

Data report: radiolarian occurrences at IODP Expedition 329 Site U1371¹

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Abstract

In this report we present a radiolarian biostratigraphy for the uppermost 108 m recovered during Expedition 329 at Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Site U1371.

This interval of clay-bearing diatom ooze contains well-preserved remains of siliceous microfossils. Below 108 meters below seafloor (mbsf), the sediment lithology changes to zeolitic clay, which does not contain any biosiliceous material.

Twenty-eight radiolarian marker species, used as age-indicative taxa in both middle- and high-latitude radiolarian biozonation schemes, have been recognized at this location and allow age control for the uppermost ~100 m of the cored section, with an estimated age of 8.2 Ma at 101.4 mbsf. These results match well those from a parallel study based on diatom biostratigraphy.

Introduction

Operations during Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) Expedition 329 (October–December 2010) drilled seven sites (U1365–U1371) spanning almost the entire width of the South Pacific Ocean (Fig. F1) and covering the full range of surface-ocean productivity conditions present in the South Pacific Gyre, ranging from extremely low productivity in the gyre center (Site U1368) to moderately high productivity at the southern edge of the gyre (Site U1371) (see the “[Expedition 329 summary](#)” chapter [Expedition 329 Scientists, 2011a]). This study reports on the semiquantitative radiolarian occurrences in 57 samples spanning the Neogene portion of the stratigraphic section recovered from Hole U1371D (Fig. F2; Plate P1) and provides a biostratigraphic record for Site U1371. This site was drilled southeast of Chatham Rise in the southwest Pacific at a water depth of 5301 m. It is the only Expedition 329 site located in the upwelling zone just south of the gyre at the northern edge of the Antarctic Convergence. The stratigraphic section recovered in Hole U1371D comprises ~108 m of clay-bearing diatom ooze overlying a ~21 m thick sequence of pelagic clay (Fig. F3). The hole was cored to basement (see the “[Site U1371](#)” chapter [Expedition 329 Scientists, 2011c]). Based on a tectonic reconstruction of the region by Larson et al. (2002), the site lies on ~73 Ma crust. The main aim of this study is to establish an age model for the sediment recovered at this site.

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Methods and materials

Slide preparation

Sediment samples (~5 g dry weight) were placed in a beaker with 10% H₂O₂ and disaggregated by warming on a hot plate for a few hours. Calcareous components were dissolved by adding a 10% solution of hydrochloric acid. The solution was then washed through a 40 µm sieve. Strewn slides were prepared by pipetting the residue onto a microscope coverslip, which was then dried on a hot plate. Canada Balsam, applied to the coverslip, was used as a mounting medium. The coverslip was then inverted, placed on the slide, and indurated by placing the slide back on the hot plate for a few minutes.

Radiolarian taxonomy and zonal schemes

The main references for the taxonomy of radiolarians studied here were Nigrini and Lombardi (1984), Sanfilippo et al. (1985), Lombardi and Lazarus (1988), Lazarus (1990, 1992), Abelmann (1992), Nigrini and Sanfilippo (2001), Vigour and Lazarus (2002), and Nigrini et al. (2006). All radiolarian semiquantitative abundance data produced for this study are shown in Table T1.

Site U1371 is located at an intermediate latitude, and therefore the radiolarian biostratigraphic scheme developed for low/equatorial latitudes (Sanfilippo et al., 1985) as well as the age calibration of the key taxa used to establish such a zonation is not applicable, as most of the key taxa are not present.

Both high- and middle-latitude marker taxa have been recognized in this study, thus requiring the adoption of two different zonal schemes for their age interpretation and leading to two different age models for Hole U1371D. However, the two proposed age models do not differ substantially.

The middle-latitude radiolarian zonal scheme used here is the one described in Nigrini and Sanfilippo (2001), and its zonal definitions, and key marker species are shown in SMT1.XLS in RADIOLAR in “[Supplementary material](#).”

