Theme 4:Geological and deep-ocean biogeochemical processes

Africa

Southwest Indian Ridge

Antarctica

Australla

Part 1 Marine geology & Geophysics

Henry Dick

WHOI



2nd International Indian Ocean Expedition



The SW Indian Ridge – 7,700 km long, ultraslow spreading @ 14 mm/yr full rate





The general hypothesis for ocean rises is plume mantle emplaced beneath the ridge creates uplift due to thick buoyant crust and excess mantle temperature



Cold?

Marion Rise has the highest Na_{8.0} of all ocean rises, which indicates that the degree of mantle melting must be small & the temperature anomaly associated with it must also be small.

Depleted?



Hot?

The Southwest Indian Ridge

Largest abundance of exposed mantle rock anywhere on Earth

Ultraslow spreading with unique tectonics

Largest axial volcanoes on any ocean ridge

Extreme ridge obliquity creates unusual thermal environments

Densest array of transforms of any ocean ridge.

Has one of the oldest continuously active geologic structures on Earth (~650 Myr)





Ridge shows a lack of gabbroic crust and an exceptional % of exposed mantle

Extreme variations in crustal thickness are matched by extreme variations in geochemistry





Amagmatic Accretionary Segments

Negligible Volcanic Crust

Takes any Orientation to Spreading Direction

~24% of the lithosphere generated along the Southwest Indian Ridge has no crust with the mantle exposed directly to the seafloor.





The crust over the Marion Rise and elsewhere along the is generally thin, but with abrupt rapid changes in local thickness. For example, from 50° E to 52° E, <100 km it goes from 10-km thick to zero thickness.









Annandagstoppane Granite 3.1 Ga

Coeval to the S. African Kaapval Craton

Horst Marschall

179 Ma Ferrar Basalt

Coeval to the South African Karoo Basalts

Marschall et al., J. Petrology, 2010

200 Ma

Today



Initially the mantle that filled in between Africa and Antarctica had to be Gondwana's Mantle – the question is to what extent does it contribute to the mantle source of the SW Indian Ridge today?

Marion's paleo-position was the epicenter of Gondwanan breakup

Basalt 🛑 Gabbro 🔿 Peridotite 🔵









Despite being 50°C hotter, the refractory peridotite produces < 50% as much melt as the fertile peridotite due to the lower melting point of the latter.

So in this case, the crust at the top of the rise would be thinner than at its deepest point.

- ✓ The Marion Rise then must be largely supported then by buoyant depleted harzburgitic.
- ✓ However as the density contrast between spinel harzburgite and spinel lherzolite is small, so the buoyant layer lies below 70-km in the garnet peridotite stability field, extending down an additional ~140-200 km







Southwest Indian Ridge Mantle Provinces

> Paleo Mid-Atlantic Ridge

> > Cratonia

East Cratonia

20°

30°

West Cratonia Cratonia

10°

Bouvet

0°

Ciria Vest Ciria

> Central Ciria

> > 60°

Orocer

Marion

40°

Orogenia

Orogenia

50°

Central

40°

20°

30°

50°

70°

Status and plans for IODP, MG&G, research in the Indian Ocean – Henry Dick (WHOI)

US — German — China Marion Rise Expedition













US — China Focus Sites

Multibeam, gravity, and Magnetics Survey with Dredging and Near Bottom Mapping with Sentry



Scheduled for 36 days port to port on Thomas G. Thompson February – March 2019

Follow on Sonne Program

Juergen Koepke, Leibniz University Hanover, Chief Scientist

Approved for Scheduling, likely late 2019 or 2020

Multibeam, and surfaced towed magnetics and gravity Dredging ROV Dives

Map and sample areas 2 & 4

Follow on Diving in US-China Focus Sites



Atlantis Bank Indian Ocean 8 The Journey to Moho





Project Mohole

Walter Munk, Harry Hess & The American Miscellaneous Society

1961

CUSS 1 Drilled 601 m into seismic layer 2, 40 miles from Guadalupe, Mexico


MoHole in the 21st Century

SloMo (Moho at a Slow Spreading Ridge) - The Atlantis Bank gabbro massif on the SW Indian Ridge – Expedition 360, 789-m hole, leg 2 approved.

<u>Phase 1</u>: JOIDES Resolution to drill 3 km to determine if the crust-mantle boundary lies above Moho the crust-mantle boundary.

Phase 2: Chikyu to drill 6 km through Moho ~5.5 km.

M2M (MoHole To the Mantle) – intact East Pacific Rise Crust in the Pacific – 2023?



SloMo Objectives:

 Test the hypothesis that the Moho may not be the Crust-Mantle boundary
 Is Moho a serpentinization front at slower spreading

ridges?

2) Recover a full section of the oceanic lower crust

3) What is the carbon budget in the lower crust & shallow mantle

4) What is the microbiological inventory of the crust and shallow mantle

Is there a new planetary biosphere between the crustmantle boundary and the Moho? SloMo Drill Site Atlantis Bank SW Indian Ridge

Atlantis Bank

TRO





High-resolution 2-m contour map of the Atlantis Bank Platform





SloMo — Current Status

Leg 1 of Phase 1 is complete – Hole U1473A is open and can be reoccupied and deepened.

However, the hole is compromised by an unstable fault zone in the upper 500-m an attempt on Expedition 362T failed to cement the fault zone, and it remains unstable.

Option 1: Return to Hole U1473A, finish cementing if possible, and then attempt to drill to 3-km to meet the Phase 1 objective of reaching the crust-mantle boundary.

Option 2: Return to Site 735 where Hole 735B was drilled to 1508 m with no significant problems or obstacles. Leg 1: Drill to 1500-m with new hard rock drill bits provided by industry Leg 2: Core ahead to 3,000 m

A decision on which approach will be made at the Deep Hard Rock Drilling Working Group meeting at TAMU this fall in October

Likely date for return is 2020.

SloMo – Possible Outcomes:









The SW Indian Ridge provides a direct window into the top of the Southern Oceans Geoid Anomaly.

This reveals that the source of the Marion Rise basalts is a region of anomalously depleted upper mantle.

What is the source of this previously depleted mantle ?



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