

Patterns of spatio-temporal distribution as criteria for the separation of planktic foraminiferal species across the Danian-Selandian transition in Spain

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Danian–Selandian (D–S) planktic foraminiferal taxonomy and paleoecology, including the most problematic index–species of biochronological schemes, are here revised based on qualitative and quantitative data from the Caravaca and Zumaia sections, Spain. As a first step the morphological and microtextural diagnostic characters are revised in order to achieve appropriate morphological distinctions of the investigated species. The analysis of latitudinal preferences of the planktic foraminiferal species deduced from a comparison of their relative abundances at Caravaca (western Tethyan subtropical waters) and Zumaia (central North Atlantic warm temperate waters) in suite with a statistical comparison of quantitative stratigraphic distributions of the species at Caravaca have shown several divergences in their patterns of spatio–temporal distribution (i.e., in their latitudinal preferences and quantitative stratigraphic distributions). This analysis allowed taxonomical separation of 41 species from the following genera: *Eoglobigerina*, *Subbotina*, *Parasubbotina*, *Globanomalina*, *Luterbacheria*, *Acarinina*, *Igorina*, *Morozovella*, *Praemurica*, *Chiloguembelina*, and *Zeauvigerina*. Morphologically convergent species pairs such as *Acarinina trinidadensis* and *Praemurica inconstans*, *Acarinina praecursoria* and *Acarinina uncinata*, *Morozovella conicontruncata* and *Morozovella angulata*, or *Morozovella* cf. *albeari* and *Igorina albeari*, are well differentiated using aforementioned criteria. Since some of the species are index–taxa, the taxonomic refinements are essential to clarify and compare the planktic foraminiferal zonation from the Danian–Selandian transition. A new lower/higher (L/H) latitude taxa ratio is proposed for paleoclimatic interpretations based on the paleoecological and quantitative studies. Fluctuations in L/H ratio in the Caravaca section suggest three climate warming events during the D–S transition, one of them probably occurring at the D–S boundary.

Key words: Foraminifera, taxonomy, index-species, paleoecology, Paleocene, Spain.

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