



Research paper

Constraining foraminiferal calcification depths in the western Pacific warm pool

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ABSTRACT

Insight into past changes of upper ocean stratification, circulation, and nutrient signatures rely on our knowledge of the apparent calcification depth (ACD) and ecology of planktonic foraminifera, which serve as archives for paleoceanographic relevant geochemical signals. The ACD of different species varies strongly between ocean basins, but also regionally. We constrained foraminiferal ACDs in the Western Pacific Warm Pool (Manihiki Plateau) by comparing stable oxygen and carbon isotopes ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calite}}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calite}}$) as well as Mg/Ca ratios from living planktonic foraminifera to *in-situ* physical and chemical water mass properties (temperature, salinity, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$). Our analyses point to *Globigerinoides ruber* as the shallowest dweller, followed by *Globigerinoides sacculifer*, *Neogloboquadrina dutertrei*, *Pulleniatina obliquiloculata* and *Globorotaloides hexagonus* inhabiting increasing greater depths. These findings are consistent with other ocean basins; however, absolute ACDs differ from other studies. The uppermost mixed-layer species *G. ruber* and *G. sacculifer* denote mean calcification depths of ~95 m and ~120 m, respectively. These Western Pacific ACDs are much deeper than in most other studies and most likely relate to the thick surface mixed layer and the deep chlorophyll maximum in this region. Our results indicate that *N. dutertrei* appears to be influenced by mixing waters from the Pacific equatorial divergence, while *P. obliquiloculata* with an ACD of ~160 m is more suitable for thermocline reconstructions. ACDs of *G. hexagonus* reveal a deep calcification depth of ~450 m in oxygen-depleted, but nutrient-rich water masses, consistent to other studies. As the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of *G. hexagonus* is in near-equilibrium with ambient seawater, we suggest this species is suitable for tracing nutrient conditions in equatorial water masses originating in extra-topical regions.

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1. Introduction

Geochemical signals of planktonic foraminifera shells (= tests) are frequently used for paleoceanographic studies as they well reflect past environmental conditions (e.g., Shackleton, 1974; Ravelo and Fairbanks, 1992; Nürnberg, 1995; Nürnberg et al., 1996; Bemis et al., 1998; Elderfield and Ganssen, 2000; Lea et al., 2000). Many species, however, are known to migrate through the water column during their life cycle and thus, their geochemical signals most likely provide an integrated signal across both the entire water depth range and the entire ontogenetic (calcification) cycle of the species (e.g., Hemleben and Bijma, 1994). Hence, the foraminiferal habitat depths determined by these geochemical signals are best described by the term Apparent Calcification Depth (ACD). It should be noted that the shell weight and therefore the chemical signature of the shell as a whole is mainly determined by the chemical composition of the last few chambers.

Approaches using planktonic foraminifera as biotic carriers of geochemical signals generally emphasize the importance of the knowledge of foraminiferal ACDs. Since the first plankton tow studies of Bé (1959, 1962), efforts were launched to most reliably define the foraminiferal depth habitat (Thunell and Honjo, 1981; Fairbanks et al., 1982; Thunell et al., 1983). With the development of geochemical analysis on foraminiferal tests, it was further possible to assess foraminiferal ACD (Emiliani, 1955; Shackleton, 1974; Nürnberg, 1995; Faul et al., 2000; King and Howard, 2005; Regenberg et al., 2009; Steph et al., 2009; Wilke et al., 2009; Birch et al., 2013; Wejnert et al., 2013). These studies reveal significant regional intraspecific differences in the ACD (Faul et al., 2000; Steph et al., 2009). The species *Globigerinoides ruber*, for example, is often referred to as a “surface dweller”, i.e. living within the upper 30 m of the water column (Hemleben et al., 1989; Faul et al., 2000; Steph et al., 2009; Birch et al., 2013). However, in cases of high sea surface temperatures (SST) and a deep chlorophyll maximum (DCM), it has been shown to descend to and calcify in deeper waters (Fairbanks et al., 1982; Wejnert et al., 2013). Contrary, the ACDs of *Neogloboquadrina dutertrei* scatter within the 40–200 m water depth range (Hemleben et

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al., 1989; Dekens et al., 2002; Steph et al., 2009; Faul et al., 2000; Nürnberg et al., 2015). Particularly, during strong upwelling the ACD can shoal from within the thermocline to distinctly shallower waters (Loubere, 2001). As the studies are scattered over the world oceans, reliable estimations of the ACDs of planktonic foraminifera in a specific area remains a challenge, which is further hampered by logistical difficulties.

The Western Pacific Warm Pool (WPWP) is the largest warm water area on Earth with SSTs consistently higher than 28 °C (Fig. 1a) (Yan et al., 1992). The WPWP deep thermocline (~175–300 m in the center of the WPWP; Andreassen and Ravelo, 1997) allows for a large heat capacity, making it the major source of heat and moisture transfer from low to high latitudes. In contrast, in the eastern equatorial Pacific (EEP) the thermocline reaches depths as shallow as 30 m (Locarnini et al., 2013). This asymmetric behaviour is also clearly seen in the zonal nitrate section (Fig. 1b), which points towards overall oligotrophic conditions in the WPWP and contrasting with fertile conditions in the EEP. Fluctuations in size and temperature of the WPWP are important drivers for the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Asian monsoon system and, through atmospheric teleconnections, the global climate system (Sagawa et al., 2012). Despite the importance of the WPWP in the climate system, only little information about foraminiferal ACDs are available. To-date, the limited number of studies from the WPWP have concentrated on reconstructing upper ocean conditions with known ACDs from different regions (e.g., Wara et al., 2005; Russon et al., 2010) or focused on foraminiferal assemblages from the center of the WPWP near New Guinea (Kawahata et al., 2002; Yamasaki et al., 2008), or on plankton tows and surface sediments from the central equatorial Pacific (Watkins et al., 1996; Lynch-Stieglitz et al., 2015).

