

## **LATE QUATERNARY STRATIGRAPHIC ABUNDANCE CORRELATION OF PHYTODETRITUS BENTHIC FORAMINIFERA SPECIES AT THE SOUTHEAST PACIFIC OCEAN**

GAVRILOFF, I. J. C. IESGLO, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, Miguel Lillo 251, 4000-San Miguel de Tucumán, Tucumán, Argentina

The stratigraphic relative abundance record of *Eponides weddellensis* and *Epistominella exigua* in a Late Quaternary core at Southeast Pacific Ocean presents an high negative correlation coefficient value. These are a deep-sea dominant cosmopolitan species related either to specific water masses or as opportunistic species related with the input of phytodetritus into the ocean floor. At our core (Eltanin 4-5, 54° 52'S and 76° 45'W, depth: 3885 m, length: 940 cm, paleomagnetic age: Brunhes Normal, dating: between 50 ka to 280 ka), both species compose from 46% up to 73% of the benthic foraminiferal fauna of the core samples. From the 217 cm level to the core top, an important and dramatic *E. weddellensis* relative increment appears. The abundance correlation coefficient is  $r = -0.88$ . and reflects the alternate increment of one specie and decrease of other through the core record. Similar stratigraphic behaviors of both species have been recorded in others ocean sites at Northeast Atlantic and Western Equatorial Atlantic in Late Quaternary and Neogene-Quaternary sections respectively. Our correlation coefficient value confirm the existence of a association between both species, but its negative sign show that it could not be explained with only a one external factor (phytodetritus hypothesis). More factors (deep-water paleoceanographic features, Pleistocene paleoenvironmental changes at the region, and differences of feeding strategies between both species) must be consider to explain the stratigraphic distribution of them.