

## 26. $^{10}\text{Be}$ AND $^9\text{Be}$ CONCENTRATIONS IN THE DEEP SEA SEDIMENTS AT SITE 925, CEARA RISE, IN THE WESTERN EQUATORIAL ATLANTIC: IMPLICATION OF $^{10}\text{Be}$ FLUX CHANGE<sup>1</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

The variations of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^9\text{Be}$  flux over 7 Ma were studied at Site 925 on the Ceara Rise in the equatorial Atlantic. Age-corrected  $^{10}\text{Be}$  fluxes range from  $50$  to  $270 \times 10^7$  atoms/cm<sup>2</sup> k.y. with an average value of over  $100 \times 10^7$  atoms/cm<sup>2</sup> k.y. The relation of the age-corrected  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux to the  $^9\text{Be}$  flux shows a positive correlation, suggesting the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  is associated with the terrigenous fractions. However, despite the fact that the concentration of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  derived from the Amazon drainage area should be expected to be much lower than that in the marine sediments, the fluxes of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  show high values. This result indicates that the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  in the ocean was scavenged by suspended materials like fine-grained clays in the process of transportation from the Amazon drainage area. The variations of both Be fluxes over the last 7 Ma in this area may result from local or regional change in the inputs of Amazon-derived terrigenous sediments.

### INTRODUCTION

The detailed  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^9\text{Be}$  content record in marine sediments has been investigated as a potential geochronological tool (Tanaka and Inoue 1979; Bourles et al., 1989; Beets et al., 1991) and as a proxy monitor of variations in solar activity and geomagnetic field intensity (Raisebeck et al., 1979, 1985; Ku et al., 1985; Raisebeck and Yiu 1988; Henken-Mellies et al., 1990; Kent and Schneider, 1995). Furthermore, the radionuclide  $^{10}\text{Be}$  (half life =  $1.5 \times 10^6$  yr) has also been used in flux studies as a geochemical and a sedimentological tracer (Brown 1987; Sharma et al., 1987). Studies of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux have provided opportunities to understand its behavior, its residence time in the ocean (Kusakabe et al., 1982, 1987), and some processes of removal of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  to the sediments (i.e., boundary scavenging [Anderson et al., 1990; Lao et al., 1992a, 1992b, 1993; Frank et al., 1994]). The variation of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration in ocean sediment is controlled by several factors. The major potential factors are changes in the accumulation rates of sediment, the boundary scavenging effect, and the atmospheric  $^{10}\text{Be}$  production.

On the other hand, the stable isotope  $^9\text{Be}$  has been used as a normalization of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration in the sea water and the ocean sediments. The  $^9\text{Be}$  in the ocean sediments is originally derived from terrigenous input from the continents (e.g., Sharma et al., 1987, Brown et al., 1992) and hydrothermal activities (Bourles et al., 1991).

Our primary goal in this study was to assess the long-term variation of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux and to estimate the changes in the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  sources on the Ceara Rise in the equatorial Atlantic. The sediments deposited in this region consist mainly of calcareous ooze with a varying amount of clay (Curry, Shackleton, Richter, et al., 1995). In particular, the sediments after 4.5 Ma are characterized by a steady increase in clay content. Therefore, the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux and the  $^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$  ratio would appear

to be influenced by lateral terrigenous input from the Amazon drainage area.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Site 925 is located at  $4^\circ 12.248' \text{N}$ ,  $43^\circ 29.349' \text{W}$ , at a water depth of 3041 m on the uppermost part of the Ceara Rise off the coast of South America and the Amazon fan (Fig. 1). Analyzed samples were taken at approximately 10-m intervals from the upper 19 cores of Hole 925B. Sediment samples for  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^9\text{Be}$  contents were prepared using the following procedures.

