and 418 (HI' from 370 to 557).

Despite higher TOC contents (2.3-3.2%), Fig. 7A), the less calcareous facies (dark gray or very dark gray marls) with 52-65% CaCO₃ show equivalent values of HI (260-403, Fig. 7B). Without the retention caused by clay material during pyrolysis, the range of HI' lies between 391 and 590 (Appendix), so that a Type II origin can be assigned to the OM.

Unit II: Section 535-43-2 to 535-17, CC (Fig. 8)

Two subunits were considered in Unit II based upon the stronger cyclicity exhibited in the lower part (see site chapter, Site 515, this volume).

The lower subunit (Section 535-43-2 to Core 535-30) is Cenomanian(?) on the basis of ammonites (Young, this volume); the initial determination of an early to middle Albian age has been interpreted as reworking. In turn, the upper subunit (Core 535-30 to 535-17,CC) is attributed to middle Cenomanian (largely on the basis of ammonites), and the benthic foraminifers of early to middle Albian age are considered as reworked.

Despite an important hiatus (8 Ma) corresponding to the entire Albian, no fundamental changes of lithology are observed between Units III and II. In Unit II, the series consists of the same lithofacies described before (i.e., cross-laminated alternations of white limestones or marly limestones with pale yellow gray, light gray, and dark gray marly limestones and a few dark olive gray marly limestones or laminated black marls).

The white limestone (Sample 535-35-4, 97 cm) is very rich in carbonate and almost devoid of TOC (0.2%). White and pale yellow gray marly limestones contain 91–94% CaCO₃ and are slightly richer in TOC (0.2–0.6%). Light gray marly limestones are less rich in carbonate (80–90%) with the same range of TOC (0.3–0.5%,



Figure 7. Carbonate versus total organic carbon content (A) and pyrolysis diagram (B) for Unit III. See Table 1 for key to symbols. Numbers represent core-section, level in cm. Solid dots are data from site chapter, Site 535, this volume.

Fig. 8A). In the dark gray marly limestones (Sample 535-35-4, 82 cm), the carbonate content reaches 81% and TOC content 1.5%. As observed in Unit IV, the light-colored, unlaminated facies contains an oxidized OM of marine origin (HI' up to 375), whereas the dark unlaminated lithofacies corresponds to an unoxidized Type II OM (HI' = 523) (Fig. 8B, Appendix). The laminated facies consist of dark olive gray marly limestones (Sample 535-35-4, 140 cm) or dark gray marls (Sample 535-41-6, 120 cm) and have respectively 82 and 61% CaCO₃ and 2.2 and 0.9% TOC. A typical marine OM is found for Sample 535-35-4, 140 cm and an altered one for the other. The richest TOC values were obtained on board in Samples 535-42-5, 21 cm; 535-41-5, 121 cm; and 535-35-5, 15 cm, with respectively 7.3, 4.0, and 5.4% TOC. Their HIs ranging between 330 and 510 (Fig. 8B) are typical of a Type II organic matter. Thus, although the lithofacies with dark hues are less represented in Unit II, the type of organic matter always belongs to Type II, more or less oxidized, with no evidence for a detrital influence of Type III organic matter.

Comparison of Organic Matter and Carbonate Sedimentation in Sites 369 and 535

The proximity of the platform in both places (the continental slope off the Spanish Sahara for Site 369

and the eastern Gulf of Mexico carbonate platform for Site 535) accounts for the lithologic analogies. Carbonate-rich sediments occur within the Albian series in Hole 369A (Core 369A-47 to Section 369A-41-2), just as they occur in the mid-Cretaceous of Site 535.

In Hole 369A, the lithofacies of the Albian section consists of alternations of gray, dark gray, and very dark gray marly limestones and marls. Silty gray marls contain 22-55% CaCO3 and 1.2-8.8% TOC. Very dark gray marls or marly claystones have 12-42% CaCO3 and 1.0-8.5% TOC, whereas marly limestones are richer in carbonate (78-87%) and poorer in TOC (0.5-0.8%). All the lithofacies contain the same Type II OM with HI reaching up to 550. The absence of any typical detrital OM of continental origin (Type III) and a decrease of the HI versus increase of the OI related to a decrease of the TOC content are observed as they were at Site 535 (Fig. 9). In both cases, the OM is predominantly of marine origin. The dilution of the TOC and the low HI observed for the more calcareous sediments could depend on fluctuations of the sediment accumulation rate connected with redox states of the sedimentary environment.

