

Formaminiferal Flux acquired by the Santa Barbara Basin Sediment Trap Mooring between 2014 and 2021

Website: <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/936276>

Data Type: Other Field Results

Version: 1

Version Date: 2024-10-08

Project

» [Collaborative Research: Three decades of foraminiferal assemblages in the Santa Barbara Basin provide a link between present and past](#) (planktic foram assemblages)

| Contributors | Affiliation | Role |
|--|---|--|
| Davis, Catherine V. | North Carolina State University (NCSU) | Principal Investigator, Scientist |
| Benitez-Nelson, Claudia R. | University of South Carolina | Scientist |
| Havard, Emily | North Carolina State University (NCSU) | Scientist, Student, Technician, Data Manager |
| Cherry, Katherine | North Carolina State University (NCSU) | Technician |
| Tappa, Eric | University of South Carolina | Technician |
| Soenen, Karen | Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI BCO-DMO) | BCO-DMO Data Manager |

Abstract

The geologically rapid response of foraminiferal assemblages to changing climate makes their shells an invaluable geological record of the past. However, just how rapid these changes are is unknown and the specific drivers of assemblage composition and abundance are complex. Understanding how modern foraminifera respond to and record a climate event that would appear nearly instantaneous in the sediment record can inform paleontological interpretations and help to place foraminifera in a broader ecological context. We focus on the impact of ongoing, rapid climate change on planktic foraminifera in the California Current ecosystem. The Santa Barbara Basin sediment trap, located off the coast of California, USA since 1993, provides a 28-year record of particulate and foraminiferal flux to the basin. The sediment trap captures the superposition of the annual cycle of seasonal upwelling in Santa Barbara Basin, Pacific multiannual ENSO-driven temperature changes, and anthropogenically forced climate change. We present data on planktic foraminiferal flux collected between 2014-2021 from the Santa Barbara Basin sediment trap, at two-week intervals (164 samples). The dataset contains species-level planktic foraminiferal flux values from May 24, 2014 to November 11, 2021. The most abundant species from 2014-2021 were *Globigerina bulloides*, *Neogloboquadrina incompta*, and *Turborotalita quinqueloba*.

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Coverage

Location: Santa Barbara Basin, California, 34° 14' 42.14" N 120° 03' 33.45" W

Spatial Extent: Lat:34.245039 Lon:-120.059292

Temporal Extent: 2014-05-24 - 2021-11-11

Dataset Description

Similar datasets of planktic foraminiferal flux from the Santa Barbara Basin Sediment Trap: 1993-1996 (Kincaid et al., 2000) and 1995-1998 (Black et al., 2001). See related dataset section.

Methods & Sampling

Samples were collected at 10-to-14-day intervals by a moored sediment trap in Santa Barbara Basin, CA (34°14'42.14" N, 120°03'33.45" W) between May 24, 2014, and November 11, 2021. The sediment trap is a McLane Parflux 78H model. It has been located at > 400 m depth (the basin is ~589 m deep; Eichhubl et al., 2001) since 1993. Samples were preserved in a borate-buffered formalin solution and collected from the sediment trap every six months, excluding the periods between July-October 2015 and May-November 2020. After collection, samples were split into 16 parts. One 16th was used for foraminiferal flux and species counts. Each sample was wet picked for foraminifera following the procedure outlined in Kincaid et al. (2000). The formalin solution was rinsed out using tap water and a 125µm sieve, remaining consistent with previous SBB assemblage studies (Kincaid et al., 2000; Black et al., 2001). All foraminifera present in the sample were separated from other sediment trap material using a fine paint brush and allowed to air dry. Following wet picking, foraminifera were sorted by species and counted to determine foraminiferal flux and relative abundance.

