

## 6. DATA REPORT: CALCAREOUS NANNOFOSSIL BIOSTRATIGRAPHY OF SITE 1127, OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM LEG 182<sup>1</sup>

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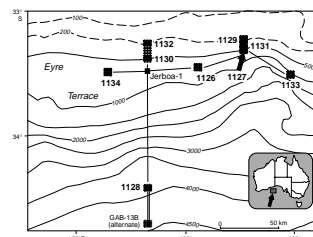
### INTRODUCTION

Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) Leg 182 drilled at nine sites on the Great Australian Bight, which is located directly south of the Australian continent (Fig. F1). Leg 182 proposed to examine the paleoceanographic evolution of a midlatitude, cool-water carbonate platform. During drilling on the Great Australian Bight, three sites (1127, 1129, and 1131) recovered highly expanded Pleistocene sections. This paper presents the detailed calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy of the most distal site. This report should provide a useful Pleistocene biostratigraphic reference for this previously unknown area.

### METHODS

The nannofossil biostratigraphy presented here is based on examination of slides prepared using a dilution settling technique to create an even distribution of nannofossils on each slide. Each sample was examined with a Zeiss Photomicroscope III under 1560× magnification, using cross-polarized light. Several traverses were made, and relative abundance of individual species, overall abundance of nannofossils, and assemblage preservation were recorded for each sample using BugWin software (BugWare, Inc.). Bibliographic references for the species used in this paper can be found in Perch-Nielsen (1985) and Bown (1998). The Gartner (1977) zonation was used because it provides a more detailed breakdown of the Pleistocene than either of the zonations by Martini (1971) or Okada and Bukry (1980).

F1. Leg 182 drill sites in the western Great Australian Bight, p. 5.



<sup>1</sup>Ladner, B.C., 2002. Data report: Calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy of Site 1127, Ocean Drilling Program Leg 182. In Hine, A.C., Feary, D.A., and Malone, M.J. (Eds.), *Proc. ODP, Sci. Results*, 182, 1–11 [Online]. Available from World Wide Web: <[http://www-odp.tamu.edu/publications/182\\_SR/VOLUME/CHAPTERS/013.PDF](http://www-odp.tamu.edu/publications/182_SR/VOLUME/CHAPTERS/013.PDF)>. [Cited YYYY-MM-DD]

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Abundances of individual taxa are represented by letter codes and were recorded according to the following definitions:

- S = single; 1 specimen observed.
- R = rare; 1 specimen per 101–1000 fields of view.
- F = few; 1 specimen per 11–100 fields of view.
- C = common; 1 specimen per 2–10 fields of view.
- A = abundant; 1–10 specimens per field of view.
- V = very abundant; 10–100 specimens per field of view.

The same definitions were used for estimates of total abundance in each sample, with an added definition

- B = barren of nannofossils.

The preservation of nannofossils can vary significantly because of etching, dissolution, or calcite overgrowth. Finding pristine specimens in the same sample as specimens that are severely overgrown or etched is not uncommon. The state of preservation of the nannofossil assemblages in this paper was recorded as follows:

- G = good preservation; little or no evidence of dissolution and/or overgrowth, primary diagnostic features preserved, and specimens are identifiable to the species level.
- M = moderate preservation; specimens exhibit some etching and/or overgrowth, primary diagnostic features somewhat altered, but most specimens are identifiable to the species level.
- P = poor preservation; specimens are severely etched or exhibit overgrowth, primary diagnostic features largely destroyed, fragmentation has occurred, and many specimens cannot be identified to the species and/or generic level.

Age-depth plots were constructed using the nannofossil datums. Ages for the nannofossil datums were obtained from Berggren et al. (1995) and Sato and Kameo (1996).

## SITE SUMMARY

Site 1127 was the deepest site (479.3 meters below sea level) of a depth transect of three sites (1127, 1129, and 1131) oriented perpendicular to the coast (Fig. F1). Sediments recovered from Hole 1127B indicate a highly expanded Pleistocene section (Table T1). The sediments recovered were very fine to fine grained, heavily bioturbated, unlithified to partially lithified, greenish gray wackestone to packstone (Shipboard Scientific Party, 2000b). Calcareous nannofossils found at Site 1127 were moderately to well preserved and generally abundant in each sample.

