

Supplementary Notes:

Table DR1

U/Th dating:

The U-Th isotope measurements were performed on a VG Elemental AXIOM MC-ICP-MS (multi collector – inductively coupled plasma – mass spectrometer) at the IFM-GEOMAR in Kiel. The method used is published by Fietzke et al. (2005) as multi-static MIC (multi-ion-counting) –ICP-MS approach, developed for high precision measurement on small sample amounts. For isotope dilution measurements a combined $^{233}/^{236}$ U / 229 Th-spike was used, with stock solutions calibrated for concentration using NIST-SRM 3164 (U) and NIST-SRM 3159 (Th), as combi-spike calibrated against CRM-145 uranium standard solution (also known as NBL-112A) for U-isotope composition and against a secular equilibrium standard (HU-1, uranium ore solution) for determination of $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}$ activity ratio.

Whole procedure blank values of this sample set were measured around 2 pg for Th and between 4 and 8 pg for U, which are in the typical range of this method and lab. Calculation of geochronological data and activity ratios are based on the decay constants given by Cheng et al. (2000).

All sub-samples were taken as powder with a micro-driller from fresh cutted surfaces of solid precipitates, after discarding first drill steps as surface cleaning procedure. Element separation procedure was based on eichrom-UTEVA resin.

Special Acknowledgement:

We grateful acknowledge Prof. A. Eisenhauer for support of the project and fruitful discussion about cold seep carbonate isotope systematic. Dr. J. Fietzke is especially acknowledged for maintaining the Axiom MC-ICP-MS on high performance for U-Th measurements and A. Kolevica as well as D. Mikschl for clean-lab support.

Table DR2

^{14}C dating:

Samples of wood fragments and surrounding carbonate sediment were analyzed at the Leibniz Laboratory for Radiometric Dating and Isotope Research at Kiel University. The samples were checked and mechanically cleaned under the microscope, afterwards sieved, and the dark organic-looking material < 250 µm was selected for further treatment. Conventional ^{14}C ages were calculated following procedures described by Stuiver and Polach (1977) with a d ^{13}C correction for isotopic fractionation based on the $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio measured by the Accelerator Mass Spectrometer (AMS) system simultaneously with the $^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio. The alkali extraction of the organic fraction (humic acid fraction) was precipitated with HCl, washed and dried, and afterwards also measured by the AMS-system. In addition to analytical uncertainty, there is some uncertainty due to possible sample contamination. Thus, the analyzed solid fraction of soil and sediment samples may be mixed with older carbon particles of methan hydrate.

Table DR3

Tephra correlation:

All tephra acronyms, belonging volcanic centers and ages that are used in this study are given in Table S3. Additionally, in Table S3 all marine and onshore tephra compositions are given which are used for correlations. Data are compiled from Kutterolf et al. (2008) and new data which have been obtained by the analytical procedure described in Kutterolf et al.(2008).

Special Acknowledgement:

