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Date list

Ancient TL supplement issue 6

Since over seven years have elapsed since the last Date List (AnTL 9, 1991) we have taken the opportunity to make a number of revisions to the format, primarily to make it less rigid in structure and also to accommodate the results of larger dating programmes of the type that have been submitted by Sarah Barnett of the Durham Laboratory. I am grateful to Martin Aitken for acting as a reviewer of this issue and for making constructive suggestions concerning simplification of the format. The main departure from previous lists is the provision of a prologue in which the dating results are placed into an archaeological context and more detail of the laboratory procedures employed is given. Since the terminology used has changed substantially since the last date list, the prologue also provides a more flexible format in which to describe new

techniques and procedures. The original aim of the Date List to provide a full technical specification of luminescence ages remains however. We hope that other laboratories will take the opportunity to submit their dating results for inclusion in future Date Lists. Since all previous entries have been for heated materials, the next development needed is a general formulation for sediment ages and if you have any suggestions please send them to me or the Editor.

An outline of the modified structure of the Date List entry for this issue (ceramic materials) is given below.

I.K. Bailiff

Details to be given in the prologue

The prologue should contain in concise form:

Background to dating work;

Nature of site(s) and samples;

Experimental set up;

Dose evaluation and total dose-rate measurement procedures (with schematic if necessary);

Method of uncertainty analysis;

Overall conclusions of dating results;

Acknowledgements;

References;

Essential figures.

HEADER

1. **Site:** [Name]

Grid Reference to be given here if not in preamble.

- 2. Site reference:
- 3. Location: [Region, country]
- 4. Excavation:

[Name of Director or organistation conducting excavation]

5. Technique

[Name] [mineral and grain size range (µm) if all in tabulation are similar; otherwise details given in table for each sample]

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Tabulated data

1. Date/Age

luminescence

Single Date/Age

2. Laboratory reference

3. $P = [value] \pm s.e.$ Gy

4. $\mathbf{I/P} = [value]$

A measure of the proportion of the palaeodose due to an empirical correction for low dose supralinearity, defined here in the context of a TL procedure based on the measurement of high temperature TL

5. $m2/m1 = [value] \pm s.e.$

A measure of the change in dose response following the first measurement, in this case defined for TL, representing the ratio of slopes of 2nd/1st dose response curves; as specified in prologue.

6. Procedure

Defines certain components of the luminescence procedure employed, the pre-heating protocol; (TL) the peak temperature or the temperature range of the plateau region or (OSL) the sample temperature during stimulation.

Other apsects of the procedure may be clarified in the prologue.

7. Total Effective Dose-Rate = $[value] \pm s.e. \text{ mGy/a}$

[The a or b value would be given in the next column in the case of results obtained using the fine-grain technique.]

8. Dose-rate Components %

[$\alpha = [value]\%$ [method]; $\beta = [value]\%$; $\gamma = [value]\%$; $\cos(\text{mic}) = [value]\%$] Methods used indicated at base of column.

The measurement of and corrections to the dose-rate for disequilibium in the U and Th decay series to be discussed in the prologue.

9. Moisture content

 W_s [Sample ([value] ± s.e. %)]; W_e = [Burial medium ([value] ± s.e. %)] Defined here for ceramics

10. Notes to Table, e.g.:

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

STANDARD METHODS/TECHNIQUES/PROCEDURES

i	Inclusion fg	Fine-grain	
TSAC	Thick source alpha counti	ng FPh	Flame Photometry
AAS	Atomic absorption	NAA	Neutron Activation Analysis
XRF	X-ray fluorescence	PXE	PIXIE
BetaC	Beta counting	SPEC	Spectrometer (SpEC = portable)
CAP	Capsule	β-Tld	Beta Thermoluminescence Dosimetry

MINERALS & ETC.

ft	Flint	p	Polymineral			- Not applicable				
f	Feldspar	q	Quartz				e	Equiv	alent to	
Af	cal Calcite	-		Nf	Sodium	feldspar			*	Other
Unsep. alkali feldspar z			Zircon	-			(used as prefix)			
Kf	Potassium feldspar		por	Porce	lain			a	Year	
	•	s: I, P, a	, b, A, S _N ,	S _o , TA	C: as defir	ned in the	litera	ture.		

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