

BOOK REVIEW

Neogene Deep Water Benthic Foraminifera from the Indian Ocean - A Monograph

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The Indian Ocean contains a wide variety of deep-sea environments. These range from well-ventilated abyssal basins to the oxygen-poor areas at intermediate water depth. Deep-sea foraminifera from sediment cores provided a variety of information on the Neogene climate development and its impact on the different deep-sea ecosystems. The application of benthic foraminifera as an environmental proxy requires a profound knowledge of their species taxonomy and ecology. For the Indian Ocean, such knowledge has to be compiled from a variety of single research papers, which are often inaccessible and inconsistent concerning species and genus assignation. To date, there is no systematic monograph on benthic foraminifera from the Indian Ocean, probably after the work of Schwager on the foraminifera from the Novara Expedition to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been published in 1866.

The new book of Anil K. Gupta closes this gap! The book reflects the long-standing experience of the author and his working group on Neogene deep-sea benthic foraminifera of the Indian Ocean. Detailed taxonomic descriptions and stratigraphic ranges are provided for more than 250 different species from three DSDP sites of the Ninetyeast Ridge, from which 170 species are displayed in SEM images. The book also addresses the biogeographical patterns of modern deep-sea benthic foraminiferal faunas in the entire Indian Ocean, and their taphonomy and microhabitat. The latter information is particularly useful as a reference to the specific ecology and applicability in paleoceanographic studies. The monograph provides a rich resource for all future students and experts, who use deep-sea benthic foraminifera from the Indian Ocean in paleoenvironmental studies. I am looking forward to using the monograph in my own research and I will definitely recommend it to my future students!

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