# Short-term changes in the partial pressure of $CO_2$ in eastern tropical Atlantic surface seawater and in atmospheric $CO_2$ mole fraction

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## ABSTRACT

Continuous monitoring of oceanic and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> during periods of 8 to 12 days in two particular locations of the tropical Atlantic was carried out during June-August 1986. At the first location (convergence zone; about 5° N, 20° W), the ocean surface was generally slightly undersaturated with respect to the atmosphere, whereas at the second one (Guinea Dome;  $12^{\circ}$ N,  $22^{\circ}$ W), the ocean surface was an important source zone of CO<sub>2</sub> for the atmosphere. The results of PCO<sub>2</sub> in surface seawater, after correction of the temperature effect, show a decrease between morning and evening related to photosynthetic activity. Over a 3-day period, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the air above the ocean may vary up to  $\pm 0.6$  ppm d<sup>-1</sup> at the same location, whereas the wind direction hardly changes. The net CO<sub>2</sub> flux changes considerably during a short period (8 to 12 days) in the same place, as does the gas transfer coefficient across the sea surface through the variation of the wind speed: the variability is about 80–90%. The net CO<sub>2</sub> flux calculated from mean data is lower (about 30%) than the net CO<sub>2</sub> flux calculated from data taken over short time intervals. In the Guinea Dome area in summer, the net CO<sub>2</sub> flux can be as high (1.8 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>) as in the equatorial area.

## **1. Introduction**

Studies of time variations of  $CO_2$  both in the atmosphere and in the sea surface layer have mostly been related to a seasonal or annual basis (Bolin and Keeling, 1963; Pearman et al., 1983; Takashi et al., 1983; Komhyr et al., 1985; Fushimi, 1987; Inoue et al., 1987; Peng et al., 1987). These large-scale temporal distributions have often been used to show the possible relations between changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and sea surface temperature anomalies known as the El Niño phenomenon (Newell and Weare, 1977; Bacastow et al., 1980; Gammon et al., 1985; Elliot and Angel, 1987). Brewer (1986) reviewed papers dealing with the processes, physical as well as biological, that control the variability of carbon dioxide in the surface ocean; these works generally referred to a large scale in space and

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time. The small-scale changes (e.g., diurnal variations) are less often noted (Takahashi, 1961), except for atmospheric  $CO_2$  over the land (Keeling et al., 1976; Beardsmore et al., 1984; Bacastow et al., 1985).

Here we present continuous  $CO_2$  observations made at 3 long-duration oceanic stations (8 to 12 days) in the eastern tropical Atlantic. The purpose is to show the physico-chemical effects associated with temperature changes and the biological factors involved in determining the diurnal variations of oceanic  $CO_2$  partial pressure and on the other hand the variability of the  $CO_2$ concentration in the air over the ocean with wind direction. The studied area shows two opposite situations as regards  $CO_2$  saturation of surface seawater; in the north equatorial convergence zone (about 5°N) the oceanic  $CO_2$  partial pressure is lower or nearly equal to the atmospheric

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\* Present address: Centre ORSTON, B. P. 70, 29280 PLOUZANE, France 21 MAI 1991 P43  $CO_2$  partial pressure, whereas in the Guinea Dome area (12°N), where the isothermal surface layer is extremely shallow, the former greatly exceeds the latter.

## 2. Data sources and procedures

The hydrological and chemical data shown in this study come from the PIRAL cruise (June-August 1986) carried out aboard the R/V *Noroit* (France) in the northeastern tropical Atlantic (Fig. 1). Three time series of observations were carried out: the first, over a 12-day period, in the north equatorial convergence zone  $(4^\circ-6^\circ N, 17^\circ-20^\circ W)$ , the second (8 days) and the third (10 days) in the Guinea Dome area, at the exact center of the dome (11°50' N, 22° W) and then at a short distance away from it (12° N, 21° W) (Oudot, 1989).

The measurements of  $CO_2$  partial pressures in air (p $CO_2$ ) and in seawater (P $CO_2$ ) were carried out by infrared absorption with two ADC 225 MK3 analyzers (Oudot and Andrié, 1986; Andrié et al., 1986; Oudot et al., 1987). Air was taken at the upper bridge of the vessel which was about 10 m above the sea surface. The seawater samples were drawn from a Niskin PVC five-liter-bottle rosette which was associated with a Neil Brown CTD probe. The surface bottle was closed at about 1-2 m below the surface. The observations of all chemical data were made twice a day at 07.30 and 18.30 h (local time).

# 2.1. Calibration of $pCO_2$ and $PCO_2$

Three primary standard gases of 311.9, 370.5 and 504.2 ppm in artificial air, supplied by Air Liquide (France), were used for the calibration of the  $CO_2$  measurements of the samples (air and seawater) on board. In addition, an ADC GD 600 gas dilutor produced a series of secondary standard gases by dilution from the 504.2 primary standard gas: the chosen intermediate concentrations were 318.2, 345.5 and 467.9 ppm. Calibration on board was done just before each series of observations (morning and evening). At the end of the cruise, all these standard gas concentrations were checked in the land laboratory with freshly prepared standard gases (Air Liquide) of concentrations  $329.0 \pm 0.25$ ,  $349.6 \pm 0.25$  and  $360.5 \pm 0.25$  ppm. The CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations produced by the French manufacturer agree within



Fig. 1. Plan of the PIRAL cruise of the R/V Noroit (June-August 1986). The shaded parts indicate the areas of long periods of observations in the convergence zone (1) and in the Guinea Dome (2 and 3). Below on the left is shown the track of the ship during the first period of observations (12-day period).

0.25 ppm with the scale of the Scripps standards (Gaudry et al., 1987).

## 2.2. $pCO_2$ in the air

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The air was pumped continuously (for about 30 min) into the laboratory on board through nylon tubing at a high flow rate. An aliquot of air (300 cm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>) was introduced into the IR analyzer after dehumidification successively on a cold trap (-30°C) and on a P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> column. Thus, fCO<sub>2</sub> (in ppm), the mole fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> in dry air, was measured and afterwards, pCO<sub>2</sub> (in  $\mu$ atm), the partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, was computed taking the water vapor pressure in the air into account. The uncertainty for the atmospheric fCO<sub>2</sub> measurement is estimated at ±0.6 ppm (0.2%).

