

05 APR 2001

SMITHERS, B.G.

**ASSESSMENT OF CHANGES IN TOTAL PHOSPHORUS IN KATHLYN LAKE, B.C.:
A PALEOLIMNOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (March 2001)**

Prepared for: Ian Sharpe, B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

Contractor: Dr. Brian Cumming, Associate Professor
Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Laboratory
Dept. of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, K7L 3N6,
Ph.: (613) 533-6153; FAX: (613) 533-6617; e-mail: cummingb@biology.queensu.ca

Supplier: Queen's University – Standing Offer KE609-9-4434/001/XSB. Contact person: Sandra Crocker, Office of Research Services, Ph.: (613) 533-6081; FAX: (613) 533-6853

List of Figures and Appendices:

Fig. 1 Summary of paleolimnological analyses from a core from Kathlyn Lake.

Fig. 2 Stratigraphic distribution of diatom taxa in the core from Kathlyn Lake.

Appendix A: Summary of ^{210}Pb and LOI data, and diatom analyses of the core from Kathlyn Lake.

Appendix B: Summary of data used in calculating ^{210}Pb dates and ^{210}Pb output from the core from Kathlyn Lake.

Appendix C: Summary of relative abundances of diatom taxa in the core from Kathlyn Lake.

BACKGROUND

Sediment cores were taken from Kathlyn Lake with a modified K-B corer (internal diameter ~6.35 cm) on October 27, 2000. Fourteen samples were shipped to Queen's University where they were stored in our coldroom at 4°C. All the bags were weighed to determine the total wet weight of sediment prior to subsampling for ^{210}Pb analyses. Additionally, we obtained the wet weights of the subsamples from these same intervals that were sent to MYCORE Ltd. for ^{210}Pb analyses. All fourteen intervals were subsampled for diatoms and prepared for ^{210}Pb analysis. The prepared samples (see below) were then sent to MYCORE Ltd. for analyses.

METHODS

210-Pb Dating and Percent Organic Matter

The wet weight of the sediment was determined for all the subsections of the core that were shipped to Queen's. Fourteen subsamples of wet sediment from each core were weighed and oven-dried (24 hr at 105°C) and reweighed to determine percent water and dry weight of the sediment. Samples that were submitted for ^{210}Pb analysis were ground to a fine dust by use of a pestle and redried overnight at 105°C. The weight of this dried sediment was recorded to four decimal places after it was put in a plastic digestion tube. This tube was shipped to MYCORE Ltd. for determination of ^{210}Pb activity.

Percent organic matter for each of the 14 ^{210}Pb samples was determined using standard loss-on-ignition methods (Dean, 1974). A known quantity of dried sediment (recorded to four decimal places) was heated to 550°C for 2 hours. The difference between the dry weight of the sediment and the weight of sediment remaining after ignition was used to estimate the percent of organic matter in each sediment sample.

^{210}Pb activities were estimated from determination of ^{209}Po and a tracer of known activity by alpha spectroscopy. Unsupported ^{210}Pb is calculated by subtracting supported ^{210}Pb (the baseline activity determined from bottom samples of the core) from the total activity at each level. The sediment chronology and sedimentation rates were calculated using the constant rate of supply (CRS) model (Appleby and Oldfield, 1978) from the estimates of ^{210}Pb activities and estimates of cumulative dry mass (Binford, 1990). See Appendix B for a summary of ^{210}Pb calculations (B-1), and the dating output file from the CRS model (B-2).

Diatom Preparation and Enumeration

Slides for diatom analysis were prepared using standard techniques (Cumming, Wilson, Smol and Hall, 1995). Briefly, a small amount of wet sediment was suspended in a 50:50 (molar) mixture of sulfuric and nitric acid in a 20-ml glass vial for 24 hr. prior to being submersed at 70°C in a hot water bath for 5 hr. The remaining sediment material was settled for a period of 24 hr, at which time the acid above the sample was removed. The sample was rinsed with distilled water and allowed to settle once again for 24 hrs. The procedure was repeated approx. 10 times until the sample was acid free (litmus test). The samples were settled onto coverslips in a series of four 100% dilutions, which when dry, were mounted onto glass slides using a high-resolution mounting media called Naphrax[®]. For each sample, at least 400 diatom taxa were enumerated with a Leica DMRB microscope equipped with DIC optics at 1000X

magnification (Numerical Aperture of objective = 1.3). These analyses were based on the references of Krammer and Lange-Bertalot (1986, 1988, 1991a,b), Patrick and Reimer (1966, 1975) and Cumming et al. (1995).

