

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM

## VOLUME 117 SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OMAN MARGIN/NEOGENE PACKAGE

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# Foreword

By the National Science Foundation

The scientists of the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) have embarked on what could prove to be one of the most important earth science initiatives of the decade—an initiative rivaling in scope and impact the exploration of the frontiers of outer space. The program explores our planet's last frontier—the Earth's structure and history as it is revealed beneath the oceans. The scope of the program's scientific goals excites the imagination, challenges the intellect, and enhances the spirit of cooperation among peoples in countries around the world.

Between 1872 and 1876, HMS *Challenger* undertook the world's first major oceanographic expedition. That expedition greatly expanded man's knowledge of the world's oceans and revolutionized our ideas about planet Earth. From 1968 to 1983, another ship named *Challenger* logged more than 375,000 miles on 96 voyages across every ocean for the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP), operated by Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Among the project's many remarkable discoveries were the confirmation of seafloor spreading and the establishment of the relative youth of the seafloor, thus verifying the dynamic and changing nature of the Earth's crust.

Today, the Ocean Drilling Program, which began in 1983, brings new resources to bear on scientific ocean drilling. A new drillship is in operation—the *JOIDES Resolution*—one of the world's most modern and best equipped drillships with enhanced capability for drilling and coring in polar areas and rough weather, expanded laboratory space, facilities for more scientists, and a major drill-hole logging program. The name of the ship was derived from the international scientific partnership that directs the program—the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES)—and from the flagship of Captain Cook's second voyage to the Pacific Ocean in the late 18th century. Texas A&M University is responsible for science operations in the program, and Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory is responsible for the logging program.

The Ocean Drilling Program truly has international participation. In 1975, the International Phase of Ocean Drilling began with member nations—the U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, and France—all providing funds and scientific guidance for the project. Today, ODP partners include the U.S.A., the Canada/Australia Consortium for the Ocean Drilling Program, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Science Foundation, which represents Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Swit-

zerland, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. The National Science Foundation, with funds contributed by the United States and international partners, supports the scientific operations and planning for the ODP through a contract with Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc. (JOI).

The information gained by the program leads to a better understanding of the Earth and its dynamic processes. Drilled sediment cores and logs reveal clues to past climatic history and tie into parallel studies of paleoclimates from glacial ice cores drilled on the continents. Understanding these sediment cores will enable scientists to complete the map of major geologically active regions of the Earth, and to identify processes that lead to dynamic change such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and mountain and continental growth. We are far from being able to predict such changes accurately now; but with the new tools and understanding, the accuracy of such predictions can be improved. This better understanding of the Earth's system(s) will allow us to identify regions of potential mineral and energy resource development, an issue of worldwide human interest. The Ocean Drilling Program is not in itself aimed at finding resources, but the knowledge of the Earth's processes that is gained through such a basic research program will inevitably provide pieces of information required for such resource discovery and exploitation.

The program is fully under way in its aim to further the understanding of the Earth's dynamic systems. People of our planet will benefit directly and indirectly from this research in both their daily living and work activities. This multinational endeavor will perhaps foster other cooperative efforts in science or among societies. The Ocean Drilling Program has distinguished ancestors in the original *Resolution* and *Challenger* expeditions and the Deep Sea Drilling Project. The National Science Foundation is proud to be playing a leading role in this program, and we are looking forward to significant and innovative science for many years to come.



Erich Bloch  
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Washington, D.C.

# Foreword

By Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.

This volume presents results from the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP), where scientists use a specially equipped ocean drilling ship to sample and measure the properties of the submerged part of the Earth's crust. These data are then synthesized with other information to yield new insights into earth processes.

These results address the scientific goals of the program, which include providing a global description of geological and geophysical structures and materials, studying in detail areas of major geophysical activity such as mid-ocean ridges and the associated hydrothermal circulations, and studying passive and active continental margins. In addition, the ODP data support the study of sea-level and ocean-circulation changes, the effects of the Earth's orbital variations on climate, and the study of processes and mechanisms of evolution from the biological records in the cores which are recovered from drilling.

The Ocean Drilling Program is a partnership of scientists and governments. Overall scientific policy and management guidance is provided by Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES), which consists of committees and panels made up of representatives of the participating institutions and other scientific and engineering experts. The JOIDES Executive Committee (EXCOM) provides general oversight; the JOIDES Planning Committee (PCOM) is the focal point for all scientific planning for the ODP and is key to the scientific success of the program.

