

Impacts of ocean acidification on foraminiferal calcification

KEUL, Nina^{1*}, Gerald Langer³, DE NOOIJER, Lennart J.², Gernot Nehrke¹, Gert-Jan Reichart², BIJMA, Jelle¹

¹Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, ²Department of Earth Sciences, Geochemistry, Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, ³Department of Earth Sciences, Cambridge University

Anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions result in ocean acidification through net flux of atmospheric CO₂ into sea surface waters. This process reduces pH and carbonate ion concentration, resulting in a decrease of the calcium carbonate saturation state of seawater. More often than not calcifying organisms are particularly vulnerable to ocean acidification. Traditional experimental protocols such as the dissolved inorganic carbon manipulation method lead to a change in every parameter of the carbonate system apart from one (in this case total alkalinity). Therefore these protocols are not suited to determine the parameter of the carbonate system which causes observed effects.

In order to accurately predict foraminiferal calcification at reduced seawater pH and to isolate the effects of pH and carbonate ion concentration we cultured juvenile specimens of the shallow water, benthic foraminifer *Ammonia tepida* in seawater with altered carbonate chemistries: 1) varying pH, stable carbonate ions concentration and 2) varying carbonate ion concentration, stable pH. Growth rates, shell thickness, weight and trace element partitioning will be presented.

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