Samples 182-1127B-1H-1, 120–121 cm (1.20 mbsf), through 4H-1, 120–121 cm (26.10 mbsf), were placed in the *Emiliana huxleyi* Acme Zone, based upon the dominance reversal to abundant *E. huxleyi* from large *Gephyrocapsa*. The first occurrence (FO) of *E. huxleyi* in Sample 182-1127B-15H-7, 120–121 cm (137.71 mbsf), marks the base of the *E. huxleyi* Zone. The last occurrence of *Helicosphaera inversa* should be located within this zone but was not recognized here.

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T1. Distribution of calcareous nannofossils, Hole 1127B, p. 7.

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Samples 182-1127B-19X-1, 120–121 cm (168.70 mbsf), through 25X-3, 120–121 cm (226.50 mbsf), are placed in the *Gephyrocapsa oceanica* Zone based on the absence of *Pseudoemiliania lacunosa*. The last occurrence (LO) of *P. lacunosa*, which marks the top of the *P. lacunosa* Zone, is found in Sample 182-1127B-26X-1, 120–121 cm (233.10 mbsf). The FO of *H. inversa* is located in Sample 182-1127B-29X-1, 120–121 cm (262.00 mbsf), and the LO of *Reticulofenestra asanoi* was noted in Sample 182-1127B-39X-1, 120–121 cm (358.20 mbsf). The *P. lacunosa* Zone persists through Sample 182-1127B-40X-3, 120–121 cm (370.80 mbsf).

The LO of dominantly small *Gephyrocapsa*, found in Sample 182-1127B-41X-1, 120–121 cm (377.40 mbsf), marks the top of the small *Gephyrocapsa* Zone. The position of the FO of *R. asanoi* in Sample 182-1127B-44X-1, 120–121 cm (406.01 mbsf), near the bottom of this zone suggests that the *Helicosphaera sellii* Zone is absent as a result of a hiatus or erosional surface.

Sample 182-1127B-44X-5, 120–121 cm (412.01 mbsf), marks the top of the *Calcidiscus macintyreii* Zone that persists through Sample 182-1127B-50X-3, 144–146 cm (466.94 mbsf). The bottom of this zone marks the lowermost Pleistocene sediments found at this site and is recognized by the absence of *Discoaster* spp. This zone also contains a possible FO of *Gephyrocapsa oceanica* in Samples 182-1127B-49X-3, 120–121 cm (457.10 mbsf). This FO is problematic because preservation degrades near the bottom of the Pleistocene sequence and could result in *G. oceanica* not being recognized between this occurrence and a single rare occurrence in Sample 182-1127B-50X-3, 144–146 cm (466.94 mbsf).

## AGE-DEPTH PLOT

Biostratigraphic datum levels from Table T1 are summarized in Table T2. Age estimates for the datums were obtained from Berggren et al. (1995) and Sato and Kameo (1996). The age-depth plot (Fig. F2) indicates highly accelerated sedimentation from the present day until 420 ka (averaging 625 m/m.y.), then slows during the period between 420 and 950 ka, where it drops to an average of 265 m/m.y.

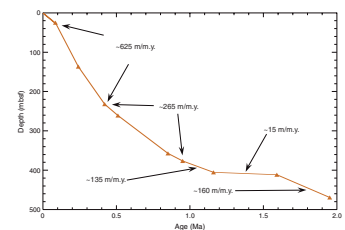
There is a period of slower sedimentation between 950 ka and 1.16 Ma, where the average is closer to 135 m/m.y. and again between 1.16 and 1.59 Ma, where the rate drops to 15 m/m.y. This level may represent a hiatus. This rate could be affected by the reliability of the location of *Calcidiscus macintyreii*. This fossil occurs sporadically at this site, which may affect the reliability of this datum. In addition, many of the specimens have considerable overgrowth and could possibly be reworked. Rates between 1.59 and 1.95 Ma are an estimate only, averaging 160 m/m.y. It is possible that the true base of the Pleistocene (marked here at 1.95 Ma) is not found at this site.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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T2. Age-depth plot data, Site 1127, p. 11.

F2. Age-depth plot of nannofossil datums, p. 6.



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**Figure F1.** Leg 182 drill sites in the western Great Australian Bight (adapted from Shipboard Scientific Party, 2000a, p. 45). Arrow = Site 1127.

