

## THE LATER HOLOCENE FORAMINIFERA OF LIVERPOOL BAY (BAE LERPWL), BRITISH ISLES: MORPHOSPECIES AND COMMUNITY LEVEL PATTERNS

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### ABSTRACT

Two cores were studied from Liverpool Bay (~40 m water depth). The lowest 80 cm of ISLF13 (290 cm long) comprised clay, gypsum and pyritised foraminifera (Surface Layer 2 Member, gypsiferous lithofacies GLF) from a tidal flat dominated by *Criboelphidium excavatum*. Perturbation Detection Analysis (PDA) found two ISLF13 GLF abundance biozones (ABs) with assemblages in stasis. ISLF16 (80 cm long) and between 30–202 cm in ISLF13 were open marine, sandy with gastropods and bivalves (Surface Layer 1 Member, shelly sand lithofacies SSLF). Assemblages in the SSLF sections differed, despite their proximity. That in ISLF13 comprised dominant *C. excavatum* with lesser *Ammonia batava*, *Asterigerinata mamilla*, *Cibicides refulgens* and *Bulimina elongata*. PDA identified two ISLF13 SSLF ABs, both in growth stages. The ISLF16 assemblage was co-dominated by *C. excavatum*, *A. mamilla* and *A. batava* from a single AB in stasis. This difference might reflect sorting. *Asterigerinata murrayhaynesi* n. sp. is described.

### INTRODUCTION

The neritic Liverpool Bay (Bae Lerpwl in Welsh) lays in the SE part of the eastern Irish Sea, which in turn extends from the northern coast of North Wales to the Solway Firth, and west to the Isle of Man (Aldridge & Davies, 1993). Liverpool Bay borders NW England and N Wales (Figure 1). Its seabed and shallow subsurface geology are well known (Mellett et al., 2015), with documented sediment transport pathways (Howarth, 2005; Kenyon & Cooper, 2005). The patchy distribution of the Holocene Surface Sands Formation (SSF) has been mapped (Jackson et al., 1995, figs. 69, 71), but its foraminifera have not yet been recorded.

Recent neritic foraminifera have been recorded elsewhere around the British Isles. Haynes (1973) noted that between the publication by Walker & Boys (1784) and his own monograph, >300 papers documented Recent British shelfal foraminifera. Most, however, provided lists only. Williamson's (1858) monograph, which described and illustrated 90 species, was the earliest attempt at a comprehensive account but gave only localities, not abundances. Earland (1902) and Heron-Allen & Earland (1909, 1910 1916, 1930a, 1930b) likewise provided localities only.

The rose Bengal staining technique, which distinguishes live foraminifera from dead (Walton, 1952), encouraged ecological work, but raised questions regarding the different distributions of live communities and thanatocoenoses. Haynes (1964) reported the foraminifera in surface scrapes taken between the Pleistocene glacial terminal moraines in Cardigan Bay (Bae Ceredigion, south of Bae Lerpwl). He found only dead foraminifera. He concluded that this was due to postmortem transport, although from where was unclear. Atkinson (1971) expanded on the issue of postmortem transport, comparing recent foraminifera and sedimentary facies in the turbulent zone of this Bay. He concluded that most living foraminifera are associated with dense macroalgal cover, which is limited to coarser sedimentary facies such as from the moraines. Finer sediment in bathymetric hollows yielded allochthonous foraminifera only.

While foraminifera can be transported by traction currents (see review in Saraswati, 2021), Haynes' (1964) dead assemblages might not be entirely transported from distant vegetated areas, epizoic foraminifera living on macrobenthos. Haward & Haynes (1976) found foraminifera living on the scallop *Chlamys opercularis* (Linnaeus), which in turn lives in both the Cardigan and Liverpool Bays. The valves of live *C. opercularis* are abundantly inhabited by foraminiferal morphospecies widespread in sediment taphocoenoses [e.g., *Ammonia batava* (Hofker), *Elphidium selseyense* (Heron-Allen & Earland), *Quinqueloculina seminulum* (Linnaeus)]. The valves yield few dead foraminifera, which dislodge on death. Other macrobenthos support foraminifera too. Moore (1985) reported *Lobatula lobatula* (Walker & Jacob) living on the isopod *Astacilla longicornis* (Sowerby), which occurs subtidally in both Bays (NBN Atlas Wales, 2021).

Regarding taxonomic studies, Murray (1971, 2000) published an atlas of British foraminiferal species, and illustrated the foraminiferal fauna of the Hebridean Shelf, offshore west Scotland (Murray, 2003). Gabel (1971) illustrated the foraminifera of the North Sea. Haynes (1973) described many shallow-water foraminifera from Cardigan Bay. Edwards (1982) illustrated some foraminifera in his study of neritic assemblages off NW Scotland. These monographs and papers, however, provide only brief ecological details (inshore vs. offshore, epifaunal vs. infaunal).

de Nooijer et al. (2008) provided an ecological analysis of the live (rose Bengal stained) benthic foraminifera across a front in the North Sea. Despite peak tidal currents of ~1 m s<sup>-1</sup> (Wallingford et al., 2002), which can transport dead benthic foraminifera (Snyder et al., 1990), de Nooijer et al. (2008) reported high standing stocks of especially *Criboelphidium excavatum* (Terquem). Similar fronts occur in the Irish Sea (Beardall et al., 1982; Howarth, 2005; Lee et al., 2005), with one in eastern Liverpool Bay (Figure 1).

Hofker (1977) illustrated benthic foraminifera on some Dutch tidal flats. In marked contrast to the open neritic work recorded above, he concluded that there is little foraminiferal

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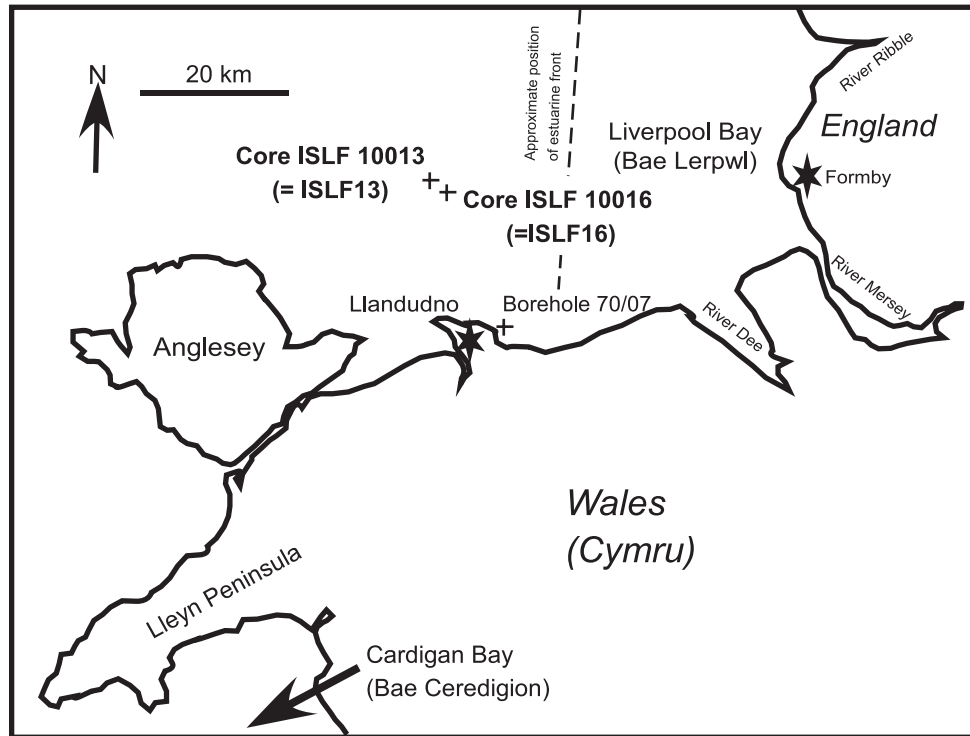


FIGURE 1. Liverpool Bay and North Wales, showing the locations of Cores ISLF13 and ISLF16, and Borehole 70/07. The approximate location of the offshore estuarine front in Liverpool Bay is also shown.

transport in the intertidal zone. Test sizes on the flats increased with increasing salinity.

In terms of stratigraphic work, the paper by Haynes et al. (1977) is geographically the closest study to Liverpool Bay of a Holocene foraminiferal succession. These authors studied the microfauna in the 3.75 m-long Hydrocore ZZ27, taken 5 km west of Aberaeron (52°15.30'N, 4°19.20'W), Cardigan Bay/Bae Ceredigion. This core reached basal till at -21.00 m OD. The uppermost 2.3 m comprised two lithologies:

- Unit 1, 0.00– 100 cmbsf, fine grained, blue-grey, muddy, shelly sands
- Unit 2, 100– 230 cmbsf, dark grey, laminated clays and silts with varying concentrations of plant material.