# 2.3. $PCO_2$ in seawater

The measurement of CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure in seawater was carried out by equilibrating an air stream with the seawater sample. An air flow released by a tank was equilibrated with the seawater sample in the sampling flask (550 cm<sup>3</sup>), after removing a small volume in order to allow a gas dispersion tube to be introduced. The air driven by a bellows pump was spread in tiny bubbles in the thermostated sample (25.0°C) and flowed in a closed circuit through a sampling loop  $(25 \text{ cm}^3)$ . The equilibrated air inside the loop was injected with a valve into the air flow penetrating into the ANALYSE cell of the infrared apparatus after passing through a  $P_4O_{10}$  column. The signal was recorded and compared with those produced by the standard gases injected in the same manner as the equilibrated air. Based on the  $CO_2$ concentration of the dried equilibrated air, the  $CO_2$  partial pressure in the seawater sample was calculated by correction at the 100% vapor pressure of water over the seawater at 25.0°C. In the absence of another parameter of the carbonate system required to compute the variation of  $PCO_2$  with temperature (Skirrow, 1975), the  $CO_2$ partial pressure was then converted at the "in situ" temperature of the sample, using an empirical relationship determined experimentally in the laboratory:

$$\log \text{PCO}_{2(s)} = \log \text{PCO}_{2(m)} + (T_s - T_m) \\ \times (4.17 \times 10^{-2} - 3.78 \times 10^{-6} \text{PCO}_{2(m)})$$
(1)

where index "m" means the measured values and

index "s" means the "in situ" values. This correction of PCO<sub>2</sub> for the temperature rise is very similar to the temperature effect equation on PCO<sub>2</sub> given by Gordon and Jones (1973). The uncertainty for PCO<sub>2</sub> measurements on board is estimated at  $\pm 3.0 \ \mu$ atm (0.8%-1.0%).

# 2.4. Total inorganic carbon $\sum CO_2$

Measurements of total inorganic carbon were made by gas chromatography according to the method described by Oudot and Wauthy (1978) and derived from that of Weiss and Craig (1973). The uncertainty for  $\sum CO_2$  measurements is  $\pm 4 \,\mu$ mol dm<sup>-3</sup>, i.e.,  $\pm 0.2\%$ .

# 3. Situation of the periods of observations

The first period (12 days) took place in the convergence zone between the North Equatorial Counter Current and the South Equatorial Current. In this zone, of low surface salinity (Oudot et al., 1987), the CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure in surface seawater is low, on the average slightly lower than the CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure in the atmosphere. During this period the surface current was strong (up to  $4-5 \text{ km h}^{-1}$ ) and the vessel covered considerable distances (Fig. 1) in order to follow a surface buoy fitted to a drifting primary production line. During the first halfperiod the primary production line was allowed to stay in situ for 24 h per day, while from the 7th day the line was brought aboard during the night (from 18.00 h to 06.00 h, local time) and meantime the vessel was on the way back to the starting point of this experiment (Fig. 1: day 7 to day 12). At the beginning of this experiment, the surface hydrological features (temperature and salinity) varied considerably (Table 1), owing to the large meridional course of the R/V. When we move off the equator northward, the surface temperature increases whereas the salinity decreases naturally in summer, because the influence of the equatorial upwelling diminishes.

The second period (8 days) was held in the exact center of the Guinea Dome whose position was located after a preliminary phase of reconnaissance (Oudot, 1989). The Guinea Dome, first described by Mazeika (1968) then by Voituriez and Dandonneau (1974), is a thermal

| Station         | (Day) | Т<br>(°С)<br>1       | <i>S</i><br>2        | PCO <sub>2</sub><br>(µatm)<br>3 | $PCO_2 at S = 35 (\mu atm) 4$ | $PCO_2$<br>at S = 35<br>and T = 27°C<br>( $\mu$ atm)<br>5 | $\Delta PCO_2$<br>at S = 35<br>and T = 27°C<br>( $\mu$ atm)<br>6 |
|-----------------|-------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 13<br>15        | (1)   | 26.29<br>26.66       | 35.36<br>35.29       | 333.2<br>331.4                  | 317.4<br>318.6                | 326.4<br>322.9  | -3.5   |
| 17<br>19        | (2)   | 26.86<br>27.06       | 35.08<br>35.16       | 328.9<br>329.5                  | 325.4<br>322.5                | 327.2<br>321.7  | -5.5   |
| 21<br>23        | (3)   | 26.96<br>28.07       | 35.17<br>34.99       | 337.0<br>339.7                  | 329.5<br>340.1                | 330.0<br>325.5  | -4.5   |
| 25<br>27        | (4)   | 27.34<br>28.37       | 34.98<br>35.05       | 329.4<br>338.8                  | 329.8<br>336.6                | 325.3<br>318.2  | -7.1   |
| 29<br>31        | (5)   | 27.75<br>27.58       | 35.05<br>35.00       | 330.8<br>325.9                  | 328.6<br>325.9                | 318.7<br>318.3  | -0.4   |
| 33<br>35        | (6)   | 27.41<br>27.52       | 35.01<br>35.09       | 327.6<br>327.6                  | 327.2<br>322.8                | 321.8<br>316.1  | -5.7   |
| 37<br>39        | (7)   | 27.31<br>27.48       | 35.12<br>35.07       | 328.3<br>323.1                  | 323.0<br>320.0                | 319.0<br>313.9  | -5.1   |
| 41<br>43        | (8)   | 27.15<br>27.24       | 35.15<br>35.15       | 329.5<br>331.4                  | 322.9<br>324.8                | 321.0<br>321.7  | (0.7)*   |
| 44<br>46        | (9)   | 27.28<br>27.45       | 35.11<br>35.11       | 327.8<br>331.8                  | 323.0<br>327.0                | 319.4<br>321.1  | (1.7)*   |
| 48<br>50        | (10)  | 27.48<br>27.53       | 35.13<br>35.14       | 329.5<br>328.5                  | 323.8<br>322.2                | 317.6<br>315.5  | -2.1   |
| 52<br>54        | (11)  | 27.26<br>27.35       | 35.27<br>35.25       | 336.0<br>344.4                  | 324.1<br>333.4                | 320.7<br>328.7  | (8.0)*   |
| 56<br>58        | (12)  | 27.26<br>27.31       | 35.23<br>35.22       | 336.9<br>332.7                  | 326.8<br>323.0                | 323.4<br>319.0  | -4.4   |
| mean<br>SD<br>n |       | 27.33<br>±0.42<br>24 | 35.13<br>±0.10<br>24 | 331.7<br>±4.9<br>24             | 325.8<br>±5.3<br>24           | 321.4<br>±4.2<br>24                                       | $-4.3 \pm 2.0 9$   |

Table 1. Variations over the 12-day period (22 June-3 July 1986) of  $PCO_2$  and related parameters in the surface seawater in the north equatorial convergence zone ( $4^{\circ}N-6^{\circ}N$ ,  $17^{\circ}W-20^{\circ}W$ )

The normalization of PCO<sub>2</sub> (S = 35 and T = 27 °C) are performed with a rate of 44  $\mu$ atm/unity for salinity and 4% (°C)<sup>-1</sup> for temperature. The change  $\Delta$ PCO<sub>2</sub> is counted between morning (07.30 h) and evening (18.30 h) stations (local time).