Diatom-based Reconstructions of Total Phosphorus

Inferences of total phosphorus from the diatom assemblages in the core are based on a phosphorus model developed from 111 freshwater lakes from the 219 lakes sampled by Wilson, Cumming & Smol (1996). This model is based on estimates of the optima of taxa from weighted-averaging regression on non-transformed relative percentage data. The coefficient of determination (r^2) of this model is 0.66, and the jackknifed r^2 is 0.47. This model is superior to the earlier models developed by Reavie, Hall & Smol (1995) for several reasons including its better predictive ability and the larger number of samples which provide more analogs for downcore reconstructions.

The total phosphorus inferences (Fig. 1E) were critically assessed to determine: 1) if they tracked the main direction of variation in the diatom species assemblages (Fig. 1D); and 2) to assess if the assemblages encountered in the core are well represented in the modern-day samples (Fig. 1F). If the diatom-based phosphorus reconstructions match the main direction of variation in the diatom assemblages in the core, then we can be fairly confident that the diatoms are tracking changes that are related to phosphorus. If the correlation between the main direction of variation and the diatom-inferred phosphorus values is weak or nonexistent, then other environmental variables (e.g. pH, conductivity, turbulence, etc), or interactions between environmental variables, are likely responsible for the observed changes in diatom assemblages.

Determination of the Main Direction of Variation

The main direction of variation in the diatom assemblages in the cores was determined from the first axis scores from a principal components analysis (PCA) ordination using non-transformed species abundance data. A PCA was chosen to represent the main direction of variation of the diatom assemblages in this core based on the small gradient length (< 1.5 standard deviation units) obtained in an initial detrended correspondence analysis (DCA) ordination.

Analog Analysis of Diatom Assemblages

The reliability of the total phosphorus inferences in the core assumes that the diatom assemblages encountered downcore are well represented in our modern diatom assemblages. To determine if appropriate analogs existed for the core samples, we determined which samples in our present-day dataset of 111 lakes most resembled each of the downcore samples. This determination was based on a squared chord dissimilarity coefficient between all species found in each of the core samples. The best match between downcore and modern samples was compared with the distribution of best match between modern samples. Any downcore samples that were more dissimilar than 80% of the modern distribution were deemed to be a 'poor analog'. Similarly, any downcore samples that were more dissimilar than 95% of the modern distribution were deemed to have 'no analog' in our present-day dataset. If the downcore assemblages have good representation in modern samples, more confidence can be placed in the reconstruction. If modern analogs do not exist or are poor, then caution must be placed in reconstructions from

these downcore samples.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

²¹⁰Pb Profile, Sedimentation Rates and Organic Matter

The ²¹⁰Pb profile from Kathlyn Lake shows an ~exponential decay with core depth (Fig. 1A). Results from the CRS model suggest, with the exception of the bottommost two points, that sedimentation rates have not varied much over the past 100 years (Fig. 1B). Inferences of sedimentation rates become increasingly (exponentially) difficult with depth due to the nature of ²¹⁰Pb calculations. Thus, estimates of changes in sedimentation rates are best evaluated using multiple cores to avoid erroneous interpretations. The increase in organic matter starting ~1900 from ~2-3% to 12% at the top of the core (Fig. 1C) is an unique change when viewed in the context of the last 200 years of sediment accumulation in this lake. Increases in organic matter can be attributed to several factors including increased in-lake production of organic matter, increased inwash of organic matter, or decreases in the load of inorganic matter of the lake.