At roughly the same period, the two sites had the same organic sedimentology induced by identical geologic environments and by a strong influence of the carbonated sedimentation.



Figure 8. Carbonate versus total organic carbon content (A) and pyrolysis diagram (B) for Unit II. See Table 1 for key to symbols. Numbers represent core-section, level in cm. Solid dots are data from site chapter, Site 535, this volume.

Petroleum Potential and Maturation of the Organic Matter

Petroleum Potential (Fig. 10)

The petroleum potential is defined as the sum of Rock-Eval Peak S_1 (corresponding to the free hydrocarbons [HC] in the rock) and Peak S_2 (related to the HC expelled during the kerogen pyrolysis). Five ranges of petroleum potential will be considered here under: (1) very low potential, 0.01–0.50 kg HC/metric ton of rock (kg/t); (2) low potential, 0.51–2.00; (3) medium potential, 2.01–5.00; (4) good potential, 5.01–20.00; (5) very good potential, above 20.00.

Because the OM throughout the whole study is of marine origin (Type II), a correlation of the petroleum potential with the TOC content can be made. The organic carbon content is related to lithology, so the petroleum potential will follow the same correlation.

Figure 10 shows that very low potentials are restricted to white limestones or marly limestones and light gray marly limestones.

Low potentials are characteristic of unlaminated lithologies including limestones or marly limestones with pale hues such as white, pale yellow gray, or light gray. However some laminated white marly limestones (535-71-1, 110 cm; 535-69-4, 120 cm; 535-66-5, 129 cm; and 535-48-1, 100 cm) also have low potentials (between 1.3 and 2.0 kg HC/t rock), like some laminated dark gray marly limestones (535-48-1, 78 cm) and marls (535-41-6, 120 cm).

Medium potentials are frequent in the white, pale yellow gray, gray, or dark gray laminated marly limestones. One white limestone reaches 3.68 kg HC/t with 0.8%TOC³ in 535-47-1, 99 cm (its carbonate content is 99%).

Good and very good potentials are characteristic of laminated marly limestones or marls with dark hues such as gray, dark gray, very dark gray, and dark olive gray.

The petroleum potential of the sediments at Site 535 depends on the frequency and thickness of dark laminated layers.

Stage of Maturation (Fig. 11)

The hydrogen index can be correlated with the maximum temperature of S2 pyrolysis peak during programmed heating from 350 to 550°C. Numerous reference samples at different stages of maturation and for different types of organic matter were analyzed by pyrolysis and for vitrinite reflectance (Durand et al., 1979;

³ The analyses were made twice (once after chloroform extraction) in order to eliminate possible contamination.



Figure 9. Comparison of the pyrolysis diagrams from Sites 369 and 535. Both sites are located on the continental margin with a relatively low bathymetry, above the CCD. Size of symbols is proportional to TOC.

Herbin et al., 1979). The results allowed the plotting of evolution paths of the different types of organic matter (I, II, III) with related isoreflectance curves superimposed (Espitalié, in press). Reflectances below 0.5% belong to immature material; the oil window is located beyond 0.5% (approximately 435° C) up to 1.0% (approximately 450° C).

All samples from Site 535 (Fig. 11) are located in the immature zone (< 0.5% R_o, where R_o = vitrinite reflectance) with a fluctuation of the T_{max} between 408 and 434°C. No maturation of the organic matter is observed in the successive units; the same range of T_{max} exists from Unit V to Unit II (i.e., for an interval from 700-150 m depth). The present depth of 150 m for Unit II is



Figure 10. Petroleum potentials at Site 535. See Table 1 for key to symbols. Solid dots are data from Site 535 report (this volume).

not sufficient to explain the average T_{max} of 425°C. A comparison of the evolution of T_{max} versus depth with a more complete Cretaceous section as found in Site 540 would permit the estimation of the thickness of the eroded deposits before the Pleistocene sedimentation.

Study of the Kerogen Fractions (Fig. 12)

Elemental analysis of kerogen was performed on 12 samples; seven were located in the detailed sequence of the Sections 535-64-3 through 535-64-5 (Table 2). The samples were chosen in different lithologies: laminated pale yellow gray, gray, dark gray, and dark olive gray marly limestones and laminated dark gray marls, with 61-82% carbonate, 0.8-3.6% TOC and a wide range of pyrolysis indices (high HI/low OI or low HI/high OI). Unfortunately, the study of light-colored unlaminated limestones and marly limestones was not undertaken, because of the low TOC content.

