

QUATERNARY BENTHIC FORAMINIFERA FROM CONTINENTAL SLOPE AND ABYSSAL PLAIN IN THE SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST PACIFIC

GAVRILOFF, Igor J.C., Instituto Miguel Lillo, Miguel Lillo 251, 4000 - San Miguel de Tucumán, Tucumán, Argentina.

This paper deals with the systematic study of the benthic foraminifera fauna found in two cores from the southern southeast Pacific (Eltanin 4-5, lat. 54° 52' S, long. 76° 45' W and 5-4, lat. 48° 52' S, long. 76° 02' W.) and its stratigraphic distribution and the paleoceanographic inferences are analysed. These cores were recovered from the eastern Mornington abyssal plain (depth 3885,7 m, length 11,75 m) and from the continental slope of Chile (depth 1223 m, length 8,29 m) respectively. In this study only the upper core lengths that of 9,40 m and that of 1,98 m were analyzed. The sampling was done each 10 cm and the > 61 µm fractions of the 112 core samples were analysed in total.

The ages of the cores are given by paleomagnetism studies (Goodell & Watkins, 1968) which shows a Brunhes normal age for the 4-5 core and a Matuyama reversed age for the 5-4 one. The age of 4-5 was also corroborated by planktonic microfossils biostratigraphic studies (Kennett, 1969).

About 220 different species were identified and two assemblages were recognized. The first assemblage corresponds to the abyssal plain sector and it is present in 4-5. It is characterized by the dominant occurrence of *Eponides weddellensis* and *Epistominella exigua* with high contents of *E. bradyi*. The second assemblage, present throughout of 5-4 in the continental slope is characterized by *Cassidulina norvangi* and *C. subglobosa* with *Trifarina angulosa* and *Uvigerina bifurcata* as associated constituents.

The not well defined present hydrological settings and the behavior of the water masses in the region mentioned above during the Quaternary are analysed on the basis of the foraminiferal data.

Since few studies of the quaternary benthic foraminiferal fauna of the region were done, this paper may be considered an interesting contribution in the subject.