Diatom Assemblage Changes and Analyses

One-hundred and sixty-four diatom taxa were encountered in the sediment core from Kathlyn Lake (Appendix C). Cluster analysis suggests the changes in diatom assemblages through time can be divided into two primary zones, before and after 1945. Since 1945 (Zone A, Fig. 2), the diatom assemblages shows an unprecedented increase in the mesoeutrophic planktonic taxon *Asterionella formosa*, from a plankton dominated by the oligotrophic planktonic taxon, *Cyclotella stelligera*. There is also a small post-1945 increase in the mesoeutrophic planktonic taxon, *Tabellaria flocculosa* (Fig. 2). Prior to 1945, the diatom assemblage is also dominated by a diversity of benthic taxa, many of which have a wide tolerance to total phosphorus in our modern calibration set, with TP optima in the mesotrophic range. Consequently, inferences of TP from the diatom assemblages show a much more complex pattern (Fig. 1E) than the main direction of variation in the diatom assemblages (Fig. 1D). Thus, it is not surprising that the correlation between the PCA axis 1 scores (Fig. 1D) and the log TP inferences (Fig. 1E) is low ($r = 0.45$, $p < 0.05$).

In summary, the predominance of eutrophic planktonic diatoms in the post-1945 sediments, in combination with declines in many benthic taxa (e.g. *F. construens*, *F. pinnata*), and an overall increase in organic matter, suggest that the trophic status of this lake has increased slightly over the past 50 years. However, because many benthic taxa are mesotrophic and have wide tolerances to TP, the TP inference doesn't exhibit as large a change as would be expected if we only considered the planktonic taxa. Thus, the inferred magnitude of TP change since 1945 is likely an underestimate.

REFERENCES

- Appleby, P.G. & F. Oldfield. 1978. The calculation of lead-210 dates assuming a constant rate of supply of unsupported ^{210}Pb to the sediment. *Catena* 5: 1-8.
- Binford, M.W. 1990. Calculation and uncertainty analysis of ^{210}Pb dates for PIRLA project lakes sediment cores. *Journal of Paleolimnology* 3: 253-267.
- Cumming, B.F., S.E. Wilson, R.I. Hall & J.P. Smol. 1995. Diatoms from British Columbia (Canada) Lakes and their Relationship to Salinity, Nutrients and Other Limnological Variables (with 248 figures, 6 tables and 1041 photos on 60 plates). *Bibliotheca Diatomologica*: 31. Stuttgart, Germany. 207 pp.
- Dean, W.E. 1974. Determination of carbonate and organic matter in calcareous sediments and sedimentary rocks by loss on ignition: comparison with other methods. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology* 44: 242-248.
- Krammer, K. & H. Lange-Bertalot. 1986. Bacillariophyceae. 1. Teil: Naviculaceae. In H. Ettl, G. Gärtner, J. Gerloff, H. Heynig & D. Mollenhauer (eds.), Süßwasserflora von Mitteleuropa, Band 2/1, Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart/New York, 876 pp.
- Krammer, K. & H. Lange-Bertalot. 1988. Bacillariophyceae. 2. Teil: Bacillariaceae, Epithemiaceae, Surirellaceae. In H. Ettl, G. Gärtner, J. Gerloff, H. Heynig & D. Mollenhauer (eds.), Süßwasserflora von Mitteleuropa, Band 2/2, Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart/New York, 596 pp.
- Krammer, K. & H. Lange-Bertalot. 1991a. Bacillariophyceae. 3. Teil: Centrales, Fragilariaceae, Eunotiaceae. In H. Ettl, G. Gärtner, J. Gerloff, H. Heynig & D. Mollenhauer (eds.), Süßwasserflora von Mitteleuropa, Band 2/3, Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart/Jena, 576 pp.
- Krammer, K. & H. Lange-Bertalot. 1991b. Bacillariophyceae. 4. Teil: Achnantheaceae Kritische Ergänzungen zu Navicula (Lineolatae) und Gomphonema. In H. Ettl, G. Gärtner, J. Gerloff, H. Heynig & D. Mollenhauer (eds.), Süßwasserflora von Mitteleuropa, Band 2/4, Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart/Jena, 437 pp.
- Patrick, R. & C. Reimer. 1966. The diatoms of the United States exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii. Vol. 1. The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Monograph 13, 668 pp.
- Patrick, R. & C. Reimer. 1975. The diatoms of the United States exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii. Vol. 2, Part 1. The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Monograph 13, 213 pp.
- Reavie, E.D., J.P. Smol & N.B. Carmichael. 1995. Postsettlement eutrophication histories of six British Columbia (Canada) lakes. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 52: 2388-2401.
- S.E. Wilson, B.F. Cumming & J.P. Smol. 1996. Assessing the reliability of salinity inference models from diatom assemblages: An examination of a 219 lake dataset from western North America. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 53: 1580-1594.

