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### Title

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1 **CONSTRAINING EARLY TO MIDDLE EOCENE CLIMATE EVOLUTION OF THE**  
2 **SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN.**

3

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17

18 **Abstract**

19 One of the major deficiencies of the global database for the early Paleogene is  
20 the scarcity of reliable magnetostratigraphically-calibrated climate records from  
21 the southern Pacific Ocean, the largest ocean basin during this time. We present a  
22 new magnetostratigraphic record from marine sediments cropping out along the  
23 mid-Waipara River, South Island, New Zealand. Fully oriented samples for  
24 paleomagnetic analyses were collected along 45 m of stratigraphic section, which  
25 encompasses magnetic polarity Chrons from C23n to C21n. These results are  
26 integrated with foraminiferal, calcareous nannofossil, and dinoflagellate cyst  
27 (dinocyst) biostratigraphy from samples collected in three different expeditions  
28 along a total of ~80 m of section. Biostratigraphic data indicates continuous  
29 sedimentation from the Waipawan to the Heretaungan New Zealand stages (i.e.,  
30 Ypresian–Lutetian international stages), from about 55.5 to 46 Ma. We provide  
31 the first magnetostratigraphically-calibrated age of 48.88 Ma for the base of the  
32 New Zealand Heretaungan Stage (latest early Eocene). A reexamination based on

33 discrete samples of the magnetostratigraphy of Ocean Drilling Program (ODP)  
34 Site 1172 (East Tasman Plateau) demonstrates that no reliable magnetic polarity  
35 reversals can be determined for the early Eocene part of the core, which has  
36 been used as a reference chronology for the Southwest Pacific Ocean. We apply  
37 the robust magneto-biochronology from mid-Waipara to aid the correlation of  
38 ODP Site 1172 as well as for Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) Site  
39 U1356 (Wilkes Land Margin, Antarctica) with the international time scale by  
40 means of dinocyst biostratigraphy. This integrated chronology allows revision of  
41 the published TEX<sub>86</sub> sea surface temperature proxy records from the three  
42 localities, significantly improving the age control for the Southwest Pacific and  
43 Southern Ocean climate history during the early and middle Eocene

44

## 45 **1. Introduction**

46 During the early Eocene, the Earth experienced a long-term global warming  
47 event culminating ~52 to 50 Ma in the early Eocene climatic optimum (EECO;  
48 e.g., Zachos et al., 2008). The EECO was followed by a cooling trend that  
49 continued over the ensuing middle to late Eocene, and ultimately drove the  
50 Earth's climate into a glacial mode with the inception of major Antarctic ice-  
51 sheets near the Eocene–Oligocene boundary (Miller et al., 1991; Zachos et al.,  
52 2008). In the ice-free world of the early and middle Eocene, the Pacific Ocean  
53 played a key role in the heat transport, primarily because of its greater extent  
54 relative to the Atlantic Ocean (Huber and Sloan, 2001; Huber and Nof, 2006).  
55 Sedimentary records from the South Pacific Ocean are thus particularly  
56 important for understanding the evolution of global climate during early  
57 Paleogene.

58 The climate history of the Southwest Pacific and Southern Ocean has become  
59 better known in recent years through the application of new paleotemperature  
60 proxies, such as the TEX<sub>86</sub> (TetraEther Index of lipids with 86 carbon atoms)  
61 proxy for sea surface temperature (SST), to sedimentary records from Ocean  
62 Drilling Program (ODP) Site 1172 in the East Tasman Plateau (Bijl et al., 2009,  
63 2013a), from Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) Site U1356 on the  
64 Wilkes Land Margin, Antarctica (Pross et al., 2012), and from onshore  
65 Canterbury Basin, eastern New Zealand, (Burgess et al., 2008; Hollis et al., 2012,

66 2009; Pancost et al., 2013; Figure 1a, b). SSTs from these three regions indicate  
67 that near-tropical conditions (SST of 25–26 °C) extended close to the Antarctic  
68 margin during the EECO. This records are however difficult to reconcile with  
69 climate models (Huber and Sloan, 2001; Winguth et al., 2010; Huber and  
70 Caballero, 2011; Lunt et al., 2012) and with proxies for land temperatures  
71 (Pancost et al. 2013) without factoring in seasonal biases and the influences of  
72 localized changes in ocean circulation (Hollis et al., 2012).

73 A point that has tended to be overlooked when comparing these records with  
74 those of other regions is that the age control for the New Zealand records has  
75 been based entirely on biostratigraphy. Moreover, the magnetostratigraphy that  
76 underpins the age models for ODP Site 1172 (Fuller and Touchard, 2004) was  
77 based on the intensity of the magnetization rather than on the inclination of the  
78 magnetic remanence as usual practice (see Tauxe et al., 2012 for details) and is  
79 not reliable, at least for the early Eocene. In the case of IODP Site U1356 the  
80 magnetic polarity stratigraphy for the early–middle Eocene is difficult because of  
81 very limited (~38%) sediment recovery and some discrepancies between on-  
82 board and discrete samples results (Tauxe et al., 2012).

83 In order to understand the Eocene climate history of the South Pacific and  
84 Southern Ocean it is critical to have a robust chronology in which the succession  
85 of biotic changes that form the basis of biostratigraphic correlation are tied to  
86 the global calibration datums provided by robust magnetostratigraphy. In this  
87 paper we present the first early–middle Eocene magnetic polarity stratigraphy,  
88 based on fully oriented samples, from the mid-Waipara River section in  
89 Canterbury Basin (South Island, New Zealand). During three field campaigns  
90 (2003, 2007, and 2012) we have sampled ~45 m of stratigraphic section for  
91 paleomagnetism and ~80 m for foraminiferal, calcareous nannofossils, and  
92 dinoflagellate cyst (dinocyst) biostratigraphy. Previously published data indicate  
93 that the sediments were deposited at upper bathyal depths during the  
94 Waipawan–Bortonian New Zealand stages (NZS), i.e. the Ypresian–Lutetian  
95 international stages (Morgans et al., 2005; Hollis et al., 2009; Raine et al., 2015).  
96 We also re-investigate the early–middle Eocene magnetostratigraphy of ODP Site  
97 1172 by analyzing discrete samples. The magnetic polarity-based correlation of  
98 this integrated dataset with the geomagnetic polarity time scale (GPTS) of

99 Gradstein et al. (2012; GTS12) allows us to improve the chronology of the  
100 composite SST proxy records for mid-Waipara, ODP Site 1172 and IODP Site  
101 U1356, constraining the timing of the early-middle Eocene climate events in the  
102 Southwest Pacific and Southern Ocean.

103

## 104 **2. Material and methods**

### 105 **2.1. Mid-Waipara River section**

106 The mid-Waipara River section is located ~13 km west of the Waipara  
107 township, northern Canterbury, and includes the area downstream from Doctors  
108 Gorge to the top of the Amuri Limestone in the 'lower gorge' (grid reference  
109 NZMS 260-M34/755 946 to M34/789 944). The lower and middle Eocene Ashley  
110 Mudstone is quite well exposed, with low-dipping calcareous mudstone  
111 outcropping along the river bed.

112 Several different sample collections have been made on the Ashley Mudstone  
113 (Morgans et al., 2005). In this paper we discuss three sample suites that have  
114 been integrated for the present study. Two sample suites, collected in 2003 and  
115 2007, are logged and integrated into a single composite section (Figure 1c), using  
116 a reference marker at the base of the 2003 collection (Morgans et al., 2005). This  
117 integrated collection was the focus of several biostratigraphic and geochemical  
118 studies, including foraminiferal and dinocyst biostratigraphy, bulk  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  isotopes,  
119 Mg/Ca ratios, and TEX<sub>86</sub> analyses (Hollis et al., 2009, 2012; Creech et al., 2010).  
120 For our study, samples from the 2007 suite have been examined to improve the  
121 foraminiferal, dinocyst and calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy for the lower  
122 part of the section.

123 In order to complete a magnetostratigraphic study of the lower-middle  
124 Eocene sequence at mid-Waipara River, new samples were collected in 2012  
125 from Ashley Mudstone sediments in the same part of the river bed as those  
126 collected in 2003. Unfortunately river floods had removed the reference marker  
127 and the new collection could not be precisely correlated with the earlier  
128 collections. Hence, the 2012 collection has been correlated with the earlier  
129 collections by biostratigraphy and lithology (Figure 1c, Table 1). The  
130 stratigraphic gap between the base of the 2012 collection (M34/f930) and the

131 top of the 2007 collection (M34/f889) has been inferred from the stratigraphic  
132 dip to be ~1 m (Figure 1c).

133

## 134 **2.2. Rock- and Paleomagnetism**

135 Paleomagnetic samples were drilled with a gasoline-powered drill and  
136 oriented with a magnetic compass. A total of 114 oriented core samples were  
137 collected from 80 layers across ~45 stratigraphic meters of Ashley Mudstone,  
138 from which we obtained 169 standard ~11 cm<sup>3</sup> oriented specimens for  
139 paleomagnetic analyses. A representative set of specimens from the trimmed  
140 ends of the core samples was used to investigate the magnetic properties of the  
141 sediments by means of isothermal remanent magnetization (IRM) backfield  
142 acquisition curves up to 2.4 T. To obtain the median destructive field (MDF) of  
143 the specimens, the IRM acquisition was followed by 3-axis AF demagnetization of  
144 saturation IRM up to 90 mT. The specimens were then subjected to  
145 thermomagnetic curves analysis: they were heated in air up to 650°C in an  
146 inducing field of ~800 mT using a variable field translation balance (VFTB; Krása  
147 et al., 2007). Curie temperatures of the heating cycles were determined by  
148 analyses of second derivative curves (Tauxe, 1998). To resolve the component of  
149 the natural remanent magnetization (NRM) stepwise thermal demagnetization  
150 up to 400 °C was performed on 96 oriented specimens. We adopted initial steps  
151 of 50°C reduced to 25°C from 250°C onward. These data are integrated with the  
152 results obtained by three-axes stepwise alternating field (AF) demagnetization of  
153 73 oriented specimens up to 90 mT. In 16 specimens the complete spectrum of  
154 magnetic components could not be resolved and no stable characteristic  
155 remanent magnetization (ChRM) linearly trending to the origin could be  
156 identified. In these cases the resulting magnetization great circles were  
157 combined with stable endpoint data (McFadden & McElhinny, 1988). Analyses of  
158 the samples from the mid-Waipara River were performed at the paleomagnetic  
159 laboratory of the Ludwig-Maximilian University (Munich, Germany). Details  
160 about the analyses of the discrete samples from ODP Site 1172, conducted at the  
161 paleomagnetic laboratory of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (La Jolla,  
162 CA, USA), are described in the supporting information attached to the online  
163 version of this paper.

