

I macroforaminiferi del Paleogene:  
classificazione, biostratigrafia e paleoecologia



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Dipartimento Difesa del Suolo

SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



# Paleoecologia dei macroforaminiferi del Paleogene

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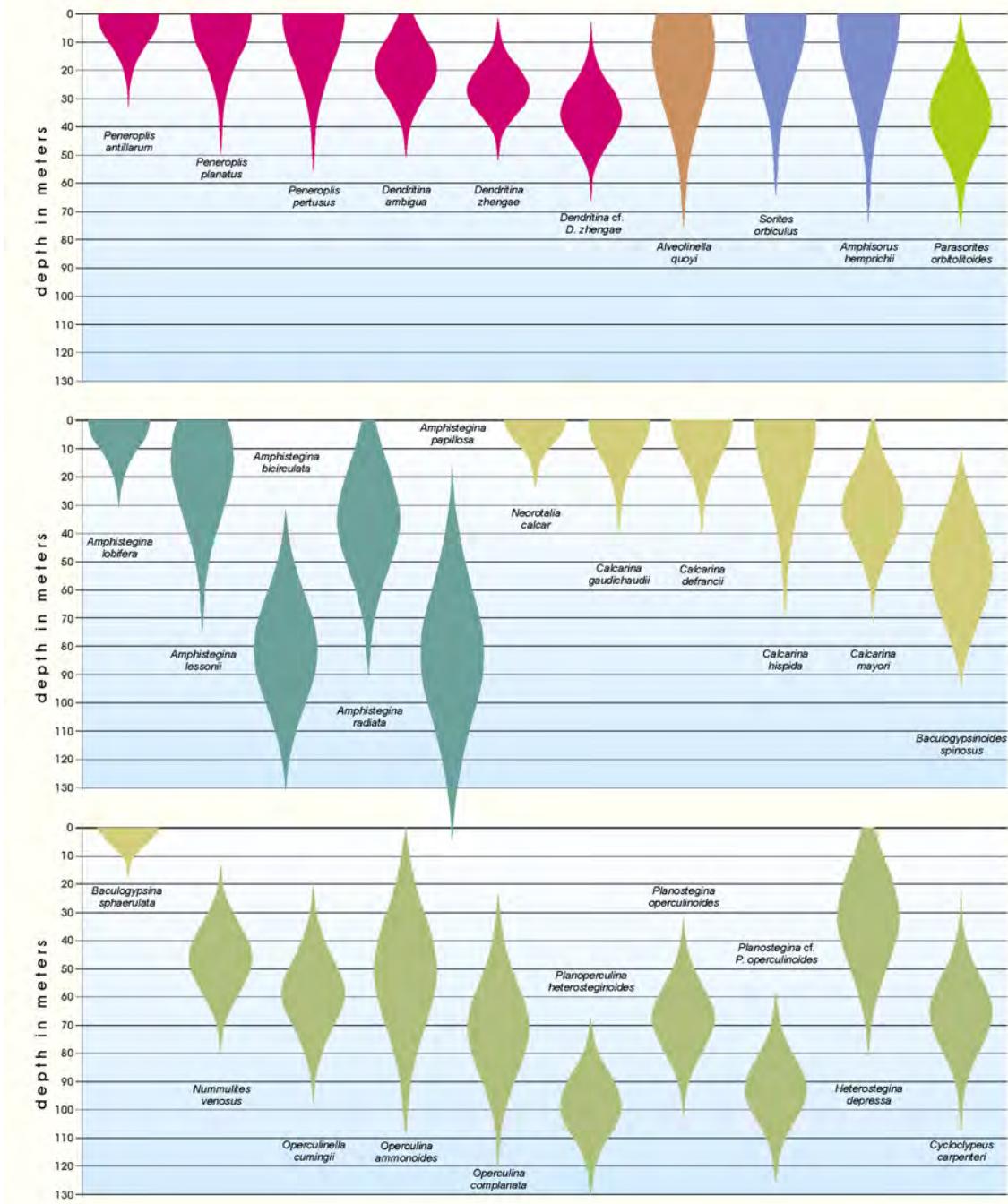
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# Outline



- Depth distribution in modern seas
- Paleoenvironmental models
- A case history: nummulite banks

