

## 12. ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY AND CLAY MINERALOGY OF LOWER CRETACEOUS SEDIMENTS FROM ALLISON AND RESOLUTION GUYOTS (SITES 865 AND 866), MID-PACIFIC MOUNTAINS<sup>1</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

Clay- and organic-rich facies were deposited in Early Cretaceous shallow-water environments from both Allison (Hole 865A) and Resolution (Hole 866A) guyots in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. Together with mineralogical, sedimentological, and petrographical examinations, organic matter was characterized using Rock-Eval pyrolysis, vitrinite reflectance measurements, elemental analysis of selected kerogens, and chromatography of the saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons.

Low to very low organic carbon content characterizes gray green pyritic claystones and most of the bioturbated clayey wackestones and packstones in Hole 865A, whereas organic carbon contents up to 50% are recorded in black and brown claystones. Percentages of organic carbon in Hole 866A present high-amplitude variations that range from 0.1% to 34.5%. As a general rule, total organic carbon contents higher than 3% are recorded in laminated limestones, algal mats, and claystones with plant debris, whereas gray limestones, sandy claystones, and green claystones have organic carbon contents lower than 0.5%.

According to the hydrogen indices, H/C ratios of kerogen concentrates, and the richness in vitrinite, the origin of organic matter is mainly terrestrial (type III) in Hole 865A. At the base of this hole, two organic-rich samples with well-preserved algal structures, high hydrogen indices, and high H/C ratios contain type I or II organic matter. In Hole 866A, the organic matter is widely distributed between type I (algal or bacterial) and type IV (altered organic matter), according to the wide range of hydrogen indices. Laminated limestones and algal mats are related to type I or II organic matter, according to their high hydrogen indices and H/C ratios, as well as their richness in lamalginite and bituminite. Black claystones rich in vitrinite are related to type III (terrestrial), whereas other lithologies generally contain a type IV (oxidized) organic matter.

$T_{max}$  and vitrinite reflectance measurements, as well as biomarker abundance, suggest that the organic matter is too immature for hydrocarbon generation.

The composition of clay-mineral assemblages results from various early diagenetic, volcanic, and detrital influences that reflect the evolution of the Lower Cretaceous sedimentary environments of Allison and Resolution guyots.

Most of the sulfur in the sediment is in the form of pyrite at Hole 865A, whereas the proportion of sulfur in organic form is much more important in sediments from Hole 866A, where cyanobacterial mats predominate.

Variations in the quantity and quality of clay minerals and organic matter are strongly dependent on the lithology, as well as the paleoenvironmental evolution of the guyots. During the early history of Allison Guyot, soil-derived material, including illite-smectite mixed-layers, kaolinite, and terrestrial organic matter, were probably supplied from residual volcanic islands. This land-derived influx became less abundant upward and progressively disappeared, suggesting that the volcanic islands were definitively submerged. The clay- and marine organic-rich facies were mainly deposited during lagoonal to peritidal phases of the history of Resolution Guyot. Nevertheless, terrestrial organic matter occurs here and there, implying the existence of nearby vegetated islands.

Comparison of Aptian sediments from Hole 866A with those of DSDP Site 463 suggests that the late early Aptian Oceanic Anoxic Event, corresponding to the Selli level, may be recorded at both sites.

### INTRODUCTION AND GEOLOGICAL SETTING

Two deep holes drilled during Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) Leg 143 in the Mid-Pacific Mountains (Fig. 1) penetrated the Cretaceous lagoonal facies of Allison (Hole 865A) and Resolution (Hole 866A) guyots. Both sections present thick, shallow-water carbonate caps that recorded the histories of the guyots from the submergence of the volcanic pedestal through the final drowning of the carbonate platform (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1993).

Hole 865A (Allison Guyot) penetrated 731 m of upper Albian shallow-water limestones that become organic-rich and clayey within

the bottom 100 m (Fig. 2). Basaltic sills interlayered with limestones were recovered in the last 34 m. Dissolution, mineralization, and filling in of cavities by Upper Cretaceous sediments are evidence of prolonged emergence at the top of the shallow-water carbonates. During the Paleogene, the guyot acquired a substantial pelagic cap (about 140 m) that consists mainly of upper Paleocene and lower to mid-Eocene nannofossil and foraminiferal oozes.

Hole 866A (Resolution Guyot) produced a section of 124 m of basalt overlain by 1620 m of shallow-water limestones (Fig. 2). The carbonate sequence ranges from Hauterivian to Albian in age and has a predominance of dolomitized oolitic or oncoidal facies near the bottom and cyclic, often restricted and organic-rich shallow-water facies at the top. Evidence of karstification and mineralized surfaces also is seen on the top of this carbonate edifice. The guyot is capped by a thin veneer of winnowed and reworked pelagic sediments that contain both nannofossil and foraminiferal assemblages ranging from Maastrichtian to Pliocene in age.

The purposes of this study are to describe the sedimentological, mineralogical, petrological, and geochemical characteristics of the Lower Cretaceous clay- and organic-rich facies from Holes 865A and 866A and to discuss the origin of the organic matter and clay minerals, as well as to reconstruct the environmental conditions that allowed the preservation of the organic matter.

<sup>1</sup> Winterer, E.L., Sager, W.W., Firth, J.V., and Sinton, J.M. (Eds.), 1995. *Proc. ODP, Sci. Results*, 143: College Station, TX (Ocean Drilling Program).

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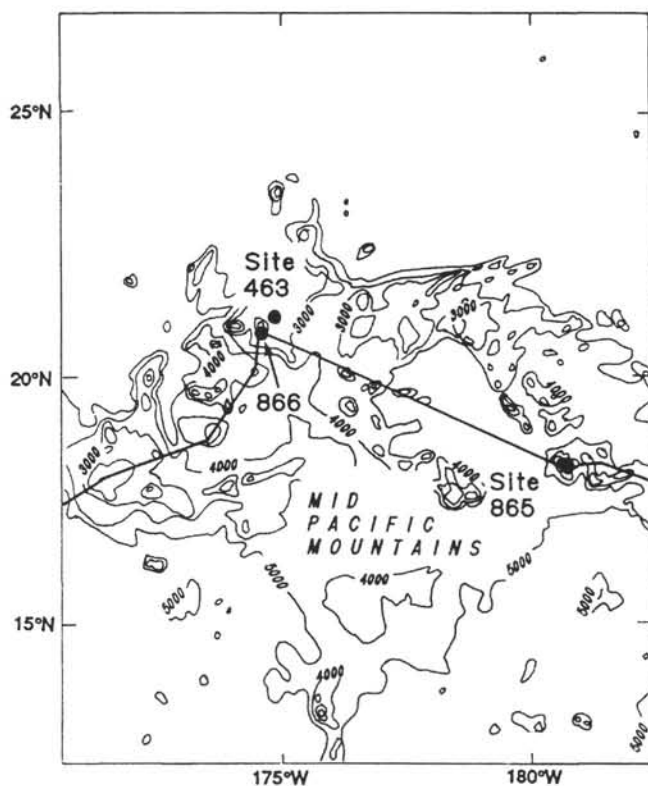


Figure 1. Bathymetric chart of the Mid-Pacific Mountains and location of Sites 865 and 866 and nearby DSDP Site 463. Bathymetric contours are shown in 1000-m intervals. Heavy line shows track of *JOIDES Resolution*.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF ORGANIC CARBON-RICH FACIES

The 131 samples studied were selected for analysis of both sedimentological and organic geochemical characteristics at the same scale. The set of samples may be considered as representative of the various dark and clayey facies encountered in the cores.

### Hole 865A

All studied samples from Hole 865A are from the lower part of the recovered Albian sediments (Unit IV, Fig. 2). This unit is characterized by clayey bioclastic wackestones to packstones that contain finely dispersed carbonaceous debris. The limestones contain benthic foraminifers, ostracodes, gastropods, bivalves, sponges, and calcareous algae, and are intensely burrowed by *Thalassinoides*. The lowermost Subunit IVD is intruded by several basaltic sills and shows abundant pyrite associated with burrows and plant fragments. Clayey mudstones having well-preserved plant-cell structures or roots in growth position are a common minor lithology. Coaly fragments and clay layers become less abundant upward and disappear in the upper part of Subunit IVA. A coaly claystone bed occurs in Section 143-865A-90R-3 (Fig. 3), and a dark brown to black finely laminated claystone interval occurs in Section 143-865A-92R-2 (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1993). We chose 37 samples from Cores 143-865A-71R to -94R in the different lithologies, especially within dark carbonaceous facies.

### Hole 866A

The organic carbon-rich facies at Hole 866A occur from Units IV to VII within the thick Barremian to middle Aptian carbonate section that caps Resolution Guyot (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1993). These

consist mainly of clay- and organic-rich bioturbated mudstones (Fig. 4) and algal laminites (Fig. 5). These facies are largely dolomitized in Unit VII.

Although recovery was low (15% in average), the cored material shows well-developed meter-scale sequences in the lagoonal-peritidal environment (Strasser et al., this volume). The ideal sequence starts with dark gray layers and grades up into peloidal packstones, then into algal or cyanobacterial mats. Boundaries of small sequences are commonly underlined by bird's eyes, tepee structures, and desiccation fissures. Algal laminites and clay- and organic-rich mudstones locally contain ostracodes and black peloids. Packstones and wackestones contain marine gastropods, bivalves, benthic foraminifers, and dasycladacean algae, and are commonly burrowed, suggesting an open-marine environment. Lignitic fragments, indicating terrestrial influences, occur in the section.

Ninety-four samples were collected from Cores 143-866A-50R to Core -148R. A small selection was made in oolitic grainstones from Unit V and in dolomitic grainstones from Subunit VIIC.

## METHODS

### Petrology and Mineralogy

The lithofacies were classified after optical descriptions of the samples, and when available, of thin sections observed in transmitted light. More detailed investigations were also done on rock fragments with the scanning electron microscope (SEM) in two different modes, using a JEOL 840A. Mineral structures were observed by the secondary electron (SE) mode, and organo-mineral textures were examined in a back-scattered electron (BSE) mode. BSE imaging is particularly useful for visualizing organic matter, because a good contrast exists between organic products and the mineral matrix, owing to the low mean atomic number of organic matter (Belin, 1992).

All samples were crushed in an agate-mortar, and the carbonate content was measured using a calcimetric bomb.

The clay-mineral assemblages of the 131 samples were studied using X-ray diffraction (XRD) on oriented pastes. Clays were deflocculated by successive washing with distilled water after decarbonation of the crushed rock with 0.2N HCl. The clay fraction (particles of less than 2  $\mu\text{m}$ ) was separated by sedimentation and centrifugation (Brown and Brindley, 1980; Holtzapffel, 1985). XRD patterns were obtained using a Philips PW 1730 diffractometer with  $\text{CuK}\alpha$  radiations and a Ni filter. A tube voltage of 40 kV and a tube current of 25 mA were used. Three X-ray diagrams were obtained: after air drying, after ethylene-glycol solvation, and after heating at 490°C for 2 hr. The goniometer scanned from 2.5° to 28.5° 2 $\theta$  for air-dried and glycol-solvated conditions, and from 2.5° to 14.5° 2 $\theta$  for heating conditions. Clay minerals were identified according to the position of the (001) series of basal reflections on the three X-ray diagrams (Brown and Brindley, 1980; Moore and Reynolds, 1989). Semiquantitative estimations are based on intensity and area of the main diffraction peak of each clay-mineral (Holtzapffel, 1985). The percentages of smectite layers in illite-smectite mixed-layers (I/S) are estimated by measuring the "saddle index" (Inoue et al., 1989). The chemistry of clay minerals belonging to the illite-smectite mixed-layers group was analyzed using a CAMEBAX microprobe. This was done on selected samples that were characterized by an almost monomineral clay fraction. Differential thermal analyses (DTA) were performed on some clay fractions under Ar-gas with a SETARAM TAG 24 thermo-analyzer at a heating rate of 10°C/min. The observations by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) were performed using a JEOL 100CX.

Organic petrological studies were performed on two whole-rock samples and seven kerogen concentrates from Hole 865A and 10 kerogen concentrates from Hole 866A. Because of the small amount of rock material, it was not possible to study whole-rock and kerogen concentrates of the same sample. Quantitative maceral evaluation was performed in white light and in fluorescence mode. Vitrinite and

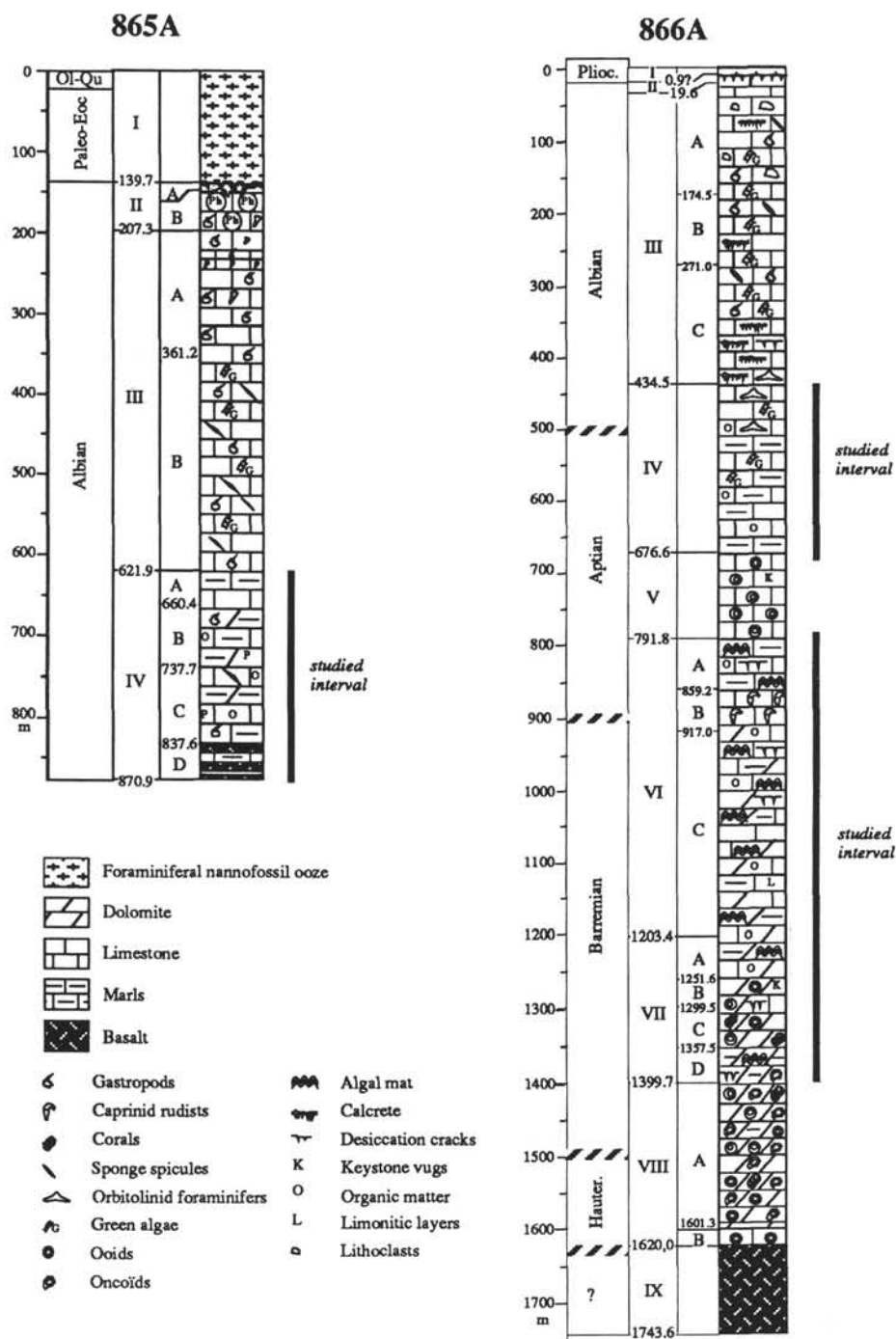


Figure 2. Schematic lithostratigraphic successions of Holes 865A and 866A with the studied intervals.

inertinite particles were counted using reflected light. The following liptinite macerals were recognized using a fluorescence mode:

1. Higher plant liptinites: sporinite, suberinite, cutinite, and resinite;
2. Telalginite: alginite derived from large thick-walled, unicellular or colonial algae;
3. Amalginite: alginite derived from thin-walled lamellar algae;
4. Bituminite: liptinite maceral without definite shape and having a strong affinity for degraded algae (e.g., Taylor et al., 1991). Their fluorescence intensities vary in a wide range, but are low in comparison to other liptinite macerals; and
5. Liptodetrinite: fluorescent fragments that cannot be assigned to a specific primary maceral.

For maturity assessments, vitrinite reflectance was measured under oil immersion (see Stach et al., 1982).

### Organic Geochemistry

Free and potential hydrocarbons were measured by Rock-Eval pyrolysis (Espitalié et al., 1985a, 1985b, 1986) on the crushed crude rock samples. Standard notations have been used:  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  in milligrams of hydrocarbons (HC) per gram of rock;  $T_{max}$  expressed in °C, and the total organic carbon (TOC) content in weight percent. The hydrogen index ( $HI = S_2/TOC \times 100$ ) and oxygen index ( $OI = S_3/TOC \times 100$ ) are expressed in milligrams HC per gram of TOC and milligrams  $CO_2$  per gram of TOC, respectively. To give a wider statistical

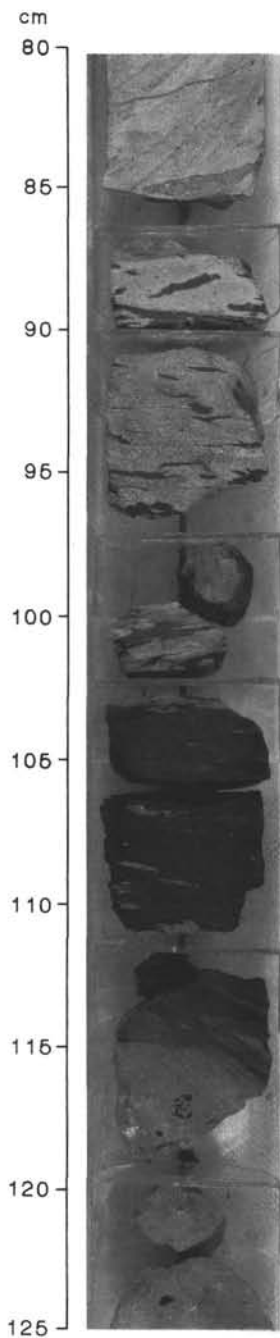


Figure 3. Photograph of Interval 143-865A-90R-3, 80–125 cm, showing coaly packstone and black claystone.

geochemical characterization of the organic material, all samples were analyzed twice.

