

# Radiocarbon calibration curve spanning 0 to 50,000 years BP based on paired $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ and $^{14}\text{C}$ dates on pristine corals

Richard G. Fairbanks<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Richard A. Mortlock<sup>a</sup>, Tzu-Chien Chiu<sup>a,b</sup>, Li Cao<sup>a,b</sup>, Alexey Kaplan<sup>a</sup>, Thomas P. Guilderson<sup>c,d</sup>, Todd W. Fairbanks<sup>e</sup>, Arthur L. Bloom<sup>f</sup>, Pieter M. Grootes<sup>g</sup>, Marie-Josée Nadeau<sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, Rt. 9W, Palisades, NY 10964, USA

<sup>b</sup>Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Columbia University, Rt. 9W, Palisades, NY 10964, USA

<sup>c</sup>Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA 94551, USA

<sup>d</sup>Department of Ocean Sciences, University of California – Santa Cruz, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 94056, USA

<sup>e</sup>Columbia University, 1864 Lerner Hall, New York, NY 10027-8311, USA

<sup>f</sup>Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Cornell University, 2122 Snee Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-1504, USA

<sup>g</sup>Leibniz Laboratory for Radiometric Age Determination and Isotope Research, Christian Albrecht University, 24118 Kiel, Germany

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## Abstract

Radiocarbon dating is the most widely used dating technique in the world. Recent advances in Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) and sample preparation techniques have reduced the sample-size requirements by a factor of 1000 and decreased the measurement time from weeks to minutes. Today, it is estimated that more than 90 percent of all measurements made on accelerator mass spectrometers are for radiocarbon age dates. The production of  $^{14}\text{C}$  in the atmosphere varies through time due to changes in the Earth's geomagnetic field intensity and in its concentration, which is regulated by the carbon cycle. As a result of these two variables, a radiocarbon age is not equivalent to a calendar age. Four decades of joint research by the dendrochronology and radiocarbon communities have produced a radiocarbon calibration data set of remarkable precision and accuracy extending from the present to approximately 12,000 calendar years before present. This paper presents high precision paired  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  age determinations on pristine coral samples that enable us to extend the radiocarbon calibration curve from 12,000 to 50,000 years before present. We developed a statistical model to properly estimate sample age conversion from radiocarbon years to calendar years, taking full account of combined errors in input ages and calibration uncertainties. Our radiocarbon calibration program is publicly accessible at: <http://www.radiocarbon.LDEO.columbia.edu/> along with full documentation of the samples, data, and our statistical calibration model.

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## 1. Introduction

The records of the  $^{14}\text{C}$  content of the atmosphere and oceans contain a remarkable array of information about Earth history (Arnold and Libby, 1949; Libby, 1955; Suess, 1970; Damon et al., 1978; Stuiver, 1982; Stuiver and Pearson, 1986; Damon, 1988; Bard, 1998). Pro-

duced by cosmic rays in the upper atmosphere (Lal and Peters, 1962; Suess 1968; Lal, 1988),  $^{14}\text{CO}_2$  rapidly mixes throughout the troposphere and exchanges with the reactive carbon reservoirs of the oceans and biosphere, where it decays (Suess, 1955; Craig, 1957; de Vries 1958, 1959). For the past 11,000 years, fluctuations in the atmospheric  $^{14}\text{C}$  have been largely produced by changes in the solar magnetic field (de Vries, 1958, 1959; Stuiver, 1961; Stuiver and Quay, 1980). Most recently, Goslar et al. (2000a) concluded that variations in solar activity were the primary cause

\*Corresponding author. Tel.: +1 845 365 8499.

E-mail address: fairbanks@LDEO.columbia.edu (R.G. Fairbanks).

of the larger atmospheric  $^{14}\text{C}$  fluctuations for the period 11,000 to 14,500 years before present, although many researchers believe that carbon cycle changes tied to deep ocean circulation are a significant cause of atmospheric  $^{14}\text{C}$  fluctuations in this time interval (Edwards et al., 1993; Mikolajewicz, 1996; Stocker and Wright, 1996; Hughen et al., 2000; Muscheler et al., 2000; Delaygue et al., 2003). On longer time scales, changes in the Earth's magnetic field intensity impact the  $^{14}\text{C}$  content of the atmosphere, producing positive  $^{14}\text{C}$  anomalies during intervals of weaker geomagnetic field strength (Elsasser et al., 1956; McElhinny and Senanayake, 1982; Damon, 1988; Beer et al., 1988; Bard et al., 1990; Guyodo and Valet, 1999; Laj et al., 2000, 2004; Voelker et al., 2000). Of practical importance to a wide range of scientific disciplines is the radiocarbon calibration, which is used to convert radiocarbon ages to calendar years and to compute changes in atmospheric  $^{14}\text{C}$  ( $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ ) through time (Stuiver, 1982; Damon, 1988; Bard et al., 1990, 1993; Edwards et al., 1993; Stuiver et al., 1986, 1998a, b; Burr et al., 1998; Hughen et al., 2000; Goslar et al., 2000c; Schramm et al., 2000; Voelker et al., 2000; Beck et al., 2001). Accurate calibration of radiocarbon ages to calendar years is essential for measuring time and rates of change for numerous scientific fields. According to Kutschera (1999), nearly 90% of all measurements made at the more than 50 active accelerator mass spectrometry laboratories are radiocarbon analyses.

The widely accepted tree ring radiocarbon calibration data set and resulting calibration curve are based on radiocarbon measurements of wood that has been absolutely dated by counting annual growth rings in overlapping tree chronologies (Stuiver, 1982; Damon, 1988; Stuiver et al., 1998a, b; Reimer et al., 2004). The continuous tree ring radiocarbon calibration spans from the present to nearly 12,000 yr BP. Suitable trees older than 12,000 yr BP are rare, but efforts continue to extend the tree ring calibration curve (Friedrich et al., 1999, 2001, 2004). In this study, we have overlapped and extended the tree-ring radiocarbon calibration from 0 to 50,000 yr BP using coral samples from our offshore coral reef core collection from Barbados (13.10°N; 59.32°W) in the western tropical Atlantic and Kiritimati Atoll (1.99°N, 157.78°W) in the central equatorial Pacific, and from the uplifted reefs of Araki Island (15.63°S; 166.93°E) in the western Pacific (Chiu et al., 2004, 2005a). Using new pretreatment and analytical techniques and state-of-the-art instrumentation at higher precision, we have reanalyzed the radiocarbon and  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  age dates from our original calibration work (Fairbanks, 1989, 1990; Bard et al., 1990, 1993, 1998), all of which were included in INTCAL98 (Stuiver et al., 1998a). These new results are reported in Appendix A.

In this paper, we present paired  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  (Lamont) and  $^{14}\text{C}$  age determinations (Lawrence Livermore National Lab and Leibniz-Labor for Radiometric Dating and Isotope Research Christian-Albrechts University Kiel) that span the entire range of the radiocarbon dating technique and present a radiocarbon calibration curve based on a Bayesian statistical model with rigorous error estimations. Our radiocarbon calibration curve is a stand-alone alternative to existing radiocarbon calibration data sets that infer calendar ages based on interpolations and correlations of local climate proxies in deep sea cores to the chronology of ice core proxies or assumptions about sedimentation rates (Voelker et al., 2000; Kitagawa and van der Plicht, 2000; Hughen et al., 2004a). Our calibration meets the requirements that each data point in the calibration has a measured calendar age ( $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ ) and radiocarbon age with known errors that are independent of each other. We have chosen not to include coral data from other studies (Yokoyama et al., 2000; Paterne et al., 2004; Cutler et al., 2004; Hughen et al., 2004b) because coral samples reported in the literature typically contain between 1% and 5% calcite, a contaminant which is significantly concentrated during the sample-etching step prior to radiocarbon analyses, thereby corrupting the radiocarbon data (Chiu et al., 2005). In addition, we choose not to include coral samples that reported calcite detection limits above 0.2% (Bard et al., 1998), even if no calcite was reported in a sample, because samples contaminated by more than 0.2% are generally unsuitable for calibration purposes (Chiu et al., 2005), particularly for older samples. Finally, we have reanalyzed all of our previous radiocarbon calibration measurements on our Barbados samples (Fairbanks 1989, 1990; Bard et al., 1990, 1993, 1998; Stuiver et al., 1998a, b) at higher precision and with many replicates for both radiocarbon and  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ , so we have not included these earlier measurements in our calibration curve. In the following sections, we outline our sample selection criteria, pretreatment procedures, analytical methods, Bayesian statistical model, and present our calibration curve.

## 2. Radiocarbon age calibration

### 2.1. Paired $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ and $^{14}\text{C}$ age dating of corals

Radiocarbon ages must be converted to calendar ages via an independent chronometer for accurate dating applications. Radiocarbon ages spanning the last 11,900 years are calibrated by making radiocarbon age determinations on tree rings of known age (Damon and Long, 1962; Damon et al., 1963; Stuiver et al.,

1998a,b; Spurk et al., 1998; Friedrich et al., 1999; Reimer et al., 2002, 2004). For the age interval between 12,000 years and 50,000 years before present, radiocarbon ages are calibrated by less precise and less accurate methods, such as varved sediments (Hughen et al., 1998, 2000, 2004b; Schramm et al., 2000; Goslar et al., 2000a,c; Kitagawa and van der Plicht, 2000; Hughen et al., 2004b; van der Plicht et al., 2004), correlation of distinct fluctuations in ocean/climate proxies dated by radiocarbon with similar features in the Greenland ice cores dated by layer counting and flow models (Hughen et al., 2000, 2004a; Voelker et al., 2000),  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  dating of speleothems (Vogel and Kronfeld, 1997; Goslar et al., 2000b; Beck et al., 2001) and corals (Fairbanks, 1990; Edwards et al., 1993; Bard et al., 1990, 1998a, b; Burr et al., 1998; Yokoyama et al., 2000; Cutler et al., 2004; Paterne et al., 2004; van der Plicht et al., 2004).

Each calibration approach has unique advantages and disadvantages. For example, it is possible that varved sediments can be dated precisely but not accurately due to missing or indistinct layers that lead to accumulating errors. Speleothems provide long records and are very useful for identifying general trends and maybe large  $^{14}\text{C}$  production anomalies, but speleothems are potentially limited by the dating errors due to variable groundwater uranium-series and carbon chemistry.  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  dating of corals can be reasonably precise and accurate, but samples of appropriate age are hard to acquire and the coral  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages can be altered by freshwater diagenesis (Hamelin et al., 1991; Henderson et al., 1993; Gallup et al., 1994, 2002; Ribaud-Laurenti et al., 2001), and in some locations by marine cements (Ribaud-Laurenti et al., 2001; Paterne et al., 2004). Even trace amounts of diagenetic calcite deposited in subaerially exposed corals will bias the radiocarbon measurements (Chiu et al., 2005a). In addition, ancient coral samples must be used for radiocarbon blanks because biogenic carbonate blanks are generally higher than spar calcite typically used in AMS laboratories. Attempts to develop a radiocarbon calibration curve by making radiocarbon measurements of microfossils in cores that contain proxies that can be correlated to ice core proxies have compounded errors due to proxy interpretations, correlation errors, and large uncertainties in ice-core chronologies (Hughen et al., 2000, 2004a; Voelker et al., 2000). Over the radiocarbon calibration interval, there are generally fewer than thirty tie points correlating deep sea core ocean/climate proxies to ice core proxies, thereby assigning calendar age estimates to most calibration points by interpolation. Differences between the various Greenland ice core chronologies are due to age model assumptions, inherent subjectivity in discerning annual bands in ice or layered sediments in general, the fidelity of proxies to record an annual signal, occasional wind

erosion or scouring of some snow layers, and compacting and degrading annual signals deeper in the ice cores (Dansgaard et al., 1989, 1993; Johnsen et al., 1992, 1995, 1997, 2001; Meese et al., 1994, 1997; Taylor et al., 1993; Stuiver et al., 1995; Andersen et al., 2004). Intervals where the annual signal is weak or missing entirely would not be counted by any of the proxies and therefore not included in Meese et al.'s (1997) error assessment. Another reason to avoid calibrating the radiocarbon timescale to ice core chronologies is the fact that many paleoclimate studies reference marine or terrestrial proxies to the ice core records of atmospheric gas chemistry, and these chronologies must remain independent for reliable interpretations.

All radiocarbon ages are readily subject to contamination by modern carbon during sample handling and processing of samples. In many cases, the different calibration archives are complementary and atmosphere and ocean calibration data sets from different locations and different archives are necessary to improve the accuracy and precision of ongoing international calibration efforts such as INTCAL98 (Stuiver et al., 1998a) and newer calibration data sets (e.g. IntCal04, Reimer et al., 2002, 2004; Marine04, Hughen et al., 2004b).

Unfortunately, combining published radiocarbon calibration data greater than 12,000 yr BP results in a confusing and inaccurate calibration data set (Fig. 1). Offsets and contradictions are the norm among these various calibration data sets, in stark contrast with the remarkably high quality tree ring calibration set for the present to 11,900 yr BP. Our contributions to the international radiocarbon calibration effort are the  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  analyses of a suite of unusually high quality coral samples. Importantly, overlapping tropical Atlantic and Pacific calibration data sets are particularly helpful in constraining the uncertainties in the  $^{14}\text{C}$  reservoir age and validating fine details in those instances where the signals are coherent between oceans. It is our goal to construct a complete calibration data set using only pure aragonite coral samples, applying our rigorous pretreatment procedures outlined below, and measured with high precision mass spectrometry for  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements with abundant replicate analyses.

