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3. DATA REPORT: CALCAREOUS NANNOFOSSIL BIOSTRATIGRAPHY OF THE PALEOCENE/EOCENE BOUNDARY, OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM LEG 208 HOLE 1266C¹

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INTRODUCTION

Ocean Drilling Program Leg 208 Hole 1266C (28°32.55'S, 2°20.61'E) is located along the northwestern flank of Walvis Ridge (South Atlantic Ocean). The location of Site 1266, at 3.798 km water depth, corresponds to a mid-depth site of the Leg 208 transect (Fig. F1). A stratigraphically continuous and expanded sequence of upper Paleocene and lower Eocene pelagic nannofossil ooze was recovered. Three holes were cored at Site 1266, and from Hole 1266C, an expanded and continuous Paleocene/Eocene (P/E) transition was recovered using the advanced piston corer system. The successful recovery and well-preserved nannofossil assemblages make Hole 1266C a reference section for improving the knowledge of the Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum. The P/E transition is one of the most remarkable and intensively investigated time intervals. Significant and dramatic changes in climate and oceanography occurred at this transition. The P/E boundary is linked with an important turnover in benthic foraminifers and planktonic marine communities (Thomas and Shackleton, 1996; Kelly et al., 1998; Monechi et al., 2000; Bralower, 2002). This report documents the calcareous nannofossil assemblage fluctuations at the P/E boundary in Hole 1266C based on semiquantitative and quantitative investigations.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

The P/E boundary is marked by an abrupt contact between upper Paleocene nannofossil ooze and lower Eocene dusky red zeolite- and nannofossil-bearing clay that grades upward into nannofossil ooze (Zachos, Kroon, Blum, et al., 2004). The P/E boundary layer was recovered in Section 208-1266C-17H-3 at 306.8 meters composite depth (mcd). A 2.5m-thick interval from Sections 208-1266C-17H-3 through 17H-2 was investigated for calcareous nannofossils. Semiquantitative investigations were carried out every centimeter across the P/E clay layer (from Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 115–116 cm, to 17H-3, 84–85 cm), every 2 cm from Samples 17H-3, 149–150 cm, to 17H-3, 54–55 cm, and from this level upward from 3 to 20 cm.

Smear slides were prepared from unprocessed samples according to standard technical preparation methodology. Each smear slide was examined with a light microscope under $1250 \times$ magnification. Two traverses of each smear slide were checked for common and very rare species (Table T1). The relative abundance of each nannofossil taxon is defined as follows:

- A = abundant (>30% of the total assemblages),
- C = common (>10%-30% of the total assemblages),
- F = few (>3%-10% of the total assemblages),
- R = rare (1%-3%) of the total assemblages), and
- RR = very rare (<1% of the total assemblages).

The total abundance of nannofossils in each sample as estimated as follows:

- V = very abundant (>30 specimens per field of view [FOV]),
- A = abundant (>20–30 specimens per FOV),
- C = common (>10-20 specimens per FOV),
- F = few (>5-10 specimens per FOV),
- R = rare (1-5 specimens per FOV),
- RR = very rare (<1 specimen per FOV), and
- B = barren of nannofossils.

Preservation of nannofossils was recorded using the criteria of Steinmetz (1979) as good (G), moderate (M), and poor (P). Depths of samples in the range chart are reported in meters composite depth (Zachos, Kroon, Blum, et al., 2004).

RESULTS

The biostratigraphic zonation used to divide the Paleocene–Eocene interval is based on the calcareous nannofossil events defined by Martini (1971). In order to define the base of Zone NP10, characterized by the first occurrence (FO) of *Rhomboaster bramlettei*, we followed the definition of Bybell and Self-Trail (1995), who included *Rhomboaster cuspis* of many authors with *R. bramlettei*. In addition, we adopted the taxonomic remarks of Angori and Monechi (1996), who differentiated three morphotypes of *R. bramlettei* (*R. bramlettei* "short arms," *R. bramlettei* "long arms," and *R. bramlettei* var. T). The studied interval spans from Zones NP9 to NP10. The upper Paleocene nannofossil assemblages are mainly composed of *Coccolithus pelagicus, Toweius pertusus, Fasciculithus*