Kerogen concentrates were extracted from 21 rock samples by HCl-HF treatment according to the Institut Français du Pétrole standard procedure (Durand and Nicaise, 1980). Kerogen concentrates were analyzed by Rock-Eval, and their elemental compositions (C, H, O, N, S, and Fe) were measured using the method summarized by Durand and Monin (1980). Pyrite quantity and organic-sulfur values were calculated assuming that all iron was in the form of pyrite. Other minerals, called here “ash,” were calculated taking the difference between the sum of all elements and 100. Of course, this value is approximate and includes several elements that may be present in

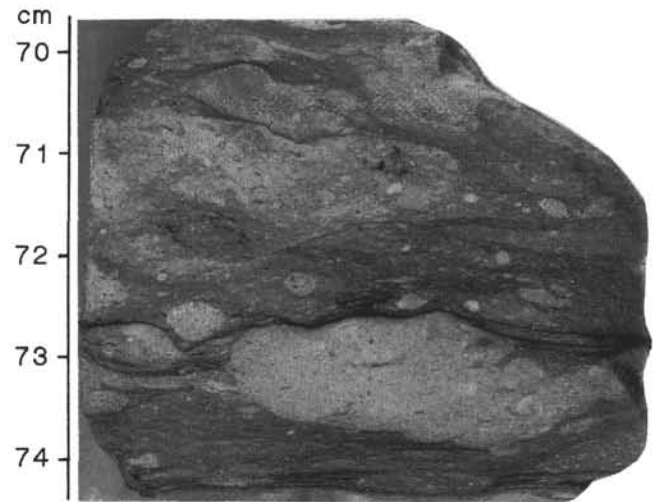


Figure 4. Bioturbated peloidal wackestone with clay- and organic-rich flakes and undulating laminites from Unit IV (Interval 143-866A-56R-1, 70–74 cm).

kerogen. Kerogen types were recognized using the classical van Krevelen diagram, which plots H/C vs. O/C (atomic ratios).

Kerogen concentrates were extracted with dichloromethane at 60°C for 1 hr. The extracts, called “bitumen,” were concentrated in a rotary evaporator and dried in open air. The relative proportions of bitumen are expressed as Ext/TOC in percent. All the bitumens were separated by thin-layer chromatography into saturates+unsaturates, aromatics, and N,S,O-compounds. Capillary gas-chromatographic separation of the C<sub>15+</sub> aliphatic fraction was accomplished on a VARIAN 3500 gas-chromatograph fitted with a quartz column DBI (ϕ 0.32 mm × 30 m).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Petrography

#### Hole 865A

Five thin sections and two rock fragments examined with SEM allow us to roughly characterize the microfacies and nanofacies of carbon-rich facies from Subunits IVC and IVD.

The main microfacies are wackestones, more or less rich in detrital quartz and clay minerals. Ostracodes, bivalve fragments, and gastropods are the main bioclasts. Pyrite is ubiquitous and locally abundant (Sample 143-865A-94R-3, 33–34 cm). Organic particles are present in all samples and show two different populations. One corresponds to black particles that reach a length of 0.5 cm; these are related to higher plant debris. Some of the fragments are partly pyritic. Microcracks are frequent in these plant fragments, which suggests a strong alteration, probably subaerial, before burial (Pl. 1, Fig. 1). The other population is generally smaller (less than 100 μm) and is light brown to intense yellow or dark red. Samples from Section 143-865A-92R-2 contain a high proportion of yellow particles that reach a width of 300 μm, which suggests a concentration of algae (Pl. 1, Fig. 2).

SEM images show clear higher-plant cell structures and pyritized casts of tracheids, as well as fossilized bordered pits. Such impregnations of iron sulfides generally disturb the original structures, but these latter are here easily recognizable.

#### Hole 866A

Most studied samples appear as clayey mudstones, with ostracodes, foraminifers, and small organic particles or organic laminae. Such microfacies mainly characterize the early to middle Aptian Unit IV. Porous wackestone and packstone with small ooids, peloids, for-

aminifers, and ostracodes predominate in Unit VI. These generally contain yellow to pale brown laminae.

Thin sections of organic carbon-rich samples display rare ligneous debris and two populations of algae. One is fine, dispersed, and dark red to brown (Pl. 1, Fig. 3). The other is elongate, yellow, and constitutes a more or less dense network of laminae (Pl. 1, Fig. 4). Clay and organic matter, which are closely associated, appear dark in transmitted light. In the absence of clay minerals, organic matter is dark yellow to yellow. Pyrite is dispersed as very fine grains within the yellow laminae, but locally presents 250- $\mu\text{m}$ -sized euhedral habits (Sample 143-866A-71R-1, 102–104 cm). Cuticles and coaly fragments with microcracks are locally abundant (Sample 143-866A-86R-3, 47–49 cm).

SEM images provide a detailed picture of the sediment and particularly enabled us to distinguish between organic matter and minerals through use of the BSE mode. Many organic laminae have wavy shapes and present a 10- to 100- $\mu\text{m}$  thickness, with a mean value of 30  $\mu\text{m}$ . Single laminae in thin section under SEM display a succession of fine (5–10  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and continuous laminae (Pl. 1, Fig. 5). Some isolated crystals mark the limits between elemental laminae and may correspond to an interruption in the growth of the algal or bacterial mat. The contact between carbonate and organic lamina is generally sharp, but alteration of organic material is evident in some samples (Pl. 1, 6). Isolated coccoliths are frequent in Unit IV in the carbonate layers between algal laminae, but their occurrence cannot be considered as an evidence of pelagic environment (Noël et al., 1993). Rather, these imply oxygenated surface water with repeated access to an open-marine environment.

### Carbonates and Clay Minerals

#### Hole 865A

Carbonate content of Unit IV is characterized by high-amplitude variations that range from 0% to 93% (Table 1), with a general trend from 0% at the bottom to 70%, on average, at the top (Fig. 6). The gray wackestone and clayey packstone facies, both intensely bioturbated, have 60% to 90% carbonate content vs. 25% to 60% for facies without bioturbation. The carbonate content for the coaly claystone facies of Subunits IVC and IVD is less than 20%, and many samples show zero values.

The clay fraction of the 39 studied samples from Unit IV is composed of variable amounts of I/S, illite, kaolinite, and berthierine. Each subunit exhibits a distinct clay mineralogy (Fig. 7).

Sediments from Subunit IVD, which consist of clayey bioclastic limestones intruded with basaltic sills, display a clay fraction composed almost entirely of random I/S that occurs together with traces of kaolinite (Fig. 7). According to the position of the (001) reflections and by comparison with XRD patterns published by Reynolds (1980), the I/S layers contain about 70% smectite. This is confirmed by the measurement of the saddle index, which is from 0.3 to 0.5. DTA curves from the clay fraction of two samples (Fig. 8) indicate a well-expressed first endotherm between 100° and 150°C that corresponds to dehydration. The second endotherm (dehydroxylation) occurs on both curves at 500°C and the third reaction, corresponding to the endo-exothermic reaction (destabilization/recrystallization), occurs between 850° and 950°C. The shape of this latter curve is typical of Cheto (Mg-rich) montmorillonite (Chantret et al., 1971; Paterson and Swaffield, 1987). TEM indicates a fleecy shape to the I/S particles. The clay fraction of sediments from Subunit IVC consists of a mixture of illite, I/S, kaolinite, and berthierine. The identification of berthierine is difficult because the 001 reflection of this mineral (7.04–7.05 Å; Bailey, 1980) is near the 001 reflection of kaolinite (7.14 Å). The relatively important width of the peak at 7.1 Å (Fig. 9) is unusual for sedimentary kaolinite, which generally is well-crystallized and displays sharp peaks. This suggests the presence of another 1:1 layer silicate (Fig. 9). More convincing is the occurrence of the reflection between 3.5 and 3.55 Å (Sample 143-865A-86R-3, 51–52 cm), which is also commonly expressed by a

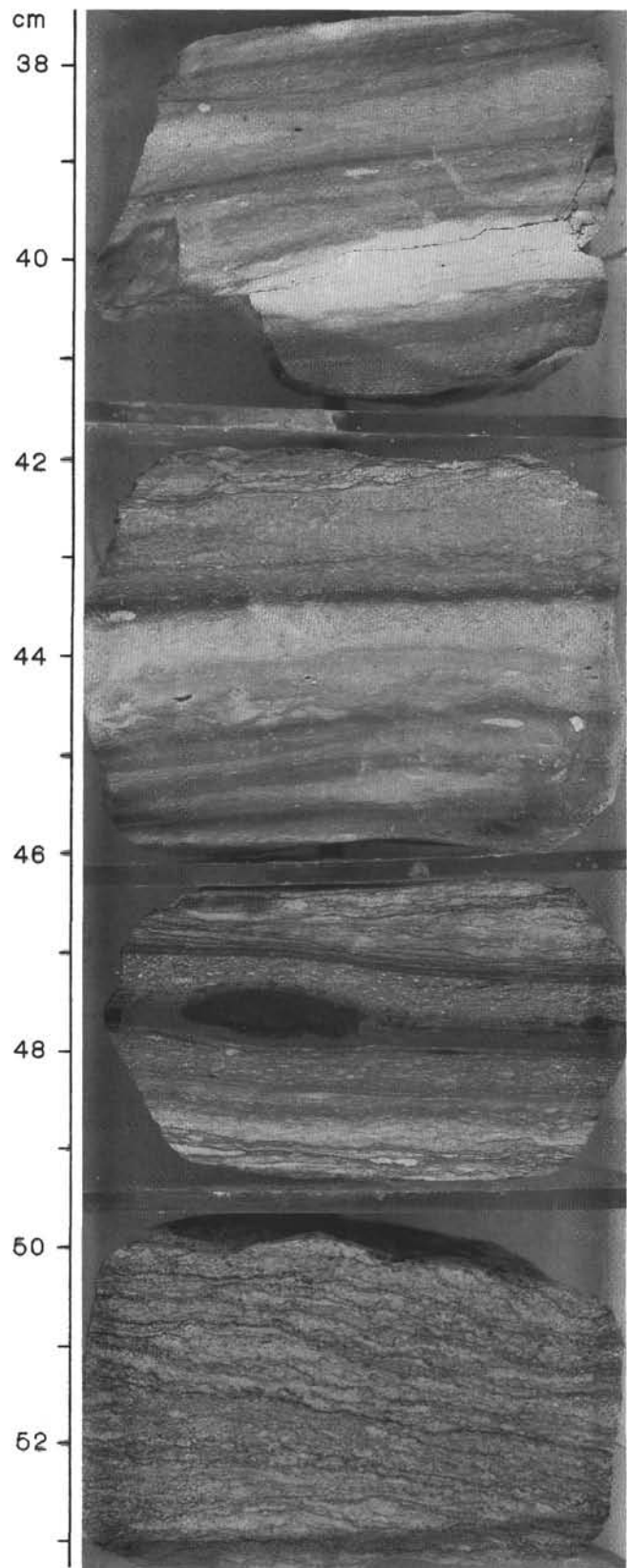


Figure 5. Common lithologies in Unit VI: finely laminated algal or cyanobacterial mats at the bottom of the photograph (Interval 143-866A-85R-2, 50–53 cm; age: Aptian) pass upward into greenish-gray to dark gray millimeter-laminated clay mudstone with lignitic debris (Sample 143-866A-85R-2, 47–49 cm) and then to light-colored wackestone (Interval 143-866A-85R-2, 38–46 cm).

Table 1. Rock-Eval data of samples from Holes 865A and 866A.

Core, section, interval (cm)	Depth (mbsf)	Lithology	CaCO <sub>3</sub> (%)	TOC (%)	T <sub>max</sub> (°C)	S <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>2</sub>	HI	OI
143-865A-									
71R-CC, 16–17	650.96	Gray wackestone	90	0.27	425	0.01	0.18	67	207
73R-1, 23–24	670.33	Clayey wackestone	32	1.01	426	0.05	0.88	88	118
74R-1, 110–112	680.80	Dark gray clayey wackestone	68	1.14	432	0.06	2.28	200	128
82R-1, 19–20	757.29	Grayish clayey wackestone	35	0.27	426*		0.01	6*	259*
82R-2, 41–43	758.44	Gray wackestone	71	0.75	425	0.03	0.76	101	163
85R-1, 123–124	787.43	Bioturbated wackestone	81	0.69	422		0.23	34	151
85R-2, 3–4	787.47	Bioturbated wackestone	71	1.03	423	0.01	0.36	34	139
85R-2, 43–44	787.87	Bioturbated wackestone	82	0.39	413*		0.09	22	206
86R-3, 51–52	799.27	Bioturbated wackestone	77	0.39	366*		0.01	3*	327*
86R-3, 70–71	799.46	Clayey packstone	87	0.59	394*		0.09	15*	103*
86R-3, 72–73	799.48	Clayey packstone	93	0.29	427		0.41	143	184
87R-1, 89–92	806.29	Clayey bioturbated packstone	90	0.43	427		0.51	120	180
87R-2, 81–82	807.61	Clayey bioturbated packstone	82	0.58	414*		0.06	10*	156*
87R-2, 134–137	808.14	Clayey bioturbated packstone	83	0.44	416*		0.09	21*	214*
88R-1, 57–59	815.67	Clayey bioturbated packstone	92	0.24					
88R-2, 120–123	817.75	Clayey bioturbated packstone	65	0.22					
89R-2, 2–4	826.19	Dark brown wackestone	42	0.17					
89R-2, 110–115	827.27	Dark brown wackestone	24	0.15					
89R-3, 33–36	827.87	Coaly claystone	0	0.91	418	0.01	0.49	54	159
89R-3, 65–70	828.19	Dark brown wackestone	46	0.26	38*		0.01	4*	635*
89R-6, 11–15	831.48	Black carbonaceous mudstone	17	6.39	417	0.09	1.87	29	68
90R-1, 110–111	832.90	Dark gray clayey packstone	56	3.64	427	0.07	3.32	91	74
90R-2, 33–34	833.27	Clayey bioturbated packstone	66	1.15	432		0.78	68	160
90R-3, 12–13	834.36	Dark gray clayey packstone	56	2.28	425	0.02	0.84	37	64
90R-3, 37–38	834.61	Black claystone	nd	34.65	391	0.93	7.14	21	65
90R-3, 77–78	835.01	Packstone with wood fragments	86	0.82	433	0.01	0.47	57	160
90R-3, 95–96	835.19	Coaly clayey packstone	56	13.45	409	2.28	19.34	144	83
90R-3, 110–111	835.34	Coaly claystone	0	50.60	412	1.60	21.34	42	59
90R-3, 112–113	835.36	Coaly claystone	0	14.81	411	0.28	6.12	41	65
90R-3, 131–132	835.55	Coaly claystone	0	5.01	390	0.25	1.04	21	125
91R-5, 130–132	848.06	Gray bioturbated wackestone	nd	7.08	430	0.55	51.62	730	29
92R-2, 44–47	849.07	Brown claystone	0	8.62	432	0.27	20.12	234	53
92R-2, 58–60	849.21	Black claystone	0	31.11	421	2.49	184.03	592	25
92R-2, 62–63	849.25	Black claystone with pyrite	0	0.23					
92R-2, 68–70	849.31	Gray greenish claystone with pyrite	0	0.09					
92R-2, 75–77	849.38	Gray greenish claystone with pyrite	0	0.11					
94R-3, 72–73	866.62	Bioturbated clayey limestone	66	0.42	424		0.09	22	160
143-866A-									
50R-CC, 31–32	454.01	White limestone with black laminae	71	8.38	412	2.26	33.53	400	47
55R-CC, 1–2	501.91	Gray limestone	93	0.10					
56R-1, 20–21	511.80	Gray limestone with black laminae	98	1.46	426	0.35	7.25	498	69
56R-1, 42–43	512.02	White limestone with black laminae	71	4.08	405	2.05	23.57	578	40
56R-1, 45–46	512.05	Gray limestone with laminae	74	1.38	425	0.18	4.39	317	131
56R-1, 73–74	512.33	Gray limestone with black laminae	66	3.13	396	1.82	18.78	600	47
57R-1, 33–36	521.63	Algal mat with black laminae	95	0.84	422	0.56	5.17	619	68
58R-1, 91–93	531.91	Gray limestone with laminae	83	4.18	425	1.05	17.74	425	69
58R-1, 98–99	531.98	Algal mat	97	1.20	420	0.94	7.62	635	65
60R-1, 63–64	550.93	Gray limestone with laminae	86	0.58	427	0.06	1.61	274	200
62R-1, 116–118	570.76	White limestone	90	3.10	415	2.54	22.47	725	49
62R-2, 37–40	571.47	Dark gray argillaceous limestone	82	1.24	427	0.25	5.66	458	91
62R-2, 40–41	571.50	Dark gray clayey limestone	84	0.28	428	0.01	0.34	121	463
63R-2, 43–45	581.23	Algal mat with black laminae	97	0.86	415	0.61	5.26	615	79
63R-2, 93–94	581.73	Sandy limestone with plant debris	93	0.89	430	0.11	2.82	317	112
63R-2, 109–111	581.89	Sandy limestone with plant debris	nd	4.54	420	1.04	9.68	213	74
65R-1, 143–144	600.03	Algal mat with black laminae	87	0.80	434	0.03	2.09	263	142
66R-1, 18–20	608.48	Beige algal mat	99	0.18					
70R-1, 19–20	647.09	Gray limestone with laminae	85	0.28	403*		0.06	23*	311*
71R-2, 67–68	658.45	Dark green claystone	64	0.43	375*	0.01	0.06	14*	314*
71R-2, 74–75	658.52	Green claystone	0	0.14					
71R-2, 100–101	658.78	Algal mat with black laminae	90	1.90	420	1.32	12.84	676	49
72R-1, 60–61	666.80	Gray limestone with green flakes	74	0.22					
73R-1, 42–43	676.22	Light gray limestone	87	0.57	426	0.03	0.99	174	175
74R-2, 74–75	687.52	Dark sandy grainstone	92	0.12					
75R-1, 67–68	695.77	Dark sandy grainstone	94	0.12					
85R-3, 47–49	795.22	Algal mat with black laminae	31	34.47	387	5.39	50.36	146	53
85R-3, 50–52	795.25	Algal mat with black laminae	nd	3.24	398	2.29	22.22	686	35
86R-1, 143–145	802.93	Gray limestone with black level	79	4.98	425	1.97	35.83	720	42
86R-2, 111–113	804.11	Gray limestone with black level	nd	7.41	418	5.93	58.17	784	36
88R-1, 29–31	821.19	Algal mat with black laminae	7	0.37	551	0.01	0.33	88	265
88R-1, 56–58	821.46	Algal mat with black laminae	66	3.64	413	0.84	14.18	390	48
88R-1, 140–142	822.30	Black claystone	28	0.36	367*	0.01	0.05	1*	19*
89R-1, 92–93	831.52	Dark gray claystone	28	0.49	421*		0.05	10*	31*
89R-1, 94–95	831.54	Dark gray claystone with plant debris	15	1.04	419	0.04	0.96	92	177
89R-1, 96–97	831.56	Dark gray claystone with plant debris	16	2.33	419	0.04	1.59	68	69
89R-1, 97–98	831.57	Black claystone with plant debris	25	14.38	422	0.39	18.72	130	39
89R-1, 98–99	831.58	Algal mat with black laminae	87	4.70	423	0.57	14.97	318	51
91R-1, 10–11	849.60	Dark green laminated limestone	31	0.28					
91R-1, 11–13	849.61	Black laminated limestone	45	0.22					
91R-1, 13–14	849.63	Black laminated limestone	52	0.33					
91R-1, 30–31	849.80	Algal mat with black laminae	80	0.87	422	0.03	0.77	88	164
96R-1, 26–28	897.96	Algal mat with black laminae	90	0.44	417	0.01	0.25	59	163
98R-1, 96–98	917.96	Algal mat with black laminae	82	1.24	430	0.08	3.41	275	102
98R-2, 37–38	918.87	Algal mat with black laminae	72	1.91	431	0.13	3.58	187	83
99R-1, 124–125	925.14	Algal mat with black laminae	83	1.46	430	0.05	4.41	302	107
100R-1, 49–50	933.89	Black argillaceous laminated limestone	64	0.80	413	0.00	0.25	31	155
102R-2, 13–14	954.33	Algal mat with black laminae	74	2.76	427	0.16	9.07	328	66

Table 1 (continued).

