

34. DATA REPORT: CENOZOIC RADIOLARIANS FROM LEG 143, HOLE 869A, EQUATORIAL PACIFIC OCEAN¹

Jonathan C. Aitchison² and Peter G. Flood³

ABSTRACT

Cenozoic (lower Eocene to lower Miocene) radiolarians are abundant and exceptionally well-preserved in cores from Leg 143 Hole 869A. The Eocene/Oligocene boundary sequence appears conformable, whereas erosional hiatuses are present between the early Oligocene and early Miocene and between the middle and late Eocene. These hiatuses may represent periods of emergence.

INTRODUCTION

Hole 869A (Leg 143), located at 11°0.009'N, 164°44.696'W, is situated 45 nmi (83 km) southwest of the atoll-guyot pair of Bikini (formerly Bikini) Atoll and Wodejebatao (formerly Sylvania) Guyot in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Hole 869A was an APC/XCB-cored hole that had 100% recovery in the APC-cored section. The hole was drilled in a water depth of 4826.7 m and penetrated 166.5 m of radiolarian ooze.

The area examined has long been known as one in which well-preserved radiolarian faunas are present. Riedel and Sanfilippo (1971) presented an extensive report on Cenozoic tropical radiolarians from the western Pacific Ocean in the *Initial Reports* volume of Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) Leg 7. Abundant and exceptionally well-preserved radiolarians were recovered from cores throughout Hole 869A (Table 1). The primary purpose of this paper is to provide radiolarian age constraints on sediments recovered from this section.

METHODS

Samples were taken at least one per core, and most core-catcher samples were examined. More detailed examinations were conducted in the vicinity of particular sedimentological or radiolarian events. To obtain clean radiolarian concentrates for microscopic examination, sediments were disaggregated and sieved to remove the clay-silt fraction. A 5-cm³ sample was placed in a 400-cm³ beaker that contained 150 mL of a 10% solution of hydrogen peroxide and a small amount of Calgon (to aid in disaggregating the sediment). If calcareous components were evident, they were dissolved by adding hydrochloric acid. The residue was sieved through a 63- μ m sieve, and the remaining siliceous microfossils were pipetted evenly onto labeled glass slides. The accompanying water then was evaporated under a heat lamp, after which the remaining residue was mounted using Norland Optical Adhesive and covered with a 22 × 50 mm cover slip. Two slides were prepared and examined for each sample. Qualitative assessments of the radiolarians in each slide were not recorded for abundance and preservation as, in all cases, radiolarians were abundant and well preserved. Radiolarians were profusely abundant in some samples, and complete faunal lists are not presented herein but are the topic of ongoing study to be presented later (Aitchison and Flood, unpubl. data).

BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC FRAMEWORK

The Cenozoic radiolarian zonation of Sanfilippo et al. (1985), derived for the tropical equatorial Pacific, was used at all sites. Sanfilippo et al. (1985) summarized the taxonomy and evolutionary lineages of all stratigraphically important radiolarian taxa commonly found in low-latitude regions of this zonation. When suggesting tentative "absolute" ages for radiolarian datum levels and zonal boundaries, the schemes of Nigrini (1985) and Barron et al. (1985), established on the basis of DSDP Leg 85 sites in the equatorial Pacific, were followed. Although much of the material obtained during Leg 85 could not be directly dated paleomagnetically, sufficient duplicate sites were available in which all major microfossil events could be identified, some of which had been correlated to the polarity time scale in nearby piston cores. Thus, the ages of Pacific radiolarian events, estimated by Foreman (1981), Nigrini (1985), and Barron et al. (1985), are considered to provide a satisfactory working model. Tentative correlation with calcareous nannofossil stratigraphy has been based on correlation charts of Haq et al. (1987).

