

3. LARGER FORAMINIFERAL BIOSTRATIGRAPHY OF SITES 815, 816, AND 826, LEG 133, NORTHEASTERN AUSTRALIA¹

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ABSTRACT

The Marion Plateau is a large carbonate platform off northeastern Queensland. Three sites (815, 816, and 826) were drilled on this platform and form the basis for this study. Larger benthic foraminifers, together with rare planktonic forms from the shallow-water carbonates that form the main part of the platform sequence, were studied to establish a biostratigraphy. The presence of *Lepidocyclus* (*Nephrolepidina*) *howchini* sensu lato and *Ladoronia vermicularis*, together with *Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *praemenardii* and *Orbulina*, indicate an early middle Miocene (N9–N12) age (i.e., lower *Tf* stage) for these carbonates. Dolomitization has destroyed much of the original fabric of these carbonates, making study of the larger foraminifers difficult. Sites 815 (forereef location) and 826 (backreef, lagoonal setting) provide the best faunas. However, at all sites nodular coralline algae and *Halimeda* are the major bioclasts; coral fragments form a major component at Sites 816 and 826. The middle Miocene neritic sequence is separated from the overlying hemipelagic sequence by an unconformity that spans much of the middle and late Miocene. At Site 815, which is in a forereef situation, the overlying hemipelagic sequence contains a Zone N17A fauna, but at Site 816, higher on the platform, a similar sequence contains a Zone N19 fauna. The faunas indicate that the platform was built up during the early middle Miocene and remained at fairly constant water depths and temperatures during this period. It was then exposed prior to subsiding rapidly during the late Miocene and Pliocene to depths similar to those of the present day.

INTRODUCTION

Three sites were drilled on the Marion Plateau during Leg 133 (Fig. 1). Site 815 is situated on the northwestern margin of the plateau and penetrated a 473.5-m-thick forereef sequence. The upper 416 m are upper Miocene to Pleistocene hemipelagic sediments unconformably overlying a sequence of platform carbonates, of which 57.5 m was penetrated. Site 816 is located on the northwestern corner of the Marion Plateau and penetrated 250 m of sediment. The upper 93 m are early Pliocene to Pleistocene hemipelagic sediments overlying a reefal carbonate platform sequence. Site 826 is located on the northern margin of the plateau adjacent to Site 816, but in a lagoonal or back-reef location. About 98.5 m of hemipelagic sediments overlie the platform carbonates.

The objectives of this study are (1) to describe the larger foraminiferal faunas from the platform sequence and (2) to describe the biostratigraphic record and to determine the probable depth of deposition. Some biostratigraphic information is known for the platform carbonates of the Marion Plateau from previous dredging operations in the region (Chaproniere and Pigram, in press). One of the Leg 133 drilling objectives in the region was to establish a complete stratigraphic sequence from the area. Although the dredge samples showed some recrystallization effects, these were much less than those found in the samples obtained from drilling. In some cases, this dolomitization has obliterated the fauna, and in others, has made it very difficult to identify taxa accurately. This has severely restricted the biostratigraphic resolution. In Figure 2, we summarize the biostratigraphic results, while Tables 1 through 5 illustrate the distribution of foraminifers at the sites and holes.

Because we know from previous studies that a major unconformity occurred between the platform phase of sedimentation and the overlying hemipelagic sequence, it was critical for us to date the interval of time represented by the hiatus using information from the drilling samples. For this reason, the planktonic foraminifers from the

hemipelagic sequence immediately overlying the platform sequence also were studied.

METHODS

The planktonic foraminiferal zonal scheme of Blow (1969) as modified by Kennett and Srinivasan (1983), has been used within this study, and the letter stage scheme, as modified by Adams (1984) and Chaproniere (1981, 1984), has been employed for the larger foraminifers (Fig. 2). In addition, Parameter F for *Lepidocyclus* (*Nephrolepidina*) *howchini* sensu lato (Chaproniere, 1981, 1984) has also been used. Faunas from the hemipelagic samples overlying the platform sequence were washed and disaggregated using standard preparation techniques. The assemblages from the carbonate sequence could be studied only from random thin sections.

The lithologic descriptions of the units from which the studied samples were taken are those used in Davies, McKenzie, Palmer-Julson, et al. (1991). All figured specimens are registered and housed in the Commonwealth Palaeontological Collection (CPC), Bureau of Mineral Resources, Canberra, Australia.

FAUNAL ASSEMBLAGES

Site 815

At this site, both a hemipelagic sequence and underlying platform carbonates were penetrated. The platform carbonates were dolomitized bioclastic rudstones to floatstones and planktonic foraminiferal packstone. The dolomitization had seriously affected the quality of faunal preservation.

Six samples were studied from Hole 815A. Five of these are late Miocene in age (Samples 133-815A-46X-2, 27–28 cm, -47A-2, 80–82 cm, -48X-1, 45–47 cm, -48X-CC, 15–16 cm, and -48X-CC, 23–25 cm). The presence of *Globorotalia* (*G.*) *tumida plesiotumida* without *Globigerinoides conglobatus*, *G.* (*G.*) *tumida tumida*, *Pulleniatina primalis*, and *Sphaeroidinellopsis paenedehiscens* indicates that the assemblages are typical of Zone N17A (late Miocene). These five samples contain *Amphistegina radiata* (Pl. 1, Fig. 9); *Cycloclypeus* (*C.*) *carpenteri* (Pl. 1, Figs. 3, 4) is found in the two lowest samples, and *Lepidocyclus* (*Nephrolepidina*) *howchini* sensu lato (Pl. 1, Figs. 7, 10) and *Operculinella venosa* (Pl. 1, Figs. 2, 8) occur only in

¹ McKenzie, J.A., Davies, P.J., Palmer-Julson, A., et al., 1993, *Proc. ODP, Sci. Results*, 133: College Station, TX.