Core, section, interval (cm)	Depth (mbsf)	Lithology	CaCO <sub>3</sub> (%)	TOC (%)	T <sub>max</sub> (°C)	S <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>2</sub>	HI	OI
104R-1, 26–27	971.96	Black laminated limestone	91	1.63	430	0.31	11.8	721	60
105R-1, 104–106	982.34	Algal mat with black laminae	57	1.20	428	0.04	1.45	120	116
106R-1, 75–77	991.65	Dark green claystone	28	0.63	418	0.03	0.64	101	181
108R-1, 33–35	1010.53	Black argillaceous laminated limestone	74	3.90	426	0.49	19.85	510	45
109R-1, 6–7	1019.96	Black argillaceous laminated limestone	50	1.54	429	0.05	1.62	105	98
109R-1, 62–63	1020.52	Black laminated limestone	48	1.04	418	0.03	0.58	56	100
110R-1, 89–90	1030.49	Black laminated limestone	68	5.01	422	0.58	19.98	399	40
110R-2, 36–37	1031.40	Black laminated limestone	50	1.13	423	0.04	1.13	100	106
110R-2, 88–90	1031.92	Black argillaceous laminated limestone	79	1.11	431	0.14	4.80	432	127
110R-2, 105–106	1032.09	Gray limestone	70	0.95	431	0.06	1.94	205	127
110R-2, 113–115	1032.17	Limestone with black laminae	52	2.79	429	0.37	10.04	360	47
111R-1, 86–87	1040.16	Limestone with black laminae	nd	3.72	427	0.33	13.26	357	45
111R-1, 118–119	1040.48	Limestone with black laminae	82	1.13	429	0.10	4.26	375	77
111R-2, 8–9	1040.67	Limestone with black laminae	67	1.92	425	0.14	4.26	222	72
112R-1, 48–50	1049.38	Limestone with black laminae	83	2.05	420	0.63	13.94	682	43
113R-CC, 44–45	1058.94	Limestone with black laminae	53	4.99	422	0.92	24.74	496	27
114R-1, 27–28	1068.47	Limestone with black laminae	35	4.05	423	0.60	11.28	279	31
116R-1, 33–35	1087.83	Limestone with black laminae	67	0.94	433	0.05	2.80	298	82
117R-1, 9–11	1097.19	Black argillaceous laminated limestone	34	0.48	370*		0.06	13*	145*
117R-2, 56–57	1099.16	Limestone with black laminae	7	0.41	460	0.00	0.34	83	77
118R-2, 97–98	1109.27	Limestone with black laminae	nd	8.74	429	0.62	23.03	263	30
119R-1, 89–91	1117.39	Gray limestone	89	0.15					
120R-1, 8–10	1126.18	Limestone with black laminae	0	0.27	445	0.06	0.58	213	156
124R-1, 114–116	1165.94	Gray limestone with clay layers	71	0.63	419	0.00	0.39	62	218
125R-3, 47–49	1177.80	Gray limestone	74	0.49	424		0.31	63	224
128R-1, 62–63	1203.82	Limestone with black laminae	71	0.58	421	0.02	0.37	62	135
128R-2, 31–32	1204.65	Limestone with black laminae	51	8.87	408	2.70	49.87	562	28
129R-1, 14–15	1213.04	Limestone with black laminae	60	12.66	410	4.94	74.49	588	35
129R-1, 44–45	1213.34	Dark gray mudstone	33	0.56	372*		0.04	7*	228*
130R-1, 85–86	1223.45	Limestone with black laminae	68	9.35	402	3.57	48.74	521	32
132R-1, 15–17	1242.05	Limestone with black laminae	82	0.62	417	0.02	1.92	312	95
144R-1, 53–54	1358.03	Black argillaceous laminated limestone	50	2.70	429	0.11	4.72	175	58
144R-1, 58–59	1358.08	Black argillaceous laminated limestone	45	0.87	412	0.03	0.29	34	95
144R-1, 64–65	1358.14	Gray limestone	90	0.12					
145R-1, 147–149	1368.27	Limestone with black laminae	27	3.25	421	0.14	5.62	173	41
145R-2, 24–26	1368.54	Dark gray claystone	0	0.17					
146R-1, 107–108	1377.47	Limestone with black clayey laminae	60	1.15	428	0.05	2.07	180	87
146R-2, 22–24	1378.12	Black argillaceous laminated limestone	71	1.12	426	0.05	2.17	194	88
147R-1, 45–46	1386.55	Black greenish claystone	0	0.16					
147R-1, 89–90	1386.99	Limestone with black clayey laminae	44	0.24					
147R-1, 91–92	1387.01	Black sandy claystone	22	0.56	386	0.00	0.16	28	94
148R-1, 86–87	1396.56	Black sandy claystone	26	0.29	364*		0.01	5*	207*
148R-2, 104–105	1398.16	Black sandy claystone	68	0.57	373*		0.04	6*	155*
148R-3, 0–3	1398.27	Black argillaceous laminated limestone	41	0.51	412	0.00	0.22	44	147
148R-3, 60–61	1398.87	Green claystone	42	0.45	435	0.03	0.07	16	134
148R-3, 81–82	1399.08	Limestone with black laminae	28	0.86	427	0.03	1.83	212	72

Notes: TOC = total organic carbon (wt%), T<sub>max</sub> = maximum temperature, S<sub>1</sub> = free hydrocarbons, and S<sub>2</sub> = pyrolyzable hydrocarbons (in mg/g of rock), HI = hydrogen index (in mg HC/g TOC), and OI = oxygen index (in mg CO<sub>2</sub>/g TOC). nd = not determined and \* = doubtful data resulting from a small S<sub>2</sub> peak.

shoulder on the 002 reflection of kaolinite at 3.57 Å (e.g., Sample 143-865A-89R-3, 65–70 cm, Fig. 9) in the absence of chlorite (no peak at about 14 or 4.7 Å). This reflection is attributed to the iron-rich 1:1 layer silicate called berthierine.

A strong mineralogical change occurs within Subunit IVC between Samples 143-865A-89R-2, 110–115 cm (827.27 mbsf), and -89R-2, 2–4 cm (826.19 mbsf). The lowermost part of the subunit (from 827.27 mbsf to bottom) shows dominant I/S, minor kaolinite, and berthierine and the common occurrence of goethite and gibbsite. By contrast, the clay fraction from the upper part of this subunit is characterized by dominant kaolinite and berthierine, minor I/S, and by the occurrence of illite (Fig. 7). Goethite and gibbsite are not identified in this part of the subunit.

The clay fraction of the wackestones and packstones from Subunit IVB consists of dominant random I/S associated with illite and kaolinite. According to the saddle index, which is between 0.73 and 0.95, the percentages of smectite layers in the I/S mixed-layers range between 40% and 65%.

#### Hole 866A

The carbonate content of Units IV and V is high (up to 64%), except for a green claystone level at 658.52 mbsf, which is devoid of carbonate (Table 1). Units VI and VII present contrasting carbonate contents according to their lithologies (Fig. 10). As expected, claystones, sandy claystones, and limestones having dark clayey laminae are carbonate-poor (0%–50%), whereas the carbonate content reaches 70% to 90% in gray wackestones and packstones.

In contrast to Hole 865A, clay mineralogical changes do not coincide with unit or subunit boundaries (Fig. 11). The clay assemblages consist of a mixture of dominant illite and I/S mixed-layer that occurs together with minor chlorite (0%–25%) and generally less than 10% of kaolinite, except in Samples 143-866A-55R-CC, 1–2 cm, and -120R-1, 8–9 cm, which are enriched in kaolinite. Illite and I/S show great variations in quantity, whereas goethite and celestite occur in few samples.

The most striking feature is the occurrence, at the base of Unit IV and in the two studied samples of Unit V, of monomineral clay fractions composed of illitic material including illite and I/S (Fig. 12). Illite is identified in Sample 143-866A-71R-2, 74–75 cm, according to the position of the 002 and 003 peaks at 17.7° and 26.7°, respectively, and to the Ir index, which is very close to 1. Small amounts of ISII mixed-layers are probably associated with illite (Srodan and Eberl, 1984). Regular I/S, with a proportion of illite layers between 40% and 60%, was identified in Sample 143-866A-73R-1, 42–43 cm. More illitic random I/S (60%–70% of illite layers) occur in Sample 143-866A-74R-2, 74–75 cm. Chemical analyses of the clay fraction of these three samples are reported in Table 2. They indicate mainly an iron-rich composition and an increase of potassium from random I/S through ordered I/S then to illite. TEM observations indicate that the illitic particles are of very small sizes (<0.5 µm, Fig. 13).

In Units VI and VII, clay assemblages are dominated by illite, but in some samples, random I/S are abundant (more than 90%, e.g., Samples 143-866A-106R-1, 75–76 cm, and -117R-2, 56–57 cm, Fig. 11). According to the saddle index, the percentages of smectite layers range

**Table 2. Chemical analyses of the clay fraction of selected samples from Hole 866A.**

Core, section, interval (cm)	Depth (mbsf)	SiO <sub>2</sub> (%)	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (%)	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (%)	MgO (%)	TiO <sub>2</sub> (%)	K <sub>2</sub> O (%)	Na <sub>2</sub> O (%)	CaO (%)
143-866A-									
71R-2, 74-75	658.52	55.00	20.71	10.40	5.17	1.33	7.19	0.21	0.00
73R-1, 42-43	676.22	54.16	27.87	6.17	2.67	3.29	5.43	0.18	0.23
74R-2, 74-75	687.52	58.03	22.10	9.34	4.62	1.52	3.88	0.08	0.41
106R-1, 75-77	991.65	58.18	26.61	5.17	4.44	2.75	2.50	0.09	0.28
117R-2, 56-57	1099.16	61.10	22.82	5.67	5.84	0.92	3.16	0.34	0.15
146R-2, 22-24	1368.54	56.64	23.14	7.63	4.48	3.00	4.83	0.09	0.17

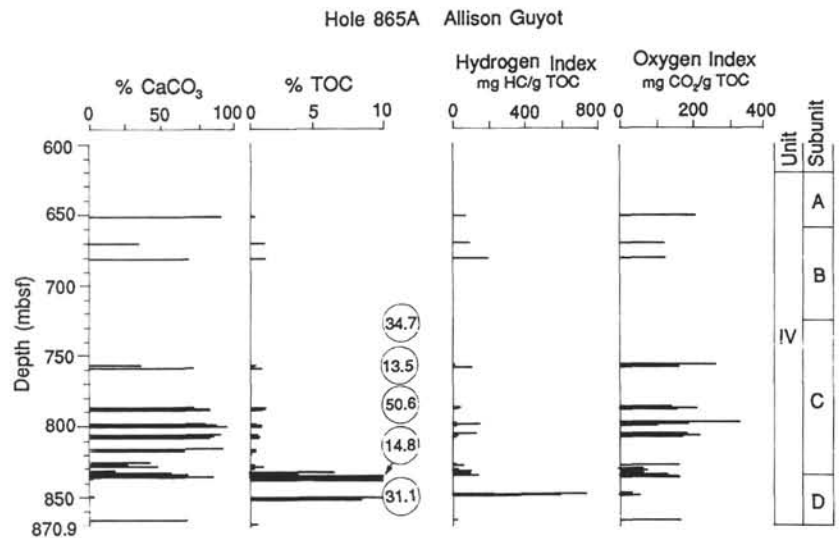


Figure 6. Calcium carbonate percentages, organic carbon content, and variations in hydrogen and oxygen indices of sediments from Unit IV, Hole 865A.

from 30% to 60%. Chemical analyses of the clay fraction of these samples are reported in Table 2. They indicate a dioctahedral character of the smectite layers belonging to the montmorillonite-beidellite group.

### Organic Carbon

The distribution of total organic carbon contents observed in the holes is classified as follows: (1) very rich, more than 5%; (2) rich, 1% to 5%; (3) mean, 0.5% to 1%; (4) low, 0.25% to 0.5%; and (5) very low, less than 0.25%.

#### Hole 865A

Low to very low organic carbon content (less than 0.5%) characterizes the gray green pyritic claystones and most of the bioturbated clayey wackestones and packstones (Table 1). Some exceptions occur in Samples 143-865A-73R-1, 23-24 cm; -74R-1, 110-112 cm; -85R-2, 3-4 cm, and -90R-2, 33-34 cm, which present a slightly higher organic-carbon content at about 1% (Fig. 6).

Most samples from Sections 143-865A-89R-3 to -92R-2 are rich to very rich in organic carbon. The richest samples (6%-50%) correspond everywhere to black and brown claystones, whereas some coaly claystones and packstones show only mean organic content (about 1% or less).

#### Hole 866A

TOC percentages present high-amplitude variations that range from 0.1% to 34.47% (Table 1). As a general rule, the higher TOC contents (>3%) are recorded in laminated limestones of Units IV and VII (Fig. 10), whereas algal or cyanobacterial mats and claystones with plant debris likewise present high TOC values in Unit VI. Unit V, investigated by only two samples, shows very low TOC values (<0.2%), as expected in oolitic grainstone facies. Gray limestones,

sandy claystones, and green clay layers from Units IV to VII are low in TOC content (generally less than 0.5%). Not all dark claystone intervals have the highest TOC values. Some of them, corresponding to Samples 143-866A-88R-1, 140-142 cm; -145R-2, 24-26 cm; -147R-1, 45-46 cm; and -148R-3, 60-61 cm, contain only 0.16% to 0.36% organic carbon, although these intervals were suspected and described as organic-rich on board the *JOIDES Resolution* (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1993).

Several pairs of samples only 2 or 3 cm apart present great differences in TOC content. For instance, samples at 512.02 and 512.05 mbsf contain 4.08% and 1.38% TOC, respectively, yet have almost the same carbonate content (71% and 74% CaCO<sub>3</sub>). Samples at 571.47 and 571.5 mbsf demonstrate the same tendency, with 1.24% and 0.28% TOC for an equal carbonate content. The most extreme difference reaches 31% in samples at 795.22 and 795.25 mbsf, which present the same "algal mat" lithofacies. Two black argillaceous laminated limestone samples from 1358.03 and 1358.08 mbsf contain 2.7% and 0.87% TOC, respectively. All these examples indicate a lower TOC content in the lower part of the studied interval than in its upper part. Only interval 143-866A-89R-1, 92-100 cm, presents the reverse tendency with the most pronounced TOC-difference. Organic contents vary between 0.49% and 14.38%, whereas carbonate contents fluctuate from 15% to 87% (Fig. 14).

### Nature of Organic Matter

Three types of organic matter can be distinguished in rocks and sediments from pyrolysis studies (Espitalié et al., 1985a, 1985b, 1986). Types I and II are related to lacustrine or marine-reducing environments and are derived mainly from algae or bacteria, whereas type III is derived from terrestrial plants, transported to marine or nonmarine environments with a moderate level of degradation. Intermediate kerogens are common, particularly between types II and III.



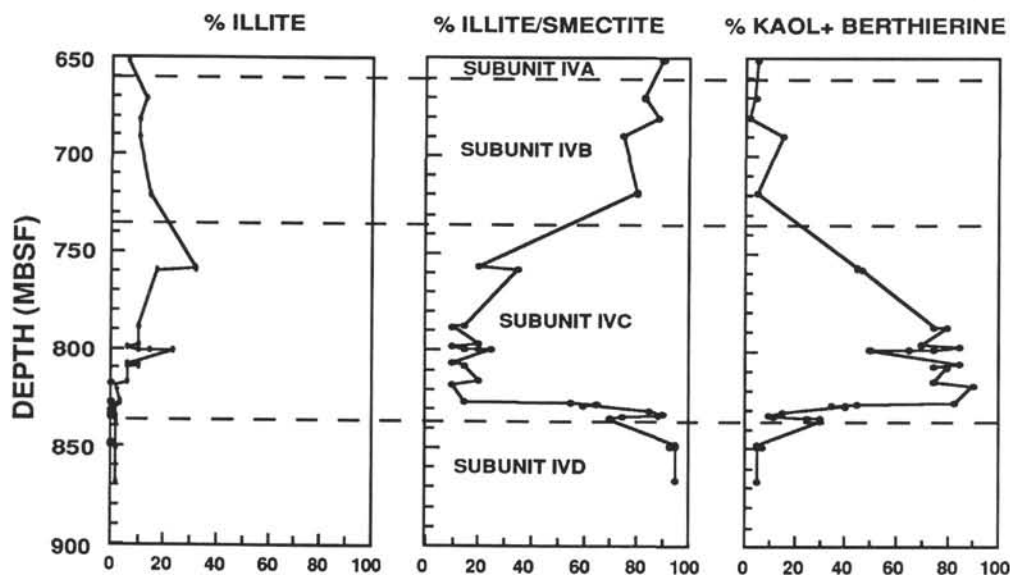


Figure 7. Clay mineralogy of sediments from Unit IV of Hole 865A.