The high-latitude (Southern Ocean) radiolarian zones introduced by Lazarus (1990, 1992), Abelmann (1992), and Takemura (1992) were also applied to Hole U1371D samples. This composite zonation is shown in SMF1.JPG in RADIOLAR in “[Supplementary material](#).” The middle Miocene to Pleistocene zonation of Lazarus (1990) was refined by Lazarus (1992) using sediment recovered during Ocean Drilling Program Legs 119 and 120 (Kerguelen Plateau). The early to middle Miocene age zonation of Abel-

mann (1992) is based on radiolarian studies from Leg 120. The studied sediment was not old enough to enable the recognition of any of the biozones defined in Takemura (1992).

Age estimates for radiolarian datums from the Quaternary to the Miocene (Table T2) are based on their calibration to magnetostratigraphy according to Hays and Opdyke (1967), Gersonde et al. (1990), Barron et al. (1991), Caulet (1991), Abelmann (1992), Lazarus (1992), Harwood et al. (1992), Shackleton et al. (1995), and Kamikuri et al. (2004).

The ages of biostratigraphically useful radiolarian datums from both the middle- and high-latitude zonations (Fig. F4) define the age model for Hole U1371D (Fig. F3).

Microscope examination and radiolarian abundance conventions

Radiolarian biostratigraphy was based on examination of the suite of samples listed in Table T1. Each slide was scanned throughout following traverses at 100× magnification.

The following conventions/abundance schemes were used for preservation, overall radiolarian abundance, and relative abundance of individual species.

Radiolarian preservation:

G = good (most specimens complete, minor dissolution, recrystallization, or breakage)

M = moderate (minor dissolution, some recrystallization or breakage)

P = poor (strong dissolution, recrystallization, or breakage)

B = barren (no radiolarians observed)

Overall radiolarian abundance:

A = abundant (>100 specimens per slide traverse)

C = common (51–100 specimens per slide traverse)

F = few (10–50 specimens per slide traverse)

R = rare (<10 specimens per slide traverse)

B = barren (no radiolarians in sample)

Abundance of individual species (relative to the total assemblage):

A = abundant (>10% of the total assemblage or >20 per slide)

C = common (5%–10% of the total assemblage or 11–20 per slide)

F = few (<5% of the total assemblage or 5–10 per slide)

R = rare (1–4 specimens per slide)

X = absent (looked for, but not observed in sample)

Rw = species presumably reworked



Results

Semiquantitative relative abundance data for radiolarians have been produced for the uppermost 108 m of the sedimentary section drilled in Hole U1371D (Fig. F2; Table T1). Because of the geographic location of the drill site (Fig. F1) at the interface between subtropical and subantarctic surface water masses, the observed taxa comprise marker species present in both middle- (Nigrini and Sanfilippo, 2001) and high-latitude (Lazarus, 1990, 1992; Abelmann, 1992) radiolarian biozonation schemes (shown in SMF1.JPG and SMT1.XLS in RADIOLAR in “[Supplementary material](#).“)

The age calibration of the recognized bioevents has been performed in a series of previous studies (see the “[Methods](#)” chapter, [Expedition 329 Scientists, 2011b]), and it is reported, along with the occurrence of the events at Hole U1371D, in Table T2. This information has been used to derive a list of events (Fig. F4) that has allowed the establishment of two age models for Site U1371 (Fig. F3).

Although there are some slight differences between these two models, with the most obvious one occurring at ~90.4 mbsf (3.06 Ma according to middle-latitude markers or 4.6 Ma according to high-latitude markers), the two models are in good agreement. Diatom biostratigraphy (see fig. F3 in [Suto and Uramoto](#) [in press]) provides an age of ~7.25 Ma at 90.4 mbsf (Fig. F5) based on interpolation between the two diatom events at 80 mbsf (last appearance datum *Hemidiscus triangularis*; 6 Ma) and 100 mbsf (first appearance datum *Actinocyclus ingens* var. *ovalis*; 8.67 Ma). This result suggests that the high-latitude radiolarian zonation provides a better estimate of the actual age compared to its middle-latitude counterpart.

The general sedimentation history at this site seems to imply a relatively constant sediment accumulation rate (SR) downhole to 90.4 mbsf (mean SR = 29.5 m/m.y. when using the middle-latitude marker at this depth; mean SR = 19.7 m/m.y. when using the high-latitude marker instead), followed by a steep decrease downhole to 101.4 mbsf (mean SR = 2.14 m/m.y. or mean SR = 3.1 m/m.y., depending on the age assignment of the sample at 90.4 mbsf).