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tympaniformis, Sphenolithus, and Discoaster multiradiatus. At the P/E boundary, the base of the clay interval, the total nannofloral abundance sharply decreases and an enhancement of dissolution occurs from Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 112-113 cm, to 17H-3, 98-99 cm. Within this interval the FO of *R. bramlettei* s.a. was detected in Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 107-108 cm, where the base of Zone NP10 was recognized. Long rays, asymmetrical, and prominent-stem discoaster species such as Discoaster anartios, Discoaster araneus, Discoaster cf. Discoaster lodoensis, Discoaster salisburgensis, and Discoaster diastypus also have FOs in this interval, as previously documented by Monechi et al. (2000), Kahn and Aubry (2004), and Angori et al. (submitted [N1]). The FO of Fasciculithus thomasii has been recorded at the carbon isotope excursion onset. The genus *Rhomboaster* is not very common, but several morphotypes of the Rhomboaster-Tribrachiatus lineage were recognized (Table T1). Furthermore, significant changes in the calcareous nannofossil assemblages were observed: (1) an increase in the relative abundance of dissolution-resistant forms such as Discoaster multiradiatus, Sphenolithus primus, and Fasciculithus tympaniformis; (2) a decrease in the relative abundance of C. pelagicus and T. pertusus; and (3) the absence of Zygrhablithus bijugatus. From Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 101-102 cm, upward, an opposite trend between D. multiradiatus and F. tympaniformis was noted. D. multiradiatus decreases from abundant to few, whereas F. tympaniformis increases from common to abundant up to Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 57–58 cm, where Fasciculithus decreases. Above this level, only *F. tympaniformis* is always present throughout the studied interval but in very low abundances. At approximately the same level (Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 63-64 cm) as the decrease of Fasciculithus, the holococcolith species Z. bijugatus exhibits a significant abundance increase, as observed in several tethyan sections and at high latitudes (Monechi et al., 2000; Bralower, 2002; Orue-Etxebarria et al., 2004; Tremolada and Bralower 2004). The Fasciculithus/Zyghrablithus crossover (N3 event of Zachos et al., 2005) has been placed at 306.28 mcd. Z. bijugatus increases considerably, becoming one of the most abundant taxa together with C. pelagicus, S. primus, and T. pertusus. The genus Toweius above the P/E boundary does not reach the same abundances as in the preboundary interval. See Plate P1 for examples of nannofossils found at Site 1266.

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Figure F1. Three-dimensional diagram of Site 1266 location.

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Plate P1. Calcareous nannofossils at Site 1266. XP = cross-polarized light, PL = plain transmitted light. Scale bar = 5 mm. (1) Discoaster mohleri, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 111–112 cm; PL. (2) Discoaster multiradiatus, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 111–112 cm; PL. (3) Discoaster nobilis, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 99–100 cm; PL. (4) Discoaster araneus, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 85–86 cm; PL. (5) Discoaster anartios, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 99–100 cm; PL. (6) Fasciculithus tympaniformis, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 95–96 cm; XP. (7) Fasciculithus alanii, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 98–99 cm; XP. (8) Fasciculithus clinatus, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 98–99 cm; XP. (9) Sphenolithus primus, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 96–97 cm; XP. (10) Rhomboaster bramlettei l.a., Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 83-84 cm; PL. (11) R. bramlettei s.a., Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 104-105 cm; PL. (12) R. bramlettei l.a., Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 91–92 cm; PL. (13) R. bramlettei var. T, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 78–79 cm; PL. (14) Rhomboaster cf. Rhomboaster contortus, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 71– 72 cm; PL. (15) Thoracosphaera saxea, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 89–90 cm; XP. (16) Biscutum sp., Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 89-90 cm; XP. (17) Coccolithus pelagicus, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 96-97 cm; XP. (18) Toweius pertusus, Sample 208-1266C-17H-3, 83-84 cm; XP.







