

8. CRETACEOUS TO PALEOGENE BENTHIC FORAMINIFERS FROM THE IBERIA ABYSSAL PLAIN¹

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ABSTRACT

Cretaceous and Paleogene benthic foraminifers from Leg 149 Holes 897C, 897D, 899B, and 900A were examined to complete biostratigraphic information for sediments deposited below the calcite compensation depth (CCD) and to obtain paleoecologic information on the depositional environment of these sites. Main results are that (1) the red abyssal claystones comparable to the NW Atlantic Plantagenet formation are mainly restricted to the Paleocene and Eocene at the sites studied; (2) Upper Cretaceous sediments are missing; the period from the Albian to Maastrichtian is comprised of a major hiatus; and (3) Lower Cretaceous sediments encountered at Site 897D contain small-sized neritic Aptian benthic foraminifers, which may have been redeposited from the Iberia shelf. The species composition and biostratigraphic succession of Paleogene deep-water agglutinated foraminifers of the Iberia Abyssal Plain exhibits striking similarities to faunas from deep-water sections in the Western Mediterranean and Alpine Tethyan Basins including the Gibraltar Seaway.

INTRODUCTION

Paleontologic information on Cretaceous and Paleogene abyssal claystones that were deposited close to or below the CCD is largely restricted to deep water agglutinated foraminifers (DWF) and particularly to agglutinated forms using organic cement. There have been several attempts to develop supra-regional zonation using DWF. The first reliable zonation was developed by Geroch and Nowak (1984) for the Polish External Carpathians. Initial DWF zonation for the Atlantic Ocean were developed by Moullate et al. (1988) for the Cretaceous and by Kaminski (1988) for the Paleogene. A rough attempt to calibrate DWF zonation to magnetostratigraphy was made using material from the Tethyan Cretaceous standard magnetic polarity section at Gubbio (Kuhnt, 1990). Recent biostratigraphic work on DWF includes material dating from the Cretaceous from various localities within the Western Tethys and the North Atlantic, including DSDP Hole 398D (Vigo Seamount) and from the Paleogene from the Gibraltar Seaway (Kuhnt et al., 1992; Kaminski et al., in press). Using this biostratigraphic framework, even the sparse and poorly preserved agglutinated fauna from Iberia Abyssal Plain ODP Sites 897, 899, and 900 (Fig. 1) can be assigned with confidence at least to stages within the Cretaceous and Paleogene.

Additionally, the species composition of the preserved benthic assemblages discriminates autochthonous abyssal assemblages from redeposited assemblages in the light carbonate-rich layers, which we interpret as fine-grained turbidites transporting material from shelf and slope environments into the basin. The composition of the autochthonous assemblages is used to provide some rough paleobathymetric estimates, based mainly on the different solubilities of certain groups of benthic foraminifers with respect to the lysocline and CCD.

¹Whitmarsh, R.B., Sawyer, D.S., Klaus, A., and Masson, D.G. (Eds.), 1996. *Proc. ODP, Sci. Results*, 149: College Station, TX (Ocean Drilling Program).

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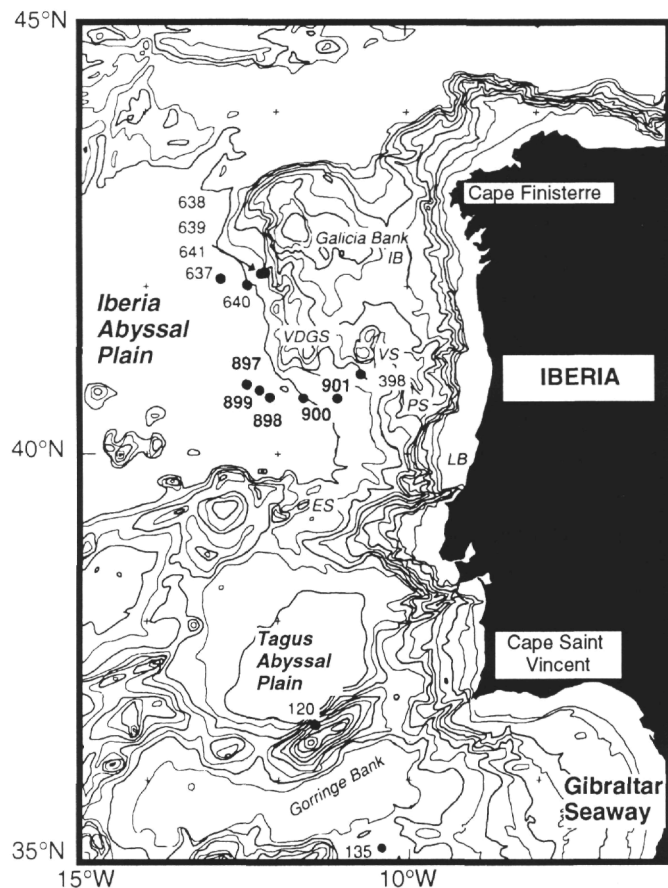


Figure 1. Location of Leg 149 sites and adjacent ODP and DSDP sites along the Iberia Margin. VDGS = Vasco da Gama Seamount; VS = Vigo Seamount; IB = Interior Basin; LB = Lusitanian Basin; ES = Estremadura Spur; PS = Porto Seamount.

Table 1. Distribution of autochthonous benthic foraminifers in the Cretaceous and Paleogene of Hole 897C.

Core, section: Interval (cm): Sample volume (cm ³):	lower Eocene						Paleocene						
	60R-1 41-43 10	60R-1 125-127 10	60R-2 43-45 11	60R-2 116-118 15	60R-3 33-35 11	60R-3 60-62 11	61R-1 50-52 10	61R-1 113-115 13	61R-2 47-49 10	61R-2 129-131 15	61R-3 1-3 13	61R-3 68-70 14	61R-3 135-137 12
<i>Ammodiscus</i> sp. (rough)									1				
<i>Aschemocella carpathica</i> , incl. fragments							2	20					
<i>Aschemocella grandis</i>								2					
<i>Dendrophrya excelsa</i>						1	2						
<i>Glomospira charoides</i>	10	11	23		26	1		1	2			3	
<i>Glomospira gordialis</i>							1				1		
<i>Glomospira irregularis</i>		1											
<i>Haplophragmoides walteri</i>					1	1							
<i>Hormosina crassa</i>	1												
<i>Hyperammina</i> sp. fragments							2	1		1	1	1	3
<i>Karrerulina coniformis</i>					1						1		
<i>Paratrochamminoides</i> cf. <i>corpulentus</i>								1					
<i>Paratrochamminoides olszewskii</i>				1									
<i>Paratrochamminoides</i> spp., incl. fragments					15	6	14	5	3		1		
<i>Plectrocurvoides?</i> sp.			1										
<i>Praecystammina?</i> sp.								1					
<i>Recurvoides</i> spp.	1	5	5		1	4	1	1	1	3	1		
<i>Rhabdammina</i> fragments	1	1	2		18	31	35	43	6	4	17		
<i>Rzehakina epigona</i>													1
<i>Subreophax scalaris</i> fragments				2	4	5		3		1			
<i>Subreophax splendidus</i>							1						
<i>Trochammina altiformis</i>					1								
<i>Trochammina</i> sp. (coarse)								4					
<i>Trochammina</i> sp. (small)													1
tubular aggl. fragments					1	6	19	42	7	20	8	1	
indet. aggl. fragments	5	1			16		2	30		4	7	4	
ichthyoliths	22	17	22	8	18	12	13	29	21	23	33	5	5

Table 2. Distribution of autochthonous benthic foraminifers in the Cretaceous Paleogene of Hole 897D.