Another important reason to develop a stand alone coral calibration curve is the fact that  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages have independent errors that can be measured and therefore, we can compute a rigorous error estimate for our radiocarbon calibration curve and calibrated radiocarbon ages. In contrast, radiocarbon calibration curves developed from floating varved sequences do not permit a rigorous error estimate of the calendar year due to the potential for an accumulation of errors in these sequences and inherent uncertainties in the age models. In addition, the accuracy and precision of our calibration data set can be tested by:

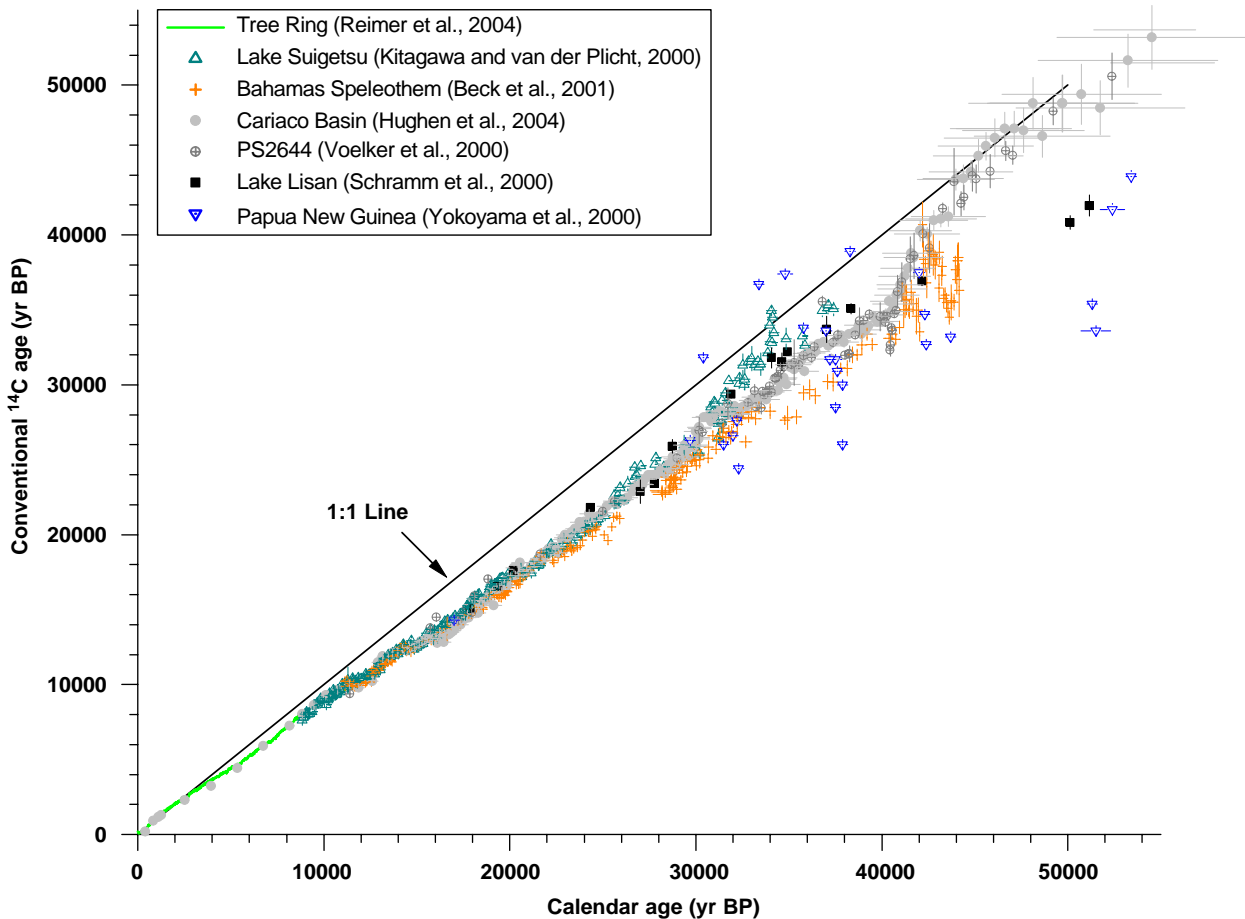


Fig. 1. Composite figure showing the range of radiocarbon calibration data from a variety of archives, including Bahamian speleothems (Beck et al., 2001), marine sediments (Hughen et al., 2000, 2004a; Voelker et al., 2000); lake sediments (Schramm et al., 2000; Kitagawa and van der Plicht, 2000), corals (Yokoyama, 2000), and tree rings (Reimer et al., 2004; Friedrich et al., 2004).

(a) measuring samples that overlap the tree ring calibration (Fig. 2); (b) making paired  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{235}\text{U}$  ages on select samples (Pickett et al., 1994; Edwards et al., 1997; Cutler et al., 2004; Mortlock et al., 2005); and (c) through  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{235}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements of our inter-laboratory calibration samples that are a subset of our calibration data. These calibration samples range from the modern to 50,000 yr BP at 10,000-year increments and are distributed to interested laboratories.

The direct determination of  $^{230}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{234}\text{U}$ , and  $^{238}\text{U}$  abundances by Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometry (TIMS) opened a wide range of dating applications that were previously out of reach of the classical alpha-counting technique (Chen et al., 1986; Edwards et al., 1987a, b; Edwards, 1988; Bard et al., 1990; Gallup et al., 2002). The typical  $2\sigma$  precision of a mass spectrometry  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  date is better than 1% of the age (Chen et al., 1986; Edwards et al., 1987a, b; Mortlock et al., 2004). An early application of high precision  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  dating was paired  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  age dating of coral samples, thereby extending

the radiocarbon calibration beyond that based on tree rings (Bard et al., 1990; Fairbanks, 1990; Edwards et al., 1993) to approximately 20,000 yr BP.

In addition to measuring new samples from Barbados, we have reanalyzed all of our original Barbados samples presented in Fairbanks (1989, 1990), Bard et al. (1990, 1993, 1998), and Stuiver et al. (1998a, b) at higher  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  precision using our Fisons Plasma 54, and paired these data with new higher precision  $^{14}\text{C}$  analyses measured at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (CAMS) and Leibniz-Labor for Radiometric Dating and Isotope Research at Christian-Albrechts University Kiel. We have adopted the new half-life estimates for  $^{230}\text{Th}$  and  $^{234}\text{U}$  reported by Cheng et al. (2000) and report all data using these new values. Improvements to the sample pretreatment and quality control have been implemented (Chiu et al., 2005) and many of our new measurements include replicate analyses. In addition, we made 80 paired (including many replicates)  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements from our Kiritimati cores collected in an offshore wire-line

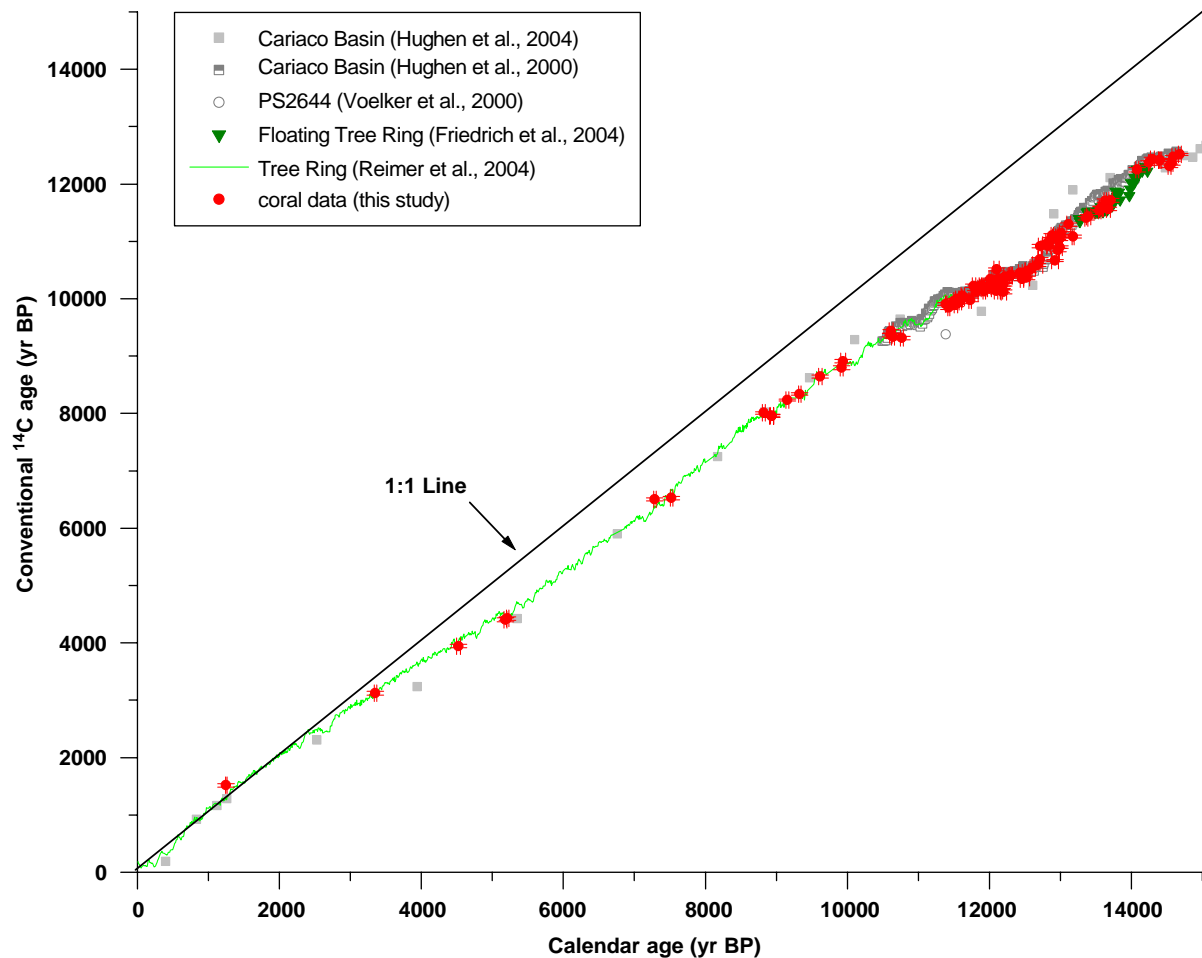


Fig. 2. Comparison of our coral data to the tree ring records of Reimer et al. (2004) and Friedrich et al. (2004) and the marine sediment data with calendar chronologies based on overlap with the tree ring data set and correlation to the oxygen isotope record in Greenland ice cores (Hughen et al., 2000, 2004a; Voelker et al., 2000). Note the consistency of our coral data with Friedrich et al.'s (2004) floating tree ring chronology, and where both diverge from the Cariaco (Hughen et al., 2000, 2004b) varved sequence between 13,300 and 14,000 yr BP. Figure zoom feature available at: <http://www.radiocarbon.ldeo.columbia.edu>.

drilling program in 1998/99 from the central Pacific. Samples dated older than 34,000 yr BP are from the uplifted reefs of Araki Island (15.63°S; 166.93°E) located in the southwest Pacific. These new results are presented and discussed in this paper (Fig. 3). A subset of our paired dates younger than 26,000 yr BP are included in the IntCal04 calibration papers (Reimer et al., 2004; Hughen et al., 2004b).

During the next 3 years, we plan to make approximately 400 new  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements to fill in the gaps and details of the radiocarbon calibration from 0 to 50,000 yr BP. Our goal is to provide samples at approximately 100-year resolution or better. Our unique advantage is the quality of our coral samples from our offshore coring programs, combined with high precision  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and radiocarbon age measurements, and the suitable range of sample ages available in our cores. Our offshore core collections from Barbados, Kiribati, and other Caribbean sites

contain hundreds of meters of core and thousands of pristine coral specimens between 4000 and 50,000 yr BP. Although it is our intention to quadruple the number of paired radiocarbon and  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  measurements over the next 3 years, the broad utility of our existing calibration data and the many active research programs spanning the past 50,000 yr BP years justifies their publication at this time.

## 2.2. Sample and data quality control

The Barbados and Kiribati samples that are younger than 30,000 yr BP resided exclusively in the marine environment and are remarkably well preserved. There is little microscopic (petrographic, scanning electron microscope, or binocular) or mineralogical evidence of aragonite or high magnesium marine cements in the coral pore spaces, as is occasionally reported at other reef core sites (Ribaud-Laurenti et al., 2001; Paterne

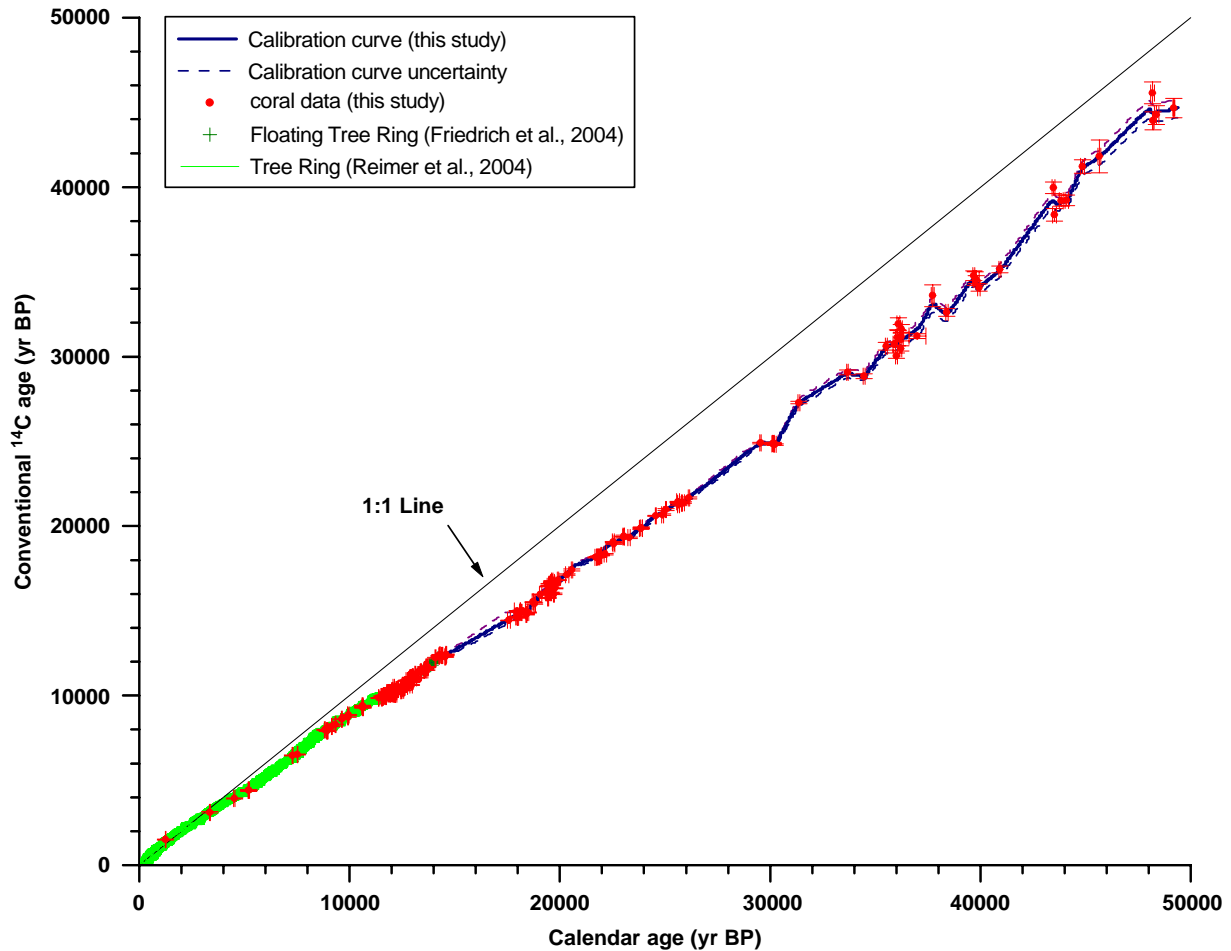


Fig. 3. Our coral calibration curve plotted with 1% confidence limits (corresponds to  $3\sigma$  uncertainties for normal distributions) and coral data plotted with  $1\sigma$  error bars. Calibration curve is compared to the tree ring chronologies (Reimer et al., 2004; Friedrich et al., 2004).

et al., 2004). The general lack of marine cements is probably due to the well ventilated locations of the Barbados and Kiriritimati core sites, which are removed from tidal or evaporative tidal conditions. Any sample showing even trace amounts of marine cement was not analyzed. For all of our samples, we use a “less than 0.2% calcite” quality control criterion. Calcite content is measured using an X-ray diffraction instrument with a calibrated detection limit of 0.2% calcite in an aragonitic coral. These pristine drill core samples and rigorous quality control criteria for vadose (zone exposed to percolating rain water) exposed samples are especially essential to the accuracy of the older radiocarbon dates, where a trace amount of calcite (i.e., greater than 0.2%) can result in unacceptably large offsets in radiocarbon ages (Chiu et al., 2004, 2005). The “less than 0.2% calcite” is the single most important screening criterion we have adopted, and it explains many of the differences between our calibration curve and published coral data that typically use 1% calcite detection limits and measure between 1% and 5% calcite in their samples (Yokoyama et al., 2000; Paterne et al., 2004).