Haynes et al. (1977) gave only semi-quantitative details of the meiofauna in this core but recorded 100 morphospecies and varieties of foraminifera. Benthic hyaline foraminifera dominated, although some planktonic *Globigerina* spp. were recovered throughout. The fauna in the underlying Unit (2) is of upper tidal flat aspect with *Ammonia aberdoveyensis* Haynes, *Elphidium selseyense*, *Criboelphidium williamsoni* (Haynes) and *Haynesina anglica* (Murray). There was a marked faunal change between Unit (2) and Unit (1), with the entry of *Asterigerinata mamilla* (Williamson), the *Bulimina elongata* d'Orbigny group, *Ammonia batava* and abundant *L. lobatula* in Unit (1). This reflects a transition to shallow, open marine conditions. The entire section must be younger than a peat encountered at ~2.6 mbsf with a  $^{14}\text{C}$  age of  $8470 \pm 110$  years cal BP. This peat is widespread in eastern Cardigan Bay (Larcombe & Jago, 1994). Haynes et al. (1977) concluded that their Unit (2)

assemblages were largely allochthonous thanatacoenoses, resulting from strong tidal currents (see Evans, 1947) affecting the nearshore littoral and sublittoral. Comparable studies elsewhere around the British Isles are few, but see Konradi (2000) and Murray (2006).

Here we document the nature of washed residues and provide the first statistical examination of British Holocene neritic foraminiferal assemblages, giving both individual morphospecies and community-level evaluations. We use two cores taken within western central Liverpool Bay (hydrocore ISLF 10013 [hereafter ISLF13] and piston core ISLF 10016 [hereafter ISLF16]). Wilson & Kaminiski (2023) recorded rare benthic foraminifera from these cores that are widespread in the West Indies (*Asterigerina carinata* d'Orbigny, *Dyocibicides biserialis* Cushman & Valentine, *Elphidium discoidale* (d'Orbigny), *Nonionoides grateloupi* (d'Orbigny), *Quinqueloculina lamarckiana* d'Orbigny, *Reussella atlantica* (Cushman), *Sahulina conica* (d'Orbigny)). Those authors concluded these morphospecies to have been transported to the area as juvenile propagules by the North Atlantic Drift. We expand on that work with a quantitative evaluation of individual species-level measures and the first quantitative community level assessment of stasis. We include discussions of the issues of fronts, transport and epizoic foraminiferal inputs as evidenced in these cores.

Because indices calculated from individual samples do not account for community composition, we use the novel holistic Perturbation Detection Analysis (PDA) approach of Hayek et al. (2019). This mathematical approach uses the data's cumulative frequency function and initially determines the distribution of abundance biozones (ABs). It

is the only quantitative approach to test for both community stasis and any disruption to the contained assemblage, evidenced as deviation from the steady state of stasis. This methodology can detect positive growth or negative decline in the taphocoensis or recent assemblages. Using PDA we document change in the assemblage throughout the identified ABs and as part of this evaluation apply the sample-wise assemblage turnover index (ATI<sub>s</sub>) of Hayek & Wilson (2013).

## STUDY AREA

Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl (2,528 km<sup>2</sup>) ranges in depth from mean low water to ~66 m. Much of the bay is comparatively new, a sea-level lowstand of -28 m OD having occurred in the North Welsh region at 12,300 years cal BP (Roberts et al., 2011). The rate of sea-level rise diminished around North Wales starting at ~9,000 years cal BP, water depths increasing by only 2 m since ~6,000 years cal BP (Roberts et al., 2011, fig. 12).

The bay is macrotidal (Plater & Grenville, 2010). Ramster & Hill (1969) found within it a strong residual current to the SSE augmented during north-westerly gales. Thus, there is net eastward, shoreward sediment transport. Polton et al. (2011) found maximum current velocity in Liverpool Bay to be 50–75 cm s<sup>-1</sup>. Although only 60–80% of this current velocity reaches the seabed (Polton et al., 2011, fig. 2b), it exceeds the traction current velocities of 13 cm s<sup>-1</sup> needed to transport benthic foraminiferal tests (see Snyder et al., 1990).

The cores used in this study were taken from an area of large sand waves, formed where seafloor currents peak at ≥ 65 cm s<sup>-1</sup> (Kenyon & Cooper, 2005, fig. 25). These may be static features or move at mean rates of up to 0.6 m a<sup>-1</sup> (Mellett et al., 2015), but the surface sand may be far from static. Radioactive tracer studies in a comparable sand wave field in the English Channel showed that sand can travel up to 2 km in 75 days, despite little migration of the large sand waves (Beck et al., 1991).

An offshore front extending N-S across the bay's centre separates eastern lower salinity surface water from western higher salinity water (Greenwood et al., 2011) at >20 km from the mouth of the River Mersey (Bowden & Sharaf El Din, 1966). We have not found any records of microalgae, which would provide habitats for foraminifera, on the Liverpool Bay seafloor. Rocky areas as natural attachment sites for macroalgae are limited to a small area near the mouth of the River Dee (Mills, 1998) and the Welsh coastline, including around Anglesey.

Deposits of the SSF are in Liverpool Bay generally <2 m thick, but locally it can be > 40 m thick in sandbanks (Jackson et al., 1995). The formation overlays an erosional surface dated at 10,200 years cal BP, developed shortly after the start of post-glacial rapid sea-level rise in the North Wales region, which commenced 11,000 years cal BP (Roberts et al., 2011, fig. 11). The SSF comprises three members (Jackson et al., 1995). The Seabed Depression Member (SDM) occupies depressions cut into the underlying Western Irish Sea Formation A (Weichselian to earliest Holocene). Other, more extensive but generally thinner parts of the SSF are divided into the lower Surface Layer 2 (SL2) and upper Surface Layer 1 (SL1) Members. Off Llandudno (Borehole 70/07,

see Figure 1), the SL2 Member consists of peaty silt from reed swamps older than 9,200 years cal BP. On Kish Bank, 11 km east of Dublin, Ireland, the SL2 Member is of intertidal aspect. The SL1 Member either disconformably overlies an erosion surface across the SL2 Member or rests on older strata. It consists of tabular-stratified sediments but passes up into present-day mobile sediments (Layer A of Pantin & Evans, 1984), which can be up to 0.3 m thick (Jackson et al., 1995). Crickmore and Kiff (1985), however, did not find man-made metals in Liverpool Bay >0.1 m below the sediment surface, perhaps indicating the more typical depth of bioturbation or sand transport.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two cores were taken from central Liverpool Bay (water depth ~40 m, see fig. 1 in Polton et al., 2011). Core ISLF13 (53.517°N, 3.807°W) was a 290 cm-long vibrocore. Core ISLF16 (53.509°N, 3.785°W), taken to the ESE of ISLF13, was a ~80 cm long piston core. Both cores lay west of but close to the front illustrated by Greenwood et al. (2011), ISLF16 being closer to the front.

The seafloor at the cored sites, though locally with gravelly sand (Holmes & Tappin, 2005, fig. 7), is mostly clayey sand with sand grains ~0.5 mm in diameter (Luo et al., 2013, fig. 6A). ISLF16 penetrated only dark grey-brown clayey sand with some marine gastropods (principally *Turritella communis* up to 2.5 cm long, identified from Hayward & Ryland, 1990, p. 524) and broken bivalves. This shelly material and abundant sand was recovered from the upper 202 cm of ISLF13, but not from that core's lowest 80 cm, which comprised dark brown, structureless clay that those taking the core thought had possibly been deposited on a tidal flat (Martin Bates, pers. comm).

We had intended to sample the cores at 10 cm intervals in 2 cm slices, commencing at the core tops. This was possible throughout ISLF16 (7 samples). However, the uppermost 25 cm of ISLF13 was too sludgy and deformed for accurate sampling, this probably being Layer A. So, we commenced sampling of this core at 30 cmbsf, giving 26 samples.

One hundred grams of sediment from each sample was soaked in water until disaggregated, and then washed over a 63 μm mesh. The residue was oven dried at 90°C and the mass of dried material recorded. For each sample the >63 μm residue was split with a microsplitter to give aliquot of >250 specimens. To ensure that no foraminifera were missed, each aliquot was sieved over 106, 125, 150 and 425 μm meshes and the resulting five fractions were picked clean of specimens. Planktonic foraminifera were picked but not identified further and for statistical purposes treated as forming a single taxon. We refer to the picked foraminifera as forming assemblages, but note that these are taphonomic assemblages that were subject to postmortem alteration, such as transport, rather than the community that lived at the core sites. The assemblage slides are housed at the European Micropaleontological Reference Centre, Kraków, Poland (reference number 19/1).