\* The positive values (in parentheses) are omitted in the calculation of the arithmetic mean.

ridge, or dome, similar to that occurring in the northeastern tropical Pacific (Wyrtki, 1964; Broenkow, 1965). There PCO<sub>2</sub> greatly exceeds  $pCO_2$ , because the cyclonic circulation which creates the dome brings quite near the surface deep water supersaturated in CO<sub>2</sub>. In the central area of the dome, the surface current was very weak and the vessel covered only short distances to follow the primary production line which barely drifted. The surface hydrological features

were more stable, and in particular the salinity did not very much change (Tables 2, 3).

The third period (10 days), again in the Guinea Dome area, was nevertheless situated at a short distance from the exact center of the dome (about 110 km from the position of the preceding 8-day period). At that location, where the isothermal surface layer was thicker than that at the exact center of the dome,  $PCO_2$  was lower than at the previous one.

|            |       | Т<br>(°С)        | S                | PCO <sub>2</sub><br>(µatm) | $PCO_2$<br>at $T = 27^{\circ}C$<br>( $\mu$ atm) | $\Delta PCO_2$<br>at $T = 27^{\circ}C$<br>( $\mu$ atm) |
|------------|-------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| Station    | (Day) | 1                | 2                | 3                          | 4   | 5  |
| 86<br>88   | (1)   | 26.32<br>26.77   | 36.20<br>36.21   | 398.1<br>406.6             | 408.9<br>410.3                                  | (1.4)*   |
| 90<br>92   | (2)   | 26.34<br>26.67   | 36.21<br>36.22   | 395.2<br>403.3             | 405.6<br>408.6                                  | (3.0)*   |
| 94<br>96   | (3)   | 26.40<br>26.68   | 36.22<br>36.23   | 396.3<br>396.6             | 405.8<br>401.7                                  | -4.1   |
| 98<br>100  | (4)   | 26.40<br>26.86   | 36.23<br>36.24   | 391.3<br>397.2             | 400.7<br>399.4                                  | -1.3   |
| 102<br>104 | (5)   | 26.56<br>26.74   | 36.23<br>36.24   | 395.7<br>396.1             | 402.7<br>400.2                                  | -2.5   |
| 106<br>108 | (6)   | 26.53<br>27.08   | 36.24<br>36.26   | 399.4<br>392.4             | 406.9<br>391.1                                  | -15.8  |
| 110<br>112 | (7)   | 26.82<br>27.53   | 36.30<br>36.28   | 394.7<br>402.8             | 397.5<br>394.3                                  | -3.2   |
| 114<br>116 | (8)   | 26.87<br>26.88   | 36.30<br>36.29   | 396.6<br>396.7             | 398.7<br>398.6                                  | -0.1   |
| mean<br>SD |       | $26.72 \pm 0.31$ | $36.24 \pm 0.03$ | $397.4 \pm 4.0$            | 401.9<br>±5.4                                   | $-4.5 \pm 5.7$   |

Table 2. Variations over the 8-day period (15–22 July 1986) of  $PCO_2$  and related parameters in the surface seawater in the Guinea Dome (11°50' N, 22° W)

The normalization of PCO<sub>2</sub> at T = 27 °C is performed with a rate of 4% (°C)<sup>-1</sup>. The change  $\Delta$ PCO<sub>2</sub> is counted between morning (07.30 h) and evening (18.30 h) stations (local time).

\* The positive values (in parentheses) are omitted in the calculation of the arithmetic mean.

## 4. Diurnal variations of PCO<sub>2</sub>

#### 4.1. Results

The time variations of PCO<sub>2</sub> at the sea surface are shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, for the three periods (12-day, 8-day and 10-day, respectively). For comparison, the sea surface temperature is also shown. The values of PCO<sub>2</sub> shown in Fig. 2 are normalized at S = 35 on account of the great variability of salinity (range: 34.98 to 35.36) during the period of observations in the convergence zone. The normalization is carried out using the rate of the variation of PCO<sub>2</sub> against salinity determined throughout the FOCAL cruises (44  $\mu$ atm PCO<sub>2</sub> per salinity unit; Oudot et al., 1987) and similar to those reported by Kelley (1970) and Fushimi (1987). This normalization is omitted in the Guinea Dome where the salinity hardly changed  $(\pm 0.02)$ .

A certain diurnal oscillation for  $PCO_2$ ,

between morning and evening stations, seems to become apparent from the time series, more or less similar to that of the sea surface temperature (SST). Between 07.30 h and 18.30 h (local time), SST increases owing to diurnal solar heating and there follows of course an increase of PCO<sub>2</sub>. The diurnal increase of SST is seen more regularly in the Guinea Dome (Figs. 3, 4) than in the convergence zone (Fig. 2) where we moved between different water masses on account of large distances covered by the R/V. But other processes than temperature can change PCO<sub>2</sub> at the sea surface and it is not to be wondered at that the morning-evening increase of PCO<sub>2</sub> does not regularly appear every day.

#### 4.2. Discussion

On a daily scale, three factors can simultaneously alter  $PCO_2$  in surface water: temperature, gas exchange across the air-sea interface

| (Day)  | T<br>(°C)<br>1                                 | <i>S</i><br>2  | PCO <sub>2</sub><br>(μatm)<br>3                       | $PCO_2 at T = 27°C (\muatm)4$                          | $\Delta PCO_2$<br>at $T = 27^{\circ}C$<br>( $\mu$ atm)<br>5 |
|--------|--|--|---|--|---|
| (1)    | 27.02<br>27.12                                 | 36.05<br>36.02   | 369.1<br>372.1  | 368.8<br>370.3   | (1.5)*  |
| (2)    | 26.98<br>27.34                                 | 36.03<br>36.02   | 379.3<br>371.2  | 379.6<br>366.2   | -13.4   |
| (3)    | 27.21<br>27.77                                 | 36.01<br>36.01   | 369.6<br>375.8  | 366.5<br>364.2   | -2.3  |
| (4)    | 27.24<br>27.53                                 | 36.01<br>36.02   | 375.6<br>373.9  | 372.0<br>366.0   | -6.0  |
| (5)    | 27.31<br>27.55                                 | 36.01<br>36.01   | 370.7<br>369.8  | 366.1<br>361.7   | 4.4   |
| (6)    | 27.37<br>27.58                                 | 36.01<br>36.02   | 372.6<br>374.6  | 367.1<br>365.9   | -1.2  |
| (7)    | 27.35<br>27.33                                 | 36.01<br>35.99   | 377.5<br>367.9  | 372.2<br>363.0   | -9.2  |
| (8)    | 27.17<br>27.60                                 | 35.98<br>36.00   | 367.5<br>373.9  | 365.0<br>364.9   | -0.1  |
| (9)    | 27.32<br>27.67                                 | 35.99<br>36.00   | 366.4<br>369.1  | 361.7<br>359.2   | -2.5  |
| (10) · | 27.22<br>27.46                                 | 35.96<br>35.97   | 369.8<br>375.6  | 366.5<br>368.7   | (2.2)*  |
|        | 27.36<br>±0.21                                 | 36.01<br>±0.02   | 372.1<br><u>+</u> 3.6                                 | 366.8<br>±4.5  | -4.9<br><u>+</u> 4.5  |
|        | (Day) (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) | $\begin{array}{c c} & T \\ (^{\circ}C) \\ (Day) & 1 \\ \hline \\ (1) & 27.02 \\ 27.12 \\ (2) & 26.98 \\ 27.34 \\ (3) & 27.21 \\ (3) & 27.77 \\ (4) & 27.24 \\ 27.53 \\ (5) & 27.31 \\ (5) & 27.35 \\ (5) & 27.31 \\ (5) & 27.35 \\ (6) & 27.37 \\ (7) & 27.35 \\ (7) & 27.35 \\ (7) & 27.35 \\ (7) & 27.35 \\ (7) & 27.33 \\ (8) & 27.17 \\ 27.33 \\ (8) & 27.17 \\ (10) & 27.22 \\ (10) & 27.22 \\ (10) & 27.36 \\ \pm 0.21 \\ 20 \\ \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | $\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $ | $\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $      |

