Report of radiocarbon dating analyses, Kolob Arch quadrangle, Zion National Park, Utah

by

Beta Analytic Inc. and Utah Geological Survey

2006

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Utah Geological Survey
A division of
Utah Department of Natural Resources

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This Open-File Report makes available raw analytical data from laboratory procedures completed to determine the age of sediment samples collected during geologic mapping partially supported by the Utah Geological Survey (UGS). The reference listed in table 1 reports the age of the samples and generally provides additional information such as the sample location, geologic setting, and significance or interpretation of the samples in the context of the area from which they were collected. This report was prepared by Beta Analytic Inc. under contract to the UGS. These data are highly technical in nature and proper interpretation requires considerable training in the applicable geochronologic techniques.

Table 1. Sample numbers and locations.

Sample #	7.5' quadrangle	Latitude	Longitude	Reference
KA9299-1*	Kolob Arch	37° 22' 45"	113° 07' 41"	Biek (in preparation)
KA5901-1	Kolob Arch	37° 23' 26"	113° 09' 29"	Biek (in preparation)
KA5901-2	Kolob Arch	37° 23' 26"	113° 09' 27"	Biek (in preparation)

Note. Sample KA9299-1 is mistakenly shown as KA92299-1 on the attached Beta Analytic lab report. The correct sample number is KA9299-1.

Disclaimer

This Open-File release is intended as a data repository for technical analytical information gathered in support of various geologic mapping projects. The data are presented as received from Beta Analytic, Inc., and do not necessarily conform to UGS technical or editorial standards. Therefore, it may be premature for an individual or group to take actions based on the contents of this report.

Although this product represents the work of professional scientists, the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah Geological Survey, makes no warranty, expressed or implied, regarding its suitability for a particular use. The Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah Geological Survey, shall not be liable under any circumstances for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to claims by users of this product.

Reference to geologic report that cites or explains samples analyzed in this report

Biek, R.F., in preparation, Geologic map and notes on the geology of the Kolob Arch quadrangle and part of the Kanarraville quadrangle, Washington and Iron Counties, Utah: Utah Geological Survey Map, 2 plates, scale 1:24,000.

BETA ANALYTIC INC.

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REPORT OF RADIOCARBON DATING ANALYSES

Mr. Bob Biek

Utah Geological Survey

Report Date: November 1, 1999

Material Received: October 1, 1999

Sample Data	Measured Radiocarbon Age	^{13}C / ^{12}C Ratio	Conventional Radiocarbon Age (*)
Beta-134799	2640 +/- 60 BP	-25.0* o/oo	2640 +/- 60* BP

SAMPLE #: KA92299-1
ANALYSIS: radiometric-standard
MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT:(wood): acid/alkali/acid

NOTE: It is important to read the calendar calibration information and to use the calendar calibrated results (reported separately) when interpreting these results in AD/BC terms.

Dates are reported as RCYBP (radiocarbon years before present, "present" = 1950A.D.). By International convention, the modern reference standard was 95% of the C14 content of the National Bureau of Standards' Oxalic Acid & calculated using the Libby C14 half life (5568 years). Quoted errors represent 1 standard deviation statistics (68% probability) & are based on combined measurements of the sample, background, and modern reference standards.

Measured C13/C12 ratios were calculated relative to the PDB-1 international standard and the RCYBP ages were normalized to -25 per mil. If the ratio and age are accompanied by an (*), then the C13/C12 value was estimated, based on values typical of the material type. The quoted results are NOT calibrated to calendar years. Calibration to calendar years should be calculated using the Conventional C14 age.

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

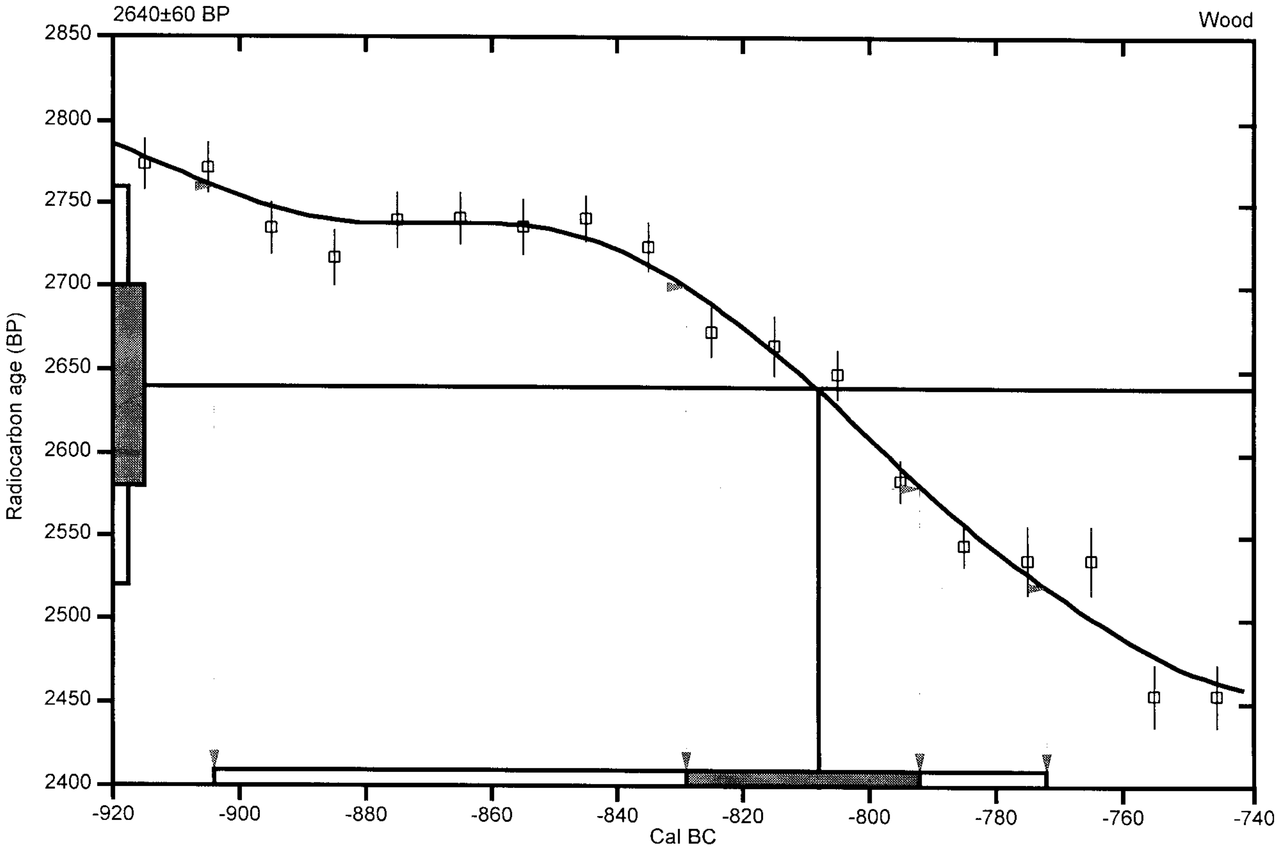
(Variables: est. C13/C12=-25:lab. mult=1)

Laboratory number:	**Beta-134799**
Conventional radiocarbon age[1]:	**2640±60 BP**
2 Sigma calibrated result: **(95% probability)**	**Cal BC 905 to 770 (Cal BP 2855 to 2720)**

[1] *C13/C12 ratio estimated*

Intercept data

Intercept of radiocarbon age with calibration curve:	Cal BC 810 (Cal BP 2760)
1 Sigma calibrated result: (68% probability)	Cal BC 830 to 790 (Cal BP 2780 to 2740)



References:

Database used

INTCAL98

Calibration Database

Editorial Comment

Stuiver, M., van der Plicht, H., 1998, Radiocarbon 40(3), pxii-xiii

INTCAL98 Radiocarbon Age Calibration

Stuiver, M., et. al., 1998, Radiocarbon 40(3), p1041-1083

Mathematics

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates

Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

BETA ANALYTIC INC.