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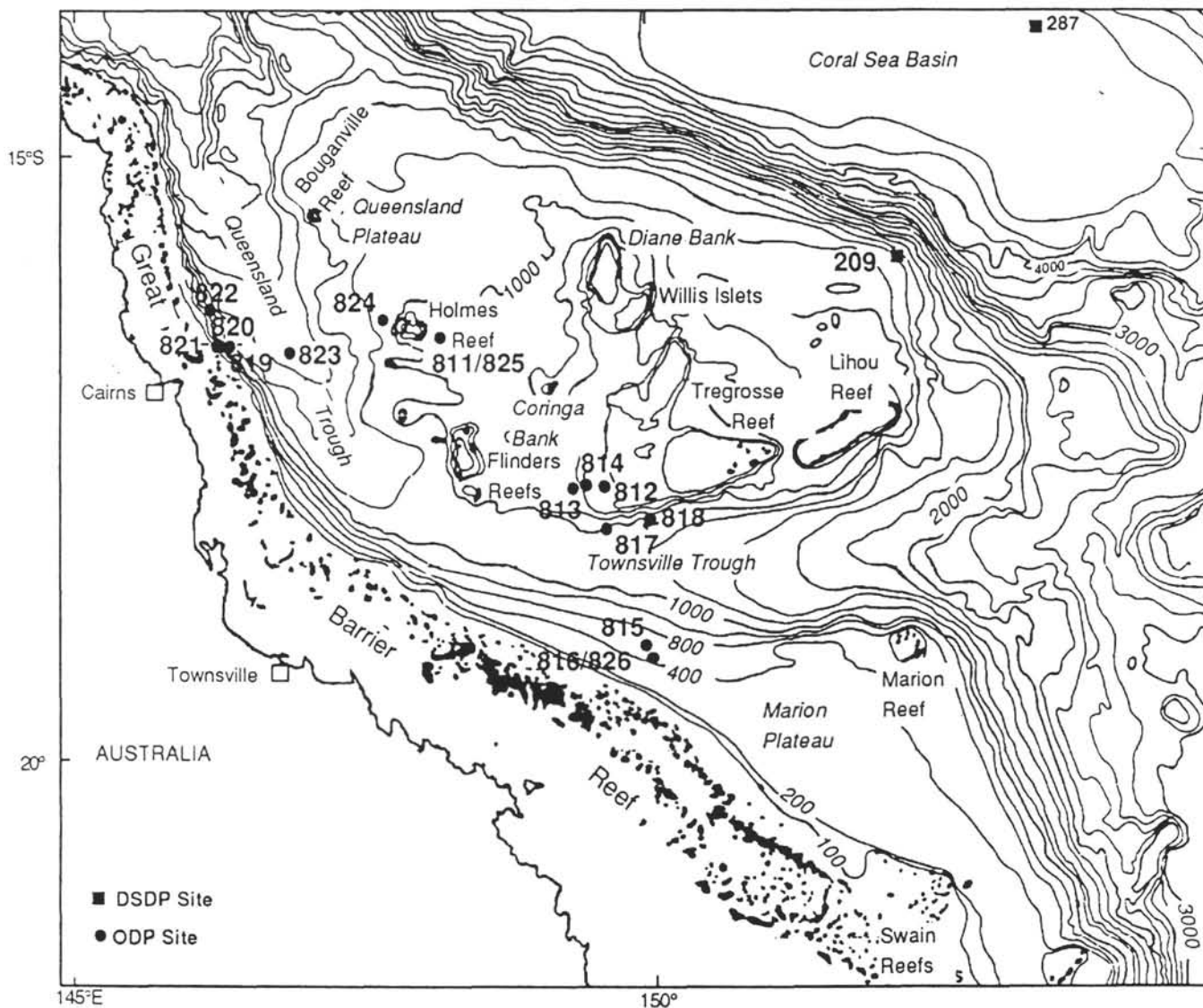


Figure 1. Map of northeastern Australian margin showing Leg 133 drill sites. Bathymetry in meters.

Sample 133-815A-48X-CC, 15–16 cm. With the exception of *Lepidocyclina* all these shallow-water larger benthic foraminifers range to the Holocene and so could have been contemporaneous with the planktonic faunas. However, *L. (N.) howchini* could only have been derived by reworking from the underlying shallow-water sequence since it is not known elsewhere in the area above Zone N9 (Chaproniere, 1984), suggesting that the other species may also have been reworked. Similar reworking has been observed in dredge samples from the region.

Sample 133-815A-50X-CC, 7–9 cm, was found to contain a substantial number of specimens of *Amphistegina radiata* and *L. (N.) howchini*, with rarer *Cycloclypeus (C.) carpenteri* and *Sphaerogypsina globula*. The majority of specimens of *L. (N.) howchini* had a Parameter F value of 3 (36 specimens). This value is typical of levels within Zones N8 and N9 obtained elsewhere in Australia (Chaproniere, 1984). A planktonic assemblage from this sample contains *Globigerina (Globoturbotalita) druryi*, *Globigerinoides bollii*, and *Globototalia (G.) praemenardii*, without *G. (G.) nepenthes*, *G. (G.) archeomenardii*, *G. (G.) linguaensis*, or *Globototalia (Fohsella) spp.* *G. (G.) praemenardii* ranges from Zones N10 to N12 and *G. (G.) archeomenardii* to within the top part of Zone N10 (Kennett and Srinivasan, 1983), suggesting a level within the interval of Zones

N11–N12. However, the absence of *G. (Fohsella) spp.*, which range to the top of Zone N12, suggests a level within Zone N13. *G. (G.) linguaensis*, which also appears at the base of Zone N13, also is absent. Thus, on the basis of this information, this sample has been referred to the zonal interval N11–N12. As noted above, the specimens of *L. (N.) howchini* are typical of those from Zones N8 or N9, and so may have been reworked from the older platform sequence, but note that Palmieri (1971, 1984) recorded *Lepidocyclina* and *Miogypsina* from within this interval from the adjacent Aquarius No. 1 Well and the Sandy Cape 1-3R borehole.

Site 816

Site 816 was drilled through a hemipelagic sequence into a barrier reef section on the edge of the carbonate platform. The platform sequence was dominated by dolomitized corallgal boundstone and framestone, mainly made up of large rhodoliths, which suggests a reefal environment. Recrystallization of the carbonates inhibited foraminiferal identification for many samples.

Nine samples were studied from Hole 816A, 15 from Hole 816B, and 14 from Hole 816C.