# The fundamental depth distributions in clear tropical seas





*Peneroplis antillarum*



*Peneroplis planatus*



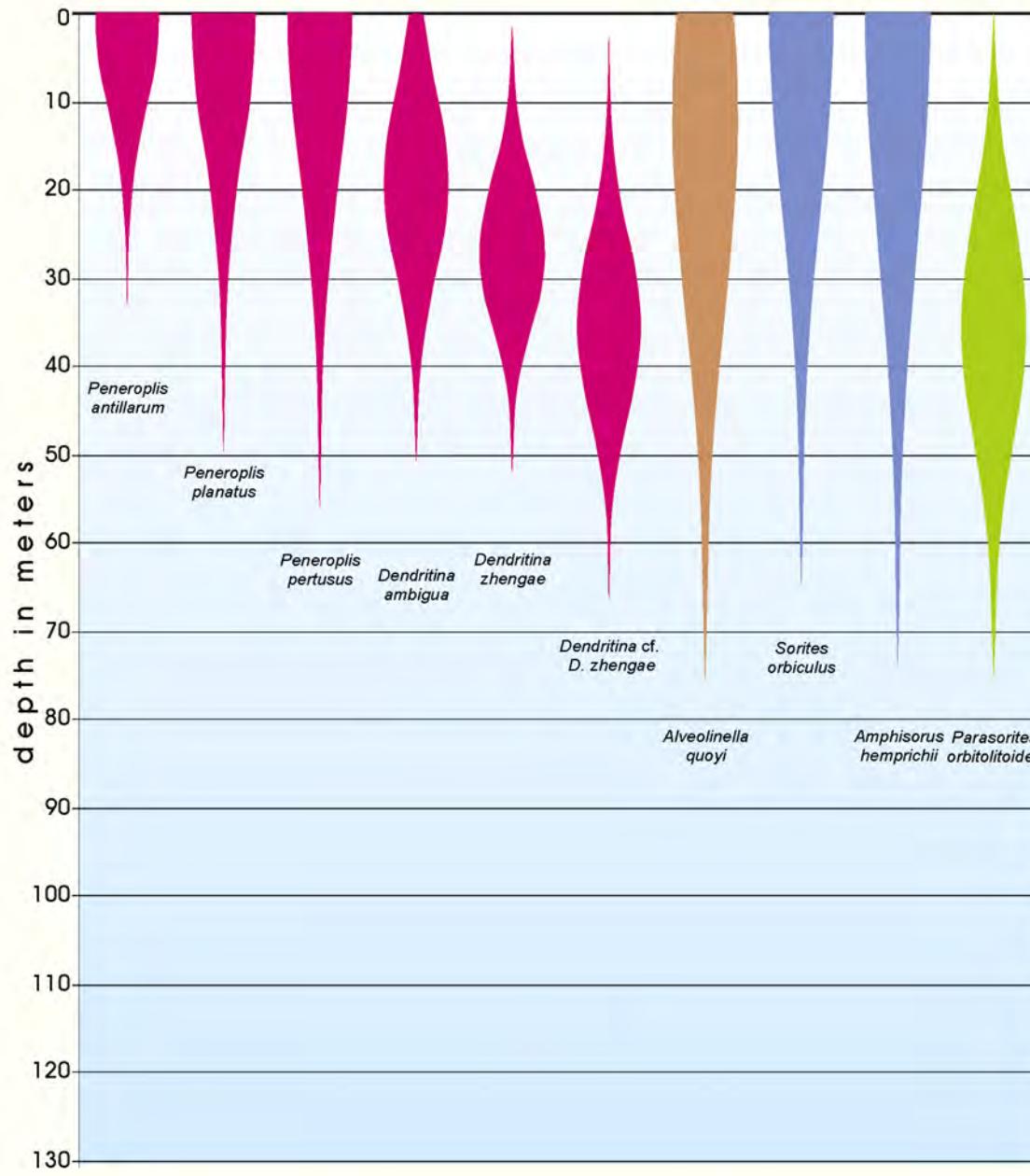
*Peneroplis pertusus*



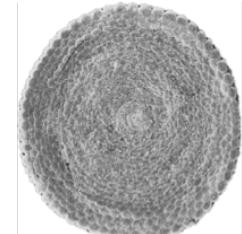
*Dendritina ambigua*



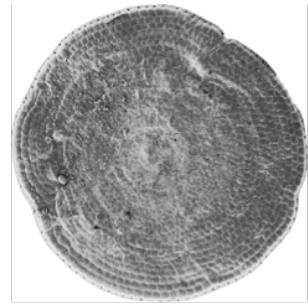
*Dendritina zhengae*



*Alveolinella quoyi*



*Sorites orbiculus*



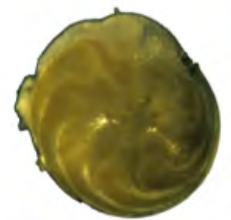
*Amphisorus hemprichii*



*Parasorites orbitolitoides*



*Amphistegina lobifera*



*Amphistegina lessonii*



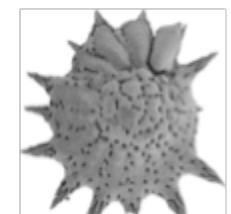
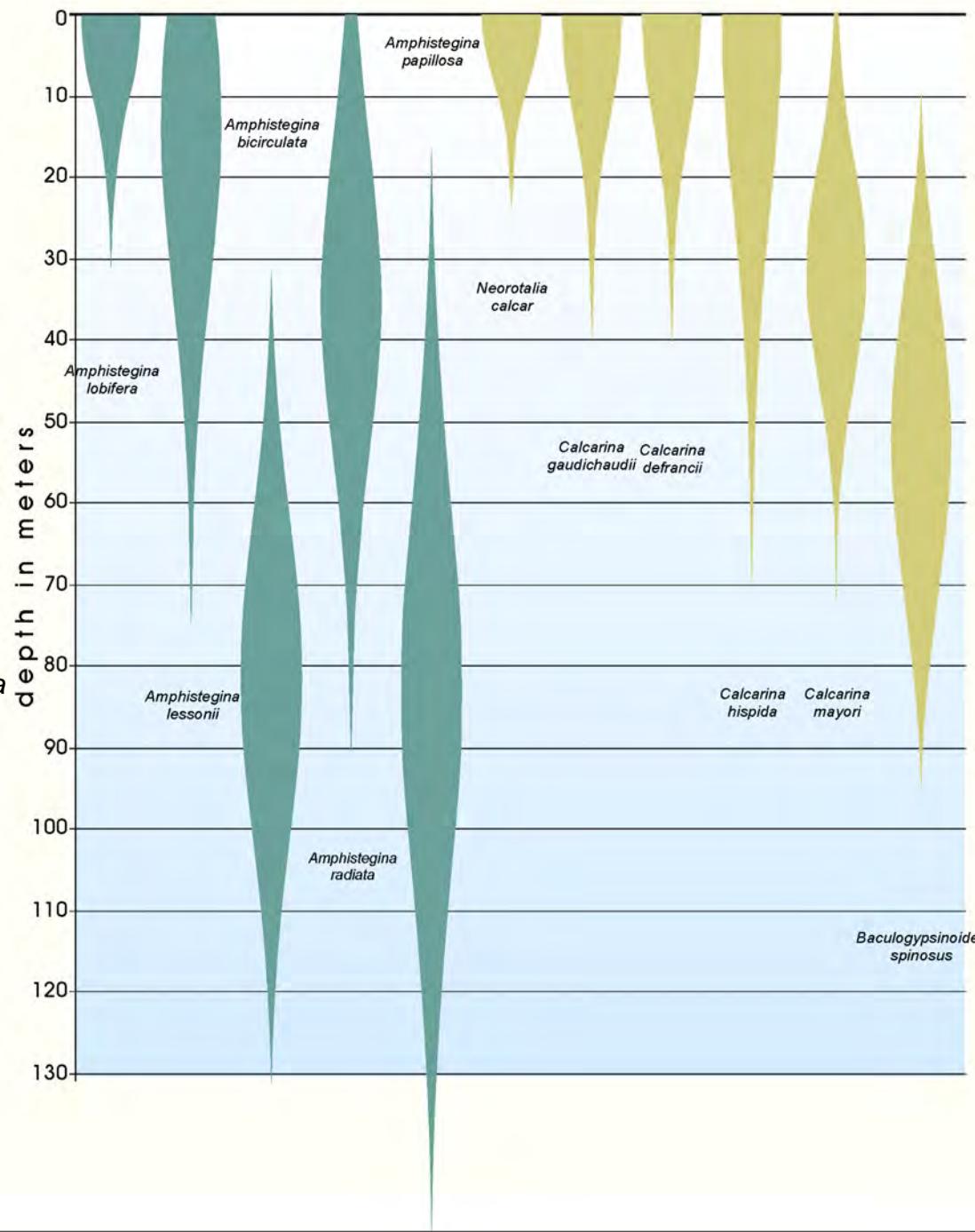
*Amphistegina bicirculata*