They result from a mixture of marine and terrestrial organic matter or from selective biodegradation of organic matter. A fourth type of organic matter, sometimes called type IV, corresponds to residual organic matter that may be either recycled from older sediments by erosion or deeply altered by weathering (Tissot, 1984).

#### Hole 865A

The origin of organic matter is mainly terrestrial (type III) according to the relatively low HI values (around 150) and medium OI values (between 50 and 150) shown in Figure 15. Black or coaly claystones demonstrate mainly a type III distribution, and only two samples contain types I or II organic matter. These samples from the bottom of Subunit IVD reach 730 mg HC/g TOC.

It is also clear from the HI-OI diagram (Fig. 15) that low HI related to high OI typifies the relatively organic-poor wackestones and packstones. These samples are regarded here as containing an altered organic matter (type IV).

#### Hole 866A

The organic matter is widely distributed between types I and IV, according to the broad distribution of HI values, which range from 5 to 784 mg HC/g TOC (Fig. 15). Laminated limestones and algal mats clearly show the highest HIs and are related to types I or II organic matter. Nevertheless, such facies may likewise coincide with indices of less than 50. These low values, correlated with low organic-carbon contents and relatively high OIs, support a hypothesis for important amounts of alteration.

Black claystones and clays with plant debris show low to medium HIs (50 to 200), suggesting a type III organic matter. Other lithologies generally have low HI and high OI values, pointing to a type IV organic matter.

Type II organic matter is mainly distributed in Units IV and VI, whereas type IV typifies Unit V and is abundant in Unit VII (Fig. 16). Type III organic matter is mostly limited to Subunit VIA within the terrestrial-plant-rich interval of Core 143-866A-89R.

### Maturation

Maturation level of the organic matter is estimated by both the  $T_{max}$  parameter provided by Rock-Eval and the vitrinite reflectance measurements on kerogen concentrates. The first requirement for using

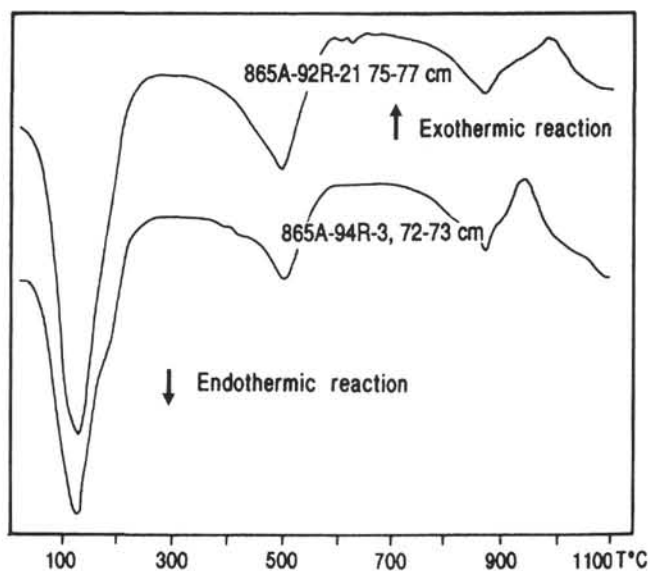


Figure 8. Differential thermal analyses of the illite-smectite mixed-layers from sediments of Subunit IVD.

$T_{max}$  data is an organic-carbon content higher than 0.25% and an  $S_2$  peak greater than 0.1 mg HC/g rock (Espitalié et al., 1985a, 1985b, 1986). Thus,  $T_{max}$  for the shallowly buried material that has a low organic carbon content is here disregarded.  $T_{max}$  can be plotted vs. HIs (Fig. 17) to estimate the maturation of samples. Evolution paths for the three reference types of organic matter (types I, II, and III) and isoreflectance curves (0.5%, 1%, and 1.5%) of vitrinite are outlined following Espitalié et al. (1985a, 1985b, 1986).

#### Hole 865A

The range of  $T_{max}$  values observed in Hole 865A is 409° to 433°C for the interpretable  $T_{max}$  values (Table 1). There is no clear evolution of  $T_{max}$  with depth, and this parameter presents a large variation in amplitude for the organic carbon-rich interval that extends between 800 and 850 mbsf.

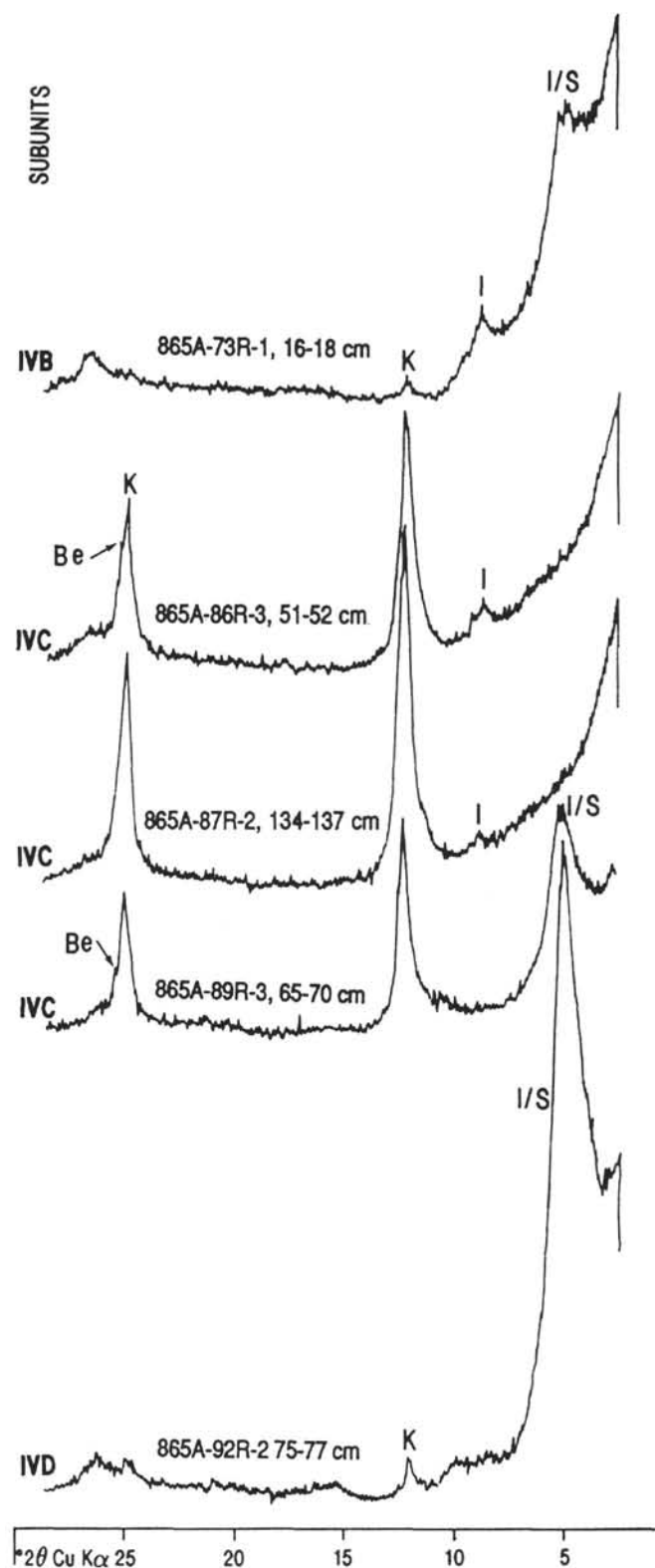


Figure 9. Typical X-ray diffraction patterns (glycolated) of the clay fraction from samples of Unit IV (Hole 865A). I/S = illite-smectite mixed-layers, I = illite, K = kaolinite, Be = berthierine.

Two organic carbon-rich samples corresponding to coaly claystone facies reveal abnormally low  $T_{max}$  values (around 390°C), which may correspond either to altered organic matter, or to determination of unreliable  $T_{max}$  values. We know that this Rock-Eval parameter may be erratic in coal and coaly organic matter (Peters, 1986).

Basaltic intrusions that occur in Subunit IVD do not disturb the  $T_{max}$  parameter, as the lowermost studied sample (143-865A-94R-3, 72–73 cm), which is sandwiched between two sills, has only a  $T_{max}$  value of 424°C. A comparable situation of basaltic intrusion and low  $T_{max}$  value in the vicinity was noted in DSDP Site 368 (Deroo et al., 1977) as well as in outcrop (Correia and Maury, 1975; Baudin and Téhérani, 1991).

Measured vitrinite reflectance data range from 0.33% to 0.47%  $R_r$  (Table 3). Accordingly, all samples are immature, as already suggested by the low  $T_{max}$  values, the abundance of smectitic layers in I/S, and the strong positive alteration of the fluorescence intensity of alginite (see below). Nevertheless, vitrinite reflectance seems relatively high, considering the shallow depth of burial. Perhaps this and the large scatter of the reflectance values are an effect of the basaltic sills or the result of oxidation of organic matter during sedimentation.

#### Hole 866A

The range of interpretable  $T_{max}$  values in Hole 866A has a large amplitude, from 386° to 434°C (Table 1). Three samples present high  $T_{max}$  values (452° to 551°C), which are abnormal considering the shallow depth of burial and the probable absence of a thermal anomaly. It is obvious from the Rock-Eval pyrograms that these samples have a complicated (bimodal or trimodal)  $S_2$  peak. This may represent a mixture of immature and very mature (charred?) organic matter, which disturbs the  $T_{max}$  determination. Cracking of unusual carbonates (siderite, dawsonite, nacolite, or others) also may explain abnormal  $T_{max}$  measurements. Except for this anomaly, all the other studied samples are immature. Our conclusion of immaturity is also supported by vitrinite reflectance data that range from 0.28%  $R_r$  at a depth of 512 m to 0.42%  $R_r$  at a depth of 1110 m (Table 3).

In the HI vs.  $T_{max}$  diagram (Fig. 17), most data plot in the area below the  $T_{max}$  threshold of 435°C and the 0.5% isoreflectance curve, further evidence of an immature stage of all samples from Holes 865A and 866A.

#### Petroleum Potential

Total hydrocarbons ( $S_1 + S_2$ ) expelled during Rock-Eval pyrolysis represent the petroleum potential, expressed in kilograms of HC per ton of rock.

#### Hole 865A

Very low to low petroleum potentials, less than 1 kg/t, characterize the carbonate-rich wackestones and packstones, whereas medium to good potentials (1–20 kg/t) can be observed in most carbonaceous facies. The sample containing up to 50% TOC would be able to generate only 23 kg/t, suggesting a low hydrogen content of this organic matter.

Two samples from the bottom of Subunit IVD that correspond to black claystones and gray wackestones, respectively, however, do have good potential for petroleum. Sample 143-865A-91R-5, 130–132 cm, may generate 50 kg/t, and Sample 143-865A-92R-2, 58–60 cm, may generate up to 180 kg/t, implying a high hydrogen content of organic matter.

#### Hole 866A

Very low to low petroleum potentials (<1 kg/t) characterize the gray limestones, black sandy claystones, and dark green claystones. Good to very good potentials (5–79.5 kg/t) were observed in most laminated limestones and algal or cyanobacterial mats, whereas lime-

**Table 3. Maceral percentages and mean vitrinite reflectance values of samples from Holes 865A and 866A.**

Core, section, interval (cm)	Depth (mbsf)	Vitrinite (%)	Inertinite (%)	Higher-plant liptinite (%)	Telaginite (%)	Lamalginitite (%)	Bituminite (%)	Liptodetrinite (%)	Vitrinite Rr (%)	Reflectance	
										n	s
143-865A-											
74R-1, 110-112	680.80	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.40	40	0.05
89R-6, 11-15 <sup>a</sup>	831.48	97	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.40	49	0.05
90R-2, 33-34 <sup>a</sup>	833.27	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.33	30	0.07
90R-3, 37-38	834.61	97	Traces	3	0	0	0	0	0.42	50	0.03
90R-3, 95-96	835.19	97	0	1	0	0	2	Traces	0.41	50	0.05
90R-3, 112-113	835.36	80	2	1	1	1	13	2	0.47	45	0.05
91R-5, 130-132	848.06	5	Traces	1	86	3	Traces	5	0.35	21	0.03
92R-2, 44-47	849.07	61	4	1	24	3	7	Traces	0.41	50	0.05
92R-2, 58-60	849.21	26	Traces	Traces	55	2	8	9	0.41	50	0.05
143-866A-											
56R-1, 42-43	512.02	2	Traces	0	0	63	34	1	0.28?	5	0.02
63R-2, 109-111	581.89	5	1	0	15	38	41	Traces	0.37	30	0.06
85R-3, 50-52	795.25	Traces	0	0	0	67	31	2	0.38?	7	0.07
86R-1, 143-145	802.93	2	0	0	0	23	75	Traces	n.d.		
86R-2, 111-113	804.11	1	1	0	0	51	47	Traces	n.d.		
89R-1, 98-99	831.58	35	2	4	0	24	35	Traces	0.40	37	0.04
110R-1, 89-90	1030.49	10	1	Traces	0	34	53	2	0.38	39	0.03
111R-1, 86-87	1040.16	0	Traces	0	0	17	80	3	n.d.		
118R-2, 97-98	1109.27	26	2	6	1	13	50	2	0.42	50	0.05
144R-1, 53-54	1358.03	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.		

Note: n.d. = not determined.

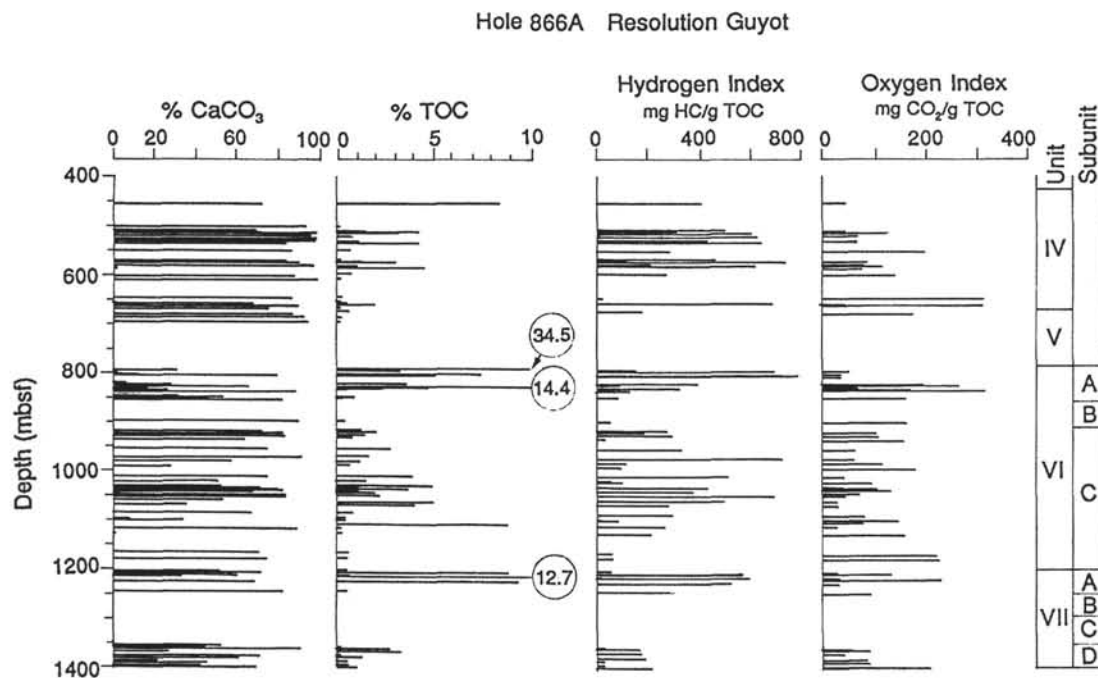
<sup>a</sup> Whole-round sample.

Figure 10. Calcium carbonate percentages, organic carbon content, and variations in hydrogen and oxygen indices of sediments from Units IV to VII, Hole 866A.

stones and claystones with plant debris display medium to good potentials (1-18 kg/t).

### Kerogen Study

#### Hole 865A

Eight samples were selected for the preparation of kerogen concentrates. Most samples are from the lowermost part of Unit IV; only one is from the top of Unit IV. The data derived from kerogen microscopy are summarized in Table 3.

Vitrinite is the prevailing maceral group in most samples from Subunit IVD. Sample 143-865A-90R-3, 37-38 cm, contains nearly exclusively completely gellified telinite. Suberinite is the main maceral of the

liptinite group in this sample. Resinite occurs rarely. Other vitrinite-rich samples are characterized by higher ratios of vitrodetrinite over telinite. In these samples, alginite, bituminite, and liptodetrinite occur only in traces. Microcracks in a few vitrinite particles from Sample 143-865A-90R-3, 112-113 cm, may indicate oxidation. Because pyrite is not weathered, oxidation must have occurred before burial.