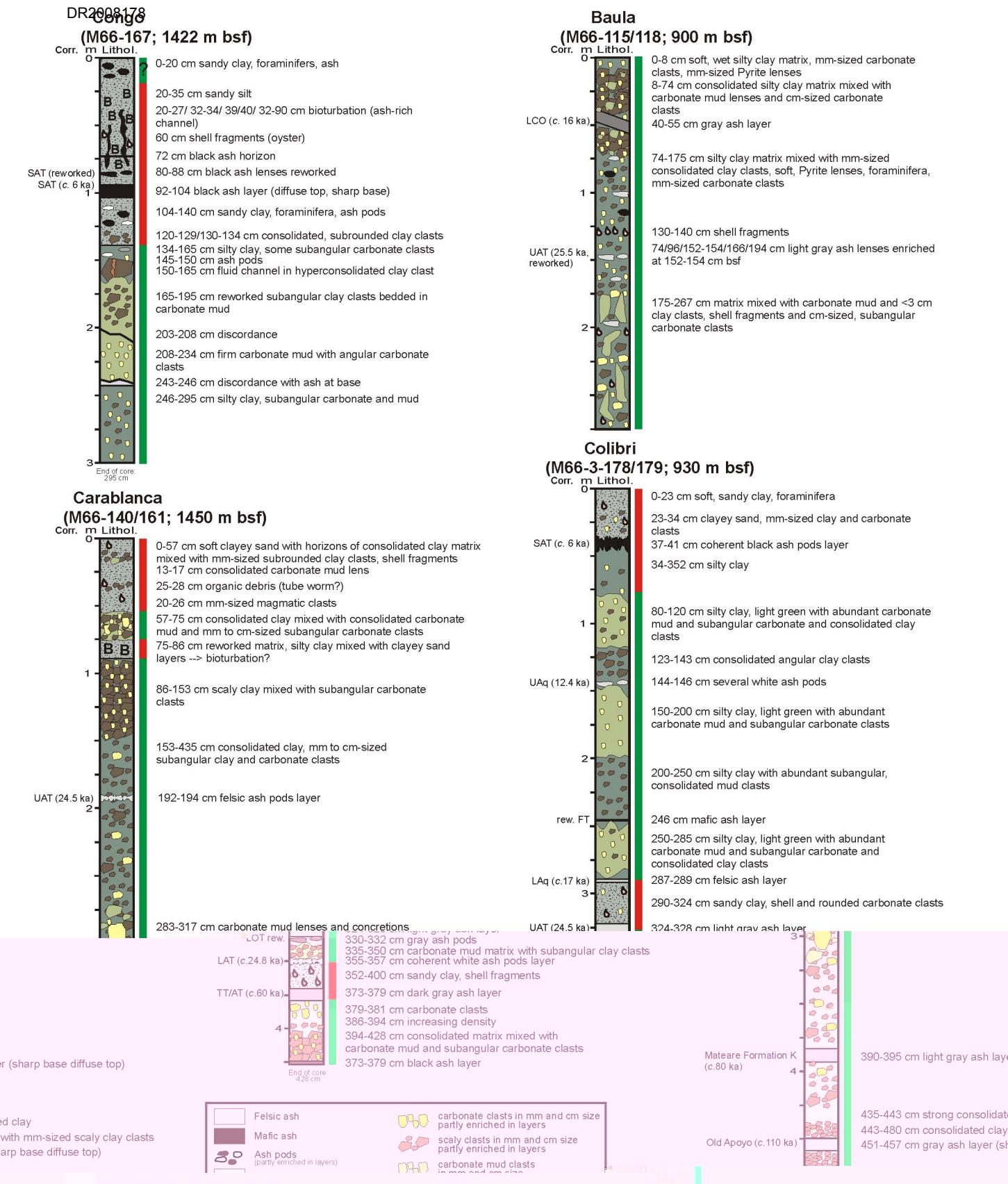
We especially thank all members of the scientific parties of RV METEOR cruises M66/3 and M54/2 as well as RV SONNE cruise SO173/3 for the good and successful working atmosphere. We grateful acknowledge the professional work by Eric Steen and Mark Schmidt which did the coring. We also thank Ulrike Schacht, Oliver Bardtöff, Cosima Burkert, Kristina Bernoth, Emelina Cordero, Joana Deppe, Yann Lahaye, Julia Mahlke, Dagmar Rau and Mario Thöner who assisted sampling on board, sample preparation and analytical work.

Figure DR1a-c:

Figures a to c showing the composite sediment successions of all investigated cores and include the core descriptions as well as the „acticity zones“ after the sediment description made in-house and on cruises M54/2, SO173/3 and M66/3 (cf. Brückmann and et, 2008; Flüh et al., 2004; Söding et al., 2003).

