



## **Foraminifera and Redox: Hooks and Constrains**

Alexander V. Altenbach and Barbara Bassler

LMU Munich, Richard-Wagner-Str. 10, 8033 Munich, Germany (altenbach@lmu.de)

We investigated transects from oxic towards anoxic and sulphidic bottom waters off of Namibia and off the western Crimean peninsula. Distributional patterns of living Foraminifera reached deep into sulphidic environments, thus supported valuable neontological and palaeoenvironmental interpretations. Specific species are unbelievable resistant to severe environmental perturbations. Much more problematic, it was nearly impossible to define stable thresholds for oxygen saturation values. Thus typical standard categories used in palaeoenvironmental elaborations, such as 'hypoxic, anoxic, sulfidic, or normal marine', may all occur in one local within days. Indeed oxygenated and sulphidic conditions on the seafloor appear to show enormous fluctuations, in terms of temporal as well as in spatial aspects. This holds true for the open ocean Namibian shelf as well as for the more enclosed conditions of the Black Sea. We have to re-calibrate a number of usual palaeoenvironmental concepts based on Foraminifera, our results may be much more worse than simplified.