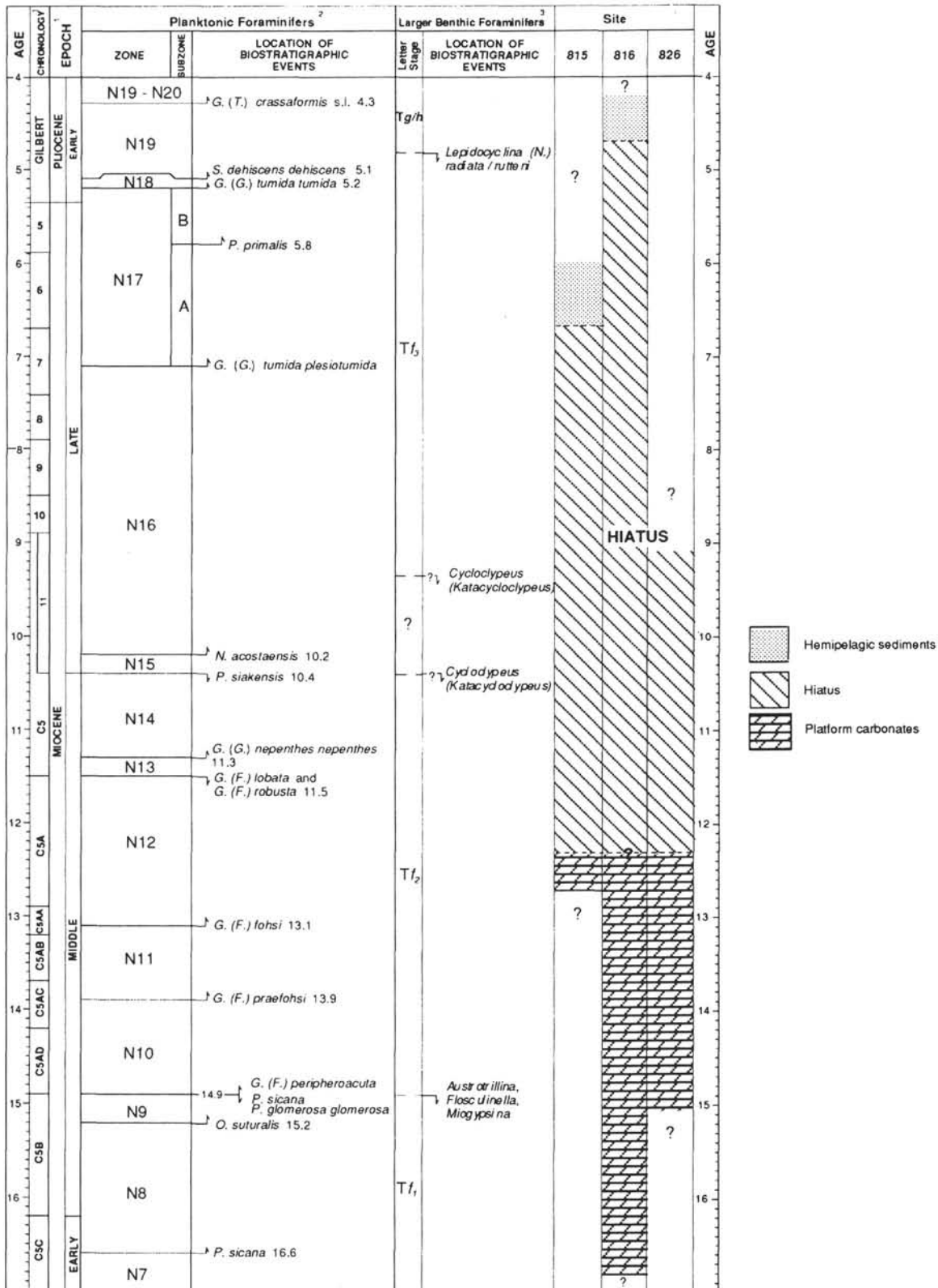


Figure 2. Biostratigraphic summary of Miocene and early Pliocene sections for Sites 815, 816, and 826.

Table 2. Distribution chart for the Miocene section of Hole 816A.

	<i>Candinea nitida</i>	<i>Dontoglobigerina altispira altispira</i>	<i>Dontoglobigerina altispira globosa</i>	<i>Globigerina (G.) angustimullicata</i>	<i>Globigerina (G.) bulbosa</i>	<i>Globigerina (G.) bulboides bulboides</i>	<i>Globigerina (G.) falcata falcata</i>	<i>Globigerina (G.) quinqueloba</i>	<i>Globigerina (G.) decorata</i>	<i>Globigerinella acquilatralis</i>	<i>Globigerinella cubila praecolida</i>	<i>Globigerinita glutinata glutinata</i>	<i>Globigerinita glutinata naparimaensis</i>	<i>Globigerinoides conglobatus</i>	<i>Globigerinoides obliquus extremus</i>	<i>Globigerinoides obliquus obliquus</i>	<i>Globigerinoides obliquus immanitarius</i>	<i>Globigerinoides quadrilobatus saucalifer</i>	<i>Globigerinoides quadrilobatus triloba</i>	<i>Globigerinoides ruber white form</i>	<i>Globiquadrina dehiszens dehiszens</i>	<i>Globorotalia (G.) monimida conoidea</i>	<i>Globorotalia (G.) cultrata cultrata</i>	<i>Globorotalia (G.) cultrata limbata</i>	<i>Globorotalia (G.) cultrata menardi</i>	<i>Globorotalia (G.) multicaemrata</i>	<i>Globorotalia (G.) tumida flexuosa</i>	<i>Globorotalia (G.) tumida plesiotumida</i>	<i>Globorotalia (G.) tumida tumida</i>	<i>Globorotalia (G.) sp.</i>			
133-816A-9H-7, 65-67	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X													
133-816A-10H-6, 70-72		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
133-816A-10H-7, 20-22		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
133-816A-11H-1, 70-72						X																											
133-816A-11H-CC, 5-7																																	
133-816A-12X-1, 16-17																																	
133-816A-14X-1, 7-8																																	
133-816A-15X-1, 76-78																																	
133-816A-15X-1, 90-92																																	

Table 2 (continued).