References Cited

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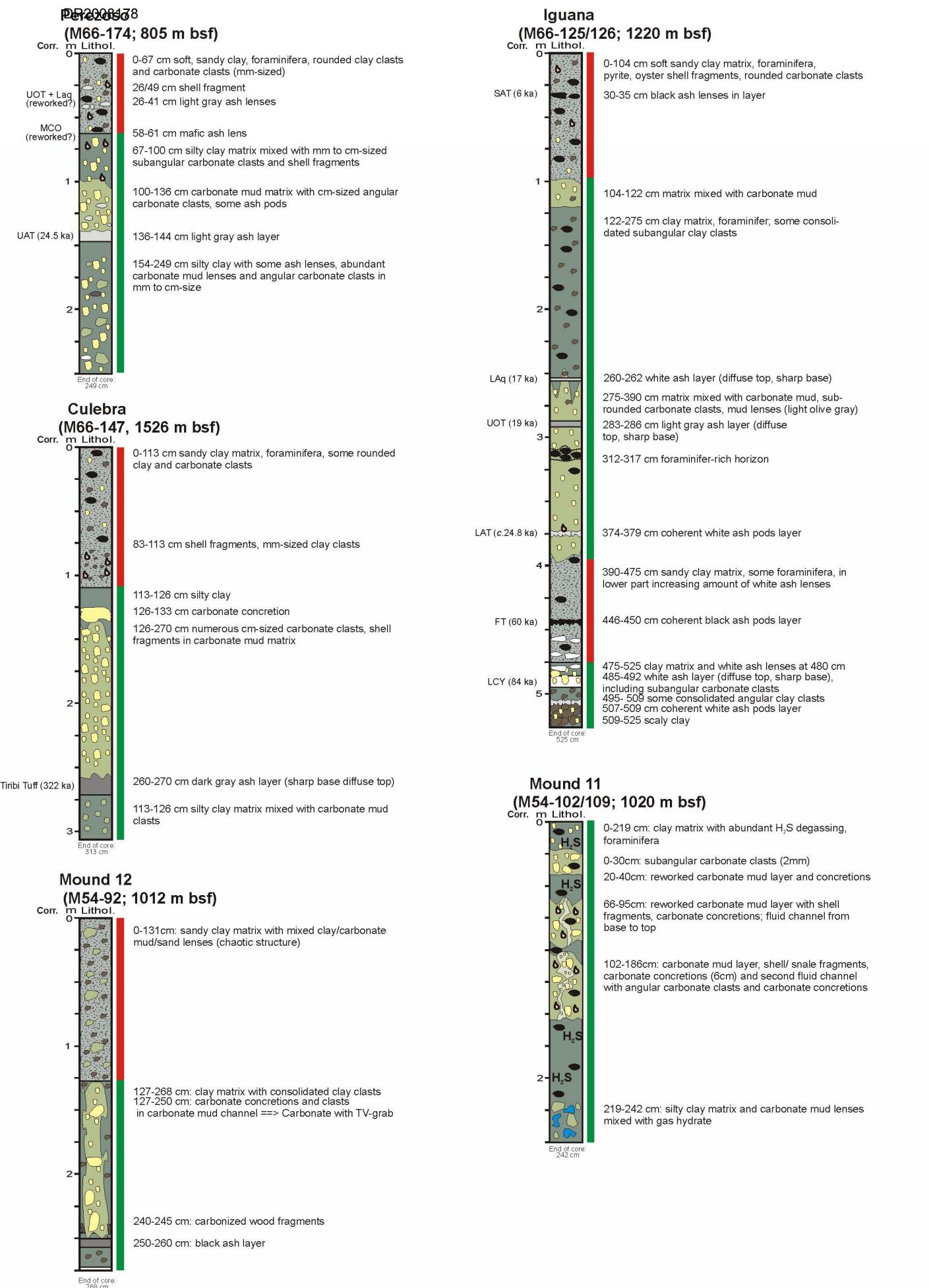


Figure DR1c

Kutterolf et al., Fig. DR1c

DR2008178
Mound 10
(SO173-40; 2283 m bsf)