164

## 165 **2.3. Biostratigraphy**

### 166 *2.3.1. Foraminifera*

167 Approximately 500 g of sediment from 102 samples from the 2003, 2007  
168 and 2012 collections was washed over a 75 µm screen. The residues were then  
169 dried, reweighed and half was retained for quantitative census work. The  
170 remaining residue was qualitatively picked for a comprehensive faunal  
171 assemblage utilized for biostratigraphy. All material is lodged in the  
172 Paleontology Collection at GNS Science, Lower Hutt, New Zealand. The focus in  
173 this study was to confirm the position of Eocene NZS boundaries, from the upper  
174 Waipawan to lower Bortonian, which are primarily based on foraminiferal  
175 biostratigraphy (Cooper, 2004; Raine et al., 2015).

176

### 177 *2.3.2. Calcareous nannofossils*

178 Smear slides for calcareous nannofossils were made directly from 38  
179 samples from the 2007 and 2012 collections using standard techniques (Bown  
180 and Young, 1998). In some cases, samples contained a large amount of coarse  
181 material and strewn slides were prepared (Bown and Young, 1998). All material  
182 is lodged in the Paleontology Collection at GNS Science. Slides were analyzed  
183 using an Olympus BX53 microscope at 1000x magnification in plane-transmitted  
184 light (PL), cross-polarized light (XPL) and phase-contrast (PC) light. Taxonomic  
185 concepts for species follow that of Perch-Nielsen (1985) and (Bown, 1998,  
186 2005). The standard scheme of Martini (NP zones; 1971) is adopted for the  
187 nannofossil biostratigraphy. Semi-quantitative analysis was completed on 34  
188 samples in order to determine the position of key marker species.

189

### 190 *2.3.3. Dinoflagellate cysts*

191 A total of 51 samples from the 2007 and 2012 sample collections were  
192 processed using standard palynological processing techniques. Between 21 and  
193 31 g of sediment were crushed, dried and the carbonate and siliceous component  
194 removed by adding hot 10% HCl and 50% HF, respectively. Samples were then  
195 oxidized using 70% HNO<sub>3</sub>, and washed with 5% NH<sub>4</sub>OH to disaggregate  
196 amorphous and organic debris. Some samples were placed in an ultrasonic bath

197 (for up to 1 minute) prior to sieving. All samples were then sieved over a 6  $\mu\text{m}$   
198 mesh, and well-mixed representative fractions of the  $>6 \mu\text{m}$  residue mounted on  
199 glass slides using a glycerine jelly medium. All material is lodged in the  
200 Paleontology Collection as GNS Science. Qualitative examination was completed  
201 on 30 samples, with a focus on recording the presence of taxa with  
202 biostratigraphic importance.

203

### 204 **3. Results**

#### 205 **3.1. Rock magnetism**

206 Rock magnetic analyses indicate that the dominant magnetic mineral of the  
207 Ashley Mudstone is most likely greigite. The IRM backfield acquisition curves are  
208 characterized by a steep increase of magnetization up to  $\sim 150 \text{ mT}$ , reaching the  
209 saturation magnetization ( $M_s$ ) at  $\sim 300\text{--}400 \text{ mT}$  (Figure 2a). The resulting  
210 coercivity of remanence ( $B_{cr}$ ) ranges between 39 and 47 mT. These values are  
211 slightly lower than the range of 45–95 mT for sedimentary greigite reported by  
212 Roberts (1995). This can be the result of a combination of single domain (SD)  
213 and multi domain (MD) magnetic grains: Roberts et al. (2011) show that SD-  
214 dominated reference specimens possess higher  $B_{cr}$  values (75 mT) while MD-  
215 dominated are generally characterized by much lower  $B_{cr}$  values (12.6–24.5 mT).  
216 The MDF of the  $M_s$ , which varies between 20 and 30 mT (Figure 2b), is also  
217 higher than the value measured for typical MD greigite samples (i.e.  $< 8 \text{ mT}$ ;  
218 Roberts et al., 2011), indicating a contribution of magnetic grains with higher  
219 coercivity (i.e. SD or pseudo-SD). The thermomagnetic curves (Figure 2c) show  
220 an initial small decline of magnetization from room temperature up to  $\sim 100 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  
221 likely related to a minor goethite contribution that, however, is not visible in the  
222 IRM acquisition curve. A break in slope at about  $200 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  is then observed, which  
223 reaches a minimum of magnetization between  $\sim 350\text{--}450 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . This minimum is  
224 followed by an increase in magnetization that peaks at  $\sim 500 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and decays  
225 completely at  $\sim 580^\circ\text{C}$ , approximately the Curie temperature of magnetite.

226 The thermomagnetic curves are irreversible, and the cooling curves are  
227 characterized by a magnetization that, back at room temperature, is four to nine  
228 times higher than the initial value before heating. These curves are very similar  
229 in shape to those observed in the greigite-bearing sediments described by



230 Roberts (1995) and generally to the representative curves selected by Roberts et  
231 al. (2011). The minimum of magnetization between 300 °C and 400 °C is a  
232 common feature of thermomagnetic experiments of samples containing greigite,  
233 which irreversibly breaks down during heating above ~280 °C. The peak of  
234 magnetization observed at ~500 °C is due to the formation of magnetite, which is  
235 the dominant magnetic phase observed in the cooling cycle. The presence of  
236 greigite as carrier of the NRM is also supported by the strong gyro remanent  
237 magnetization (GRM) observed during AF demagnetization (see below).

238

### 239 **3.2. Paleomagnetism**

240 The intensity of the NRM ranges from  $1.3 \times 10^{-5}$  to  $1.9 \times 10^{-4}$  A/m, with an  
241 average value of  $7.4 \times 10^{-5}$  A/m. No particular trends are observed across the  
242 section. A highly scattered 'A' magnetic overprint, statistically oriented N-and-up  
243 in geographic coordinates (i.e. close to the expected geocentric axial dipole  
244 direction), have been observed during AF demagnetization generally up to 12  
245 mT, as well as during thermal demagnetization up to 150–200 °C (Figure 3a-j). In  
246 52% ( $^{38}/_{73}$ ) of the specimens demagnetized with the AF routine, a ChRM  
247 component trending to the origin of the orthogonal projection has been isolated  
248 at alternating fields up to 25–30 mT (Figure 3a-d). Typically from 30–40 mT and  
249 up, the specimens acquire (although with different magnitude) a GRM,  
250 highlighted with gray arrows in Figure 3e-f. GRM is a characteristic of SD  
251 material, but its magnitude in greigite is larger than in other magnetic mineral  
252 that occurs in sediments (Roberts et al., 2011). Similar behavior has been  
253 observed by Rowan and Roberts (2006) in greigite-bearing Neogene marine  
254 sediments from the Mahia Peninsula, New Zealand, as well as in many other  
255 studies on magnetically similar sediments (e.g., Florindo et al., 2007; Hu et al.,  
256 1998; Roberts et al., 2011; Sagnotti and Winkler, 1999; Sagnotti et al., 2010;  
257 Snowball, 1997a, 1997b; Stephenson and Snowball, 2001).

258 In 15% ( $^{11}/_{73}$ ) of the AF-demagnetized specimens the occurrence of the GRM  
259 did not allow a successful isolation of a ChRM component directly trending to the  
260 origin of the orthogonal projection. The demagnetization pattern of these  
261 specimens is consistent with the ChRM directions pointing South-and-down and  
262 plots along a great circle (Figure 3e, f). In 52% ( $^{50}/_{96}$ ) of the thermally

263 demagnetized specimens, a ChRM component directly trending to the origin of  
264 the orthogonal projection has been isolated up to a temperature of 325 °C  
265 (Figure 3g, h). In 4 of the 96 specimens the thermal demagnetization patterns  
266 track along a great circle path (Figure 3i). We combine these great circles, along  
267 with the ones obtained by the AF demagnetization, with the SW-and-downward  
268 pointing stable endpoint directions applying the McFadden and McElhinny  
269 (1988) algorithm (Figure 3k).

270 After AF and thermal demagnetization analyses, ChRM directions were  
271 isolated by linear interpolation or estimated by great circles analyses on 61%  
272 ( $^{103}/_{169}$ ) of all the specimens. These directions are organized in two modes  
273 statistically oriented NE-and-Up and SW-and-Down in geographic coordinates  
274 (Figure 3l). The average directions of the two modes, calculated using the  
275 spherical statistic of Fisher (1953; Table 2) depart from antipodality by 16.4°  
276 and fail the reversal test of Watson (1983) at a 95% level of confidence ( $V_w=13.4$ ;  
277  $V_{critical}=6.2$ ; see also Tauxe et al., 2010 for details on the method). This may be  
278 due to the presence of an unresolved magnetic bias. We minimized this effect on  
279 the average directions by inverting all directions to a common NE-and-up  
280 pointing polarity. After correction for a 22° dip directed 122°N, we obtain a mean  
281 direction of Dec.=16.2°, Inc.=-47.0° (Figure 3m, Table 2).

282 We calculated the position of the virtual geomagnetic pole (VGP) for each  
283 ChRM direction, and we used the latitude of each VGP relative to the mean  
284 paleomagnetic north pole for interpreting the magnetic polarity stratigraphy  
285 (Kent et al., 1995; Lowrie and Alvarez, 1977). A total of 35 sedimentary layers  
286 have 2 to 3 ChRM directions that have been used to calculate site mean  
287 directions. The VGP relative latitudes approaching +90° or -90° are interpreted  
288 as recording normal or reverse polarity, respectively (Figure 4). These data show  
289 a ~7 m-thick stratigraphic interval of normal magnetic polarity including a brief  
290 reverse polarity interval of about 1.3 m at about 7 m. This is followed by ~12 m  
291 of mainly reversed polarity, interrupted by a one sample-based normal polarity  
292 event at 13.6 m. From 20.8 m to 31.4 m the sediments were deposited during a  
293 normal polarity time interval. Reverse polarity characterizes then the section up  
294 to 41.5 m, where the last layer show again normal polarity field (Figure 4).