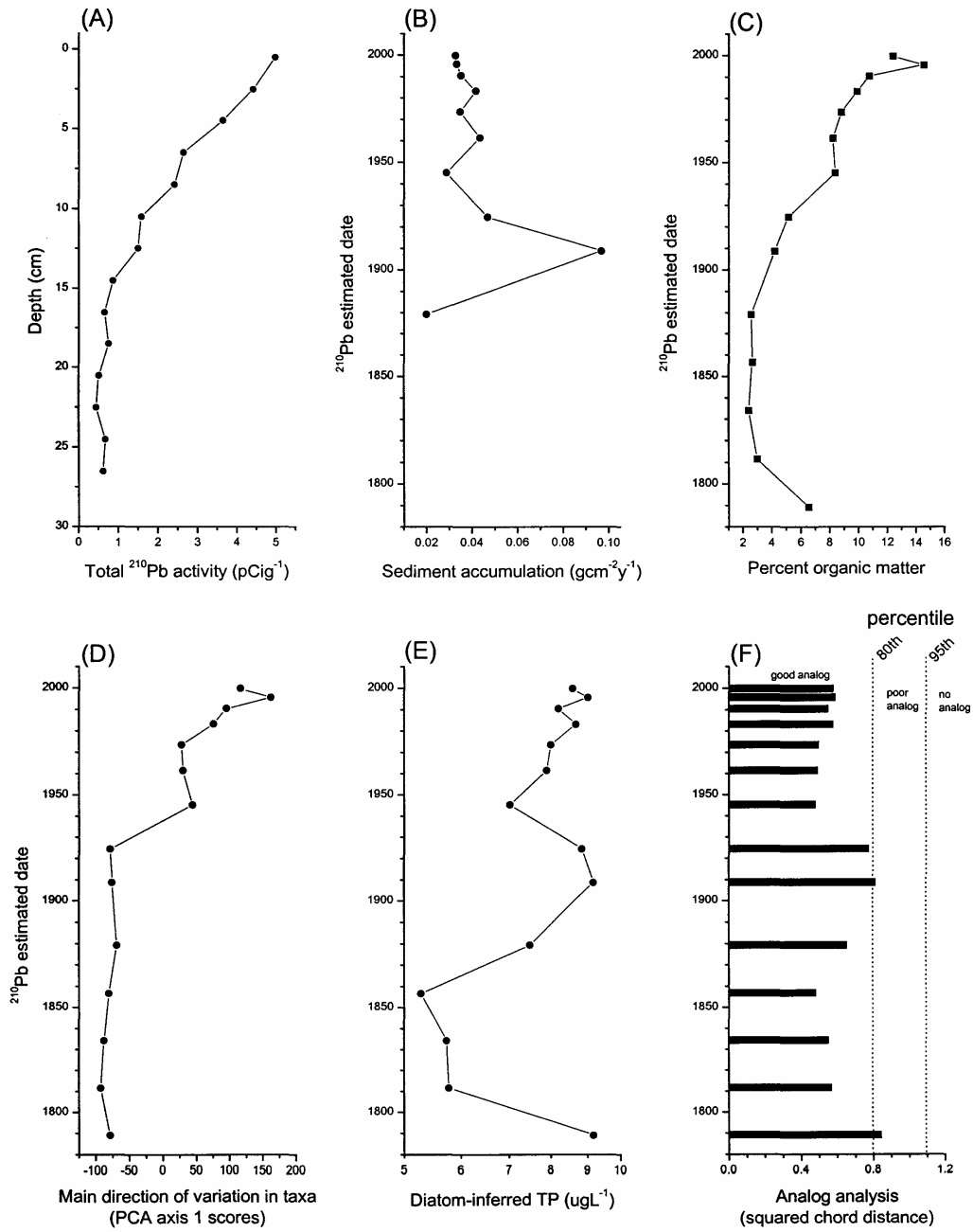
FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. Summary diagram for the sediment core from Kathlyn Lake showing: A) total ^{210}Pb activity; B) the sediment accumulation rate; C) the change in the percent of organic matter in the core; D) the main direction of variation in the diatom assemblage data; E) diatom-based estimated late-summer total phosphorus; and F) analog analysis showing the dissimilarity between present-day and downcore samples (any sample that has a squared chord distance > 0.8 was determined to be a poor analog, whereas any sample with a squared chord distance greater than 1.1 was determined to have no analog in the modern dataset).