RADIOCARBON DATING SERVICES

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ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES AND FINAL REPORT

FINAL REPORT

This package includes the final date report, this statement outlining our analytical procedures, a glossary of pretreatment terms, calendar calibration information, billing documents (containing balance/credit information and the number of samples submitted within the yearly discount period), and peripheral items to use with future submittals. The final report includes the individual analysis method, the delivery basis, the material type and the individual pretreatments applied. Please recall any correspondences or communications we may have had regarding sample integrity, size, special considerations or conversions from one analytical technique to another (e.g. radiometric to AMS). The final report has also been sent by fax or e-mail, where available.

PRETREATMENT

Results were obtained on the portion of suitable carbon remaining after any necessary chemical and mechanical pretreatments of the submitted material. Pretreatments were applied, where necessary, to isolate ^{14}C which may best represent the time event of interest. Individual pretreatments are listed on the report next to each result and are defined in the enclosed glossary. When interpreting the results, it is important to consider the pretreatments. Some samples cannot be fully pretreated making their ^{14}C ages more subjective than samples which can be fully pretreated. Some materials receive no pretreatments. Please read the pretreatment glossary.

ANALYSIS

Materials measured by the radiometric technique were analyzed by synthesizing sample carbon to benzene (92% C), measuring for ^{14}C content in a scintillation spectrometer, and then calculating for radiocarbon age. If the Extended Counting Service was used, the ^{14}C content was measured for a greatly extended period of time. AMS results were derived from reduction of sample carbon to graphite (100 %C), along with standards and backgrounds. The graphite was then sent for ^{14}C measurement in an accelerator-mass-spectrometer located at one of six collaborating research facilities, who return the results to us for verification, isotopic fractionation correction, calendar calibration, and reporting.

THE RADIOCARBON AGE AND CALENDAR CALIBRATION

The "Conventional C14 Age (*)" is the result after applying C13/C12 corrections to the measured age and is the most appropriate radiocarbon age (the "*" is discussed at the bottom of the final report). Applicable calendar calibrations are included for organic materials and fresh water carbonates between 0 and 10,000 BP and for marine carbonates between 0 and 8,300 BP. If certain calibrations are not included with this report, the results were either too young, too old, or inappropriate for calibration.

PRETREATMENT GLOSSARY

Pretreatment of submitted materials is required to eliminate secondary carbon components. These components, if not eliminated, could result in a radiocarbon date which is too young or too old. Pretreatment does not ensure that the radiocarbon date will represent the time event of interest. This is determined by the sample integrity. The old wood effect, burned intrusive roots, bioturbation, secondary deposition, secondary biogenic activity incorporating recent carbon (bacteria) and the analysis of multiple components of differing age are just some examples of potential problems. The pretreatment philosophy is to reduce the sample to a single component, where possible, to minimize the added subjectivity associated with these types of problems.

"acid/alkali/acid"

The sample was first gently crushed/dispersed in deionized water. It was then given hot HCl acid washes to eliminate carbonates and alkali washes (NaOH) to remove secondary organic acids. The alkali washes were followed by a final acid rinse to neutralize the solution prior to drying. Chemical concentrations, temperatures, exposure times, and number of repetitions, were applied accordingly with the uniqueness of the sample. Each chemical solution was neutralized prior to application of the next. During these serial rinses, mechanical contaminants such as associated sediments and rootlets were eliminated. This type of pretreatment is considered a "full pretreatment". On occasion the report will list the pretreatment as "acid/alkali/acid - insolubles" to specify which fraction of the sample was analyzed. This is done on occasion with sediments (See "acid/alkali/acid - solubles"

Typically applied to: charcoal, wood, some peats, some sediments, textiles

"acid/alkali/acid - solubles"

On occasion the alkali soluble fraction will be analyzed. This is a special case where soil conditions imply that the soluble fraction will provide a more accurate date. It is also used on some occasions to verify the present/absence or degree of contamination present from secondary organic acids. The sample was first pretreated with acid to remove any carbonates and to weaken organic bonds. After the alkali washes (as discussed above) are used, the solution containing the alkali soluble fraction is isolated/filtered and combined with acid. The soluble fraction which precipitates is rinsed and dried prior to combustion.

"acid washes"

Surface area was increased as much a possible. Solid chunks were crushed, fibrous materials were shredded, and sediments were dispersed. Acid (HCl) was applied repeatedly to ensure the absence of carbonates. Chemical concentrations, temperatures, exposure times, and number of repetitions, were applied accordingly with the uniqueness of each sample. The sample, for a number of reasons, could not be subjected to alkali washes to ensure the absence of secondary organic acids. The most common reason is that the primary carbon is soluble in the alkali. Dating results reflect the total organic content of the analyzed material. Their accuracy depends on the researcher's ability to subjectively eliminate potential contaminants based on contextual facts.

Typically applied to: organic sediments, some peats, small wood or charcoal, special cases

"collagen extraction"

The material was first tested for friability ("softness"). Very soft bone material is an indication of the potential absence of the collagen fraction (basal bone protein acting as a "reinforcing agent" within the crystalline apatite structure). It was then washed in de-ionized water and gently crushed. Dilute, cold HCl acid was repeatedly applied and replenished until the mineral fraction (bone apatite) was eliminated. The collagen was then dissected and inspected for rootlets. Any rootlets present were also removed when replenishing the acid solutions. Where possible, usually dependant on the amount of collagen available, alkali (NaOH) was also applied to ensure the absence of secondary organic acids.

Typically applied to: bones

"acid etch"

The calcareous material was first washed in de-ionized water, removing associated organic sediments and debris (where present). The material was then crushed/dispersed and repeatedly subjected to HCl etches to eliminate secondary carbonate components. In the case of thick shells, the surfaces were physically abraded prior to etching down to a hard, primary core remained. In the case of porous carbonate nodules and caliche, very long exposure times were applied to allow infiltration of the acid. Acid exposure times, concentrations, and number of repetitions, were applied accordingly with the uniqueness of the sample.

Typically applied to: shells, caliche, calcareous nodules

"neutralized"

Carbonates precipitated from ground water are usually submitted in an alkaline condition (ammonium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide solution). Typically this solution is neutralized in the original sample container, using deionized water. If larger volume dilution was required, the precipitate and solution were transferred to a sealed separatory flask and rinsed to neutrality. Exposure to atmosphere was minimal.

Typically applied to: Strontium carbonate, Barium carbonate
(i.e. precipitated ground water samples)

"none"

No laboratory pretreatments were applied. Special requests and pre-laboratory pretreatment usually accounts for this.

"acid/alkali/acid/cellulose extraction"

Following full acid/alkali/acid pretreatments, the sample is rinsed in $NaClO2$ under very controlled conditions (Ph = 3, temperature = 70 degrees C). This eliminates all components except wood cellulose. It is useful for woods which are either very old or highly contaminated.

Applied to: wood

"carbonate precipitation"

Dissolved carbon dioxide and carbonate species are precipitated from submitted water by complexing them as amonium carbonate. Strontium chloride is added to the ammonium carbonate solution and strontium carbonate is precipitated for the analysis. The result is representative of the dissolved inorganic carbon within the water. Results are reported as "water DIC".

