

OAK RIDGE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR STUDIES RADIOCARBON DATES I

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The Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies (ORINS) was developed as a teaching and research facility in the Special Training Division. This facility is available to participants enrolled in various courses held at ORINS, research groups associated with the 41 universities that make up the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), and other colleges, universities or institutions interested in this lab for teaching or research.

Carbon samples are synthesized to liquid benzene; C^{14} activity is determined by liquid-scintillation spectroscopy. Samples are first converted to lithium carbide and then to acetylene gas as described by Barker (1953). The acetylene is trimerized to benzene through the use of a vanadium alumina catalyst developed at ORINS. Chemical yields for the benzene synthesized routinely approaches 90% with no evidence of chemical impurities in the benzene to cause quenching nor of carbon-isotope fractionation occurring in the chemistry. Benzene chemistry, catalyst, benzene purity, and C^{13}/C^{12} isotope-fractionation studies are reported by Noakes *et al.* (1965).

The liquid scintillation spectrometer used is a modified Packard Tricarb Model 314 D C. Counting efficiency is 50% when operating at a voltage of 800 with discriminator settings of 100-800-1000. Background count rate is 1.7 c/m with a 5 cc benzene sample. Shielding consists of 4 in. of lead with coincidence and anticoincidence systems.

The modern reference standard used is 0.95% of the activity of the NBS oxalic-acid standard which is 6.82 c/m/g carbon. Ages are calculated on a C^{14} half-life of 5570 as suggested by Godwin (1962). The statistics quoted are compiled as one standard deviation (1σ) of the uncertainty involved in counting background, standard and sample.

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SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

I. CHECK SAMPLES

Sample	Age	Reference
ORINS-1	1070 ± 190	ORINS-I
UCLA-908	920 ± 80	UCLA-IV
ORINS-2	980 ± 160	ORINS-I
UCLA-568A	815 ± 80	UCLA-IV
ORINS-47	3340 ± 160	ORINS-I
UCLA-752	3255 ± 80	UCLA-IV
ORINS-51	14980 ± 180	ORINS-I
UCLA-787A	15540 ± 280	UCLA-IV

II. GEOLOGIC SAMPLES

A. Shark Bay, Western Australia

Shark Bay is a lagoonal sea lying between 24° 30' S and 26° 45' S lat on west coast of Australia. Since 1964 a marine-research group from Dept. of Geology, Univ. of Western Australia has been conducting research program on carbonate sedimentation and diagenesis of carbonate sediments in Shark Bay. The following C¹⁴ dates are mainly on shell materials obtained from emergent Quaternary sediments in the area.

ORINS-19. Shark Bay, Sample L165044 > 27,000

Coral fragment (*Favia* sp) from intertidal-supratidal bench, E shore Hamelin Pool, W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1725450 N, 205120 E. Obtained from cobble-size fragment cemented into matrix of indurated calcarenite surfacing the bench. Calcarenite occurs as thin (2-6 in) veneer overlying Cretaceous orthoquartzites and dolomites. Surface of bench ca. 6 in. above normal HWS level. Coll. April 1965; subm. by Brian W. Logan, Dept. of Geology, University of W Australia. *Comment*: corals do not live in hypersaline water of Hamelin Pool at present; only known living occurrences of this species of coral in Shark Bay are N of Lat 25° 40' S where salinities are 30 to 42‰. Date and occurrence suggest that pre-glacial Shark Bay had lower salinities than those of present day. Petrographic examination indicated no significant diagenetic alteration in the skeleton.

1880 ± 180**ORINS-33. Shark Bay, Sample L165047 70 A.D.**

Ooids from eolian dune, ca. 300 ft landward of shoreline; same locality as ORINS-19 (L165044). Coll. April 1965; subm. by Brian W. Logan. *Comment*: sample dated to determine whether ooid dunes are forming in present depositional cycle.

