

in excess of 200 meters of sediments which have a composition of at least 40% of diatom shells, by weight. Similar amounts of radiolarian deposits are also found in many parts of the Pacific. So the abundance of both groups of these microfossils is incontrovertible. (Details on the thicknesses of both diatom and radiolarian deposits can be seen in the volumes of Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, 1969, v. 1, to 1976, v. 36, which are available in most large libraries. Particularly see Hayes, Frakes, et al., v. 28, 1975; Barker, Dalziel, et al., v. 36, 1976; and Creager, Scholl, et al., v. 19, 1973.)

If any young-earth creationists want to contest the fact that both groups were very abundant at the time of the Flood, let them examine and recognize the abundance of both, in terrestrial sedimentary strata which they take to have been formed during the Flood. After all, they at least recognize the vast deposit of diatom shells in the Lompoc, California area to have been in existence at the time of the Flood. Or, if anyone might still try to suppose that these diatoms and the great, thick beds of them in the oceans grew since the Flood they will have to face the fact that such prolific growth is wholly unnatural, and that no provision for it was included in the natural laws of biological growth which God ordained. It is true that many kinds of algae occasionally, when environmental conditions are right, multiply with unusual rapidity, forming what biologists call "algal bloom." But always, with no known exception, this prolific growth comes to a hurried end--usually within a few days. The algae, whether they be diatoms or another group, "upset the balance of nature" by their rapid increase. That is, they succumb to such imbalances as the accumulation of excess waste products of their own metabolism, the lack of raw materials in the water, and diseases or other abnormalities which arise in the cellular population.

In summary, we here have two great categories of one-celled, marine microfossils, both about the same size and abundance, and both having shells of the same composition (silicon dioxide). They both live in the same ecological zone (pelagic), except that a very considerable proportion of the diatoms live on the sea bottom in areas where the water is not too deep to badly restrict the sunlight which they require for photosynthesis. The fact that some diatoms are bottom dwellers, whereas radiolarians are all pelagic, would lead us to expect, according to the "Flood geology" hypothesis, that the diatoms would be found in all systems of sedimentary rocks but that the radiolarians would be restricted to the upper systems. Exactly the opposite is true. Radiolarian shells are abundant in the rock systems all the way down into the Cambrian, but diatom shells have never been found below the Jurassic.

Why then are radiolarians found all the way down into the Cambrian, but diatoms not? There is no logical conclusion but to recognize that at least practically all species of diatoms just did not exist at the time that the pre-Jurassic rock systems were being formed. If all the rock systems (Cambrian through Tertiary) had been formed by the Biblical Flood, as Morris and other young-earth creationists believe, then all of the rock systems would contain both radiolarians and diatoms. This is true because both were exceedingly abundant at the time of the Flood, and neither group had any characteristic, such as a distinctly different density, shape, or size, which would restrict it to the upper layers of rock being formed.

Thus the presence and absence of various kinds of fossils in the sedimentary strata of the earth leave us with conclusive evidence that the lower parts of the sedimentary column (especially the Paleozoic Systems) were deposited and lithified millions of years before the upper rock systems were added. Yet this information is almost never made available to science teachers in the Christian day schools and