Applied to: water

BETA ANALYTIC INC.
RADIOCARBON DATING LABORATORY
CALIBRATED C-14 DATING RESULTS

Calibrations of radiocarbon age determinations are applied to convert BP results to calendar years. The short term difference between the two is caused by fluctuations in the heliomagnetic modulation of the galactic cosmic radiation and, recently, large scale burning of fossil fuels and nuclear devices testing. Geomagnetic variations are the probable cause of longer term differences.

The parameters used for the corrections have been obtained through precise analyses of hundreds of samples taken from known-age tree rings of oak, sequoia, and fir up to about 10,000 BP. Calibration using tree-rings to about 12,000 BP is still being researched and provides somewhat less precise correlation. Beyond that, up to about 20,000 BP, correlation using a modeled curve determined from U/Th measurements on corals is used. This data is still highly subjective. Calibrations are provided up to about 19,000 years BP using the most recent calibration data available (Radiocarbon, Vol 40, No. 3, 1998).

The Pretoria Calibration Procedure (Radiocarbon, Vol 35, No. 1, 1993, pg 317) program has been chosen for these calendar calibrations. It uses splines through the tree-ring data as calibration curves, which eliminates a large part of the statistical scatter of the actual data points. The spline calibration allows adjustment of the average curve by a quantified closeness-of-fit parameter to the measured data points. A single spline is used for the precise correlation data available back to 9900 BP for terrestrial samples and about 6900 BP for marine samples. Beyond that, splines are taken on the error limits of the correlation curve to account for the lack of precision in the data points.

In describing our calibration curves, the solid bars represent one sigma statistics (68% probability) and the hollow bars represent two sigma statistics (95% probability). Marine carbonate samples that have been corrected for δ 13/12C, have also been corrected for both global and local geographic reservoir effects (as published in Radiocarbon, Volume 35, Number 1, 1993) prior to the calibration. Marine carbonates that have not been corrected for δ 13/12C are adjusted by an assumed value of 0 ‰ in addition to the reservoir corrections. Reservoir corrections for fresh water carbonates are usually unknown and are generally not accounted for in those calibrations. In the absence of measured δ 13/12C ratios, a typical value of -5 ‰ is assumed for freshwater carbonates.

(Caveat: the correlation curve for organic materials assume that the material dated was living for exactly ten years (e.g. a collection of 10 individual tree rings taken from the outer portion of a tree that was cut down to produce the sample in the feature dated). For other materials, the maximum and minimum calibrated age ranges given by the computer program are uncertain. The possibility of an "old wood effect" must also be considered, as well as the potential inclusion of younger or older material in matrix samples. Since these factors are indeterminant error in most cases, these calendar calibration results should be used only for illustrative purposes. In the case of carbonates, reservoir correction is theoretical and the local variations are real, highly variable and dependant on provenience. Since imprecision in the correlation data beyond 10,00 years is high, calibrations in this range are likely to change in the future with refinement in the correlation curve. The age ranges and especially the intercept ages generated by the program, must be considered as approximations.)

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

Variables used in the calculation of age calibration → (Variables: est. C13/C12=-25:lab. mult=1)

Laboratory number: **Beta-123456**

Conventional radiocarbon age[1]: **2400±60 BP**

The uncalibrated Conventional Radiocarbon Age (± 1 sigma)

The calendar age range in both calendar years (AD or BC) and in Radiocarbon Years (BP)

→ **2 Sigma calibrated result: (95% probability)** **Cal BC 770 to 380 (Cal BP 2720 to 2330)**

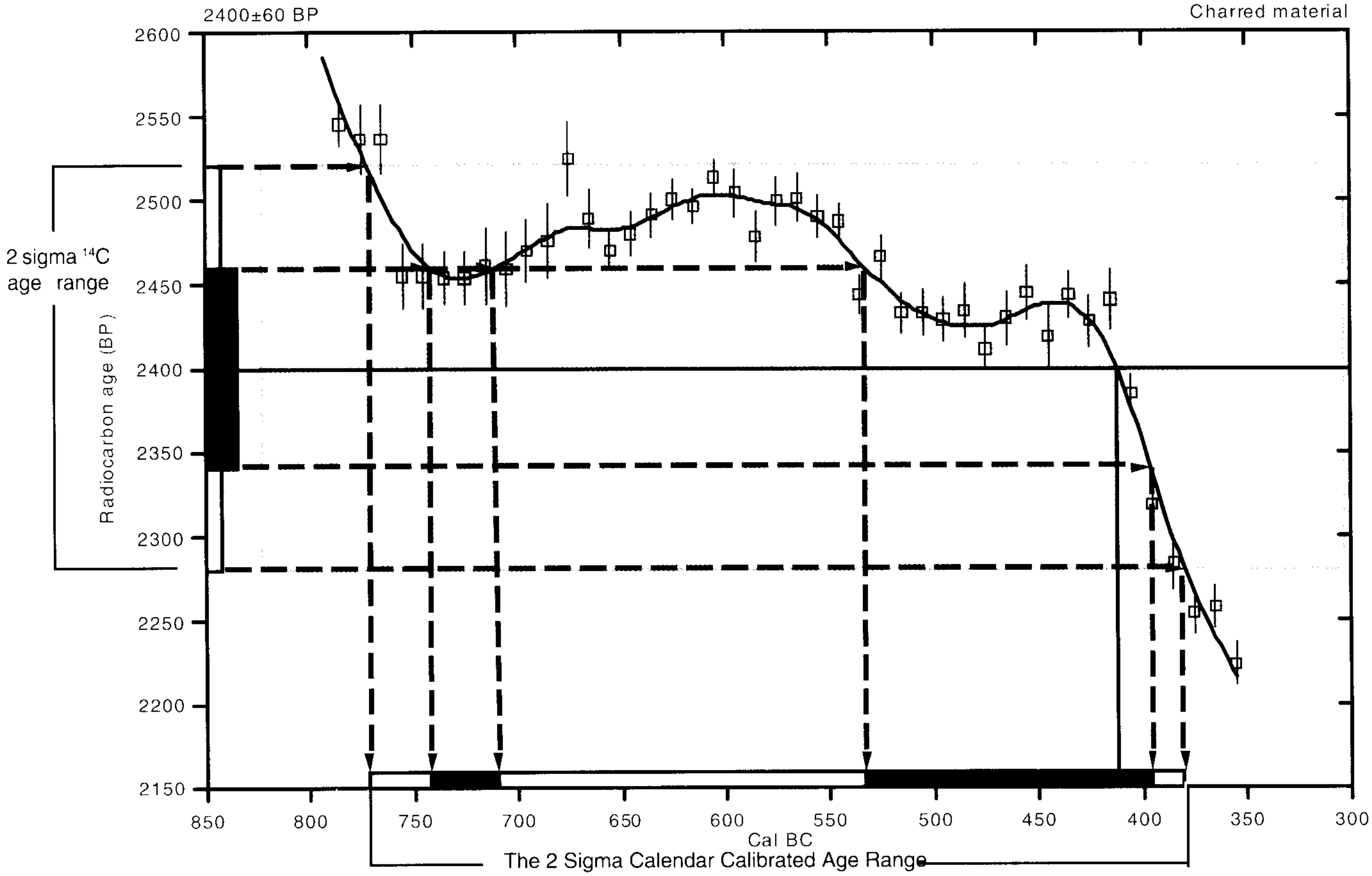
[1] C13/C12 ratio estimated

The intercept between the average radiocarbon age and the calibrated curve time scale. This value is illustrative and should not be used by itself.