The numbers of specimens in each taxon were for each sample recorded on a spreadsheet for analysis. Storms around the British Isles transport in suspension many dead but few live benthic foraminifera (Murray et al.,

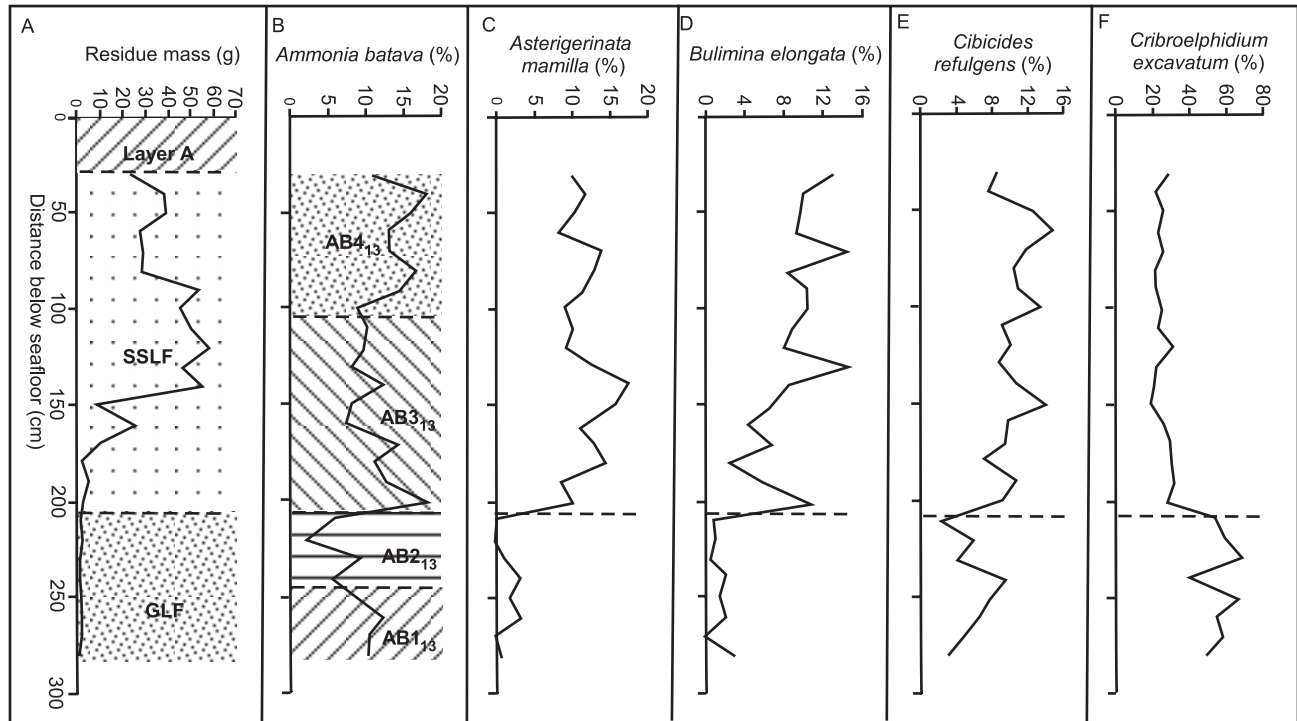


FIGURE 2. Residue masses and the proportional abundances of selected morphospecies in Core ISLF 13. A. Residue masses in grams, showing also the distributions of the gypsiferous lithofacies (GLF) and the shelly sand lithofacies (SSLF). B. *Ammonia batava*, showing also the distributions of the four abundance biozones (ABs) in this core. C. *Asterigerinata mamilla*. D. *Bulimina elongata*. E. *Cibicides refulgens*. F. *Cribroelphidium excavatum*. The dashed line in C–F is the boundary between the GLF and SSLF and between AB2<sub>13</sub>/AB3<sub>13</sub>.

1982). With this observation in mind, the number of taxa (morphospecies, morphospecies in open nomenclature) recorded and treated as richness *S* included a group labelled ‘planktonic foraminifera’.

The PAST palaeontological freeware of Hammer & Harper (2005, version 4.08) was used to calculate measures at the morphospecies level. Because the numbers of foraminifera picked from the residues varied widely, and *S* increases with the number of specimens *N* picked (Hayek & Buzas, 2010), rarefied *S* was estimated using rarefaction to the smallest sample size for each core. Diversity was measured using the Shannon Function  $H' = -\sum p_i \cdot \ln(p_i)$ , in which  $p_i$  is the proportional abundance of the *i*th species], evenness using the Equitability Index  $E' = e^{H'}/S$ , and dominance using the Berger-Parker Index  $\max(p_i)$ . For further details on the use of these indices, see Hayek & Buzas (2013). Means of rarefied *S*, and of  $H'$ ,  $E'$  and  $\max(p_i)$ , transformed as appropriate to meet assumptions, were tested using Student’s *t*-test. Proportional abundances were for comparisons transformed using  $\ln(p_i + 1)$ . Probabilistic measures were accepted as significant at  $p \leq 0.5$ .

In addition, we calculated a version of the *Ammonia-Elphidium* (A–E) Index of Sen Gupta et al. (1996). This measure, as originally developed in surface sediments offshore Louisiana, Gulf of Mexico, was stated to be calculated from

$$\text{A–E Index} = [N_A / (N_A + N_E)] * 100,$$

where  $N_A$  and  $N_E$  were the numbers of *Ammonia* and *Elphidium*, respectively, in a sample. This index has been applied widely and rather indiscriminately to studies of marginal

marine environments (Eichler & Barker, 2020), with little regard to the identity of the species encountered. We recorded elphidiids with both rounded (*C. excavatum*) and acute (*Cribroelphidium gerthi*) to carinate (*Elphidium crispum*) peripheries, each of which have quite different ecologies (Langer, 1993). Our *Cribroelphidium excavatum* has been found both in the Gulf of Mexico (Buzas-Stephens et al., 2002) and around NW Europe (Darling et al., 2016). Sen Gupta et al. (1996) developed their A–E Index using *C. excavatum* (given as *Elphidium excavatum* sensu Sen Gupta et al., 1996) and *Ammonia parkinsonia* (d’Orbigny). Rather than using all our specimens of *Ammonia* spp., *Elphidium* spp. and *Cribroelphidium* spp. in our assessment, we calculated our version the A–E Index using *C. excavatum*, which was our most abundant morphospecies of elphidiid, and our most abundant morphospecies of *Ammonia* (= *A. batava*). We thus term this derivative index the A–C Index. Both of these morphospecies are infaunal.

The only statistical holistic approach for examining the community-level patterns to be found in our foraminiferal data is PDA (Hayek et al., 2019), which uses the cumulative frequency function (CFF) methodology and considers samples as replicates over time so as to facilitate the identification of community-level patterns. To prepare for CFF (Hayek et al., 2019), we identified ABs by proceeding from the bottom upwards in both cores (see Wilson, 2008). The ABs are numbered from the bottom up, those in ISLF13 being differentiated using subscript 13, and that in ISLF16 using subscript 16. PDA tests the null hypothesis using stepwise the values for additional new morphospecies detected

and added to the CFF, then calculating the related diversity indices. Following Hayek et al. (2007), we draw a distinction between the terms ‘assemblage’ and ‘community’. An assemblage is any and all groupings of species, while if PDA finds an AB, then that AB is taken to be a coherent entity containing a community. As Hayek et al. (2019) noted, the composition of the assemblages cannot be expected to remain constant. Both the morphospecies themselves and their relative abundances are subject to change since both rare and even common ones will vary across time. PDA shows that stasis is the desired or expected state of an assemblage with both richness and evenness balanced (balance of nature), yet relatively minor alterations in assemblage composition and abundance can be sufficient to perturb this state of equilibrium and lead to either increased growth or decline. This information has been shown to be unobtainable with only the individual sample level measures (Hayek et al., 2019). Fitting a least squares regression to H and lnN calculated on such samples provides the basis for a quantitative mathematical examination. The slope of the diversity regression model yields the quantitative definition of stasis, or the ecological balance of the assemblage or community. Thus, stasis is defined as the steady state, with positive and negative deviations from this state being easily seen as disruptions with either community growth or decline.

With the slope coefficient used as the detection measure for the test of hypotheses and detection of balance or perturbations, both the assemblage turnover index (ATI) and conditioned on boundary index (CoBI) of Hayek & Wilson (2013) complete the PDA procedure. To assess which morphospecies contributed most to the ATI across selected AB boundaries, the CoBI provides the proportion that each morphospecies within an assemblage contributes to the change or turnover specifically across that boundary. For each morphospecies at any boundary  $\text{CoBI} = |p_{i2} - p_{i1}| / \text{ATI}$ , where  $p_{ij}$ ,  $j = 1, 2$  are the  $i$ th species’ proportions on either side of the selected boundary of interest and at which the ATI is calculated. Both ATI and CoBI can be computed with differing subsets of the data (Hayek & Buzas, 2013). Here we used the partial conditioned-on-boundary index,  $\text{CoBI}_t$ , of Hayek & Wilson (2013), in which the assemblage turnover index  $\text{ATI} (= \text{ATI}_p)$  was calculated between the entire set of samples below the selected AB boundary and the first sample above it. The value of  $\text{ATI}_p$  was substituted into the CoBI equation, using  $p_{i1}$  and  $p_{i2}$  as the proportional abundances of the  $i$ th species. The proportional contribution of each morphospecies to  $\text{ATI}_p$  was assessed from the vector of  $\text{CoBI}_p$ .

The values of between sample  $\text{ATI} (= \text{ATI}_s)$  were determined using pairs of adjacent samples. The depths for the  $\text{ATI}_s$  values were interpolated between those samples so that they lay at 5, 15, 25... 275 cmbsf.

## RESULTS

### CORE ISLF13

#### Sample Masses

This core’s residue masses ranged from 0.4–57.8 g (Figure 2A), reflecting the samples’ mostly muddy nature. Large, euhedral, tabular gypsum crystals were recovered

from residues between 282–210 cmbsf, these forming a gypsiferous lithofacies (GLF). The euhedral gypsum crystals, typically from the >425  $\mu\text{m}$  fraction, appeared fresh overall, but those from 250–252 cmbsf were chalky and corroded.

