

Stratigraphic distribution of a four-rayed symmetric discoaster in IODP 363 sites in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean

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The stratigraphic distribution, occurrence, and biostratigraphic significance of a previously undescribed, bilaterally symmetric, 4-rayed discoaster at IODP Expedition 363 Sites in the eastern Indian Ocean (offshore northwest Australia) and western Pacific Ocean are discussed. The discoaster was observed within nannofossil Zones NN16 to NN18 (late Pliocene to early Pleistocene). Similarity in ray tip morphology suggests that the

discoaster could represent either a variety of *Discoaster brouweri* or a previously undocumented species. Further analysis of its occurrence in higher resolution samples from other scientific ocean drilling sites in the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans could provide more valuable information about its biostratigraphic significance, geographic distribution, and relationship with other *Discoaster* species.