295

### 296 3.3. Biostratigraphy

297 In the section examined, three early–middle Eocene NZS boundaries are  
298 recognized based on planktic and benthic foraminiferal biostratigraphy (Figure  
299 5). The Waipawan/Mangaorapan boundary, defined by the lowest occurrence  
300 (LO) of *Morozovella crater*, lies between -3.99 m (M34/f892) and -2.87 m  
301 (M34/f891). The Mangaorapan/Heretaungan boundary, defined by the LO of  
302 *Elphidium hamptenense*, is recorded between 26.75 m (M34/f993) and 27.51 m  
303 (M34/f994). The base of the Bortonian, defined by the LO of *Globigerinatheka*  
304 *index*, is between 58.55 m (M34/f1039) and 59.71 m (M34/f1040). The key  
305 biostratigraphic datum for the Porangan Stage, which lies between the  
306 Heretaungan and Bortonian NZS, is the benthic species *Elphidium saginatum*.  
307 This species was not recorded and suggests the Porangan Stage is missing and  
308 that an unconformity lies between the uppermost Heretaungan and lowermost  
309 Bortonian samples (Figure 5). A marked lithological change is also seen between  
310 58.55 m and 59.71 m; from fine sand with a low component of glauconite, to  
311 sediment dominated by medium to coarse glauconite.

312 Calcareous nannofossil assemblages are well preserved in most of the  
313 section, although a notable decline in nannofossil preservation is seen in the  
314 upper part, from ~49.52 m (M34/f1031). In the lower part of the section, the LOs  
315 of *Tribrachiatus orthostylus* and *Sphenolithus radians* between -13.2 m  
316 (M34/895) and -6.61 m (M34/f894) mark the base of calcareous nannofossil  
317 zone NP11 (Figure 5). The LO of *Discoaster lodoensis* between -3.99 m  
318 (M34/f892) and -2.87 m (M34/f891) marks the base of zone NP12. The highest  
319 occurrence (HO) of *T. orthostylus* between 11.13 m (M34/f959) and 12.55 m  
320 (M34/f963) marks the base of NP13. It is difficult to position the NP13/NP14  
321 boundary due to the absence of *Discoaster sublodoensis*, which marks the base of  
322 zone NP14. Samples from 12.55 m (M34/f0963) to 58.55 m (M34/f1039) are  
323 therefore assigned to a combined NP13/14 zone. Nannofossil biostratigraphy  
324 supports foraminiferal evidence that time is missing between 58.55 m  
325 (M34/f1039) and 62.26 m (M34/f1043). The FO of *Nannotetrina fulgens* marks  
326 the base of NP15, but the absence of this taxon, combined with the absence of  
327 *Chiamolithus gigas*, which LO and HO mark respectively base and top of Subzone  
328 NP15b, indicates that NP15 is not present at mid-Waipara. The LOs of

329 *Reticulofenestra umbilicus* and *R. reticulata*, both key markers for zone NP16, are  
330 recorded at 62.26 m (M34/f1043).

331 Several dinocyst biostratigraphic events were recorded through the section  
332 (Figure 5). In the lower part of the section, the HO of *Samlandia delicata* is  
333 recorded between -16.15 m (M34/f899) and -15.25 m (M34/f898), the LO of  
334 *Dracodinium waipawaense* between -13.2 m (M34/895) and -6.61 m  
335 (M34/f894), the LO of the genus *Homotryblium* between -6.61 m (M34/f894)  
336 and -5.11 m (M34/f893), and the LO of *Wilsonidium ornatum* between -5.11 m  
337 (M34/f893) and -3.99 m (M34/892). From the 2012 collection, important  
338 dinocyst bioevents recorded are the HO of *Wilsodinium ornatum* between 14.01  
339 m (M34/f967) and 16.43 m (M34/f971), the HO of the genus *Apectodinium* and  
340 the LO of *Charlesdowniea coleothrypta* between 17.83 m (M34/f975) and 19.98  
341 m (M34/f979), the LO of *Charlesdowniea edwardsii* between 19.98 m (M34/f979)  
342 and 22.14 m (M34/f985), and the HO of *C. edwardsii* between 32.4 m  
343 (M34/f1005) and 35.08 m (M34/f1010).

344

#### 345 **4. Discussion**

##### 346 **4.1. Mid-Waipara age model and magneto-biochronology**

347 Biostratigraphic data from the mid-Waipara River section provides a first  
348 indirect correlation with the international GTS12 timescale (Figure 6). In  
349 particular for the lower part of the section, where no magnetic polarity data is  
350 available, we correlated the section with the GTS12 timescale using the LO of  
351 *Samlandia delicata*, *Tribrachiatus orthostylus*, and *Morozovella crater*. The LO of  
352 *S. delicata*, between -16.15 m and -15.25 m, provides the best calibration point  
353 for the base of the section. At mid-Waipara, and also the Tawanui section in the  
354 East Coast Basin, New Zealand, *S. delicata* is first recorded within nannofossil  
355 Zone NP10. For the LO of *T. orthostylus*, a recent age calibration in a Southwest  
356 Pacific setting has been obtained from the Mead Stream section in the  
357 Marlborough region, New Zealand (Dallanave et al., 2015). Here the LO of *T.*  
358 *orthostylus* occurred within the upper part of Chron C24r, with an age  
359 assignment of 54.72 Ma. The position with respect to the GPTS observed at Mead  
360 Stream is in agreement with data from the Belluno Basin, and from ODP Site  
361 1262, Leg 208, southeast Atlantic Ocean (Agnini et al., 2007); the latter was used

362 by Gradstein et al. (2012) to calibrate the age of the B (base) of *T. orthostylus*.  
363 The LO of *M. crater* is recorded at Mead Stream close to the C23r/C23n Chron  
364 boundary (51.91 Ma; Dallonave et al., 2015). Using this data from Mead Stream,  
365 along with the position at mid-Waipara and linear extrapolation with the  
366 magnetostratigraphically well-constrained interval overlying this part of the  
367 section, suggests the LO of *M. crater* corresponds to ~52.0 Ma (Raine et al.,  
368 2015). As previously mentioned, the LO of *M. crater* defines the base of the  
369 Mangaorapan NZS (Cooper, 2004; Raine et al., 2015).

370 Applying a correlation line that incorporates the three bioevents (LO of *M.*  
371 *crater*, *T. orthostylus* and *S. delicata*) in the lower part of the section (Figure 6),  
372 an estimated age of ~55.5 Ma for the LO of *S. delicata* is predicted.

373 In the upper part of the mid-Waipara River section (2012 collection) two  
374 biostratigraphic events have been used for a first correlation with the GTS12  
375 time scale. The first is the HO of *Tribrachiatus orthostylus*, which defines the base  
376 of nannofossil Zone NP13. At Mead Stream it has been found to occur within  
377 Chron C22r (Dallonave et al., 2015), as well as in the Belluno Basin, where the  
378 same event has been found in the lower part of Chron C22r (Agnini et al., 2006,  
379 2014). Up-section, the LO of *Elphidium hampdenense*, which defines the base of  
380 the Heretaungan NZS, has been indirectly placed within Chron 22n (Hollis et al.,  
381 2010). Following these biostratigraphic constraints we can correlate the series of  
382 six magnetic polarity reversals retrieved in the mid-Waipara sediments (Figures  
383 2 and 4) with Chrons C23n.2n–C21n (~51.5–47 Ma).

384 In the uppermost part of the section, there appears to be an unconformity  
385 between 58.55 m (M34/f1039) and 59.71 m (M34/f1040). Sediment at 58.55 m  
386 is dated as Heretaungan by foraminifera and calcareous nannofossils (Figure 6).  
387 However, samples immediately overlying record the LO of the Bortonian NZS  
388 marker *Globigerinatheka index* (59.71 m), the LOs of zone NP16 species  
389 *Reticulofenestra umbilicus* and *R. reticulata* (62.26 m), and a marked coarsening  
390 of sediment with abundant medium to coarse glauconite (59.71 m). The LO of *G.*  
391 *index* is placed at 42.6 Ma (Raine et al., 2015), while the LO of *R. umbilicus* and *R.*  
392 *reticulata* is dated at 42.9 Ma (Gradstein et al., 2012), indicating that at least 3  
393 Myr of sedimentary record, including the Porangan NZS and Zone NP15, are  
394 missing.

395 We have used all the discussed tie points to construct an age-depth plot and  
396 derive a sediment accumulation rate (SAR) of the sediment, and have also  
397 assumed a constant sedimentation rate between each pair of chronologic control  
398 points (Figure 6). The SAR ranges from 3.5 to 13.6 m/Myr, with an average of 7.4  
399 m/Myr. The age-depth plot is used to derive the ages for the selected  
400 biostratigraphic datums that occur within the section (Figure 6, Table 2). It is  
401 worth noting that the lowest SAR of 3.5 m/Myr is not entirely reliable, given that  
402 magnetic polarity data has not been completed in the lower part of the section.

403 For the first time, the base of the Heretaungan NZS, defined by the LO of *E.*  
404 *hampdenense*, is magnetostratigraphically-calibrated, and placed at C22n(0.6),  
405 i.e., 48.88 Ma (GTS12). This age is ~230 kyr younger than the 49.11 Ma age  
406 inferred by Hollis et al. (2010; recalibrated with respect to the GTS12 timescale)  
407 from indirect calibration of the LO of *E. hampdenense* to the LO of nannofossil *D.*  
408 *sublodoensis* (Berggren et al., 1995).

409

#### 410 **4.2. Correlation with Southern Ocean records**

411 The robust magnetostratigraphic framework we have established for the  
412 mid-Waipara section provides a means to improve correlation with ODP Site  
413 1172 and IODP Site U1356. Of the three groups of microfossil studied at mid-  
414 Waipara, only the dinocysts occur throughout the sedimentary successions at all  
415 three sites. Therefore, we have utilized the newly calibrated dinocyst datums at  
416 mid-Waipara to reassess the age determination for Sites 1172 and U1356.