The organic material from samples between 848.00 and 849.25 mbsf is characterized by significant amounts of telaginite, with well-preserved cell structures derived from colonial algae. The telaginite exhibits a yellow to orange fluorescence. Its intensity of fluorescence increases significantly during 30 min of irradiation (= positive alteration). The greatest amount of telaginite (86%) occurs in Sample 143-865A-91R-5, 130-132 cm, which contains only minor vitrinite

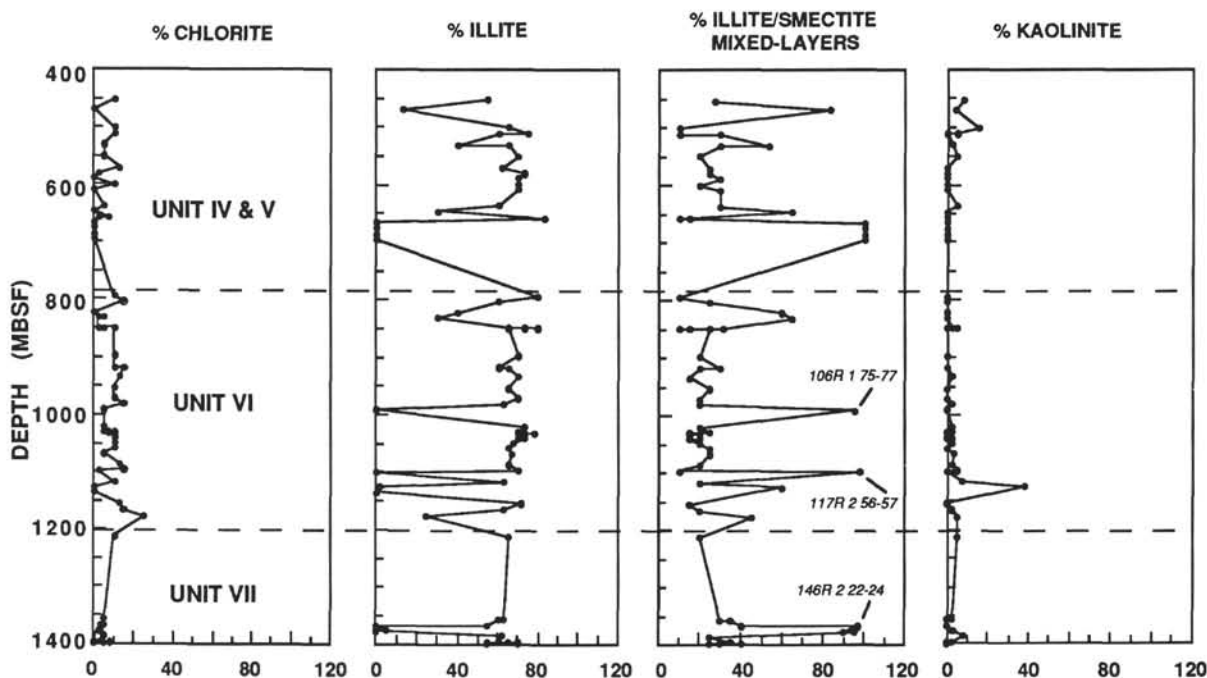


Figure 11. Clay mineralogy of sediments from Units IV to VII of Hole 866A.

(Pl. 2, Fig. 1). Sample 143-865A-92R-2, 44–47 cm, contains 24% telaginite and 61% vitrinite, and Sample 143-865A-92R-2, 58–60 cm, contains 55% telaginite and 26% vitrinite (Pl. 2, Fig. 2). Other macerals (inertinite, bituminite, lamalginitite, higher plant liptinites, liptodetrinite) occur only in small amounts (<10%). Oval-shaped bitumen droplets can be observed in one sample.

Organic petrographical methods do not allow us to decide whether the telaginite is derived from *Gloeocapsomorpha*- or from *Botryococcus*-related algae. Palynological investigations in transmitted light, however, suggest a strong affinity to *Gloeocapsomorpha* (Riegel, pers. comm., 1993). *Gloeocapsomorpha* is the precursor of telaginite in the Estonian oil shale kukersite and is indicative of a normal marine environment, whereas *Botryococcus* is essentially a freshwater genus, but is tolerant to brackish-water conditions (Foster et al., 1989).

A clear correlation exists between the liptinite content of these samples and their HI (Fig. 18). According to this correlation, an HI-value of 844 mg HC/g TOC is calculated for pure liptinites, whereas the calculated HI-value for a liptinite-free kerogen is 62 mg HC/g TOC.

The mineral-matrix effect results in a diminution of pyrolysis yield and, hence, in an underestimation of HI, as well as in an overestimation of  $T_{max}$ , when samples contain clays and less than 4% organic carbon (Espitalié et al., 1980; Orr, 1983). To test the mineral-matrix effect, all kerogens were analyzed by Rock-Eval pyrolysis (Table 4). The isolated kerogens reveal TOC contents that range from 24% to 70%. The kerogen concentrate from the top of Unit IV presents the lowest TOC content (23.78%), which is in accordance with the mean TOC content (1.14%) of the whole-rock sample. The greatest amount of TOC (70%) occurs in the kerogen concentrate from Sample 143-865A-90R-3, 110–111 cm, which presented the highest TOC content for whole rocks.

Hydrogen indices for kerogen consistently present a slight increase, compared to HI-values for whole-rock samples, but a good correlation exists between the two for most samples (Fig. 19). Kerogen concentrates prepared from Samples 143-865-74R-1, 110–112 cm, and -92R-2, 44–47 cm, however, show an important increase of HI (80%), in comparison with their equivalent whole rocks. Retention of hydrocarbons by minerals in whole rocks certainly explains this difference.

Elemental analysis (C, H, N, O, S, and Fe) of kerogens reveals 2% to 54% pyrite-equivalent and low ash content (less than 5%). Organic sulfur is relatively constant, with a 2% mean value. Carbon percent-

ages in kerogen concentrates are in the same range as those estimated by Rock-Eval pyrolysis. The H/C vs. O/C ratios are plotted in a van Krevelen diagram and compared with the Rock-Eval data (Fig. 20). As indicated in the van Krevelen diagram, an immature stage can be assigned to all samples from Hole 865A. A group of four points clusters in path III that has H/C ratios of about 0.85 and O/C ratios of about 0.34. Two kerogens are located within path II, with one halfway between types II and III. The last one presents a very high O/C ratio (0.39) for a relatively high H/C ratio (1.27), which is related to the highest pyrite-content (54%). Disturbance of O, C, and H percentages resulting from high pyrite content in kerogen is well known (Durand and Nicaise, 1980). This kerogen analysis has no meaning for organic matter characterization.

#### Hole 866A

To evaluate the type of organic matter, 13 samples exhibiting HIs from 130 to 784 were selected for kerogen concentration (Fig. 15).

Results from maceral analysis of 10 kerogen concentrates are reported in Table 3. Lamalginitite and bituminite are the most important macerals. Lamalginitite occurs as single, thin-walled bodies or, more commonly, forms algal or bacterial layers up to several millimeters long. Its fluorescent color is bright yellow to orange, and it exhibits strong positive alteration. The algal layers are accompanied by relatively strong fluorescing bituminite, which forms homogeneous layers or a fine network. We assumed that the bulk of this bituminite derived from degraded algae. Samples 143-866A-85R-3, 50–53 cm; -86R-1, 143–145 cm, and -86R-2, 111–113 cm (795–805 mbsf) contain nearly exclusively these algal or bacterial layers and relatively strongly fluorescing bituminite (Pl. 2, Figs. 3, 4). The HI values of these kerogens are high (about 750 mg HC/g TOC).

The vitrinite content of the studied samples is generally low (<5%). Only kerogens from Samples 143-866A-89R-1, 98–99 cm; -110R-1, 89–90 cm; and -118R-2, 97–98 cm, contain significant amounts (up to 35%) of vitrinite beside lamalginitite and bituminite. The occurrence of land plant-derived vitrinite agrees with the content of higher plant-liptinite in two of these kerogens (Pl. 2, Fig. 5).

Some samples (i.e., 143-866A-110R-1, 89–90 cm, and -111R-1, 86–87 cm) are characterized by especially high contents in weak

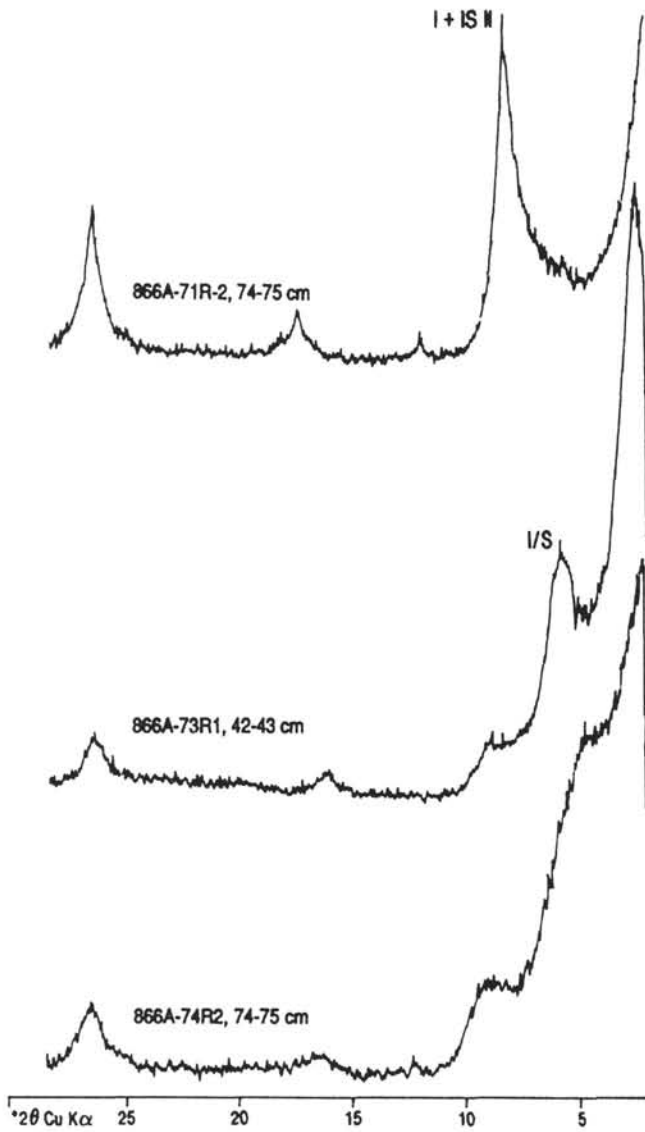


Figure 12. X-ray diffraction patterns (glycolated) of illite/smectite mixed-layers identified in Hole 866A.

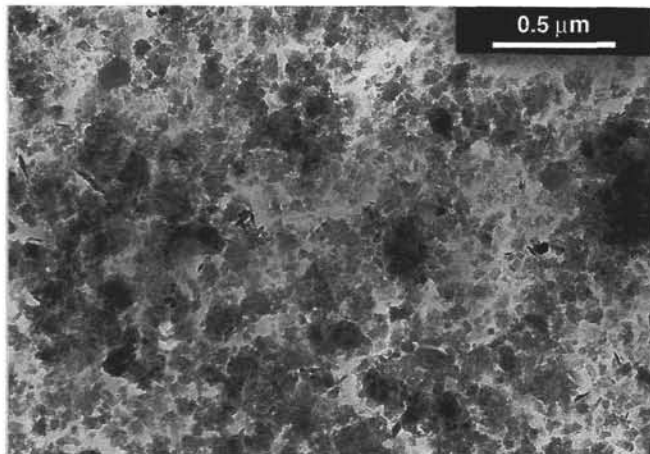


Figure 13. Transmission electron micrograph of the clay fraction of Interval 143-866A-71R-2, 67-71 cm.

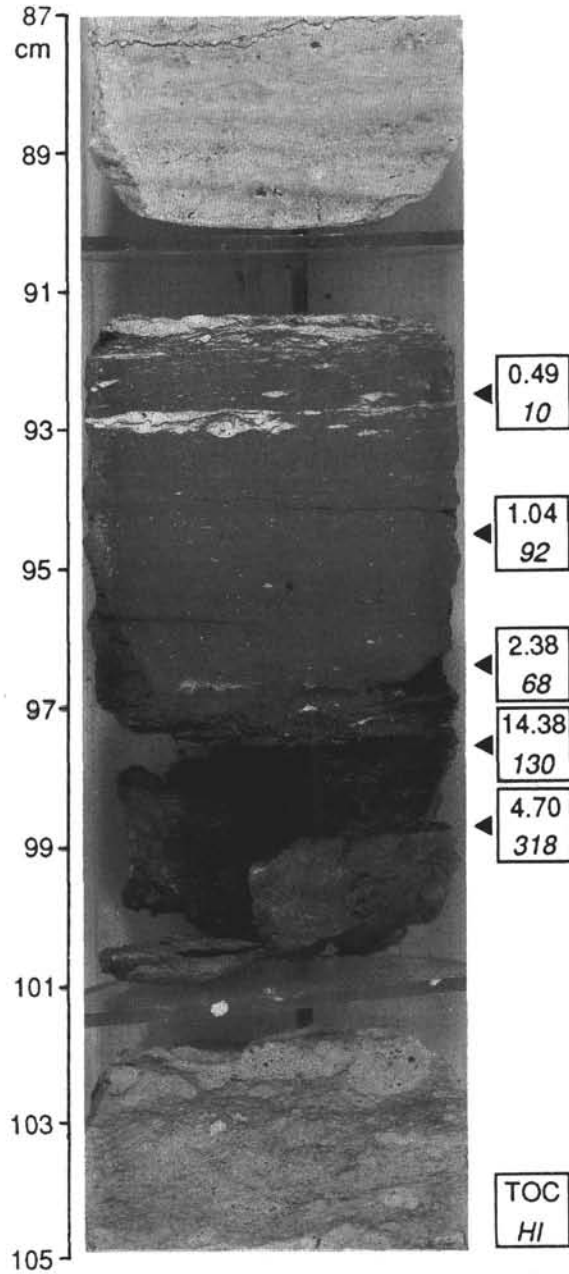


Figure 14. Photograph of Interval 143-866A-89R-1, 87-105 cm, showing dark olive to black finely laminated shales of Aptian age. Higher-plant remains are abundant at the base of the dark facies. Total organic carbon content (%TOC) and hydrogen index (HI, in mg hydrocarbons per g TOC) of studied samples are shown on the right.

fluorescing bituminite (Pl. 2, Fig. 6). The precursor of this bituminite variety, which displays a reflectance up to 0.34%, is not known. Perhaps it is severely degraded algal material, or humic substances (Teichmüller and Ottenjann, 1977). Although these samples are rich in liptinites, they are characterized by relatively low HI values, indicating that the HI of weakly fluorescing bituminite is significantly lower than the HI of other liptinite macerals. Therefore, the correlation between HI and liptinite content is not as good as that for Hole 865A (Fig. 18).

Rock-Eval characterization of kerogen concentrates indicates a TOC content that varies from 21% to 65%. The most deeply buried kerogen (at 1358.03 mbsf) has the lowest TOC content (Table 4).

**Table 4. Pyrolysis data, elemental composition, and ash content of kerogen concentrates from Holes 865A and 866A.**

Core, section, interval (cm)	Depth (mbsf)	CaCO <sub>3</sub> (%)	TOC (%)	T <sub>max</sub> (°C)	HI	OI	C (%)	H (%)	O (%)	N (%)	S tot. (%)	Fe (%)	Ash (%)	Pyrite (%)	S org. (%)	H/C	O/C
<b>143-865A-</b>																	
74R-1, 110-112	680.80	68	23.78	413	372	91	25.36	2.69	13.35	0.94	30.74	24.95	1.97	53.46	2.22	1.27	0.39
90R-3, 37-38	834.61	n.d.	36.49	404	65	73	52.35	3.84	24.74	0.43	8.24	5.97	4.43	12.79	1.42	0.88	0.35
90R-3, 95-96	835.19	56	61.67	405	145	34	55.87	4.16	25.73	0.55	7.12	4.07	2.50	8.72	2.46	0.89	0.34
90R-3, 110-111	835.34	0	69.98	404	71	37	60.46	4.24	28.77	0.55	3.91	1.01	1.06	2.16	2.76	0.84	0.33
90R-3, 112-113	835.36	0	33.33	409	123	66	43.24	3.08	20.51	0.56	16.98	12.43	3.20	26.63	2.77	0.85	0.36
91R-5, 130-132	848.06	n.d.	51.81	427	839	28	57.78	6.93	14.36	0.59	10.77	7.57	2.00	16.22	2.11	1.44	0.19
92R-2, 44-47	849.07	0	33.41	422	399	51	41.57	3.63	14.77	0.61	21.12	16.82	1.48	36.04	1.90	1.05	0.27
92R-2, 58-60	849.21	0	52.90	422	579	37	61.03	5.99	18.70	0.73	8.13	4.70	0.72	10.07	2.76	1.18	0.23
<b>143-866A-</b>																	
56R-1, 42-43	512.02	71	58.11	410	669	35	66.39	7.15	13.03	1.91	8.27	2.62	0.63	5.61	5.27	1.29	0.15
58R-1, 98-99	531.98	97	53.39	403	608	56	55.13	6.68	14.43	1.53	7.92	1.82	12.49	3.90	5.84	1.45	0.19
63R-2, 109-111	581.89	n.d.	54.05	416	417	62	57.93	6.08	20.24	1.67	8.12	1.96	5.60	4.20	5.88	1.26	0.26
85R-3, 50-52	795.25	n.d.	59.76	401	697	31	63.14	7.61	11.65	1.71	9.34	0.26	6.29	0.56	9.04	1.45	0.14
86R-1, 143-145	802.93	79	64.91	416	749	19	65.86	8.07	12.09	1.13	8.18	1.17	3.50	2.51	6.84	1.47	0.18
86R-2, 111-113	804.11	n.d.	59.23	417	821	26	63.89	8.23	10.26	1.21	10.75	3.36	2.30	7.20	6.91	1.55	0.16
89R-1, 97-98	831.57	25	59.42	410	183	50	56.92	4.67	20.72	1.07	8.42	3.83	4.37	8.20	4.04	0.98	0.27
89R-1, 98-99	831.58	87	54.45	407	383	54	53.73	5.29	13.01	1.32	11.15	5.76	9.74	12.34	4.57	1.18	0.24
110R-1, 89-90	1030.49	68	48.90	406	523	46	51.27	5.25	13.47	1.45	16.05	8.99	3.52	19.26	5.77	1.23	0.19
111R-1, 86-87	1040.16	n.d.	56.25	410	500	39	59.89	6.16	14.61	2.30	10.78	3.78	2.48	8.10	6.46	1.23	0.25
113R-CC, 44-45	1058.94	53	40.49	410	584	30	41.41	4.93	9.56	0.93	22.43	15.34	5.40	32.87	4.90	1.43	0.17
118R-2, 97-98	1109.27	n.d.	41.91	415	504	42	47.55	4.84	13.02	1.29	18.5	12.15	2.65	26.03	4.61	1.22	0.20
144R-1, 53-54	1358.03	50	21.25	415	413	70	23.38	2.42	6.67	0.78	37.6	28.69	0.46	61.47	4.81	1.24	0.21

Note: n.d. = not determined.