Table 3. Variations over the 10-day period (29 July–7 August 1986) of  $PCO_2$  and related parameters in the surface seawater in the Guinea Dome ( $12^{\circ}N$ ,  $21^{\circ}W$ )

The normalization of PCO<sub>2</sub> at  $T = 27^{\circ}$ C is performed with a rate of 4% (°C)<sup>-1</sup>. The change  $\Delta$ PCO<sub>2</sub> is counted between morning (07.30 h) and evening (18.30 h) stations (local time).

\* The positive values (in parentheses) are omitted in the calculation of the arithmetic mean.

and biological consumption of  $CO_2$  through photosynthesis.

4.2.1. Temperature dependence of  $PCO_2$ . The variation of  $PCO_2$  on temperature is due to the modification of equilibrium constants in the seawater carbonate system and solubility of  $CO_2$ . For a system in which salinity, alkalinity and total  $CO_2$  remain constant, the temperature coefficient of  $PCO_2$  is about 4% (°C)<sup>-1</sup> (Skirrow, 1975; MacIntyre, 1978; Broecker and Peng, 1982). To eliminate the temperature effect on  $PCO_2$  results, we chose to reduce the latter at a constant temperature of 27°C, by applying the temperature coefficient of 4% (°C)<sup>-1</sup>. The results are shown in Tables 1 (column 5), 2 (column 4)

and 3 (column 4) for the three periods of observations. Then it appears that, without diurnal solar heating, a decrease in  $PCO_2$  would have occurred most of the time between morning and evening.

4.2.2. Gas exchange across the air-sea interface. The net  $CO_2$  flux across the air-sea interface is estimated from the gas exchange equation reported in Andrié et al. (1986):

$$F = k_t \alpha (\text{PCO}_2 - \text{pCO}_2) \tag{2}$$

where  $k_t$  is the CO<sub>2</sub> transfer coefficient (or exchange rate),  $\alpha$  is CO<sub>2</sub> solubility in seawater (Weiss, 1974) and PCO<sub>2</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> are the CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure in the water (PCO<sub>2</sub>) and that in the air (pCO<sub>2</sub>). The coefficient  $k_t$  is a function of



Fig. 2. Variations of CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure PCO<sub>2</sub> normalized at S = 35 ( $\Delta PCO_2/\Delta S = 44 \mu atm$ ) and temperature T at the sea surface over the 12-day period (4°-6°N, 20°-17°W). The station numbers and the large dots correspond to the morning station (07.30 h, local time).



Fig. 3. Variations of CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure PCO<sub>2</sub> and temperature T at the sea surface over the 8-day period (11°50'N, 22°W). The station numbers and the large dots correspond to the morning station (07.30 h, local time).

wind speed and of the temperature of seawater through the Schmidt number Sc dependency (Liss and Merlivat, 1986). The relationships used for the calculation of the  $CO_2$  transfer coefficient are written as follows:

$$k_{20} = 0.17 V_{10}$$
 for  $0 \le V_{10} \le 3.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (3)

$$k_{20} = 2.85 V_{10} - 9.65$$
 for  $3.6 \le V_{10} \le 13 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ,  
(4)

where  $k_{20}$  is the transfer coefficient at 20°C

expressed in cm  $h^{-1}$  and  $V_{10}$  is the wind speed in m s<sup>-1</sup> measured at 10 m height. Finally the dependence of the transfer coefficient on the temperature is evaluated as follows:

$$k_t = 70.74k_{20}(\text{Sc}_t)^{-2/3}$$
 for  $0 \le V_{10} \le 3.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (5)

$$k_t = 24.39k_{20}(\text{Sc}_t)^{-1/2}$$
 for  $3.6 \le V_{10} \le 13 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ,  
(6)

where  $Sc_t$ , the Schmidt number for  $CO_2$  at  $t^{\circ}C$ , is linearly interpolated between 20 and 30°C with the following relationship:

$$Sc_t = 1065 - 23.5t.$$
 (7)

The results of the net  $CO_2$  flux throughout the three periods of observations are given in Tables 4, 5 and 6. In the convergence zone (Table 4), the mean net  $CO_2$  flux is a weak flux entering into the ocean (maximum value of 2.0 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>), while in the Guinea Dome (Tables 5 and 6) this is a greater flux escaping from the ocean (maximum value 5.8 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>).

Between the morning and the evening, i.e., over a 12-h period, the loss or the gain of  $CO_2$  through the air-sea interface is at best 2.9 mmol m<sup>-2</sup>. This  $CO_2$  exchange involves a relative variation of total  $CO_2$  ( $\sum CO_2$ ) in the mixed layer (minimum mean thickness = 14 m) of (2.9/14)/2.000 = 0.01%. The corresponding



Fig. 4. Variations of CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure PCO<sub>2</sub> and temperature T at the sea surface over the 10-day period (12°N, 21°W). The station numbers and the large dots correspond to the morning station (07.30 h, local time).