417 At Site 1172, our discrete samples-based paleomagnetic analysis (see  
418 supporting material) shows that, at least for the early and middle Eocene part of  
419 the core, it is not possible to construct any reliable magnetic polarity-based  
420 chronology. To correlate the record from Site 1172 with mid-Waipara, we use  
421 several tie points. The first is the Paleocene–Eocene boundary, defined by the  
422 onset of a global negative carbon isotope excursion (CIE), which is well recorded  
423 in the sediments of Site 1172 (611.89 mbsf; Sluijs et al., 2011). In addition, we  
424 use the LO of *Samlandia delicata*, the HO of *Wilsonidium ornatum*, the LO of  
425 *Charlesdowniea edwardsii*, and the HO of *C. edwardsii*, which are all calibrated at  
426 mid-Waipara and well constrained at Site 1172 (Bijl et al., 2013b)(Figure 5).

427 At Site U1356 paleomagnetic results between ~958 mbsf to 1000 mbsf and  
428 the correlation with Chrons C24n proposed by Tauxe et al. (2012) are considered  
429 reliable (Figure 5). Between ~940 and 949 mbsf dinocyst biostratigraphy  
430 indicate the presence of a major unconformity (Bijl et al., 2013b). Upcore, the  
431 recovery is very limited and paleomagnetic interpretation is complicated by  
432 discrepancies between archive halves and discrete samples results, clearly  
433 visible (e.g.) at ~940 mbsf. In the recovered sediment between ~929 and 933  
434 mbsf a reliable reverse polarity interval, defined by several archive half  
435 directions and a discrete sample, is comprises between two short normal  
436 polarity levels based respectively on one discrete sample and three archive half  
437 directions. This interval can possibly represents Chron C22r. This would be in  
438 agreement with the magneto-biostratigraphic data from mid Waipara, where the  
439 HO of *Wilsondinium ornatum* has been observed within this Chron. The LO of  
440 *Charlesdowniea edwardsii* is observed at Site U1356 in a reliable normal polarity  
441 interval (~924 mbsf) interpreted by Tauxe et al. (2012) as Chron C22n, in  
442 agreement with data from mid-Waipara. Accordingly to the dinocyst zonation  
443 compiled by Bijl et al. (2013b) for Sites 1172 and U1356, the HO of *Wilsondinium*  
444 *ornatum* and The LO of *Charlesdowniea edwardsii* appear to be diachronous,  
445 occurring within dinocyst Zone SPDZ8 at Site U1356 and within Zone SPDZ7 at  
446 Site 1172, being thus ~1 Myr younger at Site U1356. Nonetheless, basing the  
447 correlation between the two sites on the generic SPDZ8 Zone rather than the  
448 these two specific events, the magnetostratigraphic data of Site U1356 would be  
449 even more difficult to reconcile with the GPTS, since SPDZ8 Zone at Site 1172 is  
450 almost entirely included in a reverse polarity zone (i.e. Chron C21r, determined  
451 by correlation with mid-Waipara; Figure 7). TEX<sub>86</sub> data from this part of Site  
452 U1356 are however very few and spares (Figure 7), and both these age  
453 assignation for the ~920–940 mbsf part of Site U1356 would not affect the  
454 overall paleoclimate trend discussed below.

455

### 456 **4.3. Paleotemperature proxy records**

457 In order to put the paleotemperature proxy record of Site U1356 and Site  
458 1172 on a time frame together with the record from mid-Waipara, we used the

459 correlation points listed above to construct an age-model of sedimentation for  
460 both the Sites (Figure 7).

461 At Site 1172, a hiatus removing dinocyst zones SPDZ4–5 has been observed  
462 at ~588 mbsf (Bijl et al., 2013b; Figure 7). Below this level we interpolated the  
463 position of the Paleocene–Eocene boundary (611.89 mbsf; Sluijs et al., 2011) and  
464 the LO of *S. delicata*, estimated at ~55.5 Ma, resulting in a SAR of ~15 m/Myr.  
465 Above the hiatus we derived an average SAR of 12.8 m/Myr by linear  
466 interpolation of the HO of *W. ornatum*, and LO and HO of *C. edwardsii*.

467 At Site U1356 a linear interpolation of the C24n Chron boundaries between  
468 ~1000 and 948 mbsf results in an average SAR of 25.8 m/Myr. Between ~948  
469 and 940 mbsf, a hiatus completely removes dinocyst zone SPDZ6–7 (Bijl et al.,  
470 2013b). Above, sediment recovery is very low. Assuming the same SAR is  
471 recorded across C24n through the HO of *W. ornatum* and LO of *C. edwardsii*,  
472 found within Chron C22 at mid-Waipara, the estimated duration of the hiatus  
473 results in ~1.6 Myr, similar to that estimated by Tauxe et al. (2012; see also Bijl  
474 et al., 2013b). Correlating this part of the sections with the age model of Site  
475 1172 using Zone SPDZ8 rather than HO of *W. ornatum* and LO of *C. edwardsii* as  
476 described above, would result in an estimated hiatus of ~3.5 Myr. It would make  
477 anyway difficult to correlate the available magnetic polarity data from Site  
478 U1356 with the GPTS, as shown in Figure 7.

479 We used the age model for the mid-Waipara River section, Site U1356, and  
480 Site 1172 to compare the TEX<sub>86</sub> proxy records from the three localities. The  
481 TEX<sub>86</sub> record from these three sites have previously been used to reconstruct the  
482 temperature history of the southwest Pacific and Southern Ocean during the  
483 early and middle Eocene (Bijl et al., 2009, 2010, 2013a; Hollis et al., 2009, 2012).  
484 Hollis et al. (2012) demonstrated that TEX<sub>86</sub> values are a robust guide to relative  
485 temperature variation in the mid-Waipara and ODP Site 1172 records. They also  
486 showed that of the two calibrations introduced by Kim et al. (2010), the TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>L</sup>  
487 provides the best fit in terms of absolute temperature values with other  
488 temperature proxies in middle to high latitude localities. However, the glycerol  
489 dibiphytanyl glycerol tetraethers (GDGTs) distribution that underlies this  
490 calibration suffers from poorly understood variations in some settings that can  
491 cause anomalous temperature values (Taylor et al., 2013). For this reason, we



492 use the less ambiguous relative SST proxy, TEX<sub>86</sub>, to investigate how well our age  
493 models perform in capturing the sea temperature history of the Southwest  
494 Pacific and Southern Ocean.

495 The combined TEX<sub>86</sub> dataset reveal a sharp increase of paleotemperature  
496 that peaking between ~54–53 Ma with the data from Site U1356. This maximum  
497 seems to anticipate the commonly accepted age of ~52–50 Ma for the EECO  
498 based on the global benthic  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record (Zachos et al., 2008; Figure 8). Relying  
499 on the robustness of the age model for this part of Site U1356 (i.e., ~968–1000  
500 mbsf, Figure 7), this could be firstly due to a mixing of terrestrial and marine  
501 lipid influencing the TEX<sub>86</sub> data. A Branched and Isoprenoid Tetraether (BIT)  
502 cutoff of 0.4, as used by Bijl et al. (2013a) for this record, cannot exclude  
503 contamination from terrestrial material (Hopmans et al., 2004), which can also  
504 explain the high dispersion of the data. Secondly, the paucity of TEX<sub>86</sub> data in the  
505 compiled record between 52.2 and 50.5 Ma does not allow to define clearly the  
506 trend during this interval. However, data from mid-Waipara suggests that the  
507 warm condition persisted to 50 Ma, in agreement with the global benthic  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
508 record. The TEX<sub>86</sub> values then indicate the inset of a general cooling. The  
509 similarity of the mid-Waipara and the Site 1172 record give us confidence about  
510 the reliability of our age model. This trend is punctuated by short-lived warming  
511 events, which may prove to be post-EECO equivalents to the post-PETM  
512 hyperthermals.

513

## 514 **5. Conclusions**

515 We present a new integrated magneto-biostratigraphic chronology for the  
516 Southwest Pacific Ocean spanning the early-middle Eocene (~56–45 Ma). This  
517 has been constructed using a robust magnetostratigraphy from the Mid-Waipara  
518 River section integrated with foraminifera, calcareous nannofossil, and dinocyst  
519 biostratigraphy. In this framework we provide the first  
520 magnetostratigraphically-calibrated age of 48.88 Ma for the  
521 Mangaorapan/Heretaungan New Zealand Stage boundary, which is defined by  
522 the LO of the benthic foraminifera *Elphidium hampdenense*. This result improves  
523 the calibration of the early to middle Eocene New Zealand time scale and  
524 associated bioevents with the current international time scale (GTS12).

525 Paleomagnetic analyses conducted on discrete samples from ODP Site 1172  
526 underscore the poor reliability of most of the previously published early–middle  
527 Eocene magnetic polarity record and age models for this site. We reinforced the  
528 age calibration of ODP Site 1172 and IODP Site U1356 by means of dinocyst  
529 biostratigraphy correlation with the mid-Waipara record. This allows a review of  
530 the timing of climate events and trends in the Southwest Pacific and Southern  
531 Ocean by comparing the TEX<sub>86</sub> SST proxy record from these three different  
532 localities. The re-calibrated climate history exhibits a general close agreement  
533 between regions, but underlies the possible contamination from terrestrial lipid  
534 of the TEX<sub>86</sub> record of the Wilkes Land Margin. Data from mid-Waipara and Site  
535 1172 show also a very good agreement with the global benthic  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record of  
536 deep sea temperatures (Zachos et al., 2008), constraining the time of the post-  
537 EECO global cooling also in the Southwest Pacific.

538

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729 greenhouse warming and carbon-cycle dynamics. *Nature* 451, 279–83.
- 730 **Figure captions**
- 731 Figure 1. A) Location of the mid-Waipara River section (South Island, New  
732 Zealand, 43.0537°S, 172.6110°E), ODP Site 1172 (Leg 189, East Tasman Plateau,  
733 43.9598°S, 149.9283°E), and IODP Site U1356 (Exp. 318, Wilkes Land Margin,  
734 63.3102°S, 135.9989°E). B) Paleogeographic reconstruction for the New Zealand  
735 region for the early Eocene (~56 Ma) showing the position of the mid-Waipara  
736 River, Mead Stream, and Tawanui sections; modified from Hollis et al. (2005). C)  
737 Position of the samples collected in the 2003, 2007 and the 2012 expedition,  
738 with the biostratigraphic events used to correlate the 2003 and 2012 suites; the  
739 key correlation event is the lowest occurrence (LO) of the foraminifera *Elphidium*  
740 *hampdenense*.
- 741
- 742 Figure 2. A) Isothermal remanent magnetization (IRM) backfield acquisition  
743 curves of representative specimens from Mid-Waipara;  $M/M_s =$   
744 magnetization/saturation magnetization. The horizontal scale (inducing field) is

745 magnified from 0 to 0.5 T. B) AF demagnetization spectra of  $M_s$  of the same  
746 specimens showed in panel A; the gray band highlights the range of the  $M_s$   
747 median destructive field. C) Representative thermomagnetic curves from Mid-  
748 Waipara sediments;  $M$ = magnetization. Dashed lines indicate the Curie  
749 temperature of the magnetic phase derived by analyses of second derivative  
750 curves (Tauxe, 1998).

