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Seasonal variations of benthic Foraminifera in Praia de Doniños (NW Iberian Peninsula)

María Teresa Losada Ros (1,2), Mario Ayora (1,2), Elena Fernández Paradela (1), Victoriano Urgorri Carrasco (2,3), Celia Besteiro (1,2)

(1) Department of Zoology, Genetics and Ph. A., Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Lugo, Spain (mariateresa.losada@usc.es), (2) Estación de Bioloxía Mariña da Graña, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, A Graña, Spain, (3) Department of Zoology, Genetics and Ph. A., Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

During the year 2013, samples of Foraminifera were taken in Doniños beach (NW Iberian Peninsula) as a part of a bigger project to analyze the seasonal variations of the populations of benthic Foraminifera in different open beaches which were affected by the Prestige's oil spill in 2003.

This sampling was seasonal and set according to the FOBIMO protocol (Schönfeld et al., 2012); which is a compilation of rules and recommendations on the use of Foraminifera as bioindicators for monitoring studies of aquatic ecosystems. This means that we used the 0-1 cm interval of the sediment and that the size of the samples was 50 cm3. Also, samples were taken from the three tide levels and the number of replicates was also three. Afterwards, samples were stained with rose Bengal and preserved at the laboratory; each sample was washed and sieved through 125 μm and 63μm sieves. From each sample, living Foraminifera were tried, identified and stored independently.

We present in this communication the results obtained after the identification of the Foraminifera from all the samples taken at Doniños beach; which means all the replicates of the three tide levels of the beach along the seasons of the year 2013. Results show that the highest abundance of Foraminifera was in the month of September, with 2.578 individuals from the total number collected along the year, 4.877. During the rest of the seasons, it can be seen that the lowest number of living Foraminifera is reached in May, and it is very similar during the months of December and February. It was found that the most abundant species is *Elphidium crispum*, which exceeds in the most of the samples, but it can also be seen that Cibicides lobatulus increases its number during the months of September and December, reaching very high quantities.

SCHÖNFELD, J., ALVE, E., GESLIN, E., JORISSEN, F., KORSUN, S. & SPEZZAFERRI, S. 2012. The FOBIMO (FOraminiferal BIo-MOnitoring) initiative-Towards a standardized protocol for soft-bottom benthic foraminiferal monitoring studies. Marine Micropaleontology, 94-95: 1-13.