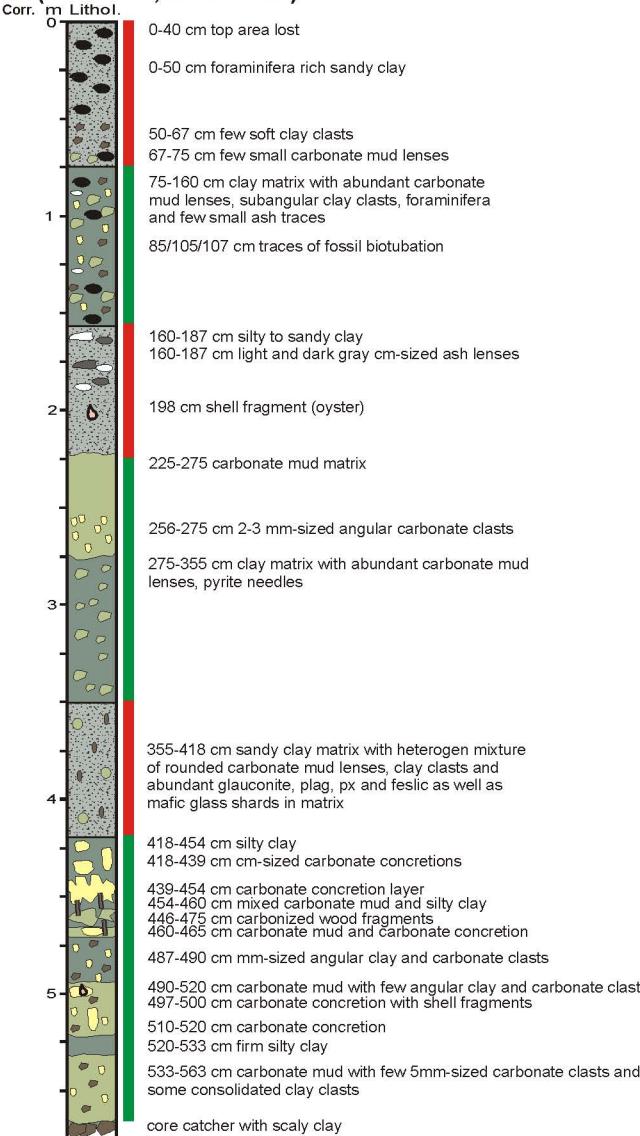


Table DR1: U-series dating of carbonates

U-series dating of carbonates using method after Fietzke et al. (2005) and decay constants after Cheng et al. (2000) at the Low-Temperature-Isotope-Geo-Chemistry-Lab (LTIGC) of IFM-GEOMAR-Kiel

LTIGC- lab-code	project ident	sample amount (mg)	U-Th-ingrowth mean age (ka)	+/- ka	+/- %	$\delta^{234}\text{U}$ (t) (Note 2)	+/-	$^{230}\text{Th}/^{232}\text{Th}$ act. ratio	+/-	^{238}U -conc. $\mu\text{g/g}$	+/-	^{232}Th conc. ng/g	+/-	$\delta^{234}\text{U}$ (0) (Note 3)	+/-	sample dept [cm] in continuous core	
1248-06	M. Iguana 1	0.432 ⁽¹⁾	65.6	1.6	2.5	115.5	5.4	1012	27	29.87	3.46	46.08	5.41	139.1	6.1	1.5	
1249-06	M. Iguana 2	15.53	32.1	0.5	1.6	122.8	3.8	1958	31	7.12	0.04	3.21	0.03	134.5	4.0	26.5	
1250-06	M. Perezoso 1	7.60	70.3	1.3	1.9	111.4	5.2	2966	41	5.95	0.05	3.28	0.03	135.8	5.8	6	
1252-06	M. Perezoso 2	24.85	55.8	1.6	2.8	111.1	5.4	428	12	1.46	0.01	4.71	0.08	130.1	6.1	61	
1253-06	M. Baula 1	10.20	8.3	0.2	2.0	138.9	5.4	163	3	4.16	0.03	6.60	0.07	142.2	5.5	6.5	
1255-06	M. Baula 2	45.86	5.6	0.1	1.9	149.9	3.5	1127	27	2.15	0.01	0.34	0.01	152.3	3.6	51	
472-03	Mound 10	18.87	16.3	0.3	1.8	144.1	2.9	25.2	0.5	9.25	0.05	184.53	2.28	150.9	3.0	150	
467-03-1	Mound 11/1	29.22	3.4	0.1	2.9	144.7	1.7	12.3	0.2	10.32	0.05	94.70	1.09	146.0	1.8	140	
473-03	Mound 11/2	21.37	9,1 ⁽⁴⁾	0.4	4.4	135.0	2.5		4.1	0.1	28.37	0.14	2348.55	27.65	138.5	2.7	90
468-03	Mound 12	14.01	10.0	0.2	2.0	139.2	1.8	145.4	2.8	2.74	0.02	5.82	0.08	143.2	1.8	245	

