Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Expedition 307 Scientific Prospectus

Modern Carbonate Mounds: Porcupine Drilling

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This IODP Scientific Prospectus is based on precruise Science Advisory Structure panel discussions and scientific input from the designated Co-Chief Scientists on behalf of the drilling proponents. During the course of the cruise, actual site operations may indicate to the Co-Chief Scientists and the Operations Superintendent that it would be scientifically or operationally advantageous to amend the plan detailed in this prospectus. It should be understood that any proposed changes to the science deliverables outlined in the plan presented here are contingent upon the approval of the IODP-USIO Science Services, TAMU, Deputy Director of Science Services in consultation with IODP-MI.

ABSTRACT

During Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) Expedition 307, a downslope suite of three sites will be drilled on the eastern slope of Porcupine Seabight, west of Ireland. The sites are centered on Challenger mound (proposed Site PORC-03A), a 170 m high, partly buried carbonate mound in the Belgica mound province, topped by dead coldwater coral rubble.

The Belgica mound province belongs to the best documented carbonate mound provinces worldwide. Very high resolution seismic profiling, multibeam bathymetry, and side-scan sonar imaging have shed light on the stratigraphic, structural, and morphological setting. The mounds are rooting on a strongly erosive unconformity and are seated partly on an enigmatic sequence of sigmoidal units and partly on a semitransparent layer. Proposed Site PORC-02A will identify the semitransparent basement layer, proposed off-mound Site PORC-04A and the basal sequence of on-mound proposed site PORC-03A will identify the nature of the sigmoidal units. Both Sites PORC-02A and PORC-04A will constrain the age of the unconformity and the importance of the hiatus.

The on-mound Site PORC-03A will unveil the environmental record locked in a carbonate mound and shed light on the processes that may have controlled the genesis of the mound, in particular, testing the hypothesis of the possible role of fluid venting as trigger for mound growth and assessing the importance of environmental forcing factors. Particular attention will be paid to microbiological and biogeochemical processes in mound genesis and development.

SCHEDULE FOR EXPEDITION 307

Expedition 307 is based on a "light" or "slim" version of Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) drilling proposal number 573-Full2 (573-PRL5; summary available at **www.iodp-mi-sapporo.org**/). Following ranking by the IODP Scientific Advisory Structure, the expedition was scheduled by the IODP Operations Committee for the research vessel *JOIDES Resolution*, operating under contract with the U.S. Implementing Organization (USIO). The expedition is currently scheduled to begin in Dublin, Ireland, on 26 April 2005, departing after a 5 day port call (or when ready). The science party is scheduled to disembark the ship in Ponta Delgada, Azores (Portugal), on 16 May 2005, and the expedition officially concludes in Mobile, Alabama (USA), on 31 May 2005 (for the current detailed schedule, see **www.iodp.tamu.edu/scien**-

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ceops). A total of 10 days will be available for the drilling, coring, and downhole measurements described in this report. Further details on the *JOIDES Resolution* can be found at **iodp.tamu.edu/publicinfo/drillship.html**.

INTRODUCTION

The carbonate mound build-up phenomenon, driven by microbial automicrite formation, is recognized to have been a prominent process throughout the Paleozoic. This process was generally believed to be extinct since the end of the Mesozoic. Fossil mounds are important reservoirs of oil and gas in a number of hydrocarbon provinces. In recent years, industrial efforts to explore deeper water environments have yielded increasing evidence of the existence of extended modern mound provinces, rich in deepwater corals, sponges, and other colonial invertebrates, along various continental margins of the world. Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) Leg 182 shed light on environmental controls on bryozoan mounds off South Australia (Feary, Hine, Malone, et al., 1999; James et al., 2000). In the Atlantic, mound provinces have been reported off southwest Brazil, Angola, Mauritania, Rockall Trough, and Norway, but the most intensively studied site is no doubt Porcupine Basin, southwest of Ireland, which in recent years has been the focus of more than 20 cruises, mobilizing the flagships of oceanography.

An overview of Porcupine Basin and the mound provinces is shown on Figure F1. Three different types of mound provinces are identified:

- Hovland mounds
- Magellan mounds
- Belgica mounds

Hovland Mounds

The first mound occurrences reported from industrial data on the northern slope of Porcupine Basin (Hovland et al., 1994) led to the unveiling of a complex setting with large multiphased contourite deposits and high-energy sediment fills, topped by a set of outcropping single mounds or elongated mound clusters up to 250 m high (Henriet et al., 1998; De Mol et al., 2002).

Magellan Mounds

The Hovland mounds are flanked to the north and west by a crescent-shaped, welldelineated province with a very high density of buried medium-sized mounds (1 mound/km²; average height = 60–80 m). We estimate a total of more than 1500 buried mounds (Huvenne et al., 2003). Joint interpretations of high-resolution data (Henriet et al., 2001) and three-dimensional (3-D) industrial data (Huvenne et al., 2002) shed light on the presence of a past slope failure with large angular blocks, for a large part, underlying the mound cluster.

Belgica Mounds

On the eastern margin of Porcupine Basin, a 45 km long range of large mounds towers from a strongly erosive surface (Fig. F2). The mounds partly root on an enigmatic, locally very thick, acoustically rather transparent horizon of unknown age and composition (Henriet et al., 1998; Van Rooij et al., 2003) and partly on a layered sequence capped by a surprising set of short-wavelength, sigmoidal depositional units (De Mol et al., 2002; Van Rooij et al., 2003). The Belgica mounds province consists of 66 conical mounds (single or in elongated clusters) in water depths ranging from 550 to 1025 m.

The mounds are partly enclosed in an impressive set of contourites (Van Rooij et al., 2003). Mounds typically trap sediment on their upslope flank, which is consequently buried, while their seaward side is well exposed and forms a steep step in the bathymetry. Average slopes amount to 10° – 15° . The largest mounds have a height of ~170 m.

In the deeper part of the Belgica mound province, an extremely "lively" mound was discovered in 1998 on base of a very diffuse surface acoustic response. This mound, known as Thérèse mound, was selected as a special target site to study processes involved in mound development within the European Union Fifth Framework (EU-F5) research projects GEOMOUND (The Mound Factory: Internal Controls), ECO-MOUND (Environmental Controls on Mound Formation along the European Margin), and ACES (Atlantic Coral Ecosystem Study; Foubert et al., in press; De Mol et al., unpubl. data). Video imaging revealed that Thérèse mound, jointly with its closest neighbor Galway mound, might be one of the richest deepwater coral environments in the Porcupine Seabight (PSB), remarkably in the middle of otherwise barren mounds.