	<i>Globorotalia (G.) margaritae</i>	<i>Neoglobobulimina acostaensis</i>	<i>Neoglobobulimina tumida</i>	<i>Neoglobobulimina pseudopima</i>	<i>Orbulina universa</i>	<i>Orbulina universa bilobate form</i>	<i>Pulleniatina praecursor</i>	<i>Pulleniatina primalis</i>	<i>Pulleniatina sp.</i>	<i>Sphaeroidinellopsis paenedehiscens</i>	<i>Sphaeroidinellopsis seminulina kochi</i>	<i>Sphaeroidinellopsis seminulina seminulina</i>	<i>Tenuitella clonensis</i>	<i>Tenuitella nana</i>	<i>Turborotalia humilis</i>	Indet. planktonic foraminifers	<i>Amphistegina radiata</i>	<i>Ladoronia vermicularis</i>	<i>Lepidocyclina (N.) howchini howchini</i>	<i>Operculina complanata</i>	<i>Operculinella venosa</i>	<i>Victoriella? conoidea</i>	Indet. rotaline foraminifers	Algae-articulated	Algae-nodular	Bryozoa	Coral	Echinoid	Halmela	Mollusca		
133-816A-9H-7, 65-67	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X																					
133-816A-10H-6, 70-72	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X																					
133-816A-10H-7, 20-22	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X																					
133-816A-11H-1, 70-72									X																							
133-816A-11H-CC, 5-7																X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
133-816A-12X-1, 16-17					X											X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
133-816A-14X-1, 7-8																X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
133-816A-15X-1, 76-78																X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
133-816A-15X-1, 90-92																						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Hole 816A

Samples 133-816A-9H-7, 65-67 cm, through -11H-1, 70-72 cm, were from the hemipelagic sediments overlying the platform sequence. All but Sample 133-816A-11H-1, 70-72 cm, contain diverse, well-preserved faunas with *Pulleniatina praecursor*, *P. primalis*, *Globorotalia (G.) tumida tumida*, *G. (Obandyella) margaritae*, and *Sphaeroidinellopsis paenedehiscens*; *G. (Truncorotalia) crassaformis*, *P. obliquiloculata*, and *Sphaeroidinella dehiszens* were not identified. The presence of *G. (G.) tumida plesiotumida* and *P. praecursor* without *G. (T.) crassaformis* and *P. obliquiloculata* indicates a level within Zone N19 (early Pliocene). Sample 133-816A-11H-1, 70-72 cm, has a low diversity planktonic fauna that contains *Globigerinoides obliquus extremus*, *G. (G.) tumida plesiotumida*, and part of the test of *Pulleniatina*; this fauna indicates an age no older than Zone N17B, and so is part of the hemipelagic sequence. *Amphistegina radiata* also is present in this sample, but was absent in the overlying ones. As this sample appears to directly overlie the platform sequence, the *Amphistegina* may have been derived from the older rocks, but as no older larger benthic foraminifers are present, it is most probably in situ.

Sample 133-816A-11H-CC, 5-7 cm, and those from Cores 133-816-12X through -15X were from bioclastic limestones that could

only be studied in thin section. The two lowest samples (133-816A-15X-1, 76-78 cm, and -15X-1, 90-92 cm) were too recrystallized for faunas to be identified. Planktonics were rare in three samples and absent in the other two. Most could not be identified, except for the long-ranging *Globigerinoides quadrilobatus* Group, *Orbulina universa* (Pl. 1, Fig. 11), and a poorly preserved specimen of the *G. (G.) cultrata* Group (Pl. 1, Fig. 13), the presence of which indicates an oldest assignment of Zone N10 for Sample 133-816A-12X-1, 16-17 cm. *Ladoronia vermicularis* (Pl. 1, Fig. 6) is present in all but Sample 133-816A-11H-CC, 5-7 cm, while *Amphistegina radiata* is present in the upper three samples, and *Lepidocyclina (N.) howchini* (mainly fragments) with *Operculinella venosa*, *Operculina complanata*, and *Victoriella? conoidea* are present in some samples. Because of the poor preservation, Parameter F was measured for one sample (133-816A-12H-1, 16-17 cm) where a mean value of 3 (based on two specimens) was obtained. *Ladoronia vermicularis*, which is generally a component of the algal nodules, is restricted to the late early and early middle Miocene samples collected by previous dredging operations in the area (Chaproniere and Pigram, in press). *Gypsina plana*, which is present in the algal nodules from the late Miocene platform limestones, is probably a homomorph of *Ladoronia* (Chaproniere and Pigram, in press). Thus, the presence of *Orbulina*, the *G. (G.) cultrata*

Table 3. Distribution chart for the Miocene section of Hole 816B.

	<i>Globigerinoides</i> sp.	<i>Orbulina universa</i>	Indet. planktonic foraminifers	<i>Amphistegina radiata</i>	<i>Cycloclypeus</i> (C.) <i>carpenteri</i>	<i>Discogypsina howchini</i>	<i>Ladoronia vermicularis</i>	<i>Lepidocyclina</i> (C.) <i>howchini</i>	<i>Operculina complanata</i>	<i>Operculinella venosa</i>	<i>Planorbulinella</i> sp.	<i>Sphaerogypsina globula</i>	<i>Sporodirema</i> sp.	Indet. rotaline foraminifers	Algae-articulated	Algae-nodular	Bryozoa	Coral	Echinoid	Halimeda	Mollusca	
133-816B-1R-CC, 8-9	X	?	X	X	.	.	.	X	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	133-816B-1R-CC, 8-9
133-816B-1R-CC, 20-22	.	.	X	X	.	X	.	X	.	X	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	X	.	X	X	133-816B-1R-CC, 20-22
133-816B-2R-1, 47-50	.	.	.	X	?	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	.	133-816B-2R-1, 47-50
133-816B-2R-1, 108-110	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	X	X	.	.	X	.	X	X	X	.	.	.	133-816B-2R-1, 108-110
133-816B-3R-1, 10-13	.	.	X	X	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	.	X	.	.	X	.	X	133-816B-3R-1, 10-13
133-816B-3R-1, 56-58	X	.	.	.	.	X	133-816B-3R-1, 56-58
133-816B-4R-1, 53-56	.	.	X	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	X	.	.	X	.	.	133-816B-4R-1, 53-56
133-816B-7R-1, 93-95	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	133-816B-7R-1, 93-95
133-816B-7R-1, 129-135	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	.	133-816B-7R-1, 129-135
133-816B-7R-1, 143-146	X	X	.	.	.	.	.	133-816B-7R-1, 143-146
133-816B-8R-1, 40-45	.	.	X	.	.	.	?	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	133-816B-8R-1, 40-45
133-816B-8R-1, 83-86	.	.	.	X	.	.	?	.	.	X	.	?	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	.	X	133-816B-8R-1, 83-86
133-816B-8R-1, 112-114	?	.	.	X	.	.	?	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	.	X	.	.	133-816B-8R-1, 112-114
133-816B-8R-1, 118-120	?	.	?	X	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	133-816B-8R-1, 118-120
133-816B-8R-1, 125-127	.	.	.	X	.	.	?	.	.	X	.	?	?	.	X	X	.	.	X	X	.	133-816B-8R-1, 125-127

Group, *Ladoronia vermicularis*, and *L. (N.) howchini* indicates that these samples are from the older platform phase, and are from the N9-N12 zonal interval.

