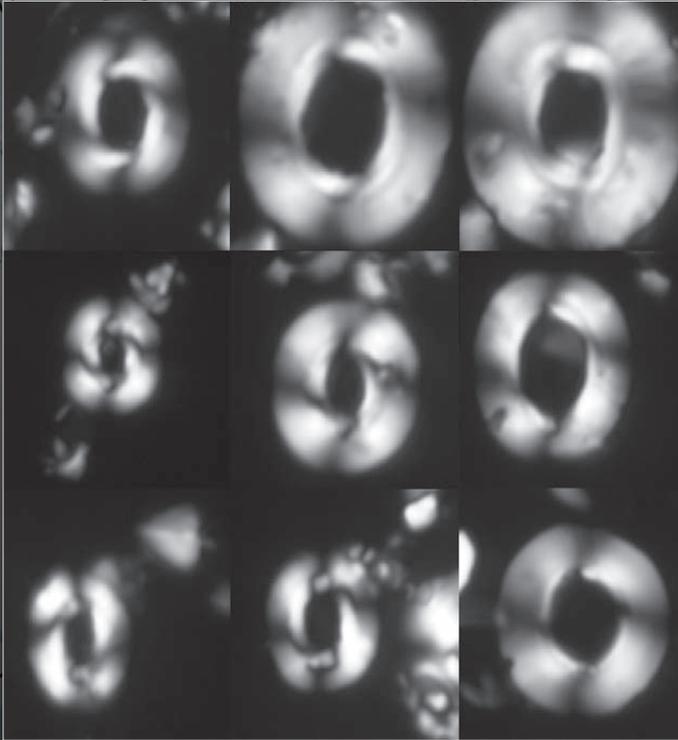


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The Farinacci Catalogue of Calcareous Nannofossils – CD-ROM version

We are pleased to include with this issue of the *Journal of Nannoplankton Research* a CD-ROM containing a complete copy of the *Catalogue of Calcareous Nannofossils*, as originally compiled by Prof. Anna Farinacci of Rome University.

Production of the original catalogue

The original descriptions of most calcareous nannofossils are published in numerous different journals, conference proceedings volumes, ocean drilling reports and books, hence, they can be difficult to access. Taking inspiration from the Micropaleontology Project (<http://www.micropress.org/history.html>) and its illustrated catalogue of the Foraminifera, Prof. Anna Farinacci set about addressing this, by compiling these descriptions into a standard format and republishing them in a succession of loose-leafed volumes from 1969 to 1989. These 13 volumes were published by Edizione Tecnoscienze and distributed to subscribers around the world.

The data on each taxon is given on a separate sheet, or sheets, and is re-organised into the following fields: Taxon Citation; Illustrations; Description; Remarks; Type Level; Type Locality; Depository; Author; Reference. The volumes were produced as the original descriptions/publications became available, and when time was available for the project. Consequently, each volume included an ad hoc mix of publications, but, since they were produced loose-leafed, it was possible to re-arrange the volumes into a consistent (alphabetical) order. This catalogue was widely used by nannofossil workers, especially biostratigraphers needing to keep abreast of the rapidly proliferating list of new taxa, their inevitable synonyms and their stratigraphic contexts, from regions of the globe that were opening up to hydrocarbon exploration and the Deep Sea Drilling Project. Pressure on Prof. Farinacci's time meant that the catalogue was not maintained after 1989 (despite her receiving help from Dr. Andrea Fiorentino with the last volume), and the shift towards digital publishing means it would not be cost-effective to restart it now. Nonetheless, it is an invaluable source of data, and the INA has long been interested both in making it more widely available and incorporating it in new initiatives, notably the Nannotax website (<http://nannotax.org/>), which, when completed, will effectively fill the gap.

Copyright transfer to INA and production of this digital version

In 2008-2009, discussions were held between Anna Farinacci, Simonetta Monechi, Giuliana Villa and Paul Bown, facilitated by various colleagues in Italy. As a result, Prof. Farinacci generously transferred copyright to the INA. Subsequently, Jackie Lees got funding (from Shell via Shirley van Heck) and had the UCL copy of the catalogue scanned. The individual page-files were then tagged with the species names by Debbie Pledge, a volunteer at the

Natural History Museum, working with Jeremy Young. Finally, iView was used to rename the files, using the tags. This version is included on the CD-ROM.