Shortened Expedition Approach

Although the original proposal 573-Full "Modern Carbonate Mounds: Porcupine Drilling" identified five prime scientific objectives (see below) that optimally could be addressed by drilling in the three mound provinces of Porcupine Basin, the slim version of the proposal (573-PRL5) addresses four of these major questions by focusing on three sites in the Belgica mound province (Fig. **F2**, **F3**). What will not be addressed is the hypothesis that fluid flow may genetically link both slope failures and mound growth. Indeed, the location of Porcupine mound provinces right above spectacular buried slope failures is limited to the Magellan and Hovland provinces. Another aspect of the original proposal that will not be addressed is the reason for the apparent difference in age and development between the Belgica and Hovland mound provinces, the latter already featuring significant hiatuses and hardgrounds in the first few meters. Finally, the reason for the peculiar development of the Magellan mound province, characterized by more than a thousand mounds of medium size (some 60–80 m), which did compete with sedimentation rather than featuring an initial fast growth phase prior to burial, will not be elucidated by drilling during Expedition 307.

BACKGROUND

Geological Setting

The Porcupine Seabight is an amphitheater-shaped embayment in the Atlantic Irish shelf, off the southwestern coast of Ireland. It is enclosed by four shallow platforms: Porcupine Bank and Porcupine Ridge on the western side, Slyne Ridge in the north-east, the Irish mainland shelf in the east, and the terraced Goban Spur in the south (Fig. **F1**). The only opening toward the Porcupine Abyssal Plain lies between Porcupine Bank and Goban Spur. Porcupine Seabight, which is the surface expression of the underlying deep sedimentary Porcupine Basin, is a failed rift of the proto-North Atlantic Ocean, which is filled with a 10 km thick series of Mesozoic and Tertiary sediments (Shannon, 1991). The basin evolution can be summarized in three major steps: a Paleozoic synrift phase, a predominantly Jurassic rifting episode, and a Late Cretaceous to Holocene thermal subsidence period.

Basin Development and Synrift Sedimentation

The basement of Porcupine Basin is composed of Precambrian and lower Paleozoic metamorphic rocks, forming continental crust of ~30 km thickness (Johnston et al.,

2001). Because the greater part of the basin is located north of the main Variscan deformation front, it has known a lesser degree of metamorphism than time-equivalent rocks of southern basins. The prerift succession commences with probably Devonian clastic sediments, overlain with lower Carboniferous carbonates and clastics. The upper Carboniferous rocks feature deltaic to shallow-marine deposits with Westphalian coal-bearing sandstones and shales and possibly Stephanian redbed sandstones.

During a Permo–Triassic early rifting phase period, a first minor east–west regional extension regime is inferred by the development of a series of small rift basins (Shannon, 1991; Moore and Shannon, 1995). The lowest Mesozoic deposits are early riftvalley continental sediments, which can have a thickness of more than 2 km. During Permian times, predominantly fluvial and lacustrine sedimentation took place with nonmarine mixed clastic deposits and evaporites (Fig. F4). Triassic sediments contain nonmarine to marine facies (Ziegler, 1982; Shannon, 1991). The Early Jurassic (Lias) is characterized by a tectonic tranquil period and a relative sea level rise, resulting in a marine sedimentary environment (Shannon, 1991). Lower Jurassic deposits are not found over the entire basin but could comprise limestones and rare organic-rich shales with sandstones (Fig. F4).

Jurassic Rifting Phase

At the end of the Early Jurassic period, the middle Kimmerian rifting phase marked an increase of tectonic events in the Arctic, Atlantic, and Thetys rift systems. This major tectonic event was apparently accompanied by a renewed eustatic lowering of sea level and is likely responsible for erosion of a large part of the Triassic and Liassic deposits (Ziegler, 1982). Middle Jurassic fluvial claystones and minor sandstones might lie unconformably over earlier deposited strata and can be considered to be products of this major rifting episode. During the Late Jurassic, differential subsidence was responsible for the transition from a continental to a shallow-marine sedimentary environment in Porcupine Basin. Shallow-marine fans and scarp deposits were developed close to the basin margins, while in the center of the basin deepwater sandrich mass flow deposits interdigitate with background hemipelagic sedimentation. These continuous series were topped by an unconformity of latest Jurassic age, a result of the late Kimmerian tectonic phase (Shannon, 1991).

Postrift Thermal Subsidence

At the start of the Cretaceous, the general structure of Porcupine Basin could be compared with a rift structure prior to breakup. Its specific failed rift structure has a typical steer's head profile (Moore and Shannon, 1991). The increased climatologic and plate tectonic reorganizations since the Paleogene also affected deepwater circulation and sedimentation within Porcupine Basin. Most of the postrift sediments are dominantly sandstones and shales, influenced by frequent sea level fluctuations. In contrast to the Celtic Sea basins, lower Paleocene deposits of Porcupine Basin underwent minimal inversion influence caused by the Alpine Orogeny (Shannon, 1991).

A major rifting pulse during the Early Cretaceous, referred to as late Kimmerian tectonism, was accompanied by a significant eustatic sea level fall and gave rise to a regional unconformity that is largely of submarine nature (Ziegler, 1982; Moore and Shannon, 1995). This undulatory unconformity marks the base of the Cretaceous, where marine strata onlap Jurassic sequences (Shannon, 1991). The contemporaneous Transition Sequence, however, is only found in some confined subbasins filled with clastic fans (Moore and Shannon, 1995). The Lower Cretaceous deposits (PK1) are northward-onlapping deep-sea sandstones and are still deposited on the wedgeshaped subbasins. The Albian PK2 sequence is affected by a minor rifting pulse of early actual North Atlantic seafloor spreading that started in the late Aptian (Shannon, 1991; Moore and Shannon, 1995). A local uplift of the basin margins produced a regressive period with an outer shelf deltaic sedimentation environment with locally sand rich deltas and associated beach complexes (McDonnell and Shannon, 2001). The onset of the Late Cretaceous (PK3) was characterized by a further relative sea level rise, featuring offshore sandstone bars, followed by a northward thinning and onlapping outer shelf to slope sequence of carbonates (chalk). Along the southwestern and southeastern margins of the basin, Moore and Shannon (1995) recognized the presence of biohermal reef buildups.