Hole 816B

Hole 816B sampled only the top part of the platform sequence and thus overlaps the lowermost cores of Hole 816A and the topmost part of the section in Hole 816C. Thus, samples from the uppermost cores contain the same assemblage found in the bottom of Hole 816A, *Amphistegina radiata*, *Ladoronia vermicularis*, *L. (N.) howchini*, and *Operculinella venosa*; planktonics are very rare. Although the rocks are recrystallized, a feature that makes the faunas difficult to identify, the bioclasts are dominated by nodular coralline algae, corals, and *Halimeda*, with foraminifers being very rare. *L. vermicularis*, which encrusts the algal nodules, is the most typical form present. No accurate age assessment could be made, but the presence of *L. (N.) howchini* suggests that this part of the section must be older than Zones N11 to N12.

Hole 816C

This hole continued penetration of the platform section. Cores 133-816C-3R through -6R sampled the same lithologies found in Cores 133-816C-7R and -8R in Hole 816B. This interval is dominated by algal nodules and foraminifers are rare or absent. The interval sampled by Cores 133-816C-7R through -9R contain planktonics and rare specimens of *L. (N.) howchini*, with scattered occurrences of *C. (C.) ?carpenteri*; *Orbulina* appears to be absent, although some specimens of *G. quadrilobatus* (Pl. 1, Fig. 12) were recorded. The specimens of *L. (N.) howchini* have values for Parameter F of 3, suggesting an assignment to the subspecies *praeowchini*, a form that is typical of the N5-N7 zonal interval (Chaproniere, 1984). The lowermost samples were recrystallized, making faunal identification impossible.

Site 826

Only a single hole was drilled at this site, and only the platform sequence was sampled. This hole was drilled to sample a postulated lagoonal sequence adjacent to Site 816 in the belief that better

preserved faunas might have been present. As with the other sites, recrystallization made identification of the faunas difficult. The sequence sampled mainly dolomitized bioclastic rudstone and minor coralline boundstone.

Twenty-three samples from Cores 133-826A-2W through -16R were examined. All samples were studied by thin section. Three samples (with the lowest, Sample 133-826A-12R-1, 4-6 cm) yielded identifiable planktonic faunas that contained *G. (G.) praemenardii*, a form restricted to the N10-N12 zonal interval. *Orbulina universa* was found in three samples, with the lowest being Sample 133-826A-14R-1, 17-19 cm, indicating Zone N9 or younger. *L. (N.) howchini* is present in Core 133-826A-2W, being absent over the interval from Cores 133-826A-4R through -6R, but is present again in most samples from Cores 133-826A-7R through -14R; this species is rare in all samples, with only one or two specimens present in each. Mean values for Parameter F range from 2 to 3.5. *Ladoronia vermicularis* is common over the interval of Cores 133-826A-4R through -6R, is absent over the interval of Cores 133-826A-7R through -12R, then returns in the lowest cores. Only in one sample (133-826A-14R-1, 17-19 cm) do both *Lepidocyclina* and *Ladoronia* occur together. *C. (Katacycloclypeus) annulatus* (Pl. 1, Fig. 5), which is present in Sample 133-826A-4R-1, 84-86 cm, ranges to the top of *Tj2* (Adams, 1984), and ranges no higher than Zone N15 (Adams, 1984). Thus, the faunas suggest that the lowest samples are best referred to Zone N9 and the highest to within the interval Zone N10-12.

BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Nonplatform Sequence

The timing of the initiation of hemipelagic sedimentation over the platform carbonates is different at both Sites 815 and 816. At Site 815, a late Miocene Zone N17A assemblage is present, but at Site 816, the oldest fauna is typical of the early Pliocene Zone N19. The result is the same as that obtained from the dredging studies (Chaproniere and Pigram, in press), indicating that flooding of the platform was initiated earlier in the deeper-water Site 815 than in the shallow-water Site 816. The basal samples contain neritic benthic forms (*Amphistegina*), which may have been reworked from the older platform sequence or may be in situ.

Table 4. Distribution chart for the Miocene section of Hole 816C.

	<i>Denticuligerina albispira albispira</i>	<i>Globigerina (G.) angustimulicata</i>	<i>Globigerina (G.) picassiana</i>	<i>Globigerinata glutinata glutinata</i>	<i>Globigerinita glutinata nupariensis</i>	<i>Globigerinitoides obliquus obliquus</i>	<i>Globigerinitoides quadrilobatus nanatensis</i>	<i>Globigerinitoides quadrilobatus succulifer</i>	<i>Globigerinitoides quadrilobatus subquadratus</i>	<i>Globigerinitoides quadrilobatus trilobus</i>	<i>Globigerinitoides</i> sp.	<i>Globorobula (G.) cultrata cultrata</i>	<i>Globorobula (G.) cultrata limbata</i>	<i>Globorobula (G.)</i> sp.	<i>Globorobula (G.) scitula</i>	<i>Orbulina universa</i>	<i>Paragloborobula crinitinosa</i>	<i>Sphaeroidinellopsis seminulum seminulum</i>	Indet., planktonic foraminifers	<i>Amplisacina radiata</i>	<i>Cyclolypus (C.) carpenteri</i>	Gypsum indet.	<i>Lepidocyclina (L.) howchini howchini</i>	<i>Operculina complanata</i>	<i>Operculina venosa</i>	<i>Sporulotreta</i> sp.	<i>Victoriella conoides</i>	Indet., rotalime foraminifers	Indet., textularine foraminifers	Algae-articulated	Algae-nodular	Bryozoa	Coral	Echinoid	Halimeda	Mollusca							
133-816C-1W-4, 57-61	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X					X		X	X	X																			133-816C-1W-4, 57-61
133-816C-1W-4, 67-70																																											133-816C-1W-4, 67-70
133-816C-3R-1, 61-63																																											133-816C-3R-1, 61-63
133-816C-4R-1, 16-20																																											133-816C-4R-1, 16-20
133-816C-4R-1, 68-75																																											133-816C-4R-1, 68-75
133-816C-6R-1, 9-14																																											133-816C-6R-1, 9-14
133-816C-6R-1, 55-57																																											133-816C-6R-1, 55-57
133-816C-7R-1, 26-28											X								X	X																						133-816C-7R-1, 26-28	
133-816C-7R-1, 32-34														X					X	X																						133-816C-7R-1, 32-34	
133-816C-7R-1, 41-44																				X																						133-816C-7R-1, 41-44	
133-816C-8R-2, 9-11																				X																						133-816C-8R-2, 9-11	
133-816C-9R-1, 6-9																				X																						133-816C-9R-1, 6-9	
133-816C-10R-1, 24-26																				X									X													133-816C-10R-1, 24-26	
133-816C-11R-1, 140-143																				X									X														133-816C-11R-1, 140-143

Table 5. Distribution chart for the Miocene section of Hole 826A.