At ~108 mbsf (top part of Core 329-U1371D-12H), a sharp lithologic boundary between clay-bearing diatom ooze (lithologic Unit I) and zeolitic pelagic clay (Unit II) suggests the presence of a transition, possibly through an unconformity, to much older, pre-Miocene material (see the “[Site U1371](#)” chapter [Expedition 329 Scientists, 2011c]) (Fig. F3). Based on the age model for the upper biosiliceous ooze section

and the estimated crustal age at this location, the estimated sediment accumulation rate for the underlying pelagic clay section is ~0.45 m/m.y.

The age interpretation of the radiolarian results presented here is also in good agreement (during the Pleistocene and the late to middle Miocene) with the diatom biostratigraphy from the same drilled section proposed by [Suto and Uramoto](#) (in press). The combined diatom, radiolarian, and paleomagnetic stratigraphies (Fig. F5), however, suggest how this agreement breaks down during the Pliocene. During this time, radiolarian markers are always younger than diatom and paleomagnetic events, with the high-latitude radiolarian zonation providing a better match to both diatom and paleomagnetic stratigraphies.

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Figure F1. Expedition 329 site location map. Site U1371 ($45^{\circ}58'S$, $163^{\circ}11'W$) is at the southern end of the southwestern transect and is the focus of this study.

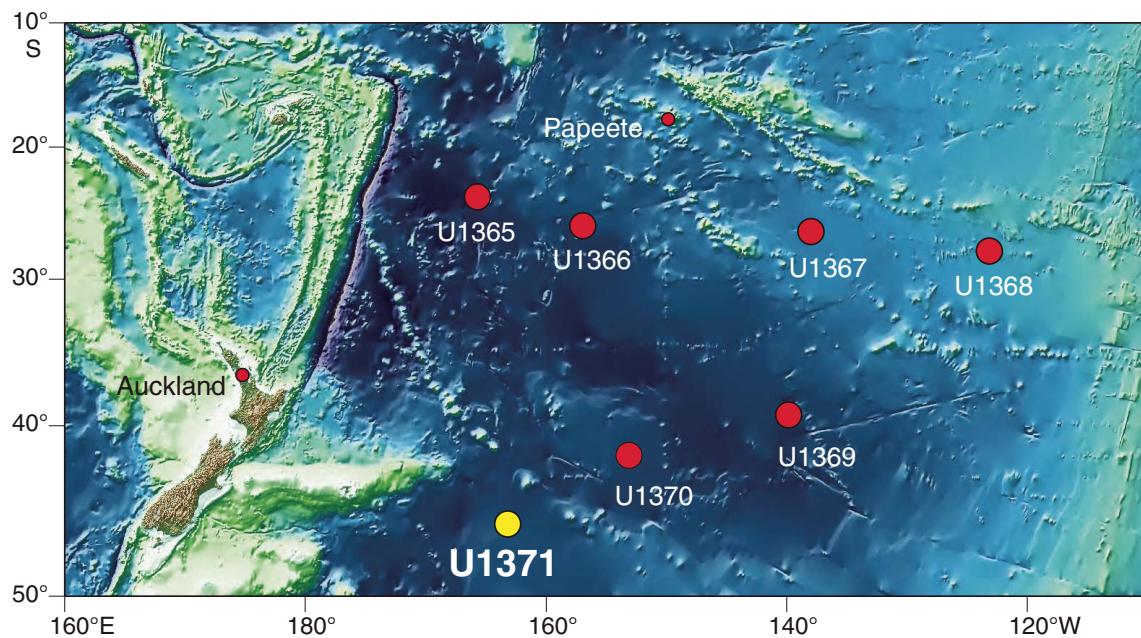


Figure F2. Radiolarian occurrences, Hole U1371D. Complete documentation of all radiolarian abundance counts is presented in Table T1. Red = species for middle-latitude zonation, TD = total depth.