LITHOSTRATIGRAPHY

Two lithostratigraphic units were identified in Hole 869A: (Unit I) cyclically bedded very pale brown to yellow-brown to dark reddish brown nannofossil ooze, radiolarian nannofossil ooze, and clayey nannofossil ooze; and (Unit II) cyclically bedded white to very pale brown to dark yellowish-brown clayey nannofossil ooze to nannofossil radiolarian ooze containing porcellanite and chert.

Unit I (0–88.20 mbsf, lower Miocene to upper Eocene)

The dominant sedimentary theme of Unit I is one of cycles, on various scales, which are characterized by regular changes in color and composition. The principal sedimentary components are nannofossils, radiolarians, sponge spicules, and clay; the colors vary from very pale brown to yellow-brown to dark reddish-brown, and the compositions range from nannofossils ooze through radiolarian nannofossil ooze to clayey nannofossil ooze. Thicknesses of different lithologies are on the scale of tens of centimeters, although some thinner bands do exist. Subunit IA is separated from Subunit IB by a stratigraphic hiatus. There is some reworking of Subunit IB into the basal bed of Subunit IA.

Unit II (88.2–166.5 mbsf, upper Eocene to middle Eocene)

As in Unit I, the dominant sedimentary theme of Unit II is one of cycles on various scales, characterized by regular changes in color and composition. In Core 143-869A-10X, the first porcellanite appears that is associated with clayey nannofossil ooze. Porcellanites and cherts appear intermittently at first, but increase in percentage

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² Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, 2006, Australia.

³ Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, 2351, Australia.

SPECIES LIST

Detailed original descriptions of the biostratigraphically significant radiolarian species, identified in samples from Leg 143, have already been presented. Therefore, the following list simply provides a bibliographic reference for the species mentioned here. In most cases, only the reference containing the original description is presented, except where this description differs from present consensus or has been revised. These species are listed in alphabetical order.

Artophormis gracilis Riedel

Artophormis gracilis Riedel, 1959, p. 300, pl. 2, figs. 12, 13.

Calocyclus bandyca (Mato and Theyer)

Lychnocanoma bandyca Mato and Theyer, 1980, p. 225, pl. 1, figs. 1–6.

Calocyclus bandyca (Mato and Theyer), Sanfilippo and Riedel in Saunders et al., 1985, p. 411, pl. 5, figs. 1, 5–6.

Calocyclus turris Ehrenberg

Calocyclus turris Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 218; 1875, pl. 18, fig. 7.

Calocyclus turris (Ehrenberg) Foreman, 1973, p. 434.

Calocycletta virginis Haeckel

Calocyclus (*Calocycletta*) *virginis* Haeckel, 1887, p. 1381, pl. 74, fig. 4.

Calocycletta virginis (Haeckel) Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 535, pl. 14, fig. 10.

Centrobotrys petrushevskayae Sanfilippo and Riedel

Centrobotrys petrushevskayae Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1973, p. 532, pl. 36, figs. 12, 13.

Centrobotrys thermophila Petrushevskaya

Centrobotrys thermophila Petrushevskaya, 1965, p. 115, text-fig. 20.

Centrobotrys thermophila (Petrushevskaya) Nigrini, 1967, p. 49, text-fig. 26, pl. 5, fig. 7.

Dictyoprora mongolfieri (Ehrenberg)

Eucyrtidium mongolfieri Ehrenberg, 1854, pl. 36, fig. 18, Blower, 1873, p. 230.

Dictyoprora mongolfieri (Ehrenberg) Nigrini, 1977, p. 250, pl. 4, fig. 10.

Didymocyrtis prismatica (Haeckel)

Pipettella prismatica Haeckel, 1887, p. 305, pl. 39, fig. 6.

Didymocyrtis prismatica (Haeckel), Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1980, p. 1010.

Dorcadospyrus ateuchus (Ehrenberg)

Ceratospyrus ateuchus Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 218; 1875, pl. 21, fig. 4D.

Dorcadospyrus ateuchus (Ehrenberg), Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 523, pl. 15, fig. 4.