Intercept data

Intercept of radiocarbon age with calibration curve: Cal BC 410 (Cal BP 2360)

1 Sigma calibrated result: (68% probability) Cal BC 740 to 710 (Cal BP 2690 to 2660) and Cal BC 535 to 395 (Cal BP 2485 to 2345)



The 2 Sigma Calendar Calibrated Age Range

This range is determined by the portion of the curve that is in a "box" drawn from the 2 sigma limits on the radiocarbon age. If a section of the curve goes outside of the "box", multiple ranges will occur as shown by the two 1 sigma ranges which occur from sections going outside of a similar "box" which would be drawn at the 1 sigma limits.

References:

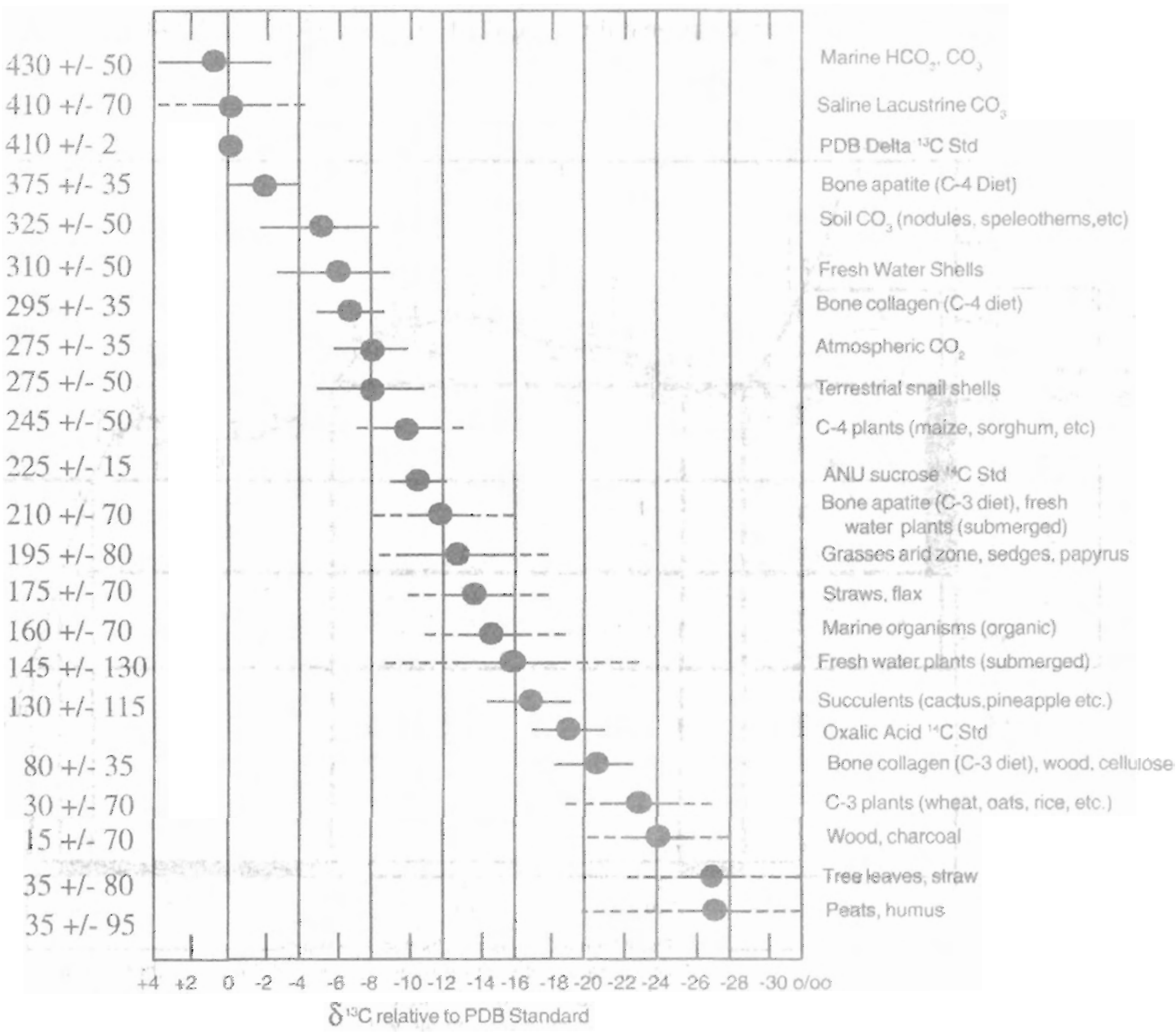
Database used
Intcal 98
Calibration Database
Editorial Comment
Stuiver, M., van der Plicht, H., 1998, Radiocarbon 40(3), pxii-xiii
INTCAL98 Radiocarbon Age Calibration
Stuiver, M., et. al., 1998, Radiocarbon 40(3), p1041-1083
Mathematics
A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates
Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

References for the calibration data and the mathematics applied to the data. These references, as well as the Conventional Radiocarbon Age and the 13C/12C ratio used should be included in your papers.

Derivation of a radiometric or accelerator dendro-calibrated (CALENDAR) date requires use of the CONVENTIONAL radiocarbon date (Stuiver and Polach)[1]. The conventional date is a basic radiocarbon date that has been normalized to the modern standard through the use of $^{13}C/^{12}C$ ratios* (analyzed or estimated). The statistical error (+/-) on an analyzed $^{13}C/^{12}C$ value is quite small and does not contribute significantly to the combined error on the date. However, use of an estimated $^{13}C/^{12}C$ ratio for an unknown sample may incur a large combined error term. This is clearly illustrated in the figure below (Gupta & Polach;modifiec by J. Head)[2] where the possible range of $^{13}C/^{12}C$ values for a particular material type may be so large as to preclude any practical application or correction.

In cases where analyzed $^{13}C/^{12}C$ values are not available. we provide (for illustration) dendro-calibrations assuming a mean "chart" value. but without an estimated error term.

Where a sample carbon reservoir different from that modern oxalic acid/wood modern standard is involved (e.g. shell). further reservoir correction must be employed; the variables used in each calibration displayed on each individual calibration sheet.



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[1] Stuiver, M. and Polach, H.A., 1977. Discussion: Reporting of 14-C data, Radiocarbon 19, 355-363

[2] Gupta S.K. and Polach H.A., 1985, Radiocarbon Dating Practices at ANU Handbook, p. 114, Radiocarbon Laboratory, Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU, Canberra

*Radiocarbon is incorporated into various materials by different pathways and this introduces differing degrees of isotopic fractionation. The $^{13}C/^{12}C$ ratio of any material is the millesimal difference of the sample to the carbonate PDB standard and is directly related to the $^{14}C/^{12}C$ ratio. The degree of sample ^{14}C enrichment or depletion then is normalized to that of the modern standard.

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REPORT OF RADIOCARBON DATING ANALYSES

Mr. Bob Bick
Report Date: 7/6/01

Utah Geological Survey
Material Received: 6/1/01

Sample Data	Measured Radiocarbon Age	13C/12C Ratio	Conventional Radiocarbon Age(*)
Beta - 156139 SAMPLE : KA5901-1 ANALYSIS : AMS-Standard delivery MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT : (charred material): acid/alkali/acid 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION : Cal AD 1290 to 1410 (Cal BP 660 to 540)	630 +/- 40 BP	-25.1 o/oo	630 +/- 40 BP
Beta - 156140 SAMPLE : KA5901-2 ANALYSIS : Radiometric-Standard delivery (bulk low carbon analysis on sediment) MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT : (organic sediment): acid washes 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION : Cal BC 1300 to 900 (Cal BP 3250 to 2850)	2900 +/- 70 BP	-25.0* o/oo	2900 +/- 70* BP

Dates are reported as RCYBP (radiocarbon years before present, "present" = 1950A.D.). By International convention, the modern reference standard was 95% of the C14 content of the National Bureau of Standards' Oxalic Acid & calculated using the Libby C14 half life (5568 years). Quoted errors represent 1 standard deviation statistics (68% probability) & are based on combined measurements of the sample, background, and modern reference standards.