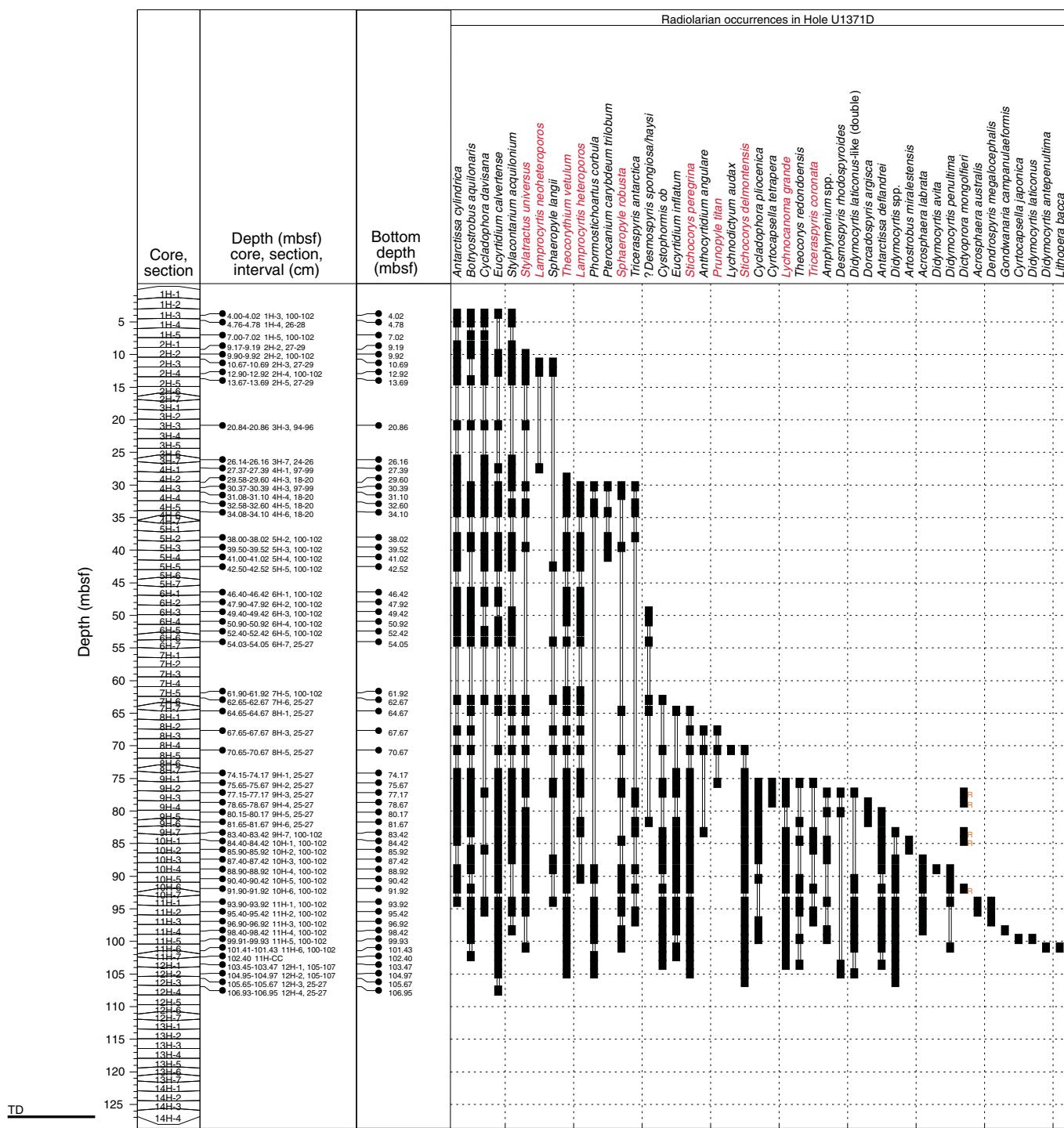


Figure F3. Downhole properties (see the “Site U1371” chapter [Expedition 329 Scientists, 2011c]) and interpreted age model of the selected radiolarian bioevents for both the middle- and high-latitude radiolarian zonations, Hole U1371D. Lithology: yellow = clay-bearing diatom ooze, brown = zeolitic pelagic clay. Crustal age from Larson et al. (2002).

