

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In this volume, we present the results of postcruise scientific research on cores obtained on the first ODP leg dedicated to investigating a volcanic-hosted hydrothermal system. Drilling the active mound in the TAG hydrothermal field on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge proved difficult and challenging because of the brecciated nature of the hydrothermal precipitates. Although core recovery was not as good as we hoped, both ship-based and shore-based studies have yielded information that has proven fundamental to our understanding of the formation of ophiolite-based ore deposits on land. Much of what we have discovered could only have been learned through drilling an active hydrothermal system, and our results set the stage for future legs of deeper penetration into the “reaction zone” of a seafloor hydrothermal system.

We wish to express our appreciation for the efforts of the many people who contributed to the success of the Leg 158 drilling program. We thank again the drillship’s captain and crew, the SEDCO drilling crew, and the ODP technical support staff for their untiring efforts in our quest for core from a sulfide deposit only 200 m in diameter. We pass on our gratitude to the ODP shore-based staff who contributed to the success of the cruise by providing diverse logistical support before and during the cruise.

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