| Station          | (Day) | V <sub>10</sub><br>(m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | Т<br>(°С)            | $k_t$ (cm h <sup>-1</sup> ) | $PCO_2 - pCO_2$<br>( $\mu$ atm) | Net $CO_2$ flux<br>(mmol m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|------------------|-------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 13               | (1)   | 4.4                                     | 26.29                | 3.3                         | -3.0                            | -0.1   |
| 17 .<br>19       | (2)   | 5.9                                     | 26.86<br>27.06       | 8.4<br>1.4                  | -8.5<br>-8.9                    | -0.5<br>-0.1   |
| 21<br>23         | (3)   | 5.3<br>3.2                              | 26.96<br>28.07       | 6.4<br>0.7                  | 1.1<br>4.8                      | 0.1<br>0.0   |
| 25<br>27         | (4)   | 1.9<br>1.9                              | 27.34<br>28.37       | 0.4<br>0.4                  | -8.7<br>2.1                     | 0.0<br>0.0   |
| 29<br>31         | (5)   | 3.1<br>4.3                              | 27.75<br>27.58       | 0.7<br>3.1                  | -6.0 -11.0                      | 0.0<br>-0.2  |
| 33<br>35         | (6)   | 3.5<br>6.8                              | 27.41<br>27.52       | 0.7<br>11.6                 | -9.3 -8.7                       | -0.1 -0.7  |
| 37<br>39         | (7)   | 6.9<br>10.0                             | 27.31<br>27.48       | 11.9<br>22.5                | -9.5<br>-13.7                   | -0.8 -2.0  |
| 41<br>43         | (8)   | 5.8<br>3.2                              | 27.15<br>27.34       | 8.1<br>0.7                  | -7.0<br>-6.2                    | -0.4 -0.0  |
| 44<br>46         | (9)   | 4.3<br>6.6                              | 27.28<br>27.45       | 3.1<br>10.9                 | -8.3<br>-3.5                    | -0.2 -0.3  |
| 48<br>50         | (10)  | 7.3<br>5.7                              | 27.48<br>27.53       | 13.3<br>7.9                 | -5.2<br>-7.7                    | -0.5<br>-0.4   |
| 52<br>54         | (11)  | 6.2<br>4.7                              | 27.26<br>27.35       | 9.5<br>4.4                  | -0.3<br>8.0                     | -0.2<br>0.2  |
| 56<br>58         | (12)  | 5.9<br>5.1                              | 27.26<br>27.31       | 8.5<br>5.8                  | 0.4<br>-3.2                     | 0.0<br>-0.1  |
| mean<br>SD<br>CV |       | 5.1<br>±1.9<br>37% .                    | 27.33<br>±0.42<br>2% | 6.5<br>±5.5<br>85%          | $-4.9 \pm 5.3 \\ 108\%$         | -0.2<br>±0.3<br>150%                                       |

Table 4. Variation over the 12-day period (22 June-3 July 1986) of the net  $CO_2$  flux across the air-sea interface in the north equatorial convergence zone (4° N-6° N, 17° W-20° W)

| Station          | (Day) | V <sub>10</sub><br>(m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | Т<br>(°С)        | $k_t$ (cm h <sup>-1</sup> ) | $PCO_2 - pCO_2$<br>( $\mu$ atm) | Net $CO_2$ flux<br>(mmol m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|------------------|-------|---|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 86               | (1)   | 4.2                                     | 26.32            | 2.7                         | 61.3                            | 1.1  |
| 88               |       | 2.5                                     | 26.77            | 0.5                         | 69.6                            | 0.2  |
| 90               | (2)   | 4.5                                     | 26.34            | 3.7                         | 58.8                            | 1.4  |
| 92               |       | 5.7                                     | 26.67            | 7.7                         | 68.4                            | 3.5  |
| 94               | (3)   | 5.4                                     | 26.40            | 6.6                         | 60.7                            | 2.7  |
| 96               |       | 5.4                                     | 26.68            | 6.7                         | 62.3                            | 2.8  |
| 98               | (4)   | 5.7                                     | 26.40            | 7.6                         | 56.2                            | 2.9  |
| 100              |       | 4.8                                     | 26.86            | 4.7                         | 62.9                            | 2.0  |
| 102              | (5)   | 4.4                                     | 26.56            | 3.4                         | 61.0                            | 1.4  |
| 104              |       | 2.5                                     | 26.74            | 0.5                         | 60.1                            | 0.2  |
| 106              | (6)   | 5.0                                     | 26.53            | 5.3                         | 63.3                            | 2.3  |
| 108              |       | 2.9                                     | 27.08            | 0.6                         | 56.5                            | 0.2  |
| 110              | (7)   | 1.6                                     | 26.82            | 0.3                         | 58.0                            | 0.1  |
| 112              |       | 2.6                                     | 27.53            | 0.6                         | 64.3                            | 0.2  |
| 114              | (8)   | 4.4                                     | 26.87            | 3.4                         | 58.0                            | 1.3  |
| 116              |       | 7.8                                     | 26.88            | 14.7                        | 59.1                            | 5.8  |
| mean<br>SD<br>CV |       | 4.3<br>±1.6<br>37%                      | $26.72 \pm 0.31$ | 4.3<br>±3.8<br>88℃          | 61.8<br>±3.8<br>6%              | $1.8 \pm 1.5$  |

Table 5. Variation over the 8-day period (15–22 July 1986) of the net  $CO_2$  flux across the air-sea interface in the Guinea Dome (11°50' N, 22° W)

change in PCO<sub>2</sub> is given by the buffer factor (or Revelle factor)  $\beta$ :

$$\beta = (\Delta \text{PCO}_2/\text{PCO}_2) \times (\Delta \sum \text{CO}_2/\sum \text{CO}_2)^{-1}.$$
 (8)

For seawater at 26–28 °C,  $\beta$  is about 8.5 (Sundquist et al., 1979; Broecker and Peng, 1982). The maximum diurnal change of PCO<sub>2</sub> (between morning and evening stations) expected from the air-sea exchange is then  $0.01\% \times 8.5 \times 400 = 0.3 \,\mu$ atm, i.e., a negligible quantity for the daily balance of PCO<sub>2</sub>.

4.2.3. Biological activity. In Tables 1, 2 and 3 after reducing PCO<sub>2</sub> measurements at a constant temperature (27°C), there generally appears a decrease of PCO<sub>2</sub> between morning and evening stations, which can only be the result of the photosynthetic fixation of CO<sub>2</sub>. In the last column of Tables 1, 2 and 3, the change in PCO<sub>2</sub> (at constant temperature) between morning (07.30 h) and evening (18.30 h) is reported. Most of the time (9 days out 12, 6 days out 8 and 8 days out 10, respectively), this change is negative. We suppose that the positive values of  $\Delta PCO_2$ , which cannot be ascribed to photosynthetic activity and which are low and within the precision of measurements  $(\pm 3.0 \,\mu \text{atm})$  except once only (Table 1: 10th day), can arise from anaytical uncertainties or errors. For each period of observations we computed the mean decrease of PCO<sub>2</sub> by omitting the positive values of  $\Delta PCO_2$  (Tables 1, 2 and 3): the mean decreases of PCO<sub>2</sub> are  $4.3 \pm 2.0 \,\mu \text{atm}$ ,  $4.5 \pm 5.7 \,\mu \text{atm}$  and  $4.9 \pm 4.5 \,\mu \text{atm}$  for the 12-day, 8-day and 10-day periods, respectively.

Now we have to verify if these decreases of  $PCO_2$  are in agreement with the rate of primary production estimated by another way such as  $O_2$  production (Oudot, 1989).

