

So, the rate of accumulation of these shells and other skeletal parts is very slow (only about 20 mm^{2 cm} per 1,000 years under good conditions, usually less than 20 mm).

Contrast Bahama Banks--Present rate of sediment production is about 30 cm/1,000 years

* Show Foraminifera, Radiolaria, coccoliths,

and diatoms. — *from photosynthetic algae.* All 4 of these types are pelagic.

Cocco Gk. Kokkos = "round objects"

These coccoliths make up as much as 50% of the sediment of some of the thick layers on the ocean floor. (Most coccoliths are less than 20 μ in diameter.)

Term "nannofossils" from Gk. nānnos = "dwarf"

We should remember that, since these are photosynthetic organisms they grow only in the upper 100 meters or so of the water. In fact, even the pelagic Foraminifera do not grow very far down. So, the growth space for these organisms is limited.

B. We have known about these organisms, and this type of sediment, ever since back in the 19th century, but it is only within the past 10 years that science and technology have developed the means for measuring the amounts of sediments which now lie upon the ^{deep} ocean floor.

Now the Deep Sea Drilling Project, a joint venture of the National Science Foundation and several oceanographic institutions, is providing us with these measurements. During the past 10 years over 40 cruises have been completed, with deep core drillings made at hundreds of sites, in all the oceans of the world.

The ship used is the Glomar Challenger. It is equipped with fabulously capable equipment. They can go out where the water is 2 and 3 miles deep,