

## **Gulf of California represents crack in earth's surface and was formed by drift of Baja California and southern California away from the Mexican mainland**

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The Gulf of California represents a crack in the earth's surface that goes perhaps 80 miles deep and was formed by the drift of Baja California and southern California away from the Mexican mainland, a research worker at the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography told a scientific conference at Scripps today.

Seismological studies, which formed the basis of this report, controvert previously held theories that the Gulf is a half-graben, a place where a large section of the earth has sunk in relation to surrounding areas. It adds new evidence to the theory of the drift of Baja California and southern California to the west and north during the past.

In seismological studies, geophysicists study the travel of sound waves (set off by explosions) through the trust of the earth. From this they are able to deduce the nature of the crust.

Richard P. Phillips, graduate student at Scripps, described the project, in which he and George G. Shor, Associate Research Geophysicist, collaborated.

Phillips spoke at a symposium on "California Basins, Recent and Ancient" at Scripps. The Symposium marked the end of a million-dollar research project of the Gulfs of Mexico and California at Scripps supported by the American Petroleum Institute.