How to use the CD-ROM

The CD-ROM is an unsophisticated product, consisting of some 5500 individual files, each being a jpeg copy of one side of one sheet from the catalogue. The key to its use is that the file names are the taxa, so with current operating systems, the relevant pages can rapidly be found. Basically, you just need to open a new Explorer/Finder window, navigate to the catalogue and then use the search-box in the top right of the window to search for a taxon. In Mac OS X, you may need to select the options to search in the catalogue folder and to search by file name; in Windows these are the default options. When searching, you need to remember that generic combinations and specific epithet endings may have changed. So, for example, a search for *Biscutum dubium* will not find anything but a search for 'dubi' will find the original description of the species as *Palaeopontosphaera dubia*.

Caveats and cautions

We have found that the catalogue is a very useful tool and we believe that many INA members will find it invaluable to have a readily accessible digital copy. However, it does have a specific character, which influences how it should be used. In particular, it is simply a compilation of original descriptions, not an encyclopaedia of nannofossil taxonomy, and it should be used as such. Particular limitations are:

- Taxa are listed in the original combination (e.g. *Coccosphaera pelagica*), rather than in the modern combination (e.g. *Coccolithus pelagicus*) - species name endings may have changed accordingly, and spellings may have been corrected.
- The descriptions have not been supplemented by subsequent illustrations or observations, and often the modern species concept would be rather different from the original author's (although, of course, the holotype would have to fall within the modern species concept).
- Especially in some of the older papers, rather idiosyncratic taxonomic concepts are used and descriptions may be very sparse.
- Many taxa included in the catalogue are well-known to be junior synonyms of other taxa.
- Many important taxa are not included in the catalogue, and it does not include any taxa described since 1988.
- The ranges of all the taxa are likely to have been extended since their first description.

So, it definitely should not be used as an identification manual!

Finally, the CD ROM is copyright protected to the

INA. You may not post it on a website, make copies other than for your own use, or otherwise distribute it. Also, note that all the files will be uploaded to the INA-supported *Nannotax* website during this year, and we recommend that this should be your primary taxonomic reference.

Jeremy R. Young, Jacqueline A. Lees, Paul R. Bown
University College London

Biography of Prof. Anna Farinacci

Anna Farinacci was one of the pioneers of nannofossil study in Italy, as well as making a unique contribution to the documentation of the science through compilation of the famous *Farinacci Catalogue*. She graduated in Natural Sciences from Rome, with a dissertation on the sedimentary successions of the Central Apennines, published in 1959, then going on to work on the Mesozoic geology of Turkey and Albania. Through the early 1960s, she was associated with the Geological Survey of Italy, carrying out integrated fieldwork and micropalaeontological analyses, leading to the establishment of a Micropalaeontology Laboratory in Rome. In addition to studies on foraminifera and calcareous algae, she began to take an interest in the calcareous nannofacies of Jurassic sediments, and in 1964 published a paper on SEM analyses of nannoconids and coccolithophores of the Umbria-Marche Maiolica and Scaglia Formations.

Publication of the *Catalogue of Calcareous Nannofossils* started in 1969, inspired by the Ellis & Messina catalogues of microfossils. However, whilst the Ellis & Messina operation was, at least sporadically, government-supported and employed up to 82 people (<http://www.micropress.org/history.html>), this was largely a solo labour of love. With about 250 pages in each volume, publication of the 13 catalogues (the last one in 1989, in cooperation with Andrea Fiorentino) involved a massive commitment of time, especially given the difficulty of obtaining the original papers in those pre-digital years.

In another major contribution, Anna organised the 2nd Planktonic Conference in Rome in 1970, and published the related proceedings. The second volume of these proceedings was mainly devoted to calcareous nannofossils and included the results of the “Round table on calcareous nanoplankton”, a prelude to the setting up of the INA. There were 20 participants at this seminal workshop, which approved several propositions related to the identification of species and biostratigraphic analysis. Furthermore, the working group produced a document describing coccolith terminology and a list of nanoplankton workers in the world, subdivided by country and different stratigraphic fields.

From the early 1980s, Anna was responsible for the organisation of the CNR (National Research Council) working group “Stratigraphic Palaeontology and Evolution” and at the same time drew up and coordinated the reports which first appeared in the *Quaderni* and subsequently in *Palaepelagos*, a journal which Anna was largely responsible for, for 10 years, up to her retirement in 1997. Anna is still in Rome, enjoying her retirement.

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April, 2012



CATALOGUE
OF
CALCAREOUS NANNOFOSSILS

ANNA FARINACCI

Istituto di Gasingia e Palcentologia – Universita di Roma

If your CD copy of the Farinacci catalogue is not here then please contact the Editor.