The results of the elemental analysis of the kerogen do not show a scattering of the values as observed on pyrolysis result. The whole population of the studied samples is located beneath the beginning of the evolution Path II except for the Sample 535-64-4, 118 cm, which is above. Thus the marine origin of the organic matter is corroborated in the detailed sequence of Sections 535-64-3 and 535-64-4, from bottom to top of the laminated set and confirmed in the slightly laminated level at 535-64-5, 23 cm.

Study of Chloroform Extracts (Fig. 13)

Because of their small size, the samples yielded very low quantities of extract (Table 3), less than 4 mg on the average, ranging from 0.6 mg (535-48-1, 68 cm) to 13.6 mg (535-47-1, 93 cm). The heteroatomic compounds account for 78.4–100% of the extracts. The low content of hydrocarbons (HC) and the predominance of heteroatomic compounds are typical of immature material and are in agreement with the early stage of maturation (given by the pyrolysis temperature). The saturated and unsaturated HC content ranges from 0–13.9 wt.%, and the aromatic fractions represent 0–7.7 wt.% of the extract. The saturated and unsaturated HC are so weakly represented that study by gas chromatography was attempted on only two samples: Sample 535-35-4, 140 cm



Figure 11. Stage of maturation of the organic matter at Site 535. See Table 1 for key to symbols. Solid dots are data from site chapter, Site 535, this volume.

(TOC = 2.24%), where 8 wt.% of the extracts is represented by saturates, and Sample 535-41-6, 120 cm (TOC = 0.9%), where the saturates reach 13.9 wt.% of the extract. In these samples of Cenomanian age (Unit II), and more particularly in 535-35-4, 140 cm (Fig. 13A), the light alkanes $C_{15}-C_{17}$ are well represented, as are the alkanes between C_{23} and C_{31} with odd-numbered over even-numbered predominance; in the isoprenoids, however, the pristane is more abundant than phytane. Light *n*-alkanes in $C_{15}-C_{17}$ omnipresent in algae and bacteria indicate an aquatic origin for this organic matter, whereas the $C_{23}-C_{31}$ *n*-alkanes, attributed to continental organic matter, is a common pattern of the DSDP Cretaceous sediments (Roucaché et al., 1979). The results of the kerogen elemental analysis located this sample, 535-35-4, 140 cm, beneath the beginning of evolution Path II (H/C = 1.22, O/C = 0.15) (Fig. 12).

Furthermore, in Sample 535-64-4, 109–110 cm in which tar fills fracture perpendicular to the stratification, an extraction of the tar by chloroform was undertaken (Fig. 13B). The composition of the extract shows a high content of heteroatomic compounds (83.7 wt.%), a relatively high aromatics content (14.4 wt.%), and very little saturates (only 1.9 wt.%). The gas chromatogram of the saturated + unsaturated fractions (Fig. 13B) shows a large predominance of C_{14} to C_{17} hydrocarbons, very



Figure 12. Kerogen: H/C and O/C diagram. Numbers represent samples as follows: 1: 535-35-4, 140 cm; 2: 535-41-6, 120 cm; 3: 535-52-3, 120 cm; 4: 535-54-4, 120 cm; 5: 535-60-5, 120 cm; 6: 535-64-3, 142 cm; 7: 535-64-3, 145 cm; 8: 535-64-4, 16 cm; 9: 535-64-4, 101 cm; 10: 535-64-4, 118 cm; 11: 535-64-4, 121 cm; 12: 535-64-5, 23 cm.

few alkanes beyond C_{18} , and a high content of phytane. Such a composition could result either from an immature product issued from the surrounding source rock or from a biodegraded hydrocarbon accumulation issued from deeper deposits.

CONCLUSIONS

1) Organic matter of marine origin (Type II) characterizes the whole cored Cretaceous section 550 m thick, from Late Berriasian to Aptian and Cenomanian age.

2) The same range of maturation (just below the oil window) was found throughout the 550 m of Cretaceous sediment.

3) Two types of sedimentary facies control the distribution of the organic matter (OM): massive and lightcolored limestones or marly limestones in which the TOC content is low and the marine OM more or less oxidized, and the laminated and dark facies with a high TOC content and a well-preserved marine OM. Fluctuations from oxidizing to reducing environments of deposition probably account for the variations in properties of the OM without participation of Type III OM derived from continental sources.