Shelly material and quantities of fine sand were recovered from a shelly-sandy lithofacies (SSLF) between 202–30 cmbsf. A few gypsum crystals recovered from 180–182 cmbsf within the SSLF we consider to be reworked. The mean mass of sample residues from the GLF ( $\bar{x} = 1.06$  g) was less than that of samples from the SSLF ( $\bar{x} = 30.47$  g). The residues in the samples from the GLF were mostly <150  $\mu\text{m}$ , while those from the SSLF comprised mostly 150–425  $\mu\text{m}$  fine sand grade material. However, no distinct break in masses occurred that would distinguish members in the SSF.

#### Foraminiferal Assemblages

A total of 10,214 foraminiferal tests were recovered from this core ( $\bar{x} = 393$  per sample), including 62 tests grouped as planktonic foraminifera (Appendix 1). These foraminiferal tests were placed in 125 taxa, of which 31 (24.8% of identified morphospecies and taxa in open nomenclature) were singletons. As expected (see Hayek & Buzas 2010), most taxa were rare, 59 (47.2%) being represented by  $\leq 4$  specimens. Total recovery was dominated by *C. excavatum* (36.1%), with lesser *A. batava* (11.0%), *Cibicides refulgens* (9.0%), *A. mamilla* (8.5%), and *B. elongata* (6.8%). The five most common morphospecies thus comprised 71.4% of the total recovery.

A total of 3,052 foraminifera were recovered from the GLF, including 21 grouped as planktonic foraminifera. The most abundant morphospecies were *C. excavatum* (58.7%), *A. batava* (8.1%) and *C. refulgens* (5.3%), together forming 72.1% of GLF recovery. A few *A. mamilla* (1.1%) and *B. elongata* (1.2%) were recovered. Many *C. excavatum* had been either partially or wholly filled with pyrite or were preserved as easily identifiable pyrite casts. They were recovered almost exclusively from the 106–150  $\mu\text{m}$  fraction. Not all hyaline foraminifera had been pyritised, however. At 230–232 cmbsf well preserved *A. batavus* were abundant in the 150–425  $\mu\text{m}$  fraction.

The foraminiferal assemblage composition of the SSLF differed in terms of percentage abundances from that in the GLF, and in lacking pyritisation. Five morphospecies each formed > 5% of the total recovery of 7,165 specimens, which included 41 specimens grouped as planktonic foraminifera and treated as a single morphospecies. In rank order these morphospecies were: *C. excavatum* (26.4%), *A. batava* (12.2%), *A. mamilla* (11.6%), *C. refulgens* (10.6%) and *B. elongata* (9.1%), these together forming 69.9% of the total recovery (Figures 2B–F). *Ammonia batava*, *A. mamilla*, *B. elongata* and *C. refulgens* were proportionally more abundant in the SSLF, in which some tests were worn and broken. In contrast, the percentage abundance of *C. excavatum* was markedly greater in the GLF (GLF,  $\bar{x} = 57.2\%$ , s.d. = 9.2%, 8 samples; SSLF,  $\bar{x} = 26.1\%$ , s.d. = 3.5%, 18 samples). Also recovered from this SSLF section were rare (0.17%) specimens of *Asterigerintata murrayhynesii* n. sp.

#### Individual Diversity Measures

Richness S in ISLF13 was rarefied to the smallest residue (N = 258) and ranged from 20.5–38.1 ( $\bar{x} = 30.8$ , s.d. = 4.0).

TABLE 1. Correlations and their probabilities between single sample residue masses (g), Shannon Function H, Equitability Index E and Berger-Parker Index  $\max(p_i)$ .

Measure	Mass	H	E	$\max(p_i)$
Mass	-	<.001	<.001	<.001
H	0.61	-	<.000001	<.000001
E	0.63	0.89	-	<.000001
$\max(p_i)$	-0.68	-0.94	-0.94	-

The mean rarefied S for the GLF ( $\bar{x} = 28.9$ , s.d. = 4.7) was equivalent to that from the SSLF ( $\bar{x} = 32.3$ , s.d. = 4.3;  $t_{24} = 1.63$ ,  $p = .056$ ).

Shannon's H, Equitability Index and Berger-Parker Index (Figures 3A–C) were all significantly correlated with residue masses (Table 1), either positively (H, E) or negatively ( $\max(p_i)$ ). Only  $\max(p_i)$  showed a visibly clear pattern related to the residue nature, being lower in the SSLF than in the GLF (Figure 3C), reflecting the greater proportional abundances of *C. excavatum* in the GLF. The GLF mean values of  $\max(p_i)$  were larger than those for the SSLF (GLF, 282–210 cmbsf,  $\bar{x} = 0.57$ , s.d. = 0.09, 8 samples; SSLF, 202–30 cmbsf,  $\bar{x} = 0.26$ , s.d. = 0.04, 18 samples). Though not so apparent from Figure 3A, the mean values of H for the lithofacies also differed significantly (GLF,  $\bar{x} = 1.87$ , s.d. = 0.34, 8 samples; SSLF,  $\bar{x} = 2.56$ , s.d. = 0.13, 18 samples;  $t_{24} = -7.70$ ,  $p < .00001$ ), being greater in the SSLF.

The ISLF13 A-C Index ranged from 3.69–42.96 (Figure 3D), being low in the GLF (range 3.69–18.72,  $\bar{x} = 12.53$ , s.d. = 4.78), with a marked step between 210–202 cmbsf. We may not have enough data from the lower GLF section to conclude with certainty, but there may be a trend whereby A-C Index decreases up-section through the GLF, with the lowest A-C in the GLF occurring near the top at ~210cmbsf ( $r = 0.801$ ,  $p = .015$ ), suggesting a decrease over time. The SSLF A-C Index ranged from 21.87–42.96 ( $\bar{x} = 31.89$ , s.d. = 6.35) and fluctuated around the mean with no significant trend with depth ( $r = -0.364$ ,  $p = .137$ ) and was not correlated with residue mass ( $r = 0.28$ ,  $p = .24$ ).

#### Perturbation Detection Analysis

Abundance biozones (ABs) were identified in ISLF13 from 282–250 cmbsf (AB1<sub>13</sub>, 4 samples), 242–210 cmbsf (AB2<sub>13</sub>, 4 samples), 202–120 cmbsf (AB3<sub>13</sub>, 9 samples) and 112–30 cmbsf (AB4<sub>13</sub>, 9 samples). Thus, there were two GLF ABs and two SSLF ABs. The PDA methodology showed that the assemblages in AB1<sub>13</sub> and AB2<sub>13</sub> were in stasis. In contrast, AB3<sub>13</sub> and AB4<sub>13</sub> contained assemblages with a positive coefficient indicative of a growth state.

The mean value of  $ATI_s$  throughout ISLF13 was 0.434 (s.d. = 0.153, range 0.285–1.023), indicating a mean turnover of ~43% between adjacent samples. Values of  $ATI_s$  were calculated within the ABs. One way ANOVA showed that at least two of the within-AB means for  $ATI_s$  differed significantly ( $F_{3,18} = 3.69$ ,  $p = .031$ ), while the Scheffé test found a significant difference between the means of AB2<sub>13</sub> ( $\bar{x} = 0.51$ ) and AB4<sub>13</sub> ( $\bar{x} = 0.36$ ). Mean  $ATI_s$  was high towards the GLF top (Figure 4).

We examined  $CoBI_p$  between the GLF and SSLF (i.e., across the AB2<sub>13</sub>/AB3<sub>13</sub> boundary). The value of  $ATI_p =$

0.864, and so exceeded greatly the mean value of  $ATI_s$  in the entire core. Eight morphospecies presented a  $CoBI_p > 0.02$  (i.e., contributed >2.0% to assemblage turnover). Of these, six had a positive value of  $p_{i2} - p_{i1}$ , indicating a greater proportional abundance above the GLF/SSLF boundary: *A. batava* ( $CoBI_p = 0.12$ ), *A. mamilla* (0.11), *B. elongata* (0.11), *C. refulgens* (0.05), *Q. seminula* (0.04) and *Haynesina depressula* (0.03). Two morphospecies had a negative  $p_{i2} - p_{i1}$ , reflecting a greater proportional abundance within the GLF: *C. excavatum* ( $CoBI_p = 0.35$ ) and *B. frigida* (0.02). The biggest contributors to  $CoBI_p$  were thus the two morphospecies used in calculating the A-C Index.

#### CORE ISLF16

##### Sample Masses

The residues from the seven ISLF16 samples comprised mostly fine sand 150–425  $\mu\text{m}$  with shelly material (Figure 5A) and were thus comparable with the ISLF13 SSLF. The ISLF16 residue masses ranged from 14.7–93 g ( $\bar{x} = 48.9$  g, s.d. = 27.2 g) and the residues did not contain gypsum.

##### Foraminifera

A total of 3,236 foraminifera were recovered from ISLF16 ( $\bar{x} = 462$  per sample), in 78 taxa or morphospecies (Appendix 1). This recovery included seven planktonic foraminifera, which were grouped as a single taxon. The low richness in this core compared to ISLF13 is due to the smaller number of samples and specimens taken from ISLF16. Recovery from this core was co-dominated by *C. excavatum* (21.2%), *A. mamilla* (19.0%) and *A. batava* (18.2%), with lesser *C. refulgens* (9.5%), *B. elongata* (7.1%), and *Q. seminula* (5.6%) (Figure 5). Also recovered were rare *Asterigerinata murrayhaynesi* n. sp. (0.22% of total recovery).