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Core, section, interval (cm)	Depth (mcd)	Nannofossil zone	Total abundance	Preservation	Biantholithus spp. Biscutum spp	Braarudosphaera spp.	Campylosphaera spp.	Chiasmolithus bidens	Chiasmolithus consuetus Chiasmolithus solitus	Chiasmolithus spp.	Coccolithus pelagicus Coccolithus son	Cruciplacolithus spp.	Discoaster anartios	Discoaster araneus Discoaster lenticularis	Discoaster mohleri	Discoaster multiradiatus	Discoaster nobilis	Discoaster diastypus	Discoaster ct. D. Iodoensis Discoaster salisburaensis	Ellipsolithus distichus	Ellipsolithus macellus	Ericsonia spp.	Fasciculithus alanii	Fasciculithus clinatus Fasciculithus havi	Fasciculithus involutus	Fasciculithus thomasii	Fasciculithus tympaniformis Fasciculithus spp.	Hornibrookina spp.	Markalius spp.	Neochiastozygus spp.	Neococcolithes spp. Pontosphaera spp.	Prinsius spp. Rhomhoaster hramlettei s a	Rhomboaster bramlettei I.a.	Rhomboaster bramlettei var. T	Rhomboaster ct. K. contortus	spheriolithus andrihopus Sphenolithus moriformis	Sphenolithus primus	Thoracosphaera spp. Toweius eminens	Toweius pertusus	Toweius spp.	Tribrachiatus cf. T. digitalis Placozvaus son	Zygrhablithus bijugatus
208-1266C- 17H-2, 46–47 17H-2, 58–59 17H-2, 70–71 17H-2, 91–92 17H-2, 106–107 17H-2, 118–119	304.61 304.73 304.85 305.06 305.21 305.33		> > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > >	M M M M M	R R R C R R C	R R f R f	R R F	F F F RR F F	R RI R RI R RI R RI R RI R RI	R F R R R R R R R F R F	AF AF AF AF	R R R R R R R		D	R R R RR	F F C C C C C C	F R F R RR			RI RI RI	R R R						R R R R F F F F F F		RR RR R RR	RR	RR RR RR R	RR RR				F RR F F	F R F F R F r	RR RR RR R RR R		RR	R R R F	R A R C R C R C
17H-2, 127-128 17H-2, 139-140 17H-3, 4-5 17H-3, 19-20 17H-3, 28-29 17H-3, 33-34 17H-3, 37-38 17H-3, 40, 41	305.42 305.54 305.69 305.84 305.93 305.98 306.02 306.02		V V V V V V C	M M M M M M M	R R R R R R R	R f R R R	R R R R F R R R P	F F RR F RR RR F F	R RI R RI R RI R RI R RI R RI R RI	R F R R R R R R R R R R R R R R	A F A F A F A F A F A F	R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R	ł	к	RR RR RR RR	C F F F F F	R F C F F R	RR			RR RR	RR					F F F F R R R R R F R R F R F	R	RR RR RR RR RR RR		RR RR RR RR RR	R	R	RR RR RR	RR	F RR RR RR RR F	F F F F F F F F	RR R RR F RR F RR F RR F		F R	RR R RR R RR R RR F RR F	
17H-3, 40-41 17H-3, 43-44 17H-3, 46-47 17H-3, 51-52 17H-3, 54-55 17H-3, 57-58 17H-3, 60-61	306.03 306.08 306.11 306.16 306.19 306.22 306.25	NP 10	v v v v v v v c	M M M M M M	RR R RR R RR R RR R	R RR R R RR R RR	F RR RR F R F	F F F RR	R RI R RI R RI R RI R RI R RI R RI	R RR R F R R R R R R R RR	A F A F A F A F A F	R F R F R RF R RF	۲ ۲		F R R RR	F C C C F F	F F F F F F F			RI	R R RR R RR	RR RR RR RR RR RR					F F RR RI F F F R C F F C	R	RR RR RR RR RR	RR	R RR	RR R R R	R R R	RR I RR	RR	RR RR RR RR RR RR F	F F F F C C	RR R RR R R R RR RF R RF		R	R R R F	A A A A A A A A C C C
17H-3, 63–64 17H-3, 66–67 17H-3, 68–69 17H-3, 70–71 17H-3, 72–73 17H-3, 74–75 17H-3, 75–76	306.28 306.31 306.33 306.35 306.37 306.39 306.40		V C A C V V	M M M M M M	R RR R R R RR R R	R R R R	R RR R R RR RR RR	RR F F F F	R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R	२ २ २ २ २ २ २ RR	AF AR AR A AR AR	R R R R R	ł	R	R R R R R R R R	C F C R F C	F C F C R R R			RI	r rr	RR RR RR RR RR	I	RR	RR R RR RR				RR RR R RR F R R	RR RR RR	R RR RR	R R RR R I I	R R R cf R R	RR I RR I RR I	₹R RR RR RR	RR F RR F RR F		RRF RRR RRR RRF RRF RF	C C F F F F F	RR RR RR RR	RR R F R R R R	₹C F ₹F ₹R F R R R R
17H-3, 78–79 17H-3, 80–81 17H-3, 83–84 17H-3, 84–85 17H-3, 85–86 17H-3, 86–87	306.43 306.45 306.48 306.49 306.50 306.51		C V V C C	M M M M M	R R RR I RR R	R R R	RR RR	RR F RR RR RR	RR RI RR RI RR RI RR RI RI RI	R R R R R R R R R R R R	A C A A R C F	RF R R	RR RR RR	R R RR RR	R R R R R R	C R F C	F R R R R	RR RR	RR RR RR Cf RI	R		RR	I	R RR R	R R R RR R R		C C A C A A A C A C A C		RR RR RR R RR R	RR		F F F R RR F	२ २ २ RR २ २ २	RR I RR RR I	₹R RR	RR F	C F F F C	RR R RR RF R R F RR F RR R	F F F F F	RR RR RR	R	F R R RR
17H-3, 87–88 17H-3, 88–89 17H-3, 89–90 17H-3, 90–91 17H-3, 91–92	306.52 306.53 306.54 306.55 306.56		V V C V V	M M M M	R R R	R R		RR RR F	RI RI RRRI RI R R	R R R R R R R R	CF CF CF AF	RF RF RF	RR RR RR RR RR RR	R R R	R R RR R RR R	C F C C	F R F F	RR RR RR RR RR I	cf RI cf RR R	R RI	R	RR R	RR	R	RR R		A C C C C C A C A F		F RR R F R	RR		R R I R R	R R RR R RR R R R RR	RR		RR RR RR	C C C C C	RR R RR F RR F R F RR F	F F F F	RR R	F	RR RR RR & R