Our multinet study from the Manihiki Plateau attempts for the first time to define the modern ACDs of selected planktonic foraminifera at the south-eastern margin of the WPWP. Five modern planktonic foraminiferal species are studied: *G. ruber* (white), *Globigerinoides sacculifer*, *N. dutertrei*, *Pulleniatina obliquiloculata* and *Globorotaloides hexagonus*. We measured stable oxygen and carbon isotopes ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$) as well as Mg/Ca ratios on the foraminiferal calcite and compared these data to in-situ physical and chemical seawater characteristics (temperature, salinity, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$, dissolved inorganic carbon $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$). By doing so, we were able to better constrain species-specific ACD in an area with the thickest and warmest mixed layer on Earth and to determine the species-specific carbon-isotope disequilibrium. By doing so, we developed a great understanding of regional foraminiferal ACDs in the WPWP. We were then able to define to what extent the geochemical measurements deviate from predictions based on empirical relationships. Our study can be used to inform on what species to use for upper ocean water mass reconstructions of WPWP internal dynamics.

1.1. Foraminiferal ecological preferences and hydrographic setting

The abundance of planktonic foraminiferal species is strongly affected by environmental parameters such as, the thermal structure of the water column, salinity, and food supply (e.g., Bijma et al., 1990; Watkins et al., 1996; King and Howard, 2003; Žarić et al., 2005). Culture experiments and surface-sediment samples indicate temperature as one of the major environmental parameters affecting the foraminiferal biogeographic distribution (Bé and Tolderlund, 1971; Bijma et al., 1990; Morey et al., 2005). Even though most planktonic foraminifera

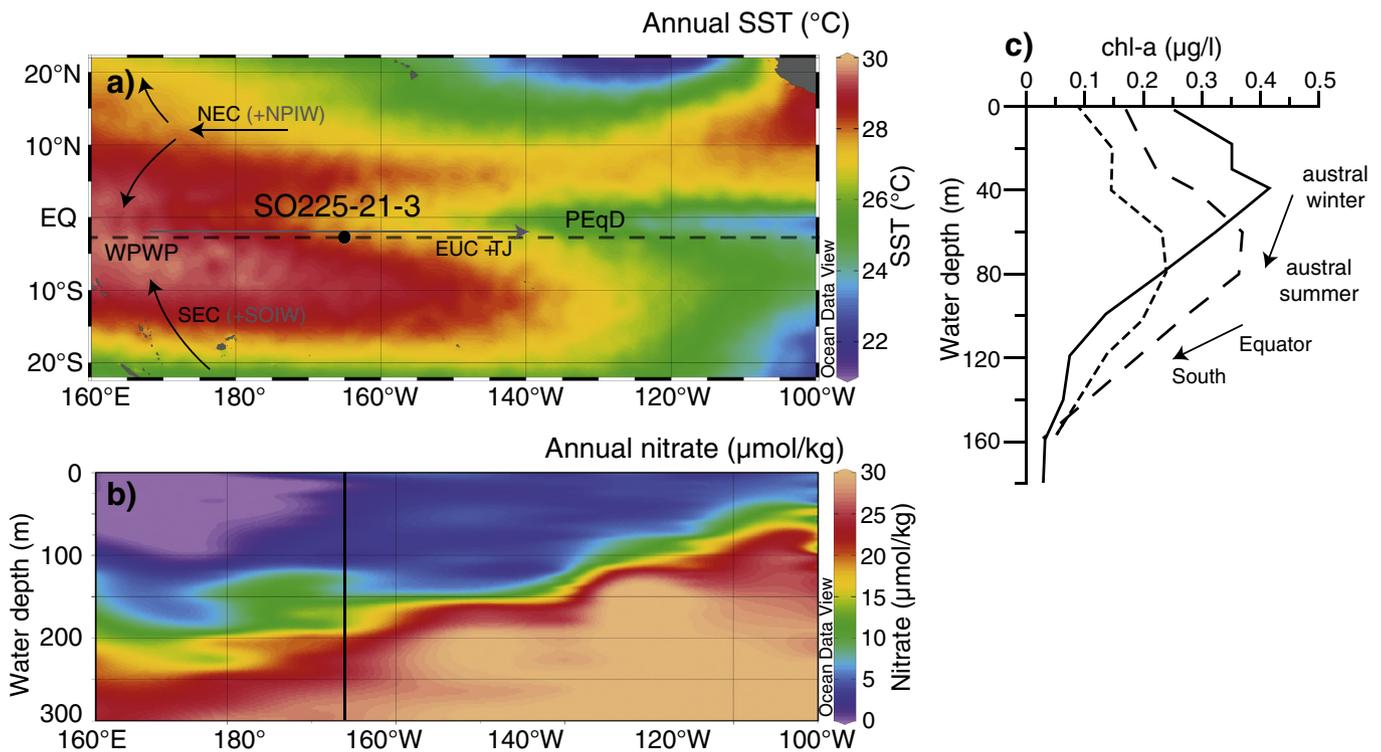


Fig. 1. Upper ocean conditions of the equatorial Pacific. (a) Annual sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) with multinet position SO225-21-3 and selected profile line shown in (b) (dashed line). WPWP denotes the Western Pacific Warm-Pool, PEqD the Pacific Equatorial Divergence. Major surface (black) and intermediate (grey) currents are indicated with arrows; NEC = North Equatorial Current fed by the NPIW = North Pacific Intermediate Waters, SEC = South Equatorial Current fed by the SOIW = Southern Ocean Intermediate Waters, and EUC + TJ = Equatorial Undercurrent and Tsuchiya Jets (after Tomczak and Godfrey, 1994; Firing et al., 1998; Rowe et al., 2000). (b) Longitudinal depth section of annual nitrate along 3°S (see dashed line in (a)) with multinet position SO225-21-3 (black vertical line). Temperature map and section were generated with Ocean Data View (Schlitzer, 2012) using World Ocean Atlas 13 Data (a; Locarnini et al., 2013) and GLODAP bottle data (b; Key et al., 2004). (c) Chlorophyll-a concentration of the upper 200 m showing a seasonal and latitudinal change in the depth of the deep chlorophyll maximum. Profiles taken from FLUPAC cruise (black line, 0°, 164°W, October 1994; Blain et al., 1997), Alizé 2 cruise at 0°, 165°W (wide stippled line, February 1991; Reverdin et al., 1991) and Alizé 2 cruise at 2.5°S, 168°W (narrow stippled line, February 1991; Reverdin et al., 1991), respectively.

