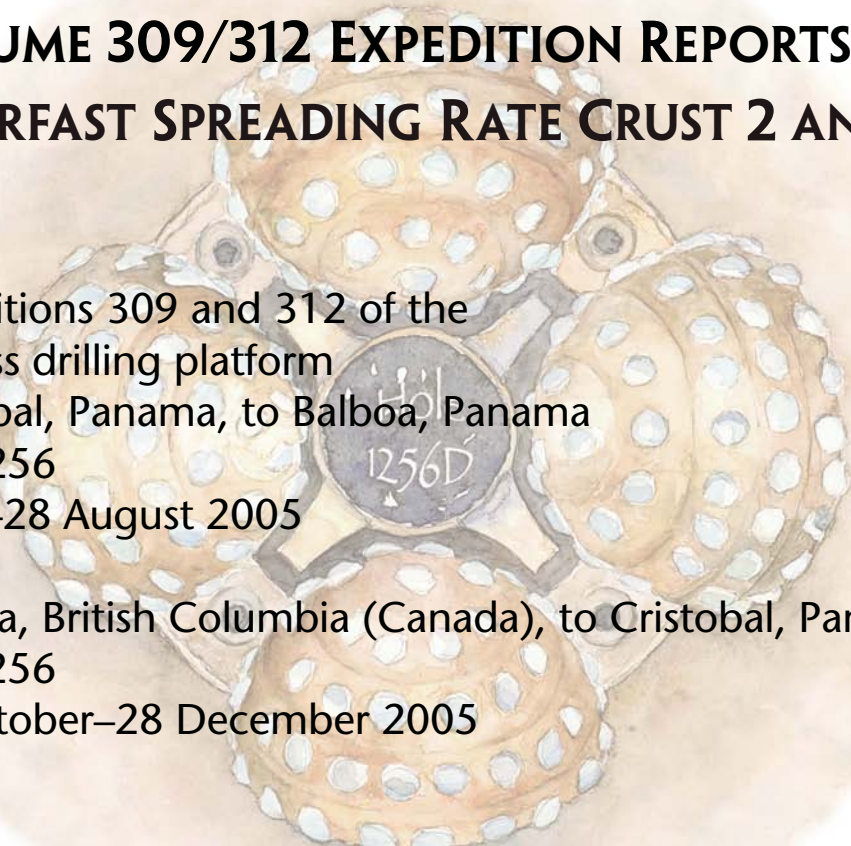


PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTEGRATED OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM

VOLUME 309/312 EXPEDITION REPORTS SUPERFAST SPREADING RATE CRUST 2 AND 3



Expeditions 309 and 312 of the
riserless drilling platform
Cristobal, Panama, to Balboa, Panama
Site 1256
8 July–28 August 2005
and
Victoria, British Columbia (Canada), to Cristobal, Panama
Site 1256
28 October–28 December 2005

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The bulk of the shipboard-collected core data from this expedition is accessible from Integrated Ocean Drilling Program U.S. Implementing Organization (IODP-USIO) Science Services, Texas A&M University (TAMU), at iodp.tamu.edu/database/index.html. If you cannot access this site or need additional data, please contact:

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Some close-up core photographs have been tonally enhanced to better illustrate particular features of interest.

Cover illustration, by Christine Laverne, is a watercolor of a C-9 drill bit.

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Foreword

By Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Management International, Inc.

The Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) is the most ambitious ocean exploration and drilling program ever undertaken. With multiple platforms and multiple partners, our research spans the globe and truly represents international collaboration and diplomacy among scientists and nations interested in attaining scientific goals.

The *Proceedings* present the scientific and engineering results of IODP drilling projects, each an important component of an international program designed to better understand Earth, its environmental changes and processes, the deep biosphere, and climate change.

The collective effort required to conduct each IODP expedition is colossal. Beginning with scientists who submit ocean drilling research proposals, there are others who evaluate, rank, and prioritize proposals. Scientists also schedule the science operations, select science party members from scores of international scientists qualified to participate, plan platform operations, ready the drillship, and choose borehole locations. There are onboard logistics to manage and critical communications to coordinate among various academic institutions, governments, and national science organizations. And the resulting data must be managed and made accessible to scientists, particularly those who will prepare future proposals. Every aspect of planning an IODP expedition takes a village—or several. There are many participants and many more stakeholders.

