

17. O¹⁸ AND C¹³ ISOTOPES IN LEG 44 CARBONATES: A COMPARISON WITH THE ALPINE SERIES

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we present data from isotopic analyses on bulk carbonates taken from Holes 390, 390A, 391C, and 392A of DSDP Leg 44. Interpretation of the isotopic data gives clues to recrystallization processes in sediments which have been recrystallized. Bulk carbonate data gives clues to depositional environments in samples which have not been recrystallized (nannofossil oozes). The conclusions obtained from bulk carbonate data are not as precise as those obtained from isotope studies on individual fossils which are very rare in all samples at hand.

Most samples from Holes 390, 390A, and 392A are nannofossil oozes from the Blake Plateau; no samples of the fenestral limestone were taken. We studied samples from most of the stratigraphic sequence of Hole 391C.

HOLE 392A

The isotopic data obtained from nannofossil ooze of Hole 392A give values which correspond to recrystallized carbonates, or to those subjected to early diagenesis in warm, aerated shallow water with little biogenic CO₂. Although samples were taken at widely spaced intervals, thus precluding great precision, the differences in δ O¹⁸ contents between Samples 3-2, 105 cm and 3-1, 102 cm appear to reflect changes in depositional environment: hotter waters during the middle Albian, then return to cooler conditions similar to those which prevailed in the earlier Aptian during the Campanian.

Figure 1 and Table 1 show the carbon and oxygen isotope data for Hole 392A.

HOLE 390

The trends in isotope values from Aptian-Albian sediments from Hole 390 are similar to those from Hole 392A. The same reduction in values occurs at the same stratigraphic level in the two holes which are some 20 km apart. This provides additional evidence that the change occurred in the depositional environment.

Figure 1 and Table 2 show the isotope data for Hole 390A.

An anomaly in the strontium content at the Maestrichtian/Danian contact (Renard and Létolle, this volume) does not correspond to any significant feature in the O¹⁸ content.

The progressive change in isotope values seen in the Barremian samples may be a result of secondary recrystallization in a marine environment.

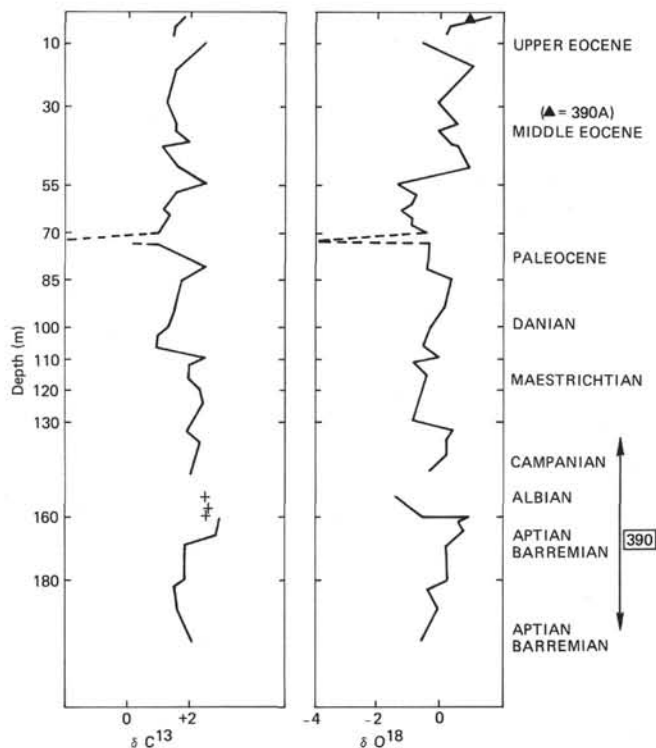


Figure 1. δ C¹³ and δ O¹⁸ data, Holes 390 and 390A.

HOLE 390A

We analyzed a large set of samples from middle Eocene to Campanian sediments. All samples are nannofossil ooze with varying amounts of siliceous material (radiolarians and some diatoms) and other debris. Our data do not show any isotopic discontinuity at the Tertiary/Cretaceous boundary.

