

有孔虫の石灰化に関する最近の結果 Recent results of foraminiferal calcification

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Foraminifera, marine unicellular organism, have been thought as one of the major carbonate producer in ocean. Their calcareous tests are commonly utilized as paleo-environmental indicators in various studies of earth science because their tests have been archived as numerous fossil in sediment for long time and various environmental information are brought by population, morphology and geochemical fingerprints. The calcareous test itself is interested by many foraminifer scientists. The knowledge about the cytological process on carbonate precipitation has been described for couples of decade using by many legacy technology. Cellular regulations of ions uptake into calcareous tests from seawater are of great interest for broad fields of earth science. Our recent studies showed the potential to understanding the biomineralization of foraminifera by the application of fluorescent indicators. Recently, we visualize the spatial distributions of cytological calcium and pH in living cell at same time under several pH conditions (7.5-8.1). Observed results show that foraminifera controls very detailed timing of pH variation and concentration of calcium at any stage of chamber formation dynamically even ambient pH are varied. These observations results will help to consider how the geochemical compositions arranging on the foraminiferal test, sensitivity of pH proxy of boron and others.