As was previously mentioned, the change in PCO<sub>2</sub> corresponds to a change in total CO<sub>2</sub> which is calculated through the Revelle factor  $\beta$  (relationship 8). The diurnal changes (between 07.30 h and 18.30 h) of  $\sum$ CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> (adopting a photosynthetic ratio of -1.4; Takahashi et al., 1985) which can be expected from the changes in PCO<sub>2</sub> at a constant temperature are given in Table 7 for every period. The ranges of rate of O<sub>2</sub> production thus found (0.39 ± 0.26  $\mu$ mol

| Station | (Day) | V <sub>10</sub><br>(m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | Т<br>(°С) | $k_t$ (cm h <sup>-1</sup> ) | $PCO_2 - pCO_2$<br>( $\mu$ atm) | Net $CO_2$ flux<br>(mmol m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|---------|-------|---|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 119     | (1)   | 9.5                                     | 27.02     | 20.5                        | 32.7                            | 4.4  |
| 121     | (L)   | 6.5                                     | 27.12     | 10.5                        | 35.5                            | 2.5  |
| 123     | (2)   | 4.3                                     | 26.98     | 3.1                         | 44.3                            | 0.9  |
| 125     |       | 3.6                                     | 27.34     | 0.8                         | 36.2                            | 0.2  |
| 127     | (3)   | 1.6                                     | 27.21     | 0.3                         | 30.8                            | 0.1  |
| 129     |       | 3.1                                     | 27.77     | 0.7                         | 41.5                            | 0.2  |
| 131     | (4)   | 2.8                                     | 27.24     | 0.6                         | 39.1                            | 0.2  |
| 133     |       | 5.1                                     | 27.53     | 5.8                         | 40.9                            | 1.6  |
| 135     | (5)   | 4.9                                     | 27.31     | 5.1                         | 36.6                            | 1.2  |
| 137     |       | 5.0                                     | 27.55     | 5.5                         | 36.3                            | 1.3  |
| 139     | (6)   | 4.8                                     | 27.37     | 4.8                         | 38.0                            | 1.2  |
| 141     |       | 4.1                                     | 27.58     | 2.4                         | 41.1                            | 0.7  |
| 143     | (7)   | 6.1                                     | 27.35     | 9.2                         | 43.1                            | 2.6  |
| 145     |       | 4.3                                     | 27.33     | 3.1                         | 32.0                            | 0.7  |
| 147     | (8)   | 5.1                                     | 27.17     | 5.8                         | 30.5                            | 1.2  |
| 149     |       | 4.0                                     | 27.60     | 2.1                         | 36.7                            | 0.5  |
| 151     | (9)   | 1.4                                     | 27.32     | 0.3                         | 29.3                            | 0.1  |
| 153     |       | 4.4                                     | 27.67     | 3.5                         | 34.4                            | 0.8  |
| 155     | (10)  | 4.9                                     | 27.22     | 5.1                         | 36.3                            | 1.2  |
| 157     |       | 6.1                                     | 27.46     | 9.2                         | 44.1                            | 2.7  |
| mean    |       | 4.6                                     | 27.36     | 4.9                         | 37.0                            | 1.2  |
| SD      |       | ±1.8                                    | ±0.21     | ±4.8                        | ±4.6                            | ±1.1   |
| CV      |       | 39%                                     | 1%        | 97%                         | 12%                             | 93%  |

Table 6. Variation over the 10-day period (29 July–7 August 1986) of the net  $CO_2$  flux across the air–sea interface in the Guinea Dome ( $12^\circ N$ ,  $21^\circ W$ )

Table 7. Diurnal changes (07.30 h to 18.30 h, local time) of  $\sum CO_2$  expected from the changes of  $PCO_2$  (27°C) and  $O_2$  production rates calcualted from  $\Delta \sum CO_2$  and observed in situ

| Parameter  | 1st period<br>12 days<br>4°–6°N, 17°–20°W                                     | 2nd period<br>8 days<br>11°50'N, 22°W   | 3rd period<br>10 days<br>12°N, 21°W   |
|--|---|---|---|
| $\frac{\Delta PCO_2}{PCO_2}$   | $-1.34 \pm 0.62\%$  | $-1.13 \pm 1.43\%$  | $-1.32 \pm 1.21\%$  |
| $\frac{\Delta \Sigma CO_2}{\Sigma CO_2}$   | $-0.16 \pm 0.07\%$  | $-0.13 \pm 0.17\%$  | $-0.16 \pm 0.14\%$  |
| $\begin{aligned} &\Delta \sum CO_2 \ (\mu \text{mol } \text{kg}^{-1}) \\ &O_2 \text{ production rate calculated}^* \ (\mu \text{mol } \text{kg}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}) \\ &O_2 \text{ production rate observed}^* \ (\mu \text{mol } \text{kg}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{c} -3.0 \pm 2.1 \\ 0.39 \pm 0.26 \\ 0.22 \pm 0.11 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} -2.6 \pm 3.4 \\ 0.34 \pm 0.44 \\ 0.07 \pm 0.08 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} -3.0 \pm 2.8 \\ 0.39 \pm 0.36 \\ 0.33 \pm 0.15 \end{array}$ |

\* This rate of O<sub>2</sub> production is calculated from  $\Delta \sum CO_2$  and a photosynthetic ratio of -1.4.

† This rate of O<sub>2</sub> production is deduced from in situ variations of O<sub>2</sub> concentrations (Oudot, 1989).

kg<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>,  $0.34 \pm 0.44 \ \mu \text{mol}$  kg<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> and  $0.39 \pm 0.36 \ \mu \text{mol}$  kg<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>) are in fair agreement with the rates deduced from in situ variations of O<sub>2</sub> concentrations: respectively  $0.22 \pm 0.11 \ \mu \text{mol}$ 

kg<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>,  $0.07 \pm 0.08 \ \mu mol \ kg^{-1} \ h^{-1}$  and  $0.33 \pm 0.15 \ \mu mol \ kg^{-1} \ h^{-1}$  (Oudot, 1989).

Until now, the examples of diurnal changes of  $CO_2$  partial pressure in the surface ocean

reported in the literature have been scarce. According to Skirrow (1975), the usual observations show a daylight maximum since the physico-chemical effects associated with temperature adjustment outweigh biological factors in determining the diurnal range. From our results we may nevertheless conclude that it is possible to draw a diurnal variation of  $PCO_2$  due to photosynthetic utilization of  $CO_2$ .

As shown by the definition of the buffer factor  $\beta$  (relation 8), the relative change of PCO<sub>2</sub> is much higher than that of  $\sum CO_2$ . For that reason, it becomes analytically easier to demonstrate a biological change of PCO<sub>2</sub>: in Table 7, the results of  $\Delta PCO_2/PCO_2$  are higher than the analytical precision while those of  $\Delta \sum CO_2/\sum CO_2$  are lower.

