6. BATHYMETRY AND STRUCTURE OF THE BAUER DEEP AROUND DSDP SITE 319

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ABSTRACT

Site 319 was drilled in the southern Bauer Deep in a basin about 6
km across containing about 100 meters of sediment as old as 14.5
m.y. Northwest-trending ridges and fault scarps in the sea floor and
the northwest grain of the basement topography beneath the basin
are consistent with formation at the northeast-southwest spreading
Galapagos Rise Crest.

INTRODUCTION

The site survey of Site 319, when combined with
earlier surveys by the R/V Yaquina (YALOC-73, Leg 3)
and by the R/V Kana Keoki (1973, Leg 3), defines the
structural grain of this portion of the Bauer Deep and its
relation to sediment accumulation and to formation of
the Galapagos Rise.

The Bauer Deep lies between the northeast-trending
East Pacific Rise and the northwest-trending Galapagos
Rise (Figure 1). The eastern boundary of the East
Pacific Rise at the latitude of the site is a zone of rugged
topography separating shallower terrain nearly free of
sediment from deeper terrain with sediment mantling
ridges and basins. The most recent bathymetric map of
the southeastern Pacific (Mammerickx et al., 1975)
shows the Bauer Deep with a northerly to northeasterly
structural grain. Yet a bathymetric survey of the
southern Bauer Deep at 20-min intervals of latitude by
the R/V Yaquina as part of YALOC-73, Leg 3, shows
relatively poor topographic correlation between tracks
(Figure 2), raising the possibility that the structural
grain may not be northerly.

DATA

The sea floor at Site 319 has a basin and range
topography with relatively steep ridges and low-relief
but broadly sloping basins with a strong northwest grain
(Figure 3). The relief of the sea floor is about 300 meters
in the vicinity of the site, but is perhaps twice this
amount in adjacent areas (Figure 2). The basin in which
Site 319 is located contains a thin sedimentary sequence
overlying a basement surface having relief of at least 50
meters (0.07 sec) that appears to be primarily of volcanic
origin. The irregularity of the basement surface is con-
firmed by the 13-meter difference in basement depth at
Holes 319 and 319A, drilled by Glomar Challenger using
the same beacon. The grain of the basement topography
is also northwest, as can be seen by comparing the sedi-
ment isopachs (Figure 4) with the bathymetry (Figure 3)
southeast of Site 319.

Airgun and 3.5-kHz records show that the sedimen-
tary sequence consists of a well-stratified unit overlying
a nonstratified unit that is acoustically nearly trans-
parent (Figures 5, 6, 7). Drilling results at Site 319 show
that the well-stratified upper unit consists of slowly ac-
cumulating clay and ooze, relatively rich in metal-
iferous components, of late Miocene to Quaternary age,
and that the featureless lower unit is principally rapidly
deposited nannofossil ooze, of middle Miocene age. The
oldest sediments are about 14-14.5 m.y. in age. Most of
the relief of the top of the basement in the basins is filled
in by the nonstratified nannofossil ooze, but the upper
stratified sediments overlie higher parts of the basement
directly at many localities, including the elongate ridge
northeast of the site (Figure 6). The stratified unit
decreases in thickness slightly northeastward from Site
319 toward the ridge; individual thin beds within this
unit also decrease in thickness (Figures 6, 7). The
stratified beds on top of the ridge are somewhat thinner
than those in the basin (Figure 4). Stratification is
parallel to the sea floor in the basin; both have slopes of
less than 0.2°.

The margins of the basins are interpreted as fault sur-
faces rather than volcanic slopes because the slopes are
strongly linear. The parallelism of the marginal faults
with the grain of the basement topography within the
basin suggests a common origin. Several lines of evi-
dence suggest that the faults formed prior to sedimenta-
tion: (1) the thickness of stratified beds is reduced atop
the ridges; (2) the thickness of the stratified unit and of
individual members within this unit decreases from the
center of the basin toward its margins; (3) the trans-
parent unit is absent from topographically high areas,
suggesting that the high-standing blocks were present
during the time carbonate ooze was deposited, and the
sediments were carried down to the basins by slow mov-
ing bottom currents; and (4) sediments generated by
bottom currents that would be expected in cores from
Site 319 if basement blocks were uplifted after they were
mantled by sediment are not found. Cores taken on Leg
3 of YALOC-73 recovered foraminiferal clay at 3971
meters at 13°S, 100.5°W, indicating that the calcite
compensation depth (CCD) for the youngest sediments

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vallis, Oregon.
Figure 1. Bathymetric map of the northwestern Nazca plate, covering the Bauer Deep, Galapagos Rise, and part of the East Pacific Rise (from Mammerickx et al., 1975). Depths in fathoms.
lies below this depth and above 4280 meters, the water depth at Site 319. Thus, the youngest stratified beds were deposited on the present basement topography. The stratified sediments are not visibly disturbed at basin margins, appearing to be draped over the basement rather than faulted against it.