Measured C13/C12 ratios were calculated relative to the PDB-1 international standard and the RCYBP ages were normalized to -25 per mil. If the ratio and age are accompanied by an (*), then the C13/C12 value was estimated, based on values typical of the material type. The quoted results are NOT calibrated to calendar years. Calibration to calendar years should be calculated using the Conventional C14 age.

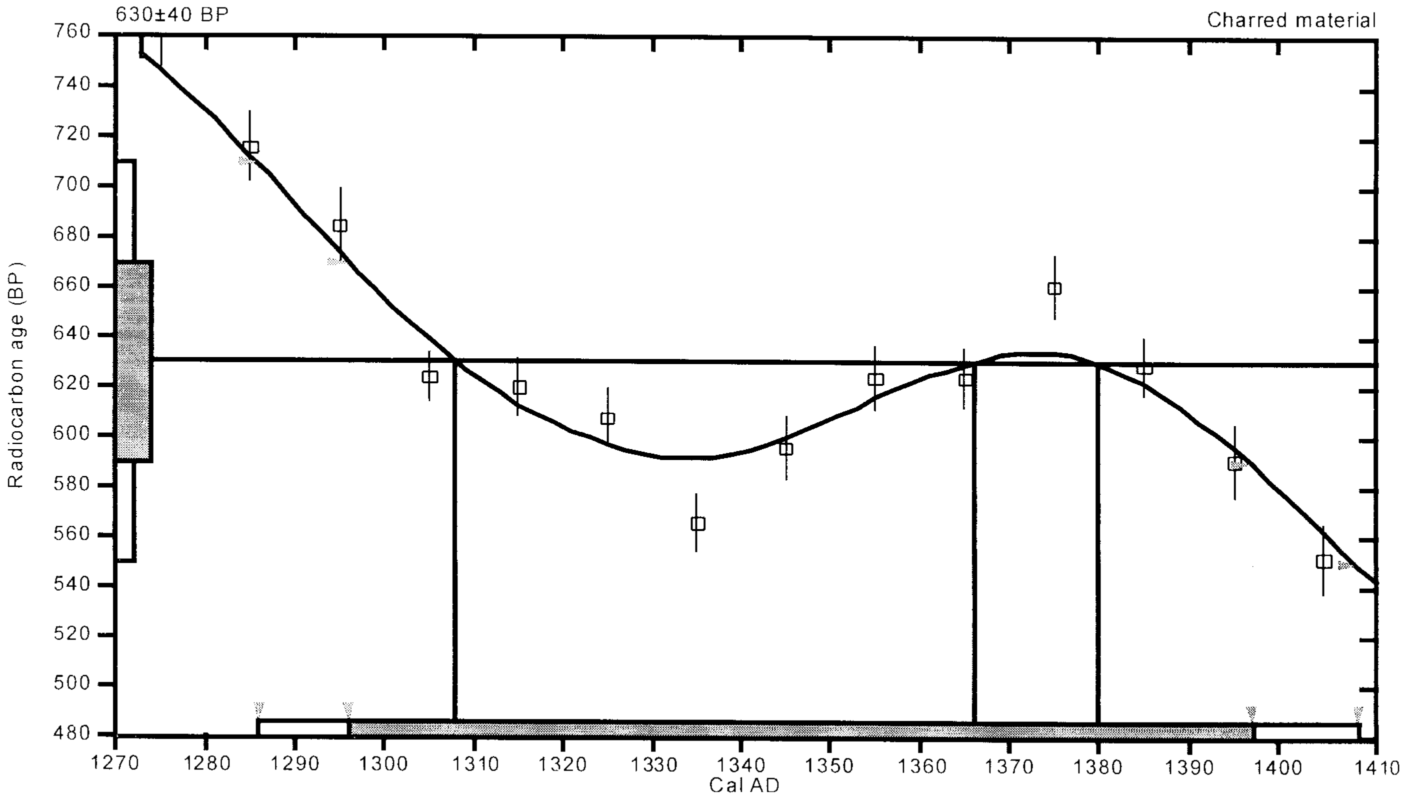
CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12=-25.1:lab. mult=1)

Laboratory number:	**Beta-156139**
Conventional radiocarbon age:	**630±40 BP**
2 Sigma calibrated result: (95% probability)	**Cal AD 1290 to 1410 (Cal BP 660 to 540)**

Intercept data

Intercepts of radiocarbon age with calibration curve:	Cal AD 1310 (Cal BP 640) and Cal AD 1370 (Cal BP 580) and Cal AD 1380 (Cal BP 570)
1 Sigma calibrated result: (68% probability)	Cal AD 1300 to 1400 (Cal BP 650 to 550)



References:

Database used

Calibration Database
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Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

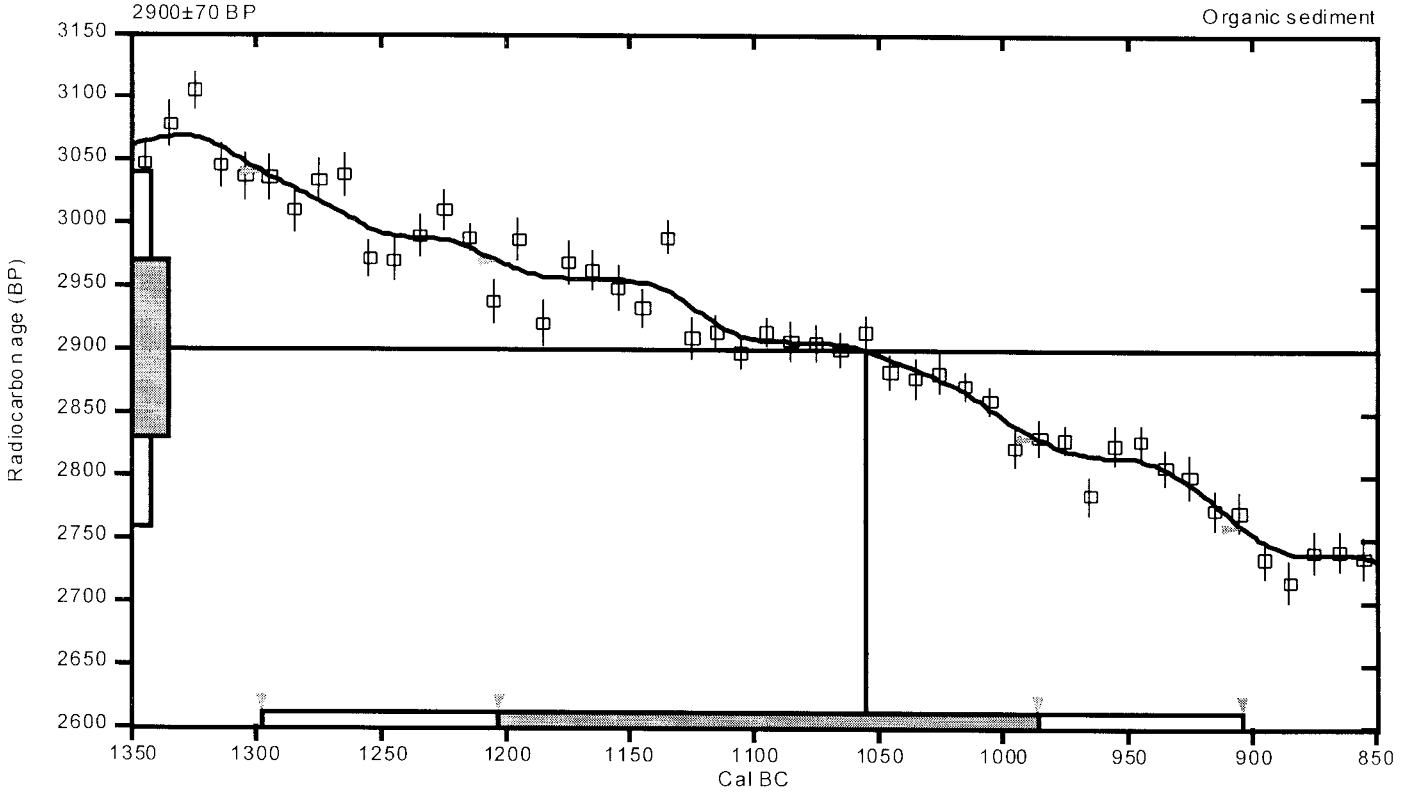
(Variables: est. C13/C12=-25:lab. mult=1)