The continuity of the oxygen isotope log (Figure 1) is broken twice. The first break occurs in the Maestrichtian sequence between Samples 13-3, 80 cm and 13-1, 117 cm,

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TABLE 1
Isotope Data for Hole 392A Carbonate Samples

Depth (m)	Sample (Interval in cm)	Stage	δC^{13}	δO^{18}	Observations
53	1-1, 124-126	Upper Campanian	+2.33	-0.15	Nanno-fossil ooze
55	1-2, 144-145		+2.10	-0.11	Marly nannofossil ooze
60.5	2-1, 49-50	Middle Albian	+2.22	-1.42	Nannofossil ooze
65	2-2, 19-20		+1.84	-1.85	Nannofossil ooze
80	3-1, 102-104	Aptian	+1.79	-1.45	Nannofossil ooze
84	3-2, 105-106		+2.88	+0.68	Nannofossil ooze
87	3-3, 70-71		+3.58	+0.99	Nannofossil ooze
97	4-1, 125-126	Barremian	+2.54	+0.11	Nannofossil ooze

TABLE 2
Isotope Data for Hole 390 Carbonate Samples

Depth (m)	Sample (Interval in cm)	Series/Stage	δC^{13}	δO^{18}	Observations
	1-1, 135-136	Middle Eocene	+1.74	+1.60	Nannofossil ooze
	1-3, 86-87		+1.50	+0.25	
10	106, 85-86		+1.40	+0.20	
140	3-1, 112-114	Albian	+2.35	-1.50	Nannofossil ooze
	3-3, 129-131		+2.40	-1.25	
	3-3, 147-149		+2.40	-0.05	
160	5-1, 133-134	Aptian	+2.85	+0.60	
	5-2, 138-140		+2.86	+0.73	
	6-1, 126-128	Barremian	+1.85	+0.09	Limestone with benthic fauna
	8-2, 51-53		+1.75	+0.20	
	8-4, 131-133		+1.42	-0.45	
	8-6, 142-144		+1.60	-0.12	
	9-1, 70-80		+2.15	+0.06	

and corresponds to a color change from brown to bluish gray (change in redox). The carbon isotope composition, however, does not change at this level. The rise of δO^{18} could possibly be attributed to a progressively lower temperature from Barremian to Albian time followed by an abrupt return to warmer climates. But we can perhaps better interpret it as reflecting a slight diagenetic lowering of the O^{18} content (from about $+1^0$ to -2^0 for the most deeply buried samples). The constant decrease in the strontium content (Renard and Létolle, this volume) favors such an interpretation. The distinct reduction of the δC^{13} at level 10-6, 90 cm appears to result from the introduction of organic carbon during the synthesis of carbonate. This corresponds to the appearance of benthic foraminifers and is accompanied by a very low manganese content (Renard and Létolle, this volume).

The gradual increase in O^{18} from Sample 11-6, 21 cm (Danian) to Core 8, Section 4 (Paleocene) surely reflects cooler water temperatures followed by renewed warming up to the early Eocene (Sample 4-6, 106 cm). Here too benthic foraminifers occur, and introduction of organic carbon could have caused the simultaneous decrease of the δC^{13} . One may imagine that the water became shallower and warmer which could result in the lower O^{18} values.

In overlying sediments, the oxygen values are definitely positive versus the Pee Dee Belemnite scale (PDB) and *certainly* reflect cooler temperatures following the warmer Paleocene climate. (The data from Eocene samples from Hole 390 complements those from Hole 390A.) See Table 3 for carbon and oxygen isotope data.

HOLE 391C

The petrology of Jurassic to Lower Cretaceous sediments, from which most of our samples came, is discussed in a companion paper (Bourbon, this volume). Table 4 shows the carbon and oxygen isotope data for Hole 391C.

Note that the δO^{18} , except for some samples found either at the lower part of the core (Tithonian) or just under the black shales, is much lower than in Holes 390 and 392 (Figure 2). Petrology and geochemical calculations (i.e., the "paleotemperature equation") shows this is neither the result of introduction of isotopes from continental (meteoric) waters, nor attributable to very high temperatures during deposition.

