



# Foraminifera.eu Lab Newsletter 2023

sent to 838 subscribers

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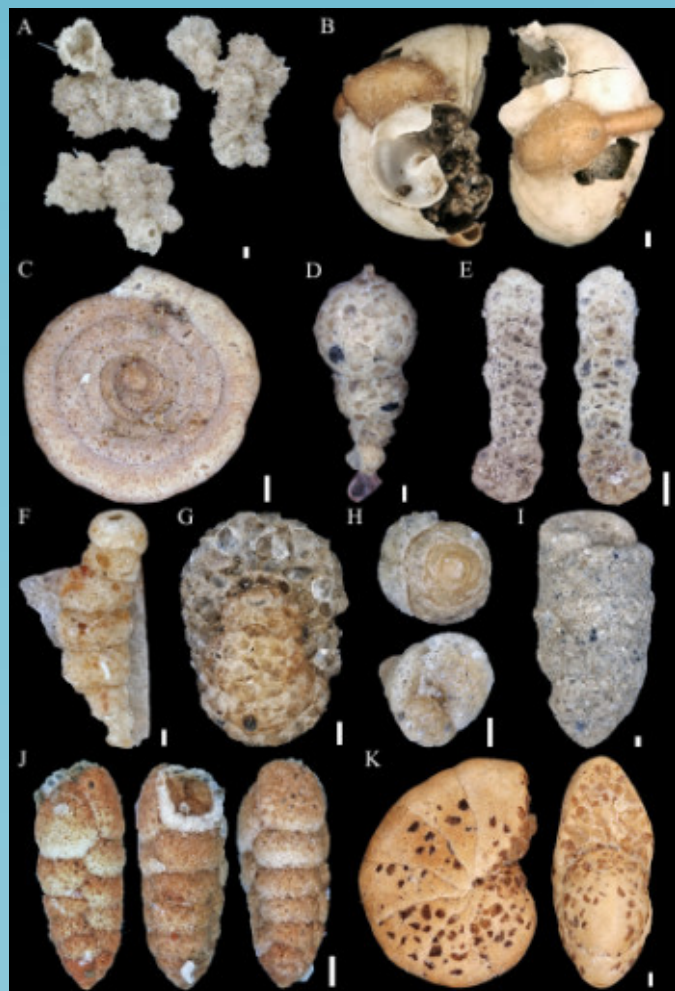


Plate 28 with agglutinated foraminifera  
in

Hesemann, M.; Hoffman, L.; Ottway, B.; Freiwald, A., 2023. Benthic foraminiferal assemblages from the Mauritanian shelf and upper slope and their association with cold-water coral habitats. *Natur im Fokus* 53, Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein in Hamburg, Hamburg. 21-154. [PDF](#)

## Open Access

Foraminifera.eu is an open access resource. Everyone with internet may freely use it regardless of nationality, religion, sexual orientation or being an amateur or professional, young or old. The focus is on illustrations of foraminifera also allowing people with little knowledge of English, without a scientific background or being disabled to get something out of it. Not only is the use open access but also the possibility to contribute. Everyone may get a contributors page. For those who have no access to expensive equipment we offer to extract foraminifera from material sent in and to shoot images. Scientists may show their images and get more attention for their work.

You may ask, what we get out of it. Well it is not money, as we earn that elsewhere. It is the enormous amount of samples, images, pdfs and information we get and the valuable contacts we make. All team members have improved their skills substantially. For example, in the course of time I became an honorary scientist with Senckenberg at Sea, a renowned marine institute and started to publish.

The open access nature of foraminifera.eu is reflected by accesses from 188 countries. The webpage is visited by 180+ visitors per day.

Recently our paper on foraminifera from off Mauritania (NW-Africa) with 31 plates was published in open access. You may download it at [ResearchGate](#) and we kindly ask you to recommend it.