Data Processing Description

Foraminiferal flux was calculated from species counts (1/16th splits) to determine the #foraminifera m⁻² day⁻¹ for each full sample. This method is consistent with the flux calculations used in Kincaid et al. (2000) and Black et al. (2001) for the same sediment trap with an area of 0.5 m². $\text{Flux} = (\text{raw count} \times 16) / (\text{collection duration}(\text{days}) \times 0.5 \text{m}^2)$.

BCO-DMO Processing Description

- * adjusted column names to comply with database requirements
- * added sampling latitude and longitude to dataset
- * converted dates to ISO format dates

Problem Description

There are two gaps in sampling. The first is due to an instrument malfunction from July-October 2015. The second is due to the COVID-19 pandemic from May-November 2020.

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Data Files

| File |
|--|
| 936276_v1_foramflux.csv (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 31.47 KB) MD5:054071e218d92b6e5c24f18d24f0ae44 |
| Primary data file for dataset ID 936276, version 1 |

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Related Publications

Havard, E., Cherry, K., Benitez-Nelson, C., Tappa, E., and Davis, C.V.: Decreasing foraminiferal flux in response to ongoing climate change in the Santa Barbara Basin, California, in preparation for submission to Biogeosciences, 2024.
Results

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Related Datasets

IsRelatedTo

Black, D. E., Thunell, R. C., & Tappa, E. J. (2001). Planktonic foraminiferal response to the 1997–1998 El Niño: A sediment-trap record from the Santa Barbara Basin. *Geology*, 29(12), 1075. [https://doi.org/10.1130/0091-7613\(2001\)029<1075:pfrtte>2.0.co;2](https://doi.org/10.1130/0091-7613(2001)029<1075:pfrtte>2.0.co;2) [https://doi.org/10.1130/0091-7613\(2001\)029<1075:PFRTTE>2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1130/0091-7613(2001)029<1075:PFRTTE>2.0.CO;2)

Kincaid, E., Thunell, R. C., Le, J., Lange, C. B., Weinheimer, A. L., & Reid, F. M. H. (2000). Planktonic foraminiferal fluxes in the Santa Barbara Basin: response to seasonal and interannual hydrographic changes. *Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography*, 47(5–6), 1157–1176. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0967-0645\(99\)00140-x](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0967-0645(99)00140-x) [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0967-0645\(99\)00140-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0967-0645(99)00140-X)

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Parameters

| Parameter | Description | Units |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Sediment_trap_deployment_ID | Sediment trap deployment ID | unitless |
| Cup_Sample_ID | Cup # (sample ID) within deployment | unitless |
| Latitude | Latitude of sediment trap location, south is negative | decimal degrees |
| Longitude | Longitude of sediment trap location, west is negative | decima degrees |
| Open | Open date of sample collection | unitless |
| Close | Close date of sample collection | unitless |
| | | |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| Mid | Mid point date of sample collection, calculated from open and close date | unitless |
| Duration_days | Duration of sample collection (days) | days |
| FxG_bulloides | Foraminiferal flux G. bulloides, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxN_incompta | Foraminiferal flux N. incompta, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxT_quinqueloba | Foraminiferal flux T. quinqueloba, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxN_pachyderma | Foraminiferal flux N. pachyderma, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_glutinata | Foraminiferal flux G. glutinata, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_siphonifera | Foraminiferal flux G. siphonifera, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxH_pelagica | Foraminiferal flux H. pelagica, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_calida | Foraminiferal flux G. calida, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxO_universa | Foraminiferal flux O. universa, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxN_dutertrei | Foraminiferal flux N. dutertrei, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxB_digitata | Foraminiferal flux B. digitata, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_tenellus | Foraminiferal flux G. tenellus, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_rubescens | Foraminiferal flux G. rubescens, calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |

| | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| FxT_parkerae | Foraminiferal flux <i>T. parkerae</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_minuta_G_uvula | Foraminiferal flux <i>G. minuta</i> and <i>G. uvula</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_falconensis | Foraminiferal flux <i>G. falconensis</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxB_variabilis | Foraminiferal flux <i>B. variabilis</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxT_iota | Foraminiferal flux <i>T. iota</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_hexagonus | Foraminiferal flux <i>G. hexagonus</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxT_sacculifer | Foraminiferal flux <i>T. sacculifer</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_scitula | Foraminiferal flux <i>G. scitula</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_ruberalbus | Foraminiferal flux <i>G. ruber albus</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_inflata | Foraminiferal flux <i>G. inflata</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_hirsuta | Foraminiferal flux <i>G. hirsuta</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_truncatulinoidea | Foraminiferal flux <i>G. truncatulinoidea</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| FxG_ruberruber | Foraminiferal flux <i>G. ruber ruber</i> , calculated from species counts | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| Fx_other | Flux values for unidentified or ambiguous foraminifera that were not speciated | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |
| Flux_Total | Sum of columns foraminiferal flux data, presenting total foraminiferal flux | # of foraminifera m-2 d-1 |

Instruments

| | |
|---|--|
| Dataset-specific Instrument Name | McLane Parflux 78H sediment trap |
| Generic Instrument Name | Sediment Trap |
| Generic Instrument Description | Sediment traps are specially designed containers deployed in the water column for periods of time to collect particles from the water column falling toward the sea floor. In general a sediment trap has a jar at the bottom to collect the sample and a broad funnel-shaped opening at the top with baffles to keep out very large objects and help prevent the funnel from clogging. This designation is used when the specific type of sediment trap was not specified by the contributing investigator. |

Project Information

Collaborative Research: Three decades of foraminiferal assemblages in the Santa Barbara Basin provide a link between present and past (planktic foram assemblages)

NSF Award Abstract:

Modern day releases of the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere are the highest observed over the last 30 million years. This has resulted in major changes in the ocean. This work focuses on using a group of shell-forming organisms, planktic foraminifera. The carbonate shells of foraminifera are found in seafloor sediments. They provide a history of the environment in which they grew. The goal of this project is to use the shells of foraminifera to better understand how quickly and why the abundances of different foraminifera species change in response to climate. A thirty-year record of planktic foraminifera abundances will be created from stored samples collected from the Santa Barbara Basin, California. The results will be connected to modern day oceanographic measurements and the foraminifera found in older seafloor sediments. This will allow a better understanding of how climate change has impacted the ocean environment over very long time periods and allow future predictions. This project will provide hands on research training for students. Classroom activities will be developed that promote quantitative and data visualization skills with a real-world dataset.

Foraminifera have species-specific environmental preferences that influence their assemblages in the water column and in marine sediments. Moreover, the geochemistry of foraminiferal shells has become the foundation for widely used paleoceanographic proxies. However, interpretation of the fossil foraminiferal record must be fundamentally grounded in foraminiferal ecology. For example, use of geochemical proxies relies on the assumption of negligible change in seasonality or habitat through time, with violations potentially responsible for key errors in the paleoceanographic record. In addition to assessing rates and drivers of foraminiferal faunal change, this research would fulfill goals including: 1) testing how changing seasonality influences interpretations of foraminiferal-based proxy records, 2) evaluating whether sediment trap faunas are representative of underlying sediment, and 3) integrating 21st century foraminiferal faunal change with the geological record. Assemblages from biweekly sediment traps and near-annually resolved samples from a sediment core will be generated to accomplish these goals. Santa Barbara Basin was chosen because it has an archive of sediment trap material, extensive overlapping observational measurements, a well-preserved fossil record, and experiences climatic oscillations at timescales from seasonal to anthropogenic and longer. Quantitative assemblages will be supported by stable isotope and trace elemental analyses of a subset of shells to test interpretations of geochemical proxy records.

This award reflects NSF's statutory mission and has been deemed worthy of support through evaluation using the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts review criteria.

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Funding

| Funding Source | Award |
|--|-----------------------------|
| NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE) | OCE-2223074 |

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