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Effect of surface ocean stratification on the distribution of planktic foraminifers

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Production and abundance of planktic foraminifer species are correlated to a varying degree to surface ocean temperature (SST), salinity, primary production (PP), i.e., nutrient utilization, availability of prey, and the turbidity of surface waters. The regional and seasonal variability of surface ocean stratification does encompass different environmental parameters. In turn, planktic foraminifers facilitate the reconstruction of past surface ocean stratification on a seasonal and longer term, for example, the modern and Pleistocene surface ocean of the northern Arabian Sea. Changes in stratification are confirmed by the ecological significance of planktic foraminifer species.

Keywords: planktonic foraminifera, stratification