Richness for this core was rarefied to the smallest number of specimens picked ( $N = 369$ ). It ranged from 27.1–39.6 ( $\bar{x} = 34.0$ , s.d. = 4.4).

In ISLF16, H ranged from 2.25–2.60 ( $\bar{x} = 2.43$ , s.d. = 0.125; Figure 5G), and was significantly negatively correlated with the residue masses ( $r = -0.923$ ,  $p = .003$ ,  $N = 7$  samples). In contrast E (range = 0.289–0.338,  $\bar{x} = 0.310$ , s.d. = 0.017; Figure 5H) was not correlated with residue masses. The Berger-Parker Index ranged from 0.211–0.256 ( $\bar{x} = 0.228$ , s.d. = 0.015; Figure 5I). The A-C Index ranged from 39.3–52.9 ( $\bar{x} = 46.8$ , s.d. = 4.6; Figure 5J) and did not show any significant trend through the core.

ISLF16 comprised a single AB (AB1<sub>16</sub>) whose assemblage was probabilistically constant, or in stasis over the depths/time sampled. We note, however, that with only 7 samples this conclusion cannot be generalised for any further sediments from an SSLF below the maximum depth sampled. The sample-wise  $ATI_s$  in Core ISLF16 ranged from 0.229–0.372 ( $\bar{x} = 0.302$ , s.d. = 0.052).

#### COMPARISON BETWEEN THE SSLF IN CORES ISLF13 AND ISLF16

Both the uppermost 202 cm in ISLF13 and the 80 cm sampled in ISLF16 contained the shelly material and fine sand



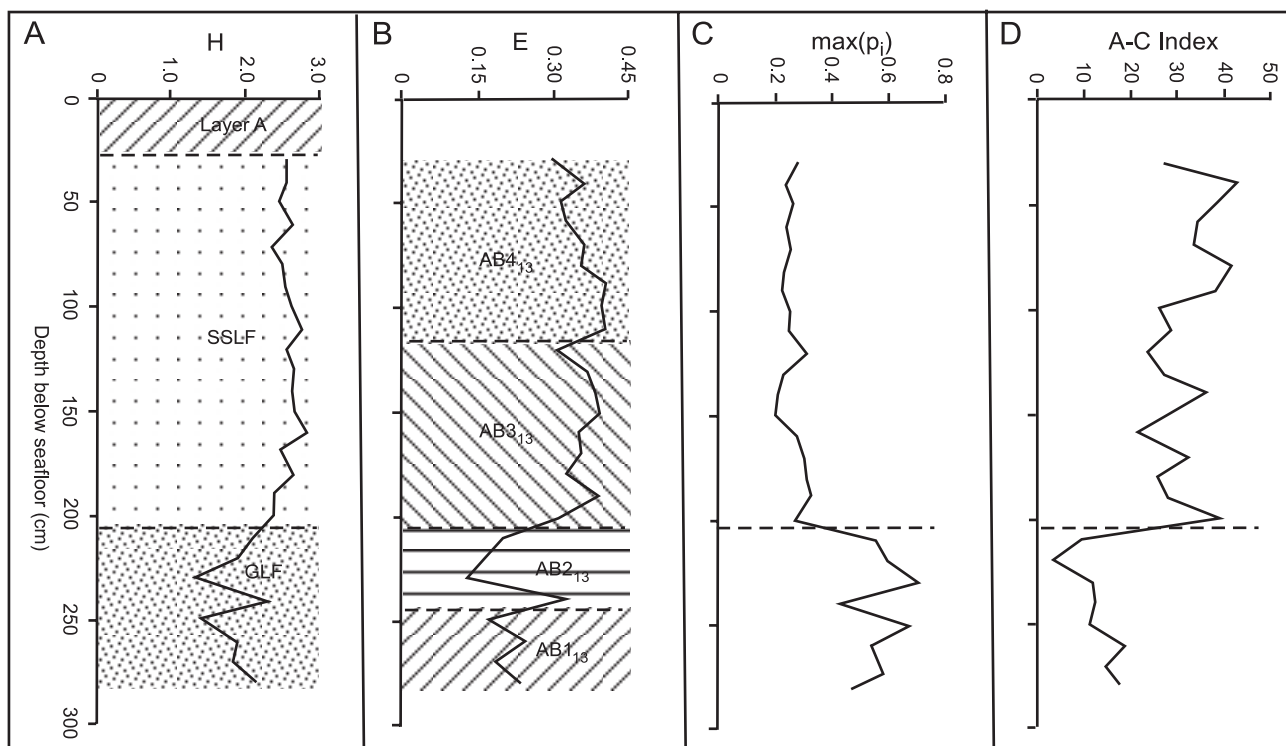


FIGURE 3. Single sample statistical measures in Core ISLF13. A. The Shannon Function,  $H$ , showing also the distributions of the gypsiferous lithofacies (GLF) and the shelly sand lithofacies (SSLF). B. The Equitability Index,  $E$ , showing also the distributions of the four abundance biozones (ABs) in this core. C. The Berger-Parker Index,  $\max(p_i)$ . D. The *Ammonia-Cribroelphidium* (A-C) Index. The dashed line in c and d is the boundary between the GLF and SSLF, and between AB<sub>2</sub><sub>13</sub>/AB<sub>3</sub><sub>13</sub>.

> 150  $\mu\text{m}$  of the SSLF. The residue masses in the lower part of ISLF13 (202–150 cmbsf) were small (3–25 g) when compared to the upper part (142–30 cmbsf, 23.7–57.8 g). Those in ISLF16 ranged from 14.7–93 g, and so were comparable to the residue masses in the upper part of ISLF13.

#### Assemblage Level Evaluation

PDA found a single AB (AB<sub>16</sub>) in ISLF16 composed of community in stasis, diversity not changing significantly over the time period. This differed from the uppermost SSLF abundance biozone (AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub>) in ISLF13, in which the community was in an expansive, growth state with diversity increasing throughout.

Given the difference detected with PDA of stasis vs. expansion/assemblage growth between AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub> and AB<sub>16</sub>, we compared these further. Community structure in the two ABs differed, though in the percentage abundances of the common (>5%) species, not their identities. The AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub> assemblage was dominated by *C. excavatum* (25.4%) with lesser *A. batava* (13.0%), *C. refulgens* (11.1%), *B. elongata* (10.7%), and *A. mamilla* (10.8%), but the AB<sub>16</sub> assemblage was co-dominated by *C. excavatum* (21.2%), *A. mamilla* (19.0%) and *A. batava* (18.2%). However, mean rarefied  $S$  did not differ significantly between the cores.

As anticipated from differences in the common species' abundances, the sample level statistical measures employed here differed for the SSLF between the two cores. Mean  $H$  for AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub> ( $\bar{x} = 2.55$ ) exceeded that for AB<sub>16</sub> ( $\bar{x} = 2.43$ ;

$t = 2.02$ ,  $p = .031$ ,  $df = 14$ ), The means of the transformed  $\max(p_i)$  differed significantly ( $t = 2.83$ ,  $p = .007$ ,  $df = 14$ ), the original values in AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub> ( $\bar{x} = 0.25$ ) exceeding those in AB<sub>16</sub> ( $\bar{x} = 0.23$ ). Despite the geographical proximity of the two cores, the A-C Index also differed between AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub> ( $\bar{x} = 34.6$ ) and AB<sub>16</sub> ( $\bar{x} = 46.8$ ).

#### DISCUSSION

Of the two geographically close cores examined, the residues from the shorter ISLF16 all came from a shelly, sandy lithofacies (SSLF). Those from the longer ISLF13 came from two lithofacies, a lower one of small residues with tabular gypsum (gypsiferous lithofacies = GLF), and a younger SSLF. PDA showed the foraminiferal assemblages' structure in ISLF13 GLF comprised two abundance zones (AB<sub>1</sub><sub>13</sub>, AB<sub>2</sub><sub>13</sub>) both in stasis. That core's SSLF contained two ABs (AB<sub>3</sub><sub>13</sub>, AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub>) with expanding assemblages. Sample-wise assemblage turnover was in this core at its highest in AB<sub>2</sub><sub>13</sub>, and lowest in AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub>. The samples in ISLF16 SSLF came from a single AB (= AB<sub>16</sub>) in which the assemblages were in stasis.