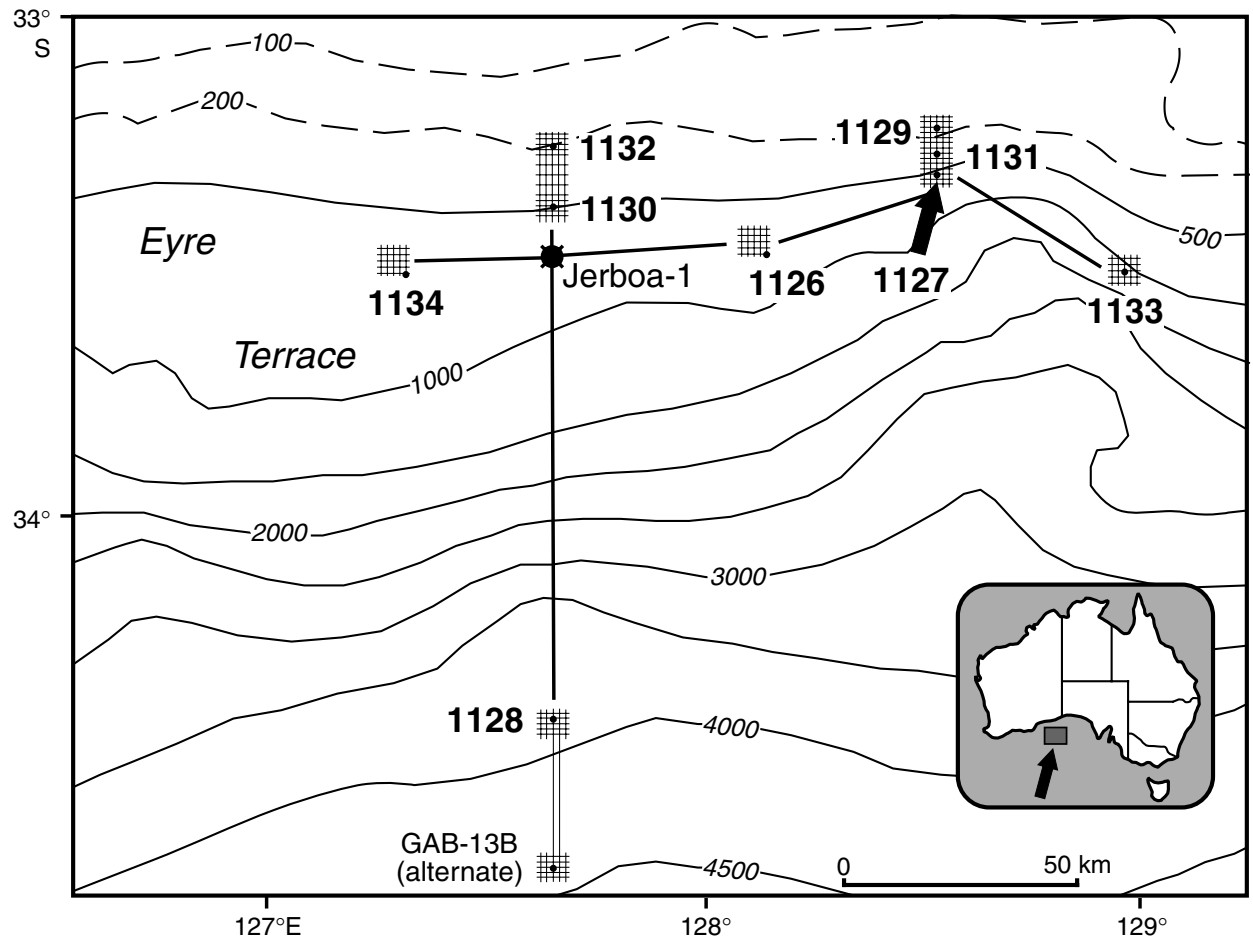


Figure F2. Age-depth plot of nannofossil datums in Hole 1127B (see Table T2, p. 11, for datums used in this plot). Ages obtained from Berggren et al. (1995) and Sato and Kameo (1996).