About 3 g of wet sediment was washed with pure water and then dried at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  for one night. The dried sediments were weighed before and after removal of carbonates using 2-N HCl. After leaching carbonate fractions, however, these supernatant liquids have a possibility of containing Be, as pointed out by some reports (Bourles et al., 1989, Henken-Mellies et al., 1990, Robinson et al., 1995). Therefore, the supernatant liquids were also used for  $^{10}\text{Be}$  analysis by Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) and  $^9\text{Be}$  analysis by Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS). The amounts of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^9\text{Be}$  content in the sediment were obtained from the non-carbonate fraction and the supernatant liquid, respectively.

The non-carbonate fractions were added to 0.2 mg of Be carrier and were dissolved using a mixture of concentrated  $\text{HNO}_3$  and 46% HF in 25-mL Teflon bombs at  $140^\circ\text{C}$  for 14 hr. For  $^9\text{Be}$  analysis in non-carbonate fractions by Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES), almost the same amount of sediment was treated and dissolved using the same procedure as for AMS, but without adding a Be carrier. Further purification for AMS was made using a cation exchange column (Dowex 50W-X8) and an anion exchange column (MCI-GEL CA08P). Eluted Be fractions were evaporated to near dryness and were diluted with pure water. They were added to distilled ammonia water to precipitate Be as  $\text{Be}(\text{OH})_2$ . After washing the precipitates twice with pure water, the precipitates were moved into small quartz beakers, and were dried on a hot plate. The samples were then placed in an electric furnace and temperatures were ramped to  $900^\circ\text{C}$  to convert the material to BeO. They were mixed with a fourfold amount of Ag powder and were pressed into 1 mm diameter holes of the AMS sample holders.

AMS measurements were performed on the 5UD Pelletron at the University of Tokyo. The standard samples for AMS were prepared from  $4.98 \times 10^{-10}$  stock solution originally supplied by ICN Co.,

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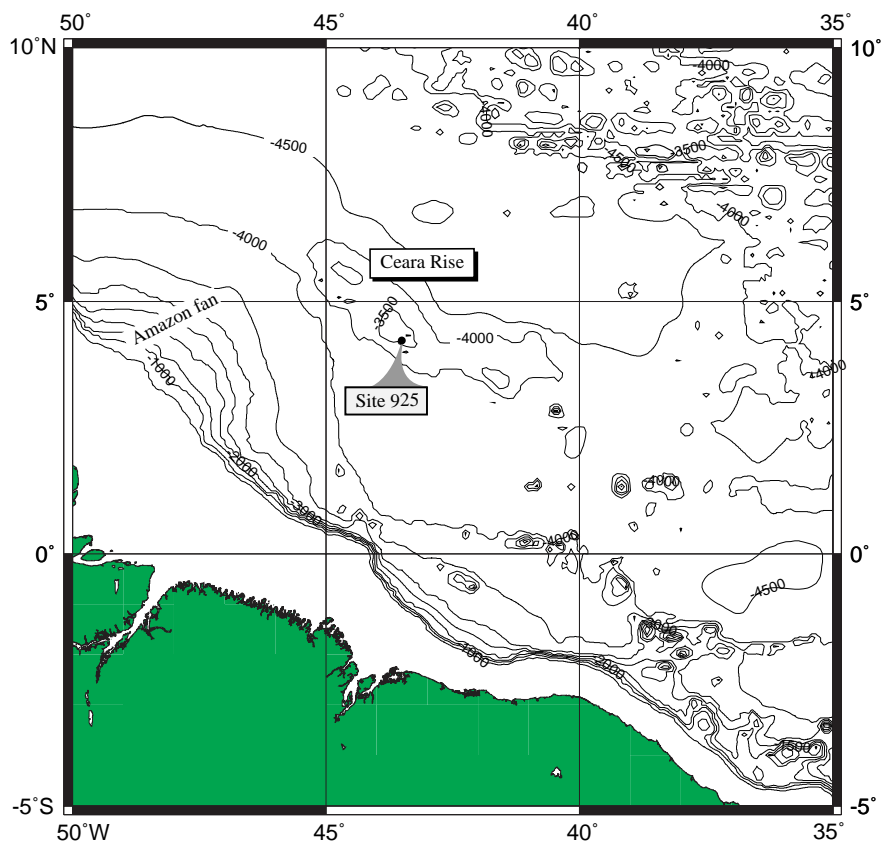