Two comparisons can thus be made: (1) between the GLF (AB<sub>1</sub><sub>13</sub> + AB<sub>2</sub><sub>13</sub>) and SSLF (AB<sub>3</sub><sub>13</sub> + AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub>) in ISLF13 only, and (2) between the SSLF (AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub> vs. AB<sub>16</sub>) in the two cores. While the uppermost 25 cm of ISLF13 was soupy and could not be sampled accurately, and is ascribed to the active Layer A of Pantin & Evans (1984), this layer was not found

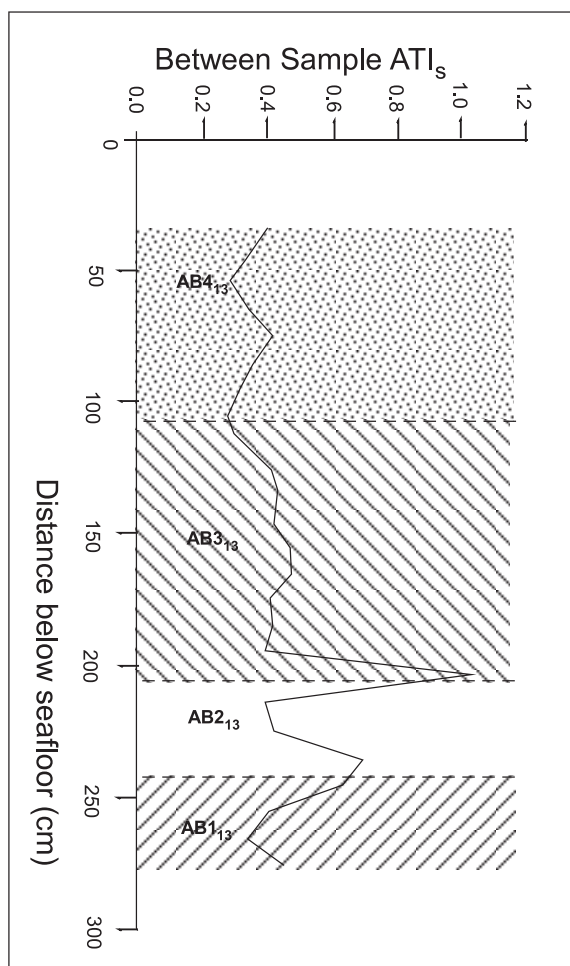


FIGURE 4. The between-sample assemblage turnover index ( $ATI_s$ ) in Core ISLF13, overlain by the assemblage biozones  $AB1_{13}$ – $AB4_{13}$ .

at the top of ISLF16. The reason for its absence there is unclear, but it might reflect local scouring. If so, then the top of ISLF16 cannot be presumed to be of present day age, even though it coincides with the seafloor. Alternatively, the loss of Layer A in ISLF16 might reflect the difference in coring methods employed. Negative pressure inside the core barrel during piston coring, as used to take ISLF16, might have caused the disappearance of the surface sediment.

No shallow-penetration geophysical data were available for the two cores. On the basis of post-glacial stratigraphic position, lithofacies and benthic foraminiferal content, we assign them to the Surface Sands Formation (SSF). The low abundance of planktonic foraminifera in both cores reflects the nearshore to shallow-water origin of the SSF. The GLF of ISLF13 we suggest to come from the intertidal to marine SL2 Member of the SSF, while the SSLF belongs to the younger, open marine SL1 Member (cf. Mellett et al., 2015). We thus interpret the GLF as having been deposited between 10,200 – 9,200 years cal BP (ages from Jackson et al., 1995), while the SSLF is younger. We note, however, that the onset the GLF depositional lithofacies would vary based on location and elevation and may not represent either a chronologically synchronous event or necessarily the same genera-

tion of tidal flat. We cannot exclude the possibility that the SSLF is from the marine, sandy to muddy Sea Bed Depression (SBD) Member but note that Jackson et al. (1995) do not show any instances of the SBD Member overlaying the SL2 Member, as would have had to be the case in ISLF13.

Lithologically the SSLF is comparable to the open marine Unit (1) in the Cardigan Bay Core ZZ27 (Aberaeron) of Haynes et al. (1977), which comprised fine grained, blue-grey, muddy, shelly sands. However, the GLF is not comparable lithologically with Unit (2) in Core ZZ27, which contained varying concentrations of plant material but lacked gypsum. Both the GLF and the Unit (2) are, however, ascribed to tidal flats.

That the residue masses from the GLF were very small indicates the loss of large quantities of mud during sample preparation. Muddy tidal flats are extremely tide dominated (Daidu et al., 2013), waves becoming greatly damped as they travel over the fluid mud (Fan, 2012). Such muddy tidal flats occur between mean high water neap tide levels and mean high water spring tide levels (Daidu et al., 2013; Langer et al., 1989). They lack vegetation but transition landward to vegetated salt marshes that support primarily agglutinated foraminiferal assemblages (Horton & Edwards, 2006). Organisms living on muddy tidal flats are subject to high physiological stress but low ecological stress (expressed as competition for space and resources) (Paterson et al., 2019). These stresses may explain the low diversity and high dominance of the assemblage in the GLF. We note, however, that the GLF assemblage does not reflect precisely the original community that lived there, some of the specimens being allochthonous and thus affecting both  $S$  and  $p_i$ .

The intertidal origin of the GLF is nevertheless supported by the dominance of *C. excavatum* (cf. Alve & Murray, 2001), which is an infaunal species that can live on tidal flats (Langer et al., 1989) as long as salinities are sufficiently high (Hofker, 1977). Its presence might reflect a high labile organic matter flux (de Nooijer et al., 2008). It is possible, however, that the abundant *C. excavatum* also reflect freshwater influence (see Konradi, 2000; Korsun et al., 2014) during GLF times, such as from the rivers Ribble, Mersey and Dee. The presence of the gypsum must be interpreted against the backdrop of such riverine influence.

Most authors discussing gypsum's origin have historically invoked an arid to semiarid climate and high evaporation rates (Watson, 1985). They presume that intertidal gypsum is formed by the evaporation of brine in extremely shallow water on extensive tidal flats (Boggs, 2006). At least from mid Holocene times onwards, however, the British Isles have been subject to moderate to high precipitation rates (Charman, 2010), with no evidence in support of aridity in the earlier Holocene (see Plater & Grenville, 2010).

Bain (1990) reported diagenetic, tabular gypsum crystals in some Pleistocene glaciolacustrine prodeltaic deposits. He ascribed their euhedral form to the displacement of soft, water-rich, pliable muds during crystal growth. He stated that the calcium was derived from calcite in glacial deposits, and sulphate from pyrite in grey prodelta muds. The calcium in ISLF13 GLF may have been derived from the calcareous foraminiferal tests, which were often filled with or entirely replaced by pyrite. In addition to the input of allochthonous specimens and species, the dissolution might have changed



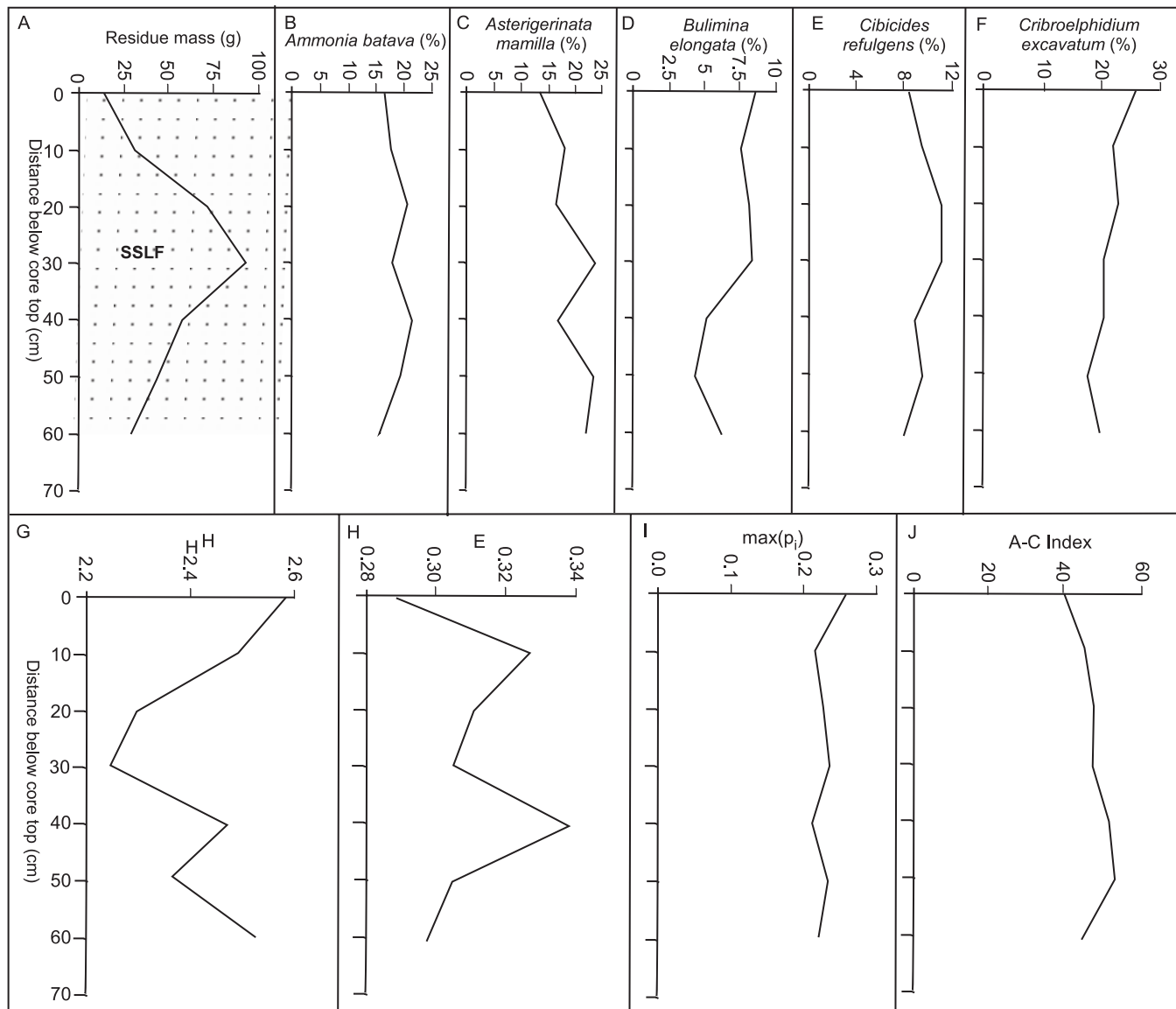


FIGURE 5. Residue masses, proportional abundances of selected morphospecies and single sample statistical measures in Core ISLF16. A. Residue masses in grams. B. *Ammonia batava*. C. *Asterigerinata mamilla*. D. *Bulimina elongata*. E. *Cibicides refulgens*. F. *Cribroelphidium excavatum*. G. The Shannon Function, H. H. The Equitability Index, E. I. The Berger-Parker Index,  $\max(p_i)$ . J. The *Ammonia-Cribroelphidium* (A-C) Index.

the structure of the assemblage, some species being more susceptible to dissolution than others (see Nguyen et al., 2009; Schnitker et al., 1980). The carbonate dissolution may have been associated with high acidity of pore water on the muddy tidal flat, which would also promote the formation of pyrite (Pons et al., 1982). The gypsum in the SSLF sample 180–182 cmbsf is taken to reflect reworking of the GLF during early SSLF times.