The rapid burial of these corals minimizes the potential for microboring and encrusting organisms to degrade the sample quality, such as has occurred with dredged samples that resided on the sea floor for tens of thousands of years (Paterne et al., 2004). Most Barbados samples older than 30,000 yr. were subaerially exposed during the last glacial maximum lowstand, but have remained below sea level for the past 14,000 yr. A few samples older than 30,000 yr grew in deep water and were not subaerially exposed during the subsequent glacial maximum lowstand. In addition to these samples, we analyzed surface outcrop samples from interstadial uplifted reefs on Araki Island (15.63°S; 166.93°E) in the southwest Pacific for the time interval from 33,000 to 50,000 yr BP (Urmos, 1985). All Araki samples were subaerially exposed and were rigorously examined for signs of diagenesis based on criteria described later in this paper. Importantly, none of the samples has been exposed to the corrosive effects of a freshwater (phreatic) lens that is deleterious to  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  dating accuracy (Hamelin et al., 1991).

The following is a list of specific sample screening and data quality control criteria that we use for the construction of our radiocarbon calibration. The detailed analytical methods, acceptable precision, and accuracy of U-series and radiocarbon analyses for inclusion in the calibration data set will be discussed in the methods sections.

- X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements on each sample must indicate less than 0.2% calcite based on a documented 0.2% calcite or better detection limit. Calibration standards of varying percentages of calcite in an aragonite sample are run with each batch of samples.
- The [U] of corals must be within the range of living/modern samples taking into consideration the species and the correlation of [U] and calcification temperature (Min et al., 1995).
- The  $\delta^{234}\text{U}_{\text{initial}}$  of coral samples must be between 138 and 150 per mil. Although the  $\delta^{234}\text{U}$  of modern seawater and corals averages 146 (Delanghe et al., 2002; Cutler et al., 2004), the glacial  $\delta^{234}\text{U}_{\text{initial}}$  estimates are slightly lower than this value (Cutler et al., 2004; Hughen et al., 2004a, b) and therefore, we have skewed the acceptable range toward lower values. Cutler et al. (2004) provides an analysis of the shifting  $\delta^{234}\text{U}$  over time.
- After ultrasonic cleaning, samples are examined microscopically for any evidence of foreign particles or aragonite cements. Samples are rejected if they show aragonite cements or visible contamination that cannot be ultrasonically removed.
- U-series and radiocarbon samples are taken from 2 concentric cores drilled into 4 mm thick slabs of the coral samples with the radiocarbon sample taken from the inner core. This assures systematic sampling and cleaning procedures and the proximal location of the two age determinations. X-ray diffraction samples are taken from the outer “donut” sampled for the U-series dates and the remainder of the sub-sample is archived. For samples older than 20,000 yr BP, the inner core is subjected to an extended hydrogen peroxide pretreatment step in order to remove organic matter (Chiu et al., 2005).
- Radiocarbon measurements are made with a relative precision better than or equal to +0.4% (one sigma) for samples less than 30,000 years old.
- $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  age determinations are measured with a precision of better than +3.0 per mil (one sigma) over the entire calibration.
- A representative sampling of corals older than 30,000 yr BP that have been exposed to the vadose freshwater environment during the last glacial maximum low sea level, are analyzed for  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{235}\text{U}$  ages, in addition to  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages, and  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages in order to validate the  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  age

determinations (Mortlock et al., 2004; Chiu et al., 2005c).

- Coral samples are ranked according to the following scale, and we strive to obtain the highest Category samples available for a given interval. Our ultimate goal is to construct a calibration curve that utilizes only Categories I thru IV samples, with as many Category I & II samples as possible. Category III samples are used only where sea-level variations limit the possibility of collecting Category I & II samples.

*Category I.* This category is reserved for samples that resided exclusively in the marine environment and have replicate radiocarbon and replicate  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  age measurements that fall within  $2\sigma$  error respectively. Sample  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages are in stratigraphic order with respect to relative depth in core.

*Category II.* Samples that resided exclusively in the marine environment and are either not replicated or not replicated to within  $2\sigma$ . Sample  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages are in stratigraphic order with respect to their depth in core.

*Category III.* Samples that were exposed to vadose (rainwater percolating zone) freshwater and have  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{235}\text{U}$  and  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages that agree within  $2\sigma$  error.

*Category IV.* Samples that were that exposed to vadose freshwater and dated by  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  only.

*Category V.* Samples that were exposed to the freshwater table (phreatic lens) and have  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{235}\text{U}$  and  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages that agree within  $2\sigma$  error.

*Category VI.* Samples that were exposed to the phreatic lens and are not validated by concordant  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{235}\text{U}$  dates.

### 2.3. $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ dating methods

We have developed techniques to determine the  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{235}\text{U}$  ages in a single coral fragment by Multi-Collector Inductively Coupled Mass Spectrometry (MC-MS-ICPMS) (Mortlock et al., 2004) using fragments as small as 0.5 g. In the case where only U and Th measurements are required, the procedure is modified from the version presented in Edwards et al. (1987a). Only samples exposed to vadose freshwater will likely benefit from the redundant  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{235}\text{U}$  measurement (Mortlock et al., 2004). Although the details of the U-series methodology are presented elsewhere (Mortlock et al., 2004), we repeat some of the important features of the instrumentation and methods here.

#### 2.4. Mass spectrometry

U and Th isotopic measurements are made using our Fisons PLASMA 54 multi-collector magnetic sector double focusing Inductively Coupled Mass Spectrometer (MC-MS-ICPMS). A detailed description of the instrument design can be found elsewhere (Walder and Freedman, 1992; Halliday et al., 1995, 1998). In general, the instrument combines a double focusing magnetic sector mass spectrometer with an ICP source. Only a few of these instruments were manufactured, generally for the nuclear industry, and they varied in their configurations. Our instrument is equipped with a nine-collector Faraday array and is configured with an additional 30-cm radius Electro Static Analyzer (ESA) filter and a Daly detector with ion-counting capability. The abundance sensitivity achieved with the additional ESA energy filter is less than 0.3 ppm (measured as the contribution of mass 238 to mass 237 signal).

The sample injection into an ICP source is markedly simpler than loading a sample onto a filament and coaxing its ionization in a TIMS instrument. We employ either a MCN6000 desolvating nebulizer (CETAC) fitted with a PFA spray chamber or the ARIDUS 1 (PFA), fitted with a 50 µl/min PFA micro nebulizer (Elemental Scientific Inc.) Typical sensitivity for our instrument is about 0.4 pA per ppb for  $^{238}\text{U}$ . Ionization efficiencies (the ratio of atoms detected to atoms introduced) for U, Th, and Pa are about a factor of 5–10 lower than those reported by TIMS. However, the routine precision in isotope ratios by MC-MS-ICPMS is comparable to the most precise measurements made by TIMS and the simplified sample injection and resulting increase in sample throughput present distinct advantages for the MC-MS-ICPMS technique. Fortunately in the case of corals, sample size is never a limitation.

The precise determination of isotopic ratios of U, Th, and Pa requires that mass fractionation (bias) and gain efficiency (calibration of the Daly detector) be known. Since the ion beam produced by a plasma source is relatively unstable, both fractionation and gain corrections must be made during the analyses. In order to make real-time corrections for mass bias, gain correction, and beam instability, we employ a multi-static routine for each U, Th, and Pa analysis. This approach is similar to that described in Luo et al. (1997) where it was demonstrated that multi-static routines yielded superior analytical precision for U and Th isotopic analyses. All measurements of the minor abundance isotopes ( $^{229}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{230}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{231}\text{Pa}$ ,  $^{233}\text{Pa}$ ,  $^{233}\text{U}$ ,  $^{234}\text{U}$ ,  $^{235}\text{U}$ ) are made with the Daly Detector and are accompanied by simultaneous measurement of  $^{238}\text{U}$  using one of the Faraday cups. Accurate gain corrections of the  $^{233}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  isotope ratios require that the Daly detector operate without intensity biasing. Gain corrections of the  $^{229}\text{Th}/^{230}\text{Th}$ ,

$^{229}\text{Th}/^{232}\text{Th}$ , and  $^{233}\text{Pa}/^{231}\text{Pa}$  ratios are eliminated because the individual isotopes measured on the Daly detector are all normalized to  $^{238}\text{U}$ . Measurement precision of the U and Th isotope ratios (about 75 and 60 ratio measurements, respectively) are generally better than  $\pm 0.08\%$  and  $\pm 0.3\%$  (2 RSD) respectively. This translates to an average uncertainty of about 0.5% (2 RSD) of the age for the  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ .

#### 2.5. Radiocarbon methods

At LLNLs subsamples of fossil corals are coarsely crushed, sonicated in Milli-Q water, the Milli-Q is decanted, the samples are dried, and weighed. An appropriate amount of 0.1 N HCl is added to the coral sample to remove 50–60% of the material (Yokoyama et al., 2000). Samples older than 30,000 yr receive a 60% leach. The neutralized acid and related salts are decanted, and the coral material is rinsed repeatedly with Milli-Q water and subsequently dried on a heating block. All radiocarbon samples older than 32,000 yr BP were ultrasonically cleaned in 30% hydrogen peroxide for seven days in order to oxidize any mold or other extraneous organic matter (including possible soil contamination) and analyzed at Leibniz-Labor for Radiometric Dating and Isotope Research at Christian-Albrechts University Kiel. In the Leibniz-Labor, the samples were subjected to a 60% leach with 1% HCl at room temperature overnight, followed by washing with Milli-Q water and a 15 min treatment with 15% hydrogen peroxide. The peroxide was siphoned off and the dampened samples were loaded directly into the vacuum extraction system to shield the sample from contamination with atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$ .

At LLNL, approximately 20 mg samples, an appropriate amount to yield 1.0 mg-carbon targets, are placed in glass tubes and evacuated to  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  Torr with gentle heating. A 0.5 ml aliquot of 85% phosphoric acid is injected into the glass tubes, and the tubes are placed on a heating block at 90 °C. The  $\text{CO}_2$  that is released via this process is extracted through an offline manifold, cryogenically purified to remove water, and transferred into individual graphite reduction reactors. Similar to the procedure of Vogel et al. (1987), the  $\text{CO}_2$  is reduced to graphite at 570 °C in the presence of an iron catalyst and a stoichiometric excess of hydrogen. The graphite is then transferred and pressed into aluminum target holders for subsequent analysis by accelerator mass spectrometry.

At Leibniz-Labor, the procedure is largely the same as at LLNL (Nadeau et al., 2001), except that 100% phosphoric acid is used, and is evacuated separately during heating, and then vented with nitrogen. Carbonate and acid are then evacuated together, sealed in a glass ampoule and reacted overnight in a water bath at 90 °C. The reduction is done at 600 °C.



At LLNL, the prepared graphite targets are sputtered in a high-intensity cesium sputter source (Southon and Roberts, 2000) with an equivalent  $^{12}\text{C}^-$  current of 275–300  $\mu\text{A}$ , which yields 900–1000  $^{14}\text{C}$  counts/second on a modern carbon sample. After mass selection via the low energy injector magnet, the negative ion beam ( $^{13}\text{C}^-$  or  $^{14}\text{C}^-$  and molecular isobars) is injected into the accelerator (FN Tandem Van de Graaff at CAMS), passed through a stripper foil and, on exiting the accelerator, is magnetically and velocity filtered and subsequently measured in an off-axis Faraday cup ( $^{13}\text{C}^{4+}$ ) or analyzed in a gas ionization detector ( $^{14}\text{C}^{4+}$ ) (Davis et al., 1990). The CAMS ion source sample wheel has slots for up to 64 targets and normally about 50 unknown samples are loaded in a routine sample wheel. Each wheel load is composed of a suite of primary (OX1) and secondary (OX2, ANU, TIRI wood) standards and the unknown samples, and is broken into several groups. In general, a group is composed of two sub-groups containing 5–7 targets with intervening and bracketing primary standards. Samples are analyzed in such a fashion that a single group is completely analyzed prior to proceeding on to the next group. A group is analyzed repeatedly such that a suite of bracketing blanks, primary standards, and secondary standards are analyzed in conjunction with the unknown samples. A single group of unknowns is cycled through at least five times. During each cycle, an individual target is analyzed for either 30,000  $^{14}\text{C}$  events or 200 s, whichever comes first.

At LLNL, raw data ( $^{14}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$  ratios) are normalized to the average of the bracketing six primary standards for each pass through a sample group. Counting errors (primary standard and unknown) are propagated through the analysis and are assumed to be Gaussian (Bevington and Robinson, 1992). The average of the  $n$ -measurement-cycles of each unknown is then determined and for the initial error, the larger of the counting error or the external error of the  $n$ -cycles is chosen. CAMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates are based on  $^{14}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$  atom ratios, not decay counting to obtain specific  $^{14}\text{C}$  activities. The algorithms used at CAMS (Southon, unpublished) are similar to those developed at Arizona (Donahue et al., 1990). Radiocarbon age data are presented according to the conventions of Stuiver and Polach (1977) using the Libby half-life (5568 yr.). The  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  calculations are made based on the more recent  $^{14}\text{C}$  half-life of  $5730 \pm 40$  years (Godwin, 1962). Calculations include a background subtraction based on measurements of a fossil coral and inclusion of background error based on  $^{14}\text{C}$ -free calcite determined on multiple aliquots of acid leached calcite for each wheel of unknowns (cf. Brown and Southon, 1997).

Twenty-eight unleached aliquots of TIRI turbidite were analyzed with our LLNL AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements over a time span of 18 months. Individual analyses

ranged from 18090 to 18245 yr BP with reported one standard deviation errors between 30 and 50 years. The weighted average Fraction Modern of these 28 measurements shows a one standard deviation scatter of 0.00044 ( $\pm 35$  years). The weighted mean and weighted mean uncertainty (one-sigma) of the TIRI turbidite results are  $0.10378 \pm 0.00008$  ( $n = 24$ ) that equates to  $18,199 \pm 8$  years. The fractional error of these results indicates reproducibility of individual measurements at the 4 per mil (one sigma) level, which is consistent with the quoted counting statistics errors.