Table T1. Distribution of selected calcareous nannofossils at the Paleocene/Eocene boundary, Hole 1266C. (See table notes. Continued on next page.)

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Table T1 (continued).

Core, section, interval (cm)	Depth (mcd)	Nannofossil zone	Total abundance	Preservation	Biantnoiltnus spp. Riscutum spp	Braarudosphaera spp.	Campylosphaera spp.	Chiasmolithus bidens	Chiasmolithus consuetus	Chiasmolithus solicus Chiasmolithus sob.	Coccolithus pelagicus	Coccolithus spp.	Cruciplacolithus spp.	Discoaster anartios	Discoaster lenticularis	Discoaster mohleri	Discoaster multiradiatus	Discoaster nobilis	Discoaster cf. D. lodoensis	Discoaster salisburgensis	Ellipsolithus distichus	Ellipsolithus macellus	Ericsoriid spp. Fasciculithus alanii	Fasciculithus clinatus	Fasciculithus hayi	Fasciculithus involutus	Fasciculithus thomasii Easciculithus tympaniformis	Fasciculithus spp.	Hornibrookina spp.	Markalius spp. Neochiastozvaus spp	Neococcolithes spp.	Pontosphaera spp.	Prinsius spp.	knomboaster bramlettel s.a. Rhomhoaster hramlettei la	Rhomboaster bramlettei var. T	Rhomboaster cf. R. contortus	Sphenolithus anarrhopus	Sphenolithus moniormis	Jpnenonulus pillus Thoracosphaera spb.	Toweius eminens	Toweius pertusus	Ioweus spp. Tribrachiatus cf. T. digitalis	Placozygus spp.	Zygrhablithus bijugatus
17H-3, 92–93 17H-3, 93–94 17H-3, 94–95 17H-3, 95–96 17H-3, 96–97 17H-3, 98–99 17H-3, 100–101 17H-3, 101–102	306.57 306.58 306.59 306.60 306.61 306.63 306.65 306.66	NP 10	C V C V R R R R	M M M M M M M	R	R	RR		F RRF RF RF RRF RRF RR	₹R R ₹R R ₹R R ₹R R ₹R R ₹R ₹R ₹R	R A A R A R A A A C	F F RR R RR RR RR	RR RR R RR	RR RR RR RR RR RR RR RR RR	RF RF RR RF RF	R R R R R R R R R R R R	F C C C C A C A	F F RR F RR F F F F F F	RR RR RR RR RR RR RR C C C C C C	RR f RR RR f f	RR	F	RRR R R R R F F	R RR R R RR RR RR RR R	RR R RR	R RR I RR I R I RR I	RR A A RR C RR A RR C RR C	A C A C A F C F A F C F C F C F		R R RR RR RR RR			F R F F	R R R R R R R	R		F	R F F F F R R	FRI FRI CRI CRI CRI CRI FRI	RR F F F F RF R F R R F R R R	R I F I R F I R F	RR RR RR F F	R	RR RR RR
17H-3, 102–103 17H-3, 103–104 17H-3, 104–105 17H-3, 105–106 17H-3, 106–107 17H-3, 107–108 17H-3, 108–109 17H-3, 109–110	306.67 306.68 306.69 306.70 306.71 306.72 306.73 306.74		R RR RR R R R R R	P P P P P P	R		RR	RR	F RR F	R R R R R R R R	F F C A C R A	R		RR F RR R F	R R	RR	A C RR C C C C C	C F F R R	cf				R FR R R R	R R R R R		I R I	RR A RR C RR C RR C	F C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C		RR		R	F	F RR RR				F F F F	R F F RI C RI	R R R F R R F	RR RR R F F F	R		RR