	<i>Dentoglobigerina altispira altispira</i>	<i>Globigerina</i> sp.	<i>Globigerinoides obliquus obliquus</i>	<i>Globigerinoides quadrilobatus sacculifer</i>	<i>Globigerinoides</i> sp.	<i>Globornalia</i> (G.) <i>praemenardii</i>	<i>Globornalia</i> (G.) sp.	<i>Orbulina suturalis</i>	<i>Orbulina universon</i>	<i>Orbulina universon</i> bilobate form	Indet. planktonic foraminifers	<i>Amphistegina radiata</i>	<i>Barriticina carpenteriaformis</i>	<i>Cycloctypus</i> (C.) <i>carpenteri</i>	<i>Cycloctypus</i> (C.) <i>annulatus</i>	<i>Discogypsina howchini</i>	<i>Ladoronia vermicularis</i>	<i>Lepidocyclina</i> (L.) <i>howchini howchini</i>	<i>Operculina complanata</i>	<i>Operculinella venosa</i>	<i>Rotalia</i> sp.	<i>Sphaerogypsina globula</i>	<i>Sporadotrema</i> sp.	Indet. milioline foraminifers	Indet. rotaline foraminifers	Indet. textularine foraminifers	Algae-articulated	Algae-nodular	Bryozoa	Coral	Echinoid	Halimeda	Mollusca	
135-826A-2W-CC, 5-7	.	X	X	.	X	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	.	X
135-826A-2W-CC, 8-10	X	X	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-2W-CC, 12-15	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	.	X	X	X	X	.	.	.	.	X	X	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X
135-826A-4R-1, 16-18	X	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-4R-1, 24-26	X	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-4R-1, 29-31	X	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-4R-1, 84-86	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-5R-1, 10-12	X	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-5R-1, 19-21	X	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-5R-1, 23-26	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	.	X	.	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-6R-1, 7-9	X	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-7R-1, 1-4	X	X	.	.	.	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-9R-1, 1-3	X	?	X	.	.	.	.	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-11R-1, 10-12	X	X	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X
135-826A-11R-1, 24-27	X	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	.	.	.	.	.	.	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-11R-1, 45-47	X	X	X	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X
135-826A-11R-1, 54-55	X	X	X	X	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X
135-826A-11R-1, 58-60	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X
135-826A-12R-1, 4-6	X	X	X	X	.	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X
135-826A-14R-1, 6-8	X	X	.	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	.	X	
135-826A-14R-1, 12-14	X	X	X	X	X	X	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
135-826A-14R-1, 17-19	X	.	.	?	X	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
135-826A-16R-CC, 10-13	X	X	.	.	X	.	.	.	X	X	.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Platform Sequence

In general, the faunas from the platform carbonates were poorly preserved due to dolomitization effects that sometimes destroyed the fossils, making identification impossible. Planktonic species do occur within the sequence with the key forms being *Globorotalia* (*G.*) *praemenardii* and *Orbulina universa* (Pl. 1, Figs. 11, 13), indicating the interval Zones N11–N12 and N9 or younger, respectively. *Orbulina* appears within the upper part of the platform section of Site 816, suggesting that those samples below this event should be referred to the interval Zone N5–N8. *Lepidocyclus* (*N.*) *howchini* is rare and scattered, with mean values of Parameter F ranging from 2 (based on single specimens) to 3.3. From previous results (Chaproniere, 1981, 1984), these values are typical of Zones N5–N8 for the region. *Ladoronia vermicularis*, an encrusting form found within algal nodules, is an important index for these platform sediments. As for the hemipelagic sequence, the biostratigraphic results are in accord with those obtained from the dredging studies (Chaproniere and Pigram, in press).

PALEOENVIRONMENTS

Carbonate Platform Sequence

For all sites, the early middle Miocene carbonates are dominated by coralline algae, with *Halimeda* and corals often being important. *Amphistegina* is the most widespread benthic foraminiferal component, but locally *Ladoronia vermicularis* is also common. Planktonic foraminifers are rare and scattered.

Site 815

Only the top 9 m of the shallow-water carbonate section was penetrated. The presence of *Amphistegina*, *Cycloclypeus carpenteri*, *Lepidocyclus* (*N.*) *howchini*, and *Operculinella venosa* indicates water depths within the euphotic zone, that is less than ~120 m. On the other hand, seismic data suggest that Site 815 was located in a forereef setting. The large number of planktonic forms and the absence of coral and algal bioclasts support a forereef environment, and it is probable that the larger foraminifers have been reworked into deeper water.

Site 816

In contrast to Site 815, Site 816 was drilled in a backreef location. The carbonates of Site 816 contain a low number of planktonic species but large amounts of coralline algae (both nodular and articulated), *Halimeda*, and corals. The presence of the planktonic forms and rarity of milioline foraminifers suggests normal oceanic salinities. The presence of *Halimeda*, the coralline algae, corals, and larger benthic forms, such as *Cycloclypeus* (*C.*) *carpenteri*, *L.* (*N.*) *howchini*, *Operculina complanata*, and *Operculinella venosa*, suggests water depths somewhat <50 m. The biotic assemblages are consistent with having been deposited in a backreef environment. The rarity or absence of *L.* (*N.*) *howchini* when *Ladoronia vermicularis* is present suggests environmental control, but the factors controlling this distribution are not known. The fact that *L. vermicularis* grows within algal nodules suggests that this species may grow best at depths that may have been too shallow for *Lepidocyclus* to survive.