have a large temperature tolerance of about 14–32 °C (Bijma et al., 1990; Mulitza et al., 1998), they all have an individual, far more restricted optimum temperature (e.g., 23.5 °C for *G. sacculifer*) at which chamber formation, gametogenesis, and food acceptance is highest (Bijma et al., 1990). In contrast, the salinity tolerance range in planktonic species is wider than variations encountered in the open oceans (e.g., 24–47 in *G. sacculifer*; Bijma et al., 1990), thus, salinity plays most likely a marginal role for the foraminiferal distribution. Salinity, however, can influence the vertical distribution of planktonic foraminifera indirectly by changing the density structure of the water column and thereby restricting vertical movement and the accumulation of nutrients in certain depths (Bijma et al., 1990).

The WPWP at the Manihiki Plateau is characterized by high annual SSTs and sea-surface salinities (SSS) of 28 ± 0.2 °C and 35 ± 0.03 (psu), respectively (Locarnini et al., 2013; Zweng et al., 2013). Sediment trap results from the WPWP reveal that despite the small seasonal SST range of ± 0.2 °C, planktonic foraminifera are not present all year round in high abundances (Kawahata et al., 2002; Lin et al., 2004). The production is rather controlled by local nutrient availability and light intensity (Kawahata et al., 2002). As a consequence of the oligotrophic surface waters in the WPWP, with nutrient concentrations of <0.1 mM NO_3^- and <0.2 mM PO_4 (Blanchot et al., 2001; Le Borgne et al., 2002; Rafter and Sigman, 2015), primary production is low and foraminiferal fluxes are modest (mean 171 shells $\text{m}^{-2} \text{day}^{-1}$; Kawahata et al., 2002). In contrast, the high-nutrient low-chlorophyll (HNLC) region of the Pacific Equatorial Divergence is enriched in macronutrients (>3 mM NO_3^- ; >0.4 mM PO_4) and foraminiferal fluxes are higher (up to 430 shells $\text{m}^{-2} \text{day}^{-1}$; Thunell and Honjo, 1981). Through a complex and highly dynamic current system (e.g., Wyrтки and Kilonski, 1984; Fine et al., 1994; Tomczak and Godfrey, 1994; Johnson and Moore, 1997; Rowe et al., 2000; Goodman et al., 2005; Grenier et al., 2011), including the South Equatorial Current (SEC), the persistent eastward-directed subsurface Equatorial Undercurrent (EUC) and the Tsuchiya Jets (after Tsuchiya, 1972), nutrients are transported via intermediate and mode waters from the extratropical HNLC regions to the thermocline of the Western Equatorial Pacific and upwell along the equator in the Pacific equatorial divergence.

In the vicinity of the nutricline, chlorophyll-*a* concentrations reach a maximum between 40 and 90 m water depths in the WPWP indicating the DCM (Fig. 1c). Planktonic foraminifera respond to the distribution of chlorophyll and high abundances are often associated with the DCM (Fairbanks et al., 1982; Schiebel et al., 2001). Even though the depth of the DCM does not change significantly from east to west (Le Borgne et al., 2002), it changes meridionally. Upwelling decreases away from the equator and, as a consequence, the DCM deepens. The DCM depth also varies seasonally: while the DCM at the equator is situated at ~60 m (range ~40–80 m, values >0.3 mg m^{-3}) during austral summer, it shoals during autumn and reaches its shallowest position during austral winter (25–70 m, maximum 40 m) (Le Borgne et al., 2002).

Variations in upper ocean temperatures, depth of the thermocline and hence, nutrients in the upper water column, are influenced by the ENSO climate phenomenon (Collins et al., 2010). Nevertheless, the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI), a standard for identifying El Niño and La Niña events through averaging SST anomalies, was only slightly increased (0.2–0.4 °C) from August to December 2012 (NOAA, 2015a), thus indicating only a tendency for a very weak El Niño (ONI >0.5 °C).

2. Material and methods

2.1. Sample material

During the RV SONNE cruise SO225, in-situ temperature, salinity and oxygen measurements were conducted with a conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) device equipped with a 24 in each case 10 l bottle-rosette system (SO225-21-1; 3.05 °S, -165.056 °W; Werner et al., 2013). The water column was sampled at 15 depths, and for each water depth a

50 ml and a 100 ml subsamples was taken and stored in glass bottles for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ measurements, respectively. Water samples for carbon isotope analysis were poisoned with 100 μl of saturated HgCl_2 solution to prevent biological activity and sealed with beeswax to prevent interaction with air.

At the same location where SO225-21-1 was recovered, a multiple open/closing plankton net was run during the night at the northernmost edge of the Manihiki Plateau in the WPWP (SO225-21-3; Werner et al., 2013) (Fig. 1a). The multinet (HydroBios, Kiel) with a square mouth opening of 50×50 cm, 55 μm mesh size, and five net bags allowed stratified vertical sampling in five depth intervals within the first 500 m of the water column. The depths were selected after viewing the CTD cast and thus, included the sea surface (0–50 m), sub-surface (50–100 m), upper thermocline (100–200 m), lower thermocline (200–300 m) and sub-thermocline (300–500 m). These depth intervals are often investigated in paleoceanographic research (e.g., Spero et al., 2003; Wara et al., 2005; Kiefer et al., 2006; Pena et al., 2008; Regenberg et al., 2009; Nürnberg et al., 2015), highlighting the need to better understand the ACD of the species calcifying in these depths. Since the area is known for low primary production, we selected relatively large net depth intervals to capture enough material for our analyses. Immediately after collection, plankton tow samples were preserved with an Ethanol-Bengal Rose solution.