Figure 1. Location map showing Site 925 on the Ceara Rise in the equatorial Atlantic.

which had already been proven to produce a very good agreement in the  $^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$  ratio with the NIST standard. The reproducibility in  $^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$  of repeated measurements of several standard samples was 2%–4% ( $1\sigma$ ).

Carbonate contents of each sample were determined using the carbonate bomb method (Müller and Gastner 1971).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All data analyzed are presented in Table 1. For this site, detailed sample ages were based on biostratigraphic age datums (Curry, Shackleton, Richter, et al., 1995) and correlating part of astronomical tuning oxygen isotope record (0–2.5 Ma, Bickert et al., Chapter 16, this volume and 2.5–5 Ma, Tiedemann and Franz, this volume) with the SPECMAP oxygen isotope master curve (Imbrie et al., 1984), compared with the magnetic susceptibility and color reflectance record (Curry, Shackleton, Richter, et al., 1995).

In Figure 2, the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentrations are plotted against the meters composite depth (mcd) in Hole 925B. The  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration appears to decrease with an approximately linear trend on a logarithmic scale.

Age-corrected  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux and  $^9\text{Be}$  flux were calculated according to the following relationships:

$$\text{Age-corrected } ^{10}\text{Be flux (} 10^7 \text{ atoms/cm}^2 \text{ k.y.)} = \text{dry bulk density (g/cm}^3\text{)} \\ \times \text{age-corrected } ^{10}\text{Be concentration (} 10^7 \text{ atoms/g total)} \\ \times \text{linear sedimentation rate (cm/k.y.)},$$

and

$$^9\text{Be flux (} 10^{16} \text{ atoms/cm}^2 \text{ k.y.)} = \text{dry bulk density (g/cm}^3\text{)} \\ \times ^9\text{Be concentration (} 10^{16} \text{ atoms/g total)} \\ \times \text{linear sedimentation rate (cm/k.y.)}.$$

The fluxes of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  range from about 50 to  $270 \times 10^7$  atoms/cm<sup>2</sup> k.y., as shown in Figure 3. The average flux of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  amounts to over  $100 \times 10^7$  atoms/cm<sup>2</sup> k.y. The high values of fluxes ( $250$  to  $270 \times 10^7$  atoms/cm<sup>2</sup> k.y.) occurred abruptly after 1 Ma. The variation of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  fluxes seems to have an almost same trend compared with that of  $^9\text{Be}$  fluxes (Fig. 3).

In Figure 4, a plot of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux against  $^9\text{Be}$  flux shows a positive correlation, indicating that the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  in the sediments was associated with the  $^9\text{Be}$ . This result suggests that the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  was mainly derived from the terrigenous fractions from the Amazon drainage area. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 5, this suggestion is supported by the relationship between the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^9\text{Be}$  flux ratio and the  $^9\text{Be}$  concentration, which has a nearly constant trend.

The  $^{10}\text{Be}$  in the sediments is either coming with or scavenged by the terrigenous fractions like fine-grained clays in the process of transportation from the Amazon drainage area. However, the concentration of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  in the Amazon-derived terrigenous sediments should be expected to be much lower than that in the marine sediments (Kusakabe et al., 1991). Against this expectation, the fluxes of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  show relatively high values (see Fig. 3). In particular, as the clay content was increased abruptly after 2 Ma, the increase in the fluxes of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  occurred synchronously. Hence, there is almost no change in the ratio of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^9\text{Be}$  fluxes. All the variability in the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux over the last 7 Ma at this site can be explained in terms of scavenging by the fluctuating input of terrigenous materials.