17H-3, 110–111 17H-3, 111–112 17H-3, 112–113 17H-3, 113–114 17H-3, 114–115 17H-3, 115–116 17H-3, 117–118	306.75 306.76 306.77 306.78 306.79 306.80 306.82		RR RR C V V V V V	P P M M M M M	R RR R R RR F	R R R RR	R RR RR	RR RR RR F	R F R R R F R I	R ₹R R R R R R ₹R R ₹R F	F A A A A A A A	RR	RR RR RR RR	RR		R R R RR RR	F RR C C C C C C	R C F C C F			R RR RR	F	F RR R R R	R RR R RR R RR	RR RR RR RR	R R RR RR	4 () () () () () () () () () () () () ()	A R C C C R C C C R C C F		R R R R	R R R	RR R RR RR R R	RR R R R				F	F F R R F R R	F F F F C F R	R R RR R C C F R F	R C C C C C	R R RR	RR RR RR	RR RR R
17H-3, 119–120 17H-3, 121–122 17H-3, 123–124 17H-3, 127–128 17H-3, 129–130 17H-3, 131–132 17H-3, 133–134	306.84 306.86 306.88 306.92 306.94 306.96 306.98	NP 9	V V V V V V V	M I M M M M M	RRR R R R R R R R F	R R R R R R R R R R	RR RR RR RR R RR	RR F RR RR RR RR	R R R R R R R	R R RRI RRI FR RRI RR R R R R	RA RA RA RA RA RA	R R R R R R	RR RR R R R		RI	R R R R R R R R R	C C C F C C	R F F F F			R R R RR RR RR	F RR RR RR	R R R R R R R	R RR RR R R R R R	RR RR RR	R RR RR	F F F F F C	F F F F F F F F R		R R R R R	R R R R R R R R	R R RR RR R RR	F R R F R RR				RR RR	F (F F F F F	CR FR FR FR FR CR FR	F F F F F C F F F	C A C C C A I	R RR R R R RR	R RR RR R R F RR	RR F F R F C
17H-3, 135–136 17H-3, 137–138 17H-3, 139–140 17H-3, 141–142 17H-3, 143–144 17H-3, 145–146 17H-3, 145–148 17H-3, 147–148	307.00 307.02 307.04 307.06 307.08 307.10 307.12 307.14		v V V V V V V V V	M M M M M M M M	F R R R R R R R R F R R F	ς R R R R R R R R	кк RR R RR	KK	rr⊧ RR RR F R R RR RR RR	R RI R RI R R R RI R R R	RA RA A RA A A		RR R RR RR R R R R		кі R	RR R R R R R F F	C F C C C C C C	F F F F F F R R			RR RR RR RR RR RR RR RR	RR F RR F RR F F F	R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R	ĸĸĸ RR RRR RRR RRR RR RR R R	RR	RR RR R RR R	 			R R R R F R	ккн RRF R R R R R F	R R R R R R R R R R R	F F R F R F				RR	F F F F F F F	FRI FRI FRI FRI FRI FRI	R F R C R F C R F R R R R R C		RK R R R R R	F R R R R R R R R R R	F R F F R F F

Notes: Nannofossil zones from Martini (1971). Abundance: V = very abundant, A = abundant, C = common, F = few, R = rare, RR = very rare, cf = compare. Shaded area = dissolution interval.

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CHAPTER NOTE*

N1. Angori, E., Bernaola, G., and Monechi, S., in press. Calcareous nannofossil assemblages and their response to the Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum Event at different latitudes: ODP Site 690 and Tethyan sections. *In* Monechi, S., Coccioni, R., and Rampino, M. (Eds.), *Large Ecosystem Perturbations: Causes and Consequences*. Spec. Pap.—Geol. Soc. Am.