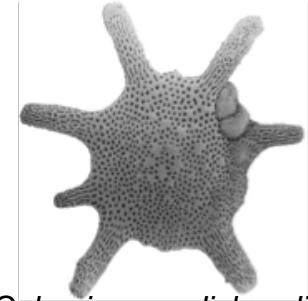
*Amphistegina radiata*



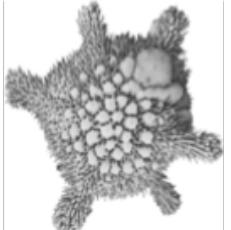
*Amphistegina papillosa*



*Neorotalia calcar*



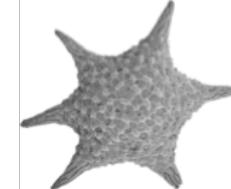
*Calcarina gaudichaudii*



*Calcarina hispida*



*Baculogypsinoides spinosus*



*Baculogypsinoides sphaerulata*



*Nummulites venosus*



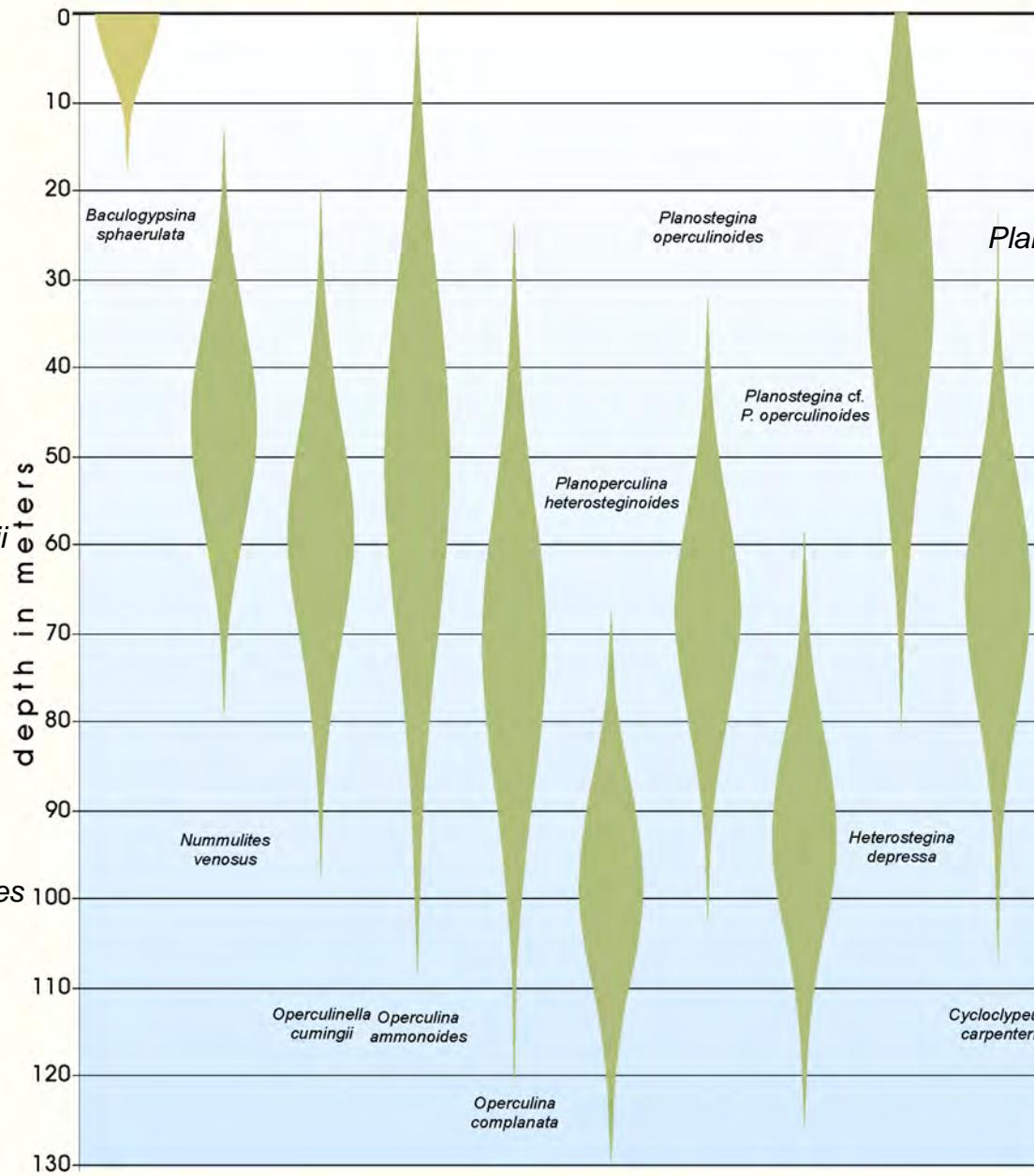
*Operculinella cumingii*



*Operculina ammonoides*



*Operculina complanata*



*Planoperculina heterosteginoides*



*Planostegina operculinoides*

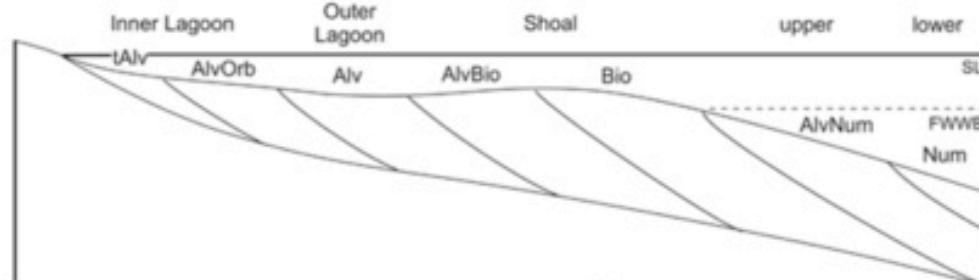
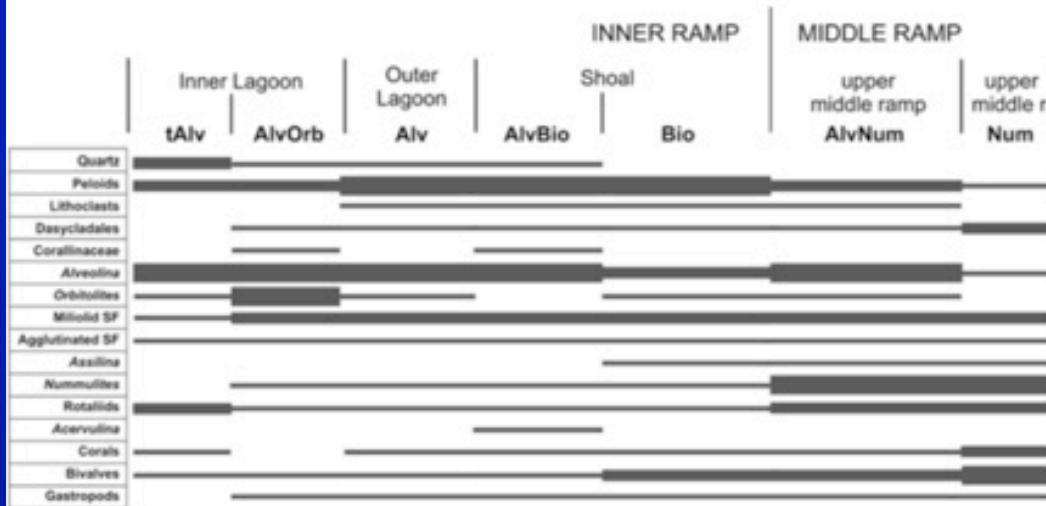
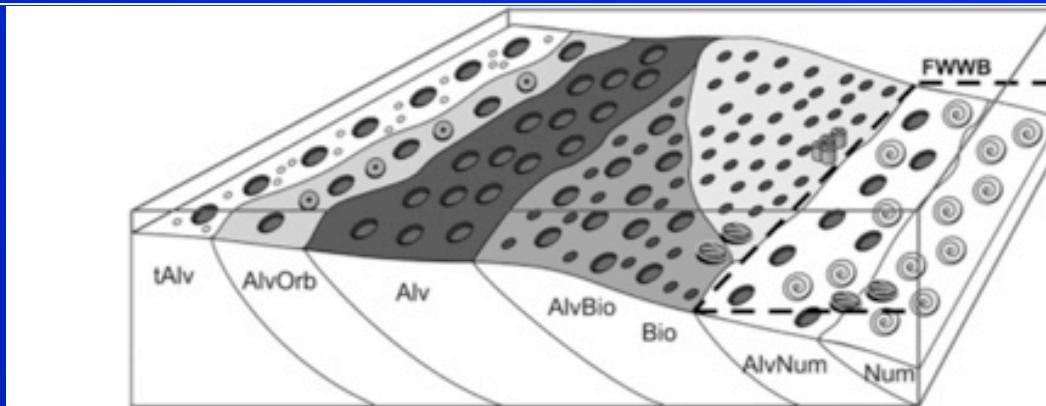