Samples older than 32,000 years were measured at the Leibniz-Labor for Radiometric Dating and Isotope Research at the Christian-Albrechts University Kiel (Nadeau et al., 1997, 1998). The model 846B HVEE cesium sputter ion source was run at moderate outputs around 30  $\mu\text{A}$  equivalent  $^{12}\text{C}^-$  beam for optimal stability, giving around 60 counts/s for a modern sample. The separator/recombinator selects masses 12, 13, and 14, attenuates mass 12 by a factor 100, and injects the three masses simultaneously into the HVEE 3 MV tandem accelerator at 2.5 MV.  $^{12}\text{C}^{+3}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}^{+3}$  are measured simultaneously in two off-center Faraday cups, and  $^{14}\text{C}^{+3}$ , after electrostatic deflection and a  $90^\circ$  magnet, in a gas ionization detector, yielding both  $^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$  ratios simultaneously. These ratios are largely insensitive to fluctuations in ion source output or transmission. The 846B wheel loads about 40 unknowns together with 8 OXII standards, backgrounds and reference materials spaced evenly between the unknowns. Stable and reproducible target preparation and measuring conditions make it possible to use the average of all OXII targets for comparison with the unknowns in each cycle. Comparison of the scatter statistics between cycles with Poisson statistics indicates Poisson statistics is the main cause of the measuring uncertainty (Nadeau et al., 1998). “Old” coral samples are used to provide the optimum background subtraction (Nadeau et al., 2001). The blank value for Araki coral AK-H-2 was  $0.1334 \pm 0.0114$  pMC (average of 5 targets). This scatter-based uncertainty is unusually small, so we adopted a more conservative and conventional value of 1/8 of the blank (0.0167) as its uncertainty. The  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}$  age of AK-H-2 is 97,000 yr BP.

## 2.6. Barbados, Kiritimati and Araki reservoir age estimates

The radiocarbon content of tropical surface water is depleted in  $^{14}\text{C}$  compared to the atmosphere due to incomplete isotopic equilibration and mixing with subsurface waters of older ages. This  $^{14}\text{C}$  offset between surface water and atmosphere is known as the “reservoir age” and in recent times ranges between 300 and 500 years in the western tropical and subtropical regions

between 40N and 40S (Craig, 1957; Stuiver and Polach, 1977; Bard 1988). Fairbanks (1989) used a reservoir age of 400 years for Barbados radiocarbon ages based on an average of data for the western tropical Atlantic summarized in Bard (1988). In this paper, we compute the reservoir age for Barbados, Kiritimati, and Araki coral samples dated by  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  by subtracting the coral  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages from the tree ring radiocarbon calibration curve (Reimer et al., 2004). The results are plotted in Fig. 2. There is an advantage to computing an average reservoir age from data spread over the Holocene, rather than from only a few measurements of preindustrial ages. The application of a Holocene reservoir age to older time periods is only an assumption; however, by selecting sites in the western Atlantic and central and western Pacific, we have some assurance that surface waters at Barbados, Kiritimati, and Araki were not exposed to newly upwelled waters deficient in  $^{14}\text{C}$ . It is possible that large and rapid  $^{14}\text{C}$  concentration changes may have resulted in large transient increases in the difference between atmosphere and surface ocean waters that could last decades or even centuries. More importantly, the uncertainty in the reservoir age in samples older than the Holocene becomes less significant as the analytical age uncertainties in radiocarbon and  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages increase with time. The computed reservoir ages are remarkably similar: Barbados =  $365 \pm 60$  years ( $n = 21$ ); Kiritimati =  $350 \pm 55$  years ( $n = 4$ ); and Araki =  $365 \pm 140$  years ( $n = 9$ ). Whereas additional measurements are needed to reduce the uncertainty of these reservoir ages, we believe that most of the variability is due to the high frequency fluctuations produced in the atmosphere that are attenuated in the surface ocean. In other words, the reported uncertainties in the reservoir ages do not reflect the natural variability in the local reservoir ages at these three sites (Appendix A).

### 2.7. Methodology of the radiocarbon calibration 0 to 50,000 yr BP

Our  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  radiocarbon calibration is intended as a stand-alone radiocarbon calibration that spans 0–50,000 yr BP and is based on our most stringent sample quality criteria. At this time, we see no benefit in amalgamating subsets of calibration points from other data sets based on the dramatic increase in scatter when we include data from other coral, varved-sediment, and speleothem calibration curves. Even the Cariaco (Hughen et al., 2000, 2004b) varved sequence seems to be offset between 13,300 and 14,000 yr BP compared to the floating tree ring chronology of Friedrich et al. (1999, 2001, 2004) and our coral data (Fig. 2). Most importantly, we believe that only calibration data points that have independent and quantifiable precision and accuracy error estimates for radiocarbon and calendar

ages are suitable for inclusion in any calibration curve. The pristine nature of our coral samples, data density, the fact that from 10,000 to 29,000 yr BP all of our samples have resided exclusively in the marine environment, our level of sample documentation, consistency of sample screening, handling, and analysis, and the precision of our measurements justify a stand-alone calibration curve that can be compared to many other independently determined curves. Sample selection criteria for inclusion in our calibration are more stringent than IntCal04 (Reimer et al., 2002, 2004) or Marine04 (Hughen et al., 2004) and are based on the sample quality Categories described above, and only samples that have been submerged in seawater are included unless subaerially exposed samples are the only available samples for a given time interval. Ultimately, we expect our calibration curve will include mostly samples submerged in seawater since growth, where coral aragonite is thermodynamically stable. Although we choose not to amalgamate our data with other calibration data in this paper, we are actively participating in combining our radiocarbon calibration data in international calibration efforts using a subset of our samples younger than 26,000 yr BP (Reimer et al., 2004; Hughen et al., 2004b) and in ice core age model development and  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  reconstructions combining our older samples with data from other groups (e.g., Shackleton et al., 2004).

One can make the argument that the calibration of a radiocarbon age is only as good as the precision, accuracy, and proximity of the pair(s) of coral calibration data points that bracket the radiocarbon date, because all errors are independent. The prime disadvantage of this simple approach is that errors in the calibration data occur in both calendar ( $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ ) and radiocarbon measurements, and therefore, it is not a simple matter to rigorously estimate the error bars on the calibrated radiocarbon ages. The tree ring calibration routine (Stuiver et al., 1998b) and INTCAL98 (Stuiver et al., 1998a) assume that there is no error in tree ring calendar ages or coral  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}$  ages, so they obviate this problem entirely, regardless of whether an 11,900 composite tree ring calibration or corals have calendar age uncertainties. More recently, IntCal04 (Reimer et al., 2004) and Marine04 (Hughen et al., 2004) calibration curves have adopted a more rigorous treatment of errors in radiocarbon and calendar years (Buck and Blackwell, 2004).

A statistically more rigorous treatment of error estimates in the calibration curve (in both calendar years and radiocarbon years) and the means to convert radiocarbon ages and errors to calendar years requires a statistical model of moderate complexity. In the following section, we present a statistical model that permits rigorous error treatment in radiocarbon ages calibrated using our coral data set. We provide a radiocarbon

calibration program on our web site <http://www.radiocarbon.LDEO.columbia.edu/> where our calibration curve can be accessed and where updates will be released. Our coral data sets and documentation are also archived at this web site.

## 2.8. Calibration procedure with error estimation based on a hierarchical bayesian statistical model

### 2.8.1. Calibration approach

Our main premise is that there exists a precise, deterministic functional relationship between the calendar age  $x$  and the radiocarbon age  $y$

$$y = f(x).$$

This relationship is not known exactly, but it is assumed to be applicable to the true (unaffected by measurement errors)  $x$  and  $y$  of samples. Were  $f$  known, the calendar age  $x$  of a sample with the measured radiocarbon age  $y$  could be found by the inversion  $x = f^{-1}(y)$  (possibly

with multiple values, because  $f$  is not necessarily monotonous). Error bars or a given error distribution for  $y$  could be converted easily to those for  $x$  as well.

Because the precise form of  $y = f(x)$  is not known, we attempt to develop its statistical description. The complete description would be a joint probability density of values  $f(x)$  for all  $x$ 's. However, here we only consider a problem of a single-sample calibration (as opposed to sets of samples with a priori information on their time sequence, e.g., Buck et al., 1996; Steier et al., 2001; Bronk Ramsey, 2001); hence, it will suffice to obtain marginal distributions for individual values of  $x$ . More precisely, we will only compute the function  $p_c(y, x) = p(y|x)$ , that for each given  $x$  expresses the density of probability with which  $f(x)$  may take value  $y$  (shown by colors in Fig. 4). Indeed, when this probability distribution is available, Bayes' formula provides an easy way to compute the distribution of the calendar age for an individual sample, given the measurement of its radiocarbon age  $y_m$  and the

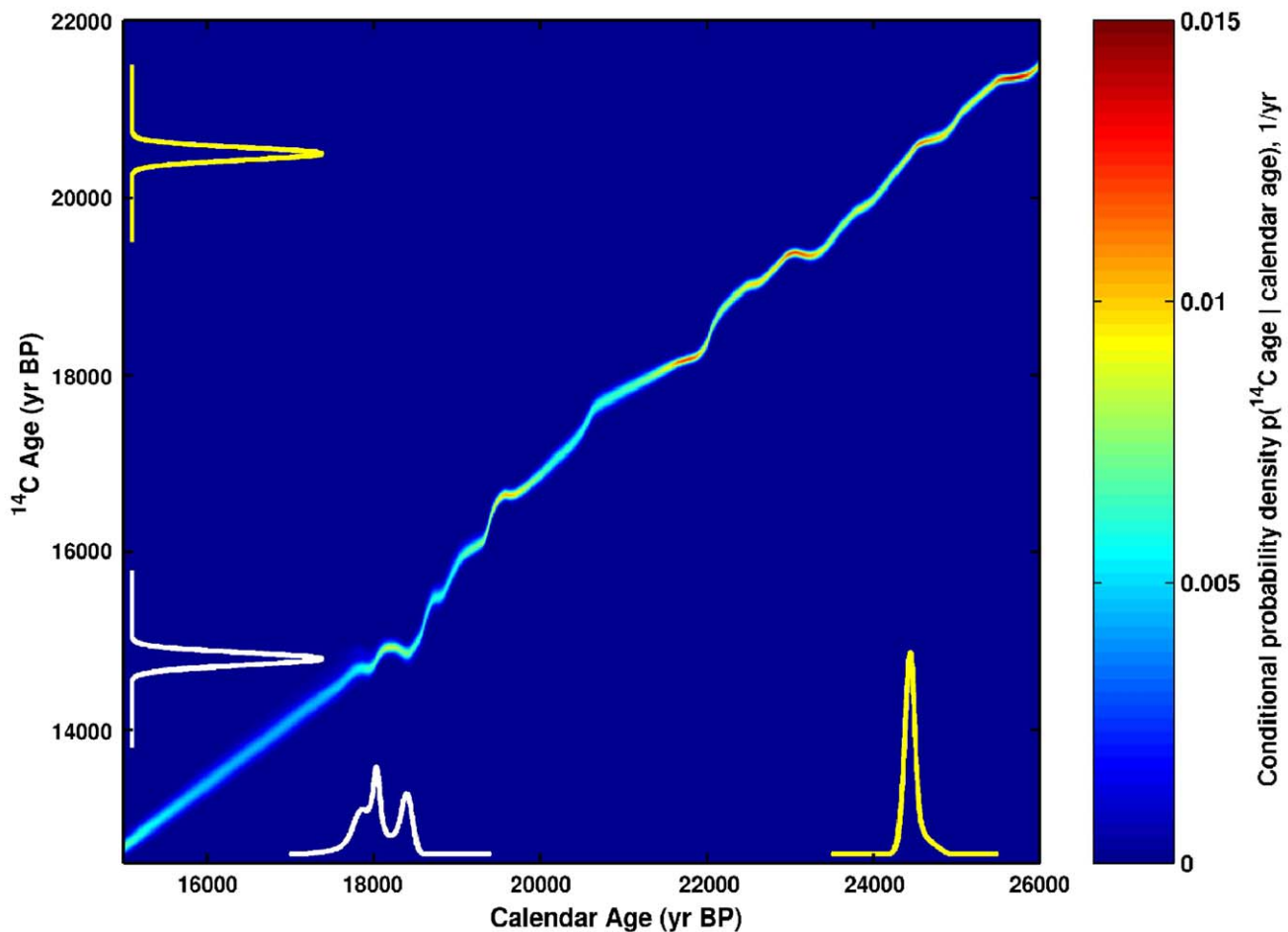


Fig. 4. Plot is an example of the conditional probability density function for  $^{14}\text{C}$  age given the calendar age for the calendar interval between 15,000 and 26,000 yr BP. Two examples of radiocarbon age inputs and calendar year output estimates illustrate a simple unimodal conversion case (yellow line) and an example where the calibration curve has a fluctuation producing a broad uncertainty and bimodality in estimated calendar age (white line). White and yellow curves show probability density functions in 1/yr, so their values are not in the scale of the color plot axes. The areas under all probability density curves are equal to 1. (See Appendix Table 1 in the online version of this article for detailed statistics).

Table 1  
Typical examples of radiocarbon age conversion to calendar years using our calibration curve (Fig. 4)

	Mean	Median	Std
<b>Example 1</b>			
Radiocarbon age (raw) input:	14,800	14,800	70
Calendar age output:	18,114	18,090	257
	Mean	Median	Std interval
<b>Example 2</b>			
Radiocarbon age (raw) input:	20,500	20,500	70
Calendar age output:	24,533	24,510	116

distribution of the measurement error (Dehling and Van der Plicht, 1993):

$$p(x|y_m) = \frac{p(y_m|x)p_a(x)}{\int p(y_m|x)p_a(x) dx} \propto p(y_m|x)p_a(x), \quad (1)$$

where  $p_a$  is the assumed prior distribution of the sample's calendar age (before the radiocarbon age measurement became known), e.g., a uniform distribution on the entire calibration period. It follows that,

$$\begin{aligned} p(y_m|x) &= \int p(y_m|y)p(y|x) dy \\ &= \int q(y_m - y)p_c(y, x) dy, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $q$  is the probability density function of the radiocarbon age measurement error. Inserting (2) into (1) obtain

$$p(x|y_m) \propto p_a(x) \int q(y_m - y)p_c(y, x) dy, \quad (3)$$

Fig. 4 shows examples of this conversion for the radiocarbon ages 14.8 K (white lines) and 20.5 K (yellow lines) when the radiocarbon age measurement error is assumed normally distributed with the standard deviation of 70 years (See Appendix Table 1 in the online version of this article for the statistics of the resulting distributions). Note the bimodal distribution of the calendar age produced by formula (3) in the former case, due to the non-monotonous behavior of the calibration curve.

### 2.8.2. General methodology

We use the hierarchical Bayesian modeling to estimate the conditional probability distribution function  $p_c(y, c) = p(y|x)$ . This uses two different stages to account for uncertainties in observations of  $x$  and  $y$ . The first stage computes the distribution  $p(y|x)$  for a given set of samples on the basis of a given uncertainty in their radiocarbon ages under assumption of no error in their calendar ages. This stage uses least-squares estimation approach with an additional weak constraint on the local slope of the calibration curve. The solution

at this stage is similar to the linear smoothing spline approximation (Wahba, 1990) or “random-walk” calibration approaches (Gómez Portugal Aguilar et al., 2002). The second stage of the hierarchical modeling uses the Monte Carlo approach for simulating the observational uncertainty in calendar ages of all samples: each member of this ensemble has its own realization of calendar ages for all samples, so the computation of the first stage is repeated for each ensemble member, and the corresponding marginal distribution  $p(y|x)$  for each member is produced. The final solution is obtained by averaging the marginal distributions  $p(y|x)$  over all members of the entire Monte Carlo ensemble.

