

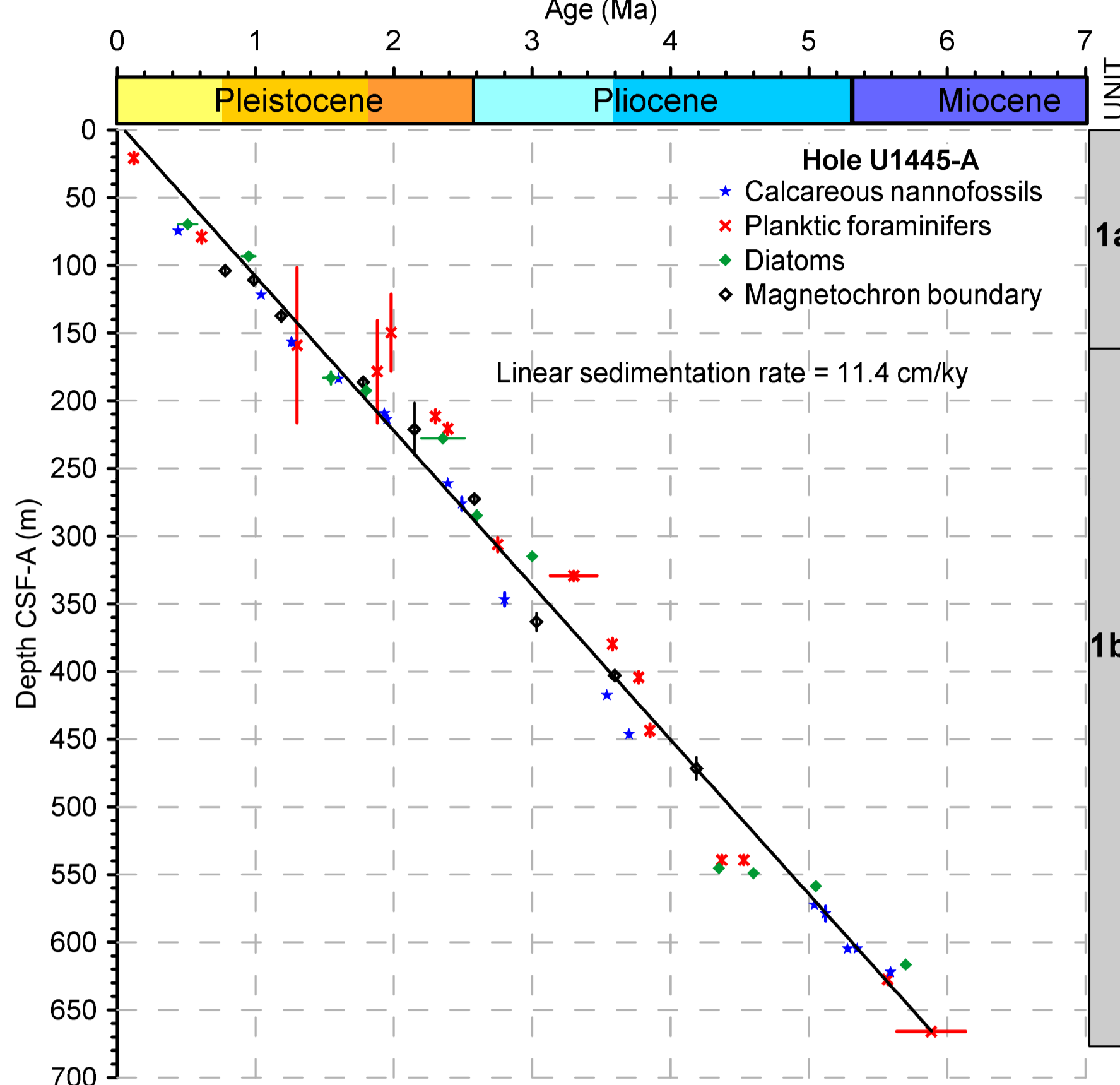
# IODP Exp. 353: an occasion of professional enrichment and growth

## Spedizione IODP 353: un'occasione di arricchimento e crescita professionale

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DURING THE CRUISE

BELOW: on-board Age Model for Site U1445 based on **nannos, forams, diatoms, pmag**



BELOW: micropaleontologists of Exp. 353. From left to right: K. Gariboldi (diatoms), X. Ding (forams), M. Bartol (nannoplankton), C. Bolton (nannoplankton), O. Romero (diatoms) and M. Robinson (forams). Photo credit: Liping Zhou.



