

42. DATA REPORT: ORGANIC CARBON AND CARBONATE RECORDS FROM DETROIT SEAMOUNT AND PATTON-MURRAY SEAMOUNT: RESULTS FROM SITES 882 AND 887 (NORTH PACIFIC TRANSECT)¹

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INTRODUCTION

The main objectives of Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) Leg 145 were to drill five sites on a transect in the North Pacific in order to reconstruct the history of paleoclimate and paleoceanography. Most of the sediments recovered during the cruise are extremely interesting for high-resolution stratigraphic, geochemical, and sedimentological studies and yield information about major changes in paleoceanographic conditions (e.g., onset of the major Northern Hemisphere glaciation) of the North Pacific. In this report results of organic carbon and carbonate analyses from Sites 882 and 887 are presented to provide a data record for the last 3.5 Ma.

Site 882 was drilled on Detroit Seamount in the western subarctic North Pacific (50°21.797'N, 167°35.999'E) at a water depth of 3244 m. Site 887 was drilled in the eastern part of Patton-Murray Seamount (Gulf of Alaska, 54°21.934'N, 148°25.778'W) at a water depth of 3630 m. The elevated positions of the two sites were chosen in order to obtain relatively undisturbed sediment columns with high sedimentation rates, precluding influence of vertical mass transport.

METHODS

Samples from Sites 882 and 887 were examined for organic carbon, total nitrogen, and carbonate carbon using a Heraeus CHN-Analyzer. The accuracy of the CHN-Analyzer is 0.02% and the relative standard deviation of the control measurements is about 0.2%. Measurements of total nitrogen show in many samples values near or below the detection limit of the analyzer. To separate the carbonate bonded carbon from organic carbon the samples were treated with HCl (10%, p.A.) and washed and dried (Weliky et al., 1983). For the calculation of the total organic carbon (TOC) content from total carbon (TC) in the bulk sample and total carbon in the carbonate-free sample split (TOC') the following equation was used:

$$\text{TOC}\% = \frac{100 - (8.333 \cdot \text{TC})}{(100 / \text{TOC}') - 8.333} \quad (1)$$

Calcium carbonate content was calculated by:

$$\text{CaCO}_3 = (\text{TC} - \text{TOC}) \cdot 8.333. \quad (2)$$

RESULTS

The results of the elemental analyses are presented in Tables 1 and 2 and plotted vs. depth and age in Figs. 1A–2B. To convert the data into the time domain, stratigraphic tie points were taken from the sedimentation rates section of Sites 882 and 887 in Rea, Basov, Janecek, Palmer-Julson, et al. (1993).

Organic Carbon

The sediments from Leg 145 are generally characterized by low organic carbon contents. At Site 882 the values range between 0 and 0.7 wt%. The interval from 140 to 105 mbsf (3–2.6 Ma) shows a relatively low TOC variation of about 0.2 wt%, followed by an interval with increased amplitudes of about 0.5 wt% between 105 and 0 mbsf (2.6–0 Ma). The remarkable high-amplitude cyclicity seen in this data is discussed in detail in Haug et al. (this volume). Site 887, however, displays a very different pattern compared to Site 882. The record can be divided into three intervals regarding the TOC fluctuation. Between 3.5 and 2.8 Ma (112–94 mbsf) the values range from 0.05 wt% to 0.4 wt%, whereas lower amplitudes generally dominate between 2.8 and 1.0 Ma (94–52 mbsf). A dramatic increase in short-term variability is recorded in the third interval from 1 Ma to present (52–0 mbsf). Values reach up to 0.7 wt% in this part of the sediment column.

The ratio of organic carbon and total nitrogen is used for a first characterization of the organic matter in terms of marine vs. terrestrial origin. Due to the very low organic carbon and nitrogen contents, however, most of the samples show no reliable TOC/N ratios. Values between 4 and 15 indicate a major portion of marine organic matter in sediments from both sites. This preliminary interpretation has to be verified by further investigations.

