



Bringing deep-sea ichnology into the classroom using IODP Expedition 339 core digital images

Hélder Pereira

Escola Secundária de Loulé, Portugal (hpereira@es-loule.edu.pt)

Although the most known ichnofossils are vertebrate footprints (particularly dinosaurs), ichnology encompass the study an incredible diversity of trace fossils such as burrows produced by marine organisms in soft sediments. Several authors have conducted trace fossil research analysing deep-sea cores obtained during Ocean Drilling Program (ODP), Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP), Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, and International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) expeditions.

These international scientific ocean drilling programs have now operated over 50 years resulting in a huge collection of high-quality deep-sea sediments cores. For instance, IODP Expedition 339 recovered 5447 m of core. After being visually described, every archive-half core section was photographed with a digital imaging system. This work presents some examples of how high-resolution IODP Expedition 339 core digital images can be used, by secondary school students and teachers, to enable the study of bioturbation in marine sediments.