The transition from Upper Cretaceous to Lower Paleocene sedimentation is characterized by the high-amplitude reflector C40, marking the change from carbonate to clastic deposition (Shannon, 1992). In general, the Paleocene succession is more mud dominated, whereas the main coarse clastic input occurred in the middle Eocene to earliest late Eocene (McDonnell and Shannon, 2001). The Paleocene–Eocene is subdivided into five sequences (PT1–PT5) (Fig. F4). Within PT1 to PT4, every sequence is characterized by a southerly prograding complex deltaic event overlain by marine transgressive deposits (Moore and Shannon, 1992). The controls on the relative rises and falls in sea level are dominantly due to the North Atlantic plate tectonic regime. The upper Eocene is marked by a sea level rise with development of offshore bar sandstones (Naylor and Shannon, 1982). The upper Eocene sequence PT5 differs from previous sequences in a deep-marine mudstone facies (Moore and Shannon, 1992). A major basinwide unconformity developed in the latest Eocene to early Oligocene. This unconformity C30 marks the onset of deepwater sedimentation and establishment of regional contour-hugging bottom currents (McDonnell and Shannon, 2001).

During the late Paleogene and Neogene, a passive uplift of the Norwegian, British, and Irish landmasses was very important in shaping the present-day Atlantic margin. Although the origin of this uplift remains unclear, it probably resulted in enhancement of contour currents, causing local erosion and deposition and an increased probability of sedimentary slides and slumps. Therefore, overall Oligocene and Neogene sedimentation is characterized by along-slope transport and redepositional processes yielding contourite siltstones and mudstones and (hemi)pelagic deep marine sediments, caused by a combination of differential basin subsidence and regional sea level and paleoclimate changes. Eocene-Oligocene sediments are subdivided into three sequences (PT6–PT8) (Fig. F4). The base of the PT6 sequence is characterized by the high-amplitude continuous C30 reflector, while the top reflector is the erosive base Miocene C21 reflector. Within this Oligocene succession, a reworked Eocene microfauna has been described, suggesting shelfal incision or reworking by bottom currents. These Oligocene deposits are interpreted to be a sediment drift (Shannon, 1992). In sequence PT8, a slope-parallel sediment drift is described in the southeast part of the basin. The C20 reflector, which forms the lower boundary of PT8, is related to a relative sea level fall and is noticeably erosive in the south part of the basin (Mc-Donnell and Shannon, 2001). This intensified scouring may be related to intensified bottom current activity elsewhere in the North Atlantic. The youngest unconformity mapped in Porcupine Basin is correlated with the Early Pliocene C10 event in the Rockall Basin. This event is considered to be a nucleation site for present-day coral banks (McDonnell and Shannon, 2001; De Mol et al., 2002).

Prior to the start of the EC-FP5 GEOMOUND and ECOMOUND projects studying cold and deepwater coral banks, little was known about the Quaternary evolution of the PSB. Recent sedimentation is mainly pelagic to hemipelagic, although (probably reworked) foraminiferal sands can be found on the upper slope of the eastern continental margin. The main sediment supply zone is probably located on the Irish and Celtic shelves, whereas input from Porcupine Bank seems to be rather limited (Rice et al., 1991). In contrast to the slopes of the Celtic and Armorican margins, which are characterized by a multitude of canyons and deep-sea fans, the east-west-oriented Gollum channels are the only major downslope sediment transfer system located on the southeastern margin of the seabight (Kenyon et al., 1978; Tudhope and Scoffin, 1995), which discharges directly onto the Porcupine Abyssal Plain. Rice et al. (1991) suggest that the present-day channels are inactive. According to Games (2001), the upper slope of the northern PSB bears predominantly north-south-trending ploughmarks on several levels within the Quaternary sedimentary succession. Smaller ploughmarks are also observed and interpreted as Quaternary abrasion of the continental shelf caused by floating ice grounding on the seabed. An abundance of pockmarks is also apparent on the seabed of this area. Within some of these Connemara pockmarks, an associated fauna of the coldwater coral *Lophelia* sp. has been observed (Games, 2001). Together with *Madrepora* sp., *Lophelia* sp. is found along the entire northwest European margin, manifested as coral patches to giant coral banks.

Seismic Studies/Site Survey Data

Studies carried out during the past 7 y under various EU Fourth and Fifth Framework programs (CORSAIRES [Coring Stable and Instable Realms in European Seas], ECO-MOUND, GEOMOUND, and ACES), European Social Fund (ESF) programs (Euromargins project MoundForce) and national programs (GeNesis, etc.) have gathered substantial information from the area of interest, including box cores, long gravity cores, piston cores, high-resolution seismics (surface and deep towed), side-scan sonar at various frequencies and elevations over the seabed, surface multibeam coverage, and ultra-high-resolution swath bathymetry (using a remotely operated vehicle [ROV]) and video mosaicing (using ROV).

High-resolution seismic data (penetration = \sim 350 m; resolution = 1–2 m) have been acquired over the Belgica mound province (over a 1000 km² area). A very high resolution pseudo–3-D seismic grid over an area of 10 km² with a nominal line spacing of 180 m was shot over Thérèse mound. All proposed sites have been prepared by a minimum of a set of high-quality cross lines (Figs. F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14).

Side-scan sonar data have been acquired at various resolutions and elevations: deeptow 100 kHz side-scan sonar and 3.5 kHz profiler, resolution = 0.4 m (95 km² in the Belgica mound province), high-resolution Makanchi seismic array (MAK) data (Training Through Research [TTR] program), and full coverage of towed ocean bottom instrument (TOBI) side-scan sonar (30 kHz) (Figs. F15, F16). A multibeam survey was completed in June 2000 (*Polarstern*) and the area was covered again by the Irish Seabed program (Fig. F2).

ROV *VICTOR* (Institut Francais de Recherche pour l'Exploration de la Mer [IFREMER]) was dedicated during two cruises (*Atalante* and *Polarstern*) to video surveying both Thérèse and Challenger mounds.

Previous subbottom sampling includes more than 40 gravity cores and piston cores in the Belgica mound province (penetration = 1.5-29 m), numerous box cores, and some television-controlled grab samples of ~1.5 ton.

SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES

External versus Internal Controls

The apparent coincidence between the occurrence of giant mound clusters and potential deeper-lying hydrocarbon deposits suggests a possible internal control from (mostly transient) fluxes of geofluids from deep geological reservoirs to the seabed. Sedimentary buildup might have been controlled by microbial communities, which also may have played an active role in the stabilization of the steep flanks and in the possible lithification of the (hitherto not yet sampled) mound core through automicrite formation.