### 2.8.3. Implementation details

In the practical implementation of this procedure, the grids of  $x$  and  $y$  were discretized for the 10 year resolution. The original multiple measurements of  $x$  and  $y$  were reduced to a single pair of  $x$  and  $y$  for each sample using an optimal averaging procedure. A  $\chi^2$ -based quality control procedure was used to prune out samples with inconsistent individual measurements, reducing the total number of samples from 154 to 152. Further consistency checks resulted in the uniform inflation of all measurement error estimates by the factors of 1.8 and 1.3 for the calendar and radiocarbon standardized errors respectively. An analysis of linear interpolation lines computed for a preliminary Monte Carlo ensemble (size 1000) of the entire set of 152 data points perturbed by simulated measurement errors was used to derive a priori estimates necessary for our procedure: expected slope changes from point to point, slope uncertainty (assumed normal with 0.8 yr/yr standardized deviation), and the age variability inside 10 year grids. The Monte Carlo ensemble of 4000 was used for obtaining the final solution (Figs. 3 and 4).

### 2.8.4. Description of the calibration curve

The offset between radiocarbon years and calendar years increases from the present to approximately 38,500 calendar years BP reaching more than 6000 years difference. From 38,500 calendar years BP to 50,000 calendar years BP the trend reverses and radiocarbon ages grow slightly closer to calendar ages (Fig. 3). By 50,000 calendar years BP, the corresponding radiocarbon age is younger by approximately 3700 years. The departure of the calibration curve from the one to one line ( $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ ) contains fundamental information on solar output (Damon et al., 1978; Stuiver and Quay, 1980), the carbon cycle (Edwards et al., 1993; Hughen et al., 1998; Hughen et al., 2000), and the Earth's geomagnetic field (Bard et al., 1990; Beck et al., 2001). The overall shape of our calibration curve corresponds to the broad scale changes in the Earth's geomagnetic field intensity, but the magnitude of the

radiocarbon and calendar year offset is apparently too large to be explained by magnetic field intensity changes alone (Beck et al., 2001; Hughen et al., 2004a). Box model calculations of the radiocarbon production history computed as a function of estimated changes in the Earth's geomagnetic field intensity (Laj et al., 2000, 2004) show a sharp increase between 50,000 and 40,000 yr BP, followed by a gradual decrease between 35,000 yr BP and the present. The sharp decrease between 50,000 and 40,000 yr BP corresponds to the transition between Earth's field strength comparable to today's to the peak of the Laschamp geomagnetic excursion when Earth's geomagnetic field intensity nearly collapsed. Measurements of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^{36}\text{Cl}$  spikes in ice cores mark the Laschamp cosmogenic isotope production signal in the atmosphere (Beer et al., 1988). However, due to the brevity of the Laschamp excursion and the attenuation of the atmospheric  $^{14}\text{C}$  anomaly through ocean mixing, there is no dramatic radiocarbon age anomaly corresponding to the peak Laschamp event.

A possible additional explanation for the growing offset between radiocarbon years and calendar years is an inaccurate radiocarbon decay constant (Godwin, 1962). In general, higher precision and higher accuracy radioisotope data measured by mass spectrometry techniques have outgrown the lower precision and lower accuracy decay constants measured many decades ago by decay-counting methods (Renne et al., 1998; Cheng et al., 2000). A more accurate and precise measurement of the radiocarbon decay constant is required before we can quantify the role of the sun, carbon cycle, and the geomagnetic field in distorting the radiocarbon timescale. If the measured offset between radiocarbon years and calendar years were explained by Earth's geomagnetic field intensity alone, it requires a decrease in the radiocarbon decay constant by several percent below the adopted value (Godwin, 1962).

### 3. Conclusions

Paired radiocarbon and  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  age determinations on pristine corals provide a high precision, high accuracy radiocarbon calibration curve suitable for general use beyond the limits of the superior tree ring calibration curve (Stuiver et al., 1998a; Reimer et al., 2004). Results presented in this paper overlap with the existing tree ring calibration curve and extend the calibration to 50,000 yr BP. Our calibration curve can be used to convert radiocarbon ages to calendar ages with an online conversion program <http://www.radiocarbon.LDEO.columbia.edu/> that includes a rigorous error estimation.

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### Appendix A. Electronic Supplementary Material

The online version of this article contains additional supplementary data. Please visit [doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2005.04.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2005.04.007).

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Data table for radiocarbon calibration "Version Fairbanks0805"

Sample	Lat.	Long.	Species	U-series I.D.	U (ppm)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>232</sup> Th (ppt)	[ <sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Initial $\delta^{234}$ U	1 $\sigma$	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Cal. age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>14</sup> C I.D.	Raw <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	Res. corr. <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$
Reservoir age for Barbados data is 365 yr																				
BARBADOS RGF 7-4-2 RGF 7-4-2	13.04°N	59.54°W	<i>P. asteroides</i>	082004LC1	2.6228	0.0007	212	1.1467	0.0005	149.8	1.0	0.0746	0.0651	0.0002	7289	19	CAMS 106524	6865	6500	25
RGF 7-5-5 RGF 7-5-5 RGF 7-5-5 RGF 7-5-5	13.04°N	59.54°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082004LC2	2.8279	0.0008	54	1.1446	0.0005	148.5	0.5	0.0944	0.0824	0.0001	9330	17	CAMS 106525 CAMS 106887 CAMS 106891	8670 8745 8740	8305 8380 8375	25 35 40
RGF 7-9-6 RGF 7-9-6	13.04°N	59.54°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082004LC3	3.3634	0.0009	404	1.1459	0.0006	149.6	1.0	0.0907	0.0791	0.0002	8936	22	CAMS 106526	8325	7960	25
RGF 7-10-2 RGF 7-10-2 RGF 7-10-2	13.04°N	59.54°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082004LC4	2.8775	0.0007	92	1.1448	0.0006	148.5	1.0	0.0906	0.0791	0.0003	8934	30	CAMS 106527 CAMS 106888	8295 8370	7930 8005	25 35
RGF 7-12-2 RGF 7-12-2 RGF 7-12-2 RGF 7-12-2	13.04°N	59.54°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082004LC5	3.2067	0.0008	66	1.1455	0.0006	149.4	1.0	0.0928	0.0810	0.0002	9155	18	CAMS 106528 CAMS 106889 CAMS 106907	8580 8575 8630	8215 8210 8265	25 35 30
RGF 7-16-2 RGF 7-16-2	13.04°N	59.54°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082104LC1	3.1041	0.0010	49	1.1457	0.0005	149.7	0.5	0.0972	0.0849	0.0002	9618	23	CAMS 106529	9005	8640	25
RGF 7-16-6 RGF 7-16-6	13.04°N	59.54°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082104LC2	3.0678	0.0009	198	1.1452	0.0005	149.3	1.0	0.1001	0.0874	0.0002	9922	21	CAMS 106530	9160	8795	35
RGF 7-19-3 RGF 7-19-3 RGF 7-19-3 RGF 7-19-3 RGF 7-19-3	13.04°N	59.54°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082104LC3	2.9900	0.0008	251	1.1446	0.0006	148.8	1.0	0.1003	0.0876	0.0003	9941	33	CAMS 106531 WHOI OS-5608 WHOI OS-5646 WHOI OS-5856	9275 9260 9310 9230	8910 8895 8945 8865	30 55 40 35
RGF 7-26-2 RGF 7-26-2 RGF 7-26-2 RGF 7-26-2 RGF 7-26-2 RGF 7-26-2	13.04°N	59.54°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	112304LC7 051705LC3	2.9829 3.0254	0.0010 0.0007	120 35	1.1415 1.1426	0.0006 0.0005	146.0 147.0	1.0 0.5	0.1080 0.1086	0.0946 0.0950	0.0002 0.0002	10782 10833	22 25	WHOI OS-5599 WHOI OS-5637 WHOI OS-5847 CAMS 112215	9760 9730 9680 9680	9395 9365 9315 9315	45 40 45 30
RGF 9-1-2 RGF 9-1-2	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	042401KS2	2.2322	0.0006	75	1.1379	0.0004	142.7	0.5	0.1208	0.1062	0.0003	12179	33	CAMS 77013 CAMS 77026	10610 10540	10245 10175	40 30
RGF 9-1-6	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	042001DP3	2.4344	0.0005	89	1.1391	0.0004	144.0	0.5	0.1195	0.1049	0.0002	12029	30	CAMS 77008	10600	10235	30
RGF 9-1-7 RGF 9-1-7	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	042301JS1 110101RM1	2.4183 2.4586	0.0009 0.0008	78 61	1.1361 1.1408	0.0005 0.0006	140.7 145.6	0.5 1.0	0.1166 0.1175	0.1027 0.1030	0.0004 0.0002	11756 11791	53 29	CAMS 77018	10590	10225	30
RGF 9-1-8 RGF 9-1-8	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	042301AC2 050103TC5	2.2540 2.2631	0.0004 0.0009	60 76	1.1394 1.1369	0.0003 0.0007	144.3 141.7	0.5 1.0	0.1215 0.1208	0.1067 0.1062	0.0007 0.0003	12239 12186	87 42	CAMS 77021 CAMS 96023	10580 10760	10215 10395	30 35
RGF 9-2-3 RGF 9-2-3	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	042401SG1 110701RM1	2.3840 2.3277	0.0006 0.0006	122 84	1.1373 1.1396	0.0004 0.0005	142.1 144.5	0.5 0.5	0.1192 0.1195	0.1048 0.1048	0.0003 0.0002	12017 12015	32 24	CAMS 77015 CAMS 86523	10690 10715	10325 10350	30 30
RGF 9-2-5 RGF 9-2-5	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	050203LC1 030405KN1	2.2277 2.3832	0.0005 0.0005	122 187	1.1387 1.1431	0.0005 0.0004	143.5 148.1	0.5 0.5	0.1202 0.1205	0.1055 0.1054	0.0003 0.0003	12103 12091	39 28	CAMS 96024 CAMS 96031	10850 10905	10485 10540	35 35
RGF 9-2-7 RGF 9-2-7 rep	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	042001TC1 110701RM2	2.2807 2.2254	0.0014 0.0005	105 88	1.1382 1.1389	0.0007 0.0004	143.1 143.8	1.0 0.5	0.1222 0.1220	0.1074 0.1071	0.0004 0.0002	12327 12290	45 28	CAMS 77011 CAMS 77451	10770 10770	10405 10405	30 30
RGF 9-3-2 RGF 9-3-2	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	110501RM1	2.2312	0.0007	95	1.1413	0.0005	146.3	0.5	0.1223	0.1072	0.0001	12303	14	CAMS 77015 CAMS 82280	10760 10785	10395 10420	30 25
RGF 9-3-4 RGF 9-3-4	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	050203LC2	2.4563	0.0007	133	1.1381	0.0006	143.2	1.0	0.1255	0.1103	0.0006	12680	75	CAMS 77012 CAMS 96025	10850 11030	10485 10665	40 35
RGF 9-3-6 RGF 9-3-6	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	071403LC1	2.7685	0.0007	593	1.1404	0.0004	145.6	0.5	0.1276	0.1119	0.0002	12873	24	CAMS 96026	11395	11030	35
RGF 9-8-2 RGF 9-8-2	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	071203TC1 112503LC5	3.1967 3.2283	0.0007 0.0010	1124 1978	1.1396 1.1405	0.0005 0.0005	145.3 146.2	0.5 1.0	0.1388 0.1386	0.1218 0.1215	0.0002 0.0002	14100 14064	27 29	CAMS 96027	12615	12250	40

Data table for radiocarbon calibration "Version Fairbanks0805"