2.2. Handling foraminiferal assemblage counts

In the laboratory, plankton net samples were sieved over 1000 μm and 63 μm . Material >1000 μm was analysed for spinose species attached to particulate organic matter. Within the fraction 63–1000 μm intact planktonic foraminifera >125 μm were wet picked using a binocular microscope and dried afterward. As all individuals contained coloured cytoplasm in the early chambers, we infer that the samples were collected alive or shortly after they died. Smaller-sized planktonic foraminifera are more difficult to define taxonomically. As we primarily focus on size fractions well established for paleoceanographic purposes (>250 μm), only foraminifera >125 μm were counted. Depending on the amount of material, samples were either quantitatively split into aliquots and approximately 200–400 foraminifera were identified or the whole sample was counted (Supplement Table S1). Further, we calculated the density of different species over the netted depth range using the formula: $\#/(a * a) * b$; with # being the number of counted specimen, *a* being the multinet-opening in meters and *b* the depth interval the respective net was hauled.

Planktonic foraminiferal taxonomy follows the work of Parker (1962), Bě (1977) and Hemleben et al. (1989). We are aware that *G. ruber* (white) exists in different morphotypes. The determination of the morphotypes *sensu strictu* (s.s.) and *sensu lato* (s.l.) follows the concept of Wang (2000), in which *G. ruber* s.s. has spherical chambers sitting symmetrically over previous sutures with high arched apertures and *G. ruber* s.l. corresponds to more compressed subspherical chambers with a small aperture. These different morphotypes have been shown to dwell at slightly different water depths, yet always at the sea surface (e.g., Wang, 2000; Steinke et al., 2005; Kuroyanagi et al., 2008). For our analyses we selected mainly the morphotype s.s., but due to limited amount of material, we also included some specimen of the slightly deeper-dwelling morphotype s.l. for the isotope analyses when necessary.

2.3. Determination of Mg/Ca ratios and calculation of water temperatures

Mg/Ca ratios of planktonic foraminiferal calcite were measured to assess the water temperature during test growth. Prior to the analysis, the cytoplasm within the test was removed by treating the foraminiferal shells with 7% sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) before rinsing with deionised water. Intact specimens were selected from the 320–760 μm

size fraction as a narrower size range was prevented by the rather low amount of material (Table 1).

The geochemical analyses were obtained with the Excimer ArF 193 nm laser ablation system from NEW Wave ESI with a two-volume ablation cell design, coupled to an Agilent 7500cs Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometer (LA-ICP-MS) at GEOMAR. This micro-analytical technique enables the measurement of element/Ca through the shell wall of individual chambers. However, for the habitat assessment we use the mean Mg/Ca ratios of all the chambers in the final whorl of each shell that could be targeted with the laser. Hemleben and Bijma (1994) demonstrated that the vast majority of the shell mass and therefore most of the geochemical signal is contained in the last few chambers. Measuring as many chambers as possible is important as Mg/Ca seems to vary randomly from chamber to chamber in cultures under constant environmental conditions (de Nooijer et al., 2014). Thus, we analysed as many chambers as possible to ensure that we have sampled as much of the shell as possible. Culturing studies have investigated the difference between whole-test calibrations and Mg/Ca-temperature equations based on Mg/Ca measurements of the last chambers and found no significant difference between them (Kunioka et al., 2006; Dueñas-Bohórquez et al., 2009, 2011; Spero et al., 2015). The laser was targeted on the test surface, ablating through the test wall with a 50 µm diameter spot size, and stopped when the wall was penetrated. Ablations were conducted in a He atmosphere and the laser energy density was between 0.97 and 1.85 J/cm² with a laser repetition rate of 5 Hz. The ablation was done on as many chambers as possible (f to f-4),

always proceeding from the outside of the test towards the inside. Time-resolved signals of ²⁴Mg were selected for integration and the mean background intensities (gas blank) were subtracted. Signal intensities were internally standardised to ⁴³Ca to account for variations in ablation yield. Mg/Ca intensity ratios were calibrated with analyses of the international reference NIST 610 and NIST 612 glasses after every 10 sample spots (using values from Jochum et al., 2011), which were ablated with a higher energy density (around 2.65 J/cm²). A powder pellet of the powdered reference material JCP-1 (*Porites* sp.) was ablated like a sample and the repeated measurements during the analytical session ($n = 6$) gave a relative standard deviation of 7.4% (1σ) for Mg/Ca with an average value of ~3.707 mmol/mol that is 11% less than the solution ICP-MS consensus value from Hathorne et al. (2013) (4.199 mmol/mol).

Core top and culture studies point towards a species-specific dependency of the Mg incorporation into foraminiferal tests due to the interplay of biological processes and ecological behaviour (e.g., Nürnberg et al., 1996; Lea et al., 1999; Regenberg et al., 2009; Nehrke et al., 2013; Mewes et al., 2015). As a consequence, various species-specific calibrations have been established that have all basic similarities, but produce significantly different temperature estimates when applied to the same Mg/Ca ratios. Hence, the accurate selection of the applied calibration curve is crucial. To find the most reliable calibration curve for each investigated foraminiferal species from the multinet samples, we converted the measured whole-shell foraminiferal Mg/Ca ratios (Supplement Table S2) into temperatures using generic and species-specific equations if available (Supplement S3, Supplement Table S3). At the depth

Table 1

Overview of net collections of five paleoceanographically important foraminiferal species. The depth ranges from which the foraminifera were selected, species abundances, foraminiferal shell sizes, number of tests measured as well as geochemical analyses are given.