4) Comparison with another Cretaceous carbonate section drilled off the continental margin of the Spanish Sahara (Site 369) suggests sedimentation above the CCD mainly characterized by an organic matter of marine origin.

5) Average petroleum potential values depend directly on the frequency and thickness of dark laminated layers provided with TOC content $\geq 0.5\%$ (i.e., petroleum potential $\geq 2 \text{ kg HC/T rock}$).

6) From paleoenvironmental data, the sedimentologic history of Site 535 is rather different from those of abyssal sites in the northern central Atlantic. The hiatus equivalent to the E1 Event doesn't correspond to a variation of lithology between calcareous sedimentation with Type II OM (Blake-Bahama Formation) and a clayey one with Type III OM (Hatteras Formation), as at Sites 391 and 534. At Site 535, all the Cretaceous sediments remained calcareous with typical Type II OM in all the darker lithofacies and oxidized Type II OM in the others.

7) The sequential study excludes allochthonous sedimentation of slumping type because of the continuous variation in the properties of the OM from the lighter to the darker sediments. These alternations, very common in the Cretaceous sedimentation, would reflect the rhythmical anoxia of the environment and could be due to a

Table 2. Kerogen data from element analysis.

	Litho-	Core-Section	Denth	W	eight p	ercenta	sis	Ash free of pyrite				
Unit	facies		(wt.%)	H/C	0/0							
п	0	35-4, 140	321.90	36.60	3.73	1.39	7.29	26.73	20.66	3.60	1.22	0.15
	寅	41-6, 120	381.70	29.86	2.91	1.98	5.83	31.07	21.69	7.66	1.17	0.15
ш	æ	52-3, 120	477.20	42.99	7.23	2.51	11.78	9.84	14.96	5.31	1.26	0.13
IV	-	54-4, 120	492.70	43.48	4.52	2.45	8.08	22.20	14.12	6.04	1.25	0.14
	100	60-5, 120	550.20	27.16	2.78	0.89	5.18	34.34	23.89	5.76	1.23	0.14
	•	64-3, 142	583.42	40.01	4.03	1.01	7.34	24.23	15.79	7.59	1.21	0.14
		64-3, 145	583.45	33.65	3.64	1.17	6.64	28.22	19.63	7.05	1.30	0.15
	8	64-4, 16	583.66	34.69	3.53	1.11	6.66	29.91	24.43		1.22	0.14
	100	64-4, 101	584.51	49.69	5.07	1.31	8.22	21.57	9.53	4.61	1.22	0.12
	36	64-4, 118	584.68	58,44	6.65	1.83	10.04	14.79	8.31		1.37	0.13
	20	64-4, 121	584.71	63.26	6.39	2.03	10.06	11.99	7.42		1.21	0.12
	89	64-5, 23	585.23	44.09	4.60	1.44	9.70	22.95	13.25	3.97	1.25	0.16

Note: See Table 1 for key to lithofacies symbols.



Figure 13. Chromatogram of the saturated + unsaturated fractions in the Cenomanian of Site 535 (A), and characterization of the tar-filling fractures in the Valanginian (B).

Table 3. Composition of the extracts at Site 535.