IODP Exp. 353, "Indian Monsoon Rainfall" (Gulf of Bengal, November 2014 – January 2015), recovered Upper Cretaceous–Holocene sediment sections, with the aim to understand "the physical mechanisms underlying changes in Indian monsoonal precipitation" (IODP Exp. 353 Scientific Prospectus).

I took part to Exp. 353, during my II year of PhD. I was on board of the *Joides Resolution* as a diatom biostratigrapher, and working with the other on-board micropaleontologists increased my knowledge and skills in biostratigraphy.

AFTER THE CRUISE... the Cruise participants are required to develop research projects with the material collected during the Cruise. I proposed 3 projects:

### 1) THE DIATOM BIOSTRATIGRAPHY PROJECT

**Scientific Background:** a lack of information regarding diatom stratigraphy is reported for the Bay of Bengal: before Exp. 353 scientific oceanic drilling was never operated north of the 758 ODP Site (Ninetyeast Ridge, 9°N in the Bay of Bengal, IODP Exp. 353 Scientific Prospectus).

**Objective:** to realise a diatom biostratigraphic scheme for the Cenozoic of the Indian Ocean.



**What:** mainly on-board-made smear slides.

**Collaborators:** Oscar Romero (MARUM, University of Bremen), Miloš Bartol (University of Sweden), Clara Bolton (CEREGE, France), Xuan Ding (China University of Geoscience), Marci Robinson (USGS), Yoichi Usui (Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology), Sam Taylor (Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris).



Alessandra Negri

### 3) THE "ROLE OF VOLCANIC ASHES IN ENHANCING PRIMARY PRODUCTION: EVIDENCES IN THE DEEP TIME" PROJECT

**Scientific Background:** volcanic ash behaves like a fertilizer: as it reaches seawater, it releases quantities of nutrients high enough to cause huge algal blooms (Duggen et al., 2007).

**Objective:** to evaluate changes in primary production due to volcanic events recorded in the sediments by measuring different geochemical and micropaleontological proxies for paleoproductivity.

**What:** sediment samples collected just below and just above tuff layers. Also the tuff layers themselves were collected (see the diagram on the right). Samples are from Sites U1443, U1445, U1447 and U1448.

**Collaborators:** Anna Gioncada and Caterina Morigi (Dip. Scienze della Terra, Università di Pisa), Matthias Zabel (MARUM, University of Bremen).

**Highlights:** - this project is funded by an **ECORD RESEARCH GRANT (2015)**;

- students got involved by developing their thesis on the topics of this project;
- some samples are records of the Younger Toba Event (ca. 0.074 Ma);
- I performed part of the ICP-OES analyses myself at MARUM.



Caterina Morigi



Anna Gioncada



Matthias Zabel

### 2) THE "LATE MIOCENE CARBON ISOTOPE SHIFT" EVENT (CA. 7.6 – 6.6 MA) PROJECT

**Scientific Background:** sediments of the late Miocene (from ca. 7.6 to ca. 6.6 Ma) globally recorded a negative carbon isotope shift in foraminifera and bulk sediments. This shift is associated to a period of enhanced marine biological productivity (Diester-Haas et al., 2006).