Stratification in ISLF13 GLF of the sediment and foraminiferal assemblages, with corroded gypsum at 250–252 cmbsf and abundant, large and well-preserved *A. batava* at 230–232 cmbsf, suggests that any transport and reworking of sediment and foraminifera by currents on the GLF tidal flats did not penetrate deeply. The *A. batava* are likely to be allochthonous, this species not living on the muddy portion

of tidal flats (Langer et al., 1989, fig. 5). Species indicative of open marine environments (*A. mamilla*, *B. elongata*), though recovered more abundantly from the SSLF, were also recovered from the GLF. We suggest that these specimens were washed onto the GLF tidal flat during storms (see Collins et al., 1999; Hippensteel et al., 2005; Scott et al., 2005), such as can inundate the supratidal zone under extreme conditions (Gao, 2019). That these open marine foraminifera were found throughout the GLF shows that such shoreward transport was frequent, the abundant *A. batava* at 230–232 cmbsf possibly indicating a particularly strong storm. They may have been derived from an adjacent sandy tidal flat, although this species has also been found living in deeper neritic water in the Celtic Sea (Scott et al., 2003). The reason for the decrease of the A-C Index through the GLF is un-

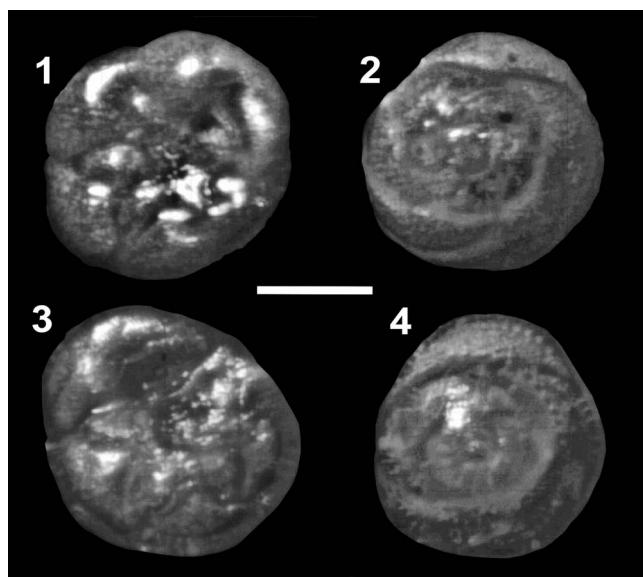


FIGURE 6. *Asterigerinata murraynhaynesi* n. sp. and *A. mamilla* (Williamson). 1 *Asterigerinata murraynhaynesi* holotype, ventral view, showing rounded periphery. 2 *Asterigerinata murraynhaynesi* holotype, dorsal view, showing absence of carina and associated pores throughout ontogeny. 3 *Asterigerinata mamilla*, ventral view, showing angular periphery. 4 *Asterigerinata mamilla*, dorsal view, showing carina and associated pores, present throughout ontogeny.

clear. It is not related to the abundance of sand, the substrate preferred by *A. batava*. It might instead suggest a decrease in the severity of storm-induced transport through GLF times, decreasing the input of *A. batava* tests.

The allochthonous specimens on the GLF tidal flat would augment the largely autochthonous assemblage, disrupting the in situ richness signal by increasing overall richness. As a result of this transport, rarefied S in Core ISLF 10013 did not differ significantly between the GLF and the SSLF.

Most specimens recovered in this study belong to free species that are either infaunal (*A. batava*, *B. elongata*, *C. excavatum*) or epifaunal (*A. mamilla*) (de Nooijer et al., 2008; Murray, 2006). Some common morphospecies in the SSLF in both cores (*C. refulgens*, *L. lobatula*), however, have flattened dorsal surfaces indicative of an attached habit (Dubicka et al., 2015). In the absence of widespread macroflora in Liverpool Bay, these attached morphospecies might in the open marine environment have lived on either the scallop *Chlamys opicularis* or the isopod *Astacilla longicornis*. The tests of such morphospecies on death become detached and act as sediment particles subject to transport (Coulbourn & Resig, 1975; Debenay, 1988; Li et al., 1997; Wilson, 2006). We did not, however, find abundant juvenile *C. opicularis* in our residues. The common presence of attached morphospecies might instead reflect the strength of the tidal bottom currents, which may have transported them from shallow, rocky areas that would support macroalgae, such as around Anglesey to the west. Such a provenance is in accord with the general eastward transport of sediment within Liverpool Bay. With the exception of some worn *A. batava* and *C. refulgens*, the fresh preservation of the majority of our benthic foraminifera in the SSLF in both cores suggests, however, that they underwent limited abrasive transport prior

to being absorbed into the taphocoenosis, despite the strong currents (Plater and Grenville, 2010), low sedimentation rate (Kershaw et al., 1988) and generally deep reworked surficial Layer A (Jackson et al., 1995; Pantin & Evans, 1984) throughout the bay.

The ISLF13 SSLF contained broken and whole bivalves, and gastropods (*Turritella communis*) that were generally pristine. These macrofauna reflect a high organic matter concentration (Younge, 1946) that is indicated also by the high proportional abundance of *C. excavatum*. The penetration depth of *T. communis* is in accordance with the depth of mixing of man-made metals (Crickmore and Kiff, 1985), but we did not note any impact, such as deformed tests, from such metals. This may be because we did not sample Layer A in ISLF13, and that ISLF16 did not extend upwards to modern times.

Having concluded that the foraminiferal assemblage in the SSLF in both cores contained many allochthonous specimens, we can draw only the broadest of palaeoenvironmental inferences. These will be general comparisons between the GLF and SSLF, with few site-specific conclusions.

The A-C Index might in ISLF13 indicate a change in the flux of organic matter between the two lithofacies (cf. Sen Gupta et al. 1996), it being markedly higher in the SSLF (abundance biozones AB<sub>3</sub><sub>13</sub>, AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub>) than in the GLF (AB<sub>1</sub><sub>13</sub>, AB<sub>2</sub><sub>13</sub>). It might also indicate that the SSLF was subject to hypoxia, although the common molluscs dispute this. It is more likely that it reflects *A. batava*'s preference for the sandier deposits of the SSLF and suggests that care must be taken when interpreting the A-C Index and the A-E one too, attention being paid to the sedimentological setting also.

The increase in the proportional abundance of epifaunal *A. mamilla* and infaunal *B. elongata*, detected by CoBI at the AB<sub>2</sub><sub>13</sub>/AB<sub>3</sub><sub>13</sub> boundary, reflects the change to the more open marine aspect of the ISLF 13 SSLF. Mendes et al. (2004) found *B. elongata* to live mostly between 12–40 m and suggested *A. mamilla* to live in shallower water, down to 12 m depth, though Frezza et al. (2011) found this morphospecies to 13.5m. We conclude the *A. mamilla* were transported to ISLF13 site (~40 m water depth). This contrasts the shoreward, eastward transport of sediment in the bay. It might reflect seaward transport during storms. Evidence for long-distance transport of the *A. mamilla* is limited, however, specimens of this and other foraminiferal morphospecies in ISLF13 SSLF showing few signs of abrasion that would be expected from long-distance transport (see Franceschini & Compton, 2007).

In ISLF13 diversity was greater, and species' abundances more equitably distributed, in the open marine SSLF compared to the tidal flat GLF. In contrast, dominance was less in the SSLF than in the GLF. On the basis of the size fraction from which specimens were recovered, we found that the specimens of *C. excavatum* were smaller in the GLF than in the SSLF. We take this to reflect higher salinities in the SSLF, though an impact of a higher organic matter flux on test size or of hydrodynamic sorting in the SSLF cannot be ruled out.