Laboratory number:	**Beta-156140**
Conventional radiocarbon age[1]:	**2900±70 BP**
2 Sigma calibrated result: (95% probability)	**Cal BC 1300 to 900 (Cal BP 3250 to 2850)**

[1] *C13/C12 ratio estimated*

Intercept data

Intercept of radiocarbon age with calibration curve:	Cal BC 1060 (Cal BP 3000)
1 Sigma calibrated result: (68% probability)	Cal BC 1200 to 990 (Cal BP 3150 to 2940)



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Delivered On Time.

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ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES AND FINAL REPORT

Final Report

The final report package includes the final date report, a statement outlining our analytical procedures, a glossary of pretreatment terms, calendar calibration information, billing documents (containing balance/credit information and the number of samples submitted within the yearly discount period), and peripheral items to use with future submittals. The final report includes the individual analysis method, the delivery basis, the material type and the individual pretreatments applied. The final report will be sent by mail, fax or e-mail, where available.

Pretreatment

Pretreatment methods are reported along with each result. All necessary chemical and mechanical pretreatments of the submitted material are applied at the laboratory to isolate ^{14}C which may best represent the time event of interest. When interpreting the results, it is important to consider the pretreatments. Some samples cannot be fully pretreated, making their ^{14}C ages more subjective than samples which can be fully pretreated. Some materials receive no pretreatments. Please read the pretreatment glossary.

Analysis

Materials measured by the radiometric technique are analyzed by synthesizing sample carbon to benzene (92% C), measuring for ^{14}C content in a scintillation spectrometer, and then calculating for radiocarbon age. If the Extended Counting Service is used, the ^{14}C content is measured for a greatly extended period of time. AMS results are derived from reduction of sample carbon to graphite (100 %C), along with standards and backgrounds. The graphite is then detected for ^{14}C content in an accelerator-mass-spectrometer (AMS) located at one of 9 collaborating research facilities, who return the raw data to us for verification, isotopic fractionation correction, calculation calendar calibration, and reporting.

The Radiocarbon Age and Calendar Calibration

The "Conventional ^{14}C Age (*)" is the result after applying $^{13}C/^{12}C$ corrections to the measured age and is the most appropriate radiocarbon age (the "*" is discussed at the bottom of the final report). Applicable calendar calibrations are included for materials 0 and about 20,000 BP. If certain calibrations are not included with a report, the results were either too young, too old, or inappropriate for calibration.

PRETREATMENT GLOSSARY

Pretreatment of submitted materials is required to eliminate secondary carbon components. These components, if not eliminated, could result in a radiocarbon date which is too young or too old. Pretreatment does not ensure that the radiocarbon date will represent the time event of interest. This is determined by the sample integrity. The old wood effect, burned intrusive roots, bioturbation, secondary deposition, secondary biogenic activity incorporating recent carbon (bacteria) and the analysis of multiple components of differing age are just some examples of potential problems. The pretreatment philosophy is to reduce the sample to a single component, where possible, to minimize the added subjectivity associated with these types of problems.

"acid/alkali/acid"

The sample was first gently crushed/dispersed in deionized water. It was then given hot HCl acid washes to eliminate carbonates and alkali washes (NaOH) to remove secondary organic acids. The alkali washes were followed by a final acid rinse to neutralize the solution prior to drying. Chemical concentrations, temperatures, exposure times, and number of repetitions, were applied accordingly with the uniqueness of the sample. Each chemical solution was neutralized prior to application of the next. During these serial rinses, mechanical contaminants such as associated sediments and rootlets were eliminated. This type of pretreatment is considered a "full pretreatment". On occasion the report will list the pretreatment as "acid/alkali/acid - insolubles" to specify which fraction of the sample was analyzed. This is done on occasion with sediments (See "acid/alkali/acid - solubles"

Typically applied to: charcoal, wood, some peats, some sediments, textiles

"acid/alkali/acid - solubles"

On occasion the alkali soluble fraction will be analyzed. This is a special case where soil conditions imply that the soluble fraction will provide a more accurate date. It is also used on some occasions to verify the present/absence or degree of contamination present from secondary organic acids. The sample was first pretreated with acid to remove any carbonates and to weaken organic bonds. After the alkali washes (as discussed above) are used, the solution containing the alkali soluble fraction is isolated/filtered and combined with acid. The soluble fraction which precipitates is rinsed and dried prior to combustion.

"acid washes"

Surface area was increased as much a possible. Solid chunks were crushed, fibrous materials were shredded, and sediments were dispersed. Acid (HCl) was applied repeatedly to ensure the absence of carbonates. Chemical concentrations, temperatures, exposure times, and number of repetitions, were applied accordingly with the uniqueness of each sample. The sample, for a number of reasons, could not be subjected to alkali washes to ensure the absence of secondary organic acids. The most common reason is that the primary carbon is soluble in the alkali. Dating results reflect the total organic content of the analyzed material. Their accuracy depends on the researcher's ability to subjectively eliminate potential contaminants based on contextual facts.

Typically applied to: organic sediments, some peats, small wood or charcoal, special cases

"collagen extraction"

The material was first tested for friability ("softness"). Very soft bone material is an indication of the potential absence of the collagen fraction (basal bone protein acting as a "reinforcing agent" within the crystalline apatite structure). It was then washed in de-ionized water and gently crushed. Dilute, cold HCl acid was repeatedly applied and replenished until the mineral fraction (bone apatite) was eliminated. The collagen was then dissected and inspected for rootlets. Any rootlets present were also removed when replenishing the acid solutions. Where possible, usually dependant on the amount of collagen available, alkali (NaOH) was also applied to ensure the absence of secondary organic acids.

Typically applied to: bones

"acid etch"

The calcareous material was first washed in de-ionized water, removing associated organic sediments and debris (where present). The material was then crushed/dispersed and repeatedly subjected to HCl etches to eliminate secondary carbonate components. In the case of thick shells, the surfaces were physically abraded prior to etching down to a hard, primary core remained. In the case of porous carbonate nodules and caliche, very long exposure times were applied to allow infiltration of the acid. Acid exposure times, concentrations, and number of repetitions, were applied accordingly with the uniqueness of the sample.

Typically applied to: shells, caliche, calcareous nodules

"neutralized"

Carbonates precipitated from ground water are usually submitted in an alkaline condition (ammonium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide solution). Typically this solution is neutralized in the original sample container, using deionized water. If larger volume dilution was required, the precipitate and solution were transferred to a sealed separatory flask and rinsed to neutrality. Exposure to atmosphere was minimal.