*Heterostegina depressa*



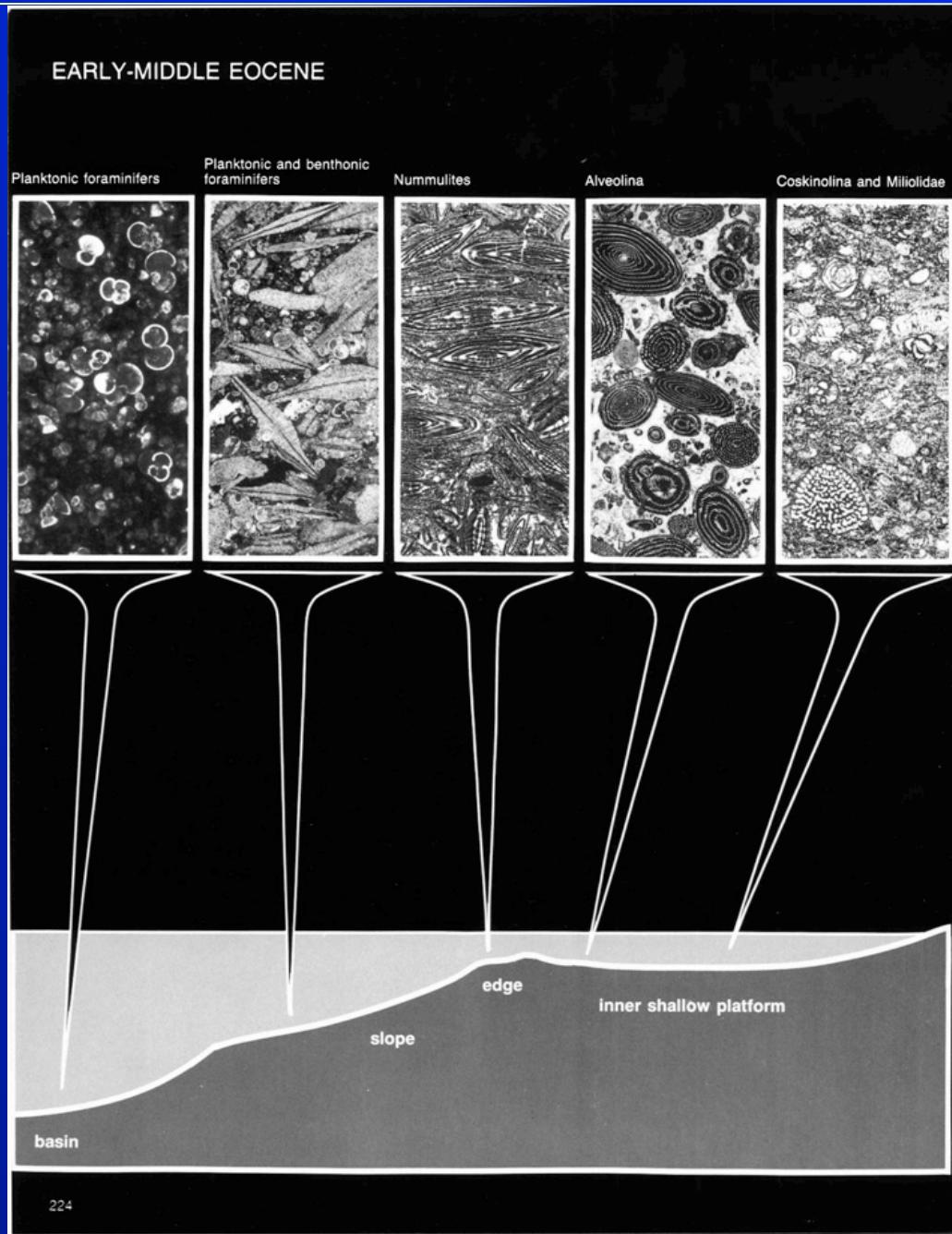
*Cycloclypeus carpenteri*

# Paleoenvironmental models



Rasser et al.  
(2005)

# Paleoenvironmental models



Sartorio &  
Venturini  
(1988)

# Paleoenvironmental models

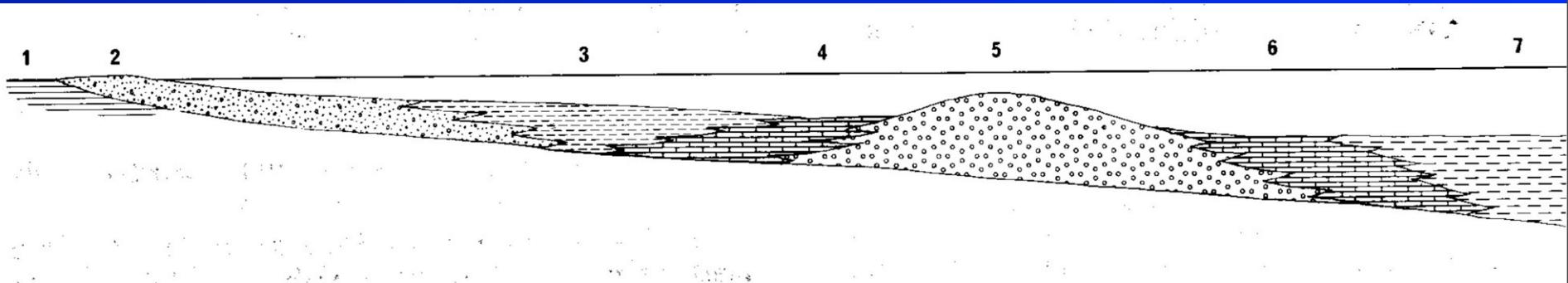


FIGURE 2

Relationship between the facies in the Collbàs Fm. : (1) lagoon facies; (2) fore-shore facies; (3) shore-face facies; (4) back-bank facies; (5) bank of large *Nummulites*; (6) fore-bank facies; (7) internal shelf facies

Serra-Kiel & Reguant (1984)