Note 1: sample weight close to limit of applied balance,
isotope ratios and age reasonable but concentrations are highly uncertain

Note 2: (meas. $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ act. ratio -1) * 1000

Note 3: $(^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ act. ratio at zero age -1) * 1000
measured $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ back-calculated for ^{234}U decay since precipitation based on the individual U-Th ingrowth age

Note 4: increased uncertainty on age constrains
due to high ^{232}Th concentration combined with low $^{230}\text{Th}/^{232}\text{Th}$ activity ratio

Kutterolf et al. Table DR1

Table DR2: 14C ages of clasts using**Kutterolf et al. Table DR2**

Sampled core	Mound structure	Sample type	Depth below sea floor	Date BP	Alkali error	d13C(‰)	LAB #	Date BP	Humic error	d13C(‰)	Comments
So 173 40 446 - 475	Mound 10	wood	4.5 m	42490	+1870/-1520	-29.65 ± 0.14	KIA22563	--	--	--	enough C, reliable
So 173 40 446 - 475	Mound 10	carbonate clast	4.5 m	46360	+4680/-2940	-42.61 ± 0.11	KIA22563	--	--	--	reliable
M54 - 92 240 - 245	Mound 12	wood	2.5 m	--	--	--	KIA22564	17220	±160	-24.89 ± 0.06	enough C, reliable
M54 - 92 240 - 245	Mound 12	wood	2.5 m	19360	±90	-24.45 ± 0.08	KIA22564	--	--	--	enough C, reliable
M54 - 92 240 - 245	Mound 12	carbonate clast	2.5 m	22590	+220/-210	-51.90 ± 0.13	KIA22564	--	--	--	reliable

Kutterolf et al. Table DR3

Table DR3: Tephra correlation

acronym	tephra name	eruption center	country	age (ka)	dating method/reference
SAT	San Antonio Tephra,	Masaya Caldera	Nicaragua		6 sedimentation rate (Kutterolf et al. 2007, 2008a)
Uaq	Upper Apoyequa Tephra,	Chiltepe volcanic complex	Nicaragua	12.4 14C (Kutterolf et al 2007)	c.16 sedimentation rate
LCO	Lower Cosigüina Tephra,	Cosigüina volcano	Nicaragua		c.17 sedimentation rate (Kutterolf et al. 2008a)
Laq	Lower Apoyequa Tephra,	Chiltepe volcanic complex	Nicaragua		c.19 sedimentation rate (Kutterolf et al. 2008a)
UOT	Upper Ometepe Tephra,	Ometepe Tephra	Nicaragua		c.24 delta 18O (Rose et al. 1999)
UAT	Upper Apoyo Tephra,	Apoyo Caldera	Nicaragua	24.5 14C (Kutterolf et al. 2007)	c.110 sedimentation rate
LAT	Lower Apoyo Tephra,	Apoyo Caldera	Nicaragua	24.8 14C (Kutterolf et al. 2007)	322 K/Ar (Perez et al. 2007)
TT/AT	Twins/A-fall Tephra,	Berlin volcanic complex	El Salvador		c.60 sedimentation rate (Kutterolf et al. 2008a)
FT	Fontana Tephra,	Las Sierras Caldera	Nicaragua		c.60 sedimentation rate (Kutterolf et al. 2008a)
MF-K	Matare Formation K	Chiltepe volcanic complex	Nicaragua		c.80 sedimentation rate
LCY	Los Chocoyos Tephra	Atitlán Caldera	Guatemala		
Old Apoyo	Old Apoyo Tephra	Apoyo Caldera	Nicaragua		
Tiribi	Tiribi Tuff	Barva volcanic complex	Costa Rica		