Eusyringium fistuligerum (Ehrenberg)

Eucyrtidium fistuligerum Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 229; 1875, pl. 9, fig. 3.

Eusyringium fistuligerum (Ehrenberg) Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 527, pl. 8, figs. 8, 9.

Eusyringium lagena (Ehrenberg)

Lithopera lagena Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 241; 1875, pl. 3, fig. 4.

Eusyringium lagena (Ehrenberg), Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 527, pl. 8, figs. 5–7.

Liriospyris mutuaria Goll

Liriospyris mutuaria Goll, 1968, p. 1428, pl. 175, figs. 6, 10, 11 and 14, text-fig. 9.

Lithochytrix vespertilio Ehrenberg

Lithochytrix vespertilio Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 239.

Lithocyclia angusta (Riedel)

Trigonactura angusta Riedel, 1959, p. 292, pl. 1, fig. 6.

Lithocyclia angusta (Riedel), Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 522, pl. 13, figs. 1, 2.

Lithocyclia ocellus Ehrenberg

Lithocyclia ocellus Ehrenberg, 1854, pl. 36, fig. 30; 1873, p. 240.

Lithocyclia ocellus (Ehrenberg) Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 522, pl. 5, figs. 1, 2.

Lychnodictyum audax Riedel

Lychnodictyum audax Riedel, 1953, p. 810, pl. 85, fig. 9.

Lychnocanoma elongata (Vinassa de Regny)

Tetrahedrina elongata Vinassa de Regny, 1900, p. 243, pl. 2, fig. 31.

Lychnocanium bipes Riedel, 1959, p. 294, pl. 2, figs. 5–6.

Lychnocanoma elongata (Vinassa de Regny), Sanfilippo et al., 1973, p. 221, 222, pl. 5, figs. 19–20.

Phormocyrtis striata striata Brandt

Phormocyrtis striata Brandt in Wetzel, 1935, p. 55, pl. 9, fig. 12.

Phormocyrtis striata striata (Brandt) Foreman, 1973, p. 438, pl. 7, figs. 5, 6, 9.

Podocyrtis (Podocyrtoges) ampla Ehrenberg

Podocyrtis (?) *ampla* Ehrenberg 1873, p. 248, 1875, pl. 16, fig. 7.

Podocyrtis ampla (Ehrenberg) Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 533, pl. 12,

figs. 5, 7, 8.

Podocyrtis (Podocyrtoges) ampla (Ehrenberg) Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1992, p. 14, pl. 5, fig. 4.

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) chalara Riedel and Sanfilippo

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) chalara Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 535, pl. 12, figs. 2, 3.

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) chalara Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1978, p. 71, pl. 8, fig. 3, text fig. 3.

Podocyrtis (Podocyrtoges) diamesa Riedel and Sanfilippo

Podocyrtis (Podocyrtis) diamesa Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 533 (partim), pl. 12, fig. 4, non figs. 5, 6.

Podocyrtis (Podocyrtis) diamesa Sanfilippo and Riedel 1973, p. 531, pl. 20, figs. 9, 10, pl. 35, figs. 10, 11.

Podocyrtis (Podocyrtoges) diamesa (Riedel and Sanfilippo) Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1992, p. 14.

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) fasciolata (Nigrini)

Podocyrtis (Podocyrtis) ampla fasciolata Nigrini, 1974, p. 1069, pl. 1K, figs. 1, 2, pl. 4, figs. 2, 3.

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) fasciolata (Nigrini) Sanfilippo et al., 1985, p. 697, fig. 30.7.

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) helenae Nigrini

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) helenae Nigrini, 1974, p. 1070, pl. 1L, figs. 9–11, pl. 4, figs. 4, 5.

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) mitra Ehrenberg

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) mitra Ehrenberg, 1854, pl. 36, fig. B20: 1873, p. 251; non Ehrenberg, 1875, pl. 15, fig. 4.

