

²⁾ Bay Path College, Longmeadow, MA, USA, gsem-preb@baypath.edu

Virtuelle Paläontologie

Applied three dimensional biometry on Larger Benthic Foraminifera: a tool to approach palaeobiology, ontogeny and functional shell morphology

Antonino Briguglio¹⁾ & Johann Hohenegger¹⁾

Larger Benthic Foraminifera (LBF) are characterized by complex shell morphology. Systematics and taxonomy are based on several morphological parameters easily to obtain on preferred sections of such shells.

The use of computed micro tomography on these shells gives the opportunity to investigate simultaneously different morphological parameters on the same specimens obtaining an infinite number of virtual sections avoiding test destruction. Beyond the morphological study of the tests, the three dimensional scan reveals, after some rendering and segmenting operations, quantitative information on volumes and surfaces, impossible to obtain with the oriented section methodology. Insights on ontogeny can be inferred as well as correlations between growth rate and environmental changes. Such inter-fingering between biology and ecology is definitely revealed and can be directly measured and quantified for both recent and fossil specimens.

The three dimensional model allows to verify evolutionary concepts, developed during the last centuries by the traditional two dimensional biometry obtained with oriented sections, with new three dimensional measurements, more precise and comprehensive. In such directions we are working since two years and several results have been obtained. The study of the volume of LBF lumina gives precise information on the ontogeny and on the palaeoenvironmental conditions the organisms was living under. Growth cyclicality and periodic growth functions have been discovered for both recent and fossil forms testifying obvious correlation with environmental variations.

Furthermore, some algorithms have been recently created to link, algebraically, axial oriented sections to chamber volumes to get growth trend and tendencies only by a two dimensional analysis that are proved by MCT.

A quantitative and qualitative study on several surface elements of LBF tests (e.g., papillae, pustulae, spines, septal filaments) also gives interesting results as each surfaces can be mathematically expressed and solved. Correlations between insolation – and therefore water depth, water turbidity, currents influence – and different surface structures

type density can be modelled by complex mathematical equations.

¹⁾ Institut für Paläontologie, Universität Wien, Althanstraße 14, A-1090 Wien, Austria, email: antonino.briguglio@univie.ac.at

Taphonomie und Paläoökologie

Hydrodynamic effects of morphology on bivalve shell transport and its taphonomic implications

Devapriya Chattopadhyay¹⁾, Ashish Rathie¹⁾,
Anirban Das²⁾, Partha Pratim Saha³⁾
& Sandipan Dutta⁴⁾

Bias introduced by the differences in the hydrodynamic properties of shells is an interesting topic for palaeontologists, especially taphonomists. Since the fossilized shell assemblages are often the results of post-mortem transportation of shells, it is crucial to identify such biases to ensure the validity of ecological interpretation of a community structure. Shell size, shape, state of taphonomic alteration plays important role in dictating the hydrodynamic properties as explored in this study. One other process that substantially changes the morphology of the shell is predation, specially drilling predation. Predatory drill holes in marine invertebrates represent an important source of information on the nature of biotic interactions and have often been used to explore the ecological and evolutionary roles of such interactions. Measures of drilling frequencies, and of valve and site stereotypy represent the raw data for inferring the intensity and selectivity of drilling predation. Any biases that may affect these measures are therefore of special interest as they may impact the ecological and evolutionary interpretations of the data. One potential source of bias relates to the hydrodynamic properties of shells: presence of drill holes or drill hole position may influence how shells behave when subjected to moving fluids.

In a flow tank study with bivalve *Donax scortum*, we found that the threshold current velocity for the entrainment of undrilled convex-up shells is generally determined by its size. Taphonomically altered smooth shells require a higher velocity compared to the Recent sculptured shells. The direction of the movement of shell depends on the asymmetry and size of the valve. While compared with the drilled shells, we found that the entrainment velocity for undrilled shell is significantly lower than for centrally drilled shells. One possible explanation for the observed differences is the effect of the drill hole on lift. According

to Bernoulli's principle, a pressure gradient develops as current moves over the convex-up shell. In the presence of a drill hole, the pressure gradient may drive water through the hole from the inside to the outside lessening the pressure on the shell. The position of the drill hole on a shell also affects its hydrodynamic properties: a lower entrainment velocity of upstream facing umbonally drilled shells compared to centrally drilled ones. Possibly fluid flowing into the shell through the drill hole creating turbulence within may reduce entrainment velocity. Our study reveals that these factors could contribute to a significant taphonomic separation of bivalve shells.

¹⁾ IISER-Kolkata, India

²⁾ Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

³⁾ IIT-Bombay, Mumbai, India

⁴⁾ IIT-Kharagpur, Kharagpur, India

Freies Thema

The evolution of pedicellariae in echinoids: an arms race against pests and parasites

Simon E. Coppard¹⁾, Andreas Kroh²⁾ & A.B. Smith³⁾

Sea urchins have evolved a diverse array of jawed appendages termed pedicellariae to deter pests and predators. Pedicellarial structure and function is reviewed and their distribution mapped in 75 extant genera. Using a phylogeny of echinoids at family level constructed from 353 skeletal characters scored across 162 extant and fossil taxa, the evolution of pedicellarial form and function is reconstructed. For much of the Palaeozoic echinoids possessed a very restricted pedicellarial armament, and the establishment of a diverse array of pedicellarial types by the early Mesozoic implies that the threat from predators and pests markedly increased at this time. Since the Triassic, echinoids have continued to improve their defensive capability by evolving more effective venom delivery in globiferous pedicellariae, developing spatulate-tips and curved blades for a more efficient grab in tridentate pedicellariae, and stouter, more robust valves with a stronger bite in ophicephalous pedicellariae to disable and remove ectoparasites. However, pedicellarial types are shown to be particularly prone to subsequent secondary loss, especially amongst infaunal echinoids, and thus have higher homoplasy levels than other phylogenetically useful skeletal structures.

¹⁾ Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Balboa, Ancon, Republic of Panama; e-mail: CoppardS@si.edu

²⁾ Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Geologie & Paläontologie, Burgring 7, 1010 Wien, Austria; e-mail: andreas.kroh@nhm-wien.ac.at

³⁾ Natural History Museum, Palaeontology Department, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK; e-mail: a.smith@nhm.ac.uk

Virtuelle Paläontologie

Comparative Computer Tomography of *Crocota crocuta spelaea* and Recent Hyaenids

Martin Dockner¹⁾

The computer tomography enables the author to present a picture of the nearly inaccessible cranial cavities of hyaenid skulls. The main interest was centered on the paranasal sinus which through its size represents a special skull trait in hyaenine hyaenids compared to other carnivores. Through digital visualisation, volume data could be acquired about the endocranial and the sinal cavities of the analysed specimens.

Computer Tomography allows non-invasive and comparative imaging of the hyaenid skulls. The author aims at comparing (a) size of the skull and (b) volume of paranasal sinuses and cranial cavities in recent hyaenids and extinct *Crocota crocuta spelaea*. Three dimensional surface models and volume measurements of paranasal sinuses show a broad range, whereas cranial cavity volume (and thus brain size), was expanding with growing skull size in all specimens as expected.

¹⁾ Martin Dockner, Institut für Anthropologie, Universität Wien, Althanstraße 14, 1090 Wien, martin.dockner@univie.ac.at