Calcium Carbonate

The entire carbonate record of Site 882 shows a distinct fluctuation between 0 wt% and almost 40 wt%, with most values close to zero. Only the lowermost part between 3 and 2.7 Ma (140–110 mbsf) is characterized by a slightly increased average in carbonate content of about 10 wt%. At Site 887 carbonate fluctuation is low, ranging between 0 wt% and 10 wt%. The three-interval trend of the curve is similar to the trend recorded in the TOC values from this site (Fig. 2).

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¹ Rea, D.K., Basov, I.A., Scholl, D.W., and Allan, J.F. (Eds.), 1995. *Proc. ODP. Sci. Results*, 145: College Station, TX (Ocean Drilling Program).

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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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Table 2 (continued).

Core, section, interval (cm)	Depth (mbsf)	Age (Ma)	TOC (wt%)	N (wt%)	TOC/N	CaCO ₃ (wt%)
10H-6, 80-82	91.00	2.741	0.12			0.0
10H-6, 130-132	91.50	2.760	0.11			0.0
10H-7, 30-32	92.00	2.779	0.10			0.0
11H-1, 30-32	92.50	2.798	0.08			0.0
11H-1, 80-82	93.00	2.817	0.12			0.0
11H-1, 130-132	93.50	2.836	0.08			0.0
11H-2, 30-32	94.00	2.855	0.10			0.0
11H-2, 80-82	94.50	2.874	0.40			0.0
11H-2, 130-132	95.00	2.893	0.04			0.0
11H-3, 30-32	95.50	2.912	0.25			0.7
11H-3, 80-82	96.00	2.931	0.21			0.8
11H-3, 130-132	96.50	2.950	0.25			2.1
11H-4, 30-32	97.00	2.969	0.21			6.4
11H-4, 80-82	97.50	2.988	0.25			1.8
11H-4, 130-132	98.00	3.007	0.15			0.0
11H-5, 30-32	98.50	3.026	0.10			10.7
11H-5, 80-82	99.00	3.045	0.12			9.5
12H-1, 30-32	102.00	3.160	0.21			10.6
12H-1, 80-82	102.50	3.179	0.25			3.1
12H-1, 130-132	103.00	3.198	0.13			5.7
12H-2, 30-32	103.50	3.217	0.18			3.1
12H-2, 80-82	104.00	3.236	0.15			5.3
12H-2, 130-132	104.50	3.255	0.20			5.9
12H-3, 30-32	105.00	3.274	0.15			8.6
12H-3, 80-82	105.50	3.293	0.21			19.1
12H-3, 130-132	106.00	3.312	0.33			4.1
12H-4, 30-32	106.50	3.331	0.22			1.0
12H-4, 80-82	107.00	3.350	0.18			11.5
12H-4, 130-132	107.50	3.369	0.17			1.2
12H-5, 30-32	108.00	3.388	0.15			3.4
12H-5, 80-82	108.50	3.407	0.13			5.9
12H-5, 130-132	109.00	3.426	0.13			3.1
12H-6, 30-32	109.50	3.445	0.12			5.8
12H-6, 80-82	110.00	3.464	0.05			0.0
12H-6, 130-132	110.50	3.483	0.06			0.0
12H-7, 30-32	111.00	3.502	0.17			0.0

Note: CaCO₃ = carbonate, TOC = total organic carbon, N = total nitrogen, and TOC/N = ratio of organic carbon to nitrogen.

