CORE DESCRIPTION PROCEDURES

General Description Procedures

Procedures used for describing the cores listed in this volume are, in general, similar to those used in previous studies published by the Antarctic Research Facility (e.g., Kaharoeddin et al., 1988; Bryan, 1992a, b). These procedures are presented below.

The description of each core consists of three types of information:

1. The primary information (latitude, longitude, water depth, core length);

2. The lithologic description (using megascopic and smear-slide observations);

3. Information concerning core conditions that are not inherent to the lithologic character of the sediments (disturbance, missing section, etc.).

Most of the primary information is obtained from the deck-log, or from other information provided by the chief scientist(s) of the cruise. Core conditions not inherent to the lithologic character of the sediments are recorded from the deck log and from initial observations after cutting the core liner.

Each core description is accompanied by a graphic log illustrating the main lithologic boundaries, inclusions, sedimentary structures, and disturbances of the sedimentary units. The same criteria and format used for describing piston cores are used for describing trigger and gravity cores. The positions of the core section breaks are also indicated on the log in order to inform the investigator as to where samples should not be taken, since the cutting of cores into sections may result in sediment disturbance. Not all information appearing in the written portion of the lithologic description is illustrated in the graphic log. Note that a different scale was used for core NBP93-01 13PC (600 cm/page instead of 300 cm/page).

In addition to the recovery of piston, trigger, and gravity cores, a variety of bagged sediments are normally collected during most cruises. Bagged samples are listed following the graphic core descriptions and are also available for sampling (Note: no bagged sediments were collected for cruise NBP93-01). Bagged sediments include:

1. Sediments representing the total recovery of sediment by the coring attempt (gravity, piston, and trigger cores).

2. Sediments recovered by grab-sampling.

3. Sediment that has come out of the core liner. Most bagged sediments in this category are from core catchers/cutters and the top or bottom of core sections. The bag samples from the core sections usually result from difficult extrusion of the core liner from the core barrel, or from the accidental spilling of sediment from the liner end either during handling or cutting of the liner into shorter sections while at sea.

Megascopic Examination and Description

The elements of description of each unit are presented in the following order:

1. The upper and lower boundaries of the unit in centimeters. (For bagged sediments, this interval is replaced by the wet weight of the sediment in grams). Lithologic units are recognized on the basis of compositional, textural, and other sedimentological characteristics.

2. Name and Munsell color and color code of the sediment. Gradual changes in texture or color of the unit are described accordingly. The term "graded" can be applied to the name of the unit (see the following section on sediment classification). Interlayering with other types of sediment is also noted.

3. Observable distribution of volcanic ash, manganese nodules, and staining.

4. Internal structures within the unit: zone, layer, lamina, lense, stringer.

5. Inclusions: Sedimentary clasts, pebbles, lapilli, manganese nodules.

6. Bioturbation.

7. Disturbances due to the coring operation and/or transportation.

8. Nature of the bottom contact of the unit.

Other than coarse volcaniclastics, most of the cores consist of muddy lithologies, and classification is based on smear-slide observations. Sediments larger than 63 μm in size

must usually be avoided in smear slide preparations. In the case of sediments with mixed sizes (> and < 63 μm), an estimate of coarse -vs- fine fraction is necessary for sediment classification. If there is an obvious coarse fraction within an otherwise muddy lithology, a small portion of the sediment is wet-sieved (63 μm sieve) and observed under the binocular microscope. A rough visual estimate is then made of the amount of coarse -vs- fine sediment (based on the amount sieved -vs- residual coarse sediment >63 μm). For example, if a smear slide is a diatomaceous mud, but approximately half of the original lithology is sand, the sediment will be a sandy diatomaceous mud. Thus, estimated values of dominant constituents from smear slide analyses, wet-sieving, and megascopic examination are used in classification.

Glacial marine sediments generally consist of mixed-size classes (such as pebbles in mud). However, no attempt was made to utilize a separate classification for these sediments. Instead, the matrix is classified according to the guidelines outlined herein for fine-grained sediments, and clasts are described separately as inclusions within the lithology.

The size class and sorting of a sand or pebble unit are usually mentioned in the description. Size classes of sand-size fractions were determined by use of the AMSTRAT (American/ Canadian Stratigraphic) size-class comparison card. On this card, each of the five size classes (very coarse, coarse, medium, fine, very fine) of sand-size particles has been divided into two subclasses (very coarse-upper, very coarse lower; coarse-upper, coarse lower; etc.). The ten subclasses (separated by 0.5 phi intervals) are graphically depicted on the card for comparison with the sediment. Determination of the mean grain size of sand is a matter of matching the size of the most abundant grains to one of the five size classes exhibited on the card.

A unit may exhibit several colors, and color changes within a unit are described as being gradational or sharp (abrupt). Mottling refers to irregular spots of differing color within the sediment, and the color of mottling may be included in the description. The color of the sediment is determined by visual comparison of fresh sediment with the Munsell color chart. If the color of a sediment cannot be matched exactly with the color chart, the closest color is used.