ORINS-3. Shark Bay, Sample L165069 > 34,000

Valves of pelecypod (*Cryptogramma squamosa*) from excavation ca. 4 ft below surface of claypan in matrix of fine quartz sand at southern end of Hamelin Pool, W Australia. W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate

Grid 1703400 N, 189050 E. Most valves were disarticulate. Shell bed is same stratigraphic horizon from which ORINS-27 (L165066) obtained; this horizon is at + 15 ft HWS in Hamelin Pool. Coll. April 1965; subm. by Brian W. Logan.

24,530 ± 750

ORINS-27. Shark Bay, Sample L165066

22,580 B.C.

Valves of pelecypod (*Cryptogramma squamosa*) from shallow borehole in gypsum pan at southern end of Hamelin Pool. W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1701150 N, 190600 E. Borehole penetrated ca. 5 ft of sandy gypsum and bottomed on shell layer with abundant *Cryptogramma* and cerithiid gastropods. Locality lies landward of series of coquina ridges and intertidal-supratidal flats. Elev. of horizon with *Cryptogramma* is + 15 ft above HWS in Hamelin Pool. Coll. April 1965; subm. by Brian W. Logan. *Comment*: date should be compared with ORINS-3 (L165069) from same horizon; indicates that sample probably contains younger diagenetic carbon.

31,390 ± 400

ORINS-30. Shark Bay, Sample L165084-1

29,440 B.C.

Valves of pelecypod *Tellina virgata* from emergent shell bed occurring in low bluffs bordering a tidal channel into "Small Lagoon", 1 mi N of Denham, W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1778800 N, 129000 E. Horizon is overlain by ca. 3 ft of dune sand; maximum elev. is approx. + 4 ft above HWS. Subm. by Brian W. Logan. *Comment*: comparison with ORINS-5 in same horizon indicates contamination by younger diagenetic carbon.

ORINS-5. Shark Bay, Sample L165-84-2

> 34,000

Valves of pelecypod *Circe sugillata* from same locality and horizon as ORINS-30 (L165084-1). Coll. April 1965; subm. Brian W. Logan. *Comment*: comparison with ORINS-30 suggests contamination by younger diagenetic carbon in these samples.

4860 ± 235

ORINS-16. Shark Bay, Sample L165098

2910 B.C.

Valves of pelecypod *Fragum unedo* from below surface of supratidal flat, S end of Lharidon Bight, Shark Bay, Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1743500 N, 149500 E. From highly fossiliferous horizon ca. 1 ft below surface and beneath 1-ft crust of gypseous carbonate; shell horizon overlies weathered surface on top of older fossiliferous horizon containing ORINS-28 (L165092). Ca. 1 to 2 ft above present sealevel. Material is part of marine sequence in abandoned marine channel. Coll. April 1965; subm. by Brian W. Logan.

24,070 ± 450

ORINS-28. Shark Bay, Sample L165092

22,120 B.C.

Valves of assorted pelecypods *Chama* sp, *Hemicardium tumoriformum*, *Circe sugillata*, *Placamen placidum*, from emergent shell bed, approx. 1 mi N of airfield, Lharidon Bight, Shark Bay, W Australia. W. A. Zone 1,

Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1744100 N, 150500 E. Bed extends from + 6 ft above HWS to below sealevel and underlies horizon from which ORINS-16 (L165098) was obtained. Coll. April 1965; subm. by Brian W. Logan.

ORINS-22. Shark Bay, Sample L165079-1 > **34,000**

Valves of pelecypod *Cryptogramma squamosa* from emergent shell bed, at "Gregory", Shark Bay. W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1820900 N, 122700 E between Peron Sandstone and dune sand. Horizon is 2 to 3 ft thick; elev approx. 6 ft above HWS (see Logan, 1959). Coll. April 1965; subm. by Brian W. Logan.