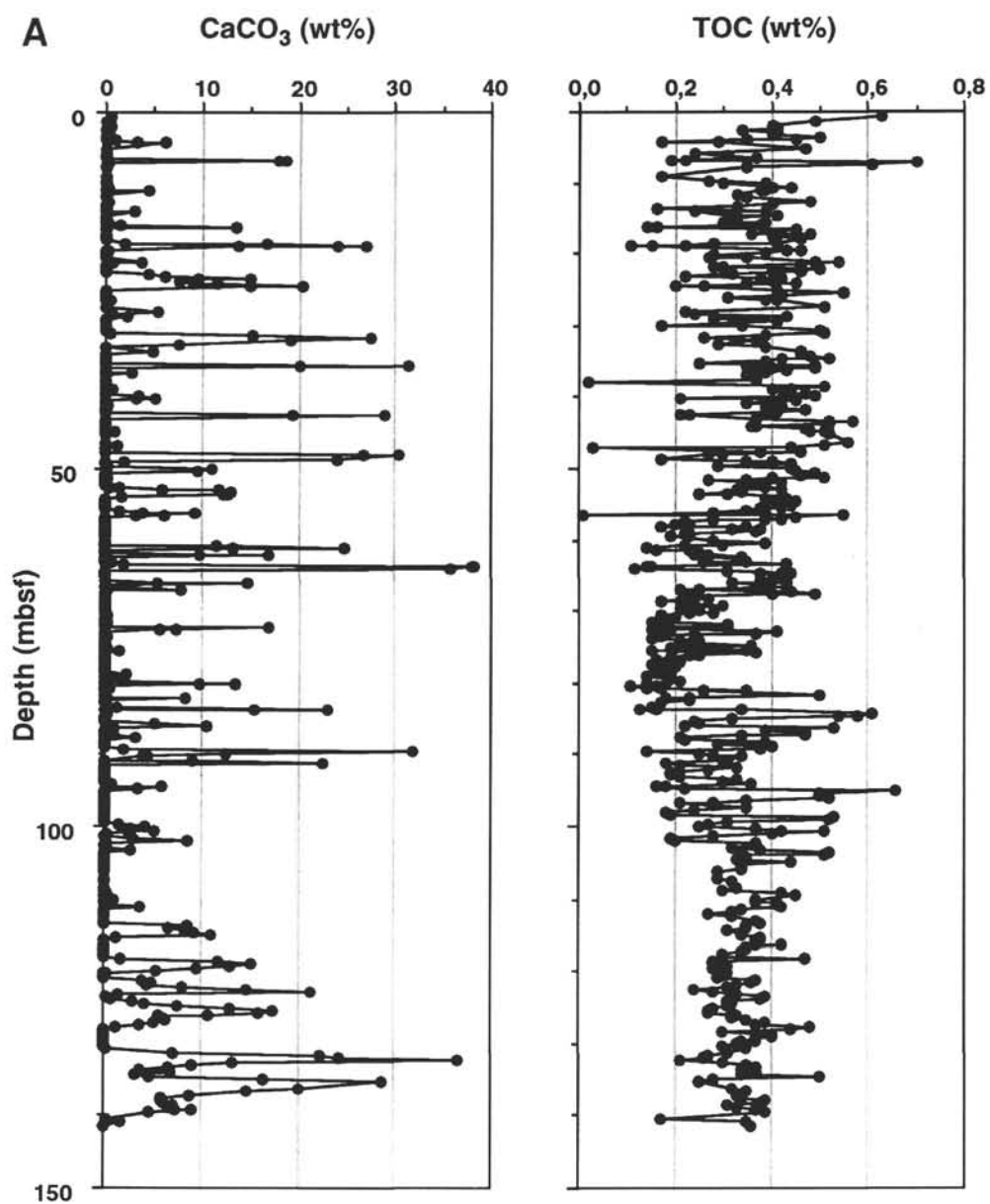


Figure 1. Carbonate and organic carbon concentrations vs. depth (A) and age (B), Hole 882A.