# 5. Day-to-day trend of PCO<sub>2</sub>

Beyond the diurnal variations, during the third period of observations a day-to-day tendency of PCO<sub>2</sub> (T = 27°C) to decrease is observed (Fig. 5). This trend is calculated by fitting a linear regression to the morning data of PCO<sub>2</sub> (T = 27°C) (Table 3). The slope of the regression line is -0.92 ( $\pm 0.48$ )  $\mu$ atm d<sup>-1</sup>, which means a rate of PCO<sub>2</sub> change of  $-0.25 (\pm 0.13)\% d^{-1}$ . The corresponding  $\sum CO_2$  change expected from relation (8) is then  $-0.029 (\pm 0.015)\% d^{-1}$ . The change of  $\sum CO_2$  observed in situ and corrected for the total alkalinity change is -0.027 $(\pm 0.030)$ % d<sup>-1</sup> (Oudot, 1989). Consequently during this period of observations the trend of PCO<sub>2</sub> to decrease is quite consistent with the observed  $\sum CO_2$  decrease which was interpreted as the result of biological activity shown by a release of oxygen in situ. In Fig. 5 the variation in dissolved oxygen is shown for comparison: the tendency of O<sub>2</sub> to increase from day-to-day is estimated at  $0.35 \,\mu mol \, kg^{-1} \, d^{-1}$  (Oudot, 1989). Thus for a biological increase of  $10 \,\mu\text{mol}\,\text{kg}^{-1}$  O<sub>2</sub> the decrease of PCO<sub>2</sub> should be of 26.3  $\mu$ atm. We have to point out that in the coastal upwelling in front of Senegal (16°N, 17°W) we measured (March 1987) a  $PCO_2$  decrease (at constant temperature) of 435  $\mu$ atm simultaneously with an O<sub>2</sub> increase of 164  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup> that is to say the same ratio. At this rate of decrease in PCO<sub>2</sub> (0.9  $\mu$ atm d<sup>-1</sup>) the sea surface in the Guinea Dome should return to the CO<sub>2</sub> equilibrium concentration with the atmosphere after about 40 days.

For the two other periods, there is no clear trend in the  $PCO_2$  changes from day to day and the previous analysis cannot be made.



Fig. 5. Variations of CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure PCO<sub>2</sub> normalized at T = 27°C ( $\Delta PCO_2/\Delta T = 4\%$  (°C)<sup>-1</sup>) and dissolved oxygen O<sub>2</sub> at the sea surface over the 10-day period (12°N, 21°W). The station numbers and the large dots correspond to the morning station (07.30 h, local time). The slopes of the regression lines fitted to the morning station data (large dots) give the rate of change in each quantity over the 10-day period.

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# 6. Time variability of atmospheric $CO_2$

# 6.1. Results

Over land areas the diurnal variations of  $CO_2$ are a well-known phenomenon. The pattern of variations is generally related to the photosynthesis-respiration cycle of the vegetation with a minimum of the atmospheric  $CO_2$  content during the day and a maximum during the night (Skirrow, 1975). This simple diurnal course can sometimes be disturbed by irregular events brought about by changes in wind direction (Keeling et al., 1976).

Above the ocean the data on the short-term variability of the atmospheric  $CO_2$  content are very scarce except for seasonal variations. Figs. 6, 7 and 8 show the variations of the atmospheric  $CO_2$  mole fraction (f $CO_2$ ) during the three periods of observations. During the first period, located between 4°N and 6°N (Fig. 6), after an increase on the first days, the  $CO_2$  mole fraction continuously decreases from the fourth day. The rate of the f $CO_2$  decrease, calculated as the slope of the regression line fitted to the data (Fig. 6) is about 0.3 ppm d<sup>-1</sup>. We could not help noting that

the increase of  $fCO_2$  to day 3 and the subsequent decrease in Fig. 6 is fairly similar to the trends of  $PCO_2$  in Fig. 2. There is no doubt that this variability of fCO<sub>2</sub> is related to a spatial variation on account of the considerable distance covered by the R/V, in particular in a meridional direction over the first 3 days (see on Fig. 1 the track of the ship in the convergence zone area). Nevertheless the wind direction does not change very much; the wind continuously blows from the south (Fig. 6): during the first four days (Stations 13 to 29) the average of the wind direction is 172° (Standard Deviation  $= 13^{\circ}$ ), while during the last seven days (Station 33 to 58) the average of the wind direction is  $147^{\circ}$  (SD =  $16^{\circ}$ ). At this season (northern summer), the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is located far north of the Equator, at about 9-10°N, and the 4°N-6°N latitude band is as a whole influenced by the southeast trade winds. Note that the atmospheric  $CO_2$  content is on average 348.4 ppm (SD = 0.9 ppm).

During the second period, located in the exact center of the Guinea Dome  $(11^{\circ}50' \text{ N}, 22^{\circ} \text{ W})$ , the wind direction is not the same since the



Fig. 6. Variations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> mole fraction  $fCO_2$  and wind direction over the 12-day period in the convergence zone (4°-6°N, 20°-17°W). A linear regression is fitted to the  $fCO_2$  data to quantify the trend of  $fCO_2$  to decrease over the last 10 days:  $\Delta fCO_2 = -0.26 \pm 0.03$  ppm d<sup>-1</sup> (t = 7.7, n = 21). On the right is shown the average of  $fCO_2$  (with standard deviation) over the 12-day period. Upper part, the averages (and standard deviations) of the wind direction are indicated over the first 5 days and the last 6 days (the two data with circles are omitted in the calculation of the averages).

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Fig. 7. Variations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> mole fraction fCO<sub>2</sub> and wind direction over the 8-day period in the Guinea Dome (11°50'N, 22°W). A linear regression is fitted to the fCO<sub>2</sub> data to quantify the trend of fCO<sub>2</sub> to decrease over the first few days (St 88–102):  $\Delta$ fCO<sub>2</sub> =  $-0.56 \pm 0.10$  ppm d<sup>-1</sup> (t = 5.63, n = 8) and to increase over the last few days (St 102–114):  $\Delta$ fCO<sub>2</sub> =  $0.54 \pm 0.10$  ppm d<sup>-1</sup> (t = 5.31, n = 7). The crosses indicate the results of measurements made later in the land laboratory (Monfray, 1987) on air samples collected in flasks simultaneously with the continuous measurements. On the right is shown the average of fCO<sub>2</sub> (with standard deviation) over the 8-day period. Upper part, the average (and standard deviation) of the direction over the 8-day period is also indicated.



Fig. 8. Variations of atmospheric  $CO_2$  mole fraction  $fCO_2$  and wind direction over the 10-day period in the Guinea Dome (12°N, 21°W). On the right is shown the average of  $fCO_2$  (with standard deviation) over the 10-day period.

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obervations are made north of the ITCZ (Fig. 7). Again the variability of wind direction is weak; the wind continuously blows from the north  $(345^{\circ} \pm 25^{\circ})$ . However the CO<sub>2</sub> mole fraction (Fig. 7) shows a temporal variability even greater than previously. During the first half-period,  $fCO_2$  decreases at a rate of 0.6 ppm d<sup>-1</sup>, while during the last half-period fCO<sub>2</sub> increases at a rate of  $0.5 \text{ ppm d}^{-1}$ . During this period of obervations the distances covered by the R/V are not very large (a few km), and the variation of  $fCO_2$  cannot be interpreted as a spatial variation. The range of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations measured on board is confirmed by the measurements made later in the land laboratory (crosses on Fig. 7) on air samples simultaneously collected in flasks (Monfray, 1987). Note that the average of  $fCO_2$  $(347.5 \pm 0.6 \text{ ppm})$  is significantly lower than the value during the first period of observations nearer the Equator.