The highest values, around -2^0 for the Tithonian, and -1^0 versus the PDB for the Aptian, probably indicate the original isotope conditions. In this case, when deposition of the black shale began, the temperature must have been lower than during Tithonian time. All the other values reflect diagenesis and isotope exchange. Stylolization and replacement of radiolarians by calcispheres give further evidence for such a process, as does the gross inverse correlation between δO^{18} and carbonate content, noted in Leg 11 samples by Brennecke (1977), who discussed it thoroughly following the reasoning given below.

Consider the isotope exchange of carbonate with interstitial water during diagenesis. As the porosity of the sediment is not very high, the quantity of oxygen present in the carbonate is much greater than that in the water. In order for the carbonate to "lose" such a quantity of O^{18} (as indicated by the low δO^{18} values), the system must have been open; that is, a flux of water was necessary to have carried away the excess isotopes. The highest observed O^{18} values are found in the most clayey samples, or in samples interbedded with clays or marls. This suggests that the system may have been "almost closed," as opposed to conditions in thick limestones in which water can more easily circulate.

Also consider that an isotopic change in carbonate oxygen during recrystallization is linked to the temperature and the isotope content of the interstitial water. When a carbonate particle is formed in equilibrium fractionation (ϵ) occurs and $\epsilon \approx \delta \text{ carbonate} - \delta \text{ water}$,⁴ which is a function of the temperature. A carbonate with a δ of -1^0 versus PDB is in equilibrium with seawater ($\delta = 0^0$ vs SMOW) at approximately $+21^\circ\text{C}$, when a carbonate with $\delta = -4^0$ versus PDB would correspond in the same conditions to about $+34^\circ\text{C}$.

Carbonate will re-equilibrate if it comes into contact with water of a different isotopic composition, and/or at a different temperature from that where it was originally precipitated. We may search, then, for the recrystallization conditions of carbonate with an initial δ of -1^0 versus PDB.

The isotope balance between a certain quantity of oxygen in carbonate (C) and in water (W) is written, with δ_{ci} and δ_{wi} as initial isotope values and δ_{cf} and δ_{wf} as final carbonate and water values, provided that C and W do not change:

⁴The O^{18} of carbonate and water are expressed on the same scale which is the Standard Mean Ocean Water scale; values on the PDB scale are approximately 31 0/00 higher than in the SMOW scale; PDB scale is traditional in carbonate oxygen isotope measurements.

TABLE 3
Isotope Data for Hole 390A Carbonate Samples

Depth (m)	Sample (Interval in cm)	Series/Stage	δC^{13}	δO^{18}	Observations
	1-1, 94-96	Middle Eocene	+1.52	+0.96	Nannofossil ooze
	2-2, 46-48		+1.27	-0.10	Nannofossil ooze + rad + zeolites + glass
31	3-2, 72-73	Lower Eocene	+1.52	+0.56	Siliceous nannofossil
	3-4, 109-110		+1.44	-0.06	ooze + rads +
	4-1, 95-96		+1.73	+0.27	diatoms
45	4-5, 86-87	Upper Paleocene	+1.12	+0.45	Nannofossil chalk
	4-6, 106-107		+1.51	+0.80	Nannofossil chalk
	5-1, 70-72		+1.17	-0.75	Nannofossil chalk + silica
	5-2, 135-136		+1.47	-0.87	Nannofossil chalk + silica
	6-1, 26-28		+1.24	-0.98	Nannofossil chalk + silica
	6-3, 90-91		+1.13	-1.13	Nannofossil chalk + silica
	6-5, 89-91		+1.26	-0.97	Nannofossil ooze
	6-6, 89-90		+1.19	-0.91	Sil. nannofossil ooze
	7-1, 131-133		+0.93	-0.58	Sil. nannofossil ooze + dol.?
	7-2, 78-79		-2.23	-7.53(?)	Sil. nannofossil ooze + dol.?
	7-4, 138-140		+0.93	-0.32	Sil. nannofossil ooze + dol.?
	8-2, 34-36		+2.45	-0.41	Nannofossil ooze
	8-4, 126-128		+1.63	+0.25	
	9-1, 30-35		Danian	+1.41	+0.12
	10-1, 84-86	+1.31		-0.35	
	10-3, 80-82	+0.98		-0.51	
	10-6, 90-92	+0.95		-0.62	
	11-4, 100-102	Maestrichtian	+2.34	-0.11	
	11-6, 21-23		+1.95	-0.92	
	12-1, 48-50		+1.90	-0.55	
	12-3, 70-72		+2.15	-0.62	Marly
	12-6, 31-33		+2.34	-0.75	
	13-1, 117-119		+2.10	-0.95	
	13-3, 80-86	Campanian (?)	+1.93	+0.31	High carbonate
	14-1, 139-140		+2.15	+0.15	
	14-3, 80-82		+2.04	-0.05	
	14-5, 82-83	+1.95	-0.35		