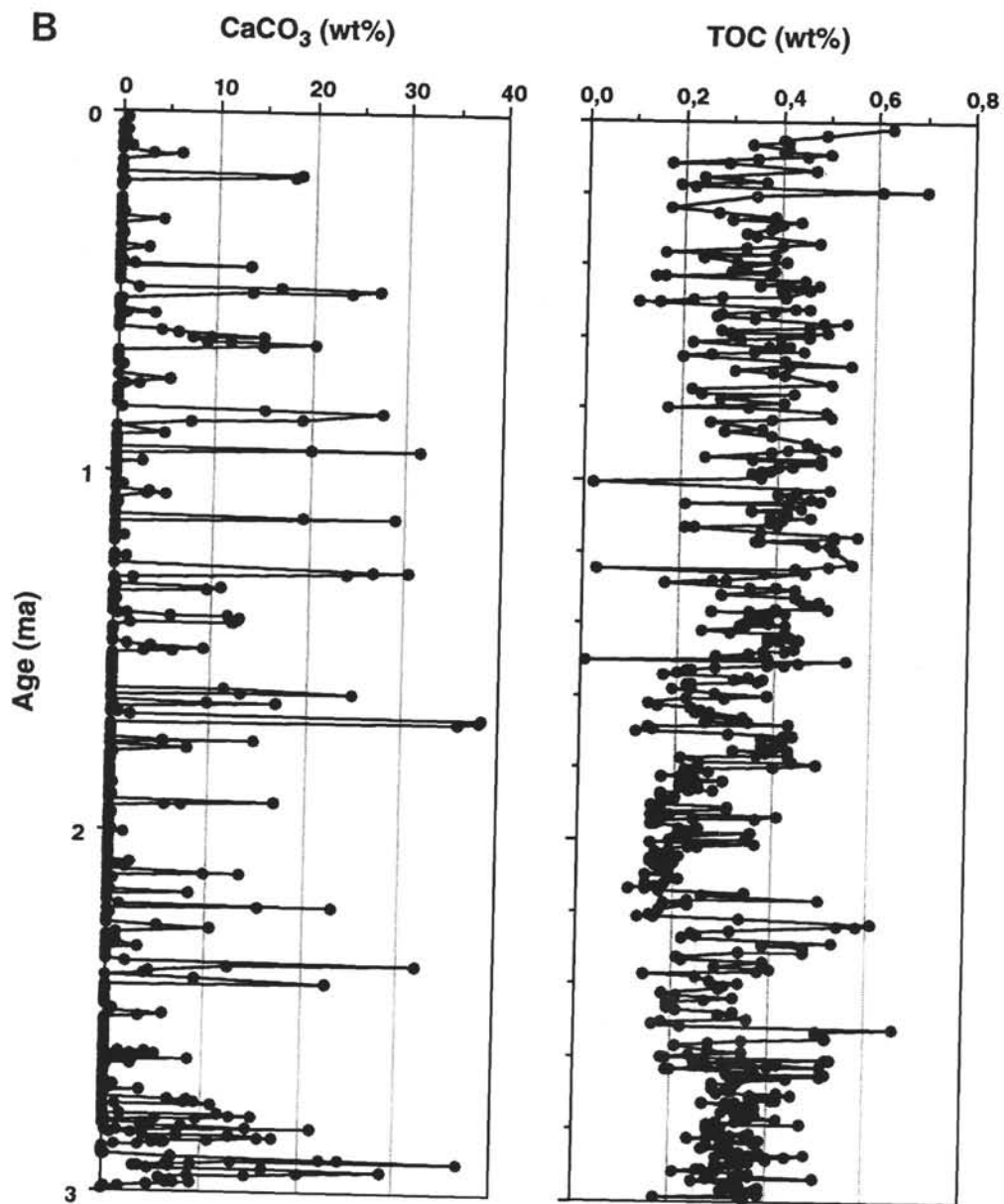


Figure 1 (continued).