Figure 2. Stratigraphy of the most abundant diatom taxa found in the sediment core from Kathlyn Lake, B.C. (see Appendix B for a complete list of taxa and the relative percentage data). The diatom taxa are arranged in order of increasing late-summer total phosphorus (TP) optima which is indicated in parentheses for those taxa with known optima.

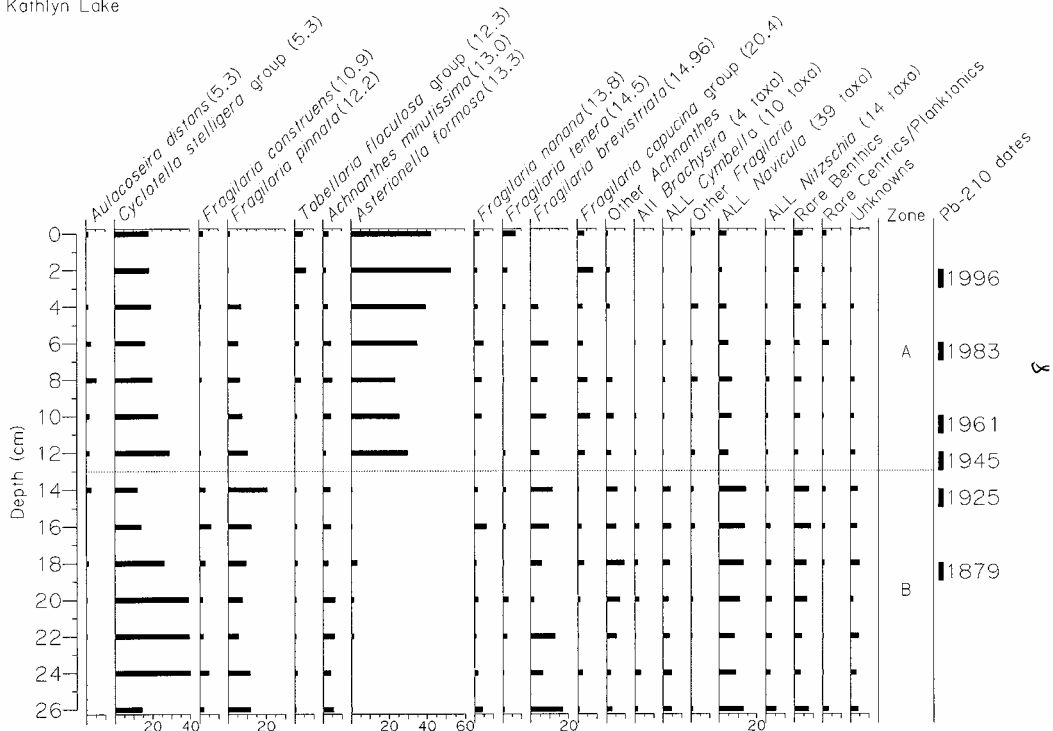
Kathlyn Lake

FIG. 1



Kathlyn Lake

167



Summary File Kathlyn Lake

Pb210 and LOI summary

* = extrapolated dates

INTTOP (cm)	INTBOT (cm)	Pb210Act (pCi/g)	LOI(550C) %organic	estimated AD date	SEDRATE (g/cm2/yr)
0	1	4.9930	12.42	1999.8	0.0329
2	3	4.4275	14.58	1995.8	0.0334
4	5	3.6589	10.77	1990.5	0.0353
6	7	2.6526	9.92	1983.3	0.0418
8	9	2.4233	8.83	1973.6	0.0349
10	11	1.5879	8.24	1961.4	0.0435
12	13	1.5109	8.38	1945.3	0.0288
14	15	0.8736	5.14	1924.5	0.0468
16	17	0.6607	4.21	1908.9	0.0969
18	19	0.7630	2.58	1879.4	0.02
20	21	0.5178	2.66	*1856.9	
22	23	0.4537	2.42	*1834.3	
24	25	0.6870	3.01	*1811.7	
26	27	0.6292	6.55	*1789.2	