Additional references:

Rose, W. I., F. M. Conway, C. R. Pullinger, A. Deino, and K. McIntosh (1999), An improved age framework for late Quaternary silicic eruptions in northern Central America, Bull. Volcanol., 61, 106-120.

Pérez, W., G. E. Alvarado, and P. B. Gans (2006), The 322 ka Tiribi Tuff: Stratigraphy, geochronology and mechanisms of deposition of the largest and most recent ignimbrite in the Valle Central, Costa Rica, Bull. Volcanol., 69, 25-40.

correlated tephras per mound: major elements taken from Kutterolf et al. 2008a complemented by additional data

Mound	correlation	Tephra Layer	Na ₂ O	SiO ₂	MgO	FeO	Al ₂ O ₃	TiO ₂	K ₂ O	CaO	Na ₂ O+K ₂ O	#
Congo	SAT	M66-167/95-105	2.94 (0.53)	52.40 (0.88)	4.24 (0.53)	13.15 (1.20)	15.29 (0.80)	1.21 (0.19)	1.35 (0.23)	9.02 (0.61)	4.28 (0.58)	35
Baula	LCO	M66-115/40-55	4.21 (0.14)	64.70 (0.89)	1.31 (0.20)	5.59 (0.28)	15.95 (1.05)	1.02 (0.12)	2.59 (0.13)	4.00 (0.19)	6.51 (0.25)	35
	UAT	M66-118/152-154	4.25 (0.18)	73.72 (1.42)	0.45 (0.08)	2.09 (0.41)	14.25 (0.61)	0.42 (0.18)	2.74 (0.40)	1.87 (0.09)	6.99 (0.44)	18
Carablanca	UAT	M66-140/192-194	4.49 (0.10)	73.75 (0.34)	0.38 (0.03)	2.05 (0.11)	14.11 (0.20)	0.46 (0.11)	2.55 (0.07)	2.03 (0.07)	7.04 (0.12)	20
	OMF-K	M66-161/390-395	3.28 (0.47)	64.97 (1.09)	1.78 (0.33)	6.59 (0.67)	15.86 (0.52)	0.88 (0.15)	1.37 (0.10)	5.07 (0.37)	4.66 (0.41)	14
Old Apoyo upper	M66-140/451-457	3.31 (0.15)	77.41 (0.51)	0.20 (0.04)	1.46 (0.18)	12.68 (0.23)	0.28 (0.13)	3.06 (0.13)	1.49 (0.14)	6.37 (0.14)	16	
Colibri	SAT	M66-178/37-41	3.02 (0.35)	52.01 (0.71)	4.39 (0.58)	12.41 (0.64)	15.79 (0.58)	1.33 (0.21)	1.36 (0.25)	9.15 (0.73)	4.39 (0.55)	12
	UAQ (P)	M66-178/287-289	4.19 (0.56)	74.20 (0.55)	0.55 (0.04)	1.93 (0.13)	13.84 (0.21)	0.25 (0.08)	2.58 (0.09)	2.31 (0.13)	6.67 (0.54)	18
	LAQ (P)	M66-178/287-289	4.00 (0.10)	75.10 (0.34)	0.36 (0.07)	1.88 (0.11)	13.65 (0.22)	0.21 (0.03)	2.77 (0.11)	1.91 (0.14)	6.78 (0.14)	24
	MCO (P)	M66-174/58	3.55 (0.12)	57.21 (0.76)	3.09 (0.22)	9.91 (0.55)	15.98 (0.27)	1.04 (0.13)	1.74 (0.07)	6.93 (0.30)	5.30 (0.17)	13