Ocean-drilling achievements, however complex, help us understand extraordinary linkages and interpret relationships as they exist in various parts of the Earth system. Achievements in two legacy drilling programs (the Ocean Drilling Program and Deep Sea Drilling Program) have validated the scientific concepts behind plate tectonics, contributed to the understanding of ocean circulation changes, and extended our knowledge of long- and short-term climate change—scientific information at the foundation of our current drilling program.

IODP drilling platform operations are conducted by three Implementing Organizations (IOs). Riserless platform operations are conducted by the JOI Alliance, comprising the Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc., Texas A&M University through the Texas A&M Research Foundation, and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. Riser platform operations are conducted by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology through Japan's Center for Deep Earth Exploration in cooperation with the Center for Advanced Marine Core Research at Kochi University. Mission-specific platform operations are conducted by the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling, Science Operator, comprising the British Geological Survey, Bremen University, and the European Petrophysics Consortium. The European IO currently represents the ocean-drilling efforts of 16 nations in Europe, plus Canada. At the start of this drilling project, IODP involved 20 nations.

The discoveries discovered in this volume build upon layers of knowledge and science developed over roughly the last fifty years. Expedition *Proceedings* are published by IODP Management International for IODP under the sponsorship of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), Japan's Ministry of Culture, Education, Sports, Science and Technology, and other IODP members. The material is based upon research supported under Contract OCE-0432224 from NSF.

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Acknowledgments

The Expedition 309/312 shipboard scientists thank all the members of the *JOIDES Resolution* crew for making our adventure to Site 1256 a formidable engineering accomplishment, a great scientific achievement, and a most enjoyable experience. We thank Captain Alex Simpson and the officers and crew for twice taking us safely to and from Site 1256 and for holding the ship above 6°44.163'N, 91°56.061'W for over 12 weeks. Rui Felix and the Catermar staff kept us very well fed and freshly washed and folded. The barbecues and the sumptuous Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts are treasured highlights.

It has been a great pleasure to work with the IODP-TAMU technicians, and Assistant Laboratory Officers Lisa Crowder and Chieh Peng did an exemplary job of keeping the core and samples ticking through the lab stack. Instruments ran smoothly; thousands of samples were photographed, cut and curated, ground, dissolved, and analyzed. Many thanks to Yeopeople Debbie Partain (Expedition 309) and Ginny Lowe (Expedition 312) for keeping us organized, collated, and artistically arranged. The scientists greatly appreciate their patience with our tardy submissions of the expedition chapters. Special thanks to Paula Weiss for her curatorial efforts, all accomplished with serene calmness despite the complete coverage of some critical core pieces by plagues of sample request spots.

The Expedition 309/312 shipboard science parties were greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Paula Clark (1964–2006) while hiking in the Azores, in October 2006. Paula was a Marine Computer Specialist on IODP Expedition 309. She had recently completed a Master's degree in Geophysics at Texas A&M that included a project completed during her free time on Expedition 309 with the Physical Properties group. She began working for ODP in 1998 and filled a variety of roles during her years of service, including Computer Specialist, Research Assistant, and Data Librarian, making her an important resource to her colleagues. Paula is remembered for being a helpful and enthusiastic shipmate, as well as a dear friend. She is deeply missed.

Ted Gustafson made countless beautiful, polished sections—many of them large and complex. His perseverance with the capricious water-sampling temperature probe, together with Jurie Kotze and Pieter Pretorius, allowed us to take excellent samples of the Hole 1256D borehole fluid. Marine Computer Specialists Mike Hodge, Paula Clark, and Mike Petersen kept the network running smoothly. John Eastlund (Expedition 309) and Dwight Hornbacher (Expedition 312) nursed and resuscitated Janus throughout both expeditions. Javier Espinosa, the Schlumberger engineer on both expeditions, ensured that we recovered an excellent suite of wireline logs, images, and seismic profiles of the upper ocean crust penetrated by Hole 1256D.

