

Characteristics of the Late Jurassic radiolarians

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The Kimmeridgian (middle Late Jurassic) age might be comfortable for some kind of radiolarians, and severe for others. Radiolarian assemblages in this period were mainly composed of the species first appeared during the Middle Jurassic. Many of the multi-segmented Nassellarians and some spherical Nassellarian genera, e.g. *Willriedellum* and *Zhamoidellum*, are the groups survived from the Middle Jurassic to the Late Jurassic. On the other hand, most of the species in genera *Striatojaponocapsa* and *Kilinora*, which are also spherical Nassellarians and were predominant in the Middle to early Late Jurassic time, disappeared by the Kimmeridgian.

As the Kimmeridgian is considered to be a global greenhouse age, probably, oceans had been under some kind of anomalous condition during this period. For example, in the western Tethys, carbonaceous mudstone had been deposited through the Kimmeridgian age. There is a possibility that the selectivity of spherical radiolarians in the Middle to Late Jurassic was controlled by the extreme oceanographic state. To clarify the optimum characters for the Late Jurassic conditions, further investigation about the internal structures of radiolarian shells is needed.