751 Figure 3. Representative vector end point demagnetization diagrams of AF and  
752 thermal demagnetized core specimens from mid-Waipara and equal-area  
753 projections of the component directions. Filled (open) symbols on the vector end  
754 point diagrams represent projections onto the horizontal (vertical) plane, while  
755 filled (open) symbols of the equal area projections represent down (up) pointing  
756 vectors. A-d) AF demagnetized core specimens; dashed lines highlight the ChRM  
757 directions trending to the origin of the demagnetization axes; the gray thick  
758 arrow indicates the effect of the gyro remanent magnetization (GRM). E-f) AF-  
759 demagnetized specimens strongly affected by GRM (highlighted by the gray  
760 arrows); in these cases the ChRM directions were estimated by great circles  
761 analyses. G-h) Examples of thermally demagnetized specimens; in the example i)  
762 the ChRM direction lies on a great circle (shown in the equal area projection). J)  
763 Equal area projection of the 'A' component (overprint) directions of the NRM in  
764 geographic coordinates. The open star is the expected directions of the present-  
765 day geomagnetic field calculated the geocentric axial dipole (GAD) model (e.g.  
766 Tauxe et al., 2010). K) Down-pointing ChRM best-fit directions (black dots)  
767 combined with great circles demagnetization path (gray circles) in geographic  
768 coordinates. These data were combined following McFadden and McElhinny  
769 (1988) to estimate the ChRM directions (gray squares) from the great circles. In  
770 panel l) and m) are represented the equal area projections of all the ChRM  
771 directions before and after bedding tilt correction, respectively. The black (open)  
772 square represents the mean direction of the SW-and-down (NE-and-up) pointing  
773 directions, with the associated  $\alpha_{95}$  confidence cone. The open diamond is the  
774 mean direction, with the associated  $\alpha_{95}$  confidence cone, of all the directions  
775 plotted to a common up-pointing polarity.



776 Figure 4. Magnetic polarity stratigraphy of the mid-Waipara River section. From  
777 left to right: Lithology and thickness; natural remanent magnetization (NRM) of  
778 the core specimens; declination and inclination of the ChRM directions (or layer  
779 mean directions) and the associated virtual geomagnetic poles (VGP) latitude.  
780 The magnetic-polarity stratigraphy has been determined by means of the VGP  
781 latitudes: black (white) bars of the right column indicate normal (reverse)  
782 polarity intervals.

783

784 Figure 5. From left to right: foraminifera, calcareous nannofossil, and  
785 dinoflagellate cyst (dinocyst) biostratigraphy of the mid-Waipara River section;  
786 biostratigraphic events are indicated as lowest occurrence (LO) and highest  
787 occurrence (HO); calcareous nannofossil zonation of Martini (1971); New  
788 Zealand (NZ) and international stage boundaries, associated with the magnetic  
789 polarity stratigraphy constructed as shown in Figure 4. Biostratigraphic  
790 correlation based on dinocyst events between mid-Waipara, IODP Site U1356  
791 and ODP Site 1172; IODP Site U1356 is represented together with the  
792 paleomagnetic data from Tauxe et al. (2012): gray diamonds in the inclinations  
793 column indicate acceptable Fisher means, while gray triangles indicate  
794 acceptable best-fit lines; dark gray dots are inclination data from the archive  
795 halves (see Tauxe et al., 2012 for details); shaded areas represent recovery gaps.  
796 Dinocyst zonations for Sites U1356 and 1172 are from Bijl et al. (2013b), Crouch  
797 and Brinkhuis (2005), and Wilson (1988). The Paleocene–Eocene boundary  
798 position at Site 1172 is from Sluijs et al. (2011).

799

800 Figure 6. Age model of sedimentation for the mid-Waipara River section  
801 constructed by means of magneto-biostratigraphic correlation with the  
802 geomagnetic polarity time scale (GTS12; Gradstein et al., 2012, integrated in  
803 figure with New Zealand -NZ- stages); black dots are magnetic polarity-based tie  
804 points, while gray dots are biostratigraphic-based tie points; uncertain parts of  
805 the age model are shown with a dashed line. The age model has been used to  
806 derive sediment accumulation rates (SAR), plotted on the side of the mid-  
807 Waipara River magnetic polarity stratigraphy.

808 Figure 7. Age model of sedimentation of IODP Site U1356 and ODP Site 1172.  
809 Black dots are magnetic polarity-based tie points, while gray dots are  
810 biostratigraphic-based tie points. See text for details. (\*)  $TEX_{86}$  data from each  
811 site are from Bijl et al. (2013a). See Figure 5 for sources of the dinoflagellate cyst  
812 (dinocyst) zonation. Dashed line represent the alternative age model for Site  
813 U1356 if correlated with Site 1172 through SPDZ8 dinocyst zone rather than  
814 directly with the mid-Waipara River record using the highest occurrence (HO) of  
815 *Wilsondinium ornatum* and lowest occurrence (LO) of *Charlesdowniea edwardsii*;  
816 see text for details.

817 Figure 8.  $TEX_{86}$  records from the mid-Waipara River section (Hollis et al., 2009,  
818 2012), Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) Site 1172 and Integrated Ocean Drilling  
819 Program (IODP) Site U1356 (Bijl et al., 2009, 2013a). The record of Site 1172  
820 and U1356 are recalibrated using the biostratigraphic correlation with the mid-  
821 Waipara River section described in the text. The composite southwest Pacific-  
822 Southern Ocean proxy record is compared with the global benthic  $\delta^{18}O$  record of  
823 Zachos et al. (2008) recalibrated to the time scale of Gradstein et al. (2012;  
824 GTS12), in figure integrated with the New Zealand stage boundaries (Raine et al.,  
825 2015 and this work).

826

827 Table 1. List of magneto-biostratigraphic event and tie-points of the mid-  
828 Waipara River section.

829 LO= lowest occurrence; HO= highest occurrence; D= dinoflagellate cyst  
830 (dinocyst); N= calcareous nannofossil; F= foraminifera; (\*) age assignment from  
831 Gradstein et al. (2012). Bold events or Chron boundaries are used as tie points  
832 for construction of the age model of sedimentation (shown in Figure 6).

833

834 Table 2. Characteristic remanent magnetization (ChRM) directions from the mid-  
835 Waipara River section.

836 N= number of directions; MAD= maximum angular deviation ( $^{\circ}$ );  $k$ = Fisher  
837 (1953) precision parameter of the mean paleomagnetic direction;  $\alpha_{95}$ = Fisher  
838 (1953) 95% confidence angle for the mean paleomagnetic direction; DEC and  
839 INC= declination and inclination of the mean paleomagnetic directions. Reverse

840 and normal polarity directions statistics are calculated after inverting all  
841 directions to a common NE-and-Up pointing mode.