Sample	Lat.	Long.	Species	U-series I.D.	U (ppm)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>232</sup> Th(ppm)	[ <sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Initial $\delta^{234}$ U	1 $\sigma$	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Cal. age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>14</sup> C I.D.	Raw <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	Res. corr. <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$
RGF 9-9-7 RGF 9-9-7	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	103103LC3	3.0831	0.0010	2923	1.1361	0.0005	141.7	1.0	0.1402	0.1234	0.0002	14295	29	CAMS 96028	12795	12430	40
RGF 9-11-2 RGF 9-11-2 RGF 9-11-2A RGF 9-11-2B	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	071103LC3 102403TC2 102703TCRM5	3.1006 3.2613 3.1306	0.0010 0.0011 0.0011	43 74 53	1.1409 1.1380 1.1378	0.0004 0.0005 0.0005	146.7 143.7 143.5	0.5 1.0 0.5	0.1407 0.1398 0.1401	0.1233 0.1228 0.1231	0.0002 0.0001 0.0002	14283 14222 14259	22 18 20	CAMS 96025	12735	12370	40
RGF 9-12-5 RGF 9-12-5 rep RGF 9-12-5	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	110103LC2	3.2926	0.0010	1790	1.1369	0.0005	142.6	1.0	0.1413	0.1243	0.0002	14408	20	CAMS 96030 CAMS 96032	12735 12825	12370 12460	40 40
RGF 9-12-7A RGF 9-12-7B RGF 9-12-7 RGF 9-12-7	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	102403LC3 102703LC3	3.2730 3.3387	0.0015 0.0010	137 320	1.1397 1.1382	0.0005 0.0005	145.5 144.0	1.0 0.5	0.1416 0.1414	0.1242 0.1242	0.0001 0.0001	14394 14397	19 17	CAMS 99002 CAMS 99011	12730 12830	12365 12465	25 25
RGF 9-13-3 RGF 9-13-3	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	112503LC6	2.9998	0.0009	46	1.1391	0.0005	144.9	1.0	0.1428	0.1254	0.0002	14539	23	CAMS 99003	12680	12315	30
RGF 9-20-2 RGF 9-20-2 RGF 9-20-2 RGF 9-20-2 RGF 9-20-2 RGF 9-20-2 RGF 9-20-2	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082801RM2	3.4946	0.0009	144	1.1368	0.0005	144.0	0.5	0.1748	0.1537	0.0003	18116	37	CAMS 77014 CAMS 77450 CAMS 81540 CAMS 81556 WHOI OS-5600 WHOI OS-5638 WHOI OS-5848	15320 15330 15260 15340 15250 15300 15150	14955 14965 14895 14975 14885 14935 14785	30 30 30 30 55 55 50
RGF 9-21-6 RGF 9-21-6 RGF 9-21-6 RGF 9-21-6 RGF 9-21-6	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	081804LC1	3.4312	0.0010	42	1.1350	0.0004	142.2	0.5	0.1750	0.1542	0.0003	18174	33	CAMS 81541 WHOI OS-5601 WHOI OS-5639 WHOI OS-5849	15295 15450 15450 15300	14930 15085 15085 14935	30 80 55 45
RGF 9-21-10	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	030205JM1	3.3641	0.0009	78	1.1375	0.0006	144.8	1.0	0.1758	0.1545	0.0004	18218	44	CAMS 81542	15400	15035	35
RGF 9-21-11	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	030205JM1	3.5448	0.0010	76	1.1376	0.0005	144.9	1.0	0.1754	0.1542	0.0005	18176	56	CAMS 81543	15405	15040	30
RGF 9-24-2 RGF 9-24-2 RGF 9-24-2	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	081804LC3	3.2501	0.0008	59	1.1360	0.0005	143.4	1.0	0.1799	0.1584	0.0002	18716	28	CAMS 81544 CAMS 82276	15920 15935	15555 15570	30 30
RGF 9-24-4 RGF 9-24-4	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	081804LC5	2.9809	0.0010	84	1.1356	0.0005	143.0	1.0	0.1807	0.1591	0.0003	18806	33	CAMS 81545	15830	15465	35
RGF 9-27-5-rep RGF 9-27-5	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	120902TC1	3.1566	0.0009	74	1.1344	0.0005	141.8	1.0	0.1828	0.1612	0.0004	19075	55	CAMS 86516 CAMS 81547	16335 16400	15970 16035	45 35
RGF 9-34-7 RGF 9-34-7 rep	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>P. asteroides</i>	020901RM1	2.8933	0.0007	470	1.1316	0.0005	140.0	0.5	0.2052	0.1813	0.0003	21714	41	CAMS 73923 CAMS 73952	18550 18550	18185 18185	40 40
RGF 9-34-8	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>P. asteroides</i>	121802TC4	2.8490	0.0009	221	1.1362	0.0005	144.8	0.5	0.2068	0.1820	0.0003	21802	41	CAMS 82275	18585	18220	40
RGF 9-34-10	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>P. asteroides</i>	020901RM2	2.9253	0.0007	205	1.1309	0.0005	139.3	0.5	0.2063	0.1824	0.0003	21858	41	CAMS 73924	18590	18225	40
RGF 9-35-2 RGF 9-35-2 rep	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>P. asteroides</i>	020901RM3 080201RM3	2.9602 2.9812	0.0008 0.0009	176 189	1.1316 1.1310	0.0005 0.0006	140.0 139.5	0.5 1.0	0.2070 0.2076	0.1829 0.1836	0.0003 0.0003	21922 22010	41 36	CAMS 73925 CAMS 73950	18670 18670	18305 18305	40 40
RGF 9-35-6	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	020901RM4	2.2615	0.0007	88	1.1325	0.0005	141.1	0.5	0.2092	0.1847	0.0005	22160	62	CAMS 73926	18750	18385	40
RGF9-37-2 RGF9-37-2rep	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	121902TC1	2.1611	0.0006	93	1.1317	0.0005	140.4	0.5	0.2122	0.1875	0.0003	22536	46	CAMS 86507 CAMS 86517	19450 19470	19085 19105	60 60
RGF 9-37-3	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	021201RM2	2.1890	0.0006	91	1.1317	0.0004	140.4	0.5	0.2125	0.1878	0.0004	22574	48	CAMS 73927	19360	18995	40
RGF 9-38-1	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	121100RM4	2.3490	0.0007	73	1.1315	0.0005	140.4	1.0	0.2165	0.1913	0.0003	23044	37	CAMS 73928	19820	19455	40
RGF 9-38-2	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	102400RM1	2.3305	0.0008	96	1.1292	0.0006	138.0	1.0	0.2182	0.1932	0.0005	23296	61	CAMS 73925	19720	19355	40

Data table for radiocarbon calibration "Version Fairbanks0805"

Sample	Lat.	Long.	Species	U-series I.D.	U (ppm)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>232</sup> Th(ppt)	[ <sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Initial $\delta^{234}$ U	1 $\sigma$	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Cal. age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>14</sup> C I.D.	Raw <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	Res. corr. <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$
RGF 9-38-3	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	102400RM2	2.3162	0.0011	76	1.1293	0.0007	138.0	1.0	0.2160	0.1913	0.0003	23039	38	CAMS 73930	19750	19385	40
RGF 9-39-2	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	102400RM2	2.5734	0.0007	98	1.1289	0.0005	137.9	0.5	0.2229	0.1974	0.0003	23867	44	CAMS 73931	20310	19945	50
RGF 9-39-3	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	102500RM1	2.4016	0.0029	140	1.1307	0.0011	139.9	1.5	0.2232	0.1974	0.0005	23858	69	CAMS 73932	20260	19895	40
RGF 9-39-4	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>Diploria</i>	102500RM2	2.5005	0.0006	113	1.1287	0.0006	138.1	1.0	0.2313	0.2049	0.0004	24883	55	CAMS 73933	21080	20715	40
RGF 9-39-5	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>Diploria</i>														CAMS 73934	21100	20735	50
RGF 9-39-5				102600RM1	2.2382	0.0005	1296	1.1302	0.0004	139.5	0.5	0.2291	0.2027	0.0003	24579	41	CAMS 73935	20930	20565	50
RGF 9-39-5 rep																	CAMS 73947	20990	20625	50
RGF 9-39-5																	CAMS 81548	21040	20675	45
RGF 9-39-5				112304LC5	2.6860	0.0008	202	1.1298	0.0005	139.1	1.0	0.2287	0.2024	0.0002	24549	31				
RGF 9-39-5																	WHOI OS-5621	21100	20735	90
RGF 9-39-5																	WHOI OS-5659	21300	20935	130
RGF 9-39-5																	WHOI OS-5869	21000	20635	100
RGF 9-41-3	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	102600RM2	2.3011	0.0005	166	1.1293	0.0005	139.0	1.0	0.2378	0.2105	0.0003	25645	40	CAMS 73938	21670	21305	50
RGF 9-41-6	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>														CAMS 73935	21760	21395	50
RGF 9-41-6				110101RM2	2.1185	0.0006	76	1.1281	0.0005	137.8	1.0	0.2383	0.2112	0.0004	25743	61				
RGF 9-41-6																	WHOI OS-5609	21800	21435	85
RGF 9-41-6																	WHOI OS-5857	21700	21335	90
RGF 9-41-6																	WHOI OS-5857	21900	21535	75
RGF9-41-8	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	011601RM2	2.1469	0.0004	58	1.1287	0.0004	138.4	0.5	0.2376	0.2105	0.0003	25639	45	CAMS 73940	21680	21315	50
RGF 9-41-8 rep																	CAMS 73948	21720	21355	50
RGF 9-41-8 rep																	CAMS 76153	21820	21455	50
RGF 9-41-9	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	011701RM1	2.4180	0.0005	68	1.1299	0.0004	139.7	0.5	0.2387	0.2112	0.0004	25741	53	CAMS 73941	21760	21395	50
RGF 9-41-10	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	011701RM2	2.2724	0.0006	78	1.1300	0.0006	139.9	1.0	0.2397	0.2121	0.0004	25866	53	CAMS 73942	21790	21425	50
RGF 9-41-13	13.04°N	59.56°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	011701RM2	2.2514	0.0006	164	1.1285	0.0004	138.4	0.5	0.2428	0.2151	0.0004	26278	50	CAMS 73944	22070	21705	50
RGF 9-41-13				080801RM1	2.3937	0.0006	281	1.1283	0.0005	138.1	0.5	0.2408	0.2134	0.0003	26044	40				
RGF 12-5-2	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>														CAMS 99004	10270	9905	25
RGF 12-5-2A				102803RMTCC1	3.5148	0.0014	596	1.1407	0.0006	145.4	1.0	0.1137	0.0997	0.0002	11393	30				
RGF 12-5-2B				102703LC4	3.5533	0.0013	382	1.1411	0.0005	145.8	0.5	0.1137	0.0997	0.0001	11390	14				
RGF 12-9-3	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	050103TC1	2.6846	0.0009	266	1.1364	0.0005	141.1	1.0	0.1190	0.1047	0.0002	12002	25				
RGF 12-9-3																	CAMS 99005	10540	10175	25
RGF 12-9-5	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	050103TC3	2.7979	0.0007	349	1.1383	0.0005	143.1	0.5	0.1211	0.1064	0.0003	12203	38				
RGF 12-9-5																	CAMS 99006	10485	10120	35
RGF 12-9-6	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>														CAMS 99007	10505	10140	25
RGF 12-9-6				110103LC4	3.2726	0.0012	1726	1.1387	0.0005	143.5	0.5	0.1208	0.1061	0.0001	12170	15				
RGF 12-14-2	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	081904LC1	3.0456	0.0011	652	1.1399	0.0006	145.1	1.0	0.1286	0.1129	0.0003	12996	30				
RGF 12-14-2				030205LB2	3.3008	0.0009	582	1.1405	0.0006	145.7	1.0	0.1270	0.1114	0.0003	12816	37	CAMS 99009	11265	10900	25
RGF 12-15-4	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>														CAMS 99625	11405	11040	25
RGF 12-15-4				103003RM1	3.1464	0.0008	153	1.1384	0.0005	143.7	1.0	0.1291	0.1134	0.0001	13066	17				
RGF 12-15-4				110303LC2	3.1412	0.0010	127	1.1397	0.0005	145.0	0.5	0.1279	0.1122	0.0001	12919	17				
RGF 12-15-4																	WHOI OS-5604	11500	11135	45
RGF 12-15-4																	WHOI OS-5642	11400	11035	45
RGF 12-15-4																	WHOI OS-5852	11550	11185	40
RGF 12-21-2	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>														CAMS 99627	11925	11560	30
RGF 12-21-2 rep																	CAMS 99631	11880	11515	25
RGF 12-21-2				103103LC1	3.0404	0.0008	184	1.1374	0.0006	142.8	1.0	0.1335	0.1174	0.0002	13555	19				
RGF 12-21-6	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>														CAMS 99628	11945	11580	35
RGF 12-21-6				110303LC3	3.0205	0.0011	107	1.1374	0.0005	142.8	0.5	0.1337	0.1176	0.0002	13574	26				
RGF 12-21-7	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	112603LC2	2.8969	0.0010	65	1.1386	0.0007	144.1	1.0	0.1339	0.1176	0.0002	13578	26				
RGF 12-21-7																	CAMS 99629	11935	11570	30
RGF 12-21-7																	WHOI OS-5606	11900	11535	40
RGF 12-21-7																	WHOI OS-5644	11850	11485	65
RGF 12-21-7																	WHOI OS-5854	11950	11585	40

Data table for radiocarbon calibration "Version Fairbanks0805"

Sample	Lat.	Long.	Species	U-series I.D.	U (ppm)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>232</sup> Th(ppm)	[ <sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Initial $\delta^{234}$ U	1 $\sigma$	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Cal. age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>14</sup> C I.D.	Raw <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	Res. corr. <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$
RGF 12-21-10 RGF 12-21-10	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	110303LC5	3.4760	0.0010	186	1.1385	0.0005	144.0	1.0	0.1344	0.1180	0.0001	13632	16	CAMS 99630	12075	11710	30
RGF 12-28-6 RGF 12-28-6 rep	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	121801TC1	3.1239	0.0008	365	1.1298	0.0005	141.1	0.7	0.2698	0.2388	0.0003	29590	44	CAMS 73915 CAMS 73953	25290 25340	24925 24975	60 70
RGF 12-28-7 RGF 12-28-7 rep RGF 12-28-7 rep RGF 12-28-7 rep	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	021301RM2 073101RM2	2.9820 3.2159	0.0005 0.0008	482 863	1.1274 1.1284	0.0004 0.0005	138.7 139.9	0.5 0.5	0.2742 0.2734	0.2432 0.2423	0.0004 0.0004	30214 30080	56 58	CAMS 73920 CAMS 73949 CAMS 75385 CAMS 77432	25320 25180 25210 25280	24955 24815 24845 24915	60 60 90 90
RGF 12-29-2 RGF 12-29-2 rep	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	080201RM2	3.2406	0.0007	68	1.1269	0.0004	138.3	0.5	0.2742	0.2433	0.0003	30225	40	CAMS 73921 CAMS 73946	25320 25280	24955 24915	70 70
RGF 13-1-11 RGF 13-1-11 RGF 13-1-11 RGF 13-1-11	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	112603LC3	2.5466	0.0011	54	1.1377	0.0007	143.5	1.0	0.1432	0.1258	0.0002	14596	26	WHOI OS-5610 WHOI OS-5648 WHOI OS-5858	12950 12800 12800	12585 12435 12435	60 70 40
RGF 13-8-9 RGF 13-8-9 RGF 13-8-9rep	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082801RM2	3.3690	0.0010	120	1.1322	0.0004	138.9	0.5	0.1693	0.1495	0.0005	17580	69	CAMS 81539 CAMS 88790	14785 14915	14420 14550	30 35
RGF 15-2-4 RGF 15-2-4 RGF 15-2-4 RGF 15-2-4 RGF 15-2-4	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	082001RM1	2.2687	0.0004	60	1.1393	0.0004	144.4	0.5	0.1243	0.1091	0.0002	12533	26	CAMS 81550 CAMS 82278 WHOI OS-5614 WHOI OS-5652 WHOI OS-5862	10885 10800 10900 10950 10950	10520 10435 10535 10585 10585	25 25 50 45 35
RGF 15-4-1 RGF 15-4-1	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	081904LC2 030405ZA2	2.2243 2.3647	0.0008 0.0005	124 299	1.1397 1.1419	0.0006 0.0006	145.0 147.1	1.0 1.0	0.1280 0.1275	0.1123 0.1116	0.0004 0.0003	12926 12844	49 29	CAMS 81551 CAMS 82279	11020 11045	10655 10680	25 25
RGF 15-5-1 RGF 15-5-1 RGF 15-5-1	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	112603LC4 081904LC3	2.6421 2.4090	0.0009 0.0010	30 18	1.1413 1.1405	0.0005 0.0006	146.6 145.7	1.0 1.0	0.1278 0.1279	0.1119 0.1121	0.0002 0.0004	12883 12907	19 54	CAMS 81552	11465	11100	35
RGF 15-5-2 RGF 15-5-2	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	112603LC5	2.4671	0.0008	25	1.1410	0.0006	146.3	1.0	0.1289	0.1130	0.0002	13013	23	CAMS 82283	11505	11140	25
RGF 15-5-3 RGF 15-5-3	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	110103LC3	3.0026	0.0008	48	1.1385	0.0005	144.4	1.0	0.1431	0.1256	0.0001	14573	15	CAMS 81553	12730	12365	35
RGF 15-7-1 RGF 15-7-1	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	011305LC1	2.5444	0.0006	69	1.1420	0.0006	148.0	1.0	0.1445	0.1266	0.0002	14685	22	CAMS 81554 CAMS 82284	12880 12880	12515 12515	25 30
RGF 15-8-1 RGF 15-8-1	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	110501RM2	3.2461	0.0008	232	1.1328	0.0005	140.0	0.5	0.1775	0.1567	0.0003	18494	36	CAMS 81555 CAMS 82285	15290 15315	14925 14950	35 25
RGF15-9-5 RGF15-9-5rep	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	121702TC3	2.9631	0.0008	50	1.1367	0.0004	144.0	0.5	0.1773	0.1560	0.0002	18408	26	CAMS 86508 CAMS 86518	15200 15175	14835 14810	40 40
RGF 15-10-1 RGF 15-10-1	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	110601RM2 011305LC2	2.9765 3.0816	0.0006 0.0010	111 87	1.1320 1.1385	0.0004 0.0005	139.5 146.3	0.5 0.5	0.1856 0.1859	0.1640 0.1633	0.0002 0.0004	19438 19345	25 53	CAMS 88770 CAMS 88784	16155 16165	15790 15800	40 40
RGF 15-10-2 RGF 15-10-2	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	012405LC3	3.1666	0.0011	80	1.1367	0.0006	144.4	1.0	0.1865	0.1641	0.0003	19450	36	CAMS 88771 CAMS 88792	16470 16490	16105 16125	35 40
RGF 15-10-3 RGF 15-10-3 RGF 15-10-3	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	012805LC3	3.4969	0.0010	128	1.1378	0.0005	145.5	0.5	0.1845	0.1622	0.0003	19203	37	CAMS 88772 CAMS 88785 CAMS 99010	16170 16200 16225	15805 15835 15860	40 40 40
RGF 15-10-4 RGF 15-10-4	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	012805LC4	3.3298	0.0009	115	1.1395	0.0005	147.1	0.5	0.1796	0.1576	0.0002	18617	21	CAMS 88773	15765	15400	35
RGF15-10-5 RGF 15-10-5 rep	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	121702TC2	3.2326	0.0006	69	1.1369	0.0004	144.1	0.5	0.1732	0.1523	0.0002	17935	26	CAMS 86505 CAMS 99025	15090 15020	14725 14655	45 30
RGF 15-10-6 RGF 15-10-6	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082001RM2	3.2205	0.0007	73	1.1339	0.0004	140.9	0.5	0.1732	0.1528	0.0003	17996	35	CAMS 86520	15015	14650	40