Core, section: Interval (cm): Sample volume (cm ³):	M.E.	lower Eocene						Paleocene				
	2R-2 48-50 10	2R-CC 50	3R-4 18-20 10	3-CC 50	4R-1 54-56 15	4R-1 118-120 10	4R-2 30-32 10	4R-2 80-82 10	4R-CC 50	5R-1 28-30 10	5R-2 93-95 15	5R-CC 10
<i>Ammodiscus cretaceus</i>								1	4			
<i>Dendrophrya excelsa</i>				28			2					33
<i>Glomospira charoides</i>	11			3	52	16	36	8	4	6	1	
<i>Glomospira gordialis</i>					1	1	1	1	1			
<i>Glomospira irregularis</i>						4						
<i>Glomospira serpens</i>					1							
<i>Hormosina ovuloides?</i>									2		2	5
<i>Hyperammina subdiscreta</i>	2				3	20						
<i>Karrerulina coniformis</i>					5							
<i>Paratrochamminoides</i>						2			3			
<i>Recurvoides</i> spp.	5			2	29	3	2	5	1			
<i>Remesella varians?</i>	1											
<i>Reticulophragmium amplexens</i>	58											
<i>Rhabdammina</i> fragments	21			1	7	25	1		7	3		
<i>Saccammina</i> cf. <i>placenta</i>									1			
<i>Spiroplectammina subhaeringensis</i>		1										
tubular aggl. fragments					2				5			
indet. aggl. fragments	22				5		5		10			4
smooth tubular fragments								2				
<i>Nuttallides truempyi</i>	11											
<i>Osangularia</i> spp.	5											
<i>Bolivina</i>		79	42									
<i>Uvigerina</i>		1	3									
reworked Cretaceous foraminifers				xx								
ichthyoliths				171	23		22	5	31		12	

METHODS

Samples of varying size (see Tables 1-4) were processed for study of benthic foraminifers. The samples were wet-sieved through a 63 μm (#230 mesh) screen and the residue was dried. Very consolidated samples were first boiled in water to help break them up before sieving. In all cases the complete residue was picked for benthic foraminifers. Data are reported only in numbers/sample because of the generally low numbers of benthic foraminifers. The number of ichthyoliths present in each sample is also reported.

BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

Aptian Neritic (Redeposited?) Assemblages

Aptian benthic foraminifers were encountered in Hole 897C, Cores 62R to 65R and in Hole 897D, Cores 6R to 10R. They consist of shallow-water forms such as *Trocholina*, *Spirillina* ex gr. *minima*, tiny gavelinellas, and small smooth-walled lenticulinas. The assemblage composition closely resembles the type 1 assemblages of Guerin (1981), which characterize outer platform environments of the North Atlantic and Mesogean realm (Guerin, 1981). These shal-

Table 3. Distribution of autochthonous benthic foraminifers in the Cretaceous and Paleogene of Holes 899B.

Core, section: Interval (cm): Sample volume (cm ³):	middle upper Eocene									
	13R-2 117-119 17	13R-5 32-35	13R-5 140-143	13R-6 46-48 18	13R-6 101-104	13-CC 50	14R-1 40-43	14R-2 22-24 16	14R-2 00-103	14R-3 21-24
<i>Ammodiscus cf. pennyi</i>							3			1
<i>Ammodiscus sp.</i>		1								
<i>Ammolagena clavata</i>		2								
<i>Arenobulimina sp.</i>										
<i>Gaudryina sp.</i>										
<i>Glomospira charoides</i>		17	14	4	4	33	4		2	1
<i>Glomospira gordialis</i>			1	1			4	2		
<i>Glomospira irregularis</i>		1			2	4			2	
<i>Haplophragmoides walteri</i>				1		7	2		1	
<i>Haplophragmoides sp.</i>						2				
<i>Hyperammina subdiscreta</i>						4				
<i>Hyperammina fragments</i>								2		
<i>Karrerulina coniformis</i>						2			2	
<i>Paratrochamminoides</i>		2	2		1	2	1		6	1
<i>Recurvoides spp.</i>		3	2			17			2	
<i>Remesella varians</i>										
<i>Reophax elongatus</i>		9	1		1	16	34		9	4
<i>Reticulophragmium amplexens</i>		3	6	1	1		5		1	5
<i>Rhabdammina fragments</i>		14	27	9	2	42	10	9	27	12
<i>Subreophax scalaris</i>		2			1					
indet. tubular aggl.		1		1	2	13				
indet aggl. fragments		40	23	51	10	166	14	30	25	39
autochthonous calcareous benthic foraminifera										
redeposited calcareous foraminifera	xx						x	xx		
radiolaria		x(?)	x(?)							
ichthyoliths		15	9		3		7		18	

Table 3 (continued).

Core, section: Interval (cm): Sample volume (cm ³):	middle upper Eocene											
	14R-4 30-33	14R-5 40-43	14R-6 9-12	14R-CC 50	15R-1 40-43	15R-1 120-124	15R-2 40-43	15R-2 120-124	15R-3 40-43	15R-3 120-124	15R-4 61-64	15R-4 97-100
<i>Ammodiscus cf. pennyi</i>												
<i>Ammodiscus sp.</i>												
<i>Ammolagena clavata</i>												
<i>Arenobulimina sp.</i>									1			
<i>Gaudryina sp.</i>				1								
<i>Glomospira charoides</i>	20	11	12	33	6	1			4			
<i>Glomospira gordialis</i>			6									
<i>Glomospira irregularis</i>		1	2	1								
<i>Haplophragmoides walteri</i>				1						1(?)		
<i>Haplophragmoides sp.</i>		1		2								
<i>Hyperammina subdiscreta</i>												
<i>Hyperammina fragments</i>				18								
<i>Karrerulina coniformis</i>												
<i>Paratrochamminoides</i>		5	1	5	3	4			1	5	2	
<i>Recurvoides spp.</i>	1	4		2					1			
<i>Remesella varians</i>				3								
<i>Reophax elongatus</i>	6	19	24	14								
<i>Reticulophragmium amplexens</i>		3	8	1						18		
<i>Rhabdammina fragments</i>	23	78	15	53	2	9	3	4	3	17		
<i>Subreophax scalaris</i>			1									
indet. tubular aggl.												
indet aggl. fragments	21	45	19	113	10	4	14	3	34	1	3	
autochthonous calcareous benthic foraminifera				xx								
redeposited calcareous foraminifera												
radiolaria			x(?)									
ichthyoliths	6	11	9		4	25	10			8	1	2

low-water benthic foraminiferal assemblages encountered do not allow us to apply the zonations for Early Cretaceous deep-water benthic foraminifers of the North Atlantic and Western Tethys oceans developed by Moullade (1984) and Riegraf and Luterbacher (1989), because the marker species used by these authors are normally missing. An exception is Sample 897C-62R-4, 58-60 cm, where we observed the co-occurrence of *Dorothia ouachensis* and *Gavelinella flandrini*, which, according to the zonation of Moullade (1984), would correspond to a middle Aptian age.

Albian to ?Maastrichtian Hiatus

In both Holes 897C and 897D typical brownish carbonate-free claystones corresponding to the Plantagenet formation of the western

North Atlantic occur directly above Aptian sediments in Core 897C-62R, which corresponds to Core 897D-6R. However, even this section's lowest samples (897C-61R-3, 135-137 cm, and 897D-5R-CC) contain a sparse agglutinated benthic foraminiferal fauna dominated by hyperamminids, and, additionally, they contain a number of ichthyoliths. At almost any other site in the North Atlantic and Western Pacific, this low-diversity agglutinated assemblage is typical of latest Maastrichtian and Paleocene assemblages (Moullade et al., 1988; Kuhnt and Moullade, 1991; Wightman and Kuhnt, 1992). The occurrence of fragments of large, thick-walled hyperamminids or hormosins with smooth surfaces (*Hormosina ovuloides*) and the marker *Rzehakina epigona* in Sample 897C-61R-3, 135-137 cm are important characteristics of this assemblage. These forms normally characterize the uppermost Cretaceous and Paleocene part of the Plantagenet Forma-

Table 4. Distribution of autochthonous benthic foraminifers in the Cretaceous and Paleogene of Hole 900A.

