

## **LATE PLEISTOCENE BENTHONIC FORAMINIFERA FROM THE PANAMA BASIN, EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

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Deep-sea benthonic foraminifera were studied from 20 core-tops and the late Pleistocene interval of cores TR163-11, TR163-33, TR163-38, ODP 506B, and ODP 677B from the Panama Basin. The present-day distribution is correlated with environmental variables (temperature, salinity, oxygen, and nutrients) from the world ocean-atlas (WOA) before interpreting the last glacial maximum time-slice. Paleooxygenation and paleoproductivity level are inferred, as well as, the path of intermediate currents and water masses. Despite extensive research leading to reconstruct paleoproductivity levels in the basin, results are still controversial and hampered by the lack of a detailed distributional map of benthonic foraminifera and their relationship with environmental variables. This work intends to contribute to this knowledge by providing the first distributional map of benthonic foraminifera in the basin. The role of marine snow is discussed as a possible explanation for the distribution of benthonic organism including benthonic foraminifera.