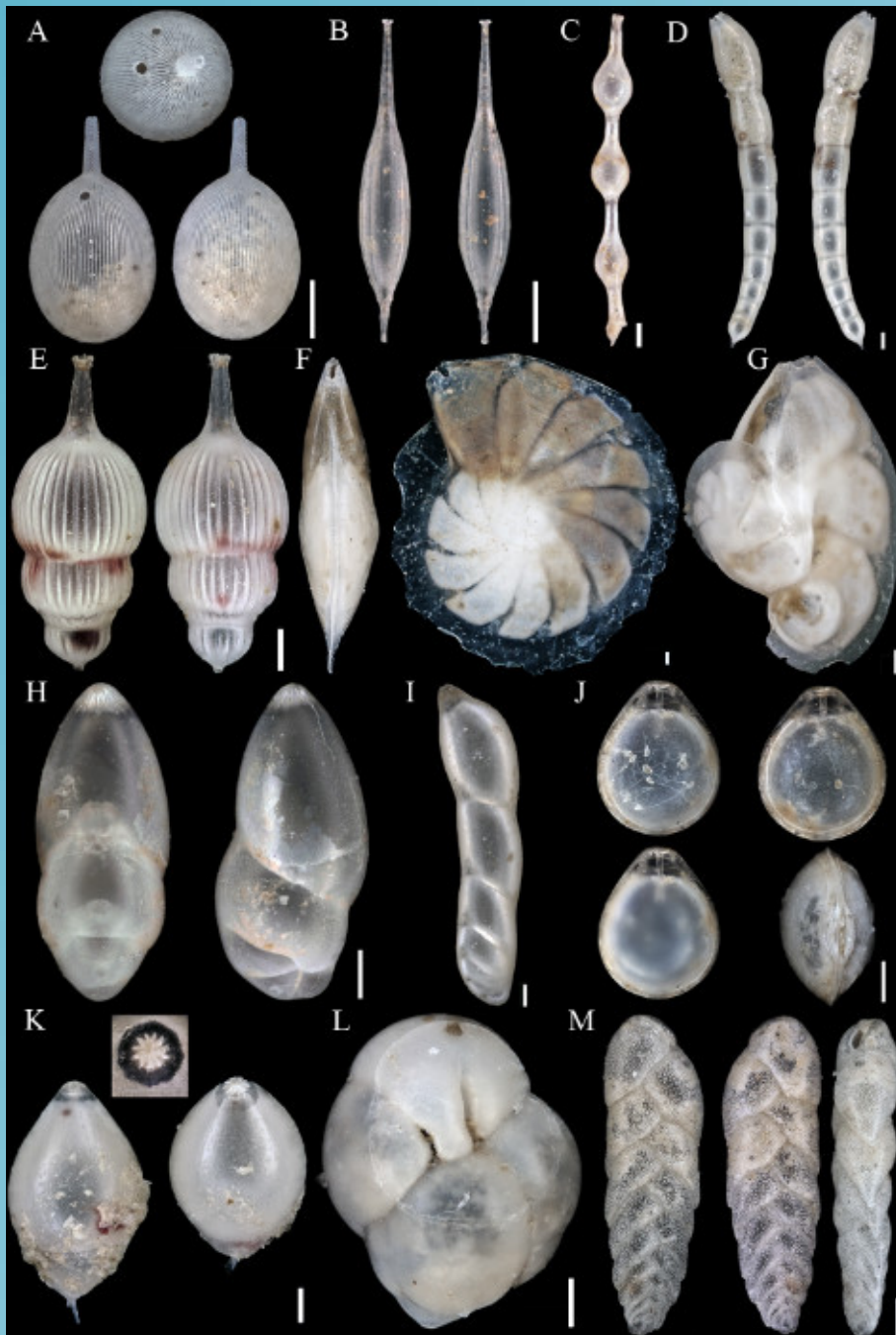
Learn more about our activities  
on the following pages.

**Michael Hesemann**





## 2 Foraminifera from off Mauritania



André, Brian, Leon and I are happy that our paper on cold-water coral associated foraminiferal faunas from off Mauritania was published. It shows that specific foraminiferal faunas are associated with cold water coral habitats. A large taxonomic part describes and illustrates on 31 plates the found taxa. It may be used as a reference for benthic taxa on the Atlantic shelf and slope of Africa.

The paper is published in open access and may be downloaded via [Research-Gate](#). If you like it, please recommend it.