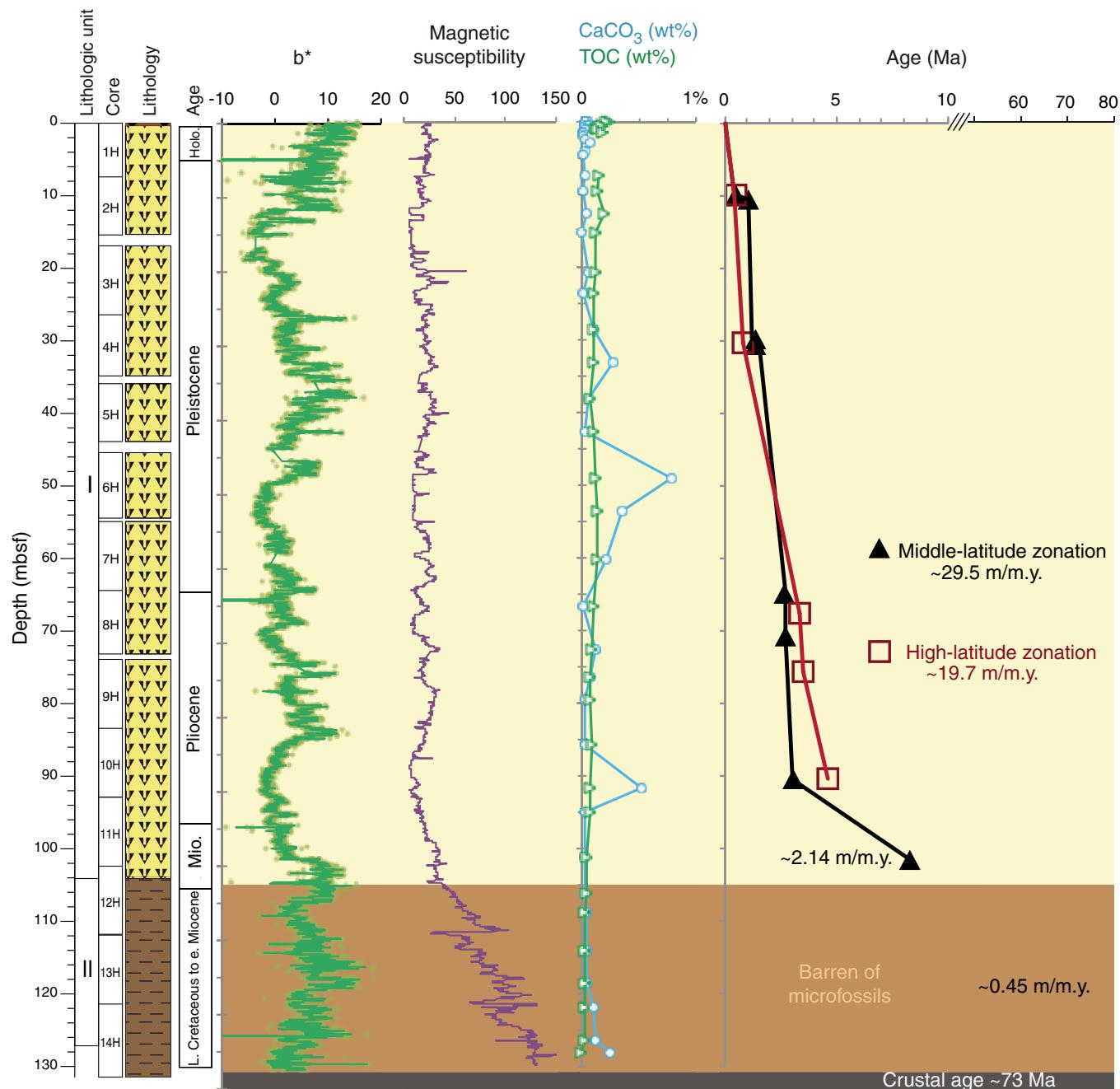


Figure F4. Radiolarian events used to develop an age model for Hole U1371D. Due to the presence of events typical for both the middle- and high-latitude radiolarian zonations, two alternative age interpretations are possible (Fig. F3). FAD = first appearance datum, LAD = last appearance datum, LCO = last common occurrence datum.