Core, section: Interval (cm):	FO <i>Reticulophragmium amplexens</i>											lower Eocene	
	middle upper Eocene											70R-2	71R-1
	66R-1 43-46	66R-2 43-46	67R-2 110-113	67R-3 14-17	68R-1 40-43	68R-2 113-116	68R-3 125-128	69R-1 84-87	69R-2 83-86	70R-1 69-72	70R-2 57-59	70R-2 93-96	71R-1 60-63
<i>Ammodiscus cretaceus</i>													1
<i>Ammodiscus cf. pennyi</i>		1										4	
<i>Ammodiscus cf. peruvianus</i>													
<i>Ammodiscus tenuissimus</i>						1			1	5			
<i>Ammosphaeroidina</i> sp.									1	2			
<i>Arenobulimina</i> sp.													
<i>Aschemocella carpathica</i>													
<i>Aschemocella grandis</i>													
<i>Conotrochammina whangaia</i>													
<i>Dendrophrya excelsa</i>		1	3	1			1	4	6		1	6	
<i>Dorothia?</i> sp.													
<i>Glomospira charoides</i>		4				5	2	1	5	3	44	6	5
<i>Glomospira gordialis</i>		5				7				3	7	4	
<i>Glomospira irregularis</i>		1							1	3			
<i>Glomospira serpens</i>								1	1			1	
<i>Glomospirella</i> sp.									1				
<i>Haplophragmoides walteri</i>								1	3	1(cf.)	1	3	1
<i>Haplophragmoides</i> sp.													
<i>Hormosina ovulum-ovuloides</i>													
<i>Hormosina velascoensis</i>													
<i>Hyperammina laevigata</i>													
<i>Hyperammina subdiscreta</i>													
<i>Kalamopsis grzybowskii</i>						1							
<i>Karrerulina coniformis</i>										12	3	2	7
<i>Karrerulina conversa</i>								1		5	3	2	1
<i>Karrerulina horrida</i>													
<i>Lituotuba lituiformis</i>										1			
<i>Paratrochamminoides acervulatus</i>													
<i>Paratrochamminoides</i> spp.													
<i>Recurvoides</i> spp.		10			1	1	1	4	8	14		19	11
<i>Reophax</i> spp.								4	7	30	8	4	9
<i>Reticulophragmium amplexens</i>	1(?)											1	
<i>Rhabdammina</i> fragments		49			8	51	9	12	24	5	58	82	7
<i>Rhizammina</i> fragments										5			
<i>Saccammina placenta</i>													
<i>Saccammina</i> sp.													
<i>Subreophax scalaris</i>										1(?)			
<i>Subreophax pseudoscalaris</i>												3	
<i>Subreophax</i> sp.													
<i>Tolypammina?</i> sp.													
<i>Trochammina</i> spp.													1
<i>Verneulinoides?</i> sp.													
indet. aggl. fragments		12				1	1	2	4	10	20	4	8
<i>Aragonia velascoensis</i> (redeposited?)													
redeposited calcareous foraminifera				x									
radiolaria		c											
ichthyoliths		4	9		3	13	4	5	9	22		4	8

Note: c = common.

tion in the North Atlantic; they are generally absent from sediments older than Campanian.

Paleocene Deep-water Agglutinated Foraminiferal Assemblages

Paleocene DWAf assemblages characterize Hole 897C, Cores 61R-3, 135-137 cm to 61R-1, 50-52 cm, Hole 897D, Cores 5R-CC to 4R-CC, 80-82 cm, and Hole 900A, Core 78R-2, 9-11 cm to 78R-1, 128-131 cm. Marker forms are *Hormosina ovulum* and *H. ovuloides*, which often occur as fragments and may then be included in *Hyperammina* (fragments) in the species distribution tables. The Paleocene assemblages are generally very poor, with low abundance and diversity. The position of the last occurrence of *H. ovuloides* with respect to the *Glomospira* biofacies agrees well with biostratigraphic data from ODP Site 647 in the Labrador Sea (Kaminski et al., 1989).

Early Eocene *Glomospira* Event

In Holes 897C, 897D, and 900A a distinct faunal change is detectable in Samples 149-897C-60R-3, 30-35 cm, 149-897D-4R-2, 30-32 cm, and 149-900A-76R-2, 42-44 cm (Fig. 2). In all these samples various species of *Glomospira* (mainly *Glomospira charoides*) suddenly make up the most significant portion of the total benthic foraminiferal assemblage.

This sudden increase in *Glomospira* is a widespread benthic foraminiferal event in the lower Eocene of the Western Tethys and North Atlantic (Kaminski, 1988).

Kaminski et al. (1989) recognized a *Glomospira* facies at the Ypresian/Lutetian (lower-middle Eocene) boundary at ODP Site 647 in the Southern Labrador Sea. Characteristic species of this assemblage consist of *Glomospira irregularis*, *Glomospira charoides*, *Ammodiscus cretaceus*, *Karrerulina coniformis*, *Trochamminoides* spp. and *Haplophragmoides walteri*. Similar assemblages have been found in the lower Eocene of the Moroccan flysch belt (Morgiel and Olszewska, 1982), and the Carpathians (Jurkiewicz, 1967; Morgiel and Olszewska, 1981, 1982). Winkler (1984) discovered a level with common *Glomospira* in the lower Eocene in the Schlierenflysch of the Alpine Flysch Zone of Switzerland. At Site 643 in the Norwegian Sea, the total range of *Glomospira* spp. is confined to the lower Eocene (Kaminski et al., 1990). Recently, a distinct *Glomospira* acme was observed within the Numidian Flysch nappes of the Gibraltar Seaway and correlated with the early Eocene (Kaminski et al., in press). In the Tellian Units in northern Morocco, there is a lower Eocene biosiliceous lithofacies, which may correlate with the *Glomospira* Event in the Numidian Flysch. Immediately above these biosiliceous sediments are middle Eocene claystones with *Reticulophragmium amplexens* (Kuhnt, 1987). The *Glomospira* Event is consequently of biostratigraphic use in the North Atlantic and west-