842

843

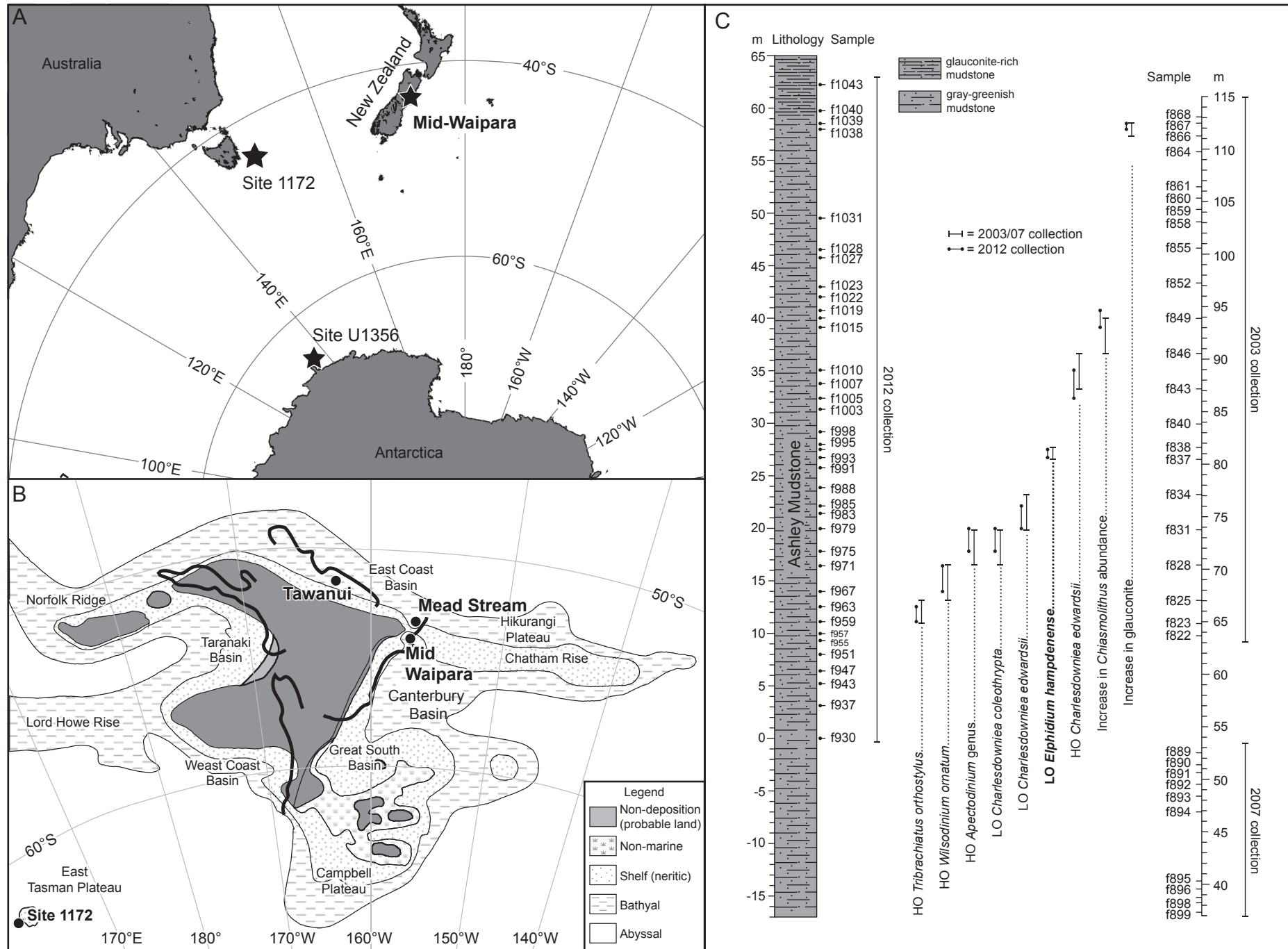


Figure 1

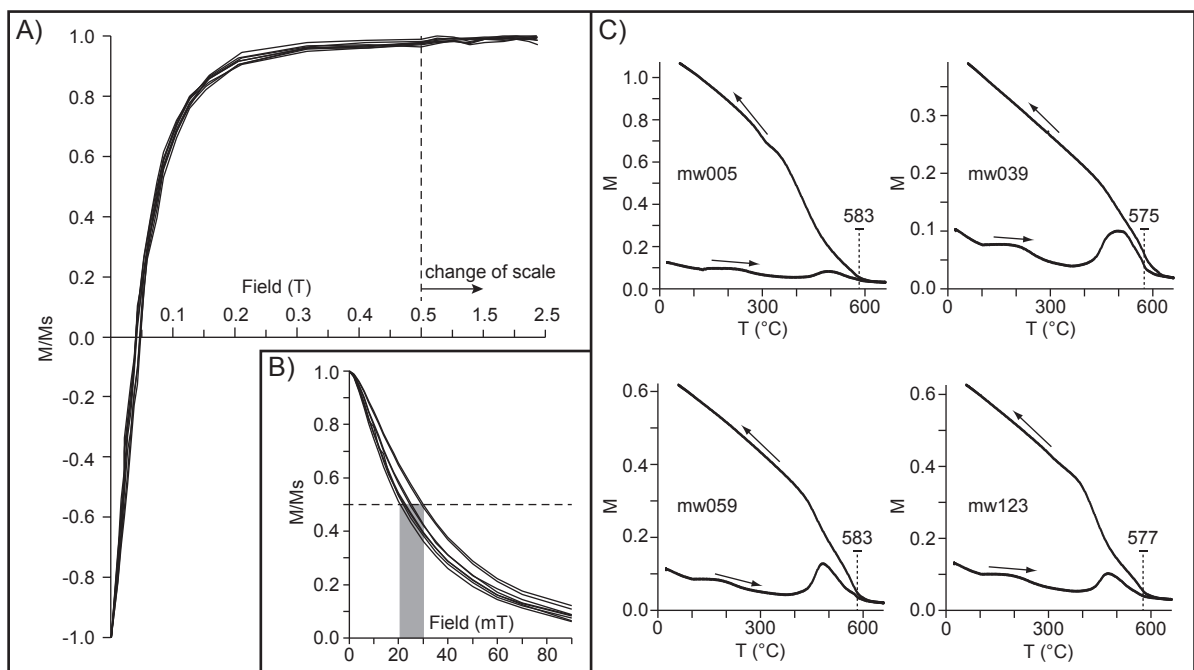


Figure 2

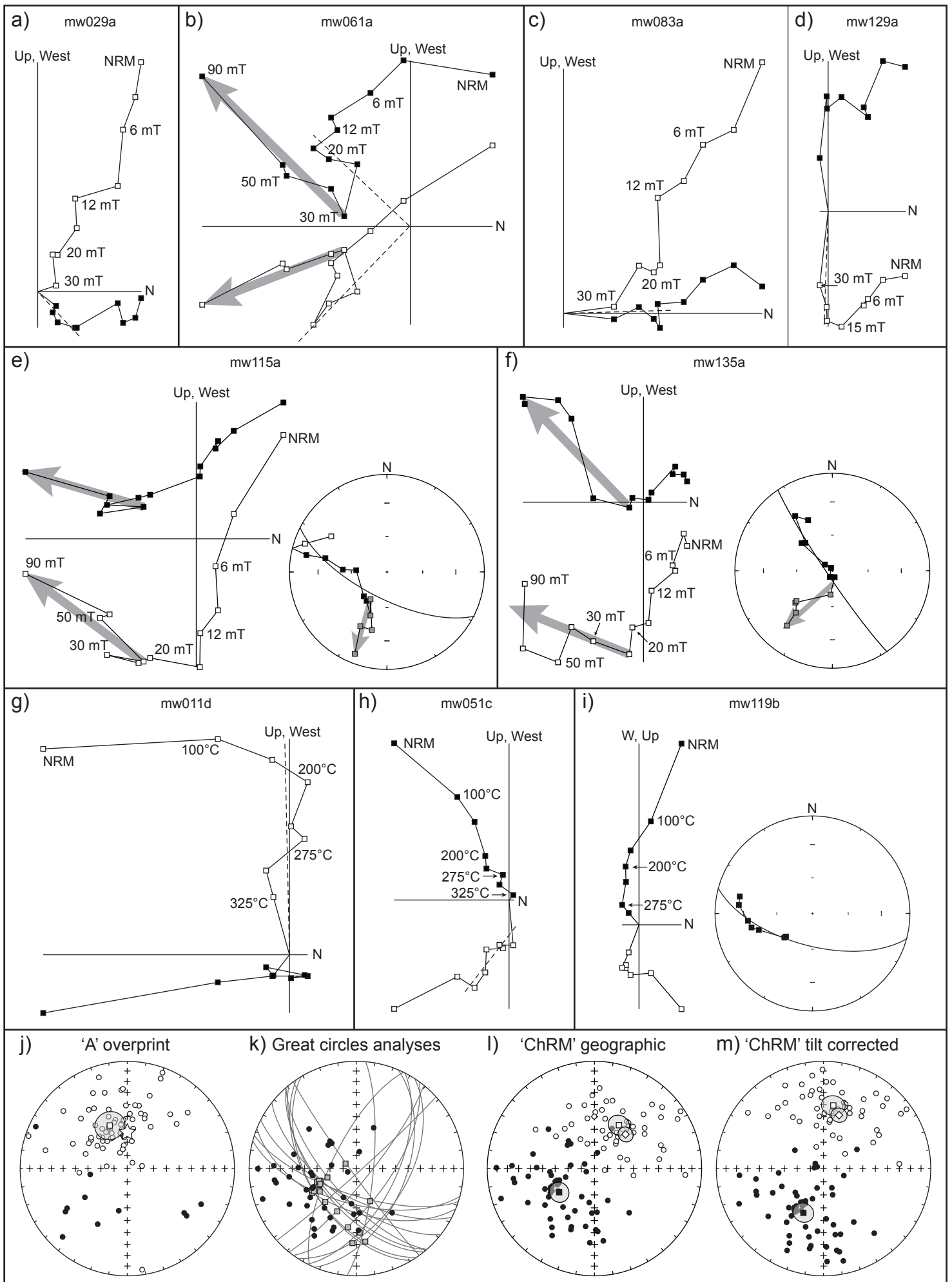


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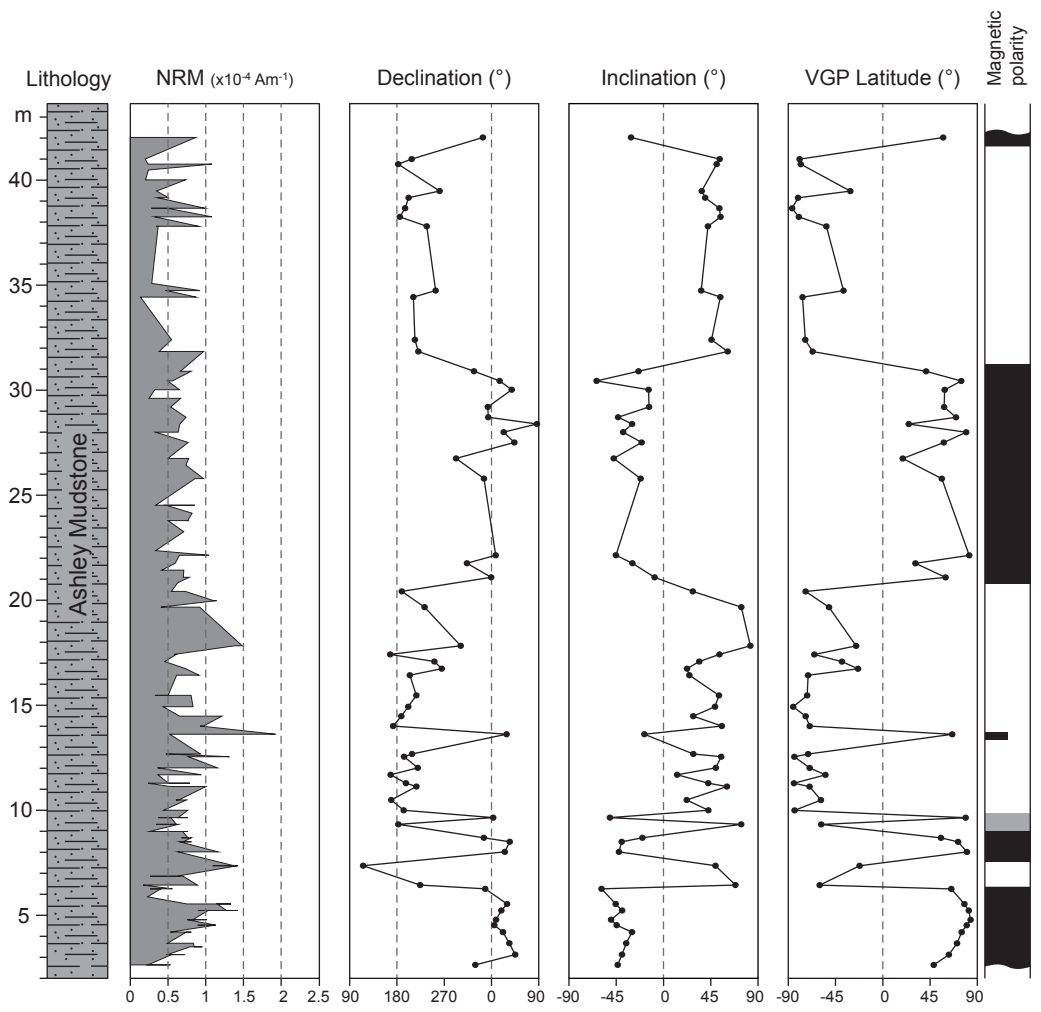


