

(1) Microfossil Types

It is well known that the world's oceans are teeming with floating microorganisms of many kinds, some of which produce shells (or "skeletons") for themselves. Two of the most abundant of these are the diatoms and the radiolarians. Both have shells composed of almost pure silicon dioxide, which are very resistant to dissolving in most natural waters, and therefore have been preserved as fossils in a large proportion of the sedimentary strata of all the continents.

Radiolarians and diatoms both live floating in the same ecological zone of the ocean, namely the pelagic, except that some species of diatoms live on the sea floor if the water is not too deep to exclude the light. Both of these organisms are so widely distributed that they are abundant in the ocean-floor sediments in practically all parts of the world. They are frequently found in highly concentrated accumulations of from 100 to 600 meters in thickness, covering very broad areas (Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project, 1971-1976, vols. 7, 8, 18, 19, 28, 36). The sizes of radiolarians and diatoms are not radically different from each other, and they are transported equally well by water. Yet the diatoms are found (world-wide) only in Upper Mesozoic and younger rock systems of the earth, whereas the radiolarians are found in all systems from the Recent, down into the Ordovician (Haq, 1978, p. 2, 203, 212-214, 224-230, 245-256; Lehmann, 1983, p. 16-17, 32-33, 35). This distinctive difference in distribution is ubiquitous throughout the world--being demonstrated in hundreds of new oil wells each year, as well as in exposed rock formations in most parts of the world--and therefore has been universally recognized as a demonstrated fact for many decades. Since there is no known way by which flood waters could sort or deposit these fossils selectively, it is evident that at least the rock systems from the Middle Mesozoic (Jurassic) on down through the Paleozoic were already securely in place at the beginning of the Flood. Otherwise, an abundance of diatom shells would have been mixed into the Paleozoic strata of the continents, if the strata were being formed or disturbed by the Flood.⁴

(2) Coral Types

We are referring to some of the types of "stony corals" which grow in large colonies in the ocean, forming reefs. The coral animals ("polyps") are small, soft-bodied cnidarians (coelenterates) which have the ability to secrete protective, calcium carbonate cups or tubes ("skeletons") for themselves. After the animals die the cups or tubes usually become permanently cemented together by the gradual building in of calcium carbonate crystals ("cement crystals") which are precipitated from the seawater, thus forming limestone reefs. If parts of the reef are exposed to fresh water, from rains, by a lowering of the sealevel, this lithification