



LATE QUATERNARY RECORD OF BULIMINIDS FROM THE EASTERN ARABIAN SEA (OFF GOA) AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN PALAEOCEANOGRAPHIC RECONSTRUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Benthic foraminiferal assemblages of closely spaced samples of a 9.65 m long sediment core retrieved from 1230 m water depth off Goa were analysed both qualitatively and quantitatively. The buliminid group, which is considered to be sensitive to ocean bottom environment represents a quantitatively most important component of the benthic population in the examined samples. All eight recorded species constituting the buliminid group are briefly described and illustrated. The down-core distribution pattern of total buliminids shows major fluctuations on millennial scale in the last 70 kyr. Based on the modern ecological data of buliminid taxa encountered in this investigation, it is suggested that the temporal variation in buliminids is associated with the variation in surface primary productivity and dissolved oxygen level. However, sensitive response of individual taxa to changes in these oceanographic parameters is variable.

Keywords: Benthic foraminifera, buliminids, palaeoceanography, Arabian Sea