Core-Section (level in cm)		epth (m) Unit Age	Weight		TOC				Extract/	Extract/	Hetero- atomic	Hydrocarbon fraction		
	Depth (m)		Age	analyzed (g)	(g) (%)	TOC (%)	HI	OI	T _{max} (°C)	rock (%)	TOC (%)	compounds (%)	Aromatic (%)	Saturated (%)
20-6, 120	182.20	п	Cenomanian	8.4	86	0.42	207	202	413	0.015	3.57			
27-2, 120	242.70			9.1	80	0.37	132	316	413	0.013	3.51			
35-4, 140 ^a	321.90			6.5	82	2.24	435	75	413	0.034	1.52	86.7	5.3	8.0
41-6, 120 ^a	381.70			6.3	61	0.90	180	270	419	0.019	2.11	78.4	7.7	13.9
47-1, 82	428.82	ш	early Barremian to late Hauterivian	12.6	99	0.55	240	104	426	0.010	1.82	89.4	6.1	4.5
47-1, 91	428.91			16.2	99	0.63	286	94	423	0.016	2.53	86.3	4.3	9.4
47-1, 93	428.93			23.2	52	3.22	260	64	425	0.058	1.80	94.9	3.5	1.6
47-1, 99	428.99			14.9	99	0.82	423	107	422	0.020	2.43	98.8	0.	1.2
47-1, 112	429.12			15.5	98	0.62	216	98	418	0.015	2.41			
48-1, 68	437.68			9.8	99	0.13	77	123		0.006	4.61			
48-1, 71	437.71			14.1	79	1.35	315	90	428	0.004	0.30			
48-1, 149	438.49			31.	82	1.54	352	77	425	0.026	1.69	95.9	1.9	2.2
48-3, 120	441.20			6.1	95	0.48	325	87	421	0.015	3.12			
52-3, 120	477.20	IV	Hauterivian	6.6	80	1.79	418	75	408	0.037	2.07	90.4	6.1	3.5
54-4, 120	492.70		Valanginian	5.5	77	1.27	391	94	414	0.030	2.36	88.2	2.8	9.0
60-5, 120	550.20		Contraction (Contraction)	7.7	76	0.87	320	118	417	0.020	2.29	87.1	6.0	6.9
64-4, 48	583.98			24.	90	0.89	430	71	418	0.037	4.16	100.0	0.	0
64-4, 90	584.40			14.9	69	2.48	426	65	414	0.11	4.43	95.9	2.2	1.9
66-5, 129	604.29			5.6	84	0.50	276	144	419	0.016	3.20			
69-4, 120	625.20	v	late Berriasian	6.2	89	0.45	304	133	423	0.017	3.77			

Note: TOC = total organic carbon; HI = hydrogen index; OI = oxygen index; T_{max} = maximum temperature.

^a Study of the saturated + unsaturated fraction by gas chromatography analysis on quartz col. capil. CP SIL 5 (0 int: 0.5 mm, L = 25 m), injected 0.2 μ l splitless (model Varian 3700).

sharply increased supply of nutrients. During the Early Cretaceous and mid-Cretaceous, the first stages of the continental drift, the physiography was certainly most important in controlling the anoxic environment. But why was the rhythmic phenomena spread all over the sealed basins of the central North Atlantic? The hypothesis of global climate fluctuation could be an explanation for the variations of the environment (Darmedru et al., 1982; Einsele, 1982).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are indebted to R. Cunningham and D. W. Waples for comment and review of the present paper and to P. C. de Graciansky who sampled and described Sections 3-5 in Core 535-64. Geology Paper Number 25712; Project B70 80006.

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Date of Initial Receipt: December 16, 1982 Date of Acceptance: June 15, 1983

		APP	ENI	DIX				
Carbonate,	Organic	Carbon,	and	Pyrolysis	Data	for	Hole 535	

Unit	Core-Section (level in cm)	Depth (m)	CaCO3 (%)	TOC (%)	T _{max} (°C)	ні	HI'	OI	S ₁ + S ₂ (kg HC/t rock)
Limeston	e								
White lin	nestone								
II	35-4, 97	321.47	99	0.2		165		269	0.37
III	46-2, 67	421.17	99	0.2		186	318	173	0.46
	47-1, 82	428.82	99	0.5	426	240		104	1.34
	47-1, 99	428.99	99	0.8	422	423		107	3.68
	47-1, 122	429.12	98	0.6	418	216		98	1.43
	48-1, 68	437.68	99	0.1		77		123	0.12
	48-1, 120	438.20	97	0.3	423	145	172	138	0.42
	48-1, 148	438.48	96	0.3	422	100		82	0.28
	49-3, 137	450.37	97	0.2		229	417	129	0.61
	51-1, 109	465.09	96	0.4	426	197	385	120	0.77
IV	63-4, 138	575.88	99	0.2		215		180	0.46
v	71-1, 72	638.20	96	0.1		300		325	0.29
	72-3, 124	650.74	96	0.2		113		125	0.18
Pale yello	w gray limeston	e							
ш	47-1, 91	428.91	99	0.6	423	286		94	1.83
Marly lin	nestone								
White ma	arly limestone								
11	31-5, 120	285.20	94	0.3	428	123		196	0.32
III	48-1, 85	437.85	93	0.4	431	107	156	158	0.52
	48-1, 91	437.91	95	0.4		203		150	0.73
	48-1, 98	437.98	95	0.3	445	186	241	155	0.54
	48-1, 100	438.00	89	0.6	422	208	290	126	1.29
	48-1, 108	438.08	95	0.4	425	218		105	0.83
	51-1, 32	464.32	95	0.2		120		145	0.24

ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY, SITE 535

Appendix A. (Continued).