$$C \delta_{ci} + W \delta_{wi} = C \delta_{cf} + W \delta_{wf}$$

ϵ is the apparent fractionation at $t^\circ\text{C}$.

$$\text{Taking } x = \frac{W}{C} \text{ gives: } \delta_{ci} + x \delta_{wi} = \delta_{cf} + x(\delta_{cf} - \epsilon).$$

In our case we know the values for δ_{ci} and δ_{cf} (about $+29\text{‰}$ and $+26\text{‰}$ vs SMOW, respectively) so we can determine an approximate relationship for δ and t , by applying the paleotemperature equation given by Craig (1965):

$$\epsilon \cong 34 - 0.23 t$$

where $x \delta_{wi} = (0.23 t - 8)x - 3$.

Three factors must be considered: t , δ_{wi} and x (proportion of oxygen atoms reacting in the water and in carbonate). Two possibilities exist for δ_{wi} .

1) δ_{wi} equals, or is close to zero. That is, it corresponds to present seawater, even if we assume a slightly different value for seawater (i.e., Craig, 1965).

2) δ_{wi} is lower than SMOW.

The temperature is at least equal to 0°C (the minimum temperature could have been higher if bottom temperatures were higher in the secondary era, which has not been proven).

The value of x is necessarily positive; if lower than 1, the system carbonate water could be considered as closed; but as the efficient porosity may not be higher than, perhaps, 0.30 for w values higher than 0.3, the system would necessarily be open, which means a flow of interstitial water within it.

The relation between the three parameters indicates that for a set of "reasonable" values for δ_{wi} (i.e., from $+1\text{‰}$ to -1‰), the temperature was at least 30°C for $\delta_{wi} = -3\text{‰}$ to 39°C for $\delta_{wi} = +1\text{‰}$.

These give very high values for x which in any case correspond to open systems. In order to get reasonable x values (i.e., about 0.1) with the same set of δ_{wi} values, one needs excessively high temperature which is incompatible with the observed recrystallizations.

Nevertheless, if we consider the possibility that $\delta_{wi} \approx 0$, which leads to temperatures higher than 35°C , such temperatures could be the result of:

1) a very high geothermal gradient. If the trend of oxygen isotope evolution from Section 25 to Section 45 (variation of 2% delta units for a depth of 175 m), is caused by the geothermal gradient, then the gradient would be about 8°C , which seems too high to be realistic.

2) lateral heat flux, from volcanic sources (?). This heat source cannot be presently discarded as zeolites are sometimes present and a manganese anomaly exists in the same region of the site (see Renard et al., this volume).