Map of Africa with Mauritania (red) and the investigation area (green)



*Tetragonostomina rhombiformis*  
Mikhalevich, 1975

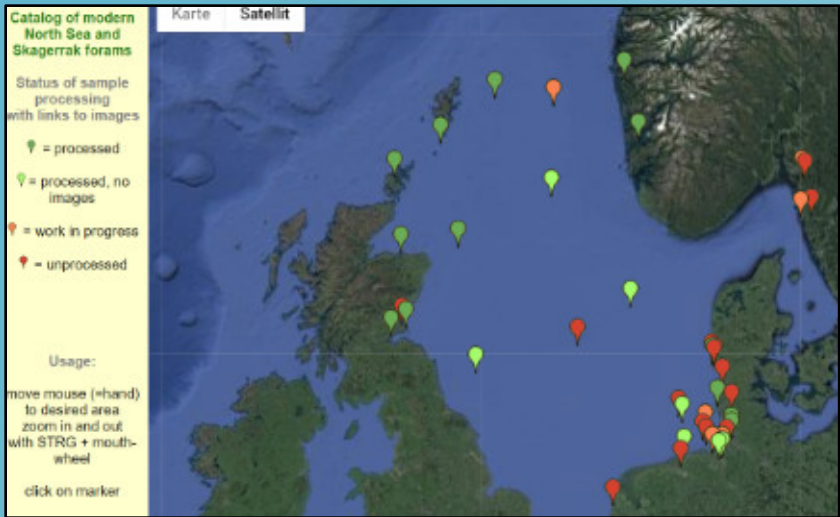
An agglutinated, possibly endemic species, dominant in samples from the Timiris Mud Wedge.



Citation: Hesemann, M.; Hoffman, L.; Ottway, B.; Freiwald, A., 2023. Benthic foraminiferal assemblages from the Mauritanian shelf and upper slope and their association with cold-water coral habitats. *Natur im Fokus* 53, Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein in Hamburg, Hamburg. 21-154. [PDF](#)



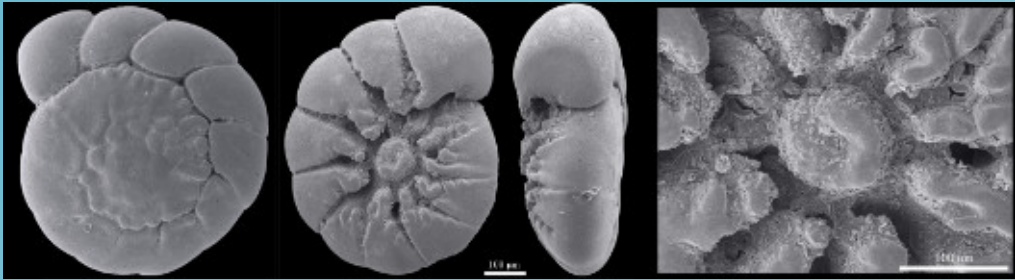
# 3 Catalog of modern North Sea and Skagerrak Foraminifera



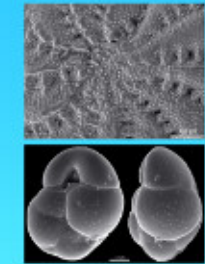
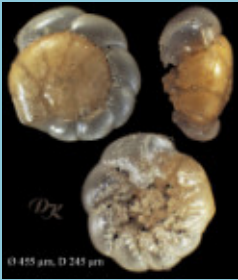
In 2018 Dieter and I started to work on a catalog of modern North Sea foraminifera. Thanks to many contributions of samples we were able to enlarge the catalog bit by bit. In November 2022 we presented our project at the annual meeting of The Micropaleontology Society in Bremen with a poster (see below). Since then Dieter and I have intensified the effort and to date the catalog contains 148 taxa and 387 illustrated specimens. We have decided to include the Skagerrak. As you may see from the map several areas are not covered yet and we kindly ask you to contribute samples.

