

reef core, others extend into the laterally contiguous deposits and a few are regional in extent.

Typically, rudist reefs in this region record a history of short periods of organically controlled growth in shallow water alternating with brief periods of subaerial exposure and early diagenesis. These processes result in the formation of laterally restricted but internally complex limestone bodies 10–2,000 ft thick and a few hundreds of square feet to tens of square miles in areal extent.

PETRACCA, A. N., Gulf Oil Canada, Calgary, Alta.

TERTIARY MICROFAUNA, MACKENZIE DELTA AREA

A lower Tertiary foraminiferal assemblage from the Arctic Coast of Canada contains 18 species. Two species are new, *Cyclammina arctica* and *Cyclammina borealis*. The fauna was recovered from a core of the Reindeer well drilled in the Mackenzie delta area. The faunal assemblage suggests a correlation with an outcrop section near Coal Mine Lake (lat. 68°40'46"N; long. 130°20'11"W).

The age assigned to the microfauna is Oligocene-Miocene, and the assemblage has an affinity with Tertiary faunas of the circum-Pacific area. The depositional environment suggested is deep, cold, marine water.

PHILCOX, MICHAEL E., Univ. Liverpool, Liverpool, England

REEFS AND WAVE ACTION

Wave resistance is used in many definitions as a criterion for "reef." It is therefore important to clarify what wave resistance means, whether it can be recognized in ancient reefs, and what effect the use of this criterion has on our thinking. For present purposes the noun "buildup" is used for all organically constructed mounds, including reefs, mudbanks, and algal stromatolites, irrespective of wave activity.

Wave resistance has several legitimate meanings, but none can be used as a reef criterion unless a definite degree of wave action is specified. Reefs would then be arbitrarily and undesirably separated from other buildups, whatever their biologic relations. Wave resistance as a criterion is therefore rejected, but as a variable characteristic, differing from one buildup to the next, it allows each to be placed in a unified wave-resistance hierarchy.

The degree of wave resistance required in a buildup depends on the wave environment, defined by the depth of water over the buildup, wave dimensions, and the relative frequency of waves of various dimensions. Wave energy increases rapidly upward, so that small depth changes involve large energy differences. Wave action (water-particle velocity) diminishes downward through the wave zone to 4% of its surface value at a depth equal to half the wavelength. Turbulence in the lower part of the wave zone requires no special adaptation by organisms; other forms of current may have more influence. Increase in wave size lowers the depth to which wave action is effective and increases turbulence at all depths in the wave zone. If large waves damage the buildup, their relative frequency becomes important, because wave resistance depends on a balance between wave damage and repair by organisms. The critical size of damaging waves depends on the "wave-resistance efficiency" of the constructing organisms, a function of growth form and strength. Organism growth

rate contributes indirectly to the wave-resistant capacity of a buildup through its role in repairing damage.

Diagnosis of the wave-resistant capacity of ancient buildups is difficult. The geologic history of modern turbulence-indicative species (such as *Acropora palmata*) is short. Growth forms, distinctive in strong surf, become less diagnostic with decreasing wave action. Current action must be distinguished from wave action. Erosional debris, such as detached blocks, may be the product of slumping or boring organisms rather than turbulence. Storm damage may leave a record which gives a false impression of prevailing wave conditions.

Wave-resistance as a variable characteristic must, despite difficulties, become increasingly important in the study of buildups through geologic time. Organic evolution made possible the development of increasingly wave-resistant buildups and culminated in modern coral-algal reefs.

As a wider variety of constructing organisms became available and a correspondingly greater range of wave environments was colonized, the range of buildups that could exist at any one time increased. Thus, if one considers wave-resistance as a variable characteristic instead of an absolute value, arbitrary definitions are less important than environments and evolutionary relations.

PICARD, M. DANE, Univ. Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, ROLF AADLAND, Pan American Petroleum Corp., New Orleans, La., and LEE R. HIGH, JR., Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

SHELF-EDGE CARBONATE-REDBED TRANSITIONS, RED PEAK AND THAYNES FORMATIONS (TRIASSIC), WESTERN WYOMING AND ADJACENT IDAHO

Stratigraphic correlations between the shallow, generally open-marine deposits (dominantly limestone) of the Triassic miogeosyncline in eastern Idaho (Thaynes Formation) and shelf redbeds in west-central Wyoming (Red Peak and Crow Mountain Formations) have been uncertain. The principal, most widely recognized marker bed in the Wyoming sequence—the Alcova Limestone Member—has been correlated variously with many different parts of the Thaynes, as well as with beds considered younger than the Thaynes. Our studies indicate that the Alcova is a marine tongue extending eastward from the sandstone and limestone unit of the upper part of the Thaynes. Carbonate tongues of the Thaynes below the sandstone and limestone unit also extend eastward into redbeds and evaporites in western Wyoming, but none of them extends as far as the sandstone and limestone unit.

Red Peak–Thaynes correlations lead to the reconstruction of an average paleogeography for western Wyoming and adjacent Idaho. In eastern Idaho and westernmost Wyoming, carbonate mounds and oolite shoals composed of bivalves, algae, and oolites lined the shelf edge. Shallow, agitated water is indicated by the carbonate associations. Restricted, shallow-marine conditions, characterized by gypsum and early diagenetic dolomite, extended eastward from the banks into western Wyoming. Throughout west-central and central Wyoming, shallow-marine and paralic conditions prevailed during deposition of the redbeds (dominantly siltstone) of most of the Red Peak Formation.

Despite differences in age and tectonic setting, the facies relations and the reconstructed paleogeography resemble the Permian shelf-basin sequence of West Texas. This similarity suggests the possibility that oil and