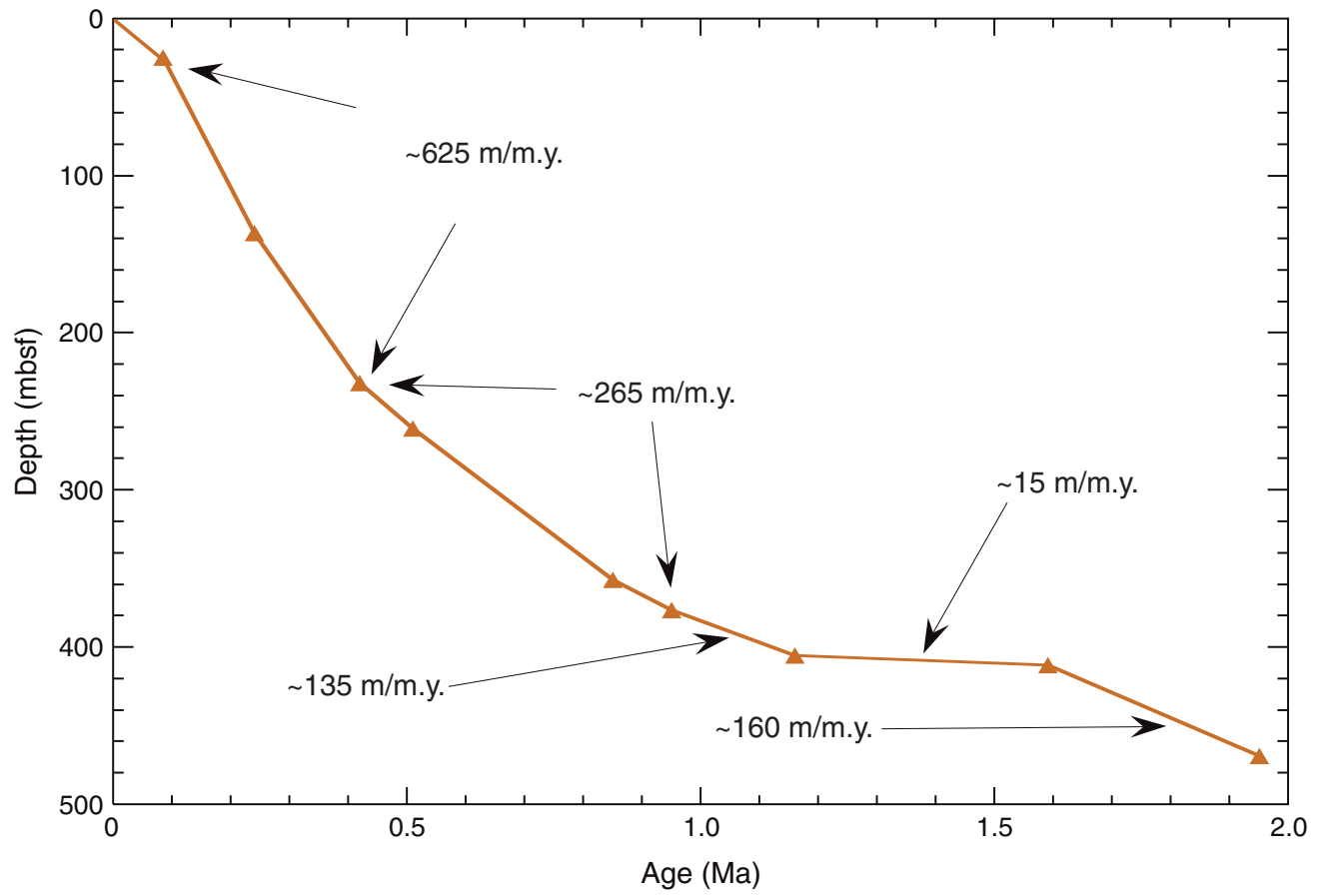












Table T2. Age-depth plot data, Site 1127.

Nannofossil datum	Datum type	Depth (mbsf)	Age (Ma)	References
<i>Emiliana huxleyi</i>	Acme	26.10	0.085	1
<i>Emiliana huxleyi</i>	FO	137.71	0.240	2
<i>Pseudoemiliana lacunosa</i>	LO	233.10	0.420	2
<i>Helicosphaera inversa</i>	FO	262.00	0.510	2
<i>Reticulofenestra asanoi</i>	LO	358.20	0.850	2
Small <i>Gephyrocapsa</i> spp.	LO	377.40	0.950	2
<i>Reticulofenestra asanoi</i>	FO	406.01	1.160	2
<i>Calcidiscus macintyreii</i>	LO	412.01	1.590	1
<i>Discoaster brouweri</i>	LO	469.70	1.950	2

Notes: FO = first occurrence, LO = last occurrence. References: 1 = Berggren et al., 1995, 2 = Sata and Kameo, 1996.