It is well known that the variation of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration in ocean sediment is also controlled by the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  production rate in the atmosphere. Measurements of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  profiles in the deep-sea sediments across geomagnetic reversals have shown that the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  production rate was influenced by variations in the geomagnetic intensity (Raisbeck et al., 1979, 1985; Ku et al., 1985; Eisenhauer et al., 1987; Henken-Mellies et al., 1990; Kent and Schneider, 1995). Thus, the data of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux variation in the sediments also includes the effect of changes in  $^{10}\text{Be}$  production rate in the atmosphere. Unfortunately, we

**Table 1. Result of analyses and flux estimates from Hole 925B cores.**

Section	Depth (mcd)	Age (Ma)	<sup>10</sup> Be content (10 <sup>7</sup> atoms/g bulk)	Age-corrected <sup>10</sup> Be content (10 <sup>7</sup> atoms/g bulk)	<sup>9</sup> Be content (10 <sup>16</sup> atoms/g bulk)	<sup>10</sup> Be <sub>(Age-corrected)</sub> / <sup>9</sup> Be (×10 <sup>-9</sup> )	Age-corrected <sup>10</sup> Be flux (10 <sup>7</sup> atoms/cm <sup>2</sup> k.y.)	CaCO <sub>3</sub> (%)	DBD (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	LSR (cm/k.y.)
1H-1	1.10	0.02	68.89 ± 2.48	69.66 ± 2.51	18.52 ± 0.58	3.76 ± 0.18	226.84 ± 8.17	29.64	0.70	4.63
2H-5	11.54	0.29	85.29 ± 3.54	97.58 ± 4.05	19.24 ± 0.11	5.07 ± 0.21	273.09 ± 11.34	28.50	0.77	3.64
3H-5	23.26	0.60	65.65 ± 2.84	86.54 ± 3.74	16.50 ± 0.15	5.25 ± 0.23	261.26 ± 11.28	27.58	0.97	3.10
4H-5	34.10	0.97	36.22 ± 1.58	56.78 ± 2.48	22.60 ± 0.10	2.51 ± 0.11	144.46 ± 6.30	43.87	0.93	2.73
5H-6	44.74	1.33	— ± —	— ± —	23.23 ± 0.11	— ± —	— ± —	36.61	1.04	2.88
6H-6	54.01	1.66	17.25 ± 1.07	37.08 ± 2.30	8.13 ± 0.05	4.56 ± 0.28	108.87 ± 6.76	55.53	1.01	2.90
7H-6	64.94	2.02	16.72 ± 0.91	42.51 ± 2.31	8.22 ± 0.03	5.17 ± 0.28	129.20 ± 7.03	67.59	1.08	2.82
8H-6	74.21	2.30	13.77 ± 0.85	39.77 ± 2.45	9.64 ± 0.07	4.13 ± 0.26	148.86 ± 9.17	62.49	1.09	3.44
9H-7	85.68	2.68	11.98 ± 0.74	41.23 ± 2.56	8.13 ± 0.04	5.07 ± 0.32	117.52 ± 7.29	66.87	1.06	2.70
10H-6	94.88	2.97	11.00 ± 0.95	43.41 ± 3.76	7.76 ± 0.11	5.60 ± 0.49	141.35 ± 12.23	63.50	1.10	2.95
11H-7	108.59	3.33	8.96 ± 0.75	41.78 ± 3.51	7.98 ± 0.26	5.24 ± 0.47	124.74 ± 10.47	66.33	1.05	2.84
12H-7	119.00	3.69	6.17 ± 0.56	33.97 ± 3.10	10.01 ± 0.08	3.39 ± 0.31	96.25 ± 8.78	56.02	1.07	2.65
13H-7	130.42	4.06	5.74 ± 0.52	37.46 ± 3.38	10.19 ± 0.02	3.68 ± 0.33	103.42 ± 9.32	61.38	1.07	2.58
14H-7	140.17	4.37	4.22 ± 0.60	31.75 ± 4.52	9.89 ± 0.05	3.21 ± 0.46	108.67 ± 15.46	64.98	1.11	3.09
15H-4	146.15	4.64	3.85 ± 0.61	32.83 ± 5.19	N.D.	— ± —	65.28 ± 10.31	62.91	1.08	1.84
15H-6	149.90	4.78	4.24 ± 0.26	38.73 ± 2.49	8.96 ± 0.09	4.33 ± 0.27	106.53 ± 6.61	64.39	1.08	2.55
16H-6	160.92	5.30	2.90 ± 0.42	33.69 ± 4.92	4.16 ± 0.05	8.09 ± 1.18	71.31 ± 10.41	75.42	1.16	1.83
17H-7	171.77	5.75	2.17 ± 0.86	30.86 ± 12.26	6.86 ± 0.27	4.50 ± 1.80	81.69 ± 32.45	70.33	1.14	2.32
18H-7	182.69	6.14	3.21 ± 0.19	54.85 ± 3.26	12.99 ± 0.11	4.22 ± 0.25	147.14 ± 8.75	51.69	1.13	2.37
19H-7	192.62	6.55	2.54 ± 0.31	52.20 ± 6.39	9.35 ± 0.08	5.58 ± 0.68	147.72 ± 18.08	68.04	1.19	2.37