**DISCUSSION**

The geologic history of this portion of the Bauer Deep appears to be: (1) formation of a northwest-trending volcanic topography, (2) block faulting along the same northwest trend, (3) middle Miocene deposition of nanofossil ooze above the contemporaneous CCD in basins as they exist today, and (4) deposition of late Miocene to Quaternary metalliferous clays below the CCD (presumably due to subsidence of the sea floor). The oldest sediment overlying basalt (14-14.5 m.y.) is markedly younger than the 20-25 m.y. age of the crust predicted from bathymetry (Sclater et al., 1971; Anderson and Slater, 1972; Mammerickx et al., 1975). The sedimentation rate of metalliferous components was high in the lower part of the section at Site 319, indicating proximity to an active spreading center and suggesting that the Sclater et al. (1971) relationship is not strictly applicable in the Bauer Deep.

The northwest fault trends and grain of the basement topography suggest that the sea floor formed at a spreading center trending at about 315°. The basal sediments at Site 319 are too old to have been deposited on crust generated by the East Pacific Rise spreading at the rate of 8 cm/yr (Mammerickx et al., 1975). The Galapagos Rise is the probable source, but the orientation of the rise crest suggested by Herron (1972) and Mammerickx et al. (1975) is more northerly than the orientation suggested here. The parallelism of subbasin topography and basin margin faults supports our interpretation, but the restricted area covered by the survey leaves the trend open to some question.

The principal justification for the more northerly orientation of the Galapagos Rise cited by Herron...
Figure 3. Bathymetry around Site 319, based on tracks of YALOC-73, Leg 3, Kana Keoki-73, Leg 3, and Glomar Challenger Leg 34. Depths are in meters, corrected using Matthews tables, Area 41.

(1972) and Mammerickx et al. (1975) is the east-northeast orientation of its major fracture zones (Mendaña, Quiros, Sala-y-Gomez, and Easter fracture zones; Mammerickx et al. (1975). The orientation of the rise crest itself is not clear from existing topographic maps, although a survey at 10°20'S, 93°20'W by R/V Yaquina (YALOC-71, Leg 7) shows a well-developed linear topography trending at 335°. Site 319 appears to lie on a strip of crust north of an unnamed fracture zone on trend with the Sarmiento Ridge off northwestern Peru; in this strip, the Galapagos Rise is poorly defined and some 700-800 km east of the site (Mammerickx et al., 1975).

The northeast trend of the aseismic Nazca Ridge, and, to a lesser extent, of the eastern terminus of the Mendaña Fracture Zone and the Sarmiento and Grijalva ridges deviates markedly from the more easterly trends near the crest of the Galapagos Rise. If the Mendaña Fracture Zone was formed by spreading from a single pole of rotation, its curvature implies a high rotational latitude with respect to this pole. Alternatively, the older, eastern portion of the Mendaña Fracture Zone may have been formed during an earlier period of spreading that trended more northeasterly than the spreading which formed the western part of the Mendaña Fracture Zone and the fracture zones farther south. The abrupt eastern termination of the Easter and Sala-y-Gomez Fracture Zones at the southwest end of the Nazca Ridge supports the concept of a change in spreading direction, and raises the possibility that the Nazca Ridge may be a fracture zone. Magnetic anomalies identified by Mammerickx et al. (1975) indicate that this change in direction occurred earlier than the formation of anomaly 7, about 25-30 m.y. ago. The structural grain in the Bauer Deep near Site 319 is consistent with formation prior to such a change in spreading direction. If the site is older than 25 m.y., it appears that (1) the Sclater et al. (1971) age-depth relationship is approximately correct for the area around Site 319, and (2) burial of older deposits by basalt flows took place up to 10 m.y. after formation of the crust. However, the fact that the Site 319 basalts are...
Figure 4. Sediment thickness around Site 319 (isopachs are in two-way travel time sec). Fault positions based on isopachs and bathymetry. Sediment thickness is 112 meters in Hole 319 and 98 meters in Hole 319A.

Figure 5. Airgun profile across Site 319 made during YALOC-73, Leg 3. West is to left. At the site, note the well-stratified unit of nearly constant thickness overlying an acoustically transparent unit which, in turn, overlies volcanic basement of moderate relief. The transparent unit is also seen in the basin to the west and, discontinuously, at 15 km and 37 km east of Site 319.
Figure 6. 3.5-kHz reflection profile across Site 319, made during YALOC-73, Leg 3, showing basement relief, transparent sedimentary unit, and well-stratified unit. Note eastward thinning of the well-stratified unit and of thin layers within this unit against the steep ridge, and the presence of a thin section of stratified sediments on ridge top and flanks.

Figure 7. 3.5-kHz reflection profile across Site 319 made during Kana Keoki-73, Leg 3. Northeast is to left. Well-stratified unit thins against the northeast ridge and, within the basin, to the southwest of the site. Abrupt thinning of the basin sediments at the base of the slopes at the ends of the record shown is attributed to nondeposition on steep, early-formed fault scarps.

typical rise-crest tholeiites (S.R. Hart, this volume) argues against an episode of late, off-ridge volcanism and suggests that the 25-m.y. age is improbable.

Clearly, a detailed bathymetric survey of a larger area is required to resolve unequivocally the topographic grain and structural setting of the Bauer Deep.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Yaquina and Kana Keoki records were provided by Oregon State University and Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, respectively. Both surveys form part of the Nazca Plate Project funded by the International Decade of Ocean Exploration Office of the National Science Foundation (Grant No. GX-28675). The paper was reviewed by William Benson and Jacqueline Mammerickx. A preprint of the paper and bathymetric map by Mammerickx et al. (1975) was most helpful in preparing this chapter.

REFERENCES


