

# Radiocarbon dates on calcite and organic material (gorgonin) in bamboo coral skeletons Keratoisis (Bamboo Coral Boron Isotopes project)

**Website:** <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/542953>

**Version:** 17 December 2014

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## Project

» [Calibration and application of the boron isotope seawater-pH indicator in deep-water corals](#) (Bamboo Coral Boron Isotopes)

| Contributors                      | Affiliation   | Role                   |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
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## Dataset Description

Radiocarbon dates on calcite and organic material (gorgonin) in bamboo coral skeletons

### Related References:

Farmer, J.R., Hönisch, B., Robinson, L.F. and Hill, T.M. (2015) Effects of seawater-pH and biomineralization on the boron isotopic composition of deep-sea bamboo corals. In revision, *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta*.

Sherwood, O.A., Edinger, E.N., Guilderson, T.P., Ghaleb, B., Risk, M.J. and Scott, D.B. (2008). Late Holocene radiocarbon variability in Northwest Atlantic slope waters. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.* 275, 146-153, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2008.08.019.

## Methods & Sampling

### Sampling and Analytical Methodology:

All radiocarbon dates were obtained at the National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry facility (NOSAMS). Prior to sample submission, 3 to 5 mg of powdered calcite was cleaned of organic material following the oxidative procedure given in Farmer et al. (2015). Clean calcite powders were submitted to NOSAMS and leached with 200  $\mu$ L of 0.1N HCl under sonication immediately prior to hydrolysis to remove any adsorbed modern CO<sub>2</sub>. Approximately 10-20% of the sample mass was removed by the HCl leach. Gorgonin samples were prepared following Sherwood et al. (2008): decalcified nodes were separated with tweezers and a scalpel into individual gorgonin units, comprising 3 to >10 gorgonin layers where distinguishable. Approximately 2 to 3 mg of gorgonin was subsampled from larger units, soaked in 5% HCl for 48 hours to remove any residual carbonate, rinsed in deionized water and dried prior to submission to NOSAMS.

Full methodology, equations, and discussion of instrumental precision are available from the NOSAMS website:

## Data Processing Description

### Data Processing:

Fraction Modern (Fm) =  $\frac{(^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}_{\text{sample}} - ^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}_{\text{blank}})}{(^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}_{\text{reference}} - ^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}_{\text{blank}})} * ((1 - 25/1000)/(1 + \delta^{13}\text{C}/1000))^2$ ;

The reference is 95% of the radiocarbon concentration of NBS Oxalic Acid I (in 1950 AD) normalized to  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}} = -19\text{‰}$ .

Conventional  $^{14}\text{C}$  age (in  $^{14}\text{C}$  years before 1950) =  $-8033 * \ln(\text{Fm})$

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$  (‰) =  $\left( \frac{(^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}_{\text{sample}})}{(^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}_{\text{standard}})} - 1 \right) * 1000$ ; The standard is Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (VPDB)

### BCO-DMO Processing Notes

- Generated from original file: "DATASET-14C.xlsx" contributed by Jesse Farmer
- Parameter names edited to conform to BCO-DMO naming convention found at [Choosing Parameter Name](#)
- Lat/Lon sampling locations added from locations dataset to allow plotting in MapServer
- "nd" (no data) added to blank cells

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## Data Files

| File  |
|---|
| <b>BC_14C.csv</b> (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 4.65 KB)<br>MD5:72db3cd6cd871272fa4537a4acea769f<br>Primary data file for dataset ID 542953 |