Data table for radiocarbon calibration "Version Fairbanks0805"

Sample	Lat.	Long.	Species	U-series I.D.	U (ppm)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>232</sup> Th(ppm)	[ <sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Initial $\delta^{234}$ U	1 $\sigma$	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Cal. age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>14</sup> C I.D.	Raw <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	Res. corr. <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$
RGF 15-12-2	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082101RM1	3.1079	0.0010	151	1.1321	0.0006	139.6	1.0	0.1869	0.1651	0.0002	19581	26	CAMS 86521	16475	16110	45
RGF 15-12-2				033005PS2	3.2964	0.0007	75	1.1356	0.0005	143.3	0.5	0.1864	0.1641	0.0003	19455	40				
RGF 15-12-4	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082101RM2	3.2327	0.0010	139	1.1311	0.0004	138.5	0.5	0.1846	0.1632	0.0002	19337	23	CAMS 88774	16465	16100	40
RGF 15-13-4	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	082101RM4	2.1758	0.0005	620	1.1334	0.0004	141.0	0.5	0.1887	0.1665	0.0003	19770	32				
RGF 15-13-4				013105LC1	2.2050	0.0006	74	1.1367	0.0006	144.5	1.0	0.1886	0.1659	0.0003	19684	39	CAMS 86510 CAMS 86519	16745 16725	16380 16360	45 50
RGF 15-13-6	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>Diploria sp</i>	082201RM1	2.8231	0.0007	551	1.1319	0.0004	139.4	0.5	0.1856	0.1639	0.0002	19434	30	CAMS 88776 CAMS 88786	16855 16835	16490 16470	40 40
RGF 15-14-3	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	082201RM2	2.4806	0.0005	69	1.1325	0.0004	140.0	0.5	0.1861	0.1643	0.0002	19483	27	CAMS 86511	16975	16610	45
RGF 15-14-4	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	082201RM2	2.3337	0.0010	71	1.1334	0.0005	141.0	1.0	0.1876	0.1655	0.0002	19638	25	CAMS 88777 CAMS 88787 WHOI OS-5616 WHOI OS-5654 WHOI OS-5864	16980 16885 17000 17000 16850	16615 16520 16635 16635 16485	35 40 85 75 55
RGF 15-14-5	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	022805JD2	2.4657	0.0006	591	1.1367	0.0006	144.4	1.0	0.1864	0.1640	0.0003	19443	30	CAMS 88778	16985	16620	35
RGF 15-14-7	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>Diploria sp</i>	050131LC2	2.4323	0.0011	88	1.1375	0.0007	145.3	1.0	0.1886	0.1658	0.0003	19678	33				
RGF 15-14-7																	CAMS 88779	16950	16585	45
RGF 15-15-2	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>Diploria sp</i>																	
RGF 15-15-2rep																	CAMS 86512 CAMS 86522	17065 17080	16700 16715	50 45
RGF 15-15-2				040502RM1	2.3962	0.0005	114	1.1356	0.0004	143.4	0.5	0.1883	0.1658	0.0005	19677	64				
RGF 15-15-3	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>Diploria sp</i>	040502RM2	2.6847	0.0006	322	1.1353	0.0006	143.1	1.0	0.1875	0.1652	0.0003	19595	44	CAMS 88780 CAMS 88793	17025 17115	16660 16750	40 40
RGF 15-15-3rep																				
RGF 15-15-5	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>Diploria sp</i>	121702TC1	2.5048	0.0006	272	1.1354	0.0005	143.1	0.5	0.1878	0.1654	0.0003	19627	34	CAMS 86513	17150	16785	45
RGF 15-15-7	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	050131LC3	2.3250	0.0006	106	1.1367	0.0006	144.7	1.0	0.1921	0.1690	0.0003	20085	34				
RGF 15-15-7																	CAMS 88781	17125	16760	40
RGF 15-15-8	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	110101RM2	2.3303	0.0005	57	1.1310	0.0004	138.6	0.5	0.1896	0.1676	0.0003	19913	34	CAMS 88782 CAMS 88788 WHOI OS-5617 WHOI OS-5655 WHOI OS-5865	17220 17215 17250 17200 17150	16855 16850 16885 16835 16785	40 40 75 60 50
RGF 15-15-8rep																				
RGF 15-15-8																				
RGF 15-15-8																				
RGF 15-15-8																				
RGF 15-15-9	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	013105LC4	2.4147	0.0008	56	1.1364	0.0006	144.4	1.0	0.1920	0.1689	0.0002	20082	27	CAMS 88783 CAMS 88789	17175 17230	16810 16865	40 40
RGF 15-15-9																				
RGF 15-17-2	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	012405LC2	2.4942	0.0009	296	1.1387	0.0005	147.0	0.5	0.1972	0.1732	0.0003	20634	39				
RGF 15-17-2																	KIA 25004	17745	17380	60
RGF 15-17-3	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	110103LC5	2.4143	0.0005	60	1.1318	0.0004	139.7	0.5	0.1954	0.1727	0.0002	20575	31	KIA 25003	17825	17460	55
RGF 15-18-1	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	011305LC7	2.3289	0.0004	47	1.1359	0.0005	144.1	0.5	0.1953	0.1719	0.0003	20469	32				
RGF 15-18-1																	KIA 25002	17670	17305	50
RGF 15-18-2	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	011705RM1	2.4614	0.0008	112	1.1382	0.0006	146.5	1.0	0.1969	0.1730	0.0007	20614	90				
RGF 15-18-2																	KIA 25001	17800	17435	55
RGF 15-18-3	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	013105LC5	2.2454	0.0007	60	1.1358	0.0006	144.0	1.0	0.1975	0.1739	0.0003	20734	31				
RGF 15-18-3																	KIA 25000	17740	17375	70
RGF 15-18-4	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	013105LC6	2.4503	0.0008	37	1.1356	0.0005	143.8	0.5	0.1973	0.1738	0.0004	20714	43				
RGF 15-18-4																	KIA 24999	17860	17495	60
RGF 15-19-2	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	030405SS5	2.4718	0.0007	76	1.1341	0.0007	142.1	1.0	0.1952	0.1772	0.0003	20504	39	KIA 24998	17980	17615	60
RGF 15-19-3	13.04°N	59.55°W	<i>M. annularis</i>	110303LC1	2.5505	0.0009	65	1.1314	0.0005	139.3	1.0	0.1959	0.1731	0.0002	20632	31				
RGF 15-19-3																	KIA 24997	18110	17745	60
RGF 16-12-6	13.05°N	59.55°W	<i>A. palmata</i>	082801RM1	2.9905	0.0008	75	1.1374	0.0004	141.9	0.5	0.1145	0.1007	0.0001	11512	17	CAMS 86514	10335	9970	30

Data table for radiocarbon calibration "Version Fairbanks0805"

Sample	Lat.	Long.	Species	U-series I.D.	U (ppm)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>232</sup> Th(ppm)	[ <sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Initial $\delta^{234}$ U	1 $\sigma$	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Cal. age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>14</sup> C I.D.	Raw <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	Res. corr. <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$	
<b>KIRITIMATI</b>	Reservoir age for Kiriritimati data is 350 yr																				
CHR 4-1-7	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	110299RM6	3.6293	0.0010	41	1.1404	0.0005	145.2	1.0	0.1181	0.1035	0.0001	11859	26	CAMS77428	10540	10190	30	
CHR 4-2-4	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	110399RM1	3.5372	0.0010	31	1.1404	0.0005	145.4	1.0	0.1237	0.1085	0.0001	12461	23	CAMS75375 CAMS75383	10730 10680	10380 10330	30 30	
CHR 4-2-7	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	070803RM1	3.8200	0.0010	24	1.1439	0.0005	149.2	1.0	0.1265	0.1106	0.0002	12716	28	CAMS75372	11280	10930	30	
CHR 4-2-9	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	070803RM2	3.9030	0.0010	14	1.1413	0.0005	146.5	1.0	0.1273	0.1116	0.0002	12836	25	CAMS75376	11290	10940	30	
CHR 4-3-1A	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	070803RM2	4.0809	0.0010	46	1.1421	0.0005	147.4	1.0	0.1286	0.1126	0.0002	12961	30	CAMS77020	11440	11090	30	
CHR 4-3-2	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	070903RM1	3.6565	0.0010	32	1.1414	0.0005	146.7	1.0	0.1285	0.1126	0.0002	12959	21	CAMS75378	11420	11070	30	
CHR 4-3-3	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	070903RM2	3.8861	0.0010	41	1.1426	0.0005	147.9	1.0	0.1289	0.1128	0.0002	12990	28	CAMS75368	11410	11060	30	
CHR 4-3-8	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	070903RM2	3.0028	0.0010	48	1.1414	0.0006	146.8	1.0	0.1300	0.1139	0.0002	13117	29	CAMS77435	11660	11310	30	
CHR 4-3-15	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	101899RM1	2.8057	0.0010	42	1.1391	0.0005	144.6	1.0	0.1346	0.1182	0.0002	13650	45	CAMS77016	11930	11580	30	
CHR 4-3-15			<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	071003RM1	2.5690	0.0010	200	1.1397	0.0006	145.2	1.0	0.1351	0.1186	0.0003	13698	41					
CHR 5-1-3	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	120399RM2	3.7147	0.0010	80	1.1406	0.0005	145.3	1.0	0.1150	0.1008	0.0001	11527	25	CAMS75370	10260	9910	30	
CHR 5-1-5	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	040202RM2	3.2960	0.0010	14	1.1426	0.0004	147.4	1.0	0.1154	0.1010	0.0001	11548	21	CAMS75366 CAMS75381	10360 10350	10010 10000	30 30	
CHR 5-1-8	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	030200RM1	3.7659	0.0010	46	1.1421	0.0005	146.9	1.0	0.1177	0.1031	0.0002	11805	38	CAMS77445	10480	10130	30	
CHR 5-1-9	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	040202RM2	3.8240	0.0010	28	1.1398	0.0004	144.6	1.0	0.1188	0.1043	0.0002	11949	21	CAMS75374	10550	10200	30	
CHR 5-1-11A	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	080101RM1	4.0324	0.0010	69	1.1395	0.0004	144.3	1.0	0.1186	0.1041	0.0001	11925	12	CAMS75367	10560	10210	30	
CHR 5-2-2	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	040302RM1	3.1310	0.0010	8	1.4060	0.0004	145.3	1.0	0.1156	0.1013	0.0001	11591	15	CAMS75375	10310	9960	40	
CHR 5-2-3	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	040302RM2	3.5050	0.0010	11	1.4070	0.0003	145.6	1.0	0.1188	0.1041	0.0001	11931	18	CAMS77442	10500	10150	30	
CHR 5-2-4	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	040302RM2	3.5860	0.0010	25	1.1396	0.0004	144.4	1.0	0.1193	0.1047	0.0002	11996	26	CAMS75372 CAMS75382	10580 10480	10230 10130	40 30	
CHR 6-1-2	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	060499RM2	3.5180	0.0010	58	1.1407	0.0004	145.4	1.0	0.1154	0.1012	0.0001	11571	24	CAMS76145	10390	10040	30	
CHR 6-1-2			<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	063099RM5	3.5100	0.0010	61	1.1385	0.0005	143.2	1.0	0.1163	0.1022	0.0002	11697	25	CAMS76155	10390	10040	40	
CHR 6-1-3	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	060899RM2	3.0925	0.0010	46	1.1423	0.0004	147.1	1.0	0.1155	0.1011	0.0001	11569	28	CAMS77438	10360	10010	30	
CHR 6-1-3			<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	063099RM4	3.0830	0.0010	47	1.1437	0.0004	148.5	1.0	0.1161	0.1015	0.0001	11612	22					
CHR 6-2-2	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	060799RM2	3.5480	0.0010	22	1.1412	0.0004	146.1	1.0	0.1180	0.1034	0.0001	11839	22	CAMS77024	11590	10240	30	
CHR 6-2-2			<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	063099RM4	3.5500	0.0010	22	1.1376	0.0004	142.3	1.0	0.1183	0.1040	0.0001	11920	23					
CHR 6-2-5	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	060899RM4	3.6531	0.0010	65	1.1397	0.0004	144.6	1.0	0.1209	0.1061	0.0001	12172	30	CAMS77441	10710	10360	30	
CHR 6-2-5			<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	060301RM1	3.6564	0.0010	56	1.1408	0.0006	145.7	1.0	0.1204	0.1055	0.0001	12103	16					
CHR 6-2-6	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	060899RM4	3.7551	0.0010	58	1.1399	0.0004	144.8	1.0	0.1220	0.1071	0.0001	12287	29	CAMS76150	10770	10420	30	
CHR 6-2-6			<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	063099RM6	3.7447	0.0010	61	1.1397	0.0004	144.7	1.0	0.1222	0.1072	0.0001	12304	23					
CHR 6-2-7	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	030100RM2	3.6195	0.0010	43	1.1397	0.0004	144.8	1.0	0.1242	0.1090	0.0002	12526	40	CAMS77433	10730	10380	30	
CHR 6-2-8	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	030300RM1	3.8582	0.0010	114	1.1375	0.0004	142.5	1.0	0.1242	0.1092	0.0002	12553	47	CAMS77443	10850	10500	30	
CHR 6-2-10	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	101599RM1	3.9214	0.0010	61	1.1406	0.0004	145.8	1.0	0.1251	0.1097	0.0002	12611	38	CAMS77430	10900	10550	30	
CHR 7-1-2	1.99°N	157.78°W	unidentified sp.	080101RM1	3.0000	0.0010	84	1.1409	0.0005	145.2	1.0	0.1063	0.0932	0.0001	10612	17	CAMS76146	9730	9380	30	
CHR 7-1-4	1.99°N	157.78°W	unidentified sp.	080301RM2	2.8325	0.0010	124	1.1391	0.0006	143.4	1.0	0.1062	0.0932	0.0001	10615	26	CAMS76144	9800	9450	30	
CHR 7-1-5	1.99°N	157.78°W	unidentified sp.	080301RM2	2.7688	0.0010	64	1.1407	0.0005	145.0	1.0	0.1066	0.0934	0.0001	10642	19	CAMS76141	9700	9350	30	
CHR 7-1-7	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	070299RM1	3.4695	0.0010	59	1.1387	0.0004	143.4	1.0	0.1157	0.1016	0.0001	11625	23	CAMS76135 CAMS76158	10440 10380	10090 10030	30 40	