Middle-latitude zonation		
Depth (mbsf)	Age (Ma)	Event
0.00	0.00	Top of core
9.90	0.43	LAD <i>Stylatractus universus</i>
10.67	1.06	LAD <i>Lamprocystis neoheteroporus</i>
29.58	1.22	LAD <i>Theocorythium vetulum</i>
30.37	1.40	LAD <i>Sphaeropyle robusta</i>
30.37	1.50	LAD <i>Lamprocystis heteroporus</i>
64.65	2.70	LAD <i>Stichocorys peregrina</i>
70.65	2.70	LAD <i>Stichocorys delmontensis</i>
90.40	3.06	FAD <i>Lamprocystis heteroporus</i>
101.4	8.2	<i>Sphaeropyle langii</i> , <i>Didymocystis penultima</i> , and <i>Didymocystis antepenultima</i> (well calibrated in the North Pacific but found with very few specimens at Site U1371)

High-latitude zonation		
Depth (mbsf)	Age (Ma)	Event
0.00	0.00	Top of core
9.90	0.43	LAD <i>Stylatractus universus</i>
30.37	0.80	LAD <i>Pterocanium carybdeum trilobum</i>
67.65	3.32	LAD <i>Prunopyle titan</i>
75.65	3.50	LAD <i>Triceraspyris coronata</i>
90.40	4.60	LCO <i>Lychnocanoma grande</i>

Figure F5. Age-depth plot, Hole U1371D (slightly modified after fig. F3 in [Suto and Uramoto \[in press\]](#)). Ages of the diatom bioevents are from the mid-point of average range model of Cody et al. (2008). Polarity after the on-board results in the “[Site U1371](#)” chapter (Expedition 329 Scientists, 2011c). Chron boundary ages after the geomagnetic polarity timescale of Ogg and Smith (2004).