The PCOM has a network of panels and working groups which screen drilling proposals, evaluate instrumentation and measurement techniques, and assess geophysical survey data and other safety and siting information. PCOM uses the recommendations of these panels and committees to select drilling targets, to specify the major scientific objectives of each two-month drilling segment or leg, and to provide the science operator with nominations for co-chief scientists. The science operator, Texas A&M University, in turn is responsible for planning the detailed ship's operations, actual drilling schedules, and final scientific rosters, which are developed in close cooperation with PCOM and the cognizant panels.

Many of the scientific goals can be met only with new technology. Thus the program has identified engineering goals, which include the ability to start a hole and to core on bare rock at mid-ocean-ridge sites, to drill in high-temperature and corrosive regions typical of hydrothermal areas, and to core in high latitudes with minimum interference from high seas and sea ice. To meet these needs, the program operates a specially equipped drillship, the *JOIDES Resolution*, which contains laboratories and equipment that are state-of-the-art, and carries a major new logging program.

The ship, registered as SEDCO/BP 47 after her owners and her length in feet (144 meters), is 70 feet (21 meters) wide, and has a displacement of 16,595 long tons. Her derrick towers 200 feet (61 meters) above the waterline, and a computer-controlled dynamic-positioning system stabilizes the ship over a specific location while drilling in water depths up to 27,000 feet (8230 meters). The drilling system collects cores from beneath the seafloor with a derrick and drawworks that can handle 30,000 feet (9144 meters) of drill pipe. More than 12,000 square feet (1115 square meters) of space distributed throughout the ship is devoted to scientific laboratories and equipment. The ship sails with a scientific and technical crew of 50 and a ship's crew of 65.

Logging is a major part of the overall operation. The program provides a full suite of geochemical and geophysical measurements for every hole deeper than 1300 feet (400 meters). For each such hole, there are lowerings of basic oil-industry tools: nuclear, sonic, and electrical. In addition, a borehole televiwer is available for imaging the well-bore wall, a 12-channel logging tool provides accurate velocity and elastic property measurements as well as sonic waveforms for spectral analysis of energy propagation near the well bore, and a vertical seismic profiler records reflectors from below the total depth of the hole.

Texas A&M University serves as science operator for the Ocean Drilling Program. In this capacity, they operate and staff the drillship to collect cores from JOIDES-designated sites from around the world. The science operator also ensures that adequate scientific analyses are performed on the cores by maintaining the shipboard scientific laboratories and by providing logistical and technical support for shipboard scientific teams. Onshore, Texas A&M manages scientific activities after each leg, is curator for the cores, distributes samples, and coordinates the editing and publication of the scientific results. Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory (LDGO) of Columbia University manages the program's logging operations, which include processing the data and provision of assistance to scientists in data analysis. The ODP Data Bank, a repository for geophysical data, is also managed by LDGO. Core samples from ODP and the previous Deep Sea Drilling Project are stored for future investigation at three sites: ODP Pacific and Indian Ocean cores at Texas A&M University, ODP and DSDP Atlantic and Antarctic cores at Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, and DSDP Pacific and Indian Ocean cores at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

International oversight and coordination are provided by the ODP Council, a governmental consultative body of partner country representatives, chaired by the United States, which periodically reviews the general progress of the program and discusses financial plans and other management issues. Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc., a nonprofit consortium of U.S. oceanographic institutions, serves as the National Science Foundation's prime contractor and manages the ODP. JOI is responsible for seeing that the scientific objectives and plans are translated into scientific operations consistent with JOIDES recommendations and budgetary constraints.

Scientific achievements of the ODP already include new data on early seafloor spreading and how continents separate and their margins evolve. We have new insight into glacial cycles and the fluctuations of currents throughout geological time. Technical achievements include the first bare-rock coring, and logging data more accurate and complete than ever before. JOI is pleased to have played a facilitating role in the Ocean Drilling Program.



D. James Baker  
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# Preface

The *Scientific Results* volumes of the *Proceedings of the Ocean Drilling Program* contain specialty papers presenting the results of up to one and one-half years of research in various aspects of scientific ocean drilling. I acknowledge with thanks the authors of the papers published in this volume, who thereby have enabled future investigators to gain ready access to the results of their research.

Each of the papers submitted to a *Scientific Results* volume undergoes rigorous peer review by at least two specialists in the author's research field. A paper typically goes through one or more revision cycles before being accepted for publication. Our goal is to maintain a peer-review system comparable to those of the most highly regarded journals in the geological sciences.