Site 826

Planktonic foraminifers are slightly more common at Site 826 than at Site 816. The presence of *Globorotalia* (*G.*) *praemenardii* (a keeled form) suggests either slightly greater water depths, or a more direct access to open oceanic conditions. Support for this comes from the distribution of corals; these are distributed throughout the carbonate section at Site 816, but are present only at the topmost part of the sequence at Site 826. Miliolines form an insignificant faunal component, and this characteristic together with the presence of planktonic

species indicates normal ocean salinities. The almost ubiquitous presence of *Halimeda* and coralline algae indicates depths of <60 m (Davies and Marshall, 1985). Although larger benthic forms *C.* (*C.*) *carpenteri*, *C.* (*Katacycloclypeus*) *annulatus*, *L.* (*N.*) *howchini*, *Ladoronia vermicularis*, *Operculina complanata*, and *Operculinella venosa* are present, they are never abundant. *Amphistegina radiata* is the most widely distributed benthic foraminifer. The low numbers of these foraminifers suggest shallow-water depths of probably <50 m. The general biotic assemblage is consistent with a backreef environmental setting. As for Site 816, *Ladoronia* and *Lepidocyclus* rarely occur together.

Hemipelagic Sediments

The hemipelagic sediments overlying the carbonate platform sediments at Sites 815 and 816 have a similar faunal component; no samples of this part of the sequence were recovered at Site 826. The sediments immediately overlying the shallow-water carbonates at Site 816 do contain specimens of *Amphistegina radiata*, without any of the older forms, such as *Lepidocyclus*, which suggests that these are in situ. At Site 815, *Amphistegina* also is present, but with *C.* (*C.*) *carpenteri* and *L.* (*N.*) *howchini*, suggesting that reworking from the older sequence has occurred. Nevertheless, the presence of these shallow-water forms indicates that when the platform was flooded, depths were very shallow for only a short period of time, but by the time Core 133-815A-45X was deposited, water depths were at outer neritic levels (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1990, p. 996).

CONCLUSIONS

The carbonate platform making up the northern end of the Marion Plateau contains foraminifers that indicate that it was constructed at least Zone N8, and possibly from Zone N5, to within the Zone N11–12 interval. Water depths at the different sites varied from ~100 m at Site 815 to somewhat less than 50 m at Sites 816 and 826. Normal oceanic salinities prevailed. Sedimentation ceased when the platform was exposed for a long period, throughout most of the middle and late Miocene. Sedimentation resumed during the late Miocene Zone N17A at Site 815 on the edge of the platform, and resumed in the Pliocene Zone N19 at Site 816 on the top of the platform. Water depths over the platform increased rapidly to outer neritic depths.

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APPENDIX

LIST OF FORAMINIFERS

Larger Benthic Foraminifers

- Amphistegina radiata* (Fichtel and Moll, 1798)
- Biarrizina carpenteriaeformis* (Halkyard, 1918)
- Cycloclypeus* (*Cycloclypeus*) *carpenteri* Brady, 1881
- Cycloclypeus* (*Katacycloclypeus*) *annulatus* Martin, 1880
- Discogypsina howchini* (Chapman, 1910)
- Ladoronia vermicularis* Hanzawa, 1957
- Lepidocyclus* (*Nephrolepidina*) *howchini* sensu lato Chapman and Crespin, 1932
- Operculina complanata* (Defrance, 1822)
- Operculinella venosa* (Fichtel and Moll, 1798)
- Sphaerogypsina globula* (Reuss, 1848)
- Victoriella conoidea* (Rutten, 1914)

Planktonic Foraminifers

- Candeina nitida* d'Orbigny, 1839
- Dentoglobigerina altispira altispira* (Cushman and Jarvis, 1936)
- Dentoglobigerina altispira globosa* (Bolli, 1957)
- Dentoglobigerina baroemoensis* (LeRoy, 1939)
- Globigerina* (*Globigerina*) *angustumbilicata* Bolli, 1957

- Globigerina* (*Globigerina*) *bulbosa* LeRoy, 1944
- Globigerina* (*Globigerina*) *bulloides bulloides* d'Orbigny, 1826
- Globigerina* (*Globigerina*) *falconensis* Blow, 1959
- Globigerina* (*Globigerina*) *quinqueloba* Natland, 1938
- Globigerina* (*Globoturborotalita*) *decoraperta* Takayanagi and Saito, 1962
- Globigerina* (*Globoturborotalita*) *druryi* Akers, 1955
- Globigerina* (*Globoturborotalita*) *nepenthes* Todd, 1957
- Globigerinella aequilateralis* (Brady, 1879)
- Globigerinella calida praecalida* (Blow, 1969)
- Globigerinella obesa* (Bolli, 1957)
- Globigerinita glutinata glutinata* (Egger, 1893)
- Globigerinita glutinata naparimaensis* Brönnimann, 1951
- Globigerinoides bollii* Blow, 1959
- Globigerinoides conglobatus* (Brady, 1879)
- Globigerinoides obliquus extremus* Bolli and Bermudez, 1965
- Globigerinoides obliquus obliquus* Bolli, 1957
- Globigerinoides quadrilobatus immaturus* LeRoy, 1939
- Globigerinoides quadrilobatus scaculifer* (Brady, 1877)
- Globigerinoides quadrilobatus subquadratus* Brönnimann, 1954
- Globigerinoides quadrilobatus triloba* (Reuss, 1850)
- Globigerinoides ruber* white form (d'Orbigny, 1839)
- Globoquadrina dehiscens dehiscens* (Chapman et al., 1934)
- Globorotalia* (*Globoconella*) *miotumida conoidea* Walters, 1955
- Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *cultrata cultrata* (d'Orbigny, 1839)
- Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *cultrata limbata* (Fornasini, 1902)
- Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *cultrata menardii* (Parker et al., 1865)
- Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *merotumida* Blow and Banner, 1965
- Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *multicamerata* Cushman and Jarvis, 1930
- Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *praemenardii* Cushman and Stainforth, 1945
- Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *tumida flexuosa* (Koch, 1923)
- Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *tumida plesiotumida* Blow and Banner, 1965
- Globorotalia* (*Globorotalia*) *tumida tumida* (Brady, 1877)
- Globorotalia* (*Obandyella*) *margaritae* Bolli and Bermudez, 1965
- Globorotalia* (*Obandyella*) *scitula* (Brady, 1882)
- Neogloboquadrina acostaensis* (Blow, 1959)
- Neogloboquadrina humerosa* (Takayanagi and Saito, 1962)
- Neogloboquadrina pseudopima* (Blow, 1969)
- Orbulina universa* d'Orbigny, 1839
- Orbulina universa* bilobate form d'Orbigny, 1839
- Paragloborotalia continua* (Blow, 1959)
- Pulleniatina praecursor* Banner and Blow, 1967
- Pulleniatina primalis* Banner and Blow, 1967
- Sphaeroidinellopsis paenedehiscens* Blow, 1969
- Sphaeroidinellopsis seminulina kochi* (Caudri, 1934)
- Sphaeroidinellopsis seminulina seminulina* (Schwager, 1866)
- Tenuitella clemenciae* (Bermudez, 1961)
- Tenuitella iota* (Parker, 1962)
- Turborotalita humilis* (Brady, 1884)