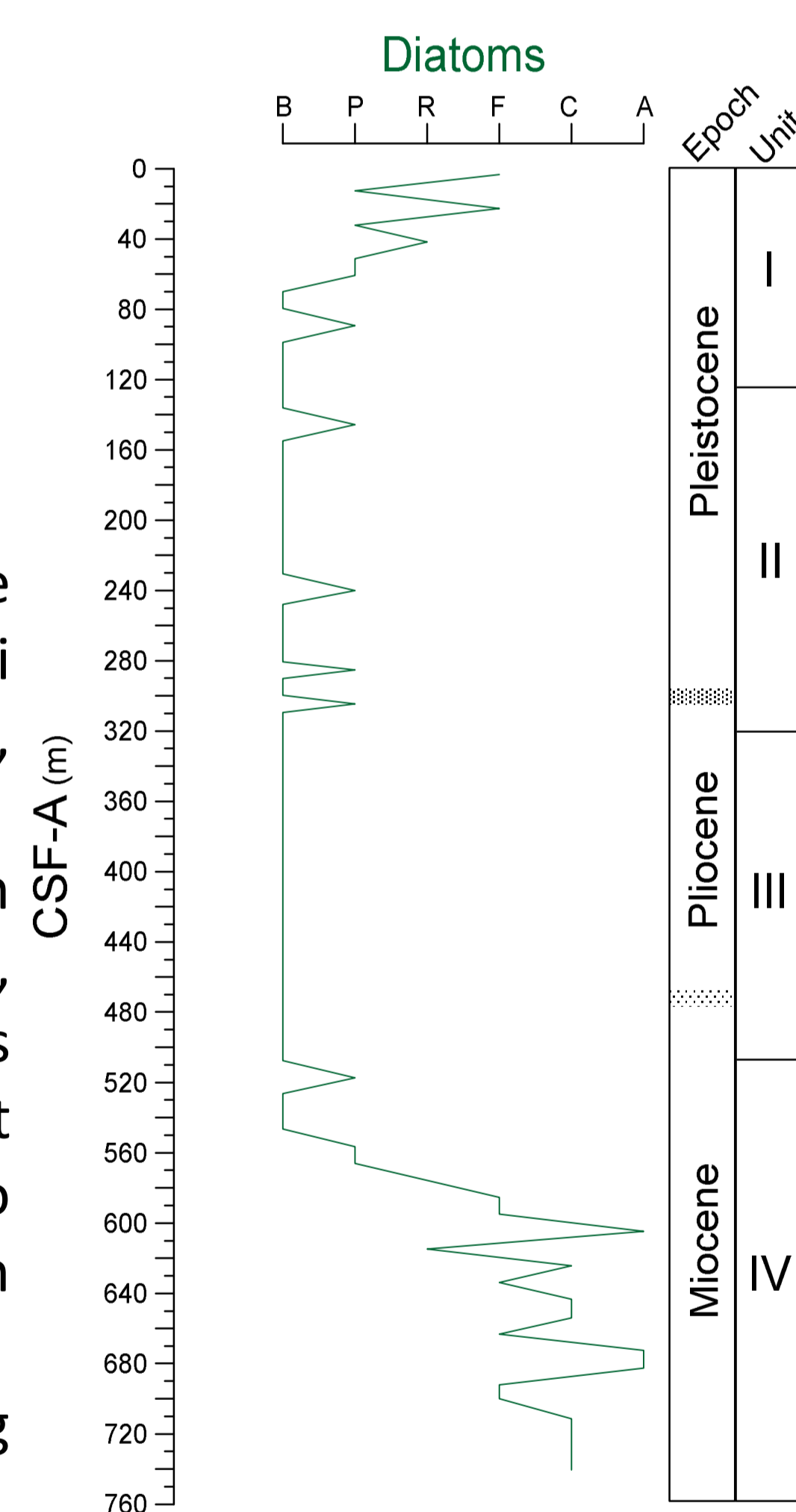
**Objective:** to study this shift by means of different micropaleontological assemblages with the aim to understand its activation mechanisms.

**What:** Site U1447A (Andaman Sea) samples from upper Miocene to the bottom of the core with a 50 kyrs resolution.

**Collaborators:** Caterina Morigi (Dip. Scienze della Terra, Università di Pisa), Alessandra Negri (Dip. di Scienze della Vita e dell'Ambiente, Università Politecnica delle Marche).