Typically applied to: Strontium carbonate, Barium carbonate
(i.e. precipitated ground water samples)

"none"

No laboratory pretreatments were applied. Special requests and pre-laboratory pretreatment usually accounts for this.

"acid/alkali/acid/cellulose extraction"

Following full acid/alkali/acid pretreatments, the sample is rinsed in NaClO2 under very controlled conditions (Ph = 3, temperature = 70 degrees C). This eliminates all components except wood cellulose. It is useful for woods which are either very old or highly contaminated.

Applied to: wood

"carbonate precipitation"

Dissolved carbon dioxide and carbonate species are precipitated from submitted water by complexing them as amonium carbonate. Strontium chloride is added to the ammonium carbonate solution and strontium carbonate is precipitated for the analysis. The result is representative of the dissolved inorganic carbon within the water. Results are reported as "water DIC".

Applied to: water

BETA ANALYTIC INC.
RADIOCARBON DATING LABORATORY
CALIBRATED C-14 DATING RESULTS

Calibrations of radiocarbon age determinations are applied to convert BP results to calendar years. The short term difference between the two is caused by fluctuations in the heliomagnetic modulation of the galactic cosmic radiation and, recently, large scale burning of fossil fuels and nuclear devices testing. Geomagnetic variations are the probable cause of longer term differences.

The parameters used for the corrections have been obtained through precise analyses of hundreds of samples taken from known-age tree rings of oak, sequoia, and fir up to about 10,000 BP. Calibration using tree-rings to about 12,000 BP is still being researched and provides somewhat less precise correlation. Beyond that, up to about 20,000 BP, correlation using a modeled curve determined from U/Th measurements on corals is used. This data is still highly subjective. Calibrations are provided up to about 19,000 years BP using the most recent calibration data available (Radiocarbon, Vol 40, No. 3, 1998).

The Pretoria Calibration Procedure (Radiocarbon, Vol 35, No. 1, 1993, pg 317) program has been chosen for these calendar calibrations. It uses splines through the tree-ring data as calibration curves, which eliminates a large part of the statistical scatter of the actual data points. The spline calibration allows adjustment of the average curve by a quantified closeness-of-fit parameter to the measured data points. A single spline is used for the precise correlation data available back to 9900 BP for terrestrial samples and about 6900 BP for marine samples. Beyond that, splines are taken on the error limits of the correlation curve to account for the lack of precision in the data points.

In describing our calibration curves, the solid bars represent one sigma statistics (68% probability) and the hollow bars represent two sigma statistics (95% probability). Marine carbonate samples that have been corrected for δ 13/12C, have also been corrected for both global and local geographic reservoir effects (as published in Radiocarbon, Volume 35, Number 1, 1993) prior to the calibration. Marine carbonates that have not been corrected for δ 13/12C are adjusted by an assumed value of 0 ‰ in addition to the reservoir corrections. Reservoir corrections for fresh water carbonates are usually unknown and are generally not accounted for in those calibrations. In the absence of measured δ 13/12C ratios, a typical value of -5 ‰ is assumed for freshwater carbonates.

(Caveat: the correlation curve for organic materials assume that the material dated was living for exactly ten years (e.g. a collection of 10 individual tree rings taken from the outer portion of a tree that was cut down to produce the sample in the feature dated). For other materials, the maximum and minimum calibrated age ranges given by the computer program are uncertain. The possibility of an "old wood effect" must also be considered, as well as the potential inclusion of younger or older material in matrix samples. Since these factors are indeterminant error in most cases, these calendar calibration results should be used only for illustrative purposes. In the case of carbonates, reservoir correction is theoretical and the local variations are real, highly variable and dependant on provenience. Since imprecision in the correlation data beyond 10,00 years is high, calibrations in this range are likely to change in the future with refinement in the correlation curve. The age ranges and especially the intercept ages generated by the program, must be considered as approximations.)

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

Variables used in the calculation of age calibration → (Variables: est. C13/C12=-25:lab. mult=1)

The uncalibrated Conventional Radiocarbon Age (± 1 sigma)

Laboratory number: **Beta-123456**

Conventional radiocarbon age[1]**:** **2400±60 BP**

The calendar age range in both calendar years (AD or BC) and in Radiocarbon Years (BP)

→ **2 Sigma calibrated result:** **Cal BC 770 to 380 (Cal BP 2720 to 2330)**
(95% probability)

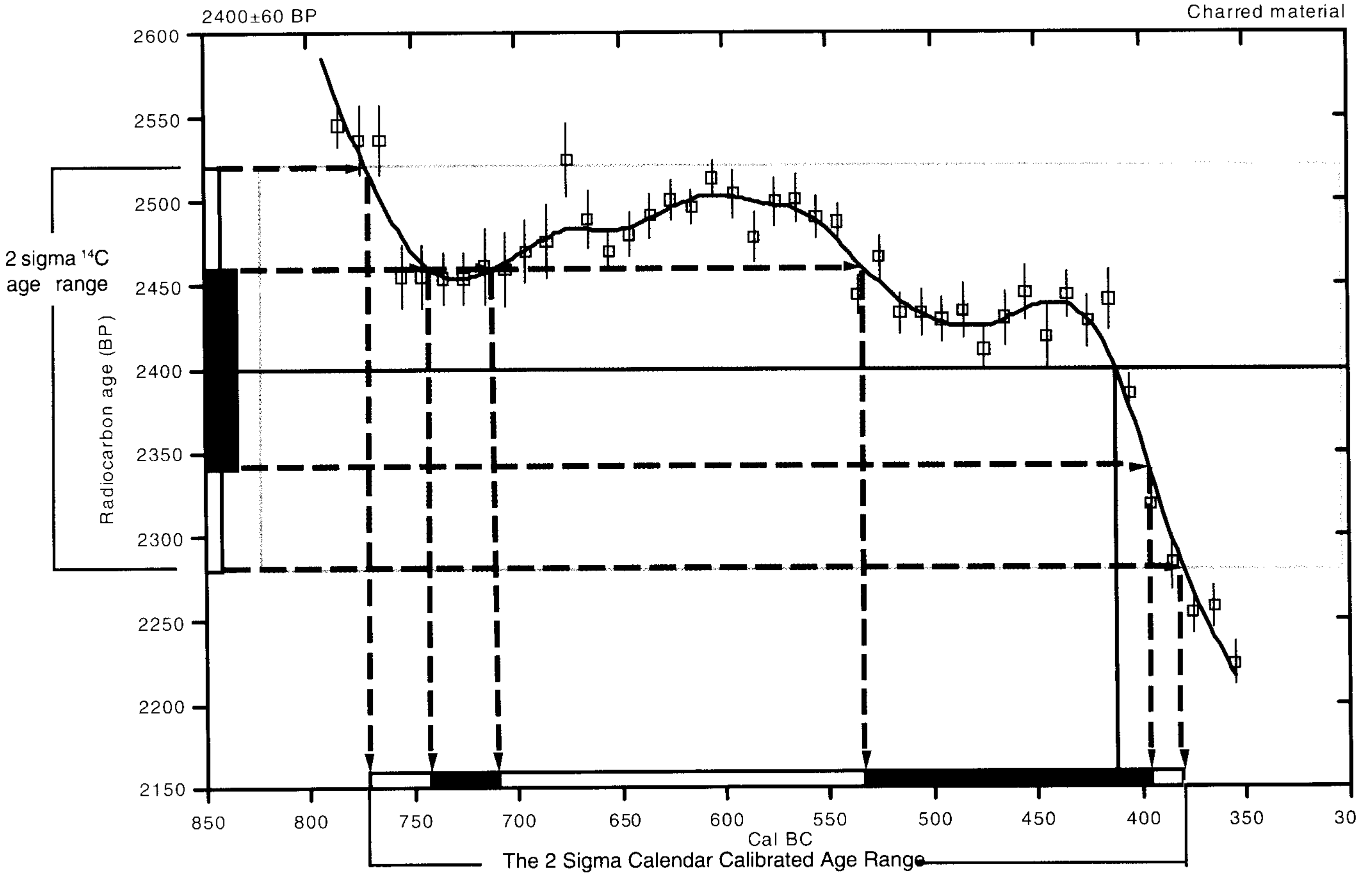
[1] *C13/C12 ratio estimated*

The intercept between the average radiocarbon age and the calibrated curve time scale. This value is illustrative and should not be used by itself.

