CALCAREOUS NANNOFOSSILS OF THE LOUISIANA CONTINENTAL SHELF: ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

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In a recent paper (Sachs and Skinner, 1973a), the first occurrence of the placolith *Gephyrocapsa caribbeanica* Boudreaux and Hay on the Louisiana Continental Shelf was used as one of the bases for recognition of the Pliocene-Pleistocene boundary in this area. The base of the early Pleistocene Terrebonne Shale (interpreted as Zone N. 22) lies a short distance below the first observed *Gephyrocapsa caribbeanica* (rare, 1 to 5 specimens per traverse) and the first abundant occurrence of the planktonic foraminifer *Globorotalia truncatulinoides* (d'Orbigny) in the strata beneath the Louisiana Continental Shelf. The last true occurrence of *Discoaster brouweri* Tan Sin Hok as interpreted in this study is just below this interface. Only worn and reworked specimens of this species were observed from younger samples.

It was recorded (Sachs and Skinner, 1973a, p. 120) that very rare occurrences of *Gephyrocapsa caribbeanica* (less than one specimen per ten fields of view) had been reported previously by Martini and Worsley (1970, 1971) and by Hay (1970) from upper Pliocene cores taken on JOIDES legs 7 and 4. Later, Akers and Koeppel published a paper in which several additional occurrences of rare *Gephyrocapsa caribbeanica* were recorded from middle Pliocene strata (1973, p. 80–83). These include: Rice's Pit, Yorktown Formation; Watson's Landing, Darling Slide, and Jackson Bluff Bed 10, Jackson Bluff Formation; and, unnamed beds, Sayula, Vera Cruz, Mexico, TU 1083. These five localities yielded *Discoaster brouweri* in co-occurrence with rare *Gephyrocapsa caribbeanica* and were interpreted as Zone N. 20 (middle Pliocene) based on the calcareous nannoplankton and planktonic foraminifers present in the samples.

This new evidence makes it clear that at this time the first occurrence of *Gephyrocapsa caribbeanica* cannot be used reliably as one of the criteria for recognizing the Pliocene-Pleistocene boundary. The stratigraphic significance of this placolith and other species of calcareous nannofossils rare in their first appearances remains uncertain.

Errata

Sachs and Skinner (1973a, 1973b) cited the genus *Crystallolithus* Gaarder and Markali erroneously as *"Cristallolithus."* This spelling error appears several times and was repeated in the name of the family based on this genus, Family CRYSTALLOLITHACEAE Hay. The writers are indebted to Helen Tappan Loeblich for her kindness in noting these errors and reporting them.

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