Map of samples and processing status. [Link to the map](#)

[Link to the catalog](#)



*Ammonia batava*  
(Hofker, 1951)



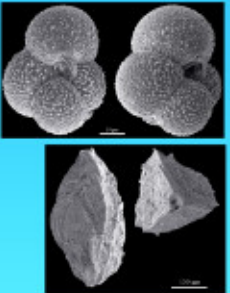
## Catalog of modern North Sea Foraminifera

Hesemann, M.<sup>1,2</sup>, Ketelsen, D.<sup>1</sup>

1: Foraminifera.eu Lab, Waterloostr. 24, 22769 Hamburg. 2: Senckenberg am Meer, Südstrand 40, 26382 Wilhelmshaven  
corresponding email: hesemann@foraminifera.eu / Webpage: [www.foraminifera.eu/cns.html](http://www.foraminifera.eu/cns.html)

### Citizen Science Project

to portray modern North Sea foraminifera  
in a freely accessible, online database



### Status

1971: Gabel, B. Die Foraminiferen der Nordsee.  
2018: Start of our project.  
Actual 2022: 112 taxa (24 sp.)  
with 284 illustrations (SEM, optical and drawings).

### Stations

22 stations

ranging from beach to open Atlantic sites



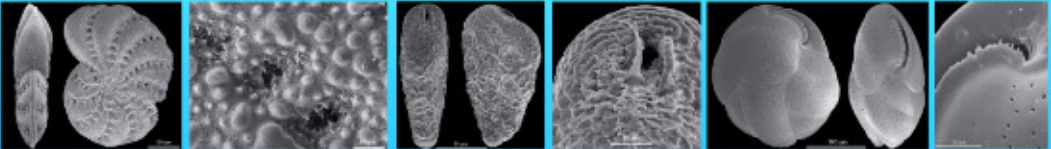
### Database Query



### Contributors

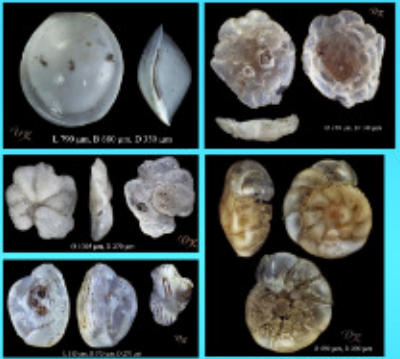
Stefan Raveling, offshore constr. planning company, Oldenburg.  
Dr. Jan Steger, Department of Palaeontology, Uni. of Vienna.  
Dr. Hermann Neumann, formerly Senckenberg am Meer, Marine Research Department, Wilhelmshaven, RV Walther Herrwig III cruises.  
Adrian Brokenshire, avocational malacologist, Dorset, UK.  
Dr. David C. Bossard, (HMS-Challenger drawings).  
John Taylor, avocational mineralogist, Edinburgh, UK.  
Senckenberg am Meer: Usage of the VEGA3 TESCAN SEM.

all SEM Images: Michael Hesemann with VEGA3 TESCAN SEM at Senckenberg am Meer, all optical images: Dieter Ketelsen



### What is needed

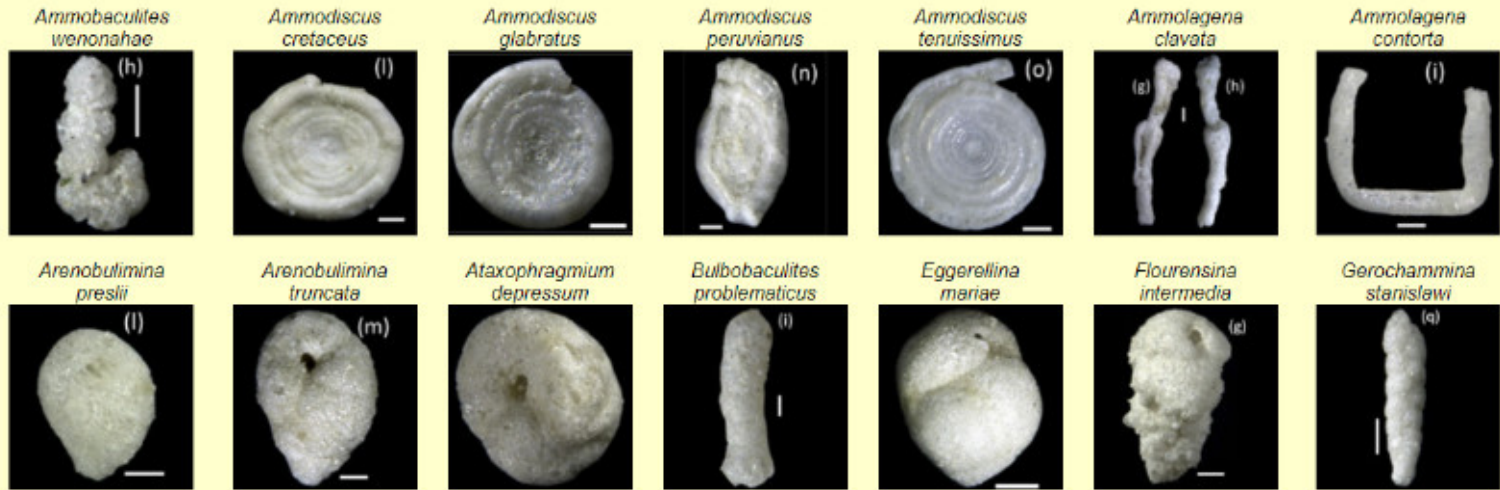
- professional supervision
- samples from the Norwegian trench
- samples from the southwestern North Sea
- samples in general
- images
- drawings