# Paleoenvironmental models

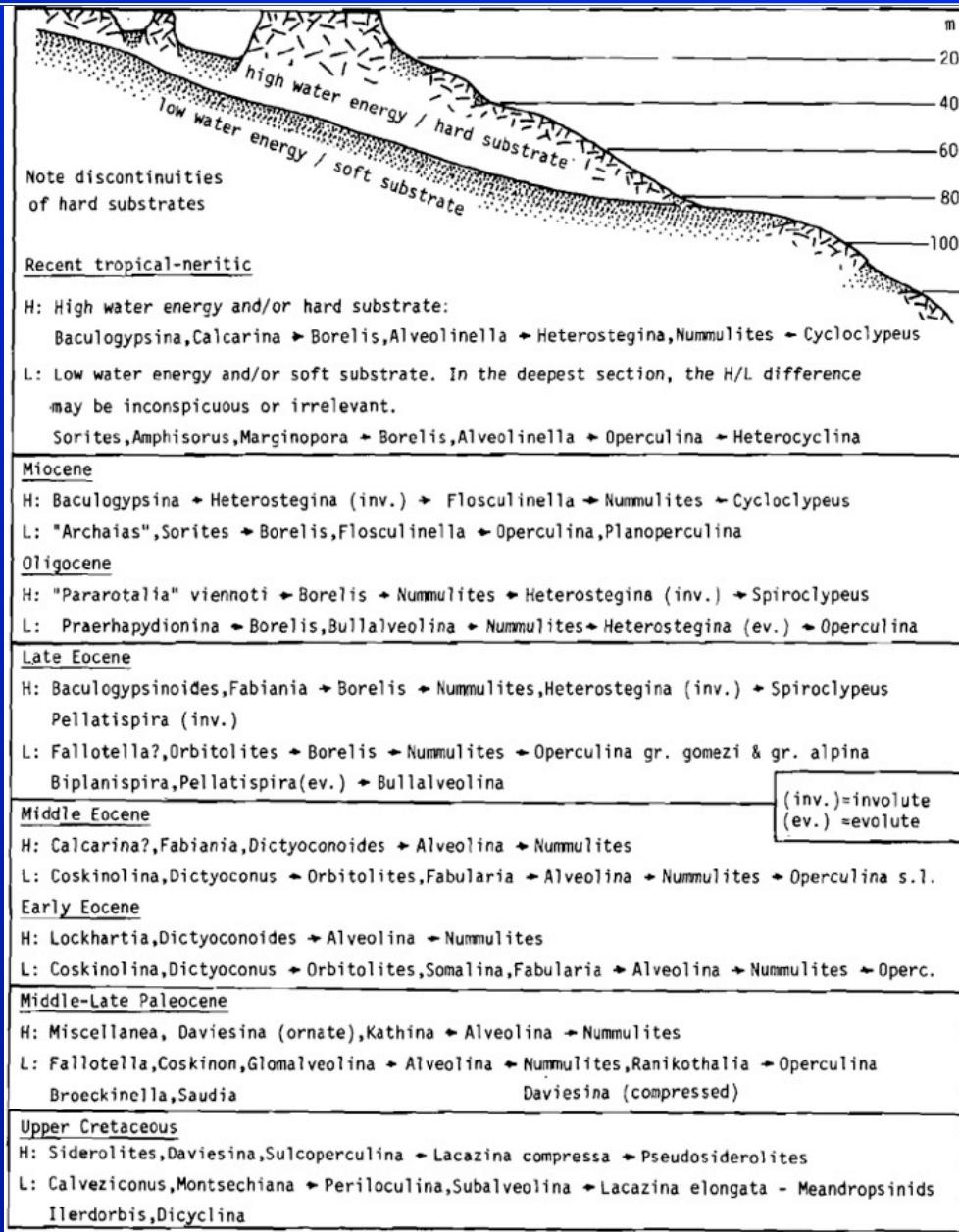
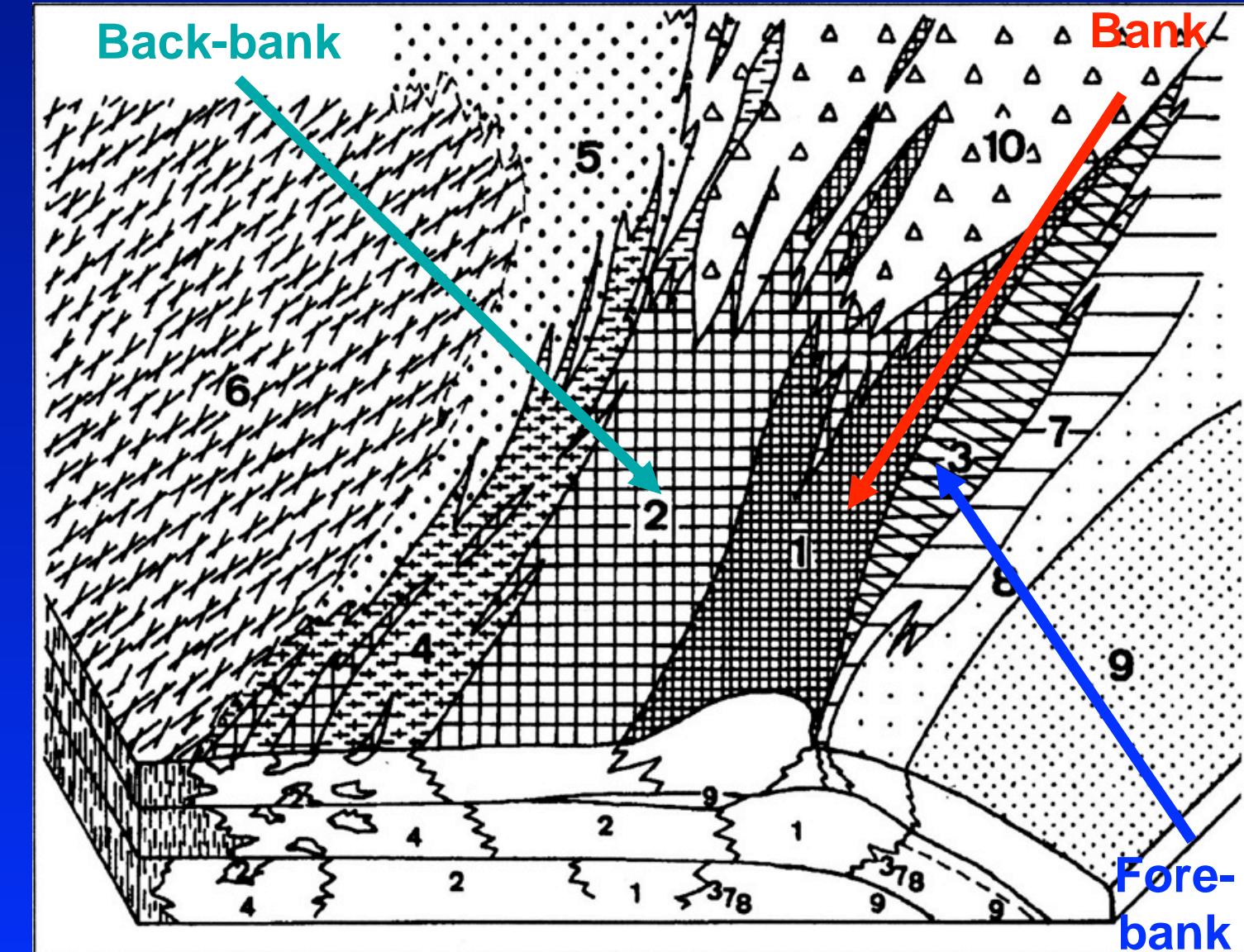


Fig. 1 Succession according to depth and substrate of selected genera of larger foraminifera. Ranges are largely overlapping. Amphisteginid and orbitoid species form similar parallel successions.