TABLE 4
Isotope Data for Hole 391C Carbonate Samples

Sample (Interval in cm)	Depth (m)	Stage	$\delta_{C^{13}}$	$\delta_{O^{18}}$	Observations
5-1, 149-150	68		—		No carbonate
6-2, 146-148	69		-20.18	+5.74	
9-2, 60-62	833		+1.78	-1.08	
9-2, 63-64			+1.89	-1.10	
10-2, 39-41	901		—	—	
10-2, 61-63		Lower Albian	+1.10	-0.32	
10-3, 76-78		Upper Aptian	—	—	
11-1, 100-101	924		+1.67	-1.72	
11-1, 138-140			—	—	
12-3, 4-6	959	Aptian	+0.71	-3.51	
12-6, 74-75			+0.83	-1.74	
12-6, 101-103			+0.99	-1.58	
14-1, 89-92	1000	Upper Val., Lower Ber.	+1.66	-2.91	
14-1, 92-93			+1.52	-3.53	
15-3, 28-30			+1.44	-4.46	Calcarenite
16-3, 56-57	1025		+1.10	-3.86	
16-4, 33-35			+0.95	-4.66	
17-1, 97-98			+0.90	-4.02	
18-1, 90-92	1040		+0.83	-4.11	Calcospheres
18-1, 93-94			+1.25	-7.71	Pyrite
21-4, 129-132			+0.64	-4.56	
21-4, 146-150					
24-3, 123-127	1130	Upper Ber., Lower Val. ?	+1.61	-4.32	
24-4, 84-86			+1.87	-3.98	
25-3, 67-72	1150		+1.92	-4.14	
26-2, 33-35			+1.47	-4.82	
26-3, 43-45			+1.23	-5.66	
26-4, 103-105			+1.00	-2.70	
27-1, 142-145	1155		+2.12	-3.87	
27-4, 15-18			+0.93	-7.78	
28-1, 148-150	1164		+1.96	-3.72	
29-3, 141-148	1176		+1.41	-3.29	
30-2, 63-65			+0.94	-3.79	
30-3, 47-50			+0.80	-4.3	
31-1, 61-66	1191		+0.78	-4.47	
32-2, 85-87			+0.08	-4.79	
32-3, 10-13			+0.64	-4.07	
32-4, 77-79			+0.45	-4.24	
32-4, 146-150			+0.59	-4.34	
33-3, 108-111	1214	Berriasian	+1.41	-3.69	
34-3, 56-58		Lower Tithonian	+0.89	-3.95	
35-1, 91-93	1230	Upper Berriasian ?	+0.88	-3.96	
36-1, 96-99			+0.92	-4.10	
36-4, 139-143			-0.93	-3.36	
37-1, 111-116	1250		+0.87	-3.45	
38-2, 27-29	1259		+1.12	-3.47	
40-2, 44-48	1278	Upper Tithonian	+1.00	-4.83	
40-4, 126-130			+1.06	-2.65	
41-1, 86-88			+0.88	-4.87	
43-2, 22-25	1307		+0.81	-4.85	
44-6, 10-12			+1.24	-3.85	Stylolites
45-2, 74-77	1326		+1.19	-4.20	Interbedded red and green limestone
45-2, 78-80			+1.28	-2.76	
47-1, 40-45	1343	Lower Tithonian	+1.35	-1.90	Hydroxides
47-1, 63-64			+1.33	-3.88	Iron
47-1, 80-85			+1.04	-1.47	Calc. mudstone
48-1, 110-115	1354		+1.32	-2.15	
50-1, 35-36	1371		+2.02	-2.85	Red claystone
50-1, 125-127			+1.53	-3.73	
52-2, 109-111			+1.49	-4.22	Claystone
52-4, 64-65			+1.55	-3.00	
52-4, 125-127			+1.30	-0.84	

An alternate possibility is that water of the recrystallization environment had a $\delta < 0$. In order to get such an isotopic composition for marine water, an exchange involving previously existing material is needed. Lawrence

(1974), Lawrence et al. (1975), and Perry et al. (1976) have shown that recrystallization of low temperature, high δO^{18} , silicate minerals (e.g., cherts) using primeval high-temperature, low δO^{18} , volcanic material (for instance,