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## Parameters

| Parameter            | Description   | Units           |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Coral                | Speciman Identifier   | text            |
| Lat                  | Sample Latitude Location (South is negative)  | decimal degrees |
| Lon                  | Sample Longitude Location (West is negative)  | decimal degrees |
| Sample               | Sample  | text            |
| Type                 | Sample Type   | text            |
| Depth                | Length scale for sample either relative to the outside of the coral (distal surface)  | mm              |
| Depth_Error          | Depth Error   | mm              |
| Accession_Number     | Accession Number  | text            |
| Fraction_Modern      | Fraction Modern (Fm) = $((14C / 12C_{sample} - 14C / 12C_{blank}) / (14C / 12C_{reference} - 14C / 12C_{blank})) * ((1-25/1000) / (1+δ13C/1000))^2$ | ‰               |
| Fm_Err               | Fraction Modern Error   | ‰               |
| Conventional_14C_Age | Conventional 14C age (in 14C years before 1950) = $-8033 * \ln(Fm)$   | 14C years       |
| Age_Err_14C          | Conventional 14C age error  | 14C years       |
| Delta13C             | $13C (‰) = (((13C/12C_{sample}) / (13C/12C_{standard})) - 1) * 1000$ ; The standard is Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (VPDB)                              | ‰               |

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## Instruments

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b> | AMS - National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry facility   |
| <b>Generic Instrument Name</b>          | Accelerator Mass Spectrometer  |
| <b>Dataset-specific Description</b>     | All radiocarbon dates were obtained at the National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry facility (NOSAMS). Full methodology, equations, and discussion of instrumental precision are available from the NOSAMS website: <a href="http://www.who.edu/nosams/">http://www.who.edu/nosams/</a>   |
| <b>Generic Instrument Description</b>   | An AMS measures "long-lived radionuclides that occur naturally in our environment. AMS uses a particle accelerator in conjunction with ion sources, large magnets, and detectors to separate out interferences and count single atoms in the presence of $1 \times 10^{15}$ (a thousand million million) stable atoms, measuring the mass-to-charge ratio of the products of sample molecule disassociation, atom ionization and ion acceleration." AMS permits ultra low-level measurement of compound concentrations and isotope ratios that traditional alpha-spectrometry cannot provide. More from Purdue University: <a href="http://www.physics.purdue.edu/primelab/introduction/ams.html">http://www.physics.purdue.edu/primelab/introduction/ams.html</a> |

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## Deployments

### BambooCoral\_Hoenisch

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Website</b>     | <a href="https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/542792">https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/542792</a> |
| <b>Platform</b>    | shoreside BAMBOO CORAL  |
| <b>Start Date</b>  | 1879-01-01  |
| <b>End Date</b>    | 2009-12-31  |
| <b>Description</b> | Locations for studied bamboo corals   |

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## Project Information

### Calibration and application of the boron isotope seawater-pH indicator in deep-water corals (Bamboo Coral Boron Isotopes)

**Coverage:** Global sample locations

*Description from NSF award abstract:*

Anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> enters the ocean in the high latitudes, from where it spreads into the deep ocean interior. Because carbonate ion saturation at greater water depth is generally reduced in the deep ocean, deep-sea corals may be particularly vulnerable to ocean acidification. Efforts are needed to determine the effects of changing seawater chemistry on these ecosystems, and in particular reconstructions of past pH-variations experienced by these corals may help to implement long-term management plans for deep-sea coral reefs. This project will provide new insight into the effect of changing seawater carbonate chemistry and anthropogenic ocean acidification on deep-sea coral reefs. The researchers will calibrate the boron isotope and B/Ca paleo-pH proxies in several species of modern and cultured deep-sea corals. The resulting proxy calibrations will be used to interpret the boron isotope composition of live collected and fossil deep-sea corals with regard to past ocean pH changes. Live collected corals from the North Atlantic and Southern Ocean will provide ultra-high resolution temporal records of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> invasion at intermediate depths. Radiometrically dated corals from the same locations will be used to document pH changes in the deep ocean over the last deglaciation. Comparison of paleo-pH with already established changes in coral species composition will allow interpretation of coral sensitivity to ocean acidification. The project will also improve paleo-pH reconstructions by cross-calibrating the principal techniques of boron isotope analysis.

**Related Reference:**

[Hoenisch\\_ocean\\_acidification\\_2010](#)

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## Funding

| Funding Source   | Award                       |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a> | <a href="#">OCE-1041133</a> |

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