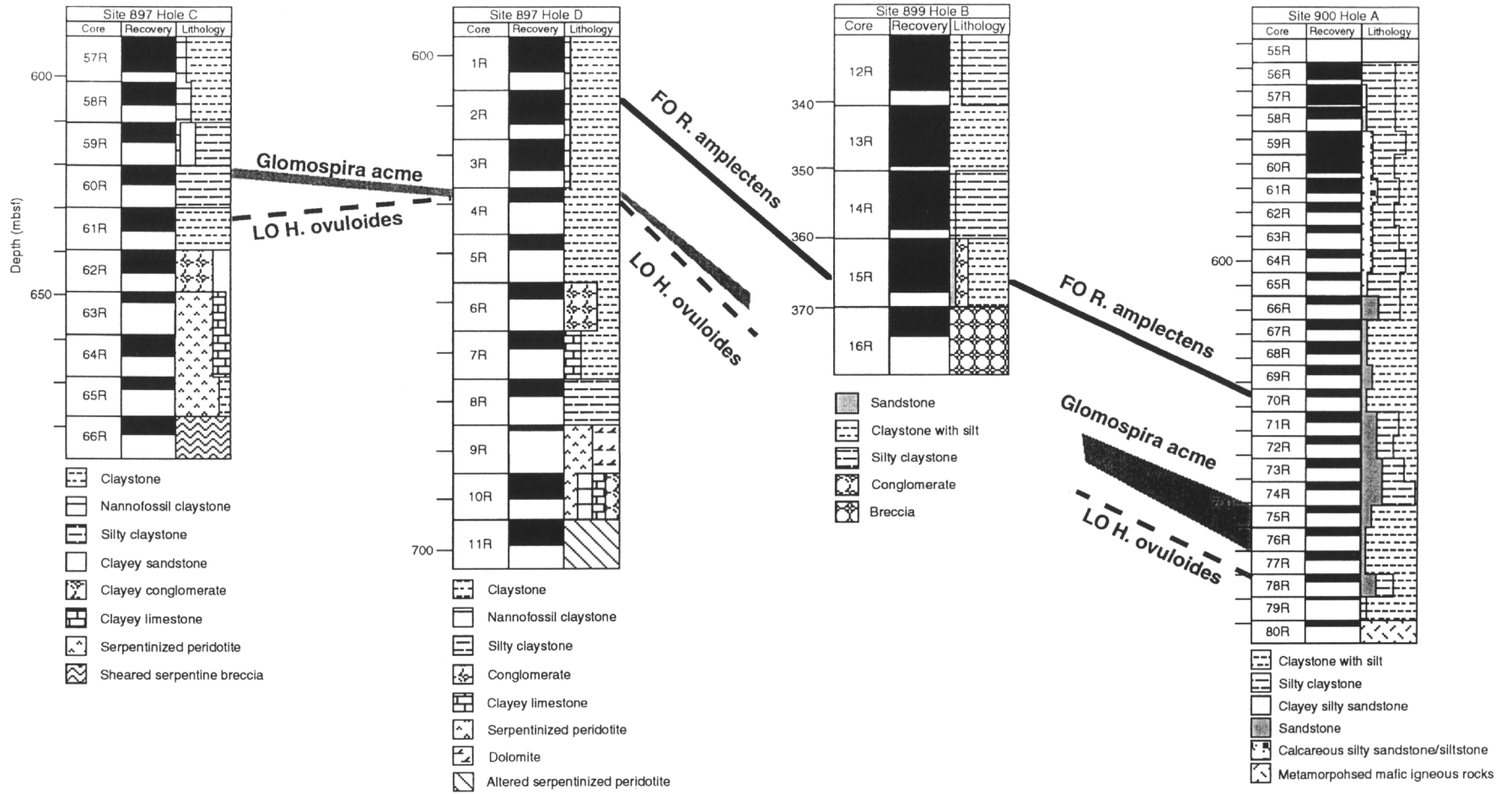


Figure 2. Correlation of Holes 897C, 897D, 899B, and 900A using autochthonous benthic foraminifera. The last occurrence (LO) of the *Hormosina ovuloides* group corresponds to the Paleocene/Eocene boundary, the first occurrence (FO) of *Reticulophragmium amplexens* is regarded as the lower/middle Eocene boundary.

PALEOENVIRONMENT

The species composition of the agglutinated foraminiferal fauna of all hemipelagic Paleogene samples studied is comparable to coeval sub-CCD faunas within the Tethys and North Atlantic basins (Kuhnt and Kaminski, 1990). Only a few samples (e.g., 149-897D-2R-2, 48-50 cm and 149-899B-14R-CC) contain autochthonous calcareous benthic foraminifera. These samples document a depositional environment above the CCD but well below the lysocline for planktonic foraminifera. Little differences in taxonomic composition can be seen between the four sites studied. Only the genus *Paratrochamminoides* seems to be more abundant at the more distal Sites 897 and 899 than at Site 900, which is closer to the continent. Overall, the samples available, with their low abundance and poor preservation of most agglutinated foraminifera, do not allow discrimination of major differences in benthic biofacies within each site.

Rough paleobathymetry estimates for the individual holes follow.

Hole 897C

Hole 897C, Cores 60-61 (upper Paleocene to lower Eocene) were deposited below the CCD (deeper than 4200 m according to the CCD depth reconstruction in the Atlantic ocean by Jansa et al., 1979).

Hole 897D

Hole 897D, Cores 1R to 3R (middle Eocene) were deposited in a deep-water (abyssal) environment, but contain large numbers of reworked/redeposited shallow-water benthic foraminifera (e.g., boliviniids, uvigeriniids) in most samples, undoubtedly samples from turbidite layers.

The best autochthonous fauna is observed in Sample 149-897D-2R-2, 48-50 cm, with the following common deep-water agglutinated foraminifera (ranked by abundance): (1) *Reticulophragmium amplexens*, (2) *Rhabdammina* fragments, (3) *Glomospira charoides*, and (4) *Recurvoides* sp. Calcareous forms are *Nuttallides truempyi*, osangulariids and a few compressed and corroded Eocene planktonic foraminifera. This fauna was recovered from a hemipelagic layer, indicating a depositional environment below the foraminifer lysocline and close to the CCD.

Sample 149-897D-3R-CC contains a poor deep-water agglutinated assemblage and rare reworked Cretaceous planktonic (including the late Albian marker *Planomalina buxtoni*) and benthic foraminifera.

Hole 897D, Cores 4R and 5R (upper Paleocene to lower Eocene) contain abyssal agglutinated foraminiferal assemblages indicating deposition well below the CCD. Characteristic species are, in the order of their abundance: (1) *Glomospira charoides*, (2) *Karrerulina coniformis* and *K. conversa*, (3) *Recurvoides* sp., and (4) *Rhabdammina* fragments.

A major hiatus probably occurs between Cores 897D-5R and 897D-6R. Hole 897D, Cores 6R to 10R, contains calcareous benthic foraminiferal assemblages with large numbers of trocholinids and other calcareous benthic foraminifera, as well as abundant small planktonic foraminifera (*Hedbergella* spp.). These Aptian assemblages indicate shallow-water conditions (shelf to upper slope) but may be redeposited.

Hole 899B

Hole 899B, Cores 13R and 14R (lower to middle Eocene) contains exclusively agglutinated autochthonous foraminiferal assemblages, which indicate abyssal water depth well below the CCD (deeper than 4000-4500 m). Sedimentation above Core 13 mainly consists of calcareous turbidites; we only have samples from these intervals, which contain redeposited foraminifera.

Hole 900A

Hole 900A, Cores 70R-76R (Eocene) and 78R (Paleocene) contains autochthonous assemblages from hemipelagic claystones, that consist exclusively of agglutinated foraminifera indicating an abyssal depositional environment below CCD (deeper than ~4200 m).

Samples from the Eocene above Core 70 (Cores 52-70) were all from calcareous turbidites and the foraminifera were redeposited from shallower depths.

COMPARISON TO ADJACENT AREAS

In the abyssal central North Atlantic, Paleocene claystones are extremely poor in agglutinated foraminifera (Moullade et al., 1988; Kuhnt and Kaminski, 1990). Assemblages consist generally of a few long-ranging forms, which do not allow any biostratigraphic zonation. Close to the Paleocene/Eocene boundary there is a major change in lithology toward biosiliceous sediments such as radiolarian oozes. Normal deep-sea claystones with diverse agglutinated foraminiferal assemblages are so far only known from marginal seas such as the North Sea (Charnock and Jones, 1990), the Labrador and Norwegian Seas (Kaminski et al. 1990), the Basque Basin (Hillebrandt, 1965; Kaminski, 1988), the Senegal Atlantic coastal basin (De Klasz et al., 1988), and Trinidad (Kaminski et al., 1988).

The Paleocene to Eocene benthic foraminiferal biostratigraphy of the North Sea region has been calibrated to the standard chronostratigraphy by the use of dinoflagellate zones (Charnock and Jones, 1990). Kaminski (1988) calibrated the stratigraphic ranges of DWAF to planktonic foraminifer zones in the Zumaya section of northern Spain. The DWAF biostratigraphy at Site 647 in the southern Labrador Sea is calibrated by the use of standard nannofossil zones (Kaminski et al. 1989), but this record only extends upward from lower Eocene nannofossil Zone NP11. The biostratigraphy of DWAF in Trinidad was calibrated to the standard, low-latitude planktonic foraminifer zonation by Kaminski et al. (1988).

The Paleogene DWAF biostratigraphy for the western Tethys is based on the zonation of Geroch and Nowak (1984) from the Silesian flysch basin in Poland. Because these sediments are largely noncalcareous, direct calibration to the standard planktonic zones is not possible, and benthic foraminiferal assemblages were determined based largely on their superposition. However, the Geroch and Nowak zonation has proven useful in other Tethyan basins such as the Northern Apennines, Italy (Morlotti and Kuhnt, 1992) and the Numidian Talaa Lakrah flysch basin, Morocco (Kaminski et al., in press).