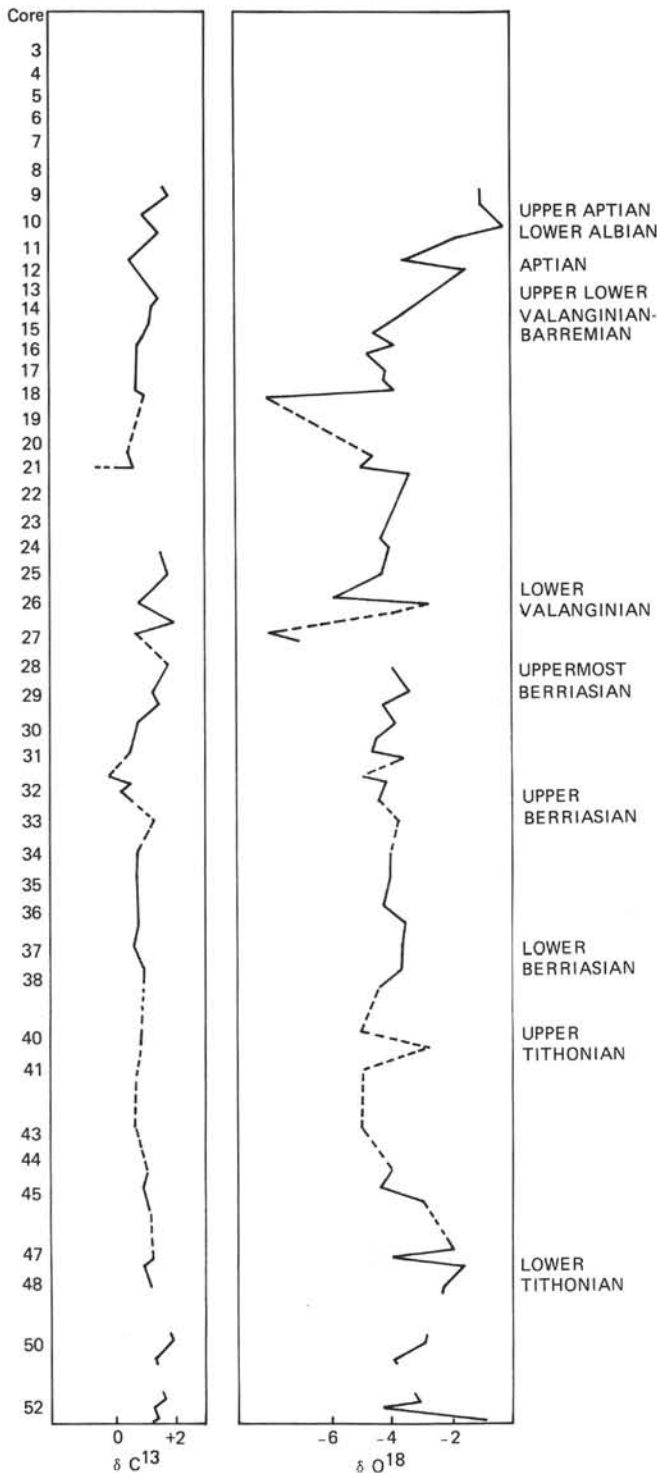


Figure 2. δC^{13} and δO^{18} data, Hole 391C.

shards of glass) may lower the water composition by several per mil through the classic "reservoir effect." There is much evidence of silica recrystallization in the Hole 391C samples, but the original material from this hole appears to have been high δO^{18} radiolarians. Consequently, the explanation given by Brennecke (1977) is harder to apply in the case of Hole 391C.

If, however, we consider the possibility of low δ interstitial water (the implication of an open system is evident), we may have recrystallization leading to the observed δ for carbonates without unusually high temperatures. For instance, with $\delta_{wi} = -2\text{‰}$ the lowest mean admissible temperature would be 26°C. The high O¹⁸ gradient discussed above might be attributed, in part, to a normal geothermal gradient, and in part, to variations in the O¹⁸ content of exchanging water. So we may conclude that water moved through the sediment undergoing diagenesis, which is easily possible by thermal convection, and that the composition of an interstitial water does not necessarily reflect the composition of the sediment where it is taken off, but rather an integration of the chemical and isotopic conditions of the succession of layers through which it passed.