Figure 4

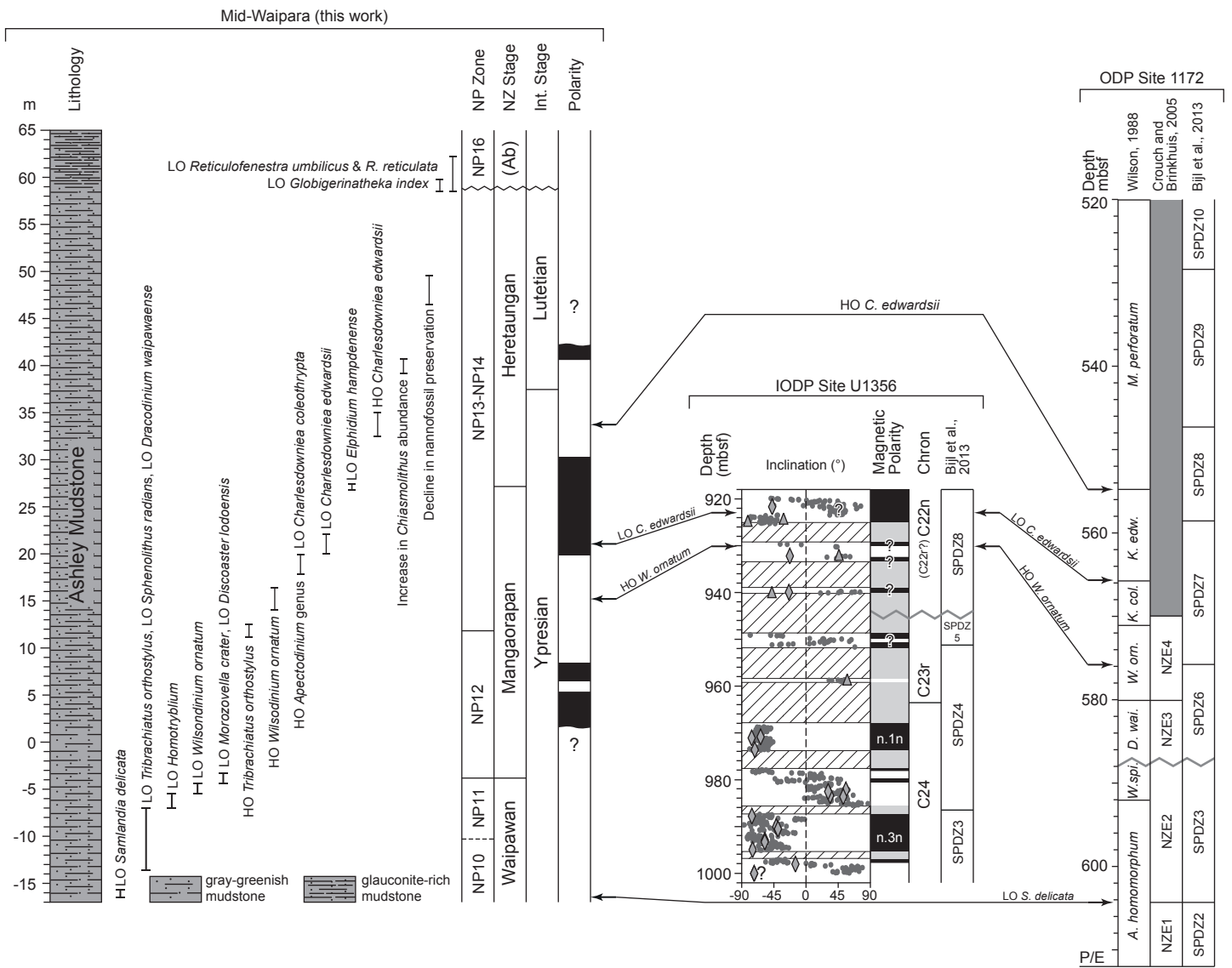


Figure 5



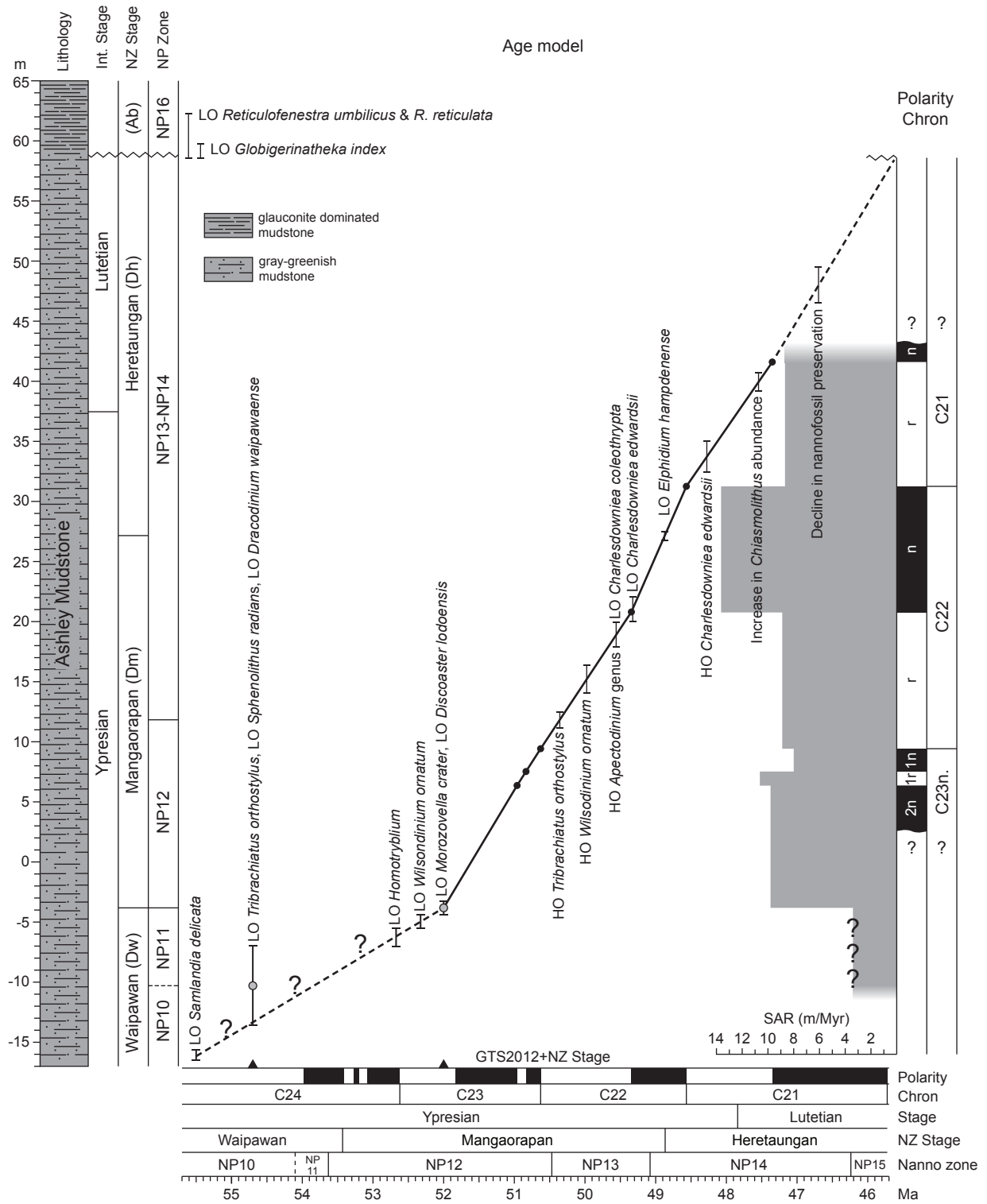


Figure 6

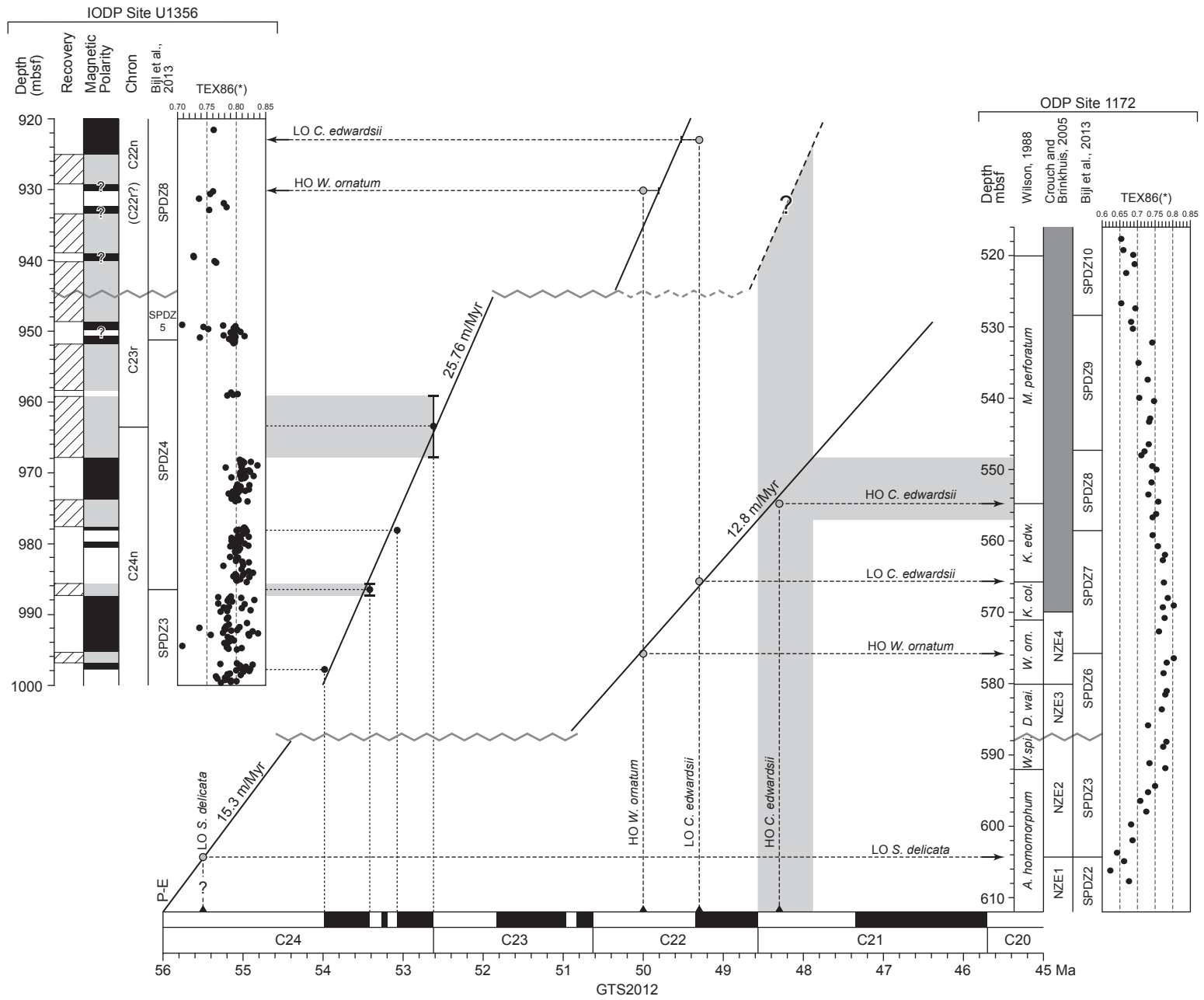


