

Table of Contents

1	Introduction: Impact Cratering as a Geological Process	1
1.1	Historical Background	1
1.2	General Characteristics of Impact Craters	7
1.3	Recognition of Impact Structures	10
1.4	Formation of Impact Craters	14
1.5	Shock Waves and the Stages of Crater Formation	16
1.6	Shock Metamorphic Effects	21
1.6.1	General	21
1.6.2	Shatter Cones	25
1.6.3	Mosaicism	27
1.6.4	Planar Microstructures	27
1.6.5	Bulk Optical and other Properties	33
1.6.6	Diaplectic Glass	34
1.6.7	High-Pressure Polymorphs	34
1.6.8	Mineral and Rock Melts	36
1.7	Classification of Impactites	39
1.8	Meteoritic Components in Impactites	42
1.8.1	Meteoritic Components and Siderophile Element Analyses	43
1.8.2	Problems with Meteoritic Component Identification	47
1.8.3	Osmium Isotopes in Impact Studies	49
1.8.4	Chromium Isotope Systematics	50
1.9	Dating of Impact Structures	51
2	Distal Ejecta and Tektites	57
2.1	Characteristics of Proximal and Distal Ejecta	57
2.2	Distal Ejecta as Stratigraphic Markers	60
2.3	Importance of the K/T boundary	63
2.4	Tektites and Microtektites	64
2.4.1	Geographical Distribution: Strewn Fields and Age	68
2.4.2	Definition and Classification of Tektites	69
2.4.3	Petrology and Geochemistry of Tektites	71
2.4.4	Source Rocks of Tektites	79
2.4.5	Source Craters of Tektites	80

2.4.5.1	North American Strewn Field	80
2.4.5.2	Central European Strewn Field	85
2.4.5.3	Ivory Coast Strewn Field	86
2.4.5.4	Australasian Strewn Field	88
2.4.6	Tektite Formation: Facts and Open Questions	89
2.5	Other Impact Glasses: Relation to Source Craters	93
2.5.1	Libyan Desert Glass	95

3 Important Distal Ejecta Layers and Their Source

Craters	101
3.1 General.....	101
3.2 The K/T Boundary and Chicxulub	101
3.2.1 Evidence for Impact at the K/T boundary	104
3.2.1.1 PGE Enrichments	104
3.2.1.2 PGE Abundance Patterns; K/T boundary Meteorite?	105
3.2.1.3 Meteoritic Os- and Cr-isotopic signature.....	106
3.2.1.4 Soot and Organic Chemistry	107
3.2.1.5 Evidence of shock metamorphism	109
3.2.1.6 Impact glass.....	111
3.2.1.7 Impact-derived diamonds.....	112
3.2.1.8 Occurrence of spinel	113
3.2.2 Chicxulub Impact Structure: Relation to the K/T Event.....	114
3.2.3 Chicxulub and the K/T Mass Extinction	123
3.3 Late Eocene Impact Layers	130
3.3.1 Chesapeake Bay	132
3.3.2 Popigai.....	133
3.4 Manson Impact Structure and Ejecta Layer	136
3.5 Acraman Impact Structure and Ejecta Layer.....	138
3.6 Morokweng and the Jurassic–Cretaceous Boundary.....	139
3.7 Other Confirmed and Possible Ejecta Layers.....	142
3.7.1 South African and Australian Archean Spherule Layers	142
3.7.2 Late Devonian Impact Layer and Alamo Breccia	148
3.7.3 Permian–Triassic Boundary	150
3.7.4 Triassic–Jurassic Boundary	151
3.8 Outlook	152

4 The Umbria–Marche Sequence..... 157

4.1 Tectonic Setting.....	157
4.2 Stratigraphic Framework of the U–M Carbonate Sequence.....	162
4.2.1 Triassic–Lower Cretaceous	162
4.2.2 Upper Cretaceous–Oligocene.....	163
4.2.3 Miocene	166

5 Impact Stratigraphy in the U–M Sequence	167
5.1 Searching for Impact Signatures in the Stratigraphic Record	167
5.2 The Tr/J Record	172
5.3 The Pliensbachian–Toarcian boundary at Valdorbìa	173
5.4 The J/K Record	177
5.5 The Upper Aptian Event.....	181
5.6 The Cenomanian–Turonian Boundary	184
5.7 The Terminal Cretaceous Record	190
5.7.1 The Maastrichtian.....	192
5.7.2 Definition of the K/T Boundary in the U–M Basin	197
5.7.3 Sedimentary Setting and K/T Boundary “facies”	201
5.7.4 Impact and Catastrophe Signatures in the U–M K/T Clay.....	203
5.7.5 High-resolution Impact Stratigraphy of the K/T Event.....	215
5.7.6 Representative K/T Boundary Outcrops in the U–M Basin...	222
5.8 The Paleogene Impact Record	250
5.8.1 The Paleocene–Eocene Boundary	250
5.8.2 The Terminal Eocene Events	254
5.8.3 The Global Stratotype Section and Point for the E/O Boundary at Massignano.....	258
5.8.4 Impact Signatures at Massignano.....	262
5.8.5 High-resolution Impact stratigraphy at Massignano	268
5.9 The U–M Miocene Record.....	274
6 Documentation and Laboratory Techniques	279
6.1 Documentation and Sampling in the Field	279
6.2 Sample Preparation.....	282
6.2.1 Bulk Samples.....	282
6.2.2 Isolation of Grains and Inclusions.....	283
6.3 Laboratory Techniques	286
6.3.1 Standard Bulk and Microprobe Analysis Methods	286
6.3.2 Iridium Determinations	289
6.3.3 Platinum Group Element Determinations	291
6.3.4 Osmium Isotope Measurements	292
6.3.5 Methods for Shocked Quartz Measurements	295
References	301
Index	353