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) mitra (Ehrenberg) Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 534; 1978, text-fig. 3.

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) sinuosa Ehrenberg

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) sinuosa Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 253; 1875, pl. 15, fig. 5; Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 534, pl. 11, figs. 3, 4; 1978, text-fig. 3.

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) trachodes Riedel and Sanfilippo

Podocyrtis (Lampterium) trachodes Riedel and Sanfilippo 1970, p. 535, pl. 11, fig. 7, pl. 12, fig. 1.

Sethochytrix triconiscus Haeckel

Sethochytrix triconiscus Haeckel, 1887, p. 1239, pl. 57, fig. 13.

Spongatractus pachystylus (Ehrenberg)

Spongosphæra pachystyla Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 256; 1875, pl. 26, fig. 3.

Spongatractus pachystylus (Ehrenberg) Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1973, p. 519, pl. 2, figs. 4–6, pl. 25, fig. 3.

Stichocorys delmontensis (Campbell and Clark)

Eucyrtidium delmontensis, Campbell and Clark, 1944, p. 56, pl. 7, figs. 19, 20.

Stichocorys delmontensis (Campbell and Clark) Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1970, p. 451, pl. 1, fig. 9.

Theocotyle venezuelensis Riedel and Sanfilippo

Theocotyle venezuelensis Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, 525, pl. 6, figs. 9, 10, pl. 7, figs. 1, 2.

Theocyrtis tuberosa Riedel emend. Sanfilippo et al.

Theocyrtis tuberosa Riedel, 1959, p. 298, pl. 2, figs. 10, 11; Sanfilippo et al., 1985, p. 701, figs. 32, 1a–1d.

Thyrsoyrtis (Thyrsoyrtis) hirsuta (Krasheninnikov)

Podocyrtis hirsutus Krasheninnikov, 1960, p. 300, pl. 3, fig. 16.

Thyrsoyrtis (Thyrsoyrtis) hirsuta (Krasheninnikov) Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1982, p. 173, pl. 1, figs. 3, 4.

Thyrsoyrtis (Thyrsoyrtis) rhizodon Ehrenberg

Thyrsoyrtis rhizodon Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 262; 1875, p. 94, pl. 12, fig. 1; Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1982, p. 173, pl. 1, figs. 14–16, pl. 3, figs. 12–17.

Thyrsoyrtis (Thyrsoyrtis) robusta Riedel and Sanfilippo

Thyrsoyrtis hirsuta robusta Riedel and Sanfilippo, 1970, p. 526, pl. 8, fig. 1.

Thyrsoyrtis (Thyrsoyrtis) robusta (Riedel and Sanfilippo) Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1982, p. 174, pl. 1, fig. 5.

Thyrsoyrtis (Pentalacorys) tensa Foreman

Thyrsoyrtis hirsuta tensa Foreman, 1973, p. 442, pl. 3, figs. 13–16, pl. 12, fig. 8.

Thyrsoyrtis (Pentalacorys) tetracantha (Ehrenberg)

Podocyrtis tetracantha Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 254; 1875, pl. 13, fig. 2.

Thyrsoyrtis (Pentalacorys) tetracantha (Ehrenberg) Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1982, p. 176, pl. 1, figs. 11, 12, pl. 3, fig. 10.

Thyrsoyrtis (Pentalacorys) triacantha (Ehrenberg)

Podocyrtis triacantha Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 254; 1875, pl. 13, fig. 4.

Thyrsoyrtis (Pentalacorys) triacantha (Ehrenberg) Sanfilippo and Riedel, 1982, p. 176, pl. 1, figs. 8–10, pl. 3, figs. 3, 4.

Tristyluspyris tricerus (Ehrenberg)

Ceratostylus tricerus Ehrenberg, 1873, p. 220; 1875, pl. 21, fig. 5.

Tristyluspyris tricerus (Ehrenberg) Haecckel, 1887, p. 1033.

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