Species	Net depth (m)	#/m ³	Shell size (range in µm)	Number of tests measured	Accomplished measurement		
					δ ¹⁸ O _{calcite} (‰)	δ ¹³ C _{calcite} (‰)	Mean Mg/Ca (mmol/mol)
<i>G. ruber</i>	0–50	5.60	150–250	18	−2.25 ± 0.012	−0.04 ± 0.009	
	0–50	5.60	250–300	11	−2.17 ± 0.01	0.71 ± 0.008	
	50–100	6.00	150–250	17	−2.68 ± 0.02	0.02 ± 0.006	
	50–100	6.00	250–300	14	−2.40 ± 0.004	0.46 ± 0.007	
	50–100	6.00	300–350	9	−2.47 ± 0.05	0.79 ± 0.025	
	100–200	0.84	~410	1			4.71 ± 0.4
	300–500	0.12	~320	1			5.10 ± 0.8
	<i>G. sacculifer</i>	0–50	11.04	300–350	7	−2.30 ± 0.008	1.18 ± 0.008
	0–50	11.04	350–500	4	−2.31 ± 0.007	1.31 ± 0.004	
	0–50	11.04	~520	1			4.27 ± 0.6
	0–50	11.04	~520	1			4.50 ± 0.4
	50–100	9.84	300–350	5	−2.33 ± 0.05	0.83 ± 0.025	
	50–100	9.84	350–500	4	−2.32 ± 0.006	1.00 ± 0.006	
	50–100	9.84	350–500	4	−1.89 ± 0.01	1.34 ± 0.008	
	50–100	9.84	>500	2	−2.27 ± 0.01	1.53 ± 0.007	
	100–200	6.64	300–350	6	−2.39 ± 0.01	0.56 ± 0.007	
	100–200	6.64	350–500	5	−2.43 ± 0.01	1.02 ± 0.009	
	100–200	6.64	350–500	5	−1.94 ± 0.01	0.73 ± 0.005	
	100–200	6.64	>500	3	−2.11 ± 0.04	0.99 ± 0.018	
	200–300	0.40	>500	2	−2.15 ± 0.02	1.29 ± 0.023	
	300–500	0.40	~750	1			4.88 ± 0.2
<i>N. dutertrei</i>	50–100	8.00	250–300	12	−1.90 ± 0.02	−0.14 ± 0.017	
	50–100	8.00	300–350	9	−2.15 ± 0.02	−0.08 ± 0.008	
	50–100	8.00	350–500	6	−2.21 ± 0.01	0.03 ± 0.006	
	100–200	4.32	~360	1			3.21 ± 0.2
<i>P. obliquiloculata</i>	50–100	20.64	>500	2	−1.75 ± 0.04	−0.01 ± 0.028	
	50–100	20.64	~520	1			3.16 ± 0.05
	100–200	20.48	350–500	4	−1.62 ± 0.01	0.06 ± 0.004	
	100–200	20.48	350–500	4	−1.83 ± 0.01	−0.01 ± 0.003	
	100–200	20.48	>500	2	−1.54 ± 0.004	0.26 ± 0.016	
	100–200	20.48	>500	2	−1.49 ± 0.01	0.25 ± 0.012	
	100–200	20.48	~675	1			3.11 ± 0.1
	200–300	0.52	>500	2	−1.60 ± 0.03	0.11 ± 0.008	
	200–300	0.52	>500	2	−1.42 ± 0.01	0.41 ± 0.004	
	300–500	0.20	~640	1			2.85 ± 0.3
<i>G. hexagonus</i>	300–500	1.76	250–300	10	1.39 ± 0.05	−0.06 ± 0.01	
	300–500	1.76	300–350	9	1.59 ± 0.01	0.22 ± 0.003	
	300–500	1.76	350–500	6	1.49 ± 0.005	0.24 ± 0.006	
	300–500	1.76	~400	1			1.36 ± 0.4

interval in which a species was found in highest abundance on the Manihiki Plateau (see Section 3.2), we determined the mean temperature during sampling time from both CTD data and the seasonal range in temperature from the WOA13 data (Locarnini et al., 2013) at the same location. By comparing the in-situ temperatures with the Mg/Ca-derived temperatures, we identified the most suitable calibration equation for each species at our study site (Table 2, Supplement S3).

2.4. Stable isotope analyses

Stable oxygen and carbon isotope ratios ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$) of the foraminiferal tests (Table 1) were determined to estimate the ACD by comparing measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ to predicted $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ as well as to assess the deviation from prediction based on empirical relationships. The isotope ratios were measured on a ThermoScientific MAT 253 mass spectrometer coupled to an automatic carbonate preparation device Kiel CARBO IV at AWI. The isotope measurements were calibrated via the international standard NBS 19 to the VPDB scale. All results are given in the common δ -notation versus VPDB. The precision of the measurements, determined over a one-year period and based on repeated analysis of an internal laboratory standard (Solnhofen limestone), is $\pm 0.06\text{‰}$ and $\pm 0.08\text{‰}$ (1σ) for carbon and oxygen isotopes, respectively.

Measurements of the oxygen isotope composition of seawater ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$) were performed on a ThermoScientific Delta S mass spectrometer and those for the seawater dissolved inorganic carbon isotope composition ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$) were made with a ThermoScientific MAT 252 coupled to a Gas Bench II at AWI. The $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ values are given in δ -notation versus VSMOW and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ values versus VPDB. The precision determined over a one-year period is $\pm 0.03\text{‰}$ (1σ) for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ and $\pm 0.1\text{‰}$ (1σ) for $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$.