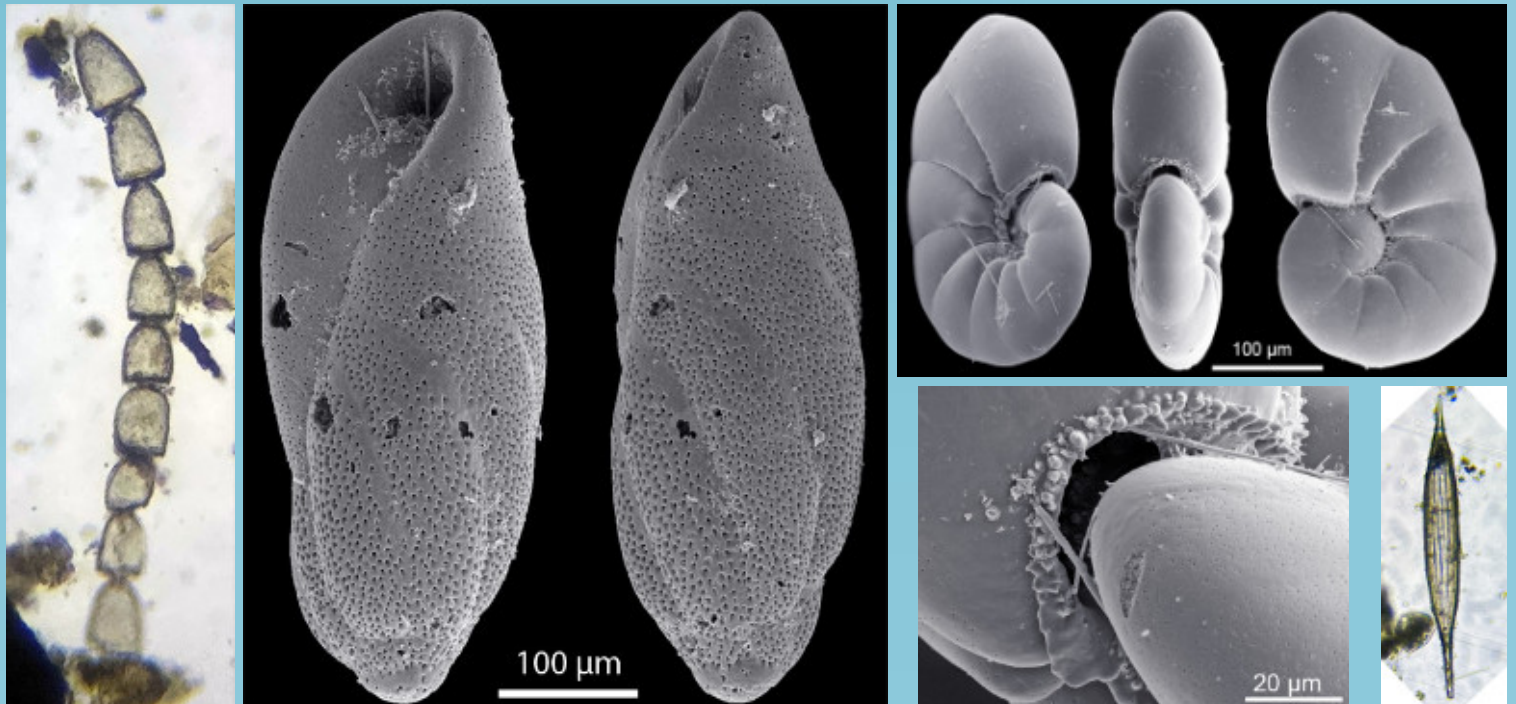
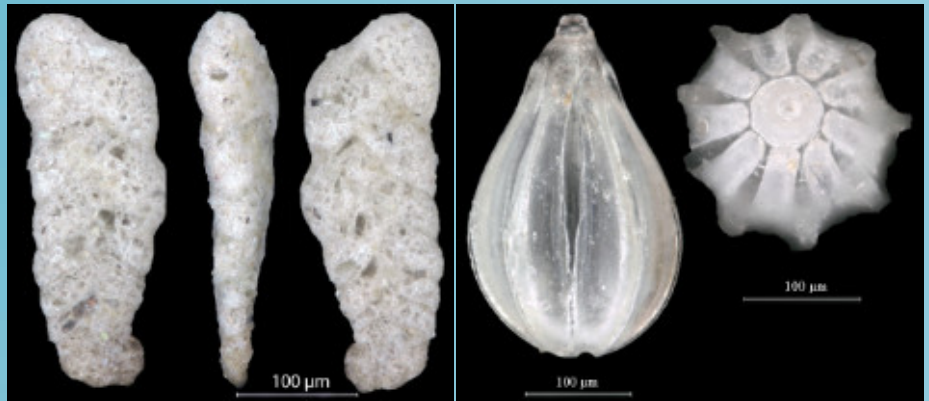
## 4 Latest Contributions