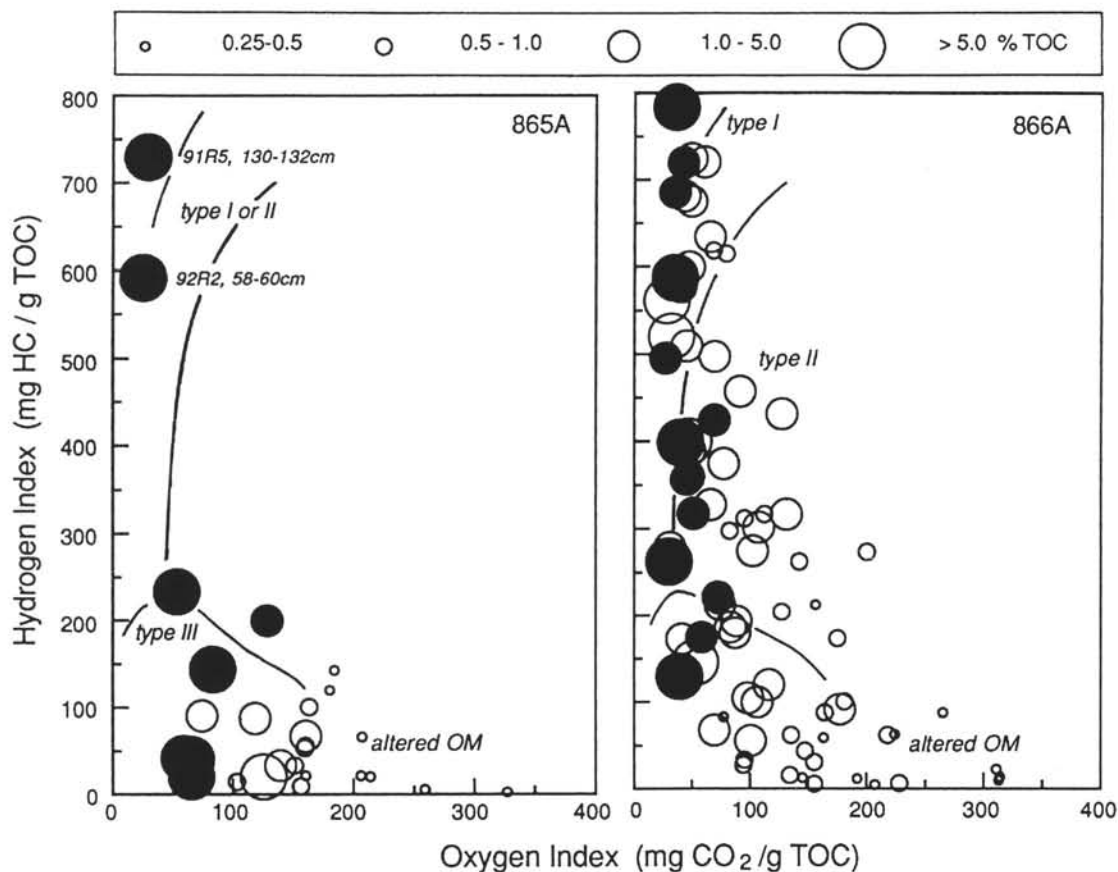


Figure 15. Hydrogen index (HI) vs. oxygen index (OI) diagrams for Holes 865A and 866A. Circles are proportional to total organic content (TOC, in wt%). Note that black circles correspond to prepared kerogens.

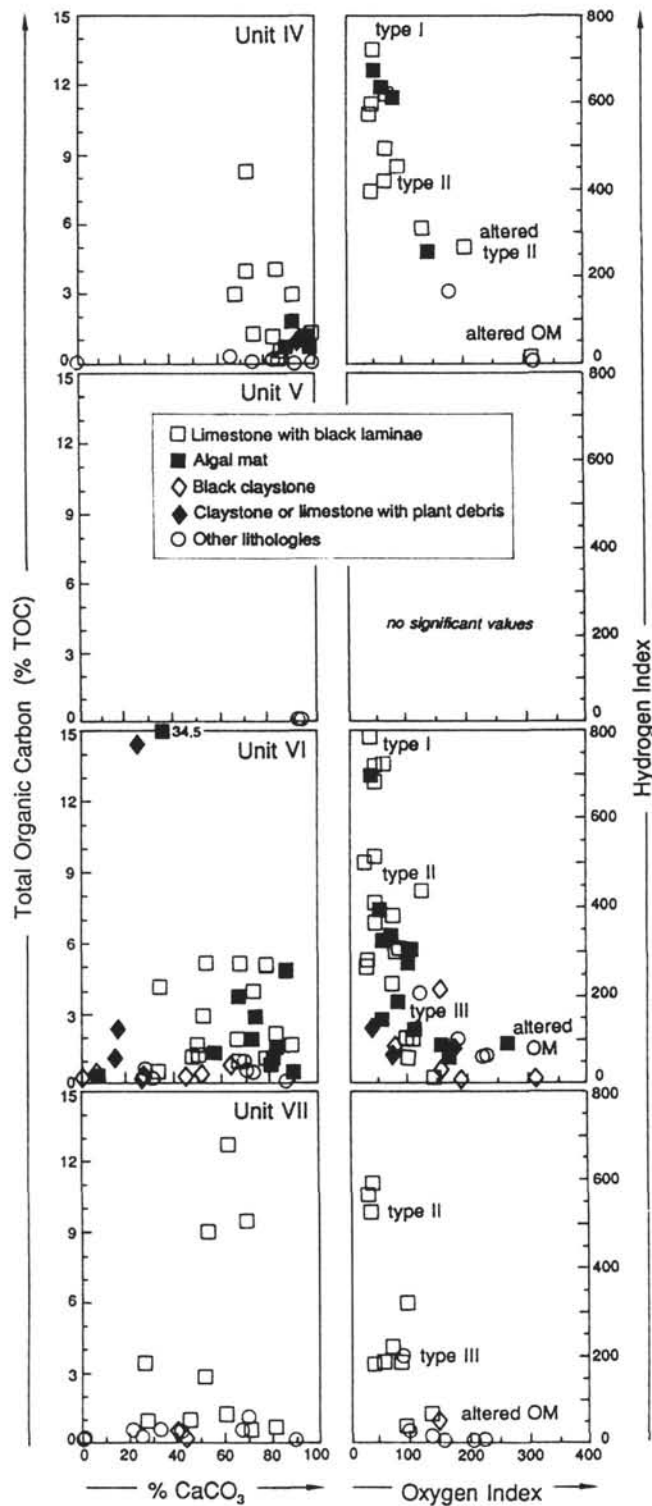


Figure 16.  $\text{CaCO}_3$ -TOC and HI-OI diagrams by unit and lithological characteristics of studied samples from Hole 866A.

Hydrogen indices of kerogen are always higher than the whole-rock equivalent. Some samples (e.g., 143-866A-118R-2, 97-98 cm) present HI values that are twice as high for kerogen, implying a strong matrix effect (Fig. 19).

Measured  $T_{max}$  values on kerogen vary from 403° to 417°C. These are slightly lower than for whole rocks, but confirm the immature stage of the studied samples.

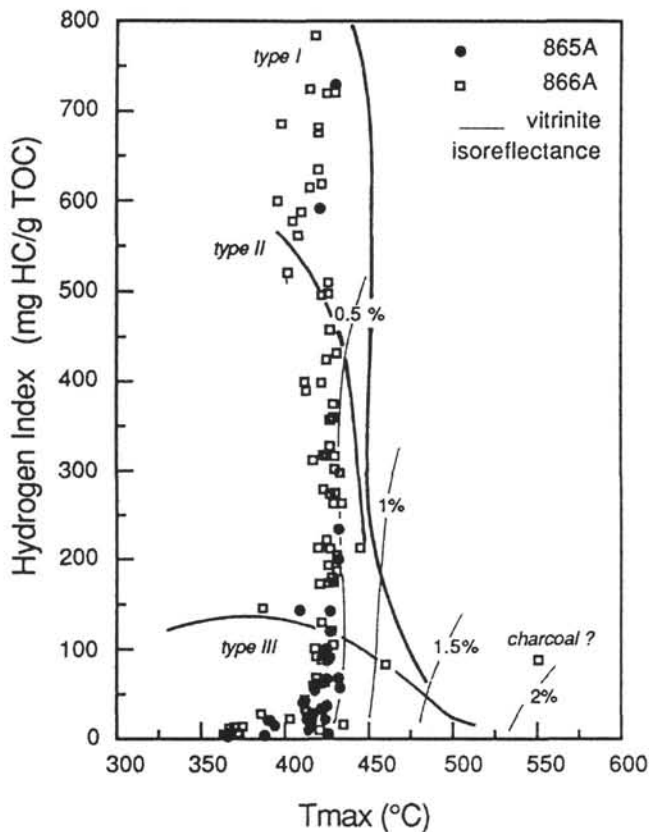


Figure 17. HI- $T_{max}$  diagram for Holes 865A and 866A.

Elemental analysis of kerogens reveals 0.5% to 6% of pyrite and relatively low ash amounts (0.5%–6%), except for Samples 143-866A-58R-1, 98–99 cm, and -89R-1, 98–99 cm, which contain 12% and 10%, respectively, of other minerals (Table 4). Carbon percentages determined by elemental analysis are slightly higher than those estimated by Rock-Eval pyrolysis, but a good correlation exists. Organic sulfur is relatively abundant (4%–9%), and nitrogen also is more important here than in Hole 865A.

The H/C–O/C diagram implies an immature stage of all the kerogen concentrates from Hole 866A (Fig. 20). The two samples from Core 143-866A-89R show H/C values of about 1. Six kerogen concentrates are located along the type II evolution path, with H/C ratios ranging from 1.22 to 1.29. The others are related to the type I evolution path, with the highest H/C ratios (1.43 to 1.55). No clear correlation exists between lithology and type of kerogen. For the same lithology, different samples present high (1.25) as well as very high (1.55) H/C ratios. O/C ratios are lower here than in Hole 865A and fluctuate between 0.14 and 0.27.

### Dichloromethane Extracts Study

#### Hole 865A

The bitumens collected from seven kerogen concentrates yielded 1.56 to 21.96 wt% of extract relative to TOC (Table 5). As is usually found in immature samples, N,S,O-compounds with high molecular weight predominate in the bitumens. Their amount ranges from 63% to 86% of the total extract, whereas saturates+unsaturates represent 3.9% to 28.3% and aromatic hydrocarbons, 5.9% to 9.7%.

The molecular distribution in gas-chromatograms (Fig. 21A) must be considered carefully because of the relatively low saturates+unsaturates fraction and the immaturity of the organic material.

Four samples present a small mode in the range of  $\text{C}_{17}$  to  $\text{C}_{19}$  and a predominance of odd-numbered *n*-alkanes in the  $\text{C}_{25}$  to  $\text{C}_{35}$  fraction.

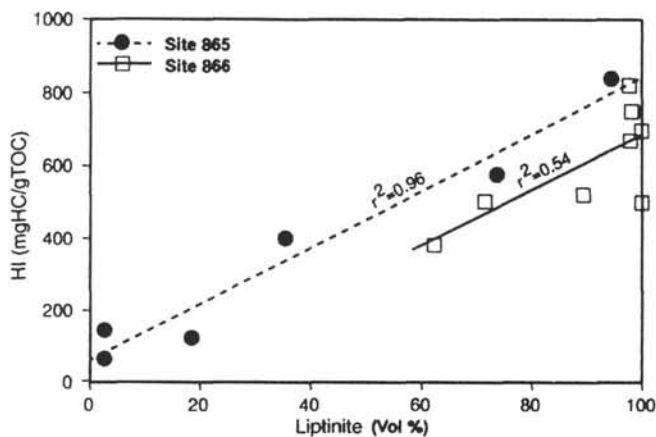


Figure 18. Relation between hydrogen index (HI) of kerogen concentrates and content of organic matter in macerals of the liptinite group. There is a strong correlation in the case of Hole 865A (correlation coefficient  $r^2 = 0.96$ ), whereas the correlation is considerably weaker in the case of Hole 866A ( $r^2 = 0.54$ ).

Important amounts of  $C_{29}$  hydrocarbon, biomarkers, and relatively high carbon preference index (CPI between 2.64 and 3.42) were noted in these samples. The predominance of molecules having an odd number of carbon atoms can be measured by the CPI (i.e., the weight ratio of odd to even molecules; Tissot and Welte, 1984). All these characteristics correspond to an immature terrestrial organic material (Tissot and Welte, 1984), in agreement with the type III kerogen assignment.

Other samples present a bimodal distribution of hydrocarbons. The larger mode is in the range of  $C_{17}$  to  $C_{19}$  *n*-alkanes, which suggests a phytoplanktonic origin, whereas the second mode corresponds to odd-number *n*-alkanes between  $C_{25}$  and  $C_{35}$ . These chromatograms, associated with high H/C ratios and CPI values below 1.9, indicate a mixture of type I and III organic matter.

Three samples from the coaly interval in Section 143-865A-90R-3 present a large unresolved hump in the region of  $C_{35+}$  hydrocarbons. Clayton and Swetland (1978) showed that weathering of organic material results in a selective loss of *n*-alkanes and the lower carbon number molecules, producing a more pronounced envelope in the high molecular weights. We interpret the unresolved hump seen in some gas chromatograms as probably having been caused by weathering.

Isoprenoid amounts, mainly phytane and pristane, are very low to medium, ranging from 0.4% to 17%.

#### Hole 866A

Only four kerogens from Hole 866A yielded enough organic matter concentrate to be extracted (Table 5). The bitumen quantities range from 1.31% to 11.09% ext/TOC. High molecular compounds dominate the bitumens, with 75.5% to 94.5% of the total extract. The saturates+unsaturates fraction varies from 2.8% to 21%, whereas aromatic hydrocarbons always represent less than 5%.

Gas chromatograms (Fig. 21B) of Samples 143-866A-56R-1, 42–43 cm, and -118R-2, 97–98 cm, show a bimodal distribution. The first mode occurs at  $C_{16}$  to  $C_{18}$ , with a slight predominance of even-numbered *n*-alkanes. The second mode occurs at  $C_{27}$  to  $C_{29}$ , with a pronounced odd-number predominance that is typical of terrestrial organic matter. Although the *n*-alkane distribution of these samples, in many cases, is bimodal with a maximum at  $C_{27}$  to  $C_{29}$ , the terrestrial organic matter contribution is thought to be overestimated owing to the immaturity of samples (Tissot and Welte, 1984).

Sample 143-866A-86R-2, 111–113 cm, presents an increasing percentage of *n*-alkanes from  $C_{16}$  to  $C_{25}$ , with a slight predominance of odd numbers. Biomarkers, generally characteristic of autochthonous marine organic matter, are important in all three samples. They

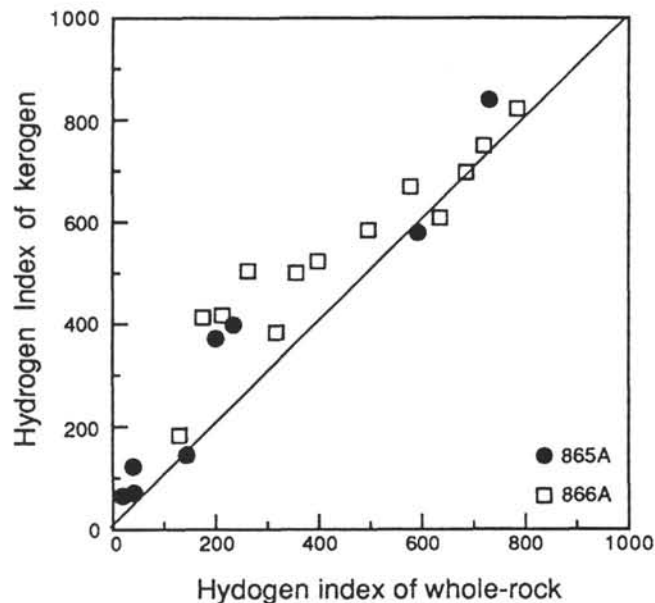


Figure 19. Relationship between HI of the whole-rocks and HI of kerogen concentrates, showing a slight matrix effect for some samples.

are minor in Sample 143-866A-89R-1, 97–98 cm, where  $C_{17}$  to  $C_{19}$  *n*-alkanes are dominant.

Pristane and phytane amounts are low, ranging from 0.7% to 5%.

#### Source of Organic Matter

The question of the sources of organic matter is challenged by the problem of sampling. Sediments from Hole 865A are homogeneous enough over several centimeters in thickness to use the classical analytical methods. In the case of the laminated sediments in Hole 866A, however, it appears necessary to characterize the organic matter on the inframillimetric scale of the lamina, and great technical difficulties arise. In this study, the origin of organic matter has been characterized at a scale of centimeter-thick samples, which can contain tens of laminae.

#### Hole 865A

Most of the studied samples from Unit IV contain terrestrial organic matter. The abundance of dispersed carbonaceous debris, clearly visible roots in some cores, and prevalence of vitrinite in palynofacies indicate material derived from higher plants. Geochemical indicators also support the terrestrial origin. Hydrogen indices are generally low (<250 mg HC/g TOC), and elemental analysis of kerogen situates the samples along the type III (terrestrial) evolution path (Tissot et al., 1974). The distribution of saturated hydrocarbons exhibits the predominance of odd-numbered *n*-alkanes in the  $C_{25}$  to  $C_{35}$  fraction, associated with a high CPI of about 3. All these data suggest that higher plants were the principal source of the organic material preserved during the Albian at Allison Guyot. Nevertheless, this organic material underwent substantial alteration. The relatively low TOC content for plant-rich sediments and the presence of microcracks in coal particles indicate oxidation of the organic material during sedimentation or at the water/sediment interface. It is well known that accumulation rates of organic matter are relatively low when peats or tropical rain-forest soils are reworked and transported to the sea, because a high rate of decomposition exists. Because pyrite is generally abundant and unweathered in Unit IV, oxidation must have occurred before the organic particles passed through the zone of bacterial activity.



Table 5. Composition of extracts from Holes 865A and 866A kerogen concentrates.

Core, section, interval (cm)	Depth (mbsf)	TOC (%)	$T_{max}$ (%)	Ext/TOC (%)	Sat.+unsat. (%)	Aro. (%)	NSO (%)	Pr (%)	Ph (%)	Pr/Ph	CPI 24-34
143-865A-											
90R-3, 37-38	834.61	36.49	404	5.78	27.22	9.66	63.12	4.22	8.90	0.47	2.64
90R-3, 95-96	835.19	61.67	405	9.49	3.97	9.69	86.34	1.39	2.91	0.48	2.76
90R-3, 110-111	835.34	69.98	404	1.56	8.76	9.50	81.74	9.45	16.28	0.58	1.54
90R-3, 112-113	835.36	33.33	409	19.86	28.33	5.90	65.78	1.73	1.97	0.88	3.42
91R-5, 130-132	848.06	51.81	427	21.96	8.23	5.96	85.81	2.76	3.69	0.75	1.45
92R-2, 44-47	849.07	33.41	422	18.74	13.73	6.23	80.05	1.87	1.87	1.00	1.87
92R-2, 58-60	849.21	52.90	422	5.54	22.36	6.41	71.24	0.44	0.73	0.60	2.97
143-866A-											
56R-1, 42-43	512.02	58.11	410	4.47	2.78	2.81	94.41	2.59	3.46	0.75	1.24
86R-2, 111-113	804.11	59.23	417	11.09	8.02	5.35	86.63	0.24	0.72	0.34	1.39
89R-1, 97-98	831.57	59.42	410	1.31	11.09	4.94	83.47	5.29	4.97	1.06	1.43
118R-2, 97-98	1109.27	41.91	415	3.91	20.80	3.66	75.54	0.88	1.48	0.60	2.43

Notes: Sat.+unsat. = saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons, Aro. = aromatic fraction, NSO = heavy compounds, Pr = pristane, and Ph = phytane.