The Editorial Review Board for a *Scientific Results* volume is responsible for obtaining peer reviews of papers submitted to the volume. This board usually is made up of the two co-chief scientists for the cruise, the ODP staff scientist for the cruise, and one external specialist who is familiar with the geology of the area investigated. In addition, the ODP staff editor assigned to the volume helps with any manuscripts that require special attention, such as those by authors who need assistance with English expression.

*Scientific Results* volumes may also contain short reports consisting of good data that are not ready for final interpretation. Papers in this category are segregated in a section in the back of the volume called Data Reports. Although no interpretation is permitted, these papers ordinarily contain a section on methodology or procedures. Data Report papers are read carefully by at least one specialist to make sure they are well organized, comprehensive, and discuss the techniques thoroughly. A paper that has undergone regular peer review is not eligible for later consideration as a Data Report.

In acknowledgment of the contributions made by this volume's Editorial Review Board, names of the individual Board members are listed on the title page. Reviewers of manuscripts for this volume, whose efforts are so essential to the success of the publication, are listed in the front portion of the book, without attribution to a particular manuscript.

On behalf of the Ocean Drilling Program, I extend sincere appreciation to members of the Editorial Review Boards and to the reviewers for giving so generously of their time and efforts in ensuring that only papers of high scientific quality are published in the *Proceedings*.



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## VOLUME 117—SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

Acknowledgments . . . . .	1
---------------------------	---

### SECTION 1: BIO/LITHO/MAGNETOSTRATIGRAPHY

1. Neogene nannofossil biostratigraphy of Sites 723 through 730, Oman Continental Margin, northwestern Arabian Sea . . . . .	5
S. Spaulding	
2. Coccolith biostratigraphy of the Arabian Sea . . . . .	37
T. Sato, K. Kameo, and T. Takamaya	
3. The benthic foraminiferal faunas of Sites 725, 726, and 728 (Oman Margin, northwestern Arabian Sea) . . . . .	55
J.O.R. Hermelin	
4. Composition and biostratigraphy of radiolarian assemblages from an area of upwelling (northwestern Arabian Sea, Leg 117) . . . . .	89
C. Nigrini	
5. Magnetostratigraphic and biostratigraphic synthesis, Leg 117, Arabian Sea . . . . .	127
S. A. Spaulding, J. Bloemendal, A. Hayashida, J.O.R. Hermelin, K. Kameo, D. Kroon, C. A. Nigrini, T. Sato, T.N.F. Steens, T. Takayama, and S. R. Troelstra	
6. Layer-by-layer correlation of drilled sediments from Owen Ridge, Oman Margin, and Indus Fan . . . . .	147
N. Niitsuma	
7. Magnetostratigraphy of Leg 117 sediments from the Owen Ridge and the Oman Margin, western Arabian Sea . . . . .	161
A. Hayashida and J. Bloemendal	

### SECTION 2: SEDIMENTOLOGY

8. Clay mineralogy of Neogene sediments of the western Arabian Sea: mineral abundances and paleoenvironmental implications . . . . .	183
P. Debrabant, L. Krissek, A. Bouquillon, and H. Chamley	
9. Mineralogic variations in a Pleistocene high-resolution eolian record from the Owen Ridge, western Arabian Sea (Site 722): implications for sediment source conditions and monsoon history . . . . .	197
L. A. Krissek and S. C. Clemens	
10. Mud turbidites from the Oligocene and Miocene Indus Fan at Sites 722 and 731 on the Owen Ridge . . . . .	215
G. P. Weedon and I. N. McCave	
11. Burial transformation of sediment fabric at sites in the western Arabian Sea . . . . .	221
J. S. Callaway and W. H. Busch	
12. Analysis of wet-bulk density and sediment color cycles in Pliocene-Pleistocene sediments of the Owen Ridge (Site 722) and Oman Margin (Site 728) . . . . .	239
W. H. Busch	