During the third period of continuous observations, made in a location at a short distance north-east of the previous one, the amplitude of  $fCO_2$  variations is the greatest (Fig. 8). The average value of  $fCO_2$  (345.9 ± 1.3 ppm) is significantly lower than the one calculated for the previous period (347.5 ± 0.6). We remark how the wind direction changes throughout this period, and we are inclined to relate the increase of  $CO_2$  between the 7th and the 9th days with the rotation of the wind direction to the south.

# 6.2. Discussion

The analysis of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration data obtained during periods of ten or twelve days at the same location enables us to observe again the well-known CO<sub>2</sub> relation with local wind directions (Halter and Harris, 1983; Ciattaglia et al., 1987). The greater scattering of  $CO_2$  concentrations during the last period appears to coincide well with a greater change in wind direction. Nevertheless, even if the wind blows continuously from the same direction, a certain variability can still arise. The range of variations is not negligible: 0.3 to 0.6 ppm  $d^{-1}$ . These short-term variations do not seem related to local CO<sub>2</sub> exchanges across the sea surface, generated by variations of temperature, PCO<sub>2</sub> or wind speed. This time variability of  $fCO_2$  is important because it has an effect on the meaning of instantaneous measurements, as for every oceanographic or meteorologic parameter.

Contrary to what could be suggested from our former data of atmospheric  $CO_2$  throughout the FOCAL cruises (Oudot et al., 1987), no diurnal variation of  $fCO_2$  appear, in spite of the diurnal variations of sea surface temperature and  $PCO_2$  previously discussed.

The 3 sets of  $CO_2$  data, collected consecutively at 5°-6°N, 11°50′N and 12°N, remind us of the decrease in fCO<sub>2</sub> during northern summer when we are moving from the Equator towards the north, which was described in a previous paper (Oudot et al., 1987) and also reported over the Pacific Ocean (Keeling et al., 1984). This meridian gradient is due to the equatorial signal (enhancement of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> induced by the equatorial upwelling) and the depression of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> during northern summer in the northern hemisphere (Komhyr et al., 1985).

The atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> data collected during the PIRAL cruise are a continuation of those collected during the years 1982 to 1984 in the same area (Oudot et al., 1987) and thus they enable us to provide some information about the secular trend of the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> increase. During the summer periods of 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986, the mean atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> content in the latitude band 10°-14°N was respectively 342.0, 342.7, 344.0 and 347.8 ppm. The linear regression analysis of these data indicates a  $1.5 \pm 0.2$ ppm yr<sup>-1</sup> increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from 1982 to 1986. This average rate of annual increase is in good agreement with the results reported in the literature.

# 7. Net $CO_2$ flux

The results of the net  $CO_2$  flux throughout the three periods of observations are given in Tables 4, 5 and 6. In the convergence zone (Table 4), the mean net  $CO_2$  flux is a weak flux entering into the ocean, while in the Guinea Dome (Tables 5 and 6) this is a greater flux escaping from the ocean. The range of the flux values during each period is wide and the variability of the flux is near 100%. The great variability of the net  $CO_2$ 

flux during each period is due to the great variability of the gas transfer coefficient across the sea surface. With a coefficient of variation of wind speed of 37-39%, the coefficient of variation of  $k_t$  is from 85 to 97% (Tables 4 to 6). The air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure difference (PCO<sub>2</sub> - pCO<sub>2</sub>) during each period does not change very much; the standard deviation is about  $4-5 \mu$ atm.

The precision of the calculations of the  $CO_2$ flux mainly depends on the determination of the gas transfer coefficient, i.e., of the wind speed which is the prevailing factor. Often the wind speed used in the calculations is an average, extracted from atlases (Andrié et al., 1986) or the 24-h mean (Smethie et al., 1985). If we had calculated the mean net CO<sub>2</sub> flux, using the averages of wind speed, temperature and air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure difference throughout the duration of each period of obervations, it would have been lower: respectively 0.2, 1.2 and 1.0 for the first, second and third periods. This follows from the fact that the gas transfer coefficient k. is not linearly related on the one hand to wind speed (relations 3 and 4), on the other hand to temperature (relations 5 and 6), throughout the range of measurements of wind speed. It may be noted that the underestimation can reach about 30% when the flux is high (8-day period). But this error remains within the limits of the precision (83%).

Finally we wish to emphasize the high value of the net  $CO_2$  flux in the Guinea Dome area at that period of the year. The value is similar to those calculated in the equatorial zone (Andrié et al., 1986), which is considered as an important source zone of  $CO_2$  for the atmosphere. The reason is the presence of highly supersaturated waters  $(PCO_2 - pCO_2 = 61 \ \mu atm)$  in the center of the Guinea Dome, as supersaturated as in the equatorial belt of the Atlantic ocean (Smethie et al., 1985; Andrié et al., 1986) and the Pacific ocean (Feely et al., 1987). However this oceanic source of  $CO_2$  has a limited implication in the global budget of  $CO_2$  since the area of supersaturated waters is restricted in space and in time. In a winter situation the CO<sub>2</sub> supersaturation disappears since the cooling of the surface waters lowers PCO<sub>2</sub> below pCO<sub>2</sub> (Oudot and Andrié, 1986; Andrié et al., 1986).

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# 8. Conclusions

Our results of PCO<sub>2</sub> in surface seawater indicate that, after correction of the temperature effect, there remains a diurnal variation due to biological activity. On a daily scale, the CO<sub>2</sub> exchange across the air-sea interface indeed has little influence on the CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure of the surface water. Moreover there appears a day-today tendency of PCO<sub>2</sub> (corrected for temperature change) to decrease, which is not negligible (about 1  $\mu$ atm d<sup>-1</sup>) and is interpreted as the result of biological activity.

Above the ocean the atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration may change considerably in time as well as in space. Over a 3-day period, the  $CO_2$  concentration in the air may vary up to  $\pm 0.6$  ppm d<sup>-1</sup> whereas the wind direction hardly changes. Nevertheless, when the wind always blows from the same direction the atmospheric  $CO_2$  content is more constant than when the direction is constantly changing.

The net  $CO_2$  flux in the same place shows a great short-term variability (80–90%), due mainly to the variation of the gas transfer coefficient across the sea surface, i.e., of the wind speed. The use of mean data of wind speed to calculate the gas transfer coefficient involves an underestimation of the net  $CO_2$  flux (up to 30%). In the Guinea Dome area, during the summer season, the net  $CO_2$  flux can be as high (1.8 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>) as in the equatorial belt.

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