Diatom analyses

Depth (cm) TOP	Depth (cm) BOTTOM	estimated AD date	log TP	TP	PCA Axis 1	ANALOG min. sq.chord
0	1	1999.8	0.934	8.59	117	0.5767
2	3	1995.8	0.955	9.02	163	0.5892
4	5	1990.5	0.914	8.20	96	0.5483
6	7	1983.3	0.939	8.69	77	0.5768
8	9	1973.6	0.904	8.02	29	0.4955
10	11	1961.4	0.898	7.91	31	0.4896
12	13	1945.3	0.847	7.03	45	0.478
14	15	1924.5	0.947	8.85	-78	0.773
16	17	1908.9	0.963	9.18	-75	0.8116
18	19	1879.4	0.875	7.50	-68	0.6512
20	21	1856.9	0.723	5.28	-80	0.4799
22	23	1834.3	0.759	5.74	-87	0.5511
24	25	1811.7	0.762	5.76	-92	0.5682
26	27	1789.2	0.963	9.18	-78	0.8424

5

CALCULATIONS FOR INPUT INTO BINFORD PROGRAM

Kathlyn L. - Pb210

INTTOP (cm)	INTBOT (cm)	Back calculated to coring				Rho (g cm-3)
		Pb-210 activity (Bq/g)	Std dev (Bq/g)	Pb210 activity (pCi/g-1)	Std dev (pCi/g-1)	
0	1	0.184741	0.006731	4.9930	0.1819	0.0656
2	3	0.163816	0.003539	4.4275	0.0956	0.0656
4	5	0.13538	0.003729	3.6589	0.1008	0.1224
6	7	0.098147	0.003177	2.6526	0.0659	0.1587
8	9	0.089663	0.002858	2.4233	0.0773	0.2117
10	11	0.058753	0.002485	1.5879	0.0672	0.2624
12	13	0.055903	0.00146	1.5109	0.0395	0.3049
14	15	0.032324	0.001453	0.8736	0.0393	0.4541
16	17	0.024446	0.001146	0.6607	0.0310	0.5385
18	19	0.02823	0.001477	0.7630	0.0399	0.5750
20	21	0.019157	0.001027	0.5176	0.0277	0.5698
22	23	0.016786	0.000872	0.4537	0.0236	0.7096
24	25	0.025417	0.001477	0.6870	0.0399	0.4361
26	27	0.023279	0.001163	0.6292	0.0320	0.3708
		avg		0.571887	=supported	
		stds		0.10556	0.677447	

BINFORD FILE INPUTS FOR CALCULATIONS OF DATES AND SEDIMENTATION RATES

Kathlyn
C1
14.00
0.1056

INTTOP (cm)	INTBOT (cm)	Pb210		Rho (g cm-3)	OM proportion	CUMTOP (g cm-2)	CUMBOT (g cm-2)	std Pb210 (pCi/g-1)
		Total (pCi/g-1)	Unsup. (pCi/g-1)					
0.0000	1.0000	4.9930	4.4211	0.0656	0.1242	0.0000	0.0656	0.1819
2.0000	3.0000	4.4275	3.8556	0.0656	0.1456	0.0672	0.1328	0.0956
4.0000	5.0000	3.6589	3.0870	0.1224	0.1077	0.1044	0.2268	0.1008
6.0000	7.0000	2.6526	2.0807	0.1587	0.0992	0.2086	0.3673	0.0859
8.0000	9.0000	2.4233	1.8514	0.2117	0.0883	0.3409	0.5526	0.0773
10.0000	11.0000	1.5879	1.0160	0.2624	0.0824	0.5272	0.7896	0.0672
12.0000	13.0000	1.5109	0.9390	0.3049	0.0838	0.7683	1.0733	0.0395
14.0000	15.0000	0.8736	0.3017	0.4541	0.0514	0.9987	1.4528	0.0393
16.0000	17.0000	0.6607	0.0888	0.5385	0.0421	1.4106	1.9491	0.0310
18.0000	19.0000	0.7630	0.1911	0.5750	0.0258	1.9309	2.5059	0.0399
20.0000	21.0000	0.5176	0.0000	0.5698	0.0266	2.5085	3.0782	0.0277
22.0000	23.0000	0.4537	0.0000	0.7096	0.0242	3.0083	3.7179	0.0236
24.0000	25.0000	0.6870	0.0000	0.4361	0.0301	3.8546	4.2907	0.0399
26.0000	27.0000	0.6292	0.0000	0.3708	0.0655	4.3233	4.6941	0.0320