Funding for the DMT 360° core scanner on Expeditions 309 and 312 was provided by a Natural Environment Research Council (U.K.) Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Directed Science Programme Urgency Grant (NE/D001277/1 to Teagle/Brewer) and the generous support of the School of Ocean and Earth Science, University of Southampton; the Department of Geology, University of Leicester; and the U.S. National Science Foundation, through the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (Texas A&M University) and the United States Science Support Program (Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.).

Our greatest debt of gratitude is to the Transocean rig floor teams, under the supervision of Operations Superintendent Wayne Malone, and tool pushers Joe “Bubba” Attyde and Pete Christie, for their heroic accomplishment of deepening Hole 1256D down to the gabbros. Twice during Expedition 309 prompt recognition and diagnosis of damage to the bottom-hole assembly and drill string prevented major loss of equipment into Hole 1256D, which would have seriously curtailed our progress to the gabbros. The slow penetration, low recovery, and loss of cones and teeth from the drill bit while drilling the nearly impenetrable granoblastic dikes during Expedition 312 led some scientists to feel that the elusive gabbros would never be reached. The Herculean efforts of the rig floor teams to recover the junk, clean the hole, and progress onward toward the gabbros and their “get it done” attitude persist as a huge inspiration to all members of the science party.

Expedition 312 was the last U.S. Implementing Organization cruise of the first phase of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program and the final scientific drilling voyage of the *JOIDES Resolution* before she undergoes major refit and renaming. The *JOIDES Resolution* has been a maritime home away from home for innumerable crew and scientists since the beginning of the Ocean Drilling Program in 1985, and the successful accomplishment of the longstanding scientific ocean drilling goal of coring down to gabbros is a fitting finale to the *JOIDES Resolution's* achievements and the first phase of IODP.

Dedication

The IODP Expedition 309/312 shipboard scientists dedicate this volume to the Transocean operations and rig floor team of the *JOIDES Resolution*.

Hole 1256D penetrates >1250 m into previously “undrillable” Pacific basement and remains clear of debris, ready for deepening on future expeditions. This is a major engineering accomplishment and a milestone in scientific ocean drilling. Hole 1256D is now the fourth deepest hole drilled into oceanic basement and the second deepest penetration into intact ocean crust, shallower only than Deep Sea Drilling Project/Ocean Drilling Program Hole 504B. Importantly, Hole 1256D provides the first complete section of the upper oceanic crust from the erupted lavas, through the sheeted dikes, and into gabbros. Such a section has been one of the major desires of marine geologists and geophysicists since the inception of scientific ocean drilling in 1968.



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Core descriptions

Visual core descriptions (VCDs), thin sections, and digital images are included in this section. VCDs and thin sections are combined into one PDF file each.

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[Visual core descriptions](#) · [Thin sections](#)

[Site 1256 \(Expedition 312\)](#)

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Expedition research results

Data reports

Titles are available in [HTML](#) pending completion of the volume.

Syntheses

Titles are available in [HTML](#) pending completion of the volume.

Supplementary material

Hard rock logs are presented as supplementary material in Excel 97/98 spreadsheet format. Images in PDF format of raw visual core descriptions (HRVCDs) are also presented as supplementary material. See [README.TXT](#) in the SUPP_MAT directory for a full listing of directories and files, or see the [Directory structure](#) for the names of the main subdirectories.



Drilling location maps

A site map showing the drilling locations for this expedition and maps showing the drilling locations of all Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), Ocean Drilling Program (ODP), and Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) drilling sites are available in PDF format. These maps were produced using Generic Mapping Tools (GMT) of Paul Wessel and Walter H.F. Smith (gmt.soest.hawaii.edu).

[IODP Expedition 309/312 site map](#)

[IODP map](#) (Expeditions 301–312)

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Expedition-related bibliography

IODP/ODP publications

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Scientific Drilling Journal

Pending

Proceedings volumes

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* The Expedition-related bibliography is continually updated online. Please send updates to PubCrd@iodp.tamu.edu.

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