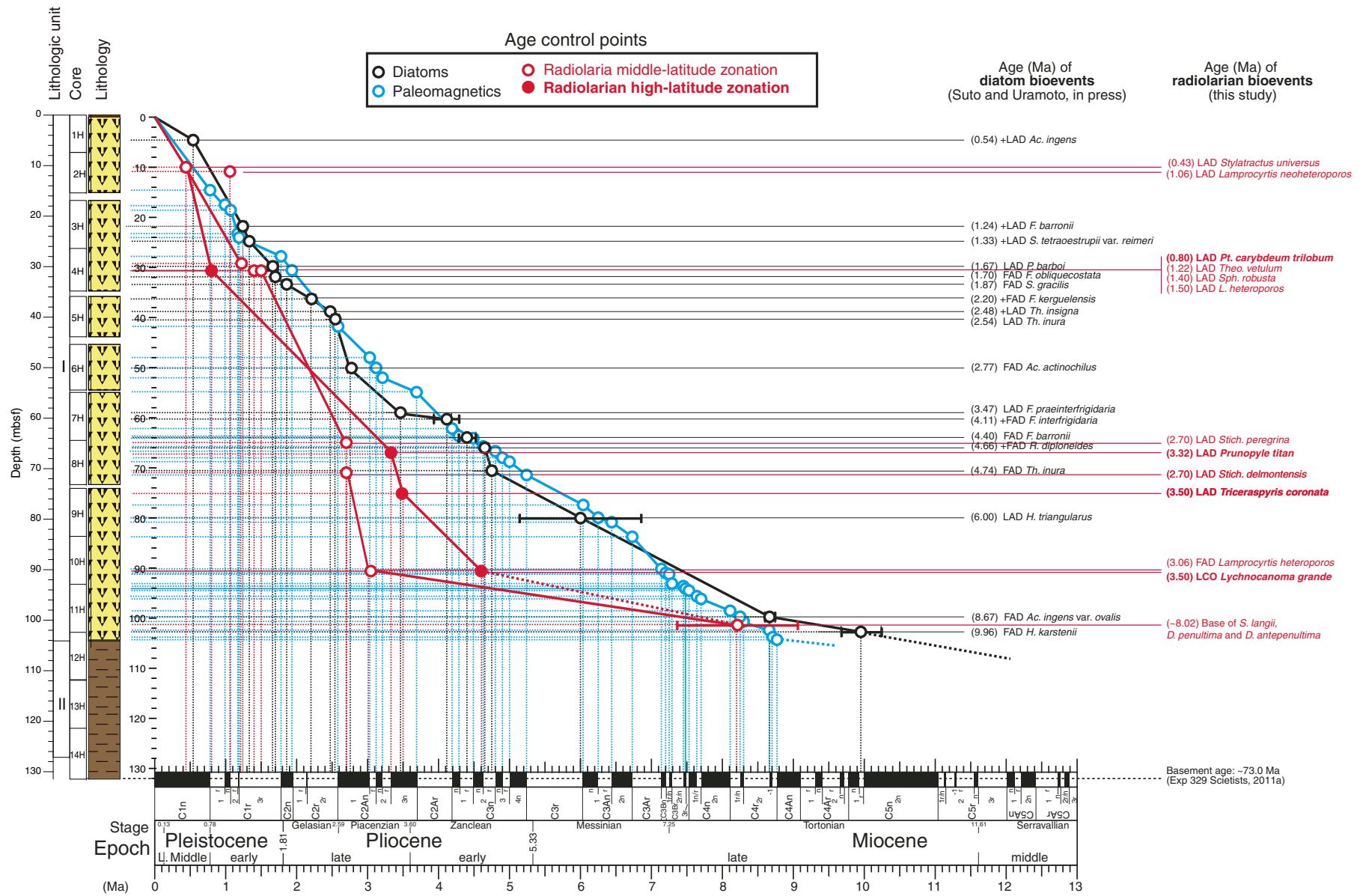


Table T1. Semiquantitative analysis of radiolarian abundances, Hole U1371D. This table is available in an [oversized format](#).

Table T2. Minimum and maximum depth of occurrence for radiolarian marker species in Hole U1371D and age estimates for radiolarian datum events from both the middle- and high-latitude zonations. This table is available in an [oversized format](#).

Plate P1. Radiolarians, Hole U1371D. Scale bar = 50 µm. 1. *Stylacontarium acqilonium*. 2–4. *Stylatractus univer-*
sus. 5. *Sphaeropyle robusta*. 6. *Lamprocyrtis neoheteroporus*. 7, 8. *Lamprocyrtis heteroporus*. 9. *Theocorythium*
vetulum. 10, 16. *Stichocorys peregrina*. 11. *Stichocorys delmontensis*. 12, 13. *Sphaeropyle langii*. 14. *Didymocyrtis an-*
tepenultima. 15. *Eucyrtidium calvertense*. 17. *Botryostrobus aquilonaris*. (1–3) Sample 329-U1371D-8H-5, 25–27
cm; (4) Sample 329-U1371D-2H-5, 27–29 cm; (5, 8) Sample 329-U1371D-9H-3, 25–27 cm; (6) Sample 329-
U1371D-2H-4, 100–102 cm; (7, 9, 15, 17) Sample 329-U1371D-4H-6, 18–20 cm; (10, 14) Sample 329-U1371D-
11H-6, 100–102 cm; (11) Sample 329-U1371D-12H-2, 105–107 cm; (12): Sample 329-U1371D-11H-1, 100–102
cm; (13) Sample 329-U1371D-2H-3, 27–29 cm; (16) Sample 329-U1371D-8H-1, 25–27 cm. (Continued on next
page.)