Despite the geographical proximity of the cores, morphospecies abundances differed in AB<sub>4</sub><sub>13</sub> (the youngest in ISLF13) and AB<sub>1</sub><sub>16</sub>. It is possible that the greater proportional abundance of *A. batava* in AB<sub>1</sub><sub>16</sub> reflects the closer

proximity of this core to the nutrient-rich N-S front within the bay (cf. Greenwood et al., 2011). However, given the allochthonous nature of the SSLF assemblages, this appears unlikely. Instead, the difference in the assemblages might be related to differences in hydrodynamic sorting due to different positions of the two cores relative to the large sand waves at the core sites.

#### FORAMINIFERAL TAXONOMY

Superfamily ASTERIGERINOIDEA d'Orbigny, 1839

Family ASTERIGERINATIDAE Reiss, 1963

Genus *Asterigerinata* Bermúdez, 1949

Type species: *Asterigerinata dominicana* Bermúdez, 1949

*Asterigerinata murrayhaynesi* n. sp.

Figures 6.1, 6.2

1973 *Asterigerinata mamilla* Haynes (pars) p. 164–167; pl. 18, figs. 1, 4 (not Williamson).

*Derivation of name:* After Professors John Murray and John Roland Haynes for their contributions to British micropalaeontology.

*Type Specimens:* Deposited in the European Micropaleontological Reference Centre, Kraków Poland, and catalogued as number 7/27c (holotype [cell 1] and two unfigured paratypes [cell 2]).

*Description:* test plano-convex, low to medium trochospiral, three to four whorls visible on the rounded, evolute dorsal side; ventral side involute; periphery rounded, entire, becoming slightly lobate; maximum 12 crescentic chambers visible on dorsal side, increasing in breadth so final chamber occupies about a quarter of the final whorl; dorsal sutures limbate, flush, strongly backward curved; 4.5 chambers visible on ventral side, alternating towards umbilicus with sub-rhomboidal supplementary chamberlets, giving a stellate appearance; ventral sutures irregularly curved, depressed between chamberlets; wall thick and glassy; aperture a high, umbilical arch at the base of the final chamber, with a narrow lip.

*Material:* 19 specimens, all from the Holocene SL1 Member of the Surface Sands Formation, Liverpool Bay; 12 specimens from Core ISLF13, 7 specimens from Core ISLF16.

*Estimated age:* Holocene

*Holotype:* from Core ISLF13, 160–160 cmbsf.

*Dimensions:* diameter, 250 µm, height, 150 µm.

*Paratypes:* three specimens from core ISLF13, 140–142 cmbsf.

*Remarks:* Haynes (1973, pl. 18, fig. 4) presented an oblique ventral view of a specimen that he called *Asterigerinata mamilla* and termed a 'juvenile with a rounded periphery'. His pl. 18, fig. 1 is also of a peripherally rounded specimen, although he does not state this to be a juvenile. The holotype illustration of *A. mamilla* by Williamson (1858, figs. 109–111) in contrast shows a decidedly conical specimen with a distinct carina marked by what he termed a 'marginal row of elongated white foramina' (ibid., p. 55). Our specimens of *Asterigerinata murrayhaynesi* n. sp. (Figures 6.1, 6.2) have a rounded periphery, are gently domed dorsally and lack both a marginal carina and the row of pores that would throughout the test mark the inner edge of that carina (see Haynes, 1973 pl. 19, fig. 9; Murray, 1971, pl. 59.1). We did not in

our 1,480 specimens of *A. mamilla* find any that showed a transition from a rounded to a sharp periphery. Our specimens of *A. murrayhaynesi* n. sp. were not smaller than our *A. mamilla* (illustrated for comparison, Figures 6.3, 6.4). We are therefore confident that our specimens are from a previously unnamed species.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The Holocene succession in central Liverpool Bay includes an older lithofacies (the GLF) with much mud and some gypsum indicative of a muddy tidal flat. This we ascribed to the SL2 Member. The foraminiferal assemblage there showed high dominance by infaunal *Criboelphidium excavatum*, which are presumed to be largely in situ, wave action being strongly damped on such flats. However, an allochthonous component of sandy tidal flat (*Ammonia batava*) and marine (*Asterigerinata mamilla*, *Bulimina elongata*) morphospecies in this facies is indicative of shoreward transport of offshore material onto the tidal flat, possibly during storms. The gypsum was diagenetic, the calcium perhaps being derived from foraminiferal tests and the sulphate from pyrites, which commonly either filled or completely replaced the *C. excavatum* tests. Perturbation detection analysis (PDA) detected two abundance biozones (ABs) in the tidal flat succession and showed that the community structure of the contained assemblages was in stasis in both. The AB boundary may be related to the high level of assemblage turnover, as quantified using the between-sample assemblage turnover index (ATI<sub>s</sub>), coupled with a decrease in the *Ammonia-Criboelphidium* index through the younger of the ABs in the muddy tidal flat lithofacies.

The muddy tidal flat was succeeded by a marine shelly sand (the SSLF lithofacies) with large gastropods. This we ascribed to the SL1 Member. The absence of an intervening sandy tidal flat deposit reflects the erosive nature of the surface separating the two lithofacies (members).

The foraminiferal assemblages in this shelly sand contained abundant inner neritic (*A. mamilla*) and middle neritic (*B. elongata*) species, and are concluded to comprise almost entirely allochthonous material, much being derived from epiphytal communities. This is supported by the strong tidal currents in this area, the velocity of which exceed the traction currents needed to transport benthic foraminifera and which generally transport the bedload shorewards. Only the broadest of palaeoenvironmental interpretations can be made using these allochthonous assemblages.

Assemblage turnover was lower in the ISLF13 SSLF than in the GLF. The higher *Ammonia-Criboelphidium* Index in the SSLF might reflect the preference of *A. batava* for sandy deposits, while the low values for this index in the GLF might reflect the small allochthonous input of *A. batava* compared to the indigenous *C. excavatum*. This index cannot, therefore, be taken as unequivocally indicating that the organic matter flux was higher in the sandy, marine lithofacies than in the muddy GLF.

The total assemblages from the two sections from the SSLF differed in their species' proportional abundances. Given the proximity of the cores, this difference is thought to reflect the cores' positions relative to the large sand waves between which they were collected. This might have resulted in

differences in hydrodynamic sorting of the foraminiferal assemblages. This difference is reflected also in the PDA, which showed the SSLF assemblages in one core to be in stasis, and in the other to be growing.

As a result of this work, we recommend using not only individual sample indices when working on a successions of samples from cores, but also Perturbation Detection Analysis (PDA), which will identify community-level patterns of stasis, growth or decline within them. Using this range of analyses will reveal differences between the foraminiferal successions and within the assemblages that are of previously-undetected palaeoenvironmental importance.

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## APPENDIX I. Continued.

Core	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10013	ISLF 10016	ISLF 10016	ISLF 10016	ISLF 10016	ISLF 10016	ISLF 10016	ISLF 10016	ISLF 10016	
<i>Patellina corrugata</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
planktonic foraminifera	4	2	0	0	6	0	4	5	1	2	7	1	4	0	0	2	2	4	3	5	1	0	3	2	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	
<i>Planorbulina distoma</i>	0	4	3	0	0	0	2	0	3	4	4	2	5	1	11	5	9	2	7	5	1	4	4	8	0	10	5	3	9	0	5	4	2	2	
<i>Pullenia quinqueloba</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Pyralina fusiformis</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Quinqueloculina angulata</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Quinqueloculina dunkerquiana</i>	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	
<i>Quinqueloculina lamarckiana</i>	1	0	1	2	0	4	5	0	7	4	4	9	7	8	12	6	10	7	5	9	11	8	10	11	6	8	20	12	9	12	5	6	13	13	
<i>Quinqueloculina lata</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Quinqueloculina seminula</i>	2	1	0	3	6	3	0	1	18	6	7	13	20	16	13	19	33	17	21	20	5	19	17	18	8	25	36	39	23	23	29	16	18	18	
<i>Quinqueloculina</i> sp. sensu Gabel, 1971	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Quinqueloculina seminuda</i> ?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
<i>Reussella atlantica</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rosalina bradyi</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rosalina globularis</i>	4	4	3	0	4	3	5	2	2	0	3	3	3	2	2	1	6	2	5	3	0	1	7	3	3	5	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	4	
<i>Rosalina parisiensis</i>	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rosalina</i> spp.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rosalina williamsoni</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	2	0	12	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2
<i>Sahulina conica</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	3	3	
<i>Scutularis</i> sp. A sensu Haynes, 1973	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	
<i>Siphonaperta sclerotica</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Spirillina perforata</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Spirillina vivipara</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Spiroloculina depressa</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Spiroloculina excavata</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Spiroloculina</i> spp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Spiroplectammina</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Spiroplectammina wrightii</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	0	1	0	4	3	2	2	3	4	2	2	9	5	1	2	2	1	0	4	7	4	4	4	4
<i>Stainforthia fusiformis</i>	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Stomatorbina concentrica</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Sabanomalina pauperata</i>	2	0	4	0	3	3	3	3	0	3	2	0	4	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	
<i>Textularia truncata</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	0	1	2	2	2	2	2
<i>Trifarina angulosa</i>	6	3	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	0	2	2	1	3	3	2	0	1	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	4	2	2	2
<i>Triloculina trihedra</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Valvulineria</i> spp.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N	333	315	280	258	337	727	389	413	443	303	395	366	463	305	429	358	565	356	380	320	272	364	437	424	322	660	529	421	369	517	439	376	585	585	