Richard M. Besen (Freie Universität Berlin, Division of Paleontology) contributed 72 images of Albian to Turonian foraminifera found in Northern Germany. [LINK](#)



Images in Besen, R. M.; Struck, U.; Seibertz, E. (2021). Albian to Turonian agglutinated foraminiferal assemblages of the Lower Saxony Cretaceous sub-basins – implications for sequence stratigraphy and paleoenvironmental interpretation. Fossil Record 24 (2): 395-441.

Fisherwoman Karen L. Johnson from Sitka, Alaska contacted us with the idea to build an illustrated catalog of foraminifera from Alaska. She found sediments attached to her fishing gear with lots of foraminifera in them. In late 2022 we received a new package with anchor mud from her and colleagues, all fisherwomen or fishermen. Thanks a lot Karen for sharing your great material and Dr. King for helping with identifications. You may find 220+ images made so far by Karen and us: [here](#).



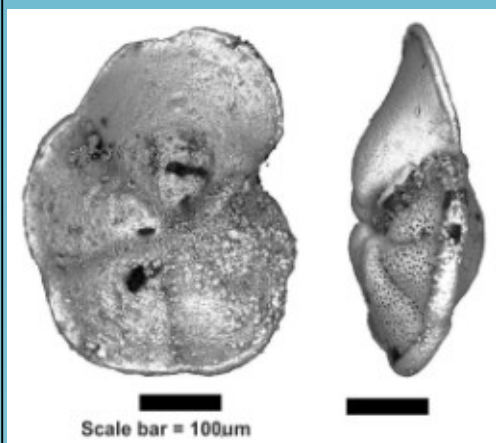
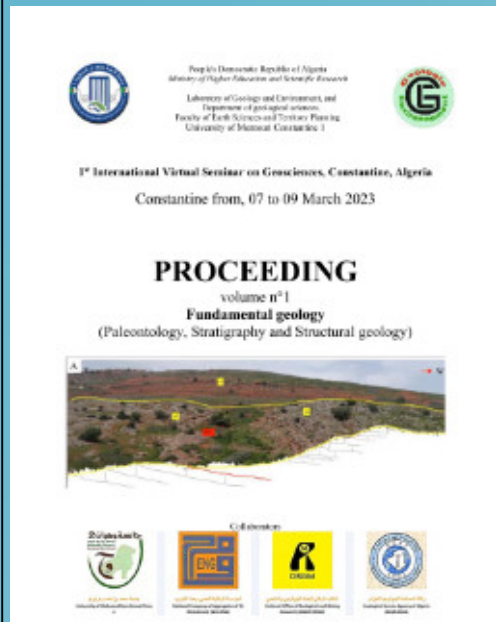
Optical images made by K. L. Johnson and me. SEM images made by me with the Vega3 Tescan at Senckenberg at sea

