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Paleoceanographic changes and glacial history of the Powell Basin, northern Weddell Sea

Kyu-Cheul Yoo (1), Ho Il Yoon (1), Jae Il Lee (1), Yong Il Lee (2), Kitae Kim (1), Min Kyung Lee (1), and Young-Suk Park (3)

(1) Korea Polar Research Institute, Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute, Songdomirae-ro, Incheon, 406-840, Korea, (2) School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Seoul National University, Seoul 151-747, Korea, (3) The Earth and Environmental System Research Center, Chonbuk National University, Jeonju 561-856, Republic of Korea

Sedimentological, geochemical, and paleontological profiles were measured at three sediment gravity cores (GC01-PW02, 813 cm; GC03-PW2, 784 cm; GC04-G03, 592 cm) obtained from the Powell Basin (West Antarctica). These results show late Quaternary glacio-depositional environment and we present glacial and paleoceanographic changes in the basin. AMS 14C age dating of planktonic foraminfera Neogloboquadrina pachyderma (sinistral) has been used for chronology of core GC01-PW02 and the chronology of other cores was inferred from the relative comparison of stratigraphy. In particular, no existence of LOD (last occurrence of diatom) Hemidiscus karstenii over all cores' sediments indicates at least the maximum core bottom age within MIS 6. The study area provides an excellent depositional setting for undisturbed, well-defined sediment records with no turbidites, suggesting that turbidity current pathways do not affect the study area. All sedimentological, geochemical and paleontological proxies reflect a clear alternating pattern according to paleoclimatic change.