Ranges of stratigraphically significant marker species of Paleogene deep-water agglutinated foraminifera are compiled in Figure 3. Because of the poor preservation and comparatively low-resolution sampling (see Tables 1-4), we are not yet able to give definite ranges for these marker species on the Iberia Abyssal Plain; however, the succession of their occurrences closely resembles Tethyan (i.e., Polish External Carpathian) zonations (Geroch and Nowak, 1984).

CONCLUSION

Cretaceous to Paleogene deep-water benthic foraminifera from ODP Sites 897, 899, and 900, Leg 149, Iberia Abyssal Plain show striking similarities in species composition and superposition of assemblages to Tethyan (Alpine Carpathian and Western Mediterranean) occurrences. Although in the present stage of our work no definition of zonal boundaries is possible, the occurrences of the marker species *Gavelinella flandrini*, *Dorothia ouachensis* (co-occurring in the Aptian), *Rzehakina epigona* and *Hormosina ovuloides* (Paleocene), *Karrerulina coniformis*, *Reophax elongatus*, and *Reticulophragmium amplexens* (Eocene) allow an initial stratigraphic subdi-

vision of these intervals based on *autochthonous* microfossils from hemipelagic layers. More detailed samples of the hemipelagic claystones in Holes 899B and 900A will undoubtedly enable a more precise definition of benthic zonal boundaries and a calibration to planktonic data from the turbiditic material. The similarities in taxonomic composition and stratigraphic succession of these benthic assemblages to Tethyan assemblages suggest a close deep-water mass connection to the Western Tethys, at least during the Paleogene, which most probably occurred through a widely opened Gibraltar Seaway between the North African and Iberian margins, with an outflow of Tethyan (saline?) deep water into the North Atlantic.

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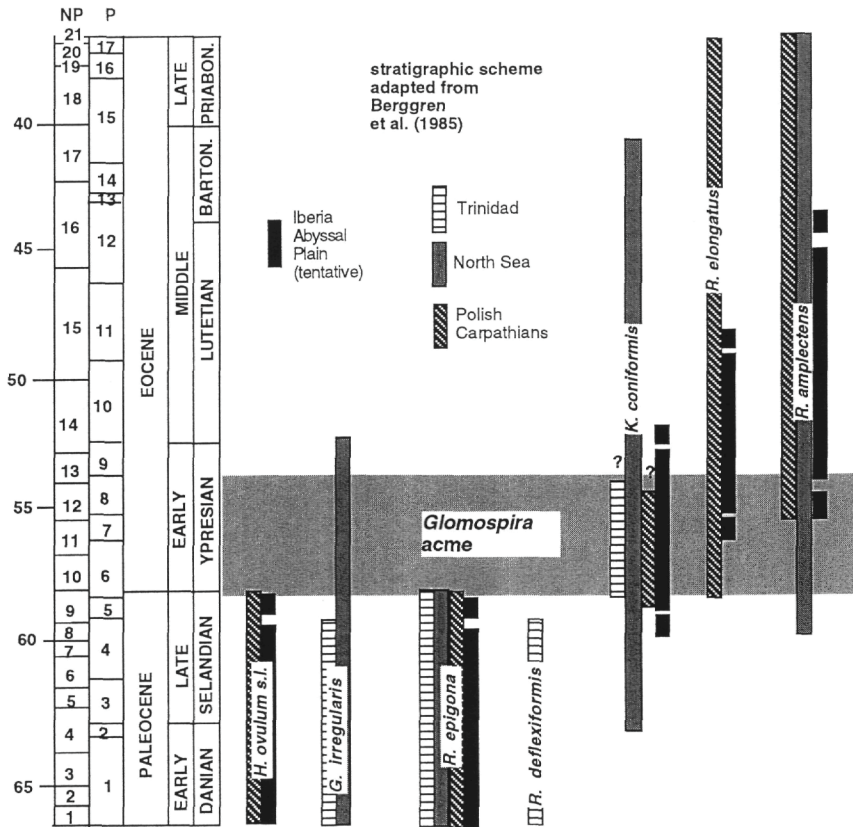


Figure 3. Ranges of selected Paleogene DWAF species from the Polish Carpathians (Geroch and Nowak, 1984), the Basque Basin of northern Spain (Kaminski, 1988), Trinidad (Kaminski et al., 1988), and the North Sea (Charnock and Jones, 1990). Calibration to planktonic zones applies only to Trinidad and Zumaya (modified from Kaminski et al., in press). Correlation to the observed occurrences of the marker species at Sites 897, 899, and 900 is mainly based on the observed superposition of the DWAF assemblages. The correlation is still tentative because of the comparatively low sampling resolution.

TAXONOMIC APPENDIX

Ammodiscus cretaceus (Reuss, 1845)

Operculina cretacea Reuss, 1845, p. 35, pl. 13, figs. 64, 65.

Ammodiscus cretaceus (Reuss) Krashennikov and Pflaumann, 1978, p. 569, pl. 2, fig. 7; Hemleben and Tröster, 1984, p. 517, pl. 1, fig. 17; Moullade et al., 1988, p. 363, pl. 1, fig. 7.

Ammodiscus spp.

Remarks: We lump fragments of planispirally coiled ammodiscids (*Ammodiscus* and outer whorls of *Glomospirella*) under this name.

Ammodiscus cf. *pennyi* Cushman and Jarvis, 1928

cf. *Ammodiscus pennyi* Cushman and Jarvis, 1928, p. 87, pl. 12, figs. 4-5
cf. *Ammodiscus pennyi* Cushman and Jarvis; Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 184-185, pl. 3, figs. 9-10.

Ammodiscus cf. *pennyi* Cushman and Jarvis; Kuhnt and Moullade, 1991, pl. 4, fig. B.

Remarks: Mainly fragments of ammodiscids with a rough surface and often slightly irregular planispiral coiling.

Ammodiscus cf. *peruvianus* Berry, 1928

Ammodiscus peruvianus Berry, 1928, p. 342, pl. 27.
Ammodiscus peruvianus Berry; Gradstein and Berggren, 1981, p. 242-243, pl. 2, figs. 14, 15.

Ammodiscus tenuissimus Grzybowski, 1898

Ammodiscus tenuissimus Grzybowski, 1898, p. 282, pl. 10, fig. 35.
Ammodiscus planus Loeblich; Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 185, pl. 3, fig. 13.
Ammodiscus tenuissimus Grzybowski; Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 253, pl. 5, figs. 1-3b.

Aragonia velascoensis Cushman, 1925
(Pl. 2, Fig. 13)

Textularia velascoensis Cushman, 1925, p. 18, pl. 3, fig. 1.
Aragonia velascoensis (Cushman) Wicher, 1956, p. 107, pl. 13, figs. 9-14.

Aschemocella carpathica (Neagu, 1964)

Aschemonella carpathica Neagu, p. 1964, p. 582, text.-fig. 1/5-8, 2/2-4, 3/1-3, 4/166, pl. 27, fig. 1-3.
Aschemocella carpathica (Neagu) Kuhnt and Kaminski, 1990, p. 464, pl. 2, figs. a-e; Kuhnt and Moullade, 1991, pl. 1, fig. A.

Aschemocella grandis (Grzybowski, 1898)

Reophax grandis Grzybowski, p. 1898, p. 277, pl. 10, figs. 13-15.
Aschemocella grandis (Grzybowski) Kuhnt and Kaminski, 1990, p. 464, pl. 2, figs. f-i; Kuhnt and Moullade, 1991, pl. 1, fig. B; Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 249, pl. 2, figs. 8-10.

Bolivina spp.

Remarks: Bolivinids are the most common elements in redeposited assemblages within the upper part of the Eocene sequence. We did not attempt to determine these forms at the species level.

Conotrochammina whangaia Finley, 1940

Conotrochammina whangaia Finley, 1940, p. 448, pl. 62, figs. 1-2.
Conotrochammina whangaia Finley; Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 193, pl. 7, figs. 19-20b.

Nothia excelsa (Grzybowski, 1898)

Dendrophrya excelsa Grzybowski, 1898, p. 272, pl. 10, figs. 1-4.
Nothia excelsa (Grzybowski) Geroch and Kaminski, 1993, p. 255-265.