We were able to extract a small quantity of carbonate from the black shale sample (Sample 391C-6-2, 148 cm) and the very low δC^{13} shows it was formed from the decarboxylation of organic matter: however, the high O¹⁸ content cannot be explained in any simple way. We must now determine why the Tithonian samples have an apparently preserved isotopic composition. Clay beds are much more common in this part of the core and the explanation invoked relative to open systems cannot easily be applied here. These samples may have recrystallized with their own water.

The C¹³ values are uniform but show a slight decrease in Hole 391C, upward from Section 52 to Section 30. In Section 30 they shift up again. The evolution of C¹³ and O¹⁸ is roughly parallel, the fractionation factor for carbonate being much smaller than for O¹⁸. In any case, the δC^{13} corresponds to carbonate formed without a great proportion of biogenic CO₂ (except in the case of Section 21).

Briançonnais series: We can compare the Leg 44 sequence with a contemporaneous series of the Alps (the Sourelou Series) which has been petrologically studied by Bourbon (this volume) (Table 5 and Figure 3).

We detect some apparent concordant trends between the Sourelou Series and the Hole 391C sequence (shown schematically on Figure 4). The same slight trend of C¹³ and the same lowering of O¹⁸ values at approximately equivalent stratigraphic levels occurs. Moreover, Sourelou Series and cores from Hole 391C are similar petrologically. Black shales are also found in the Upper Cretaceous of the Briançonnais series. The O¹⁸ values, however, are distinctly lower in the Sourelou Series than in the Hole 391C sediments, although Brennecke (1977) has found even lower values in Leg 11 samples. The Alpine deposits were never deeply buried, as were the Hole 391C sediments, and apparently were not subjected to volcanic influences but have undergone the tectonic stress of alpine movement.⁵ So we cannot invoke the same explanation for an apparently convergent evolution of the isotopic composition of two series which are also convergent in petrology, lithology, and perhaps, paleogeography. At the present time, we only point out such convergences. Possibly the similarities in

⁵We have no isotopic evidence of carbonate recrystallization by meteoric water in the Sourelou Series.

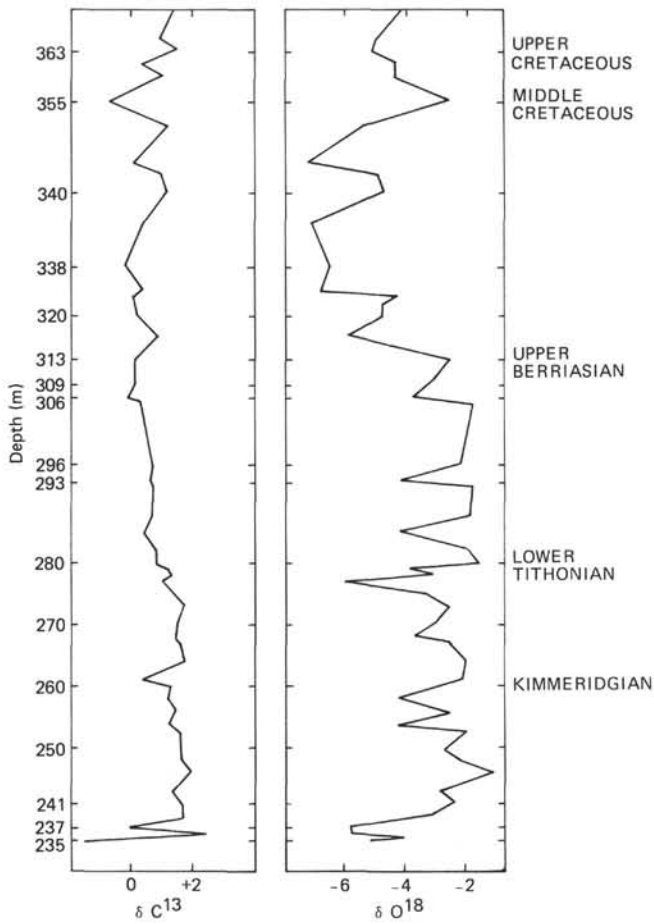


Figure 3. δC^{13} and δO^{18} data, Soureliau Series.

