

Relationship Between Mass Extinction And Iridium Across The Cretaceous-Paleogene Boundary In New Jersey

2025-12-19

Table of contents

[A] PAPER for 2010 (Relationship between mass extinction and iridium across the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary in New Jersey) by (Kenneth G. Miller, Robert M. Sherrell, James V. Browning, M. Paul Field, W. Gallagher, Richard K. Olsson, Peter J. Sugarman, Steven Tuorto and Hendra Wahyudi) as Miller_RBMEAIATCPBINJ_2010.

[R] Start at 22:13 PM EST, 2025-12-19.

[T] Define mass extinction, iridium, clay, Cretaceous, Paleogene, bolide impact, calcareous, foraminifera, plankton, glass, shocked quartz, Chicxulub crater.

[Q] What are all the mass extinctions which humanity knows to have occurred and what evidence exists for their occurrence?

[R] Let us see how the authors will (1) link iridium (Ir) anomalies in New Jersey to the mass extinction of marine plankton marking the Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) boundary.

[Q] What evidence do we have to support the hypothesis “that a large bolide impact caused the Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) boundary mass extinction”?

[E] What are some lines evidence to support the Alvarez hypothesis:

Iridium anomaly right at the level of mass extinction in planktonic foraminifera and calcareous nannoplankton; altered impact glass and impact-derived shocked quartz; and the finding and dating of the ~180-km-diameter Chicxulub crater.

[E] What is the leading counter-hypothesis to the Alvarez hypothesis?

...hotspot volcanism of the Deccan Traps in India.

[T] Define hotspot volcanism, Deccan Traps, chron C29r, Pinna, dinocyst zone, tsunamite ...

[Q] Where was “India” during the Late Cretaceous and how do we know this?

[Q] What is the normal ppb of Iridium in different materials and how significant or unlikely would one expect ~0.5 ppb to be?

[Q] How can one ascertain whether an organism was “in life position”? Re: “A third hypothesis, that the Ir is in place but the Pinna layer is a reworked tsunamite, was rejected based on the observation of *P. laqueata* in life position (Landman et al., 2007).”

[Q] Is it even possible for the Iridium to be displaced 20cm? Through what geological mechanism would this occur? Re: “A modest Ir anomaly of ~0.5 ppb occurs at the base of the Pinna bed, suggesting two hypotheses (Landman et al., 2007): (1) the diverse Cretaceous fauna survived the impact; or (2) the Ir is displaced 20 cm down section.”

[T] Define bioturbation, glauconite, sand, indurated, isotope dilution, downdip, paleodepth, spherule, tektite, carbonate, lapilli, clasts, ballistic deposits, ...

[Q] Why were these eight localities chosen? How many localities minimally would be needed to test the relationship? At what point in testing localities are the returns in information diminishing? Re: “To test the relationship between Ir and the mass extinction event, we

conducted a campaign of shallow coring (<25 m) at eight New Jersey localities in 2008 and 2009 adjacent to outcrops of the K-Pg boundary.”

[Q] How does a NiS fire-assay work? Re: “This requires Ir analysis on small samples (1 g), which we accomplished using a NiS fire-assay technique modified after Ravizza and Pyle (1997).”

[T] Have LLMs explain this to you in more detail: “Low procedural blanks (7 pg g⁻¹) combined with high-sensitivity sector field inductively coupled plasma–mass spectrometry provide the detection limits (10 pg g⁻¹ = 0.01 ppb) essential for the quantification of Ir in 1 g sediment core samples.”

[Q] Why should the global Iridium anomaly occur above ballistic deposits? Re: “The global Ir anomaly is a result of stratospheric fallout and should occur above ballistic deposits, as it does at ODP Site 1049 at Blake Nose in the western North Atlantic (Norris et al., 1999), where the ejecta also occur immediately above the marine mass extinction.”

[Q] What are some examples of postdepositional processes?

[Q] Why are the pervasive white clay clasts interpreted as rip-ups resulting from a tsunami that eroded the outer continental shelf and upper slope? Re: “The pervasive white clay clasts are interpreted as rip-ups resulting from a tsunami that eroded the outer continental shelf and upper slope (Olsson et al., 1997, 2002; Norris et al., 2000).”

[Q] Why are echinoid fecal pellets used?

[R] That a subsequent tsunami (not the ones associated with the impact) could be detected or discerned clearly seems doubtful, just based on intuition.

[R] The fact that echinoid fecal pellet concentration increase rapidly after the increase in Iridium concentration seems odd to me.

[T] Define export production, authigenic, aquiclude,

[>] Comparisons of these sections show that in clay-rich sections, the Ir anomaly correlates with the extinctions, but in sandier sections, the Ir is found 6 cm (Bass River) to 20 cm (Tighe Park) lower. The Ir anomaly at Tighe Park 1 is a sharp peak at a redox boundary that occurs 20 cm below the appearance of Danian dinocysts; this is similar to Bass River, where the anomaly occurs 6 cm below the appearance of Danian foraminifera and dinocysts. This differs from the other three sites, where broader Ir peaks are associated with the appearance of Danian dinocysts (Buck Pit 1) or the up-section increase in fecal pellets (Search Farm 1, Meirs Farm 1) that correlates with the appearance of Danian foraminifera and dinocysts.

[T] Create a mermaid diagram of the different sites studied and the forces that can move (mobilize) Iridium or affect its concentration.

[T] Download papers which have cited this paper on Google Scholar.

[R] End at 11:00 PM EST, 2025-12-19. Re-read pg. 869.