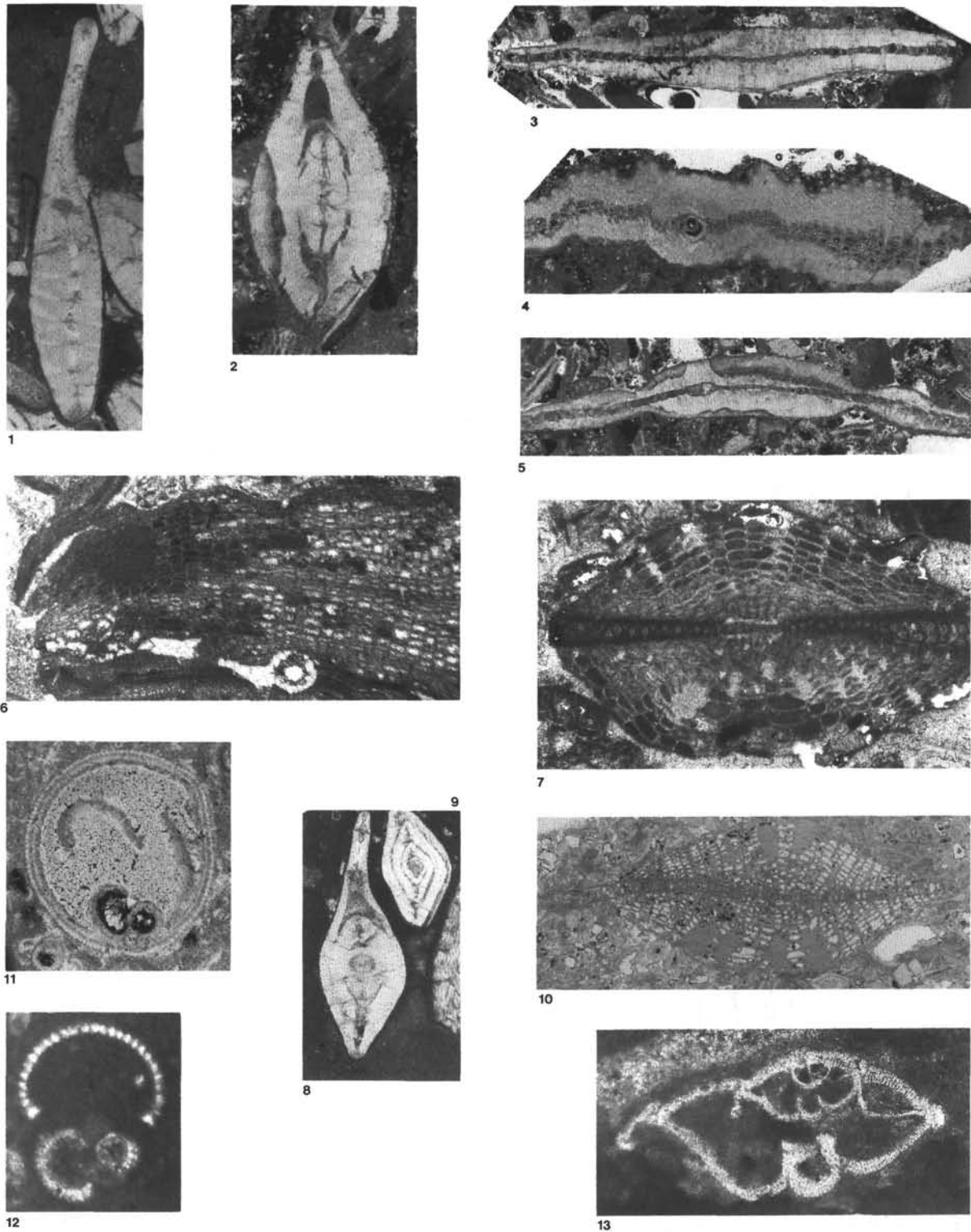


Plate 1. **1.** *Operculina complanata* (Defrance, 1822), off-center vertical section, $\times 17$; Sample 133-826A-2W-CC, 5–7 cm, CPC23256. **2, 8.** *Operculinella venosa* (Fichtel and Moll, 1798), off-center vertical sections, $\times 30$; Sample 133-826A-12R-1, 4–6 cm, CPC23257, CPC23263. **3.** *Cycloclypeus (Cycloclypeus) carpenteri* Brady, 1881, off-center vertical section, $\times 17$; Sample 133-826A-12R-1, 4–6 cm, CPC23258. **4.** *Cycloclypeus (Cycloclypeus) carpenteri* Brady, 1881, oblique equatorial section, $\times 17$; Sample 133-826A-12R-1, 4–6 cm, CPC23259. **5.** *Cycloclypeus (Katacycloclypeus) carpenteri* Martin, 1880, off-center vertical section, $\times 17$; Sample 133-826A-12R-1, 4–6 cm, CPC23260. **6.** *Ladoronia vermicularis* Hanzawa, 1957, random section through encrusting mass, $\times 30$; Sample 133-816B-4R-1, 16–17 cm, CPC23261. **7, 10.** *Lepidocyclina (Nephrolepidina) howchini* Chapman and Crespin, 1932, off-center vertical sections, $\times 30$, $\times 17$; Sample 133-826A-11R-1, 54–55 cm, CPC23262, Sample 133-815A-50X-CC, 7–9 cm, CPC23265. **9.** *Amphistegina radiata* Terquem, 1881, off-center vertical section, $\times 30$; Sample 133-826A-2W-CC, 10–15 cm, CPC23264. **11.** *Orbulina? universa* d'Orbigny, 1839, transverse section, $\times 50$; Sample 133-815A-50X-CC, 7–9 cm, CPC23266. **12.** *Globigerinoides* sp., transverse section, $\times 95$; Sample 133-816C-7R-1, 32–34 cm, CPC23267. **13.** *Globorotalia (Globorotalia)* sp., vertical section, $\times 80$; Sample 133-826A-11R-1, 58–60 cm, CPC23268.