On the other hand, these mounds are located on a margin that throughout the Neogene to Quaternary has repeatedly alternated between glacial and interglacial environments. There is also increasing evidence from results of the ACES, ECOMOUND, and GEOMOUND projects that the active mound provinces also occur in oceanographically distinct settings (De Mol et al., 2002; Foubert et al., in press; Van Rooij, 2004; Wheeler et al., in press). These mounds cluster in the highest salinity water and also bathymetrically coincide with the spread of the oxygen minimum zone along the deep continental margin (De Mol et al., 2002; Freiwald et al., 2004). In Porcupine Basin, these specific environmental conditions are provided by the northward flow of Mediterranean Outflow Water at intermediated depths (~700–900 m). Locally enhanced currents associated with mixing and interaction of watermasses featuring a density contrast may be at the origin of contrasting effects such as enhanced fluxes of potential nutrients and low sedimentation rates. Such observations consequently also argue for a complex but equally important external control. In a way, a central hypothesis to be tested is to what extent mound provinces originate at the crossroads of fluxes of internal (trigger phase) and external (relay phase) origin (Henriet et al., 2002).

Of Mounds and Drifts

The thick drift sediment sheet embedding the mounds holds a high-resolution record of past fluctuations of watermasses and paleocurrents on this section of the North-Atlantic margin. Seismic records of exceptionally high resolution may allow the correlation of this record—once verified by drilling—to the mound growth phases. Correlation of the Porcupine drift record with ODP sites along the Atlantic margin opens perspectives of cross-basin comparisons. Corals within the drill cores will provide information on the paleoceanographic conditions, as already substantiated by the pre-IODP coring results (*Marion-Dufresne* preparatory coring). Variations in terrigeneous content and organic matter in drift sediments should allow us to trace terrestrial sources and shelf-to-slope sediment pathways. The association of mounds and drifts on this upper continental slope thus will also provide a unique paleoenvironmental record of the Atlantic margin.

Hypotheses to be Tested

The objectives of Expedition 307 can be summarized into four major hypotheses:

- Gas seeps act as a prime trigger for mound genesis—a case for geosphere–biosphere coupling.
- Mound "events" frame into a paleoenvironmental plot—prominent erosional surfaces reflect global oceanographic events.
- Mounds are high-resolution paleoenvironmental recorders.
- The Porcupine mounds are present-day analogs for Phanerozoic reef mounds and mud mounds.
- 1. Gas seeps act as a prime trigger for mound genesis—a case for geospherebiosphere coupling.

Only drilling to the base of the mounds will allow verification of to what extent fluids may or may not have played a role in mound genesis and/or growth. The question of source rocks in the region and possible migration routes into the study area has been tackled by the teams of FZ Jülich and GFZ Potsdam, Germany. Two-dimensional basin modeling was used to evaluate the possible link between hydrocarbon leakage and

mound growth (PetroMod version 8.0, IES GmbH Jülich). Seismic lines of industrial origin and six exploration wells were used for calibration of the burial and thermal history using vitrinite reflectance, bottom hole temperatures, and apatite fission track data. Modeling results indicate that Jurassic and older source rocks are mature to overmature throughout the basin. Cretaceous strata are immature to mature in the central part of the basin and immature on the flanks. The Tertiary sequence remains immature over the entire basin. Hydrocarbon generation started in Late Cretaceous times for the deepest sequences. Phase separation was modeled to occur during migration at depth ranges between 2000 and 4000 m. Upon phase separation, the migration of the free gas phase dominated over that of oil, such that gas is the main migrating fluid in the shallower intervals. Migration is mainly buoyancy driven and vertical. Only Aptian and Tertiary deltaic layers direct hydrocarbon flow out of the basin. The model predicts a potential focusing of gas migration toward the Belgica mounds area, where a pinchout of Cretaceous and Tertiary layers beneath the mound area is observed. The reconstruction shows that seeping gas may have been available for methanotrophic bacteria and related formation of hardgrounds since the Miocene.

During recent cruises that have studied mud volcanoes and mounds in the Gulf of Cadiz, gases, hydrates, and thick authigenic carbonate crusts were sampled associated with corals, clams, and pogonophores. In mid-2004, the Marion-Dufresne collected cores from juvenile mound sites off Morocco: full of corals from top to bottom, they were characterized by a strong H_2S signal and sulfidic mineralizations (Foubert et al., 2005). Analysis of very high resolution seismic data below the Belgica mounds (proposed Site PORC-03A) highlighted within the basal sigmoidal sequences acoustic anomalies (amplitude, instantaneous frequency, and polarity) (Figs. F17, F18, F19) possibly related to low quantities of gas. In light of ODP Leg 182 findings off Australia (Feary, Hine, Malone, et al., 1999), such mound/gas associations deserve attention. Gases and possible low molecular weight hydrocarbons in sediments and pore waters need to be analyzed. The carbon isotope signature (¹²C/¹³C) of the organic compounds, both in possible authigenic carbonates and in biological skeletal carbonate, may provide clues to hydrocarbon-derived components. Lithogenesis and possible authigenic carbonate formation will be studied through analysis of major, minor, and trace elements by X-ray diffraction (XRF) and laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectroscopy (LA-ICP-MS) to provide a record of responses to external and internal controls of mound formation and growth. Subsamples for microbiological analysis will be aseptically obtained from whole-round core sections acquired from selected depths to test the hypothesis that methane-driven microbial activity catalyzes the formation and/or development of carbonate mounds.

Subsamples will be prepared to quantify total bacterial populations (direct microscopy) and their rates of activity (using ³⁵S- and ¹⁴C-labeled compounds) and identify active bacterial populations. Extant bacterial populations will be characterized using classical microscopic methods (albeit adapted for deep biosphere sediments) as well as molecular genetic techniques (i.e., 16S ribosomal ribonucleic acid [rRNA]). Comparison with other deep-biosphere sites should help to evaluate whether bacterial populations that could potentially contribute to carbonate mound formation exist. This will be supplemented by shipboard initiation of enrichments and cultivations of important bacterial populations (most probable number [MPN] method). Bacterial phospholipid fatty acid (PLFA) biomarkers should provide complementary evidence of present and past bacterial populations. Furthermore, direct measurements of bacterial methanogenesis and sulfate reduction activity can be used to document ongoing bacterial activity that may be critical to mound formation through the formation of methane via methanogenesis and bicarbonate alkalinity through sulfate reduction. Samples will be taken for pore water analysis and solid-phase organic carbon analysis from the same whole-round cores as for microbiological analysis. Bacterial inputs to buried sedimentary organic carbon and their impact on deep organic matter maturation processes will be assessed, and the interplay between biological and geological processes in the formation of carbonate mounds can then be defined.