Any variation in the abundance of a major component in a unit, observable either megascopically or through smear-slide analyses, is given in the description. Minor constituents that are scattered within a unit (micro-manganese nodules, lapilli, ash, etc.)

may also be identified on smear slides. Their abundance is determined after a thorough examination of the core and described as scattered, common, or abundant. Manganese and ferrous oxides that occur as staining materials can be either in the form of small patches, or spread uniformly within a certain interval. These stainings are described by the terms slightly, moderately, or highly stained.

In describing the internal structures within a sedimentary unit, the stratigraphic position of each structure is noted, and when applicable, the composition and the color are also described. Each structure is defined as follows: *Zones* are defined as small intervals (less than 20 cm) in which a notable change in the abundance of some components or inclusions in the unit can be detected, either through megascopic examination or in the smear slide analysis. *Layers* have a thickness of between 1 to 10 cm and are separated from the main unit by a discrete change in lithology and distinct planes of contact. Layers less than 5 cm thick are usually not included on the graphic lithology column of the core description form but denoted by a symbol in the structure column. *Laminae* are similar to layers, but have a thickness of less than 1 cm. *Stringers* are laminae which are discontinuous and often irregular in form. In the description of a unit, the following sequence is used: zones, layers, laminae, and stringers.

Inclusions within an unit are described in the following order:

1. *Sedimentary clasts* are described in detail including size, composition, color, and position in the core (Example: "sedimentary clasts up to 12 mm composed of calcareous, ash-bearing mud, diatomaceous mud, and muddy diatomaceous ooze, all olive gray (5Y 4/1), common throughout").

2. *Manganese nodules* are described as to their size and position in the core.

3. *Volcaniclastics* are described as to their textural class and position in the core. Sometimes the rock type (pumice, scoria) is also mentioned.

4. *Pebbles* are described as to their size, roundness, and position in the core (Example: "very fine to fine, subangular to subrounded pebbles common throughout"). Occasionally, their rock type is also given. Coatings, encrustations, and cementation by manganese or ferrous oxides are common on clastics and volcaniclastics; they are mentioned when present.

Bioturbated sediments are described in terms of slightly, moderately, or highly bioturbated. The qualifiers can be approximated as follows:

Slightly:	less than 5% bioturbation
Moderately:	between 5% to 30% bioturbation
Highly:	30% or more bioturbation

Operational disturbances are disturbances in the sediment usually occurring during the coring operation, transportation, and occasionally during the splitting of the core, resulting in total or partial loss of the primary sedimentary structures and the stratigraphic integrity of the sediment. The degree of the disturbance is described in terms of slightly, moderately, or highly disturbed. *Slightly disturbed* sediments still retain most of their primary sedimentary structures, particularly along the central axis of the core. *Moderately disturbed* sediments have lost almost half of their original structures and must be sampled carefully if they are to be stratigraphically meaningful. *Highly disturbed* sediments have lost most or all of their primary structures; it is not recommended that these be sampled for stratigraphic study because of mixing of sediment components. Highly mixed sediment that has randomly entered the core by suction during the coring operation is described as *flow-in* and is usually characterized by vertical striations that can be traced from the base of the core.

Water entrapped in the liner can wash sediment along the side of the liner during transport. Sediments disturbed in this manner are described as *slightly or moderately washed along the side*, and can still be sampled carefully for stratigraphic work. The term, "highly washed along the side", is not used because such sediment is almost always highly disturbed. An uncommon disturbance occurs when the overlying sediment is dragged along the side of the liner. Cores described in this manner can be sampled (carefully) for stratigraphic work.

Smear Slide Analysis

Smear slides are routinely made from regular intervals throughout the core during the description process. Slides are made from each macroscopically visible lithologic unit in the core (as recognized by compositional, textural, and color changes), but if the core is homogeneous in composition (e.g., a diatomaceous ooze), only one or two slides may be made for the entire core.

Smear slides are made as follows: Using a toothpick, a small amount of sediment is obtained from the core. This sample is mixed with a drop of distilled water on a standard 1" x 3" glass slide until the sediment and water are smeared into a very thin film. The slide is then dried on a hot plate (using low temperature). When the slurry is dry, 1 to 3 drops of Norland Optical Adhesive (NOA 61) are put over the dried sediment film and covered with a glass cover slip. The slide is then placed under an ultraviolet lamp for 2 or 3 minutes to cure the adhesive. After curing, the slide is then ready for viewing under a petrographic microscope. Using transmitted light and phase contrast, biogenic sediment components and heavy minerals are readily visible. Polarized light is used to view most clastic components.

For each smear slide, the percentage abundance of the following constituents are estimated using the percentage composition chart of Shvetsov (Terry and Chilingar, 1955) and reported on the core description logs:

1. Minerals: quartz, feldspar, mica, heavy minerals, volcanic glass, glauconite, pyrite, and micromanganese nodules.

2. Biogenic constituents: foraminifera, calcareous nannofossils, unspecified carbonate, diatoms, radiolarians, sponge spicules, silicoflagellates, ebridians, and ostracodes.

On the basis of the dominant sedimentary constituents, the sediment is classified according to the guidelines outlined below. On the core description form a symbol “D” by the smear slide percentage denotes the dominant lithology, a symbol “m” denotes a minor lithology, zone, layer, laminae, or stringer, and “TR” denotes trace quantity.