

## Distribution of 'minor' calcareous nannofossil species in the surface sediments along the Vietnam upwelling zone: western South China Sea revisited

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The South China Sea has been studied for calcareous nannofossils (and nannoplankton) since the 1970s and, thus, has a well established database regarding nannofossil distribution. Similar to other marginal basins, however, the assemblage is dominated by a very few number of taxa, particularly *Emiliania huxleyi*, *Florisphaera profunda* and *Gephyrocapsa oceanica*. Minor species (*i.e.*, species with abundance values <3% and percent occurrence <70%) comprise <28% of total assemblages (Fernando *et al.*, 2007). Although some of these minor species show possible affinities for particular oceanographic conditions, the initial data is insufficient to clearly establish their environmental preference due to the overwhelming dominance of *E. huxleyi*, *F. profunda* and *G. oceanica*. Examples include *Reticulofenestra* spp., *Calciosolenia murrayi*, *Helicosphaera carteri* and *Syracosphaera* spp. for neritic conditions, *G. ericsonii* for low sea-surface temperature conditions (SSTs) and *C. murrayi* and *Syracosphaera* spp. for warmer SSTs (Fernando *et al.*, 2007). To validate and confirm these observations, a separate count exclusive of the three major taxa will be done and subjected to multivariate analysis, along with several oceanographic parameters, including salinity, whose relationship with some species in the South China Sea (*e.g.*, *G. ericsonii*, *Calcidiscus leptoporus*, *C. murrayi* and *Syracosphaera* spp.) remains uncertain.

### Reference

- Fernando, A.G.S., Peleo-Alampay, A.M. & Wiesner, M.G. 2007. Calcareous nannofossils in surface sediments of the eastern and western South China Sea. *Marine Micropaleontology*, **66**: 1-26.