2. Mound "events" frame into a paleoenvironmental plot—prominent erosional surfaces reflect global oceanographic events.

Erosional surfaces are displayed on high-resolution seismic lines. Cores penetrating these unconformities have to be analyzed by means of high-resolution stratigraphy. The well-established nannoplankton and microplankton (planktonic foraminifers) biostratigraphy for the Neogene marine sections of the North Atlantic will support interpretations of unconformities. Oxygen isotope analysis on both planktonic and benthic foraminifers will be run to match isotope data with established orbitally tuned isotope stratigraphy. Absolute ages will be obtained from corals and foraminifers by applying ¹⁴C accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) and U/Th dating for the youngest sequences and ¹⁰Be for the older strata. In addition to these tools, absolute ages will be determined on volcanic ashes that occur in the deeper part of the sections. Cores where sufficient biogenic calcite is continuously available will give access to ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr stratigraphy. All these methods will provide necessary hints for tying the unconformities into a regional and global scheme of oceanographic events.

3. Mounds are high-resolution paleoenvironmental recorders.

To study paleoenvironmental variability a series of well-established proxies will be used. δ^{18} O analyses will be applied to foraminifers, corals, and other skeletal biota to reconstruct paleotemperatures. As this proxy is also influenced by evaporation/precipitation changes expressed as salinity, we shall run parallel Sr/Ca analyses from aragonitic skeletons to differentiate between temperature and salinity variations. In addition, we may run certain U/Ca analyses, which seem to be an appropriate indicator of paleotemperature as well. For the same reason, we shall use Mg/Ca ratios in calcitic foraminifers. δ^{13} C is a useful proxy to reconstruct paleoproductivity; however, it has been demonstrated that it also may indicate methane-derived carbon in carbonates. Therefore, we shall run Ba/Ca analyses to differentiate between productivity signals and methanogenesis. Paleoproductivity can also be determined via $\delta^{15}N$ in organic matter. Another important question focuses on the carbonate production of the mounds. This can be traced by bulk Sr analyses in combination with total organic carbon (TOC) and $CaCO_3$ determinations in the peri-mound cores. In addition to these geochemical proxies we shall apply classical methods like component analyses and grain size distribution. The sortable silt fraction $(10-63 \mu m)$ can be used as a parameter for paleocurrent speed assessment. X-ray radiography will be used to observe delicate structures (ripples and cross stratification), hidden objects (dropstones and coral debris), or bioturbation (*Zoophycos* burrows) and will allow accurate positioning of subsamples. A promising tool is the application of fluorescence microscopy for organic matter petrography to differentiate between marine-derived material and terrestrial-derived material like leaves and tiny wood fragments. This, in combination with clay mineral analyses, will allow for a distinct differentiation of sediment sources between glacials and interglacials.

4. The Porcupine mounds are present-day analogs for Phanerozoic reef mounds and mud mounds.

Mounds are a fundamental and recurrent strategy of life from Precambrian times onward. The true dawn of carbonate mud mounds is in Cambrian times, in the early Paleozoic, when mounds suddenly feature a diversity in microbial and biodetrital fabrics with abundant mound-building calcified microbes, calcified coralline, and green algae and a variety of Paleozoic benthic invertebrates, which may have played an ancillary role in mound construction. In mid- to late Ordovician times, the dramatic rise of large skeletal metazoans such as stromatoporoids, corals (rugosa and tabulata), and bryozoans, as well as higher algae, paved the way for the strong development of reefs and typical stromatactoid mud mounds. Lower Devonian mounds (Gedinnian) in the Montagne Noire exhibit the most spectacular stromatactis fabrics, interpreted as the result of decaying microbial mats. Stratigraphically younger (Emsian) conical carbonate mounds (kess-kess) of the Moroccan Anti-Atlas are related to precipitation from hydrothermal fluids, some of which are inferred to be related to a light carbon source (hydrocarbon). Some of the most impressive of early Carboniferous bank aggregates, reaching up to 1 km in thickness, are those known as the Waulsortian. In full Mesozoic times, a decline in the abundance and diversity of microbial mounds is recorded from the Triassic to the Cretaceous. From the mid-Cretaceous onward, microbial fabrics are only known as components to metazoan framework reefs. Most Cenozoic mud mounds would be of biodetrital origin, although microbial components might have remained significant in deeper water. Drilling Challenger mound will not only allow framing this modern mound within this lineage but also will allow possible identification of the key actors in mound building. To study both skeletal and bacterial fabrics, thin sections of lithified and nonlithified parts of cores will be prepared for comparative studies. In addition, a detailed carbonate petrography shall be applied, including fluorescence microscopy and cathodoluminescence microscopy.

DRILLING STRATEGY

The three proposed sites (Fig. **F3**) jointly form a logic suite, representative of the Belgica mound province and relevant to a number of key scientific questions related to modern mound settings. This "Challenger" downslope transect addresses the key hypotheses regarding the paleoceanographic and stratigraphic significance of the mounds on the eastern slope of Porcupine Basin. The lower sequence of interest within the Belgica province is characterized by an alternation of parallel reflectors with relatively high amplitude, locally grading into a set of sigmoidal units. A thick package of drift deposits with rhythmic buildup onlaps the mound flanks.

Based on recommendations from EPSP on drilling site order, drilling will start on the off-mound Site PORC-04A, followed by the Challenger mound Site PORC-03A, and finalize with the stratigraphic drill site PORC-02A (Table T1). Drilling will help identify and date the major underlying sequences and unconformities and the mound-base. The proposed program includes using standard logging tools to determine downhole physical properties and hole-core correlation, as well as a zero-offset vertical seismic profile (VSP) at proposed Site PORC-03A.

Proposed Drill Sites

Site PORC-04A: Challenger Off-Mound Site

The pre-IODP coring exercise carried out with the *Marion-Dufresne* implied a systematic on-mound/off-mound comparison. This has already yielded exciting results, in particular in comparing the mode in which environmental signatures are being recorded, in comparing densities of corals, and in comparing relative rates of sedimentation (Foubert et al., 2003; Van Rooij, 2004). Proposed Site PORC-04A (Fig. **F11**) should provide valuable insight into the drape history of the mounds and the offmound transportation of mound-related skeletal and nonskeletal grains. The flanking sediments contain mixed sedimentary signatures of both contouritic and turbiditic origin. Many horizons onlapping the mound flanks display enhanced amplitudes, which again might be of various origin (Figs. **F18**, **F19**). Cores acquired from the *Marion-Dufresne* at both Sites PORC-03A and PORC-04A document the full paleoceanographic record down to marine isotope Stages (MIS) 4–5. The MD01-2450 Calypso core (length = 11 m) taken off-mound close to the Challenger mound, moreover, features intriguing rhythmic deposits of sulfidic nature.