Intercept data

Intercept of radiocarbon age with calibration curve: Cal BC 410 (Cal BP 2360)

1 Sigma calibrated result: Cal BC 740 to 710 (Cal BP 2690 to 2660) and
(68% probability) Cal BC 535 to 395 (Cal BP 2485 to 2345)



The 2 Sigma Calendar Calibrated Age Range

This range is determined by the portion of the curve that is in a "box" drawn from the 2 sigma limits on the radiocarbon age. If a section of the curve goes outside of the "box", multiple ranges will occur as shown by the two 1 sigma ranges which occur from sections going outside of a similar "box" which would be drawn at the 1 sigma limits.

References:

Database used
Intcal 98
Calibration Database
Editorial Comment
Stuiver, M., van der Plicht, H., 1998, Radiocarbon 40(3), pxii-xiii
INTCAL98 Radiocarbon Age Calibration
Stuiver, M., et. al., 1998, Radiocarbon 40(3), p1041-1083
Mathematics
A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates
Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2), p317-322

← References for the calibration data and the mathematics applied to the data. These references, as well as the Conventional Radiocarbon Age and the 13C/12C ratio used should be included in your papers.

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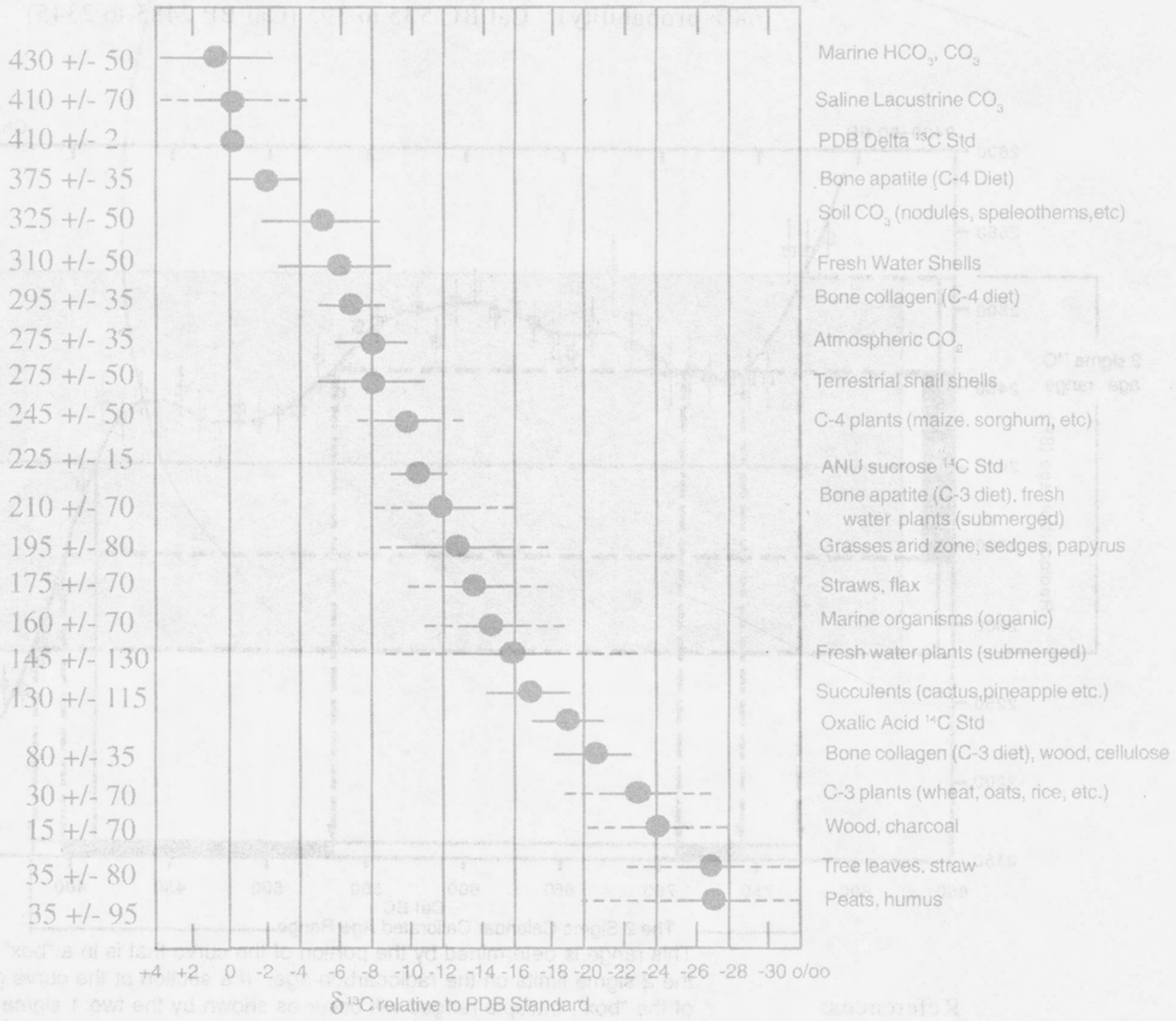
Derivation of a radiometric or accelerator dendro-calibrated (CALENDAR) date requires use of the <u>CONVENTIONAL</u> radiocarbon date (Stuiver and Polach)[1]. The conventional date is a basic radiocarbon date that has been normalized to the modern standard through the use of $^{13}C/^{12}C$ ratios* (analyzed or estimated). The statistical error (+/-) on an analyzed $^{13}C/^{12}C$ value is quite small and does not contribute significantly to the combined error on the date. However, use of an <u>estimated</u> $^{13}C/^{12}C$ ratio for an unknown sample may incur a large combined error term. This is clearly illustrated in the figure below (Gupta & Polach;modifiec by J. Head)[2] where the possible range of $^{13}C/^{12}C$ values for a particular material type may be so large as to preclude any practical application or correction.

In cases where analyzed $^{13}C/^{12}C$ values are not available, we provide (for illustration) dendro-calibrations assuming a mean "chart" value, but <u>without</u> an estimated error term.

Where a sample carbon reservoir different from that modern oxalic acid/wood modern standard is involved (e.g. shell), further reservoir correction must be employed; the variables used in each calibration displayed on each individual calibration sheet.



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[1] Stuiver, M. and Polach, H.A., 1977, Discussion: Reporting of 14-C data, Radiocarbon 19, 355-363.

[2] Gupta S.K. and Polach H.A., 1985, Radiocarbon Dating Practices at ANU Handbook, p. 114, Radiocarbon Laboratory, Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU, Canberra

*Radiocarbon is incorporated into various materials by different pathways and this introduces differing degrees of <u>isotopic fractionation</u>. The $^{13}C/^{12}C$ ratio of any material is the millesimal difference of the sample to the carbonate PDB standard and is directly related to the $^{14}C/^{12}C$ ratio. The degree of sample ^{14}C enrichment or depletion then is normalized to that of the modern standard.