Notes: Age control is based on biostratigraphic datums (shipboard Scientific Party, 1995) and oxygen isotope stratigraphy (0–2.5 Ma, Bickert et al., Chapter 16, this volume, and 2.5–5.0 Ma, Tiedemann and Franz, this volume). The error for each measurement shows 1σ standard deviation of the mean. <sup>10</sup>Be flux was calculated from dry bulk density (DBD), age-corrected <sup>10</sup>Be concentration, and linear sedimentation rate (LSR) as mentioned in text.

cannot remove this effect in our data. However, the long-term fluctuations of <sup>10</sup>Be concentrations from atmospheric production have been estimated to be no more than ±25%–30% in many reports (Tanaka and Inoue 1979; Southon et al., 1987; Lao et al., 1992a, 1992b). Therefore, the fluctuation does not have a source effect over the long-time span in this study.

Considering the lithological data (Curry, Shackleton, Richter, et al., 1995), the variation of <sup>9</sup>Be fluxes, and the carbonate content of the samples, the non-carbonate phase in the samples is increased towards the top of the hole. Thus, the variations of <sup>10</sup>Be flux and <sup>9</sup>Be flux in the sediments over 7 Ma on the shallowest top of Ceara Rise can be explained by local or regional change in the terrigenous supply from the Amazon drainage area.

### CONCLUSION

Based on age-corrected <sup>10</sup>Be and <sup>9</sup>Be flux profiles and the variation of <sup>10</sup>Be and <sup>9</sup>Be flux ratio, we observed a trend for the upper 200 m of Hole 925B, 3041 m, at the Ceara Rise in the equatorial Atlantic. We can mention at least the following conclusions from the present study.

1. The <sup>10</sup>Be flux range from 50 to 270 × 10<sup>7</sup> atoms/cm<sup>2</sup> k.y. with an average over 100 × 10<sup>7</sup> atoms/cm<sup>2</sup> k.y.
2. The high values of <sup>10</sup>Be flux and <sup>9</sup>Be flux after 2 Ma reflect remarkably an increased terrigenous input from the Amazon drainage area. Hence, its ratios of <sup>10</sup>Be and <sup>9</sup>Be flux have no changes.
3. The sediments over 7 Ma on the shallowest top of Ceara Rise are influenced by the effect of scavenging by the terrigenous fractions rather than that of the global changes in <sup>10</sup>Be production rate in the atmosphere.