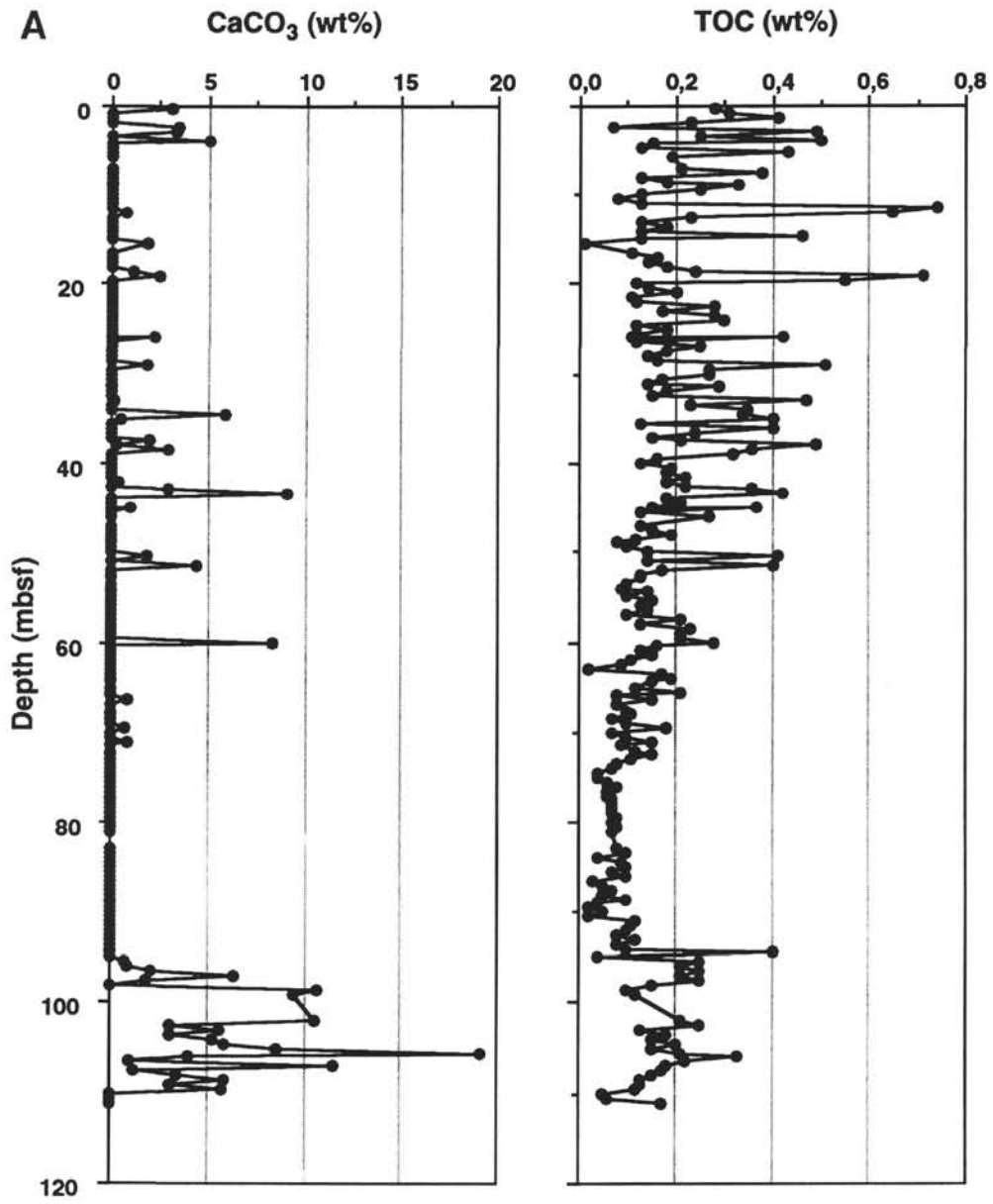


Figure 2. Carbonate and organic carbon concentrations vs. depth (A) and age (B), Hole 887A.