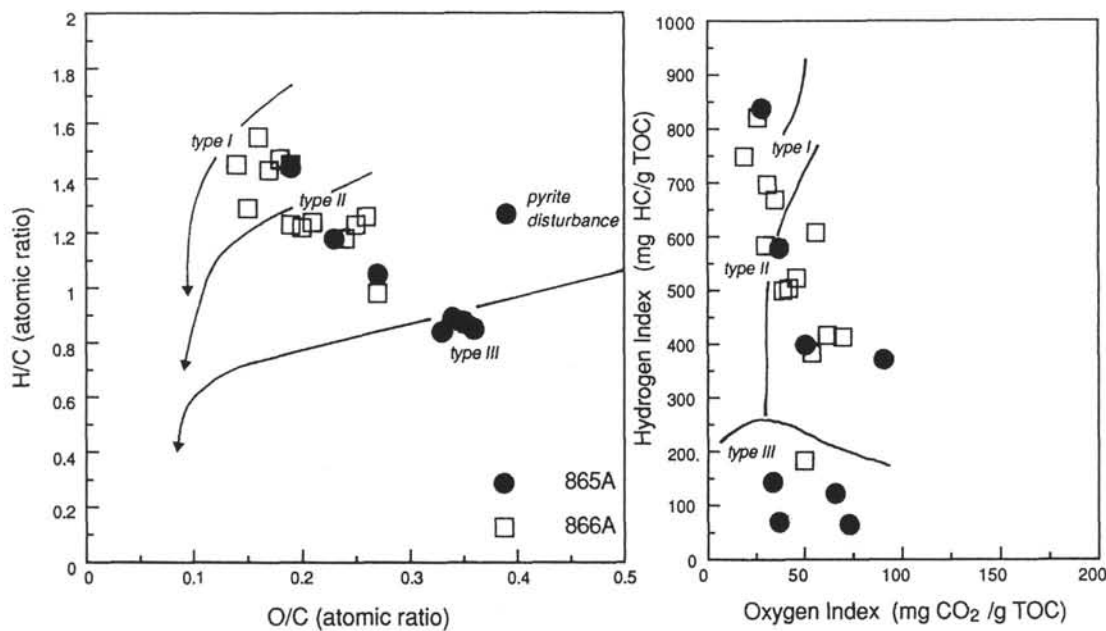


Figure 20. Location of kerogens selected from Holes 865A and 866A on a van Krevelen diagram (H/C vs. O/C atomic ratios), compared to the distribution of the same kerogens in an HI-OI diagram. The three reference evolution paths for types I, II, and III are reported following Tissot et al. (1974) for the van Krevelen diagram, and Espitalié et al. (1985a, 1985b, 1986) for the HI-OI diagram.

Two levels, however, indicate a different source of organic matter. Samples 143-865A-91R-5, 130-132 cm, and -92R-2, 58-60 cm, which correspond to a gray bioturbated wackestone and a black claystone, respectively, contain algal organic matter. High HIs (730 and 592 mg HC/g TOC), abundance of telalginite, high H/C atomic ratios of the kerogen, and a large mode in the range of  $C_{17}$  to  $C_{19}$   $n$ -alkanes in the chromatograms indicate a type I (bacterial) or II (marine) organic matter. Thin-sections, which exhibit yellow organic particles, and palynological investigations suggest that the two samples contain a mixture of colonial algae, with minor terrestrial organic debris.

#### Hole 866A

With the exception of Core 143-866A-89R, the organic matter of Barremian to Aptian organic carbon-rich sediments from Hole 866A has a marine primary source. Hydrogen indices that reach 800 mg HC/g TOC and high H/C ratios indicate type I or II organic matter. Petrographical results show that lamalginite and bituminite are the most important macerals. Bituminite with weak fluorescence also was found and is considered to have been derived from several decayed algal or humic substances (Teichmüller and Ottenjann, 1977). Al-

though the  $n$ -alkane distribution is bimodal, with a mode around  $C_{25}$  to  $C_{29}$ , the terrestrial contribution is thought to be small. This is also supported by the conspicuously low abundance of vitrinite and inertinite macerals. Most of the organic matter preserved in Units IV, VI, and VII of Hole 866A derives from cyanobacterial mats and is more or less oxidized, as attested by decreasing TOC contents and HIs in some bioturbated samples.

Some samples, especially in Section 143-866A-89R-2, contain terrestrial organic matter. Higher plant contribution is here evidenced by core description (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1993), thin section observations, and petrographical investigations. Relatively low HIs (about 150 mg HC/g TOC) associated with high TOC content, as well as low H/C atomic ratios, are characteristic of terrestrial organic matter.

#### Significance of Clay Minerals

##### Hole 865A

In Subunit IVD, the I/S are rich in smectite layers that have a magnesian composition. Examination of thin sections of basaltic sills indicates that the ferromagnesian minerals have been pseudomorphed by

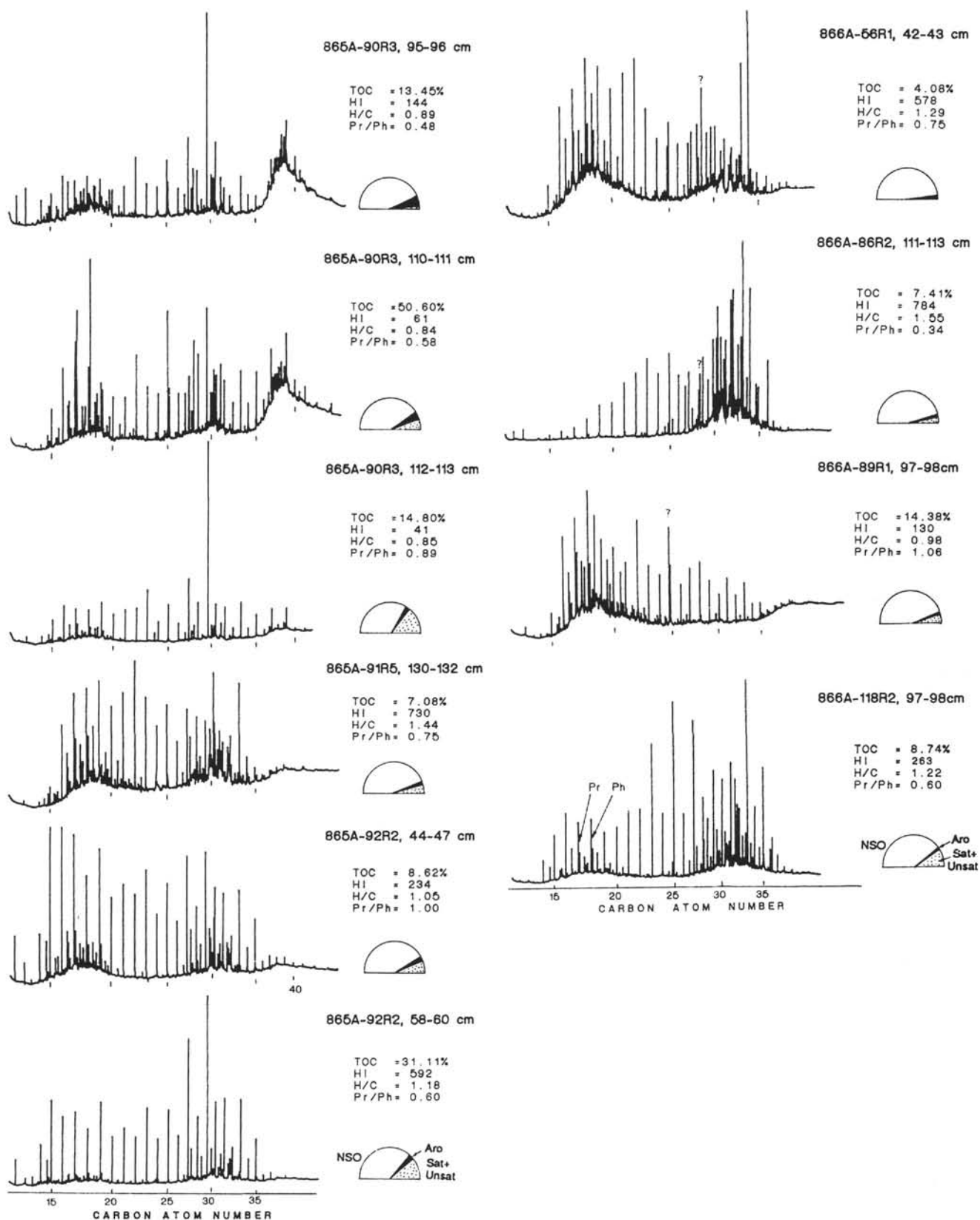


Figure 21. A. Gas chromatograms of selected samples from Unit IV of Hole 865A. B. Gas chromatograms of selected samples from Hole 866A. Half pie-graphs show the proportion of the different fractions of the bitumen. Sat+unsat = saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons, Aro = aromatic fraction, NSO = heavy compounds, Pr = pristane, and Ph = phytane.

clay minerals and that glass has now been converted to clay (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1993). In the ocean floor, sediments interbedded with or deposited just above basalt commonly contain abundant Mg-rich smectite coming from the weathering of the volcanic rock (Chamley, 1989). A similar origin is highly probable for the sediments of Subunit IVD. In Subunit IVC, the amounts of I/S diminish because of the decreasing volcanic influence. At the base of the subunit, I/S are still abundant, but contain more illite layers here than in Subunit IVD, suggesting another origin. The occurrence of terrestrial plant debris (abundant type III organic matter) points to the erosion of nearby islands. In this context, I/S from the base of Subunit IVC may be partly detrital. The detrital influences also are expressed by increasing percentages of kaolinite. This mineral, which occurs together with gibbsite, also indicates hydrolyzing (warm and humid) climatic conditions. In Section 143-865A-89R-2, illite and 1:1 layer minerals (including kaolinite and berthierine) increase, whereas I/S strongly decrease. The coeval increase of detrital illite and kaolinite suggests a strong erosion of nearby land areas, but, surprisingly, TOC (mainly type III) decreases. This can result from either oxidation of organic matter in the marine environment or dilution of organic matter by clastic sediments eroded from islands. Oxidizing conditions are evidenced by the occurrence of berthierine. In modern sediments, this ferric iron-rich mineral occurs in shallow (water depth of about 50 m), well-oxygenated coastal environments. This mineral, which is restricted to tropical areas and commonly associated with kaolinite, is very common in most oolitic ironstones (Odin and Matter, 1981; Debrabant et al., 1992). According to laboratory experiments, early diagenetic remobilization of iron initiates transformations of detrital kaolinite to berthierine (Bhattacharya, 1983).

In Subunit IVB, the decrease of illite and kaolinite is balanced by an increase of I/S and probably suggests less erosion, which may be the result of the progressive submersion of the volcanic islands.

#### **Hole 866A**

A detrital origin of chlorite and kaolinite is likely. Small amounts of these minerals point to weak detrital influxes, which also are evidenced by the occurrence of organic matter of marine, instead of terrestrial, origin. In most sediments that have not undergone deep burial, illite is considered as detrital and shows fluctuations parallel to chlorite or kaolinite (Chamley, 1989; Deconinck, 1992). As indicated by the occurrence of immature organic matter and smectite-rich I/S, the influence of thermal diagenesis is negligible in Hole 866A. Nevertheless, some observations suggest that illite is not entirely detrital. Variations in the percentages of illite are not parallel to those of chlorite and kaolinite. Chemical analyses point to an iron-rich composition, and TEM observations reveal the small sizes of the illitic material, whereas detrital illites usually exhibit aluminum composition and commonly occur as relatively large particles. Illitic material showing similar X-ray and chemical features already has been described in lacustrine sediments (Porrenga, 1968; Newman and Brown, 1987), in paleosoils (Robinson and Wright, 1987), and in the clay fraction from green marls occurring at the top of upward-shallowing sequences of Lower Cretaceous carbonate platforms in the Tethyan realm (e.g., Purbeckian platform: Deconinck and Strasser, 1987; Deconinck et al., 1988). The formation of illitic minerals probably occurs at surface temperatures in potassium-rich supratidal environments, where smectites and smectite-rich I/S are submitted to wetting and drying cycles. Laboratory experiments have shown that smectites submitted to such cycles are progressively transformed into I/S (Srodon and Eberl, 1984; Eberl et al., 1986). Ordered and random I/S, which occur in some samples, correspond to incomplete transformation of smectite. The origin of smectite that constituted the father mineral is more difficult to establish.

### **Depositional Conditions**

#### **Hole 865A**

Facies analysis of Subunit IVD at Hole 865A indicates that the deepest sediments recovered at Allison Guyot corresponded to shal-

low-marine environments. Locally, brackish-waters environments or stagnant marine-water pools certainly have existed, favoring the development of colonial algae, as shown in Cores 143-865A-92R and -91R. At the base of Subunit IVC (Cores 143-865A-90R and -89R), abundant terrestrial organic matter, roots in growth position, and relative paucity of fauna indicate more restricted environments, such as a marsh. A humid climate, favoring coastal vegetation and intense runoff, probably dominated at that time. Soil-derived materials, including I/S, kaolinite, and terrestrial organic matter, were probably supplied from volcanic islands. Higher-plant debris was partially oxidized before it was transported into the swamp, as attested by cracks in the vitrinite particles and relatively low TOC amounts of the carbonaceous-rich facies. This land-derived influx became less abundant upward and disappeared within Subunit IVB, suggesting that the volcanic edifice was progressively submerged at that time. The progressive disappearance of terrestrial organic matter runs parallel to an increase of OIs, which suggests that more oxygenated platform conditions, unsuitable for organic matter preservation, prevailed during the time Subunits IVB and IVA were deposited. The water certainly was oxygenated enough to sustain the infaunal activity, clearly demonstrated by abundant fossils and the intense bioturbation of the sediment.

The presence of pyrite associated with organic matter implies important bacterial sulfate reduction during the time of deposition of Subunits IVD and IVC. Gas chromatography results show that the phytane generally predominates over pristane in all samples from Hole 865A. It is well known that the depositional paleoenvironment can influence the formation of isoprenoids issuing from phytol (Tissot and Welte, 1984). The richness in phytane should indicate a restricted environment, suitable for organic matter preservation, whereas pristane predominance indicates unfavorable conditions for preservation of organic matter (Brooks et al., 1969; Didyk et al., 1978). Pristane:phytane ratios become reliable indicators of the environment only in the early mature zone, where phytanic acid has become more or less converted to pristane. Recent studies have shown multiple sources for precursors of pristane and phytane and have questioned the use of pristane:phytane ratios as redox indicators (Goossens et al., 1984; ten Haven et al., 1987). The predominance of phytane in samples from Hole 865A may be here regarded as a consequence of too low maturation, rather than a clear indication for a reducing environment. However, reducing environmental conditions existed at least during the deposition of alginite-rich sediments from Cores 143-865A-92R and -90R.

#### **Hole 866A**

Sequence-stratigraphic analysis of the sediments at Hole 866A (Arnaud et al., this volume; Strasser et al., this volume) suggests that the clay- and organic-rich facies were mainly deposited during lagoonal to peritidal phases of the history of Resolution Guyot.

Comparison of geochemical data with petrographic analyses clearly shows that the density and thickness of laminae increase in samples having high TOC contents. As a general rule, the more important the organic content, the more continuous are the laminae. On the other hand, when ligneous fragments and dispersed brown algae predominate, TOC contents are low.

Several centimeter-thick organic-rich layers present a sharp increase of organic carbon content and HI from bottom to top. This upward increase probably was caused by flooding of the depositional site and better preservation of the organic matter under anoxic conditions. Only interval 143-866A-89R-1, 92–100 cm, presents a reverse trend with an upward decrease of organic content. Total organic carbon percentages pass from 14.38% at the base to 0.49% at the top (Fig. 14). This interval contains mainly terrestrial organic matter, which generally display a strong heterogeneity in organic content. But in this case, probable subaerial alteration induced an upward decrease in TOC content and HI.

The existence of planktonic organisms, such as coccoliths and foraminifers, at Hole 866A indicates oxygenated surface waters with

access to the open-marine environment, at least during some time intervals. This strongly suggests that the water column was not anoxic, but that the redox boundary lay at, or close to, the water/sediment interface and probably in the cyanobacterial mat itself. Environmental signification of Pr/Ph ratios is doubtful, owing to the low quantity of these isoprenoids and the weak maturity of the studied samples. Nonetheless, a general tendency of reducing environments is shown by low Pr/Ph ratios in algal or cyanobacterial mats, whereas a more oxygenated environment is recorded in Sample 143-866A-89R-1, 97–98 cm, rich in terrestrial organic matter.

The high organic sulfur content, characteristic of the organic matter from Hole 866A, is probably the result of intense bacterial sulfate reduction associated with low amounts of reactive iron in interstitial waters. Sulfate-reducing bacteria depend on a continuing supply of simple organic acids derived from the activities of heterotrophic bacteria (Kenig and Huc, 1990). Hydrogen sulfide in turn is poisonous, and continuing degradation of organic matter depends on the removal of hydrogen sulfide by reactive iron oxides. When reactive iron contents are low, sulfur is incorporated into organic matter, and the residual organic matter has a high content of organic sulfur (Berner, 1984; Gautier, 1986).

No direct evidence is available regarding the temperatures and salinities of the waters. Only indirect hypotheses may be formulated from the existence of cyanobacterial mats that point to relatively warm waters, such as exist today in Shark Bay (western Australia), Laguna Guerrero Negro (Mexico), Solar Lake (Red Sea), and Abu Dhabi lagoons (United Arab Emirates). The water temperature reported for Shark Bay is between 18° and 28°C. Salinities associated with present algal or cyanobacterial mats are higher than in normal seawater (i.e., hypersaline in Solar Lake; Krumbein et al., 1977), and 40 to 70‰ in Abu Dhabi (Kenig et al., 1990; Kenig, 1991). On Resolution Guyot, evaporite pseudomorphs in several levels point to recurrently hypersaline conditions, but they are not consistently associated with microbial mats (Arnaud et al., this volume). Normal saline conditions may also support cyanobacterial mats, as mentioned by Glikson and Taylor (1986).

