

Biodiversity of benthic foraminifera in the northeastern Atlantic

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We investigate the species richness of benthic foraminifera on the shelf and continental slope of the European Margin. In the Bay of Biscay and Irish-Scottish Sea, 1100 different benthic foraminiferal species were recognised to date, which comprise about 55 % of all species in the world oceans. We will assess the diversity of benthic foraminifera on the northeastern Atlantic shelf and continental slope and develop a functional understanding of distribution and adaptation of foraminiferal faunas.

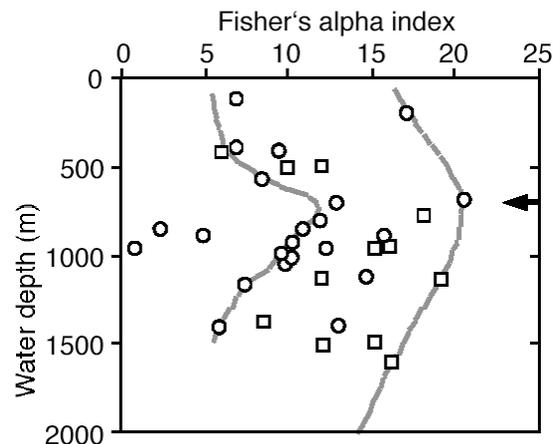


Fig. 1: Literature data from 40 publications from 1913 to 2010 comprise 2837 stations and 1096 foraminiferal taxa.

Fig. 2: "mid-slope diversity maximum" of benthic foraminifera at the Irish-American Margin (Schönfeld et al., 2011).