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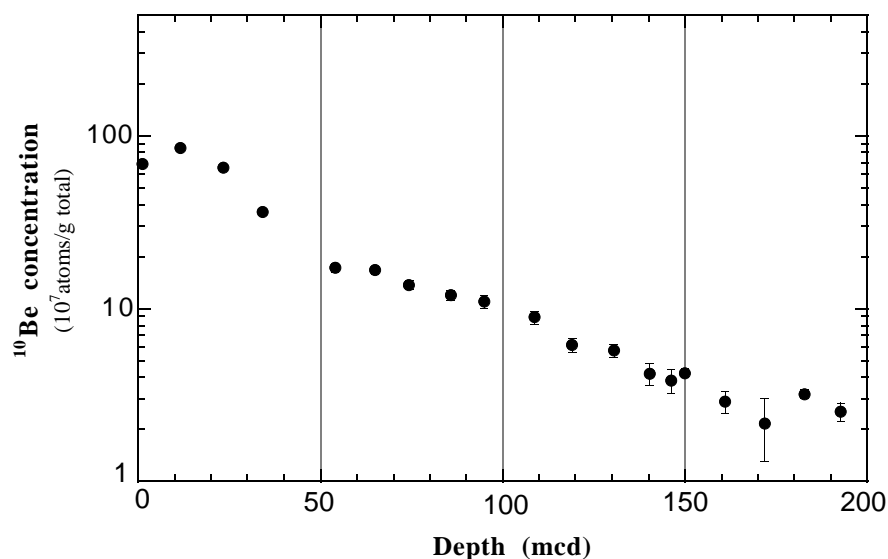


Figure 2.  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentrations in bulk sediments are plotted against meters composite depth (mcd) in Hole 925B.

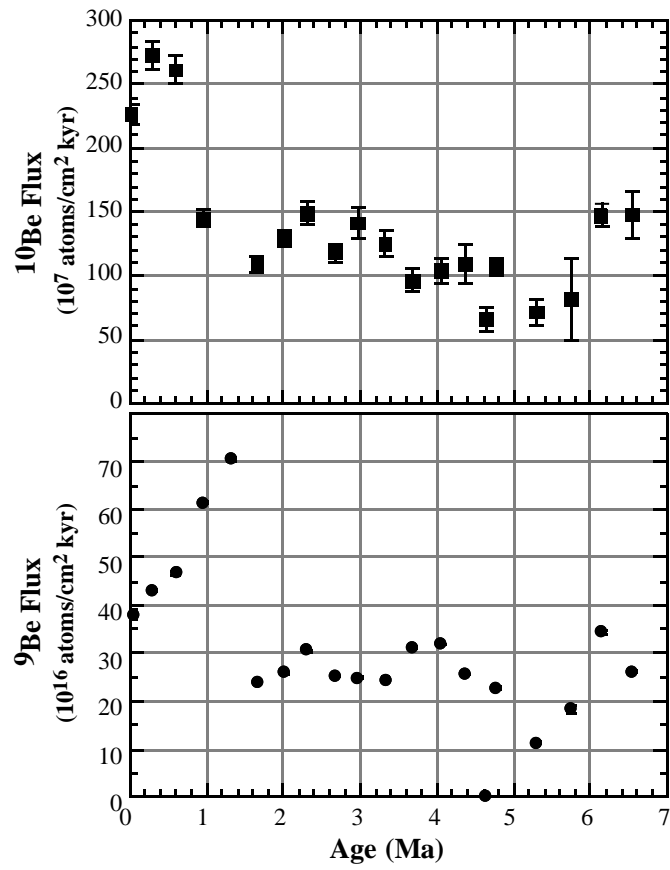


Figure 3. Age-corrected  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux and  $^9\text{Be}$  flux as a function of age (Ma).