10

YOU ARE ANALYZING CORE C1

FROM LAKE Kathlyn

THE DATA ARE:

INTTOP	INTBOT	PB210ACT	UNSUPACT	RHO	PERCORG	CUMMASST	CUMMASSB	SDACT
0.0	1.0	4.99300	4.42110	0.06660	0.120	0.0000	0.0666	0.1819
2.0	3.0	4.42750	3.85560	0.06560	0.140	0.0672	0.1328	0.0956
4.0	5.0	3.65890	3.08700	0.12240	0.100	0.1044	0.2268	0.1008
6.0	7.0	2.65260	2.08070	0.15870	0.090	0.2086	0.3673	0.0859
8.0	9.0	2.42330	1.85140	0.21170	0.080	0.3409	0.5526	0.0773
10.0	11.0	1.58790	1.01600	0.26240	0.080	0.5272	0.7896	0.0672
12.0	13.0	1.51090	0.93900	0.30490	0.080	0.7683	1.0733	0.0395
14.0	15.0	0.87360	0.30170	0.45410	0.050	0.9987	1.4528	0.0393
16.0	17.0	0.66070	0.08880	0.53850	0.040	1.4106	1.9491	0.0310
18.0	19.0	0.76300	0.19110	0.57500	0.020	1.9309	2.5059	0.0399
20.0	21.0	0.51780	0.00000	0.56980	0.020	2.5085	3.0782	0.0277
22.0	23.0	0.45370	0.00000	0.70960	0.020	3.0083	3.7179	0.0236
24.0	25.0	0.68700	0.00000	0.43610	0.030	3.8546	4.2907	0.0399
26.0	27.0	0.62920	0.00000	0.37080	0.060	4.3233	4.6941	0.0320

STANDARD DEVIATION OF SUPPORTED PB-210 = 0.1056

Pb-210 dates for Lake Kathlyn

core C1

INTTOP	INTBOT	MIDINT	TTOP	SDTTOP	TBOT	SDTBOT	SEDRATE	SDSEDRT	SUMTOP
0.0	1.0	0.5	0.00	1.80	2.02	1.85	0.0329	0.0081	4.8245
2.0	3.0	2.5	4.02	1.92	5.99	1.98	0.0334	0.0079	4.2569
4.0	5.0	4.5	8.58	2.08	12.05	2.23	0.0353	0.0090	3.6928
6.0	7.0	6.5	15.67	2.41	19.47	2.61	0.0418	0.0112	2.9614
8.0	9.0	8.5	24.20	2.92	30.28	3.39	0.0349	0.0113	2.2710
10.0	11.0	10.5	36.38	3.99	42.43	4.67	0.0435	0.0159	1.5538
12.0	13.0	12.5	50.19	5.81	60.88	7.86	0.0288	0.0149	1.0109
14.0	15.0	14.5	71.41	10.68	81.19	13.78	0.0468	0.0289	0.5220
16.0	17.0	16.5	89.17	17.14	94.74	18.92	0.0969	0.0665	0.3003
18.0	19.0	18.5	105.98	25.62	136.86	59.53	0.0200	0.0299	0.1779

Execution terminated : 0

C:\PB210>

Table 1. - Analysis: Kala Laid

substratum: stone (194 taxa)

Distom Relative Abundances (%)

Death (n) samples = 1 on 1000

Table with 15 columns: Species Name, 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26. Rows include various distomid species like Achromis distans, Achromis distans, etc.

Main data table with 15 columns: Species Name, 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26. Rows include various distomid species like Achromis distans, Achromis distans, etc.