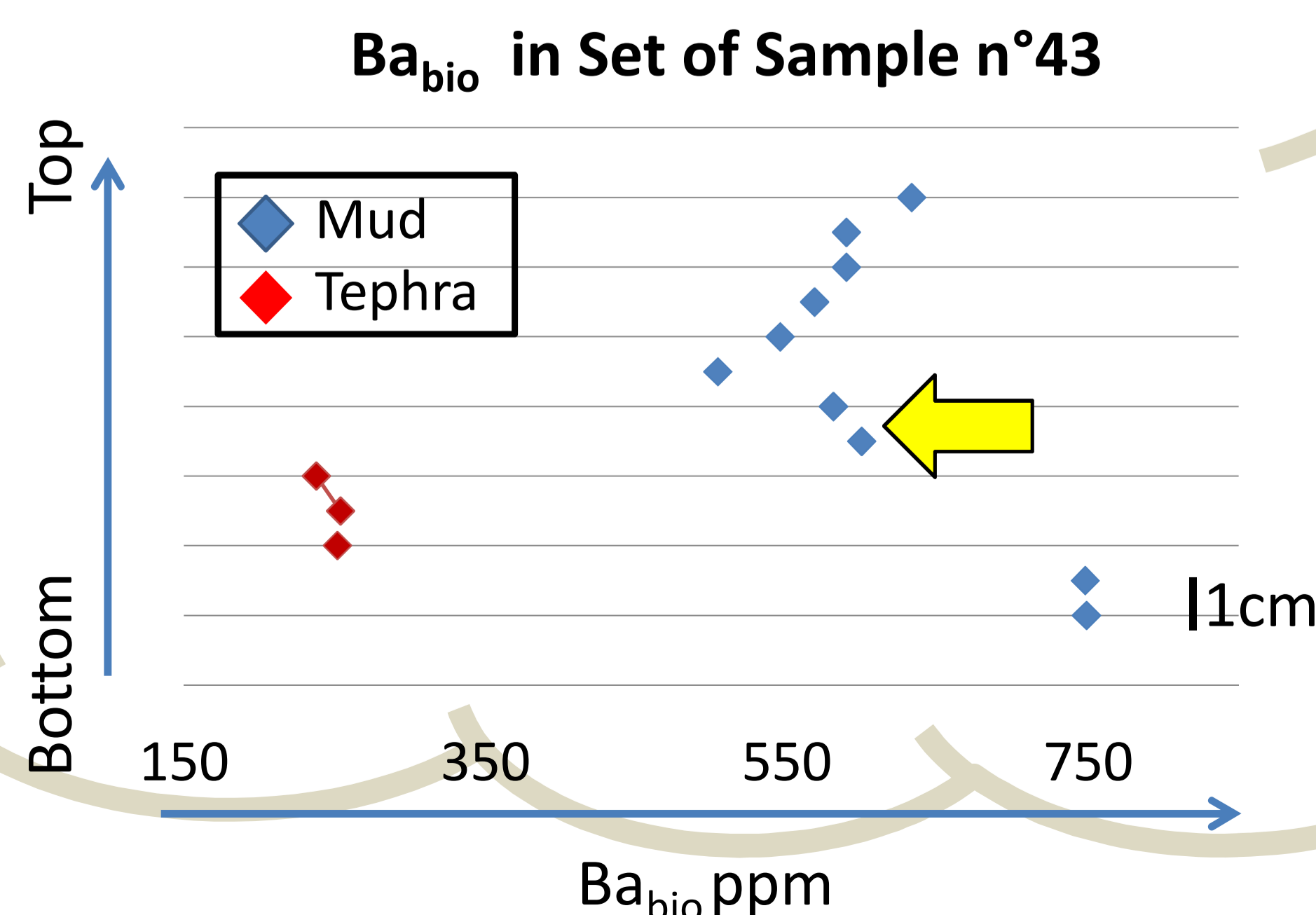
**Highlights:** - the comparison of our data with those obtained by other Cruise Participants, working on the late Miocene Carbon shift as well (at different Sites and using different proxies, such as biomarkers) will help us to have a better picture of this climatic event in the Bay of Bengal;

- students will be got involved by developing their thesis on the topics of this project.



ABOVE: on-board diagram of diatom abundance in sediments of Hole U1447A. A drastic shift in diatom abundance is observed in the late Miocene (B = Barren; P = Poor; R = Rare; F = Few; C = Common; A = Abundant). Different units refer to different lithologies recognised on board.

BELOW, LEFT: diagram of Ba<sub>bio</sub> in the sediments above and below the Younger Toba ash layer (blue diamonds) and in the Younger Toba ash layer itself (red diamonds) at Hole U1443A



Ba<sub>bio</sub> values of sediments above the tephra have a strong negative shift compared to those of the sediments below the tephra: these values reflect the dilution of pelagic mud with the tephra due to bioturbation.

The yellow arrow highlights values of sediments just above the tuff with Ba<sub>bio</sub> values with a less negative shift compared to the overlying sediments. These values could be interpreted as a relict of the increase of primary production due to the arrival of the ashes; further evidence is needed to prove this hypothesis.