As noticed on the north-northwest–south-southeast seismic section crossing the site, penetrating the whole thickness of the sigmoidal units will allow us to groundtruth two different and overlying sigmoidal sequences. Below Thérèse mound, the 3-D migration patterns of such two different sigmoidal sequences have been elucidated by a pseudo–3-D seismic grid of very high resolution (Galanes-Alvarez, 2001).

Coring Strategy

Coring strategy for this site includes triple coring using the advanced piston corer (APC) or extended core barrel (XCB) (Table T1).

Logging Strategy

Logging at this site will include the triple combination (triple-combo) and Formation MicroScanner (FMS)-sonic tool strings to correlate core depth with hole depth and to gain information about physical properties.

Site PORC03A: Challenger Mound

Challenger mound can be imaged with very high resolution seismics, including its basal sequences (Figs. **F5**, **F13**), which is in contrast with many other mound sites in Porcupine (Hovland mounds) and Rockall basins, where energy is frequently scat-

tered by the mound surface (hardgrounds). Hence, it is a prime target for linking seismic images with coring and logging information. Some polarity inversions may argue for residual patches of shallow gas below the mound, which might help to address the first hypothesis. The quality of the data has supported some level of attribute analysis (polarity, instantaneous frequency, etc.) (Figs. F12, F13). A time-to-depth conversion based on a compilation of velocity determinations in shallow subsurface sediments and on the flattening of a deeper horizon led to the depth model shown in Figure F17. A remarkable observation is the need to introduce a slightly higher velocity in the mound core (2000 m/s), which can argue for a beginning of lithification.

Coring Strategy

Coring at proposed Site PORC-03A (Table T1) may require the XCB, due to the higher degree of lithification and cementation (velocity pull-up on lower reflectors). Use of microbial contamination tracers will be necessary. Sampling has to be done carefully because this site may provide valuable insight into the microbially mediated early cementation. Samples for microbiological analysis will require the possibility to aseptically acquire whole-round core sections at selected depths for subsequent subsampling. Triple coring will be preferred, considering the risk of lower core recovery within a mound.

Logging Strategy

We propose triple combo and FMS-sonic tool string runs to correlate core depth with hole depth and to gain information about physical properties, as well as a zero-offset VSP (pending approval).

Site PORC02A: Upslope Challenger Site

Proposed Site PORC-02A, situated upslope Challenger mound (Figs. **F6**, **F14**), completes the Challenger slope transect (PORC-02A–PORC-03A–PORC-04A). It will primarily shed light on the enigmatic, rather transparent layer that underlies the southern part of the Belgica mound province and will refine dating of the basal unconformity below the mounds, as the sequence below the unconformity encompasses younger strata, including the quasi-transparent layer and some of its cover. The site is situated in water depths of ~650 m; it is proposed for a total penetration of 200 m.

Coring Strategy

At this site we propose double APC coring (Table T1).

Logging Strategy

We propose employing the triple combo and FMS-sonic tool strings to correlate core depth with hole depth and to gain information about physical properties.

LOGGING/DOWNHOLE MEASUREMENTS PLAN

Wireline Logging

Continuous downhole logging measurements will be critically important to the scientific objectives of Expedition 307, particularly because of the potential of low core recovery at proposed Site PORC-03A. The logging program will attempt to establish lithological boundaries, seismic integration, and stratigraphic and sedimentological data.

The operations plan for Expedition 307 includes downhole logging at all three proposed sites. The two standard IODP tool string configurations will be deployed at each site. The first run will be the triple combo tool string, which logs formation resistivity, density, porosity, natural gamma radiation, and borehole diameter, followed by the FMS-sonic tool string, which provides an oriented 360° resistivity image of the borehole wall and logs of formation acoustic velocity, natural gamma ray, and borehole diameter (pending approval). The well seismic tool (WST) will be run at proposed Site PORC-03A as a third tool string to conduct a zero-offset VSP (pending approval), which will also require the use of an air gun.

The standard sampling interval of the logging tools is 15 cm, with a typical vertical resolution of 40 cm. For higher vertical resolution, the FMS resistivity images allow subcentimeter resolution, and the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) Multisensor Gamma Tool (MGT) (~15 cm vertical resolution) can be included in the triple combo tool string.

Combining sonic velocity and density logs will allow modeling of a synthetic seismic profile at each site. Moreover, the sonic logs will improve the depth to traveltime conversion and thus correlation of the holes with the seismic profiles. At proposed Site PORC-03A, the velocity structure inside the mound will be further constrained by the zero-offset VSP.

For core-logging correlation, density, resistivity, and natural gamma radiation logs can be matched to the equivalent core measurements made on the multisensor track (MST). The logs will provide complete coverage in parts of the section that may not have full core recovery, which particularly may be the case at proposed Site PORC-03A, where limited core recovery is a possibility due to high coral density. This set of logs might thus reveal a more realistic stratigraphy of the internal buildup of the mound and the mound substrate (open-hole logs will be obtained below the position of the drill pipe, set at 50–80 meters below seafloor [mbsf]).

FMS resistivity images will be useful to identify the presence or absence of coral macrofossils, which will be visible in the images as resistive features in a conductive matrix. The strike and dip of inclined features (beds, fractures, etc.) are also provided by FMS data. Hardgrounds will probably be identified as hard, resistive layers with a high uranium natural gamma radiation signature.

SAMPLING STRATEGY

General

Shipboard and shore-based researchers should refer to the interim IODP Sample, Data, and Obligations policy posted on the Web at **iodp.org/data_samples.html**. This document outlines the policy for distributing IODP samples and data to research scientists, curators, and educators. The document also defines the obligations that sample and data recipients incur. Access to data and core sampling during Expedition 307, or within the 1 y moratorium, must be approved by the Sample Allocation Committee (SAC). The SAC (composed of Co-Chief Scientists, Staff Scientist, and IODP Curator on shore and curatorial representative on board ship) will work with the Shipboard Scientific Party to formulate a formal expedition-specific sampling plan for shipboard and postcruise sampling.