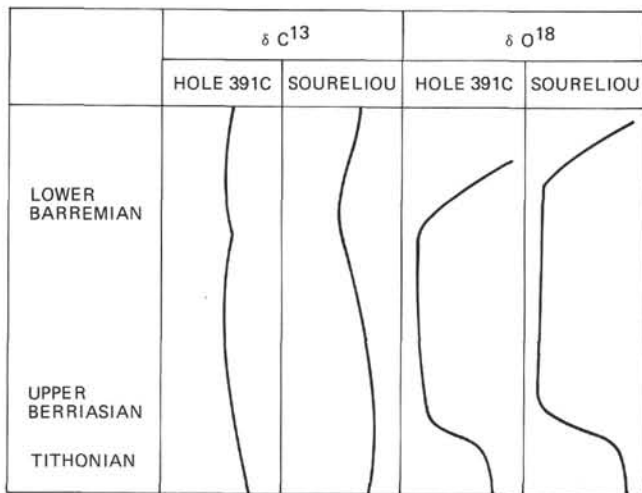


Figure 4. Comparison of δC^{13} and δO^{18} between Hole 391C and the Soureliau Series.

petrology and depositional environment⁶ are themselves linked to comparable geological settings which have monitored the parallelism in carbon isotope content. The carbon isotope content seems to be little influenced by post-

⁶Note the similarity of radiolarian abundance in each series relative to the lowering of the oxygen isotope composition.

TABLE 5
Soureliau Series (Briançonnais, French Alps)

Sample number	Stage	δC^{13}	δO^{18}	Observations
371	Paleocene ?	+1.32	-4.04	Calcarenites
365		+0.98	-4.98	
363		+1.48	-5.13	
361	Upper Cretaceous	+0.41	-4.48	
359	Middle Cretaceous	+1.11	-4.35	Radiolarian limestone
355		-0.62	-2.64	
351		+1.15	-5.41	
345	Neocomian	+0.10	-7.18	
343		+0.96	-4.95	
340		+1.10	-4.72	
335		+0.30	-7.05	
328		-0.13	-6.51	
324		+-.23	-6.76	
323		+0.07	-4.15	
322		+0.06	-4.77	
320		+0.17	-4.79	
317		+0.90	-5.61	
313		+0.09	-2.59	
309		+0.10	-3.37	
307		-0.12	-3.72	
306		+0.30	-1.84	
296	Upper Berriasian	+0.69	-2.19	
294		+0.56	-4.06	
293		+0.67	-1.82	
288a		+0.69	-1.87	
288b		+0.67	-2.13	Radiolarian mud and calcarenite
285		+0.42	-4.20	
283		+0.81	-2.20	
280		+0.82	-1.81	
279		+1.19	-4.00	
278		+1.31	-3.17	
277	Lower Portlandian	+0.99	-6.08	
275		+1.37	-3.46	
273	Kimmeridgian-Portlandian	+1.70	-2.60	
270		+1.44	-3.07	Calcarenites
268		+1.40	-3.77	
267		+1.58	-2.70	
264		+1.78	-2.05	
261		+0.38	-2.09	
260		+1.24	-2.98	
258		+1.15	-4.27	
256		+1.45	-2.67	
254		+1.23	-4.11	
253		+1.55	-2.11	
250		+1.64	-2.76	
248		+1.58	-2.37	Radiolarian limestone and calcarenites
246		+1.95	-1.23	
243		+1.27	-2.92	
241		+1.68	-2.48	
239		+1.61	-3.13	
237		-0.01	-5.90	Radiolarian limestone
236s		+2.22	-5.81	
236		+1.58	-4.20	
235		-1.56	-5.20	

depositional transformations and the conditions which caused changes of the oxygen isotope composition.

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