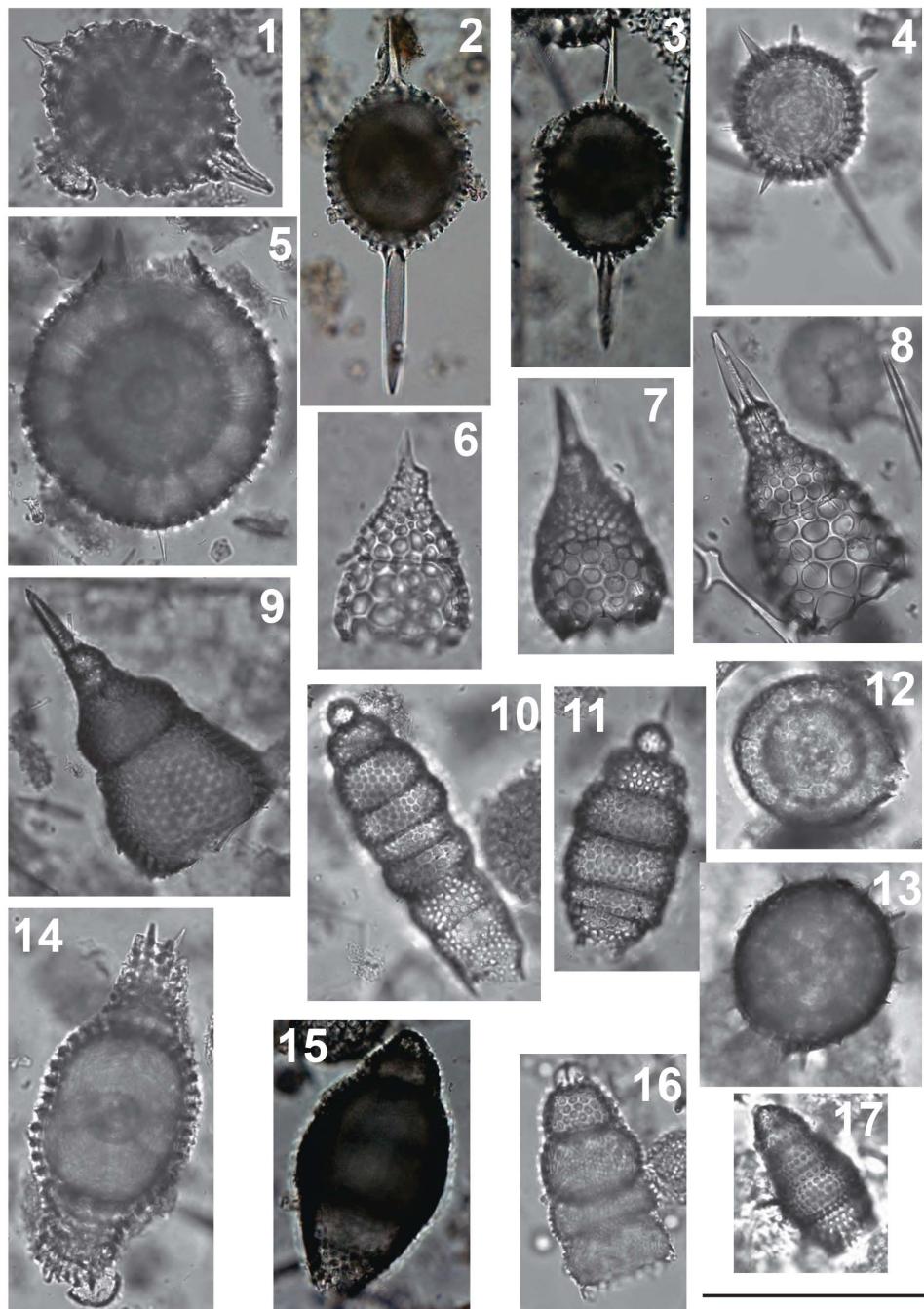


Plate P1 (continued). Radiolarians, Hole U1371D. Scale bar = 50 µm. 18. *Eucyrtidium calvertense*. 19. *Didymocyrtis penultima*. 20. *Didymocyrtis laticonus*. 21. *Eucyrtidium inflatum*. 22. *Triceraspyris antarctica*. 23. *Cycladophora davisiana*. 24. *Prunopyle titan*. 25. *Triceraspyris coronata*. 26. *Acrosphaera australis*. 27. *Antarctissa cylindrica*. 28. *Lychnocanoma grande*. 29. *Cycladophora pliocenica*. 30. *Acrosphaera labrata*. 31–33. *Dendrospyris megalcephalis*. 34. *Antarctissa deflandrei*. (18, 23, 27) Sample 329-U1371D-4H-6, 18–20 cm; (19, 30) Sample 329-U1371D-10H-5, 100–102 cm; (20, 28, 29) Sample 329-U1371D-11H-5, 100–102 cm; (21) Sample 329-U1371D-11H-1, 100–102 cm; (22, 26, 31) Sample 329-U1371D-11H-2, 100–102 cm; (24) Sample 329-U1371D-8H-5, 25–27 cm; (25, 32, 33) Sample 329-U1371D-11H-3, 100–102 cm; (34) Sample 329-U1371D-11H-4, 100–102 cm.