Shipboard scientists are expected to submit sample requests 2 months before the beginning of the expedition. Sample requests may be submitted at **iodp.tamu.edu/ curation/samples.html**. Based on sample requests (shore based and shipboard), the SAC and Shipboard Scientific Party will prepare a working cruise sampling plan. This plan will be subject to modification depending upon the actual material recovered and collaborations that may evolve between scientists during the expedition. Modifications to the sampling plan during the expedition require the approval of the SAC.

All sample frequencies and sizes must be justified on a scientific basis and will depend on core recovery, the full spectrum of other requests, and the cruise objectives. Some redundancy of measurement is unavoidable, but minimizing the duplication of measurements among the shipboard party and identified shore-based collaborators will be a factor in evaluating sample requests.

Cruise-Specific Sampling Needs

The short duration of the operations, the expected high rate of core flow inherent to shallow-water operations, and the complex scientific objectives will in general not leave time for personal sampling on board. In addition, a significant amount of cores—mainly from proposed Site PORC-03—will remain unopened when X-ray imaging (subject to implementation) reveals the presence of coral fragments. Such cores will be cut in frozen state at the shore-based core repository.

Initial MST measurements will be carried out on whole-round core sections at medium resolution (5 cm) to keep pace with the core flow rate and ascertain a real-time control on core recovery and section coverage.

Two principal objectives of sampling during Expedition 307 will be to (1) obtain highresolution interstitial water geochemical profiles to delineate microbial reaction zones and estimate potential zones of interstitial water flow; and (2) obtain corresponding samples for a variety of microbiological and biogeochemical analysis to be performed primarily in shore-based laboratories. Sampling strategies, core flow, and subsampling for shore-based laboratories will generally follow a modified scheme developed during ODP Leg 201.

Rapid analysis of key chemical species obtained from interstitial water samples in Hole A (i.e., sulfate and methane) will be important for establishing a sampling scheme for detailed microbiological analysis in Hole B. Cores identified for microbiology need to be handled rapidly and in a manner that prevents unnecessary warming and sediment oxidation. Core sections designated for microbiological sampling will be immediately removed to a temporary cooled core sampling laboratory, where the requisite number of whole-round cores will be removed and properly stored before the remainder of the core section is returned to the normal core flow pattern.

Because of time restrictions, the primary emphasis will be on cleanly obtaining whole-round cores for shore-based experimentation. To meet expedition objectives, these will include samples for deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and RNA based molecular microbial techniques, biomarkers, microbial activity measurements, and bacterial cultivation. These whole-round cores will be kept frozen at –80°C or anoxically stored

and cooled at +4°C and shipped immediately from Ponta Delgada, Azores. Samples for quantification of total prokaryotes (acridine orange direct counts [AODC] and fluorescence in situ hybridization [FISH]) and further interstitial water chemistry for onboard processing will also be obtained. Radiochemical experiments will not be performed onboard ship during this expedition.

The second priority, subsequent to geochemical and microbiological studies, is preliminary definition of the sedimentologic and biostratigraphic framework by visual core description and targeted low-resolution sampling of age-diagnostic species. Sampling for high-resolution studies (such as stable isotope investigations) will be carried out after the cruise at a designated sampling party. Sampling of corals and associated macrofauna will also be restricted to the shore-based sampling party.

PRECRUISE WORKSHOP

Considering the short preparation time available for the cruise staffing and the very short transit time from port to the first drill site, the science party is invited to participate to a 2 day shore-based precruise workshop in Dublin, Ireland, on 26 and 27 April 2005 prior to boarding the ship. This workshop should be considered to be an inherent part of the expedition. The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- general briefing on the science objectives;
- mutual presentation of the participants, their scientific expertise, and expectations;
- general overview of the programmed core flow and shipboard sampling scheme; and
- extensive opportunity for exchanging views in dedicated task groups for tuning shipboard actions and postcruise sampling and exploitation phases.

Introduction to shipboard activities will be completed by onboard briefings after embarkation. The main objective of the workshop is to help turn a community with varied backgrounds into a cohesive team, both toward shipboard and shore-based operations. Participants are requested to arrive on 25 April. Embarkation is scheduled in the later part of 27 April. Scientists are encouraged to bring a poster that adequately illustrates their research.

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Site number	Location (lat., long.)	Seafloor depth (mbrf)	Operations description		Transit (days)	Drilling/ coring (days)	Wireline logging (days)
Dublin, Ireland			Start of Expedition 307	(5 days)	In port	L	I
			Transit ~300 nmi to Site PORC-04A @ 10.5 kt	28.6 h	1.2		
PORC-4A (Belgica mound)	51.37588°N, 11.73003°W	965	Hole A: APC to refusal @ ~75 mbsf, XCB to 112 mbs	f, 4 temp. meas.		1.1	
			Wireline log with triple combo & FMS-sonic (12.0 h))			0.5
			Hole B: APC to refusal @ ~75 mbsf, XCB to 112 mbs	f		0.5	
			Hole C: APC to refusal @ ~75 mbsf, XCB to 112 mbs	f		0.6	
			Total days on site	e: 2.7			
			Transit ~0.5 nmi to Site PORC-03A @ 10.5 kt		0		
PORC-3A (Belgica mound)	51.38080°N, 11.71846°W	826	Hole A: APC to refusal @ ~75 mbsf, XCB to 220 mbs	f, 4 temp. meas.		1.5	
			Wireline log with triple combo/FMS-sonic/VSP (WS	T) (18.0 h)			0.7
			Hole B: APC to refusal @ ~75 mbsf, XCB to 220 mbs	f		1.0	
			Hole C: APC to refusal @ ~75 mbsf, XCB to 220 mbs	f		1.1	
			Total days on site	e: 4.3			
			Transit ~7 nmi to Site PORC-02A @ 10.5 kt		0		
PORC-2A	51.43601°N, 11.55033°W	423	Hole A: APC to refusal @ ~75 mbsf, XCB to 200 mbs	f, 4 temp. meas.		1.2	
(Belgica mound)			Wireline log with triple combo & FMS-sonic (11.25 h	ו)			0.5
			Hole B: APC to refusal @ ~75 mbsf, XCB to 200 mbs	f		1.0	
			Total days on site	9: 2.7			
			Transit ~1035 nmi to Ponta Delgado @ 10.5 kt	98.6 h	4.1		
Por	Ponta Delgada, Azores		Discharge Expedition 307 Science Party	(1 day)	In port		
			Transit ~3525 nmi to Mobile @ 10.5 kt	335.7 h	14.0		
Mot	Mobile, Alabama (USA)		End of Expedition 307		19.3	8.0	1.7
			Sub	ototal transit time:		19.3	r.
			Subtotal on site time:		9.7		
			Tota	I operating days:		29.0	
			Total length of expedition inclu	uding port call(s):		35.0	

Table T1. Expedition 307 operations plan and time estimates.