**We thank all contributors in 2022 for their great support, also those not featured here: A. Berkenshire, D. King, H.-J. Gregor, L. Hoffman, U. Lieven, I. Polovodova-Asteman, S. Polkowski, S. Schneider, Senckenberg at Sea+DZMB and K.+N. Thiede.**



# 5 Activities in Algeria and Greece

## Algeria

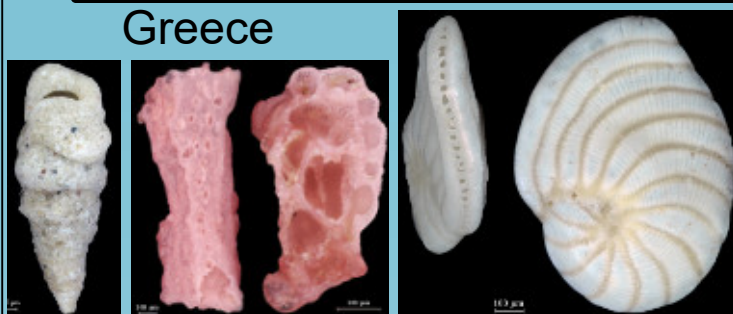


Some time ago Prof. Dr. Smaine Chellat from the University of Constantine, Algeria asked me to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> International Virtual Seminar on Geosciences. It was a well organised, free, virtual congress with 3 days of talks in parallel sessions. Mainly Algerian and North African scientists presented their work in 15 minute talks. My talk in the session “Fundamental geology” on the foraminifera.eu database was well received and we have now contributors from Algeria. The 70 page proceedings of just this session reflect the intensity and quality of the whole congress. It may be obtained through us or Prof. Dr. Smaine Chellat. A second seminar is planned. I recommend you participate if you want to present your work and/or learn more about North African geology, palaeontology and the status of geoscience in the area.



<== *Globorotalia* from the late Miocene of the lower Chelif Basin  
Image contributed by Dr. M. Benzina, Université de Tlemcen, Algeria

## Greece



We helped two biology teachers in Attica (near Athens) and on Crete in Greece with their projects on modern foraminifera. We photographed typical specimens and helped with identification and ecological interpretation. Here are the links to the images: [G. Alpogiannis \(1st Gymnasium of Koropi\)](#) and [T. Liakos \(1st High School of Kissamos\)](#). We are happy to help again 2023.