ORINS-23. Shark Bay, Sample L165079-2 > **30,000**

Valves of pelecypod species (*Hemicardium tumoriformum*) from same locality as ORINS-22 (L165079-1).

ORINS-24. Shark Bay, Sample L165079-3 > **30,000**

Valves of pelecypod *Circe sugillata* and *C. plicatina*, from same locality and stratigraphic horizon as ORINS-22 (L165079-1) and ORINS-23 (L165079-2).

ORINS-29. Shark Bay, Sample L165082 **26,920 ± 830**
24,970 B.C.

Valves of pelecypod *Chama* sp from margins of large gypsum pan S of Cape Peron North, Shark Bay. W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1820900 N, 122700 E. Shells were broken out of quartzose limestone probably equivalent stratigraphically to horizon that yielded ORINS-22 (L165079-1), ORINS-23 (L165079-2) and ORINS-24 (L165079-3). *Comment*: comparison with other dates from this horizon suggests all shells have some addition of younger, diagenetic carbon.

ORINS-31. Shark Bay, Sample L165079-4 **24,000 ± 280**
22,050 B.C.

Valves of pelecypod *Pinctada carchariarium* from same locality and horizon as ORINS-22 (L165079-1), ORINS-23 (L165079-2) and ORINS-24 (L165079-3). *Comment*: age is probably affected by introduction of younger diagenetic carbon.

ORINS-41. Shark Bay, Sample GD4 **5040 ± 165**
3090 B.C.

Marine bivalve *Fragum unedo* Linn from unconsolidated shell bed beneath gypseous dune, Gladstone supratidal flat, Shark Bay. W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1769400 N, 211300 E. Bed approx. 2 mi from present mean high-tide strandline and ca. 5 ft above mean sealevel. Coll. July 1965; subm. by G.R. Davies, Dept. of Geology, Univ. of W Australia, Nedlands. *Comment*: varied mollusk fauna of shell bed represents sandflat facies of lower-salinity environment than in present embayment, in which salinities range from 50 to 64‰. This date, with ORINS-39 (GD5), suggests higher sealevel in sub-Recent with more open circulation and lower salinities.

ORINS-39. Shark Bay, Sample GD5 **3910 ± 200**
1960 B.C.

Marine bivalve *Fragum unedo* Linn from shell bed in gully at base of cliff cut in older Pleistocene marine oolite, 5 mi N of Gladstone jetty, Shark Bay. W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1782300 N, 210100 E. Bed approx. 100 yd from mean high-tide strandline and ca. 5 ft above mean sealevel. Coll. July 1965; subm. by G. R. Davies.

ORINS-42. Shark Bay, Sample GD9 **39,100 ± 600**
37,150 B.C.

Valve of *Spondylus* sp from mollusk fauna associated with coral fringing reef (fossil) on bench cut in Toolonga Calcilutite (Cretaceous), S Gladstone supratidal flat, Shark Bay, W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1769900 N, 206200 E. From surface of flat ca. 3 to 5 ft above mean sealevel, 300 yd from mean high-tide strandline. Coll. July 1965; subm. by G. R. Davies. *Comment:* sample cut from center of massive valve. No evidence of alteration or contamination. Extensive development of fossil fringing reef with associated heavy-shelled mollusk fauna occurs below supratidal sediments in the area. This suggests higher sealevel, lower salinities than in present embayment.

ORINS-34. Shark Bay, Sample GD11 **> 33,400**

Coral *Cyphastrea* sp from shell bed 18 ft above mean sealevel, 5 mi N of Gladstone jetty, Shark Bay. W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1782300 N, 210100 E. Bed 12 to 18 in. thick is exposed at top of cliff cut in Pleistocene marine oolite. Overlain by kunkar and soil horizon 12 in. thick. Coll. July 1965; subm. by G. R. Davies. *Comment:* sample cut from center of head of coral 8 in. diam. Coral head not considered *in situ*. Rich and varied mollusk fauna of shell bed is characterized by abundance of still-articulated bivalves. Fauna represents sand-flat facies of lower salinity than in present Gladstone embayment.