Hottinger  
(1983)

# A case history: nummulite banks

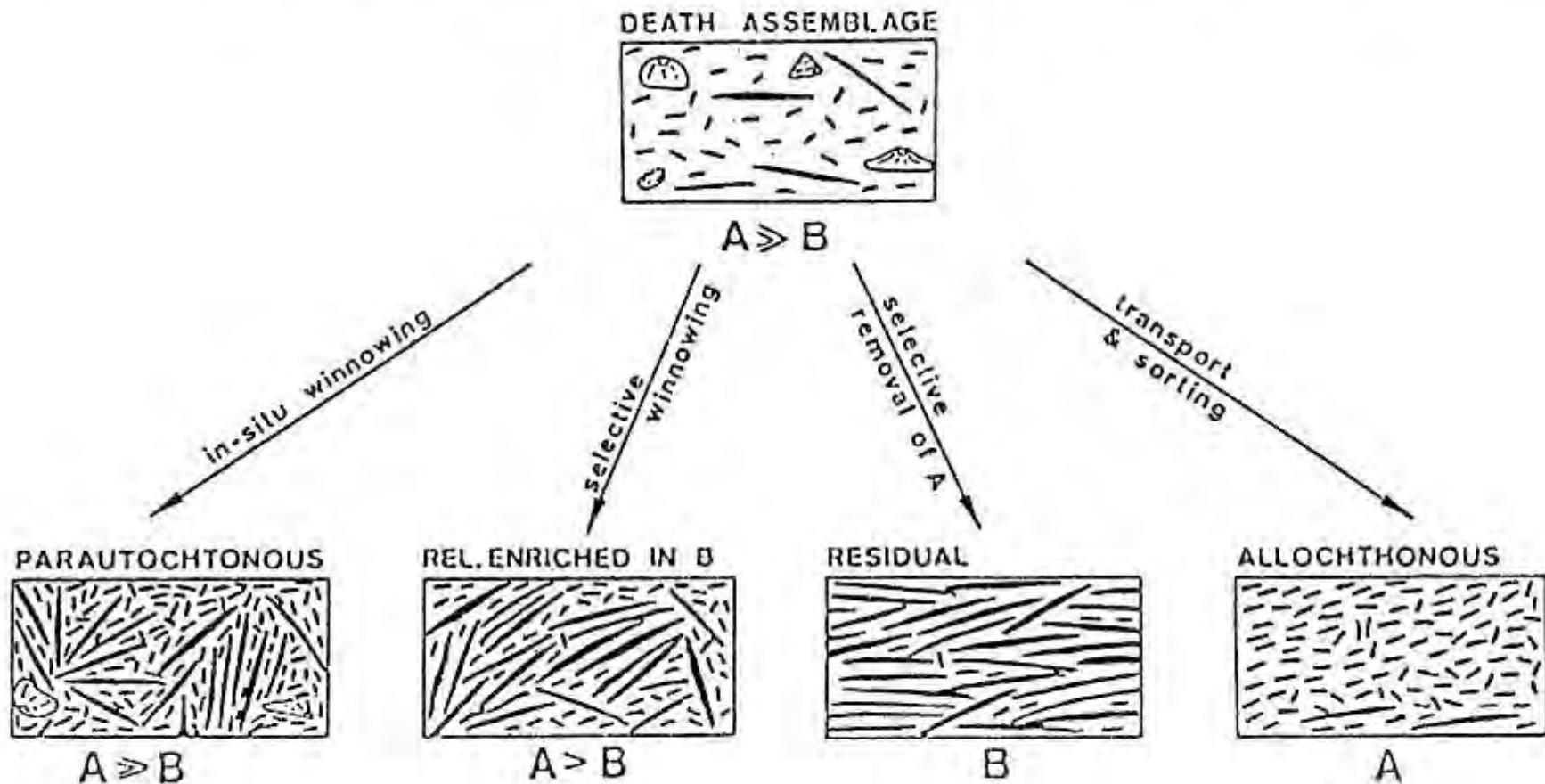


## Nummulite bank model according to Arni (1965)

# A case history: nummulite banks



## BIOFABRICS IN LARGER FORAM ROCKS



Nummulite 'tell' model according to Aigner (1985)



# A case history: nummulite banks

In the original definition (Arni, 1965), a nummulite bank is a bio-sedimentary body characterized by:

- a) an **unusual abundance of B form** (= a relatively low A/B ratio) of the genus *Nummulites*;
- b) the overwhelming **dominance of one (or two) species** of *Nummulites*, always a large one (e.g. *N. gizehensis*, *N. perforatus*, etc.);
- c) a **slightly positive relief** over the sea bottom, stretching more or less parallel to the ancient coastline.

The relative depth of the bank is not specified, and it has been interpreted in different ways by different authors.

Jorry et al. (2006)