### Comparison of DSDP Site 463 with Hole 866A

DSDP Site 463, drilled during Leg 62 (Thiede, Vallier, et al., 1981), is located 44.4 km northeast of Site 866 (Fig. 1) and represents a part of the basinal sequence correlated to platform limestones encountered on Resolution Guyot (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1993).

Three beds of siliceous limestone containing between 2% and 7% organic carbon occur between Cores 62-463-69 and -72 within the lower Aptian sequence. The most remarkable structures in these cores are laminations in the dark gray clayey intervals intercalated in bluish-white to dark greenish-gray limestones. The thicknesses of the laminated intervals range from a few centimeters to more than 60 cm. The darker intervals are especially abundant in Cores 62-463-70 and -71, but they are difficult to distinguish from volcanic-ash layers. These facies do not display evidence of emplacement by turbidity currents (Thiede, Vallier, et al., 1981). They are mainly strongly silicified limestones, with some chert and volcanic-ash layers. Radiolarians are abundant, but poorly preserved, compared to the radiolarians above and below (Schaaf, 1981). This suggests that the silica for the diagenetic silicification of the limestone was, at least partly, biogenic; hence, possibly the surface water was highly fertile. Only three levels contain high organic carbon concentrations that reach 7% TOC (Dean et al., 1981; Mélières et al., 1981). Hydrogen indices generally are low (<100), but some samples show higher values (up to 571), suggesting a type II or a mixture between type II and III organic matter (Mélières et al., 1981). As expected, the proportion of marine organic matter increases with increasing concentrations of organic carbon.

Occurrences of carbonized plant debris in lower Aptian sediments at Site 463 (Timofeev and Bogolyubova, 1981; Mélières et al., 1981) and in a 80-cm-thick bed of upper Aptian gray claystones at Site 462

in the Nauru Basin (Jenkyns and Schlanger, 1981) suggest a considerable influx of terrestrial organic matter from nearby land areas.

Resolution Guyot, which was the nearest island during Early Cretaceous time, was certainly the source of the terrestrial organic matter encountered at DSDP Site 463. The intermittent occurrence of some lignitic fragments in Barremian to Aptian sediments in Hole 866A attests that terrestrial organic matter occasionally was transported into the platform's interior. Seaward transport of plant debris may also have occurred at the same time.

At Site 463, the clay fraction of Barremian and Aptian sediments is composed of random I/S, smectite, and illite with common clinoptilolite (Nagel and Schumann, 1981; Rateev et al., 1981). Smectite and smectite-rich I/S developed from abundant volcanic material, including basaltic glass and ash layers. Such an origin is doubtful at Site 866, where sediments were deposited in a different sedimentary environment and where volcanic material is not described as being abundant. Small volcanic particles were noted in Cores 143-866A-89R to -87R (Arnaud et al., this volume), and some zeolite and feldspar minerals in Core 143-866A-88R (Shipboard Scientific Party, 1993a, 1993b) indicate volcanic influences at that time.

The organic-rich sediments recovered from Cores 143-866A-85R to -89R are possibly the equivalent of the late early Aptian organic-rich sediments at Site 463, even if an intense volcanic activity is not recorded on Resolution Guyot from that time. At the same time interval, deposition of marine and terrestrial organic matter took place at both sites.

Organic carbon-rich sediments recovered in Subunit VIA of Hole 866A are the first evidence of shallow-water anoxic environments of this age in the Pacific Ocean. A widespread anoxic event is well known in numerous DSDP sites from the Pacific (Schlanger and Jenkyns, 1976; Sliter, 1989) as well as in the Tethyan realm with the Selli level from Italy (Coccioni et al., 1987), or the Goguel level from southeast France (Bréhéret, 1988; Weissert and Bréhéret, 1991). The probability that the Selli event has been recorded on Resolution Guyot also is supported by C-isotopic stratigraphy (Jenkyns, this volume).

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Very low to low organic carbon content characterizes gray green pyritic claystones and most of the bioturbated clayey wackestones and packstones in Hole 865A. The richest samples (6%–50% TOC) correspond everywhere to black and brown claystones, whereas some coaly claystones and packstones show mean organic content of around 1% or less. TOC percentages in Hole 866A present high-amplitude variations that range from 0.1% to 34.5%. As a general rule, TOC contents higher than 3% are recorded in laminated limestones, algal mats, and claystones with plant debris, whereas gray limestones, sandy claystones, and green clay layers have TOC contents lower than 0.5%.

2. Microscopic and geochemical investigations indicate that type III organic matter, of terrestrial origin, characterizes the Albian claystones at Hole 865A. Nevertheless, two samples from the bottom of the hole contain alginite-rich organic matter related to types I or II, with HIs up to 730 mg HC/g TOC. In Hole 866A, the organic matter from Barremian to Aptian sediments is widely distributed between type I (bacterial or algal) and type IV (altered), according to the wide range of HIs (5–784 mg HC/g TOC). Laminated limestones and algal mats clearly show the highest HIs and are related to type I or II organic matter. Black claystones and clays with plant debris show low to medium HIs (50–200), suggesting a type III organic matter. Other lithologies generally have low HI values and high OI values, indicating type IV organic matter. Vitrinite is less common in Hole 866A than in Hole 865A, but variable amounts occur over a wide depth range, indicating the existence of nearby land with vegetation until at least Aptian time.

3. Maturation levels below the oil window were found throughout the Lower Cretaceous sediments in both holes. Considering the shallow burial depth, relatively high vitrinite reflectance may be a

consequence of a local thermal perturbation caused by basaltic sills in Hole 865A. High  $T_{max}$  values suggest a probable charcoal content in some samples from Hole 866A.

4. The composition of clay-mineral assemblages results from various early diagenetic, volcanic, and detrital influences during the evolution of Early Cretaceous sedimentary environments of Allison and Resolution guyots. Early diagenetic changes are responsible for the replacement of detrital kaolinite by berthierine in oxidizing conditions (Hole 865A, Subunit IVC). Sediments of Hole 866A are characterized by the occurrence of illitic minerals that resulted from the replacement of smectitic minerals submitted to wetting and drying cycles at surface temperatures.

Volcanic influences are particularly well expressed at the base of Hole 865A, where smectite-rich I/S originated from the weathering of basaltic rocks.

Significant detrital components are recorded at Hole 865A, where kaolinite associated with terrestrial organic matter is abundant and reflects active erosion of the nearby land area. The decrease of illite and kaolinite, balanced by increasing amounts of I/S, in Subunit IVB probably results from the progressive submersion of volcanic islands. By contrast, the scarcity of kaolinite and the occurrence of marine organic matter in Hole 866A point to a more gentle terrestrial erosion.

5. Marshy environments probably existed during Aptian/early Albian time on Allison Guyot. The humid climate favored growth of coastal vegetation and intense terrestrial run-off. Such environments were suitable to deposition of terrestrial organic matter, whereas local quiet pools supported the development of abundant colonial algae. The land-derived organic matter was progressively more oxidized and became less abundant with the progressive submergence of the volcanic edifice and the replacement of the marshes by shallow-water platform.

During the stage of active carbonate platform growth on Resolution Guyot, the platform stayed at or near sea level, allowing for the deposition of lagoonal to peritidal organic-rich facies. These facies are mainly represented by finely laminated limestones and cyanobacterial mats. Terrestrial organic matter occurs here and there throughout the lagoonal and peritidal facies and is testimony to the existence of vegetated islands.

6. Comparison of Hole 866A with DSDP Site 463 reveals that Resolution Guyot was the source of the detrital organic matter redeposited at Site 463 during early Aptian time. Organic-rich facies from Subunit VIA probably correlate with the Oceanic Anoxic Event of this age.

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\*Abbreviations for names of organizations and publications in ODP reference lists follow the style given in *Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index* (published by American Chemical Society).

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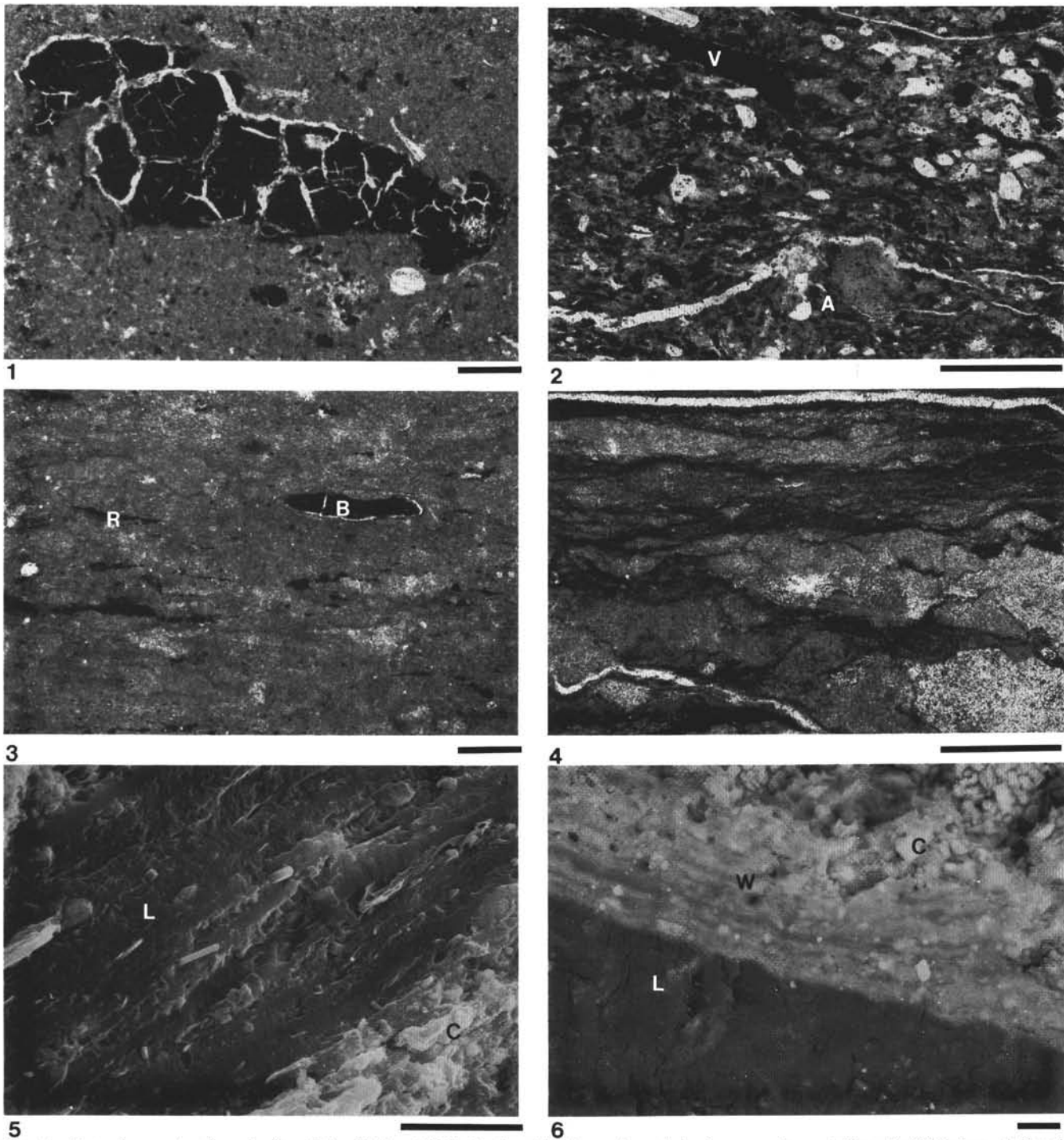
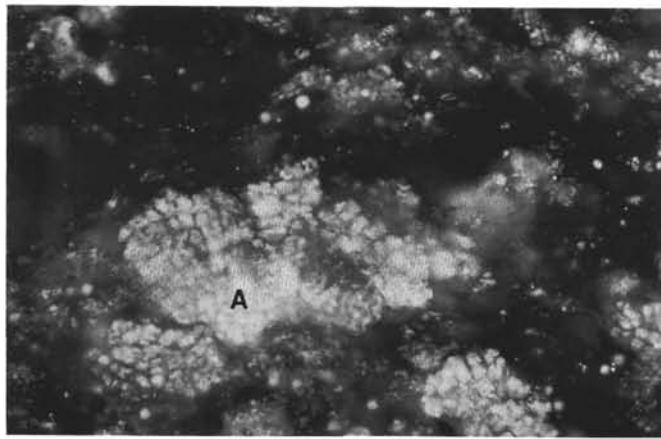
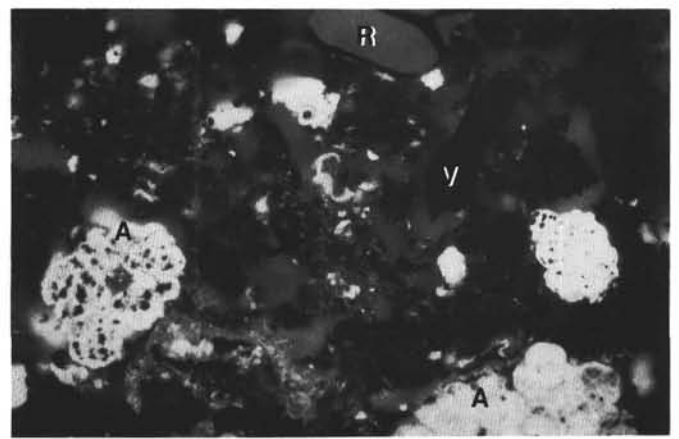


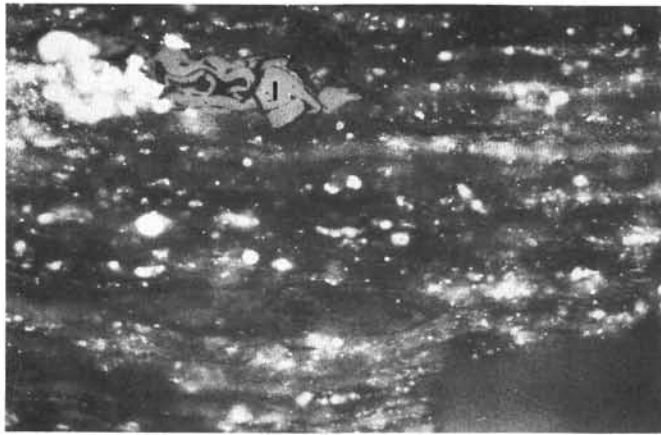
Plate 1. Photomicrographs of samples from Holes 865A and 866A. Bar length is 0.2 mm for optical microscope view and 10  $\mu\text{m}$  for SEM view. **1.** Sample 143-865A-90R-3, 81–83 cm. Higher-plant particles showing microcracks filled in by calcite. **2.** Sample 143-865A-92R-2, 40–43 cm. Higher-plant derived particles (V) and intense yellow algal concentration (A). **3.** Sample 143-866A-65R-1, 142–143 cm. Black (B) and red (R) dispersed organic particles in a mudstone facies. **4.** Sample 143-866A-86R-3, 47–49 cm. Detail of a laminated wackestone showing abundant yellow to orange microbial mats. **5.** Sample 143-866A-56R-1, 42–43 cm. SEM view of an organic laminae (L) in a coccolith-rich carbonate matrix (C). **6.** Sample 143-866A-110R-2, 83–85 cm. Organo-mineral texture observed with a SEM in a back-scattered electron mode. The contact between the organic laminae (L) and the mineral matrix (C) shows a weathered zone (W) into the laminae.



1



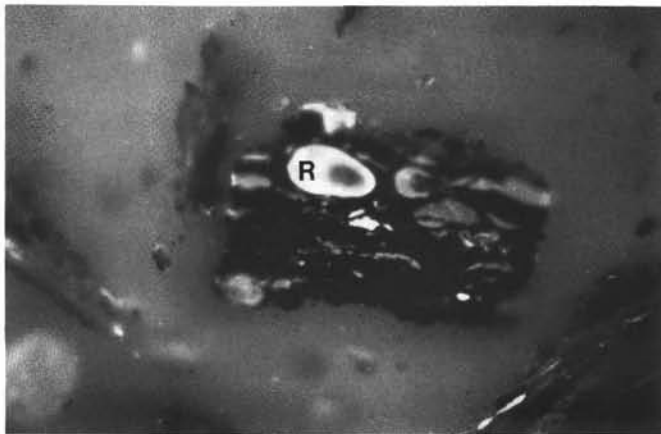
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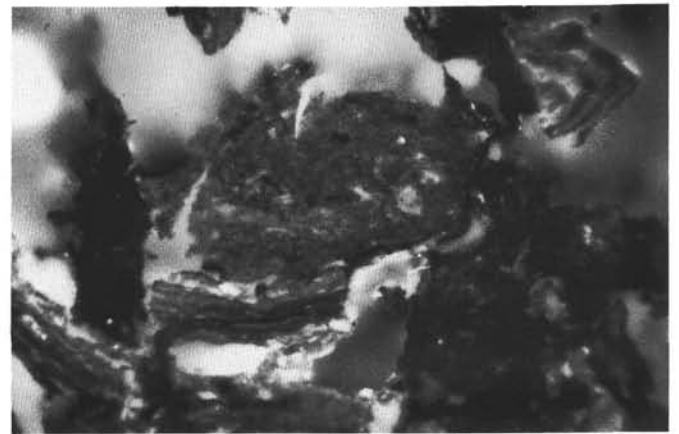
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6

Plate 2. Photomicrographs of kerogen concentrates. Field width of all photomicrographs is 0.26 mm. 1. Sample 143-865A-91R-5, 130–132 cm. Telalginite (A) derived most probably from *Gloeocapsomorpha*-related alga (reflected light). 2. Sample 143-865A-92R-2, 58–60 cm. Telalginite (A), vitrinite (V), and resinite (R) under blue light irradiation. Fluorescing telalginite is partly filled in with nonfluorescing pyrite. 3. Sample 143-866A-86R-2, 111–113 cm. Lamalginite, bituminite, and inertinite (I; reflected light). 4. Same field under blue light irradiation. Lamalginite and bituminite are strongly fluorescing, whereas inertinite is not fluorescing. 5. Sample 143-866A-89R-1, 98–99 cm (blue light irradiation). Nonfluorescing vitrinite with fluorescing resinite (R). 6. Sample 143-866A-111R-1, 86–87 cm (blue light irradiation). Weak to very weak fluorescing bituminite.