

Benthic foraminiferal assemblages of sediment core MD01-2412 in the SW Sea of Okhotsk

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The Sea of Okhotsk is the sea with sea-ice that is located at the lowest latitude in the world. Further, it has been proposed as the origin at region of North Pacific Intermediate Water.

To understand the process of establishing the present condition of this sea, we are investigating the faunal changes of benthic foraminifera of the sediment core MD01-2412 (water depth: 1,225 m) in the SW Sea of Okhotsk (44 31.65'N, 145 00.25'E).

In this moment, we have faunal the following features of foraminiferal assemblages.

--*Nonionellina labradorica*, *Uvigerina akitaensis*, *Uvigerina auberiana ochotica*, *Valvulineria ochotica* occur through out the core, as found in the other cores in the Sea of Okhotsk.

--In Sec. 5 and Sec. 9, *Brizalina pacifica* and *Stainforthia* spp. are common in occurrence. These species are recognized in cores GH01-1011 (44 16.51'N, 144 58.50'E; WD 778m), GH01-1012 (44 32.01'N, 144 33.19'E; WD 1,516m), and XP98-PC1 (51 00.9'N, 152 00.5'E; WD 1,107m).

--*Elphidium batiale* occurs in Sec. 17-39. It is never found in the other cores in the Sea of Okhotsk, though it lives the present sea bottom on the shelf of this sea.

--*Islandiella* cf. *sublimbata* occurs in Sec. 11-31. It is also never found in this sea before.