ORINS-40. Shark Bay, Sample GD12 **28,850 ± 400**
26,900 B.C.

Coral *Porites* sp from fossil fringing reef, S Gladstone supratidal flat, Shark Bay. W. A. Zone 1, Natl. Co-ordinate Grid 1769900 N, 206200 E. Coral on bench cut in Toolonga Calcilutite (Cretaceous) ca. 3 to 5 ft above mean sealevel, 300 yd from mean high-tide strandline. Coll. July 1965, subm. by G. R. Davies. *Comment:* cut from center of small head of *Porites*. Date does not correspond with ORINS-42 (GD9), from same locality, although supporting Pleistocene age. Some contamination by younger carbonate possible in porous corallum, with additional possibility of partial recrystallisation of aragonite.

ORINS-32. Shark Bay, Sample L265604 **32,640 ± 300**
30,690 B.C.

Valves of pelecypod *Anadara* sp from Pleistocene Guildford Clay Formation, Obtained in clay pits, Guildford, W Australia. Bed is de-

scribed in Fairbridge (1954) and *Anadara* horizon is believed to be 15 to 20 ft above sealevel. Coll. 1965; subm. by Brian W. Logan, *Comment*: shells are much altered and contamination by young, diagenetic carbon is probable.

ORINS-20. Shark Bay, Sample L1651553 > 34,000

Sample of coral *Pocillopora* sp from Pleistocene reef at Point Leander, Dongara, 10 ft above present MSL. Coral was in growth position; thin-section examination suggests little diagenetic alteration. Small amounts of void-filling calcite (ca. 5% of total bulk) were present. Coll. July 1964; subm. by Brian W. Logan.

ORINS-21. Shark Bay, Sample L1651554 15,980 ± 230
14,030 B.C.

Lithothamnium sp from Pleistocene reef at same locality as ORINS-20 (L1651553). *Comment*: comparison with ORINS-20 indicates significant addition of younger diagenetic carbon in ORINS-21.

B. Campeche Bank, Yucatan

Series of long cores were taken from Campeche Bank, Yucatan for study of physical, chemical, and geochemical properties of carbonate sediments in area. Cores were collected on various cruises of Texas A & M research vessel *R.V. Alaminos* during 1965 and 1966.

Calcareous lutite from upper and lower sections (intervals 110 to 120 cm, 310 to 320 cm and 1135 to 1150 cm) of core from Campeche Bank (20° 59' N Lat, 96° 26' W Long), depth 228 m. Coll. March 24, 1965 by William Bryant, Dep. of Geol. Oceanography, Texas A & M Univ., Texas; subm. June 1965. *Comment*: Shell Research and Development Corporation at Houston, Texas C¹⁴ dates tabulated to show chronology of core.

Lab. No.	Core Interval (cm)	C ¹⁴ Date
ORINS-37	110-120	16,340 ± 265 14,390 B.C.
ORINS-36	310-320	17,590 ± 340 15,640 B.C.
Sh-100	610-620	19,000 ± 800 17,050 B.C.
Sh-101	780-790	25,200 ± 1500 23,240 B.C.
Sh-102	1060-1070	33,600 ± 4100 31,650 B.C.
ORINS-48	1135-1150	40,700 ± 1700 38,750 B.C.

C. Sapelo Island, Georgia

ORINS-25. Sapelo Island, Georgia Sample 17-26 > 40,000

Sapelo Island shell material (*Crossostrea virginica*) from core of low dune formation (31° 27' 10" N Lat, 81° 15' 33" W Long) 16 ft below MLW. Coll. and subm. by J. H. Hoyt, Univ. of Georgia, Marine Inst., Sapelo Island. *Comment*: shells, worn and smooth, suggesting reworking, occur in clayey sand of Silver Bluff formation.

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