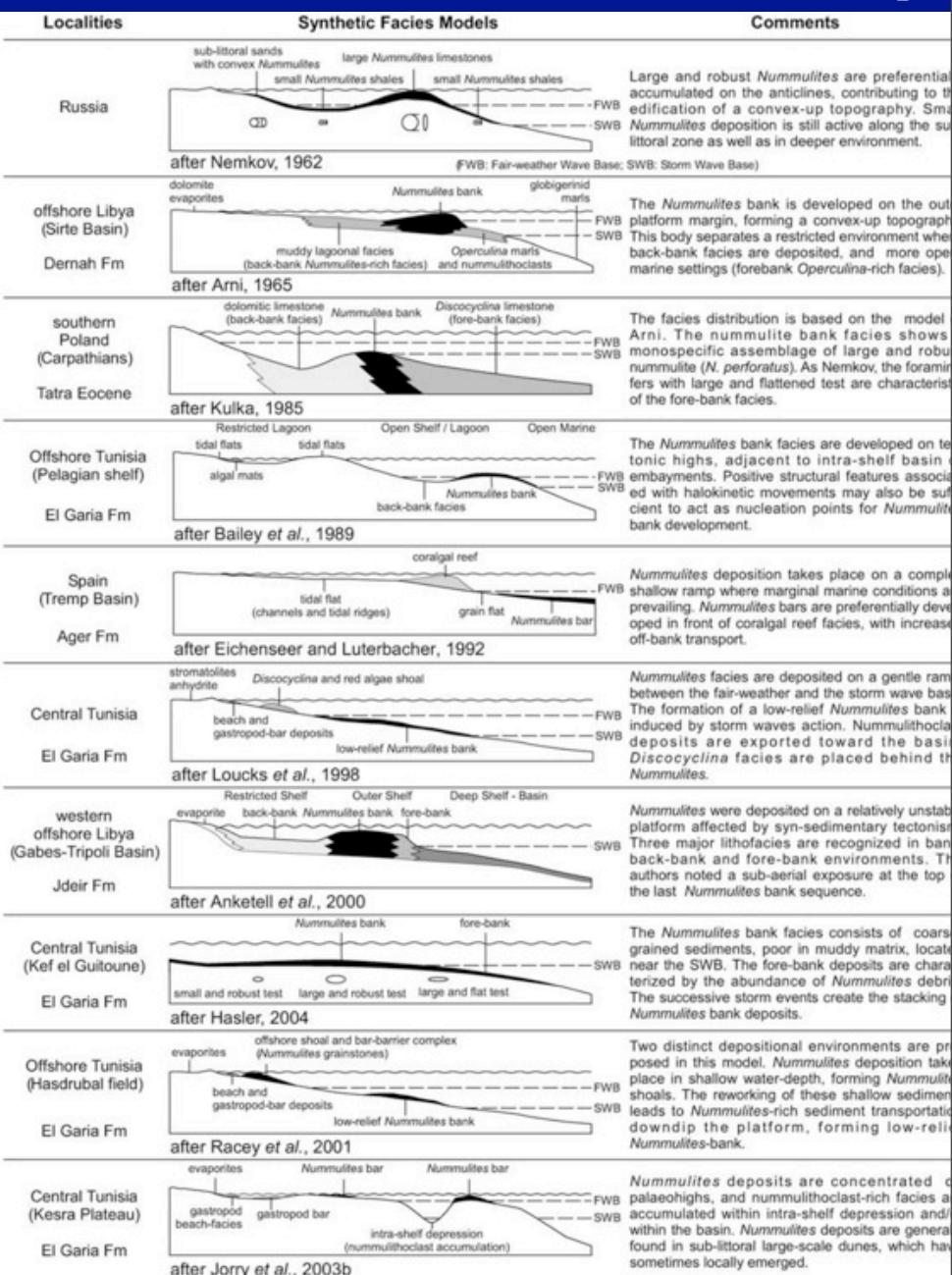


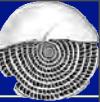
Fig. 2 Comparison between different facies models proposed for interpreting the *Nummulites* accumulations

# A case history: nummulite banks



## QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENTS

- a) Percentage composition of the fossil assemblage, at the species level.
- b) A/B ratio in *Nummulites*.



# A case history: nummulite banks

## METHODOLOGY

- a) Washed samples: counting a large number of specimens (around 1,000) to determine both the percentages for each species and the number of A and B forms.
  
- b) Polished slabs: squares with constant area were traced on a polished surface and the A and B specimens were counted. The counting was repeated on different areas to obtain a significant number of B-forms.

# A case history: nummulite banks



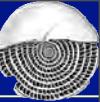
## CASE STUDIES

- Italy (Veneto) - 3 localities
- Spain (Ebro basin) - 3 localities
- Romania (Transylvanian basin) - 7 localities
- Germany (Bavaria) - 1 locality

# A case history: nummulite banks



# A case history: nummulite banks



Tavertet *N. tavertetensis* bank

# A case history: nummulite banks



Leghìa *N. perforatus* bank

# A case history: nummulite banks





# A case history: nummulite banks

## Synthesis 1: Abundance

Locations	Sample	Dominant species	Percentage	A/B ratio	Bank/Non Bank	
Veneto	San Germano dei Berici	<i>N. fabianii</i>	85.3	28-28.8	Bank	
	Pederiva	<i>N. lyelli</i>	76.6	35	Bank	
	Mossano			348	Non Bank	
	Pederiva 2			236	Non Bank	
	Pederiva 3			86	Non Bank	
	Pederiva 4			117	Non Bank	
Spain	Vic 1201	<i>N. tavertetensis</i>	90	16.6	Bank	
	Vic 1202	<i>N. tavertetensis</i>	100	43.2	Bank	
	IG 1202	<i>N. perforatus</i> (A-forms)	55.7	151	Non Bank	
	Vic 1203	<i>N. biedai</i>	75.4	42	Bank	
Romania	Cheile Baciului area	ROM 1111,1112	<i>N. fabianii</i>	100	19.2-51.6	Bank
	<i>N. perforatus</i> beds	ROM 1101, 1101B, 1101C, 1109, 1114,1115, 1116	<i>N. perforatus</i>	100	17-47.8	Bank
		ROM 1110, 1119	<i>N. perforatus</i>	90-91	12.3-16	Bank
		ROM 1113	<i>N. perforatus</i> (A-forms)	100	92.5	Non Bank
	Adelholzen	Adel1: <i>Assilina</i> bed	<i>Assilina cuvillieri</i>	77.5	7.8	<i>Assilina</i> Bank
		Adel2: <i>Nummulites</i> bed	<i>N. polygyratus</i>	57.66	63.1	Non Bank

Dominant species (quantitative works)

nummulite banks

>75%



# A case history: nummulite banks

## Synthesis 2: A/B ratio

Locations		Sample	Dominant species	Percentage	A/B ratio	Bank/Non Bank
Veneto		San Germano dei Berici	<i>N. fabianii</i>	85.3	28-28.8	Bank
		Pederiva	<i>N. lyelli</i>	76.6	35	Bank
		Mossano			348	Non Bank
		Pederiva 2			236	Non Bank
		Pederiva 3			86	Non Bank
		Pederiva 4			117	Non Bank
Spain	Tavertet section	Vic 1201	<i>N. tavertetensis</i>	90	16.6	Bank
		Vic 1202	<i>N. tavertetensis</i>	100	43.2	Bank
	Igualada section	IG 1202	<i>N. perforatus</i> (A-forms)	55.7	151	Non Bank
	Saint Marti Xic	Vic 1203	<i>N. biedai</i>	75.4	42	Bank
Romania	Cheile Baciului area	ROM 1111,1112	<i>N. fabianii</i>	100	19.2-51.6	Bank
	<i>N. perforatus</i> beds	ROM 1101, 1101B, 1101C, 1109, 1114, 1115, 1116	<i>N. perforatus</i>	100	17-47.8	Bank
		ROM 1110, 1119	<i>N. perforatus</i>	90-91	12.3-16	Bank
		ROM 1113	<i>N. perforatus</i> (A-forms)	100	92.5	Non Bank
	Adelholzen		<i>Assilina cuvillieri</i>	77.5	7.8	Assilina Bank
		Adel2: <i>Nummulites</i> bed	<i>N. polygyratus</i>	57.66	63.1	Non Bank

A/B ratio (quantitative works)	
nummulite banks	7-50 (Low)
"normal" nummulite limestone	60-350 (high)