

**Foraminifera of the Alboran Sea : Distribution and Ecology
after the last glaciation (18.000-15.000 a B.P.)**

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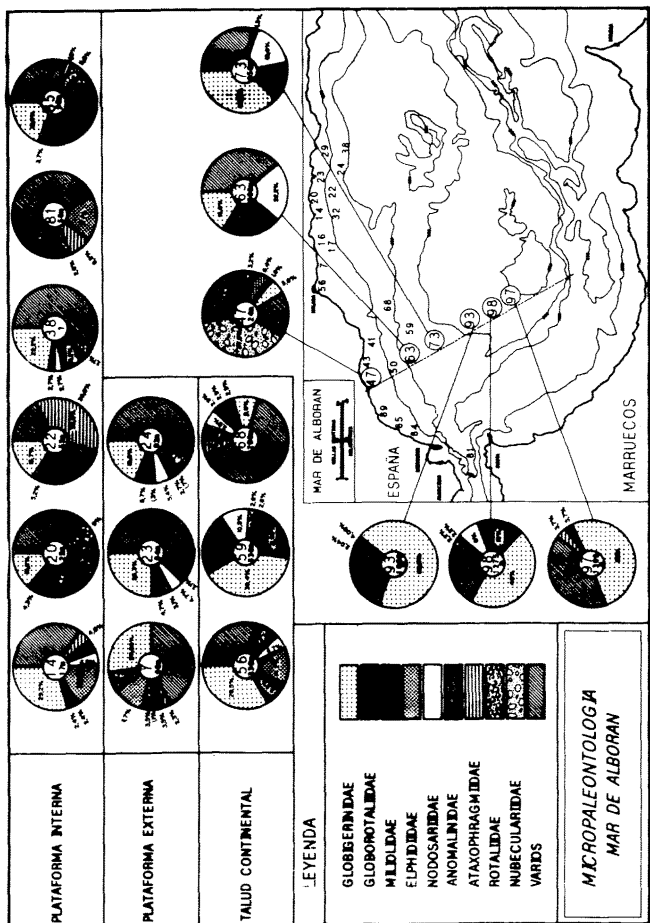
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The Alboran Sea is the object of many morphological and geophysical studies which serve as the base for the correct interpretation of its sedimentary biofacies. The biology and taphonomy (transport, dissolution, preservation, etc.) of the Foraminifera, necessitates Knowledge of biotopes or productive areas and "post mortem" deposits of the shells. The taxonomical and ecological study of 45 samples obtained between 17 and 1.400 m. of depth, provided us with 360 species and 41 families, which allows us to highlight the following :

1 - The benthonic microfauna is dominated by calcareous-perforates and calcareous-porcelanous formes in the infralittoral and circalittoral zones and agglutinated species in the suprabatyal zone. The greatest specific variety in *Miliolidae* (75 sp.), *Discobidae* (27 sp.) and *Cibicididae* (14 sp.) originating from algal and *Posidonia* biotopes, while the *Rotaliidae* (*Ammonia beccarii*) and *Elphidiidae* of infralittoral zone, through tafocenotic processes, reach deers areas.

2 - The planktonic microfauna is represented by the post-glacial biocenosis with *Globorotalia inflata* (sinistral form), *Globorotalia truncatulinoides* (dextral form), *Globigerina bulloides* and *Orbulina universa*. Their meso-epipelagic characteristics are in harmony with the present time hydrodynamic model of Gibraltar with the upwelling of Atlantic Water in the northwest of Alboran Sea. The hemipelagic nature of the suprabatyal sediments and the eupelagic character of the mesobathalys deposits, responds to the planktonic fertility in this area, dating from the Holocene.

3 - The Quaternary glacioeustatism of Wurm IV (18.000 to 15.000 a B.P.), which 125m coastline regression and with aerial news conditions, in the infralittoral and circalittoral zones forced the emigration of wurmian species (*Cibicides*, *wellestorfi*, *Karrerella bradii*, etc.), while the Flandrian transgression (10.000 to 6.000 a B.P.) provided the presents biotopes dominated by calcareous forms whit eurihalines and filoterrigenous species (*Ammonia*, *Elphidium*, etc.), when the agglutinated microfauna (*Bigenerina*, *Gaudryina*, *Textularia*, etc.) conserves its infralittoral and suprabathyal biotopes without glacioeustatic incidence.



REFERENCES

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