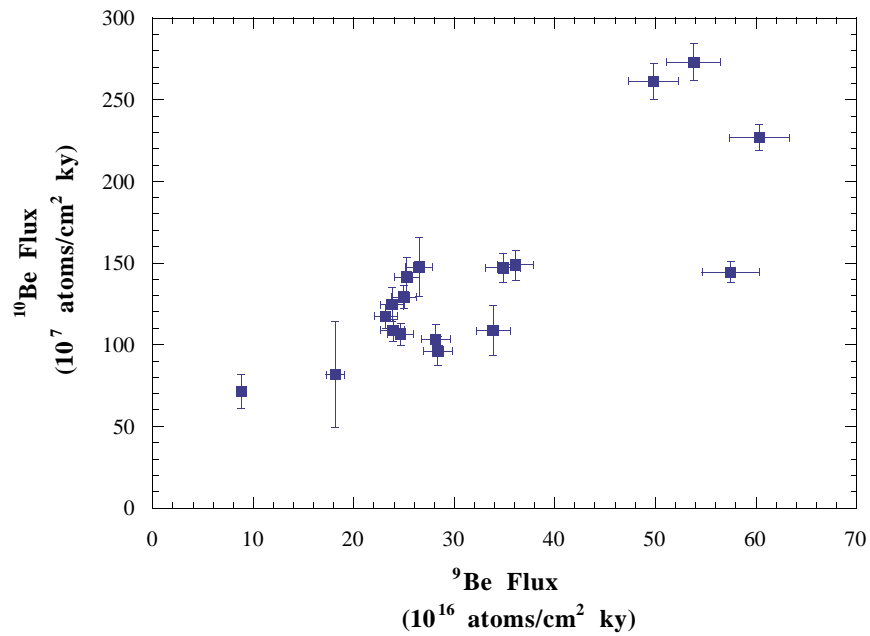


Figure 4.  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux vs.  $^9\text{Be}$  flux.

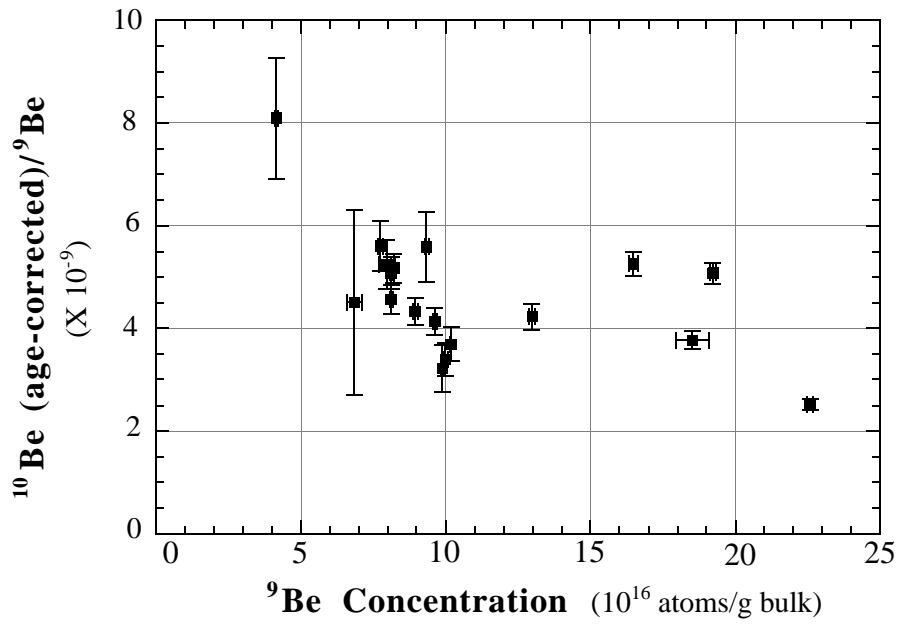


Figure 5.  ${}^{10}\text{Be}$  flux/ ${}^9\text{Be}$  flux as a function of  ${}^9\text{Be}$  concentration.