Dorothia ouachensis (Sigal, 1952)

Marssonella ouachensis, Sigal, 1952, p. 19, fig. 16.
Dorothia ouachensis (Sigal) Moullade, 1984, p. 448-450, pl. 7, fig. 11, pl. 9, figs. 1-11, pl. 10, figs. 1-9.

Remarks: We observed only one single specimen of this Hauterivian-Aptian stratigraphic marker in Sample 149-897C-62R-4, 58-60 cm.

Gaudryina spp.

Remarks: A few badly preserved specimens of this calcareous-cement-agglutinating genus have not been determined on the species level.

Glomospira charoides (Jones and Parker, 1860)
(Pl. 1, Figs. 1, 2)

Trochammina squamata Jones and Parker var. *charoides* Jones and Parker, 1860, p. 304.

Glomospira charoides (Jones and Parker) Berggren and Kaminski, 1990, pl. 1, fig. 2 (lectotype).

Glomospira glomerata (Grzybowski, 1898)

Ammodiscus glomeratus Grzybowski, 1898, p. 285, pl. 11, fig. 4.
Glomospira glomerata (Grzybowski) Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 257, pl. 6, figs. 9-12.

Glomospira gordialis (Jones and Parker, 1860)

Trochammina squamata Jones and Parker var. *gordialis* Jones and Parker, 1860, p. 304.

Glomospira gordialis (Jones and Parker) Berggren and Kaminski, 1990, pl. 1, fig. 1 (lectotype).

Glomospira irregularis (Grzybowski, 1898)

Ammodiscus irregularis Grzybowski, 1898, p. 285, pl. 11, figs. 2, 3.
Glomospira irregularis (Grzybowski) Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 256, pl. 6, figs. 1, 6-8.

Glomospira serpens (Grzybowski, 1898)

Ammodiscus serpens Grzybowski, 1898, p. 285, pl. 10, figs. 31-33.
Glomospira serpens (Grzybowski) Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 256, pl. 6, figs. 2-5.

Haplophragmoides walteri (Grzybowski, 1898)
(Pl. 2, Fig. 6, 7)

Trochammina walteri Grzybowski, 1898, p. 290, pl. 11, fig. 31.
Haplophragmoides walteri (Grzybowski) Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 263, pl. 10, figs. 3-7.

Haplophragmoides spp.

Remarks: Small, compressed specimens of the genus *Haplophragmoides* that could not be determined on the species level.

Hormosina cf. *crassa* Geroch, 1966
(Pl. 1, Fig. 9)

cf. *Hormosina ovulum crassa* Geroch, 1966, p. 438, figs. 6 (19, 21-26), 7 (21-23).

Hormosina ovulum crassa Geroch; Hemleben and Tröster, 1984, p. 520, pl. 2, figs. 8, 9.

Hyperammia cf. *dilatata* Grzybowski; Hemleben and Tröster, 1984, p. 520, pl. 1, fig. 11.

Hormosina crassa Geroch; Moullade et al., 1988, p. 365, pl. 2, fig. 4-6; Kuhnt, 1990, p. 314, pl. 2, fig. 5.

Hormosina cf. *crassa* Geroch; Kuhnt and Kaminski, 1990, p. 472, pl. 21, fig. o

Hormosina ovuloides (Grzybowski, 1901)
(Pl. 1, Figs. 7, 8)

Reophax ovuloides Grzybowski, 1901, p. 268, pl. 7, fig. 3.
Hormosina ovuloides (Grzybowski, 1901) Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 186, pl. 2, figs. 3-4; Moullade et al., 1988, p. 365, pl. 2, figs. 7-8, 10; Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 276, pl. 15, fig. 5a, b.

Hormosina ovulum (Grzybowski, 1896)

Reophax ovulum Grzybowski, 1896, p. 276, pl. 8, figs. 8, 9.
Hormosina ovulum (Grzybowski, 1896) Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 186, pl. 2, fig. 10; Moullade et al., 1988, p. 365, pl. 2, fig. 9.

Hyperammina subdiscreta (Grzybowski, 1896)

Rhabdammina subdiscreta Rzehak; Grzybowski, 1896, p. 275, pl. 8, figs. 5, 6.
Rhabdammina subdiscreta Grzybowski; Hemleben and Tröster, 1984, p. 522, pl. 1, figs. 1, 2.
Hyperammina subdiscreta (Grzybowski) Moullade et al., 1988, p. 365, pl. 2, fig. 1-3.

Hyperammina spp.

Remarks: We lumped smooth tubular fragments under this name.

Karrerulina coniformis (Grzybowski, 1898)
 (Pl. 2, Fig. 4)

Gaudryina coniformis Grzybowski, 1898, p. 39 pl. 12, fig. 7
Karrieriella coniformis (Grzybowski) Kaminski et al. 1988, p. 195, pl. 9, figs. 15-16.
Karrerulina coniformis (Grzybowski) Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 269, pl. 13, figs. 1-4.

Karrerulina conversa (Grzybowski, 1901)
 (Pl. 2, Fig. 2)

Gaudryina conversa Grzybowski, 1901, p. 285, pl. 7, figs. 15, 16.
Gerochammina conversa (Grzybowski) Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 279, pl. 13, figs. 5-11.

Karrerulina horrida (Mjatliuk, 1970)
 (Pl. 2, Fig. 3)

Karrieriella horrida Mjatliuk, 1970, p. 114 - 115, pl. 5, fig. 9; pl. 33, figs. 15-16c.

Nuttallides truempyi Nuttall, 1930
 (Pl. 2, Fig. 14)

Eponides truempyi Nuttall, 1930, p. 287, pl. 24, figs. 9, 13, 14.
Nuttallides truempyi Nuttall; Van Morkhoven et al., 1986, p. 288-295, pl. 96A, figs. 1-4, pl. 96B, figs. 1-3, pl. 96C, figs. 1-4, pl. 96D, figs. 1-2.

Osangularia spp.

Remarks: We did not determine individual species of this genus.

Paratrochamminoides acervulatus (Grzybowski, 1896)

Trochammina acervulata Grzybowski, 1896, p. 284, pl. 9, fig. 4 a-c.

Paratrochamminoides cf. *corpulentus* Krasheninnikov, 1973
 (Pl. 1, Fig. 11)

Paratrochamminoides corpulentus Krasheninnikov, 1973, p. 212, pl. 3, figs. 3a, b, c.

Paratrochamminoides conglobatus (Brady) Hemleben and Tröster, 1984, p. 520 pl. 3, fig. 9

Paratrochamminoides semipellucidus Krasheninnikov; Hemleben and Tröster, 1984, p. 520, pl. 3, figs. 12-14.

Paratrochamminoides sp. 2, Hemleben and Tröster, 1984, p. 521, pl. 3, fig. 18.
Paratrochamminoides corpulentus Krasheninnikov; Moullade et al., 1988, p. 365, pl. 3, figs. 8, 9.

Paratrochamminoides olszewskii (Grzybowski, 1898)
 (Pl. 1, Fig. 10)

Trochammina olszewskii Grzybowski, 1898, p. 286, pl. 11, fig. 6.
Paratrochamminoides olszewskii (Grzybowski) Wightman and Kuhnt, 1992, p. 257, pl. 4, fig. 4.
Paratrochamminoides olszewskii (Grzybowski) Kaminski and Geroch, 1994, p. 257, pl. 7, figs. 1a-2b.

Paratrochamminoides spp.
 (Pl. 1, Fig. 12)

Remarks: We lumped poorly preserved specimens and fragments of *Paratrochamminoides* under this genus name.

Plectorecurvoides spp.
 (Pl. 1, Fig. 3)

Remarks: Test biserial, in contrast to the uniserial *Recurvoides*. In many cases a differentiation between these two genera is not possible due to the bad preservation, which does not allow the single chambers to be distinguished, and thus makes identification tentative even to the generic level.

Praecystammina? cf. *globigerinaeformis* Krasheninnikov, 1973

Praecystammina? sp. cf. *globigerinaeformis* Krasheninnikov; Moullade et al., 1988, p. 366, pl. 7, fig. 5.

