



## CORRIGENDUM

CHEPSTOW-LUSTY, A., EHLERS, J., and LINKE, G., 1999. The Evolution of the Island of Neuwerk, Elbe Estuary, North Sea. *Journal of Coastal Research*, 15(4), 1132–1144.

The following text is missing from the article, page 1142, fourth line after, “. . . we used the  $<2 \mu\text{m}$  fraction”:

### Cesium

Some radioactive elements occur naturally in the salt marsh sediments, including the potassium isotope  $^{40}\text{K}$ . Nuclear testing and the Chernobyl reactor accident have released additional radioactive isotopes, most of which are extremely short-lived. Relatively long-lived are the cesium isotopes  $^{134}\text{Cs}$  and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ , which also occur in large enough quantities to allow easy determination.

Cesium ions have a radius similar to potassium, but a much stronger polarizability (Cs: 2.35 vs K: 0.8). When cesium enters the soil, it replaces potassium and becomes established in a relatively stable position. Thus, cesium is rapidly ad-

sorbed by the salt marsh sediments, allowing only minimal vertical migration. However, a certain degree of mixing due to bioturbation must be anticipated. The method has been used repeatedly for dating salt marsh sediments (e.g. DELAUNE *et al.*, 1978; 1990; ONEMA and DELAUNE, 1988; EHLERS *et al.*, 1993, 1994).

In the North German salt marshes the fallout from the Chernobyl reactor accident was found to have left a horizon of strong cesium concentration far higher than that caused by bomb testing (MEYERCORDT, 1992; EHLERS *et al.*, 1993, 1994). The contamination caused by the Chernobyl accident is not only characterised by the relatively long-lived  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  (half life: 30.1 years) but also by  $^{134}\text{Cs}$  (half life: 2.06 years).

The Chernobyl deposits are found at a depth of 4–6 cm (fig. 11). The sediment above has therefore been deposited since 1986. As a result, the recent sedimentation rate at this position was about 6.0–7.5 mm/yr. This roughly corresponds to the sedimentation rates of 8–12 mm/yr.

The *Journal* Editor apologizes for the error.