	UAT	M66-178/323-329	4.50 (0.12)	73.72 (0.24)	0.44 (0.09)	1.95 (0.09)	14.23 (0.28)	0.43 (0.08)	2.64 (0.09)	1.87 (0.04)	7.14 (0.15)	21
	LAT	M66-178/354-355	4.04 (0.21)	75.45 (0.66)	0.31 (0.06)	1.67 (0.11)	13.49 (0.23)	0.31 (0.10)	2.91 (0.15)	1.69 (0.18)	6.95 (0.13)	15
	TT/AT	M66-178/373-379	3.91 (0.36)	67.74 (1.27)	1.12 (0.24)	4.46 (0.26)	15.67 (0.56)	0.62 (0.09)	2.64 (0.26)	3.47 (0.48)	6.55 (0.35)	11
Perezoso	UOT (P)	M66-174/26-41	5.16 (0.17)	68.72 (1.06)	0.92 (0.18)	3.02 (0.31)	16.40 (0.34)	0.02 (0.02)	2.66 (0.13)	2.71 (0.38)	7.81 (0.22)	11
	LAQ (P)	M66-174/26-41	4.07 (0.20)	75.17 (0.69)	0.35 (0.08)	1.81 (0.16)	13.57 (0.35)	0.19 (0.02)	2.92 (0.13)	1.76 (0.17)	6.99 (0.19)	17
	UAT (P)	M66-174/136-144	4.57 (0.14)	73.91 (0.37)	0.45 (0.05)	1.95 (0.09)	13.99 (0.24)	0.32 (0.03)	2.67 (0.10)	1.95 (0.12)	7.24 (0.20)	14
Culebra	Tiribi	M66-147/260-270	4.39 (0.16)	65.54 (0.29)	0.97 (0.05)	2.87 (0.10)	16.74 (0.15)	0.92 (0.11)	5.95 (0.13)	2.34 (0.13)	10.34 (0.24)	15
Iguana	SAT	M66-125/30-35	3.00 (0.42)	52.55 (0.45)	4.10 (0.26)	13.79 (0.79)	14.61 (0.63)	1.43 (0.13)	1.49 (0.14)	8.53 (0.31)	4.49 (0.49)	19
	LAQ	M66-126/260-262	3.94 (0.15)	75.33 (0.38)	0.34 (0.05)	1.86 (0.17)	13.47 (0.25)	0.27 (0.09)	2.73 (0.09)	1.91 (0.15)	6.67 (0.14)	25
	UOT	M66-126/284-285	4.88 (0.33)	68.31 (1.04)	0.76 (0.13)	2.77 (0.37)	17.01 (0.68)	0.01 (0.15)	2.58 (0.15)	2.85 (0.21)	7.46 (0.23)	22
	LAT	M66-125/178-179	3.89 (0.09)	75.79 (0.36)	0.30 (0.05)	1.69 (0.13)	13.43 (0.21)	0.29 (0.07)	2.82 (0.12)	1.67 (0.13)	6.70 (0.11)	21
	FT	M66-125/27-273	3.26 (0.40)	55.66 (2.82)	3.52 (0.83)	11.17 (2.31)	15.49 (1.06)	1.28 (0.30)	1.65 (0.22)	7.41 (1.11)	4.91 (0.58)	20
	LCY	M66-125/271-273	3.59 (0.15)	77.96 (0.25)	0.09 (0.02)	0.63 (0.12)	12.89 (0.09)	0.09 (0.04)	4.03 (0.16)	0.64 (0.06)	7.62 (0.23)	15
	???	M66-125/cc	3.81 (0.14)	76.47 (0.19)	0.26 (0.04)	1.32 (0.11)	13.39 (0.10)	0.02 (0.02)	3.33 (0.11)	1.26 (0.08)	7.14 (0.13)	21
field tephra: major elements taken from Kutterolf et al. 2008a complemented by additional data												