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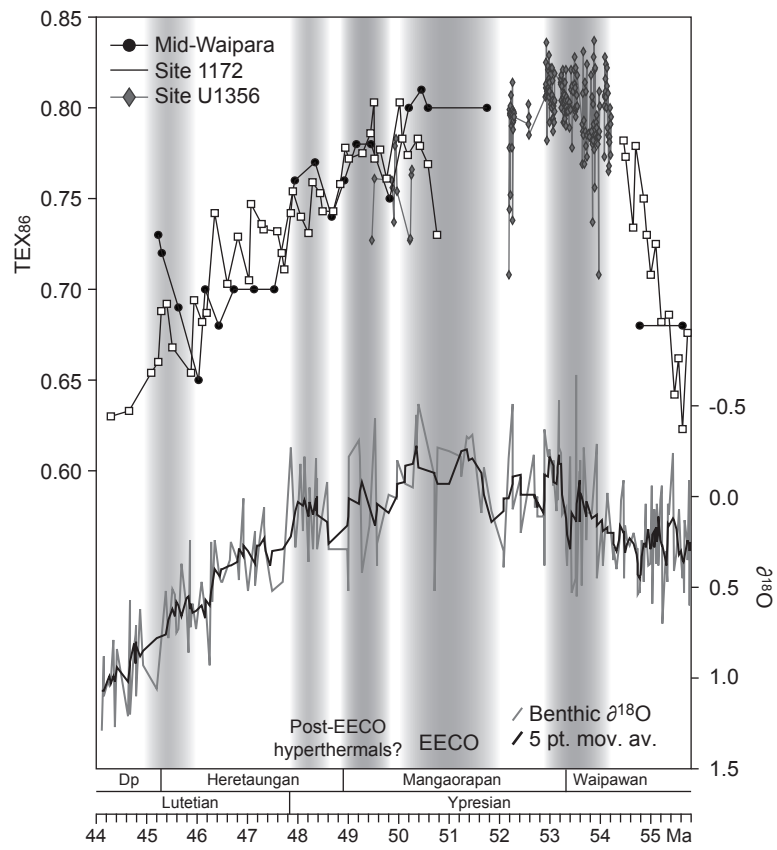


Figure 8

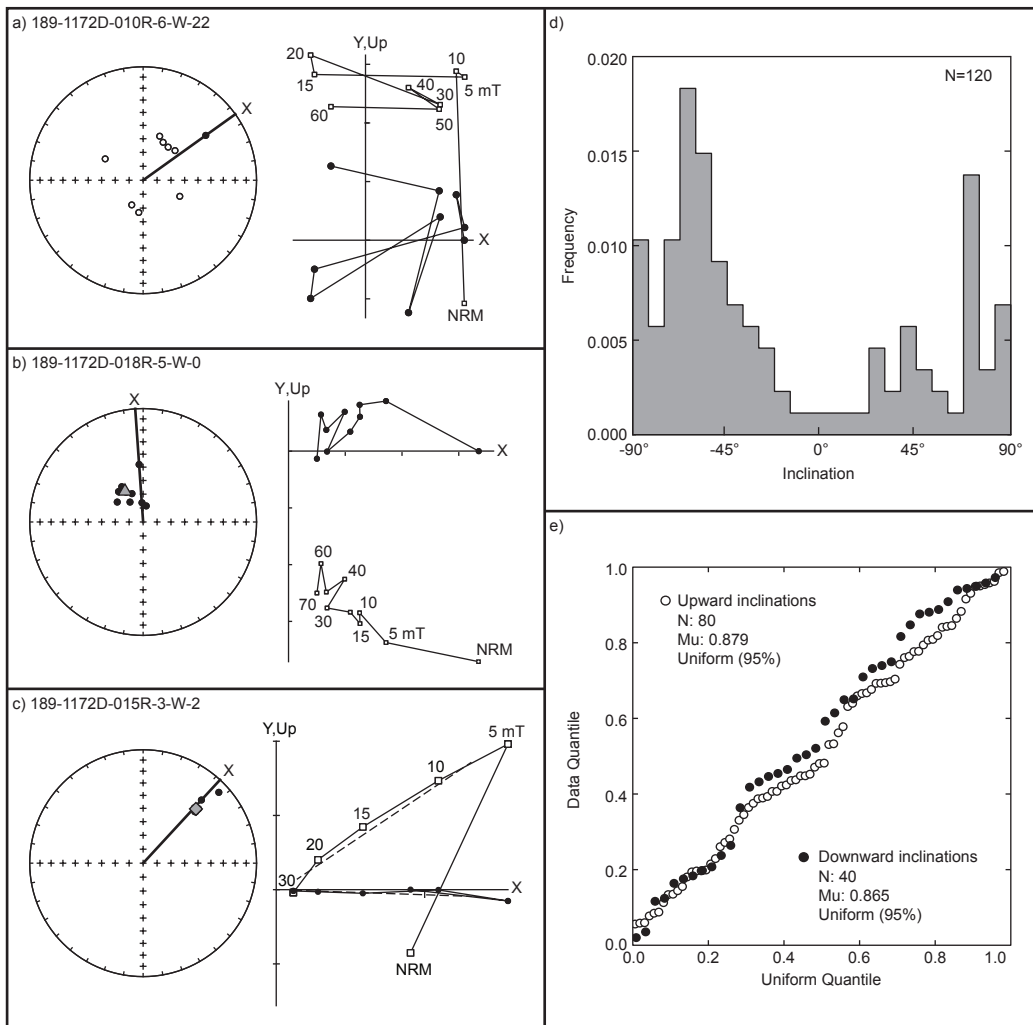


Figure A1

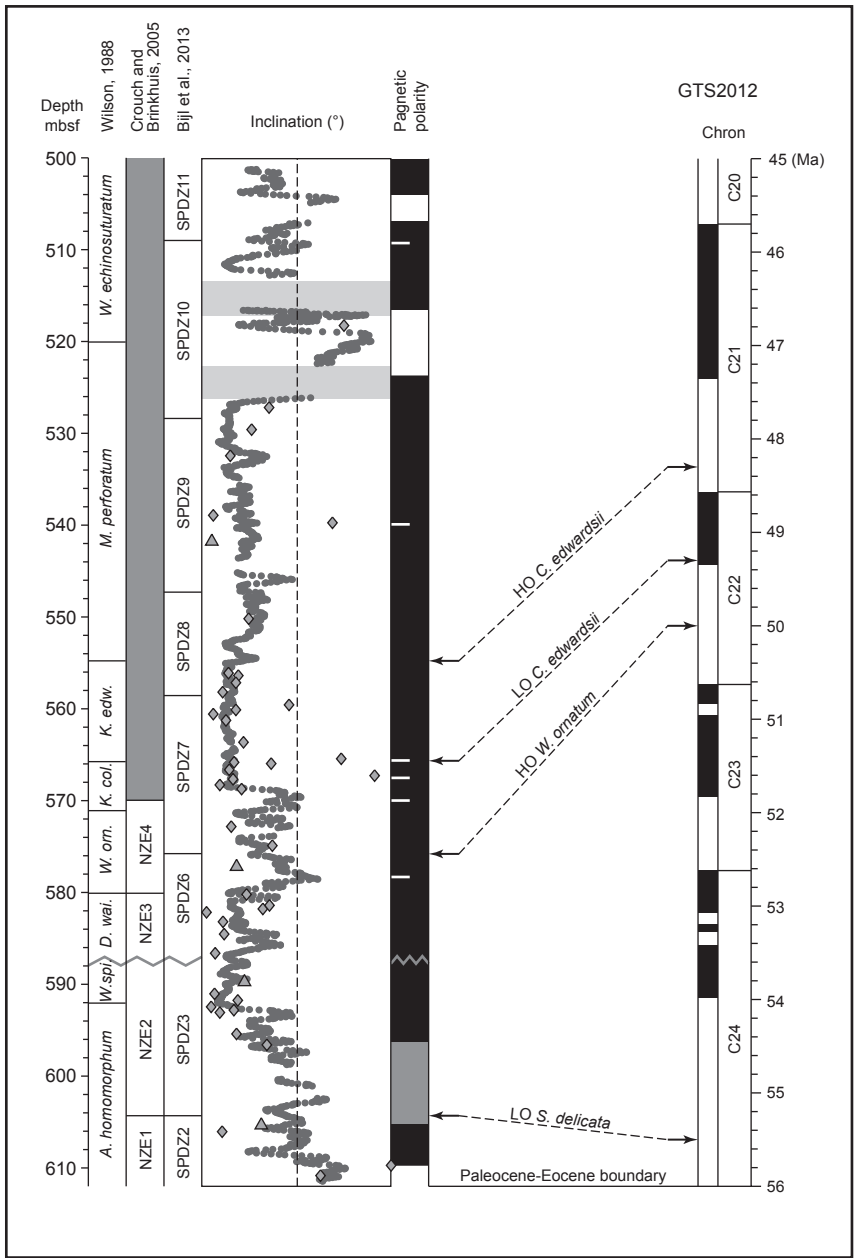


Figure A2