Notes: Seafloor depth is prospectus water depth plus 11.0 m adjustment from waterline to rig floor (i.e., drillers depth). Advanced piston corer (APC) refusal depths are arbitrary. APC coring will proceed as deep as possible if justified by core quality/quantity. Use of the extended core barrel (XCB) will be dependent upon results of APC coring. Temperature measurements for formation gradient will be used primarily for hydrocarbon safety control. FMS = Formation MicroScanner, VSP = vertical seismic profile, WST = water sampling temperature probe.

Figure F1. Overview of Porcupine Basin (located west of Ireland), enclosed by four shallow platforms (Goban Spur, Porcupine Bank, Slyne Ridge and Irish Mainland Shelf [IMS]). The three main mound provinces (Belgica, Hovland and Magellan mound province) and drill areas (Fig. F3) are indicated.



Figure F2. Digital terrain model from multibeam data, Belgica mound province (AWI Bremerhaven).

Belgica Mound Province



Figure F3. Overview of the three proposed drill sites, respectively PORC-02A, PORC-03A, and PORC-04A.

Figure F4. Generalized stratigraphy, tectonic history and relative sea level changes in the Porcupine Seabight after Ziegler (1982), Shannon (1991), Moore and Shannon (1995), and McDonnell and Shannon (2001) (Van Rooij, 2004).



Expedition 307 Scientific Prospectus

Figure F5. Downslope seismic profile P010516 over proposed Site PORC-03A





Figure F6. Downslope seismic profile P010517 over proposed Site PORC-02A

Expedition 307 Scientific Prospectus





Figure F8. Challenger mound in the Belgica mound province.

















1 km

0

Figure F12. Downslope seismic line P980521 crossing proposed Sites PORC-03A and PORC-04A.

Profile P980521





Figure F14. Slope-parallel line P010520 through proposed Site PORC-02A.



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Figure F15. Positioning of the pre-IODP *Marion-Dufresne* cores at proposed Sites PORC-03A and PORC-04A on TOBI side-scan sonar imagery and seismic profile.



Figure F16. ROV videotrack/TOBI side-scan sonar map with facies interpretation over Challenger mound. Imagery corresponds respectively with a lost fishing net, dead coral debris and dropstones on a sandy seabed.







Apparent polarity









SITE SUMMARIES

Site: PORC-04A

Priority:	Primary
Position:	51°22.553′N, 11°43.802′W
Water depth (m):	954
Target drilling depth (mbsf):	112
Approved maximum penetration (mbsf):	112
Survey coverage:	 P980521 (SP 2000) (Fig. F12) P000660 (SP 0900) (Fig. F11) P010515 (SP 0222) (Fig. F7) P010528 (SP 3246) Track map (Fig. F9) Porcupine-Belgica 1998, 2000, and 2001 high-resolution seismic grid TTR7-AT-ORAT8 3.5 kHz and side-scan sonar TOBI 30 kHz mosaic side-scan sonar (Figs. F15, F16) Polarstern ANT-XVII/4 swath bathymetry (Fig. F15) ROV-Videotransect (Fig. F16) Core MD01-2450 (September 2001)
Objectives:	Onlapping drift body, partly draping the lower part of the carbonate mound. It bears information on the amount of carbonate being shed off the mound production area. The drift body is in close relation to an active channel system. Below follows a series of sigmoidally shaped sedimentary bodies of internally alternating high- and low-amplitude layers.
Drilling program:	Triple-APC to refusal
Logging program:	Triple combo, FMS-sonic
Nature of rock anticipated:	Silty clay and nannofossil- and microfossil-bearing ooze with intercalation of sandy and terrigeneous material, including mound-derived micrite and calcareous debris

SITE SUMMARIES (CONTINUED)

Site: PORC-03A

Priority:	Primary
Position:	51°22.848′N, 11°43.108′W
Water depth (m):	815
Target drilling depth (mbsf):	220
Approved maximum penetration (mbsf):	220
Survey coverage:	• P980521 (SP 1850) (Fig. F12)
	 P000658 (SP 0750) (Figs. F13, F17, F18)
	• P000617 (SP 1520)
	• P980525 (SP 0360)
	• P010516 (SP 0172) (Fig. F5)
	• Track map (Fig. F9)
	 Porcupine-Belgica 1998, 2000, and 2001 high-resolution seismic grid
	 TTR7-AT-ORAT8 3.5 kHz and side-scan sonar
	 TOBI 30 kHz mosaic side-scan sonar (Figs. F15, F16)
	 Polarstern ANT-XVII/4 swath bathymetry (Fig. F15)
	 ROV-Videotransect (Fig. F16)
	 Core MD01-2451G (September 2001)
Objectives:	Carbonate mound sitting on a gently inclined flank overlying an erosional surface. This site may provide insight into deeper biosphere, the mound formation, and microbial mediated early diagenetic cementation.
Drilling program:	Triple-APC or XCB to refusal
Logging program:	Triple combo, FMS-sonic, zero-offset VSP (pending approval)
Nature of rock anticipated:	Carbonate mud mound, lithified micritic carbonate with skeletal grains up to 5 cm diameter forming a typical floatstone and wacke- to packstone fabric

SITE SUMMARIES (CONTINUED)

Site: PORC-02A

Priority:	Primary
Position:	51°26.161′N, 11°33.020′W
Water depth (m):	412
Target drilling depth (mbsf):	200
Approved maximum penetration (mbsf):	200
Survey coverage:	• P980521 (SP 0100)
	• P010517 (SP 1565) (Fig. F6)
	 P010520 (SP 0740) (Fig. F14)
	 Track map (Fig. F10)
	 Porcupine-Belgica 1998 and 2001 high-resolution seismic grid
	• TTR7-AT-ORAT8 3.5 kHz
	• Core MD99-2327 (September 1999)
Objectives:	Carbonate mound sitting on a gently inclined flank overlying an erosional surface. This site may provide insight into deeper biosphere, the mound formation, and microbial mediated early diagenetic cementation.
Drilling program:	Double-APC or XCB to refusal
Logging program:	Triple combo, FMS-sonic
Nature of rock anticipated:	Silty clay and nannofossil- and microfossil-bearing ooze with intercalations of sandy and terrigeneous material, possibly diagenetic carbonate

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