Field tephra	Na ₂ O	SiO ₂	MgO	FeO	Al ₂ O ₃	TiO ₂	K ₂ O	CaO	Na ₂ O+K ₂ O			
OMF-K (MF-K)	3.53 (0.33)	65.85 (1.04)	1.70 (0.33)	6.52 (0.46)	15.00 (1.13)	0.84 (0.17)	1.31 (0.43)	4.75 (0.47)	5.05 (0.51)			
Old Apoyo upper	3.57 (0.58)	76.76 (0.89)	0.31 (0.12)	1.53 (0.29)	13.02 (0.31)	0.19 (0.11)	2.77 (0.22)	1.66 (0.09)	6.65 (0.39)			
Tiribi Tuff (Tiribi)	4.03 (0.43)	66.37 (2.02)	0.87 (0.34)	3.71 (1.16)	16.33 (0.69)	0.88 (0.14)	4.81 (0.71)	2.41 (0.83)	0.29 (0.91)			
Upper Ometepe Tephra (UOT)	5.16 (0.29)	68.94 (0.49)	0.80 (0.09)	2.79 (0.21)	16.16 (0.31)	0.40 (0.13)	2.75 (0.09)	2.40 (0.24)	7.90 (0.34)			
San Antonio Tephra (SAT)	2.90 (0.38)	52.41 (1.61)	4.59 (0.89)	12.96 (1.27)	14.97 (0.82)	1.23 (0.16)	1.37 (0.30)	9.04 (1.01)	4.28 (0.57)			
Upper Apoyequa Tephra (UAQ)	4.09 (0.19)	73.58 (1.44)	0.50 (0.62)	2.15 (1.19)	13.95 (0.35)	0.28 (0.12)	2.54 (0.29)	2.37 (0.17)	6.63 (0.40)			
Lower Apoyequa Tephra (LAQ)	3.98 (0.37)	75.01 (0.52)	0.35 (0.04)	2.07 (0.12)	13.53 (0.21)	0.26 (0.08)	2.72 (0.12)	1.95 (0.12)	6.70 (0.50)			
Upper Apoyo Tephra (UAT)	4.43 (0.44)	73.50 (0.83)	0.50 (0.29)	2.10 (0.30)	14.21 (0.54)	0.45 (0.15)	2.70 (0.15)	1.91 (0.26)	7.13 (0.46)			
Lower Apoyo Tephra (LAT)	3.87 (0.46)	75.94 (0.69)	0.33 (0.07)	1.73 (0.14)	13.72 (0.35)	0.30 (0.12)	2.87 (0.12)	1.66 (0.10)	6.65 (0.50)			
Fontana Tephra (FT)	3.07 (0.42)	54.51 (4.06)	3.81 (1.08)	12.11 (2.00)	14.91 (0.63)	1.24 (0.25)	1.56 (0.63)	8.36 (1.58)	4.83 (0.87)			
Lower old cosigüina (LCO)	4.57 (0.78)	65.23 (1.27)	1.37 (0.23)	5.33 (0.56)	16.22 (0.49)	0.74 (0.16)	1.91 (0.20)	4.18 (0.37)	6.48 (0.75)			
Mafic Cosigüina (MCO)	3.91 (0.42)	58.94 (1.49)	2.68 (1.15)	8.89 (1.60)	16.07 (1.63)	1.00 (0.21)	1.35 (0.45)	6.18 (0.69)	5.26 (0.61)			
Twins/A-Fall Tephra (TT/AT)	4.64 (0.34)	67.72 (1.14)	1.09 (0.23)	4.07 (0.48)	15.90 (0.49)	0.44 (0.31)	2.27 (0.19)	3.53 (0.39)	6.94 (0.48)			
Chocoyos Fall (LCY-F)	3.72 (0.26)	77.92 (0.28)	0.10 (0.02)	0.51 (0.07)	12.93 (0.15)	0.13 (0.08)	3.98 (0.07)	0.42 (0.06)	7.70 (0.22)			