Data table for radiocarbon calibration "Version Fairbanks0805"

Sample	Lat.	Long.	Species	U-series I.D.	U (ppm)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>232</sup> Th(ppm)	[ <sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Initial $\delta^{234}$ U	1 $\sigma$	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U] act.	1 $\sigma$	Cal. age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$	<sup>14</sup> C I.D.	Raw <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	Res. corr. <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	1 $\sigma$
CHR 7-2-2 CHR 7-2-2	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	071999RM4	3.5889	0.0010	65	1.1377	0.0003	142.6	1.0	0.1199	0.1054	0.0002	12081	42	CAMS77436 CAMS77448	10590 10580	10240 10230	30 30
CHR 7-2-6	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	030300RM2	3.4285	0.0010	24	1.1384	0.0003	143.2	1.0	0.1210	0.1063	0.0002	12199	41	CAMS77025	10620	10270	30
CHR 7-2-8	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	072099RM2	3.4366	0.0010	53	1.1405	0.0005	145.5	1.0	0.1215	0.1065	0.0001	12223	25	CAMS76147	10750	10400	30
CHR 7-3-2	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	040402RM1	3.4910	0.0010	51	1.1414	0.0004	146.1	1.0	0.1170	0.1025	0.0002	11730	19	CAMS77435	10340	9990	30
CHR 7-4-3	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	072099RM4	3.3209	0.0010	49	1.1384	0.0004	143.3	1.0	0.1232	0.1083	0.0001	12433	27	CAMS76145	10820	10470	30
CHR 7-4-5	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	071003RM2	4.0428	0.0010	21	1.1422	0.0007	147.5	1.0	0.1269	0.1111	0.0002	12785	30	CAMS75380	11300	10950	30
CHR 7-5-2A CHR 7-5-2A CHR 7-5-2A	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	072099RM6	4.1863	0.0010	27	1.1357	0.0003	140.7	1.0	0.1267	0.1116	0.0002	12838	47	CAMS76138 CAMS76151 CAMS77447	11300 11420 11350	10950 11070 11000	30 30 30
CHR 7-6-1 CHR 7-6-1	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	071003RM2	3.9260	0.0010	34	1.1411	0.0007	146.4	1.0	0.1288	0.1129	0.0002	12995	28	CAMS76148 CAMS76156	11500 11430	11150 11080	30 30
CHR 7-6-3.1 CHR 7-6-3.2	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	072099RM5	3.7650	0.0010	32	1.1355	0.0003	140.6	1.0	0.1276	0.1124	0.0002	12942	48	CAMS76142 CAMS81549	11420 11450	11070 11100	30 30
CHR 7-7-1.1	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	030300RM2	3.6230	0.0010	34	1.1372	0.0006	142.6	1.0	0.1349	0.1187	0.0001	13709	24	CAMS77010	12080	11730	30
CHR 7-7-2A.1	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	101599RM2	3.4371	0.0010	32	1.1427	0.0005	148.3	1.0	0.1327	0.1161	0.0001	13397	33	CAMS76140	11800	11450	30
CHR 7-7-3A.1	1.99°N	157.78°W	<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	040402RM2	3.6050	0.0010	17	1.1432	0.0005	148.7	1.0	0.1325	0.1159	0.0002	13365	21	CAMS77425	11770	11420	30
<b>ARAKI</b>	Reservoir age for Araki data is 365 yr																			
AK-BC-2	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Favia stelligera</i>	112503TC4	2.4369	0.0014	9	1.1410	0.0010	144.0	1.5	0.0765	0.0671	0.0001	7518	17	CAMS 112217	6895	6530	30
AK-BD-2 AK-BD-2	15.63°S	166.93°E	unidentified sp.	102803TC5	1.9947	0.0007	10	1.1263	0.0006	139.9	0.9	0.3186	0.2829	0.0003	36014	43	CAMS 99632 CAMS 104452	30690 30360	30325 29995	210 240
AK-BD-3 AK-BD-3	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites</i>	102903TC1	3.9029	0.0013	8	1.1268	0.0005	139.8	0.8	0.3071	0.2725	0.0003	34467	39	CAMS 99022 CAMS 104453	29090 29700	28725 29335	190 220
AK-BD-4	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites</i>	102903TC2	2.7232	0.0007	29	1.1274	0.0005	140.9	0.8	0.3152	0.2796	0.0003	35518	43	CAMS 99632	31110	30745	220
AK-BD-5	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites</i>	062603TC2	2.6362	0.0009	13	1.1264	0.0005	140.1	0.8	0.3204	0.2844	0.0005	36247	74	CAMS 99015	31670	31305	260
AK-BD-9	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites lutea</i>	102903TC6	2.8262	0.0008	734	1.1249	0.0005	139.8	0.8	0.3458	0.3074	0.0003	39759	42	CAMS 99024	35090	34725	400
AK-BD-10 AK-BD-10	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Favia stelligera</i>	010803RM1	2.5785	0.0005	12	1.1263	0.0004	141.3	0.6	0.3457	0.3069	0.0003	39684	50	CAMS 93342 CAMS 99637	35090 35410	34725 35045	430 370
AK-BD-11 AK-BD-11	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites lutea</i>	063003TC3	2.6913	0.0006	299	1.1256	0.0004	140.0	0.8	0.3361	0.2986	0.0004	38401	58	CAMS 99016 CAMS 104454	32900 33390	32535 33025	300 350
AK-L-1 AK-L-1	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Favia stelligera</i>	010803RM2	2.1286	0.0004	16	1.1310	0.0004	144.1	1.1	0.3022	0.2672	0.0003	33677	39	CAMS 93342 CAMS 99636	29730 29460	29365 29095	230 180
AK-K-1 AK-K-1	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites</i>	112403TC1	3.8042	0.0011	27	1.1273	0.0007	141.0	1.1	0.3206	0.2844	0.0003	36240	46	CAMS 104455 CAMS 106898	32140 32130	31775 31765	300 490
AK-K-2	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Platygyra lamellina</i>	042203TC2	2.4537	0.0005	24	1.1279	0.0005	141.7	1.5	0.3206	0.2842	0.0003	36216	49	KIA 24977	30980	30615	150
AK-F-1 AK-F-1	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Favia</i>	082504TC1	2.8052	0.0008	13	1.1276	0.0007	141.3	1.0	0.3195	0.2834	0.0004	36091	67	CAMS 106896 CAMS 106893	32250 32620	31885 32255	500 530
AK-F-2	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Goniastrea</i>	082504TC3	2.5551	0.0006	9	1.1287	0.0006	142.5	0.9	0.3195	0.2831	0.0006	36047	96	CAMS 106897	31610	31245	460
AK-AA-1	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Favia stelligera</i>	082504TC4	2.2705	0.0005	15	1.1280	0.0004	142.5	0.7	0.3319	0.2942	0.0004	37724	68	CAMS 106896	34090	33725	630
AK-BE-1b AK-BE-1b	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites lutea</i>	063003TC4 082604TC3	2.7054 2.6771	0.0006 0.0007	337 300	1.1228 1.1252	0.0005 0.0006	139.7 142.5	0.7 0.9	0.3869 0.3877	0.3446 0.3446	0.0006 0.0006	45689 45681	93 98	CAMS 99018	42310	41945	960

Data table for radiocarbon calibration "Version Fairbanks0805"

Sample	Lat.	Long.	Species	U-series I.D.	U (ppm)	1 σ	<sup>232</sup> Th(ppt)	[ <sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	1 σ	Initial δ <sup>234</sup> U	1 σ	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>238</sup> U] act.	[ <sup>230</sup> Th/ <sup>234</sup> U] act.	1 σ	Cal. age (yr BP)	1 σ	<sup>14</sup> C I.D.	Raw <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	Res. corr. <sup>14</sup> C age (yr BP)	1 σ	
AK-AB-1	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites lutea</i>	042303TC1	2.5163	0.0005	57	1.1231	0.0005	141.1	0.7	0.4045	0.3602	0.0003	48273	49	KIA 24976	44410	44045	530	
AK-AB-1				111803TC4	2.7484	0.0007	70	1.1226	0.0005	140.5	0.8	0.4036	0.3595	0.0003	48164	45					
ARA04-2D	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Goniastrea</i>	112304RM1	2.3337	0.0004	29	1.1299	0.0005	145.3	0.8	0.3477	0.3077	0.0009	39799	140	KIA 24978	35050	34685	230	
ARA04-10D	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Favia</i>	112304TC2	2.4515	0.0004	9	1.1299	0.0005	145.4	0.7	0.3486	0.3085	0.0004	39930	58	KIA 24979	34570	34205	210	
ARA04-11D	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Goniastrea</i>	102604LC5	2.4407	0.0011	36	1.1280	0.0005	143.7	0.8	0.3552	0.3149	0.0003	40923	54	KIA 24980	35640	35275	200	
ARA04-17D	15.63°S	166.93°E	unidentified sp.	011805TC1	3.1012	0.0007	6	1.1289	0.0005	142.9	0.8	0.3232	0.2863	0.0003	36521	44	KIA 24981	31710	31345	150	
ARA04-19D	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites</i>	011805TC2	3.3744	0.0009	94	1.1307	0.0005	144.7	0.8	0.3200	0.2830	0.0003	36031	44	KIA 24982	32070	31705	150	
ARA04-22D	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites</i>	112304RM4	2.9510	0.0005	44	1.1323	0.0005	146.5	0.7	0.3203	0.2829	0.0004	36008	64	KIA 24984	31220	30855	140	
ARA04-40E	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Platygyra</i>	102604RM4	2.4933	0.0005	10	1.1236	0.0005	142.1	0.7	0.4110	0.3658	0.0003	49203	45	KIA 24987	45160	44795	570	
ARA04-43E	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites</i>	092204LC2	2.8368	0.0007	17	1.1252	0.0005	143.5	0.7	0.4048	0.3597	0.0006	48183	102	KIA 24988	46060	45695	630	
ARA04-44E	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites</i>	092204LC3	3.1435	0.0011	69	1.1262	0.0006	144.7	0.9	0.4064	0.3609	0.0007	48378	112	KIA 24989	44750	44385	550	
ARA04-71E	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Favia</i>	092304LC1	2.2226	0.0008	27	1.1258	0.0005	142.2	0.8	0.3729	0.3312	0.0005	43519	82	KIA 24991	38860	38495	380	
ARA04-73E	15.63°S	166.93°E	unidentified sp.	092304LC2	2.1453	0.0005	14	1.1270	0.0005	143.9	0.8	0.3774	0.3348	0.0005	44098	83	KIA 24992	39710	39345	310	
ARA04-75E	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Porites</i>	092304LC3	2.9473	0.0005	27	1.1254	0.0005	142.3	0.7	0.3820	0.3395	0.0006	44850	90	KIA 24993	41710	41345	390	
ARA04-77E	15.63°S	166.93°E	unidentified sp.	092304LC4	2.6076	0.0005	8	1.1280	0.0005	144.9	0.8	0.3759	0.3333	0.0005	43840	86	KIA 24994	39700	39335	320	
ARA04-85E	15.63°S	166.93°E	<i>Goniastrea</i>	092304LC5	2.5620	0.0005	4	1.1262	0.0004	142.8	0.7	0.3727	0.3310	0.0004	43474	72	KIA 24995	40460	40095	330	
<b>SANTO</b>	*Santo Island samples used to supplement neighboring Araki Island reservoir age computation																				
S-C-4*	15.60°S	166.80°E	unidentified sp.	082304RM5	2.9044	0.0007	17	1.1490	0.0004	149.5	0.6	0.0136	0.0118	0.0001	1249	10	CAMS112210	1885	1520	30	
S-T-2*	15.60°S	166.80°E	unidentified sp.	082704RM2	2.5864	0.0006	42	1.1479	0.0005	149.4	0.8	0.0352	0.0307	0.0002	3352	17	CAMS112212	3490	3125	35	
S-W-2*	15.60°S	166.80°E	unidentified sp.	083004RM1	2.4537	0.0008	72	1.1473	0.0007	149.2	1.0	0.0471	0.0410	0.0003	4521	29	CAMS112213	4315	3950	30	
S-X-1*	15.60°S	166.80°E	unidentified sp.	082704RM4	2.5621	0.0006	91	1.1472	0.0006	149.4	0.8	0.0537	0.0468	0.0002	5182	21	CAMS112214	4775	4410	35	

Note:

Coral species -- "A." represents *Acropora*; "M." represents *Montastrea*; "P." represents *Porites*. "[ ] act." represents activity ratio.

Calendar ages were determined by <sup>230</sup>Th/<sup>234</sup>U/<sup>238</sup>U method by PLASMA 54 at LDEO (Mortlock et al. 2005) and were calculated using the following equation

$$\left[ \frac{^{230}\text{Th}}{^{234}\text{U}} \right] = \frac{1 - e^{-\lambda_{230}t_1}}{\left[ \frac{^{234}\text{U}}{^{238}\text{U}} \right]} + \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\left[ \frac{^{234}\text{U}}{^{238}\text{U}} \right]} \right) * \frac{\lambda_{230}}{\lambda_{230} - \lambda_{234}} * \left( 1 - e^{-(\lambda_{230} - \lambda_{234})t_1} \right)$$

In all calculations, we use decay constants of  $\lambda_{230} = 9.1577 \times 10^{-6} \text{ year}^{-1}$  and  $\lambda_{234} = 2.8263 \times 10^{-6} \text{ year}^{-1}$  (Cheng et al., 2000).

<sup>14</sup>C ages are based on the definition in Stuiver and Polach (1977).

"CAMS" represents <sup>14</sup>C dates performed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, University of California.

"KIA" represents <sup>14</sup>C dates performed in the Leibniz Laboratory for Dating and Isotope Analyses, Christian-Albrechts-Universität, Kiel, Germany.

"WHOI" represents <sup>14</sup>C dates performed in the National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.