Unit	Core-Section (level in cm)	Depth (m)	CaCO3 (%)	TOC (%)	T _{max} (°C)	HI	HI'	OI	S ₁ + S ₂ (kg HC/t rock)
Marly lin	nestone (Cont.)								
White ma	urly limestone (C	Cont.)							
1V	55-6, 132	513.32	88	0.3	423	275	321	175	0.88
	58-5, 37	531.37	92	0.4	423	367	535	86	1.86
	60-6, 25	550.75	93	0.1		100		315	0.21
	62-4, 141	566.91	95	0.1		73		187	0.24
	64-3, 11	582.11	88	0.3	420	161	286	157	0.50
	64-3, 18	582.18	90	0.3	423	150	231	162	0.43
	64-3, 29	582.29	88	0.2	421	140	200	180	0.39
	64-3, 39	582.49	80	0.2	422	110		104	0.17
	64-3, 59	582.59	89	0.2	422	84		158	0.18
	64-3, 70	582.70	89	0.2		33		228	0.09
	64-3, 80	582.80	89	0.2		89		167	0.20
	64-3, 89	582.89	90	0.2	422	65		170	0.16
	64-3, 99	582.99	89	0.0					0.09
	64-3, 109	583.09	89	0.2		47		200	0.11
	64-3, 120	583.20	88	0.0					0.20
	64-3, 129	583.29	88	0.3	425	158	231	185	0.43
	64-5, 135	585.33	04	0.4	423	213	342	155	0.85
	64-5, 54	585 41	94	0.2		112		218	0.21
	64-5, 47	585 47	92	0.0					0.19
	64-5, 56	585.56	92	0.2		74		168	0.15
	64-5, 60	585.60	91	0.2		120		230	0.26
	64-5, 76	585.76	87	0.2		150	250	215	0.33
	66-4, 109	602.59	92	0.2		210	286	224	0.58
v	68-5, 80	617.30	93	0.2		75		160	0.20
	69-1, 120	620.70	90	0.2		43		239	0.18
	72-4, 119	652.19	94	0.1		18	2.24	336	0.16
	73-1, 101	630.31	92	0.3	434	160	286	146	0.62
	75-3, 79	677.29	92	0.3	421	27	185	291	0.44
Pale yello	ow gray marly li	mestone							
	20 4 07	250 17	02		126	100			0.00
п	39-4, 97	359.47	93	0.4	420	180	238	143	0.88
	41-6 120	381 70	92	0.2	474	242	335	173	1.26
ш	48-3, 120	441.20	95	0.5	421	325	333	87	1.59
IV	57-5, 120	522.70	89	0.3	417	224		169	0.70
Light gra	y marly limesto	ne							
п	18-3, 120	158.70	90	0.4	413	157		167	0.69
	20-6, 120	182.20	86	0.4	413	207		202	0.03
	23-5, 120	209.20	88	0.5	416	180		191	0.86
	27-2, 120	242.70	80	0.4	413	132		316	0.49
	38-3, 120	348.70	87	0.3	414	42		335	0.13
IV	64-4, 128	548.78	91	0.3	425	226		194	0.75
	64-4, 131	584.81	92	0.3	422	145	172	131	0.48
	64-4, 136	584.86	91	0.3	428	303		200	1.10
	64-4, 141	584.91	89	0.8	425	391	763	170	6.08
	64-4, 149	584.00	91	0.2	425	263	344	163	0.45
	64-5.0	585.00	91	0.2	420	167	208	246	0.43
	64-5, 9	585.09	91	0.3	429	158	173	158	0.42
	64-5, 17	585.17	90	0.5	425	383	489	111	2.10
Dark gra	y marly limestor	ne							
Ш	35-4, 82	321.32	81	1.5	427	413	523	103	6.80
Laminate	ed marly limesto	ne							
Laminate	d white marly li	imestone							
112	48-1 100	428 00	80	0.6	422	208	200	126	1.00
m	40-1, 100	456.00	89	0.0	422	208	290	120	1.29
11	54-2 68	480.11	84	0.9	417	300	474	02	3.70
1.4	66-5 129	604 20	84	0.5	419	276	4/4	144	1 44
v	68-5. 97	697.47	82	0.6	427	326	385	140	2.25
v									
	69-4, 120	625.20	89	0.4	423	304		133	1.43