2.5. Estimation of the apparent calcification depth

We constrained the ACDs of selected planktonic foraminiferal species by combining two approaches. This enables us to assess the ACD with improved accuracy. First, we compared the measured foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ to calculated $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ values at different water depths and hence, different temperatures. The water depth from which $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ matches $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ is taken as the isotope-ACD (Table 3). The expected $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ values were calculated using paleotemperature-equations of Shackleton (1974), Kim and O'Neil (1997), Bemis et al. (1998; *Orbulina universa* high light), and Mulitza et al. (2004) (Supplement Table S4). In them, we inserted our measured variables foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$, seawater $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (converted into VPDB by subtracting -0.27‰ ; Hut, 1987), and modern temperatures from CTD data. Different equations were tested to show that relative species order in the water column is independent of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -paleotemperature equation. The absolute isotope-ACDs, however, differ with each equation (Supplement Table S4). In cases where $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ values were lower than predicted $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ values at the sea surface, ACDs of 5 m water depth were assigned (Supplement Table S4). ACDs derived

by Shackleton (1974) and Kim and O'Neil (1997) are similar at the sea surface. In deeper waters, Shackleton's (1974) equation produces markedly shallower isotope-ACDs than Kim and O'Neil's (1997). On the other hand, the equations of Bemis et al. (1998) and Mulitza et al. (2004), that were both generated using planktonic foraminifera, yield deeper isotope-ACDs at all depths. Nevertheless, using Mulitza et al. (2004) for upper-ocean dwelling species (0–220 m), the number of samples with measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ that are lower than the respective $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ at the sea surface is minimised. In deeper waters, however, the equation of Mulitza et al. (2004) yield isotope-ACDs of up to 660 m (Supplement Table S4), and these are deeper than the nets were hauled. As a consequence, we selected the equation by Kim and O'Neil (1997), which was calibrated using inorganic calcite, for sub-thermocline waters (220–500 m, Table 2). Seasonal variations in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ due to varying temperature are considered by using temperature data from the WOA13 database to account for temperature variations during the foraminiferal life cycle (Table 3) (Locarnini et al., 2013). To assess the influence of species-specific offsets from $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$, we corrected the measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ values for disequilibrium effects (values are taken from Niebler et al., 1999 and Steph et al., 2009) and recalculated the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -derived ACDs with the Mulitza et al. (2004) and Kim and O'Neil (1997) equations (Supplement Table S4).

In a second step, we compared the temperatures converted from the average Mg/Ca of living specimens (Table 1) to the ocean temperatures prevailing during the time of sampling (December 2012) at the sample location and placed the temperature-ACD at the according water depth (Table 3). To account for seasonal variations in the temperature record, we also compared the derived Mg/Ca temperatures to austral winter and austral summer temperatures (data from WOA13) (Table 3) (Locarnini et al., 2013).

In a last step, we combined both ACD approaches and determined the mean ACD. We are aware, that we have an uneven distribution between $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and Mg/Ca measurements (Table 1). Thereby, more credit is given towards the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -derived ACD. To validate the combined mean ACD, we used the mean temperature and mean $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ of the respective species and calculated the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{water}}$. For this purpose we selected different paleotemperature equations (Supplement S5, Supplement Table S5) and rearranged the equations for the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{water}}$. The $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{water}}$ was then compared to the measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ (Supplement S5). It demonstrates that the calculated $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{water}}$ displays the measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ curve and hence, supports the use of a combined isotope and Mg/Ca approach.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Hydrological conditions in the upper ocean water column

At the time of multinet sampling (December 2012) at station SO225-21 the mixed layer was characterized by a SST of 27.9 °C, a SSS of 35.5, an oxygen concentration > 170 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ and a $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ of +0.5‰ (Fig. 2). The SST and SSS agree well with the long-term WOA13 dataset (Locarnini et al., 2013) showing a deep surface mixed layer (SML)

Table 2
Equations used to convert foraminiferal Mg/Ca into temperatures and to calculate equilibrium $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$.

Species	Type of sample	Water mass	Equation			Reference
			$\text{Mg/Ca} = B * \exp(A * T)$			
			B	A		
<i>G. ruber</i>	Surface sediment (0–1 cm)	Sea-surface and sub-surface (0–100 m)	0.40	0.09		Regenberg et al. (2009)
<i>G. sacculifer</i>	Surface sediment (0–1 cm)	Sea-surface and sub-surface (0–100 m)	0.37	0.09		Dekens et al. (2002)
<i>N. dutertrei</i>	Surface sediment (0–1 cm)	Upper thermocline (100–200 m)	0.65	0.065		Regenberg et al. (2009)
<i>P. obliquiloculata</i>	Sediment-trap	Upper thermocline (100–200 m)	0.18	0.12		Anand et al. (2003)
<i>G. hexagonus</i>	Surface sediment (0–1 cm)	Sub-surface (300–500 m)	0.52	0.10		Elderfield and Ganssen (2000)
			$T = a + b(\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}} - \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}) - c(\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}} - \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}})^2$			
			a	b	c	
	Inorganic	Sub-thermocline (300–500 m)	16.1	–4.64	0.09	Kim and O'Neil (1997)
	Living foraminifera	Sea-surface to upper thermocline (0–200 m)	14.32	–4.28	0.07	Mulitza et al. (2004)

Table 3

Specification of apparent calcification depth (ACD) of foraminiferal species at Manihiki Plateau using (1) measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ values that were placed at water depths corresponding to theoretical $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ values depending on water temperature and salinity. (2) Mg/Ca derived temperature estimates placed at water depths corresponding to in-situ measured austral summer temperatures (Werner et al., 2013) and seasonal World Ocean Atlas 2013 temperature ranges (Locarnini et al., 2013). Each line represents one single analysed sample.