Recurvoides spp.
 (Pl. 1, Fig. 4)

Remarks: Small size and poor preservation of these forms allowed only in rare exceptions to tentatively assign them to the species *Recurvoides* cf. *imperfectus* Hanzlikova, *Recurvoides nucleolus* (Grzybowski) and *Recurvoides* ex gr. *gerochi* Pflaumann.

Reophax elongatus Grzybowski, 1898
 (Pl. 2, Figs. 8, 9, 10, 11)

Reophax elongatus Grzybowski, 1898, p. 279, pl. 10, figs. 19-20; Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 250, pl. 3, figs. 1-5.

Remesella varians (Glaessner, 1937)
 (Pl. 2, Fig. 1)

Textulariella? *varians* Glaessner, 1937, p. 366-367, pl. 2, fig. 15.
Matanzia varians (Glaessner) Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 196, pl. 9, fig. 14, pl. 10, fig. 14.

Reticulophragmium amplexens (Grzybowski, 1898)
 (Pl. 2, Fig. 5)

Cyclammina amplexens Grzybowski, 1898, p. 292, pl. 12, figs. 1-3.
Reticulophragmium amplexens (Grzybowski) Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 266, pl. 11, figs. 5-7.

Remarks: We included poorly preserved forms which superficially resemble *Reticulophragmium placenta* in this species.

Rhabdammina cylindrica (Glaessner, 1937)

Rhabdammina cylindrica Glaessner, 1937, p. 354, pl. 1, fig. 1.

Rzehakina epigona (Rzehak, 1895)
 (Pl. 1, Fig. 6)

Silicina epigona Rzehak, 1895, p. 214, pi. 6, fig. 1
Rzehakina epigona (Rzehak) Hiltermann, 1974, p. 36-56, pl. 5, figs. 1-44, pl. 6, figs. 1-35, 39-41.
Rzehakina epigona epigona (Rzehak) Krasheninnikov and Pflaumann, 1977, p. 569, pl. 3, figs. 5a, b, 11.

Saccammina cf. *placenta* (Grzybowski, 1898)

Saccamina complanata (Franke) Krashennikov, 1974, p. 644, pl. 7, figs. 10a,b.

Saccamina placenta (Grzybowski) Krashennikov and Pflaumann, 1977, p. 568, pl. 1, fig. 16.

Remarks: Differs from the true *Saccamina placenta* in its smaller size and more coarsely agglutinated wall.

Spiroplectamina subhaeringensis (Grzybowski, 1896)
(Pl. 2, Fig. 12)

Textularia subhaeringensis Grzybowski, 1896, p. 285, pl. 9, fig. 16.

Spiroplectamina subhaeringensis (Grzybowski) Hemleben and Tröster, 1984, p. 522, pl. 3, figs. 21-23.

Subreophax scalaris (Grzybowski, 1896)

Reophax guttifera Brady var. *scalaria* Grzybowski, 1896, p. 277, pl. 8, fig. 26.
Reophax scalaris Grzybowski; Hemleben and Tröster, 1984, p. 521, pl. 2, figs. 10-11.

Subreophax scalaria (Grzybowski) Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 187, pl. 2, figs. 16-17; Kuhnt, 1990, p. 326, pl. 3, figs. 4-5.

Subreophax splendidus (Grzybowski, 1898)
(Pl. 1, Fig. 5)

Reophax splendida Grzybowski, 1898, p. 278, pl. 10, fig. 16.

Subreophax splendidus (Grzybowski) Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 251, pl. 3, figs. 11-12.

Trochammina altiformis Cushman and Renz, 1946

Trochammina globigeriniformis (Parker and Jones) var. *altiformis* Cushman and Renz, 1946, p. 24, pl. 3, figs. 7-11.

Trochammina globigeriniformis altiformis Cushman and Renz; Krashennikov, 1974, p. 641, pl. 6, figs. 4a-c, 5a.

Trochammina altiformis Cushman and Renz; Moullade et al., 1988, p. 366-367, pl. 8, figs. 1-3.

Trochammina spp.

Remarks: We lumped all compressed trochamminids under this name.

Trochamminoides dubius (Grzybowski, 1901)

Ammodiscus dubius Grzybowski, 1901, p. 274, pl. 8, figs. 12, 14.

Trochamminoides dubius (Grzybowski) Neagu, 1970, p. 38, pl. 2, fig. 20; Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 191, pl. 4, figs. 16-17; Kuhnt, 1990, p. 326, pl. 5, fig. 8.

Remarks: In the species charts we included this species in *Trochamminoides* spp.

Trochamminoides proteus (Karrer, 1866)

Trochammina proteus Karrer, 1866, pl. 1, fig. 8.

Trochamminoides proteus (Karrer) White, 1928b, p. 308, pl. 42, fig. 2; Samuel, 1977, p. 46-47, pl. 5, fig. 5a-b; Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 192, pl. 4, fig. 20; Kaminski and Geroch, 1993, p. 275, pl. 15, figs. 9-12.

Remarks: In the species charts we included this species in *Trochamminoides* spp.

Trochamminoides subcoronatus (Grzybowski, 1896)

Trochammina subcoronata Grzybowski, 1896, p. 283-284, pl. 9, fig. 3a-c.
Trochamminoides subcoronatus (Grzybowski) Kaminski et al., 1988, p. 192, pl. 4, fig. 19.

Remarks: In the species charts we included this species in *Trochamminoides* spp.

Uvigerina spp.

Remarks: First uvigerinids occur in redeposited assemblages within the upper part of the Eocene sequence. We did not attempt to determine these forms to the species level.