Appendix A.	(Continued).
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Unit	Core-Section (level in cm)	Depth (m)	CaCO3 (%)	TOC (%)	T _{max} (°C)	HI	HI'	OI	S ₁ + S ₂ (kg HC/t rock)
Laminate	d marly limesto	ne (Cont.	.)						
Laminate	d pale yellow gr	ay marly	limestone						
IV	64-3, 139	583.39	84	0.6	421	313	550	142	1.98
	64-3, 142	583.42	77	0.9	421	391	681	112	3.76
	64-3, 145	583.45	75	1.0	422	400	653	101	4.26
Laminate	d gray marly lin	nestone							
ш	51-4.94	469.44	75	1.2	422	340	557	104	4.30
IV	54-2, 50	489.00	67	1.6	417	393	606	88	6.79
	55-6, 115	505.15	75	2.2	410	414	519	77	9.39
	58-5, 59	531.59	72	1.1	420	371	546	101	4.25
	60-5, 97	549.97	74	1.4	419	388	533	85	5.66
	64-4, 1	583.51	71	1.2	421	435	656	97	5.75
	64-4, 7	583.57	71	1.7	418	455	619	80	8.14
	64-4, 8	583.58	74	1.2	420	415	530	94	5.12
	64-4, 16	583.66	72	1.4	420	410	660	86	6.23
	64-4, 20	583.70	78	0.9	421	3/4	519	106	3.13
	64.4 27	583.71	81	0.9	420	303	500	104	3.70
	64-4, 21	582 81	83	0.8	419	340	497	111	2.93
	64.4 32	583.82	86	0.8	410	307	654	00	3 24
	64.4.36	593.96	82	0.8	419	370	476	100	3 30
	64.4 43	583.03	87	0.6	420	343	585	111	2 38
	64.4 48	583.98	90	0.0	418	430	494	71	4.03
	64-4 49	583.99	86	0.8	419	354		109	2.93
	64-4 122	584.72	85	0.7	421	320	536	138	2.35
	64-5, 23	585.23	74	0.8	419	406	548	99	3.64
Laminate	d dark gray ma	rly limest	one						
111	48-1 71	437 71	79	13	428	315	430	90	4 37
	48-1 74	437 74	85	1.0	432	297	459	108	3.13
	48-1.78	437.78	91	0.7	431	256	370	100	1.91
	48-1, 149	438.49	82	1.5	425	352	455	77	5.55
IV	60-5, 120	550.20	76	0.9	417	320	356	118	2.92
0.00	64-4, 90	584.40	69	2.5	414	426	524	65	11.17
	64-4, 95	584.45	77	1.8	415	445		63	8.67
	64-4, 101	584.51	80	1.6	420	568	642	54	10.91
	64-4, 118	584.68	71	3.6	413	582	699	51	22.80
	64-4, 121	584.71	80	3.2	419	642	692	46	23.46
Laminate	d dark olive gra	y marly l	imestone						
п	35-4, 140	321.90	82	2.2	413	435	480	75	10.16
111	52-3, 120	477.20	80	1.8	408	418		75	7.80
1V	54-4, 120	492.70	77	1.3	414	391	394	94	5.11
v	72-4, 87	651.87	74	2.3	419	304	460	78	7.49
Maris									
Dark gray	/ marls								
III	46-2, 26	420.76	62	2.3	427	380	590	81	9.26
	49-3, 101	450.01	65	2.5	416	403	570	78	10.45
IV	62-2, 42	562.92	61	1.4	425	383	621	97	5.83
v	73-1, 93	656.43	41	2.8	428	306	594	91	8.88
Very dark	gray marls								
III	47-1, 93	428.93	52	3.2	425	260	391	64	8.69
1V	64-4, 70	584.20	56	5.7	413	578	632	44	35.28
Laminate	d dark gray mai	rls							
п	41-6, 120	381.70	61	0.9	419	180		270	1.72
v	69-1, 115	620.65	60	1.6	426	425	564	113	7.42
Laminate	d dark olive gra	y marls							
		(00.04	12/07	1200	1000	12.72		-	
IV	66 A 76	NU1 75	61	24	417	512	686	70	13 28

Note: TOC = total organic carbon; T_{max} = maximum temperature; HI = hydrogen index; HI' = corrected hydrogen index; OI = oxygen index; $S_1 + S_2$ = petroleum potential; HC = hydrocarbons.