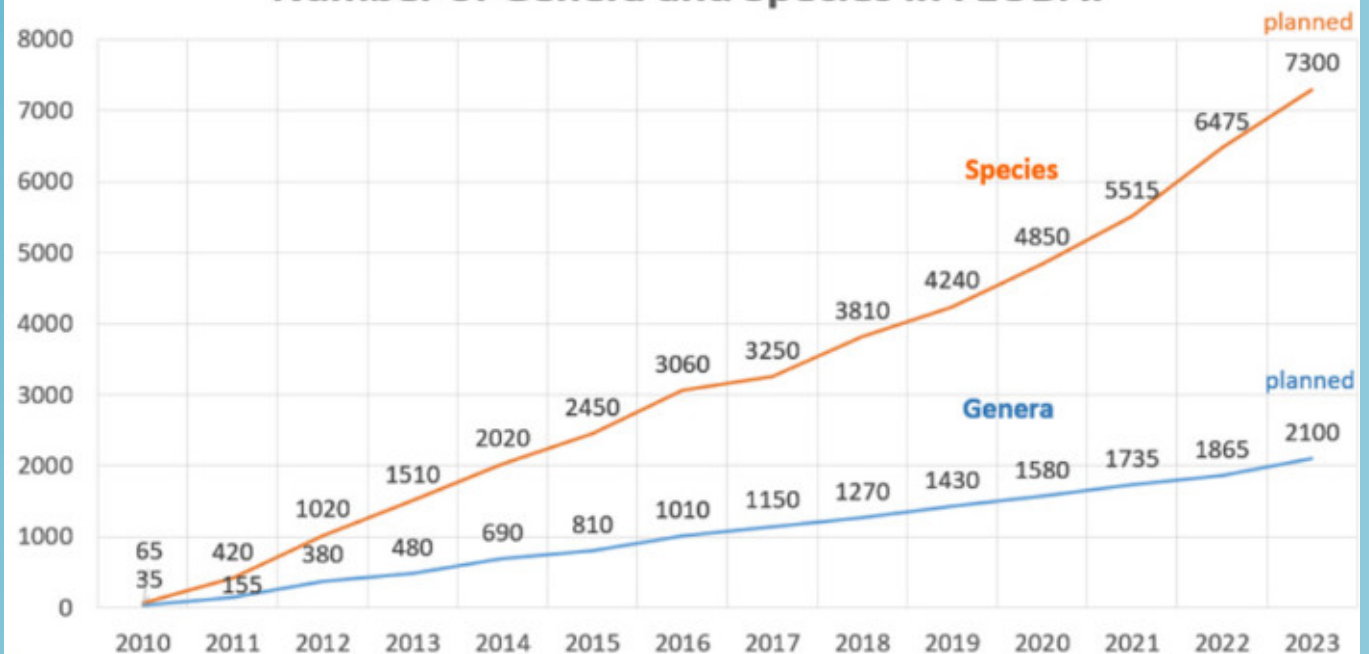
## 6 Enlargement of the database

The enlargement of the database has always been a side effect of our studies in foraminifera and the presentation of collections. To mutually discuss the identification of our finds we photograph them from 2-3 views, upload the images and add those from relevant professional papers if copyright is given. As a result we have a perfect tool for the team to use for our beloved video identification sessions with all the books and papers around us or on second screens. Though not a focus of our efforts, the coverage of genera has risen to a level of 49%, while that of species is still low at 13%.

### Statistics on Coverage and Entries as of 2023-03-15

Group	Time	valid(all)	in FEUDB	Coverage	Data for valid(all) in:
Genera	all times	3.800	1.870	49.2 %	Loeblich and Tappan, 1987
Species	all times	49.002	6.496	13.3 %	World Foraminifera Database
Planktic Species	all times	2.100	538	25.6 %	Microtax
Benthic Species	all times	46.902	5.958	12.7 %	WFD and Microtax

### Number of Genera and Species in FEUDAT



Despite many other resources on foraminifera on the web it is astounding that the foraminifera.eu webpage has on average 180+ users daily and downloads of 570 MB of data. A survey amongst users revealed that the quality of images and user-friendly interfaces are reasons to visit our website and database. For example, find the locality interfaces at:



<https://foraminifera.eu/locality.php>



## 7 Mission



The Foraminifera.eu Lab wants to foster the interest in foraminifera. We love to work on raw material and build working groups and project teams in which avocational and professional scientists can work together in well defined and scheduled projects.

An outcome is our freely accessible, illustrated catalog of foraminifera based on a well structured database and easy-to-use interfaces.

Avocational and professional scientists get a free platform where they find valuable information and may show their results.

The Foraminifera.eu Lab is non-commercial. Our team and our contributors do not get a financial compensation as our work is based on naturalist enthusiasm. We will use donations of money or equipment only to cover costs. Find more on the team and details at [www.foraminifera.eu/about.html](http://www.foraminifera.eu/about.html).

## Our Services

We love to work on interesting samples and have built up expertise in the processing of raw material containing microfossils. We offer our services for free, but we only engage in work that is of interest to us. Please contact us first and explain what you want.

Example: Optical imaging of foraminifera



*Bolivina alata*, recent, off Panama, image: Michael Hesemann

Practical work on samples  
Fieldwork  
Sample processing  
Picking of microfossils  
Identification of foraminifera  
Optical Imaging  
Assessment of species distribution(s)  
Stratigraphical analysis of profiles  
Support of any kind  
Talks and workshops