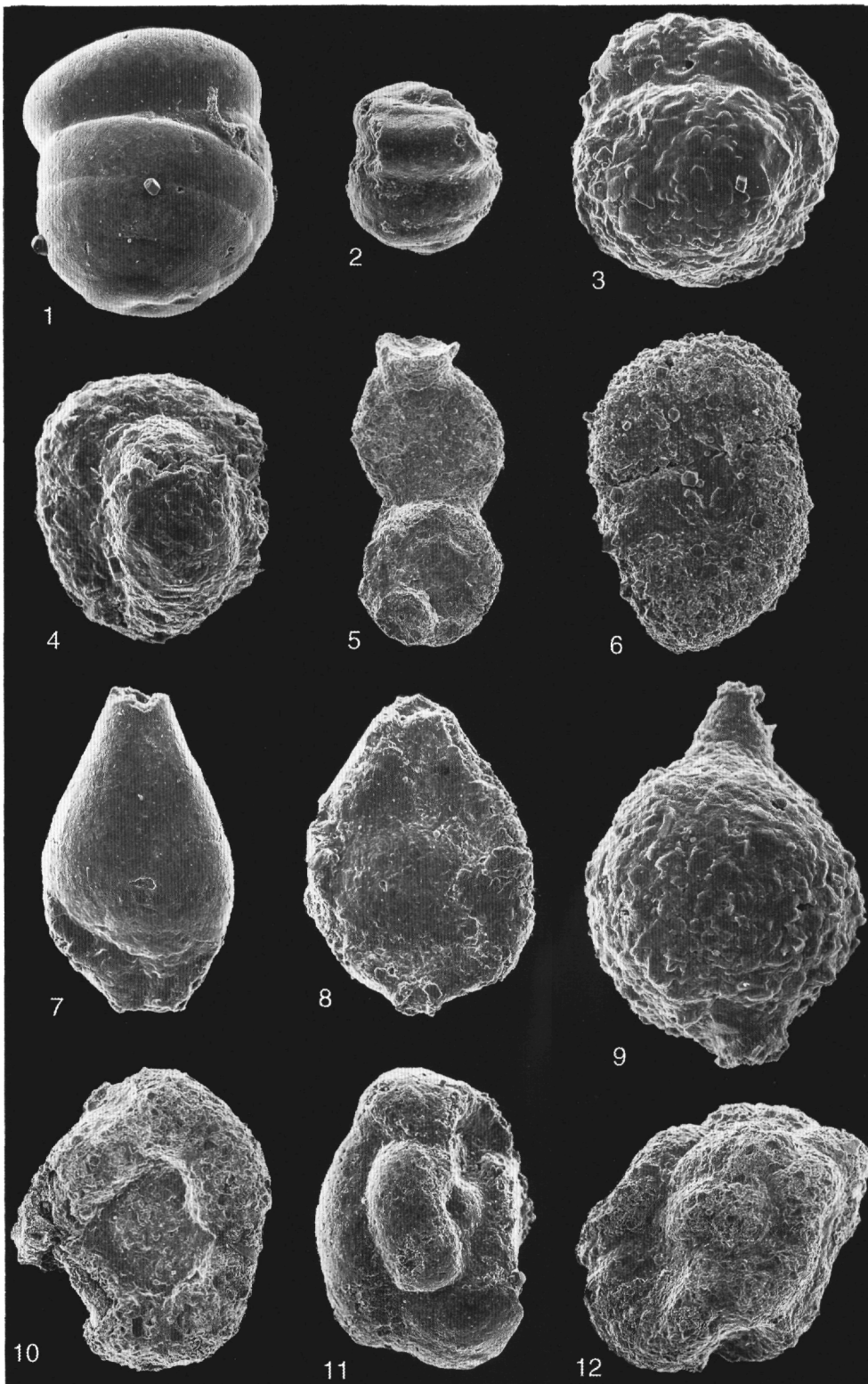


Plate 1. **1.** *Glomospira charoides*, Sample 149-897D-2R-2, 48-50 cm, large specimen of the middle Eocene, $\times 196$; **2.** *Glomospira charoides*, Sample 149-897C-60R-3, 30-35 cm, small specimen of the Lower Eocene "*Glomospira*-Event" $\times 196$; **3.** *Plectrorecurvoides?* sp., Sample 149-897C-60R-2, 43-45 cm, $\times 160$; **4.** *Recurvoides* sp., Sample 149-897D-4R-1, 54-56 cm, $\times 267$; **5.** *Subreophax splendidus*, Sample 149-897C-61R-1, 50-52 cm, $\times 43$; **6.** *Rzehakina epigona*, Sample 149-897C-61R-3, 135-137 cm, $\times 120$; **7-8.** *Hormosina ovuloides*, Sample 149-900A-78R-2, 9-11 cm, $\times 187$ (7), $\times 160$ (8); **9.** *Hormosina crassa*, Sample 149-897C-60R-1, 41-43 cm, $\times 374$; **10.** *Paratrochamminoides olszewskii*, Sample 149-897C-60R-2, 116-118 cm, $\times 64$; **11.** *Paratrochamminoides corpulentus*, Sample 149-897C-61R-1, 113-115 cm, $\times 136$; **12.** *Paratrochamminoides* sp., Sample 149-897C-61R-1, 50-52 cm, $\times 91$.

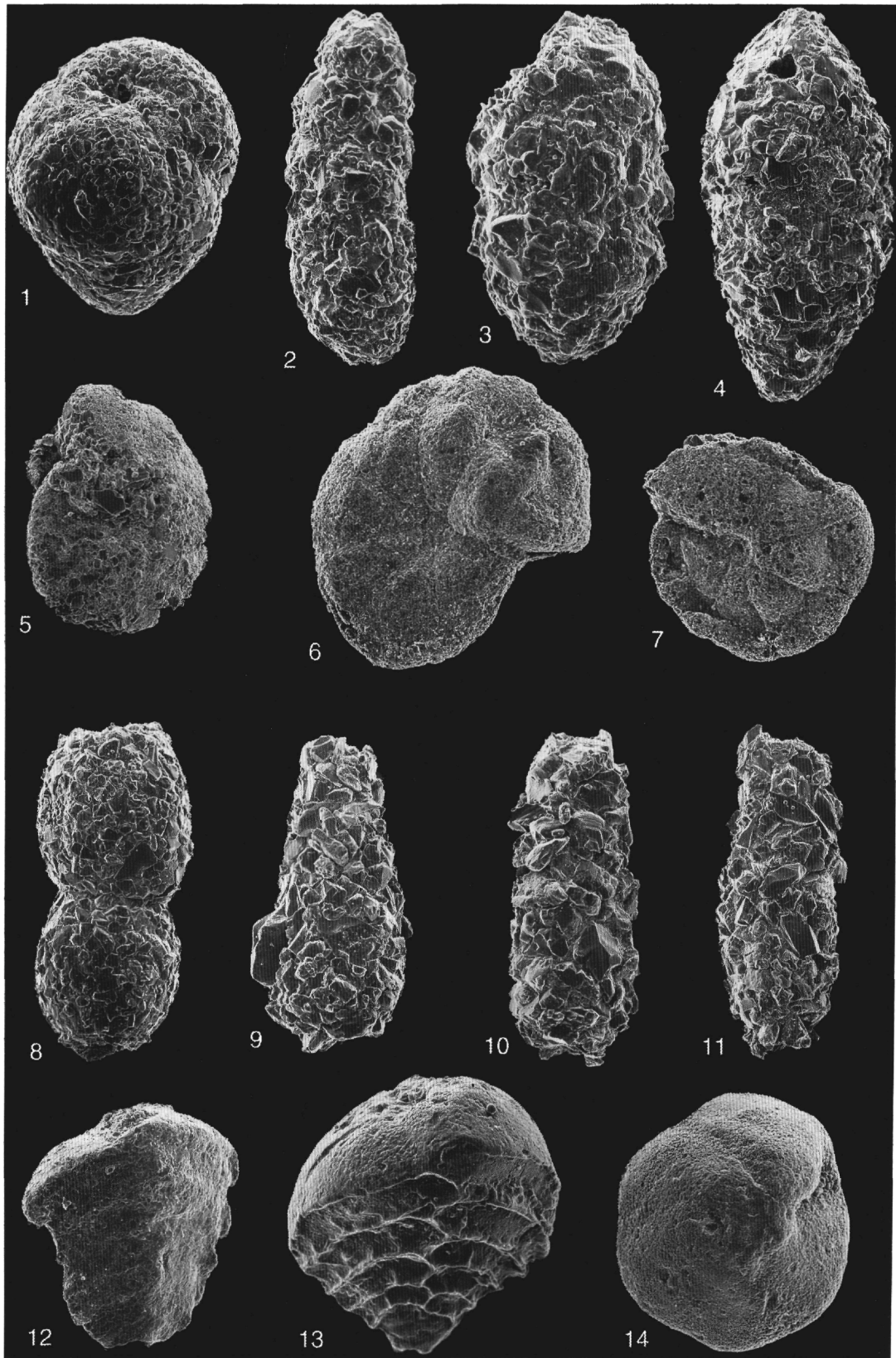


Plate 2. 1. *Remesella varians*, Sample 149-899B-14CC, $\times 79$; 2. *Karrerulina conversa*, Sample 149-900A-70R-2, 57-59 cm, $\times 106$; 3. *Karrerulina horrida*, Sample 149-897D-4R-1, 54-56 cm, $\times 203$; 4. *Karrerulina coniformis*, Sample 149-900A-70R-2, 57-59 cm, $\times 79$; 5. *Reticulophragmium amplexens*, Sample 149-897D-2R-2, 48-50 cm, $\times 4$; 6. *Haplophragmoides walteri*, Sample 149-899B-13CC, $\times 139$; 7. *Haplophragmoides walteri*, Sample 149-897C-60R-3, 60-62 cm, $\times 79$; 8. *Reophax elongatus*, Sample 149-899B-14CC, $\times 58$; 9-11. *Reophax elongatus*; sample 149-899B-13CC, $\times 58$ (9, 11), $\times 74$ (10); 12. *Spiroplectammina subhaeringensis*, Sample 149-897D-2R-2, 48-50 cm, $\times 79$; 13. *Aragonia velascoensis*; Sample 149-900A-78R-2, 9-11 cm, $\times 159$; 14. *Nuttallides truempyi*, Sample 149-897D-2R-2, 48-50 cm, $\times 159$.