### SECTION 3: PALEOCEANOGRAPHY

13. Onset of monsoonal related upwelling in the western Arabian Sea as revealed by planktonic foraminifers . . . . .	257
D. Kroon, T.N.F. Steens, and S. R. Troelstra	
14. Coastal upwelling gradient during the late Pleistocene . . . . .	265
D. M. Anderson and W. L. Prell	
15. Pollen transport into Arabian Sea sediments . . . . .	277
E. Van Campo	
16. A pollen analysis of the Indus Deep Sea Fan from Site 720 cores . . . . .	283
Y. Yoshinori, N. Niitsuma, and A. Hayashida	
17. Late Pleistocene evolution of surface and mid-depth hydrography at the Oman Margin: planktonic and benthic isotope records at Site 724 . . . . .	291
R. Zahn and T. F. Pedersen	
18. Late Pleistocene periodicities of oxygen isotope ratios, calcium carbonate contents, and magnetic susceptibilities of western Arabian Sea Margin Hole 728A . . . . .	309
T.N.F. Steens, D. Kroon, W. G. ten Kate, and A. Sprenger	
19. Oxygen and carbon isotope stratigraphy at Site 723, Oman Margin . . . . .	321
N. Niitsuma, T. Oba, and M. Okada	
20. Pliocene to Pleistocene variations in calcium carbonate, organic carbon, and opal on the Owen Ridge, northern Arabian Sea . . . . .	343
D. W. Murray and W. L. Prell	
21. One million year record of summer monsoon winds and continental aridity from the Owen Ridge (Site 722), northwest Arabian Sea . . . . .	365
S. C. Clemens and W. L. Prell	
22. A rock-magnetic record of monsoonal dust deposition to the Arabian Sea: evidence for a shift in the mode of deposition at 2.4 Ma . . . . .	389
P. de Menocal, J. Bloemendal, and J. King	
23. The inorganic geochemical record of the northwest Arabian Sea: a history of productivity variation over the last 400 k.y. from Sites 722 and 724 . . . . .	409
G. B. Shimmield and S. R. Mowbray	
24. Late Pleistocene upwelling and productivity variations in the northwest Indian Ocean deduced from spectral analyses of geochemical data from Sites 722 and 724 . . . . .	431
G. P. Weedon and G. B. Shimmield	
25. Late Pleistocene sea surface water temperature variations off Oman as revealed by the distribution of long-chain alkenones . . . . .	445
H. L. ten Haven and D. Kroon	

### SECTION 4. INORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY

26. $^{10}\text{Be}$ contents of late Cenozoic sediments from Sites 720, 722, and 728 in the western Arabian Sea . . . . .	455
C. J. Beets, G. T. Klaver, D. Kroon, K. van den Borg, and A. F. de Jong	
27. The late Neogene $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ isotopic record in the western Arabian Sea, Site 722 . . . . .	459
C. J. Beets	
28. U-series disequilibrium, particle scavenging, and sediment accumulation during the late Pleistocene on the Owen Ridge, Site 722 . . . . .	465
G. B. Shimmield and S. R. Mowbray	

29. High-resolution geochemical variations at Sites 723, 728, and 731: a comparison of X-ray fluorescence and geochemical logs . . . . .	.473
R. D. Jarrard and M. Lyle	
30. Interstitial water chemistry, Leg 117: contrasts with the Peru Margin . . . . .	.499
T. F. Pedersen and G. B. Shimmiel	

**SECTION 5. ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY**

31. Organic carbon, reduced sulfur, and iron in Miocene to Holocene upwelling sediments from the Oman and Benguela upwelling systems . . . . .	.517
K.-C. Emeis, J. W. Morse, and L. L. Mays	
32. Organic compounds in sediments and pore waters of Sites 723 and 724 . . . . .	.529
R. Seifert and W. Michaelis	
33. Pyrolytic character of organic matter in Cenozoic sediments on the Oman shelf . . . . .	.547
K.-C. Emeis and J. K. Whelan	
34. Preliminary lipid analysis of sediments recovered during Leg 117 . . . . .	.561
H. L. ten Haven and J. Rullkötter	
35. Stable carbon and nitrogen isotope compositions of organic matter from Sites 724 and 725, Oman Margin . . . . .	.571
A.N.N. Muzuka, S. A. Macko, and T. F. Pedersen	
36. Organic petrology of Neogene sediments from north Indian Ocean, Leg 117: Amount, type, and preservation of organic matter . . . . .	.587
P. Bertrand, E. Lallier-Verges, and H. Grall	

**SECTION 6. POLICY**

JOIDES advisory groups . . . . .	597
Sample-Distribution Policy . . . . .	603

**SECTION 7. INDEX**

Index . . . . .	607
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**BACK-POCKET MICROFICHE**

- Scientific Results: Volume 117, Chapter 2:*  
 Table 3. Distribution of calcareous nannofossils at Site 720  
 Table 4. Distribution of calcareous nannofossils at Site 721  
 Table 5. Distribution of calcareous nannofossils at Site 722  
 Table 6. Distribution of calcareous nannofossils at Site 731

**BACK-POCKET FOLDOUTS**

- Scientific Results: Volume 117, Chapter 1:*  
 Table 6. Distribution of calcareous nannofossils, Hole 728A  
 Table 8. Distribution of calcareous nannofossils, Hole 730A

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