Species	ACD (m water depth)					Combined isotope and temperature ACD (m water depth)		
	Using $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{eq}}$		Using temperature during sampling (Dec. 2012)		Using seasonal temperature	ACD range	Mean ACD	
	Dec. 2012	Using seasonal $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{eq}}$	Shallowest	Deepest				Shallowest
<i>G. ruber</i>	152	106	126					
	154	113	137					
	77	65	66					
	138	91	105					
	124	85	96					
			136		92	109		
			5		5	16		
			ACD (m water depth)					
			Mean isotope ACD: 109					
			Mean temperature ACD: 61					
<i>G. sacculifer</i>	151	101	118					
	151	100	118					
	151	98	115					
	151	99	117					
	161	140	156					
	152	104	124					
	141	93	107					
	132	89	101					
	159	135	154					
	156	119	145					
	154	115	140					
				141		100	112	
				126		67	105	
			5		5	5		
			ACD (m water depth)					
			Mean isotope ACD: 129					
			Mean temperature ACD: 74					
<i>N. dutertrei</i>	160	140	156					
	154	115	140					
	153	110	132					
				154		140	150	
			ACD (m water depth)					
			Mean isotope ACD: 140					
			Mean temperature ACD: 148					
<i>P. obliquiloculata</i>	163	151	160					
	166	154	164					
	162	146	158					
	168	156	166					
	169	157	168					
	167	154	164					
	171	159	170					
				158		145	155	
				159		146	156	
			160		151	161		
			ACD (m water depth)					
			Mean isotope ACD: 162					
			Mean temperature ACD: 155					
<i>G. hexagonus</i>	431	427	435					
	498	509	514					
	467	469	473					
				375		396	403	
			ACD (m water depth)					
			Mean isotope ACD: 469					
			Mean temperature ACD: 391					

extending to 105 m water depth, below which temperature decreases steadily. The main thermocline is located between 130 and 230 m water depth and reflects an overall temperature decline of $\sim 16^\circ\text{C}$ (from 28°C to $\sim 12^\circ\text{C}$).

At the top of the thermocline, however, both temperature and salinity deviate from the long-term average (Fig. 2a, b). The temperatures are up to 2°C warmer between 125 and 150 m. Salinities are significantly reduced between 125 and 160 m. These changes may indicate changes in the source area and speed of the EUC as a consequence of weaker trade winds in December 2012. In contrast, the comparison between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ values from the sampling site to 1991-profiles at 160°W and 168°W (Schmidt et al., 1999) reveals up to 0.2‰ heavier values (Fig. 2c). As in the open ocean, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ is mainly affected by the evaporation/precipitation balance (Dansgaard, 1964) with heavier values attributed to higher evaporation, we assume an increase in evaporation

probably related to stronger trade winds from 1991 until December 2012. This agrees with model experiments that show an acceleration of Pacific trade winds due to the intensification of the Walker circulation over the period 1992–2011 (McGregor et al., 2014). Consequently, it seems that over the last decade trade wind strength and hence evaporation increased, but in December 2012 wind strength dropped for a short time, leading to a decrease in upwelling and thus to warmer and less saline waters at the top of the thermocline. Further support comes from the equatorial Pacific Zonal Wind field models in November–December 2012 (NOAA, 2015b) and from the slightly increased Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) that indicates a very weak El Niño ($\text{ONI} > 0.5^\circ\text{C}$) and consequently weaker prevailing winds (see also Section 1.1) (NOAA, 2015a).

Associated with the thermo- and halocline, oxygen concentrations decline in two steps, which points to two oxygen minima (OM) located at ~ 180 m and ~ 250 m (Fig. 2d). Possibly both OM belong to one