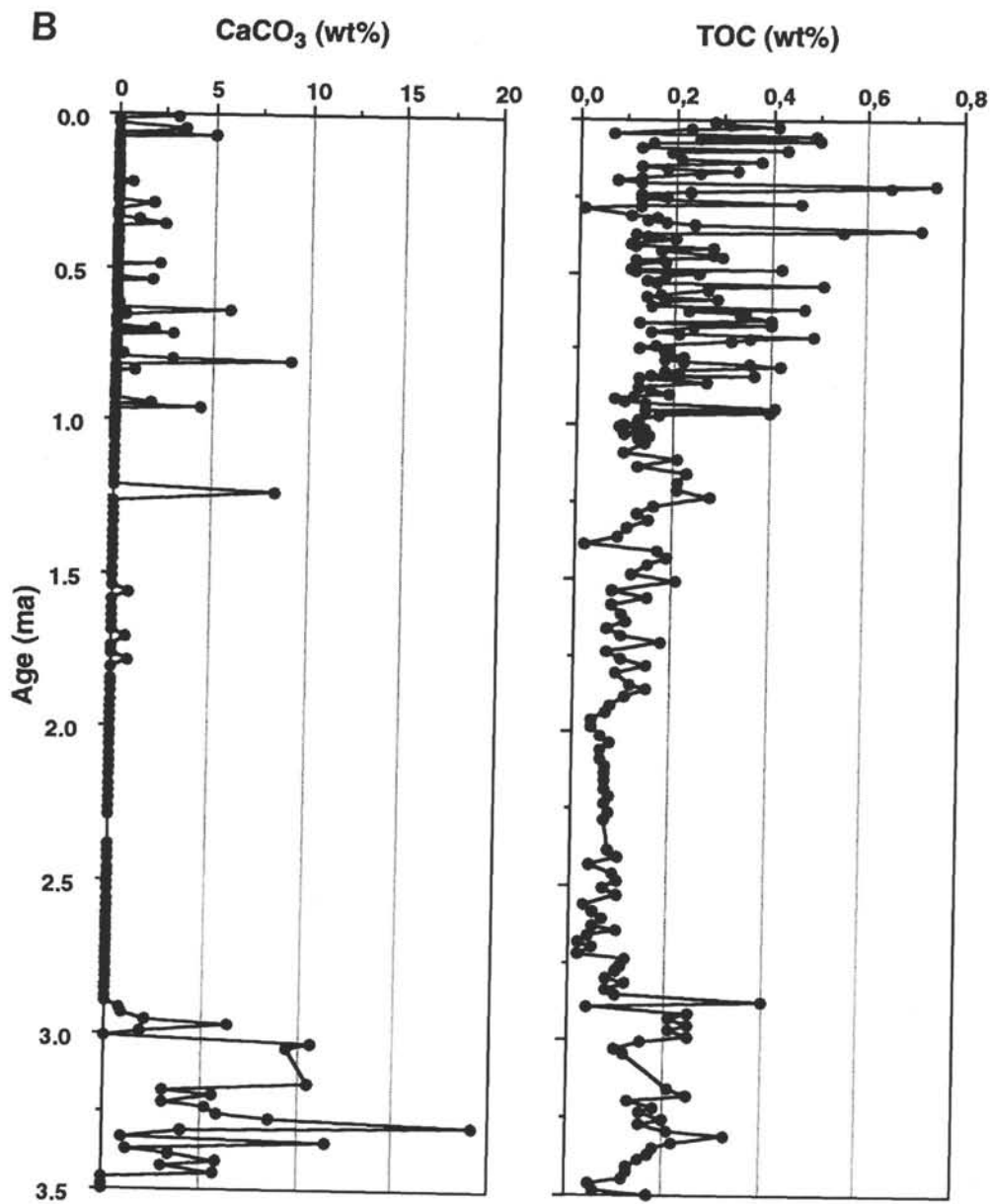


Figure 2 (continued).