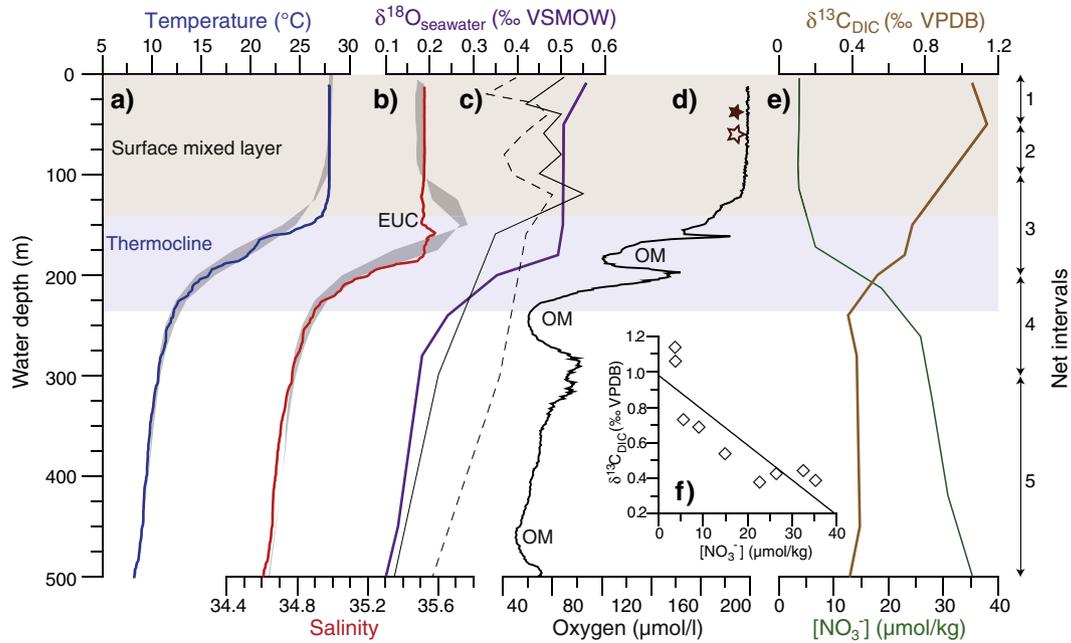


Fig. 2. Water column characteristics of the uppermost 500 m at multinet station SO225-21-03 along the towed net intervals. Temperature (a) and salinity (b) profile from CTD casts in December 2012 (SO225-21-01; Werner et al., 2013). Blue/red curves show the temperature/salinity during the time of multinet sampling with the position of the Equatorial Undercurrent (EUC). Grey shaded areas delineate long-term seasonal temperature and salinity variations (Locarnini et al., 2013; Zweng et al., 2013). (c) Measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ from CTD station SO225-21-01 (purple, this study); solid/dashed black lines indicate $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ at 160 °W/168 °W, respectively, using the Schmidt et al. (1999) database. (d) Oxygen concentration from CTD cast in December 2012 (Werner et al., 2013) showing three oxygen minima (OM). Dark brown stars indicate the chlorophyll- α maxima during austral winter (filled symbol; Blain et al., 1997) and austral summer (open symbol; Reverdin et al., 1991) (data shown in Fig. 1c). (e) $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ values measured on water samples from CTD casts (brown, this study) and nitrate concentration of the water column (green) obtained from GLODAP bottle data (Key et al., 2004). (f) Covariance between $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ and $[\text{NO}_3^-]$ at 3 °S and 168 °W yields a relationship of $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}} = -0.02 [\text{NO}_3^-] + 0.98$ ($r^2 = 0.73$). Arrows and numbers on the right denote the five net intervals of the multinet collection with sea surface (1), sub-surface (2), upper thermocline (3), lower thermocline (4) and sub-thermocline (5). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

expansive OM that is separated by a chlorophyll maximum in which oxygen is produced. However, to verify this hypothesis a deeper chlorophyll- α profile extending to at least 300 m water depth is needed. Oxygen concentrations further decline below the thermocline towards a less pronounced OM in ~450 m with concentrations of 57 $\mu\text{mol/l}$. The strongest OM in December 2012 (concentration of 44 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) is located at ~660 m water depth below the hauled nets.

At the multinet sampling site, the overall range in $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ is from ~-0.4‰ to ~-1.1‰, achieving a maximum in the surface waters (Fig. 2e). The $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ data start to decline below ~50 m and gradually decrease throughout the thermocline in response to remineralisation processes and the release of ^{12}C to the ambient seawater. The overall shape of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ profile is anticorrelated to the GLODAP $[\text{NO}_3^-]$ profile (Key et al., 2004). With increasing nitrate concentrations, the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ values decrease simultaneously due to the concurrent uptake of ^{12}C and nutrients during photosynthesis. The slope of this relationship depends on the fractionation of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ during photosynthesis. Our $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}: [\text{NO}_3^-]$ comparison yield a relationship of: $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}} = -0.02 [\text{NO}_3^-] + 0.98$ ($r^2 = 0.73$) (Fig. 2f).

3.2. Vertical distribution of planktonic foraminifers in the water column

A total number of 20 taxa have been identified in the net collection from the Manihiki Plateau of which 16 could be identified on the species level (Supplement Table S1). Most common and abundant species (>10%) are: *Globorotalia menardii* (mean relative abundance (MRA) 22.7%, range 7.8%–26.4%), *Pulleniatina obliquiloculata* (MRA: 15.4%, range 5.2–19.6%), *Globigerinita glutinata* (MRA 13.8%, range 5.7–30.1%), *Globigerinella* spp. (MRA 12.8%, range 3.6–16%) and *Globorotalia* spp. (MRA 10%, range 3.6–10.8%). Less abundant species (2–10%) are *Globigerinoides sacculifer* (MRA 7.2%, range 3.6–9.8%), *Neogloboquadrina dutertrei* (MRA 5.1%, range 2.6–6.3%), *Globigerinoides ruber* (white)

(MRA 2.9%, range 0.8–5%) and *Globoquadrina conglomera* (MRA 2.1%, range 1–2.8%). All other taxa occur in very low abundances (MRA <2%). For further analyses, we selected four species often used in paleoceanographic research (*G. ruber*, *G. sacculifer*, *N. dutertrei*, and *P. obliquiloculata*, e.g., Spero et al., 2003; Kiefer et al., 2006; Pena et al., 2008; Leduc et al., 2009; Nürnberg et al., 2015; Rippert et al., 2015), although other species had a higher abundance in the water column during our expedition. The highest abundances (in $\#/\text{m}^3$) of the selected species were found between 0 and 100 m water depth (Fig. 3). This is the depth interval with highest chlorophyll- α concentrations (Fig. 1c), supporting the idea that nutrient distribution mainly determines the vertical distribution of foraminiferal species (Hemleben et al., 1989; Schiebel et al., 2001; Schiebel and Hemleben, 2005).

Sediment trap and surface sediment studies from tropical areas indicate that *G. sacculifer* and *G. ruber* dominate the foraminiferal abundances with >5% and >10%, respectively, with similar abundances in the Atlantic and Pacific for *G. sacculifer* (~10%) and higher abundances of *G. ruber* in the Atlantic compared to the Pacific (~40 to ~18%, respectively) (Thunell and Honjo, 1981; Ravelo et al., 1990; Kawahata et al., 2002; Schmuker and Schiebel, 2002; Yamasaki et al., 2008). Our MRAs, however, show abundances of these species of <10% in December 2012. This is in agreement with sediment trap analyses from the West Caroline Basin (New Guinea) deployed over a one year interval that revealed a seasonal bias in foraminiferal shell flux with lowest fluxes for *G. ruber* and *G. sacculifer* in December (Kawahata et al., 2002). Further, our study site at the northernmost rim of the Manihiki Plateau is situated at the transition from the WPWP to the Pacific Equatorial Divergence (Le Borgne et al., 2002). High SSTs at the sampling site suggest the dominant influence from the WPWP. On the other hand, surface nitrate concentrations of $3.6 \pm 0.1 \mu\text{mol/kg}$ (168.7 °W, -3 °S, 168 °W) (Key et al., 2004) are higher than nitrate concentrations typically characteristic for the WPWP (<0.1 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$) (Blanchot et al.,

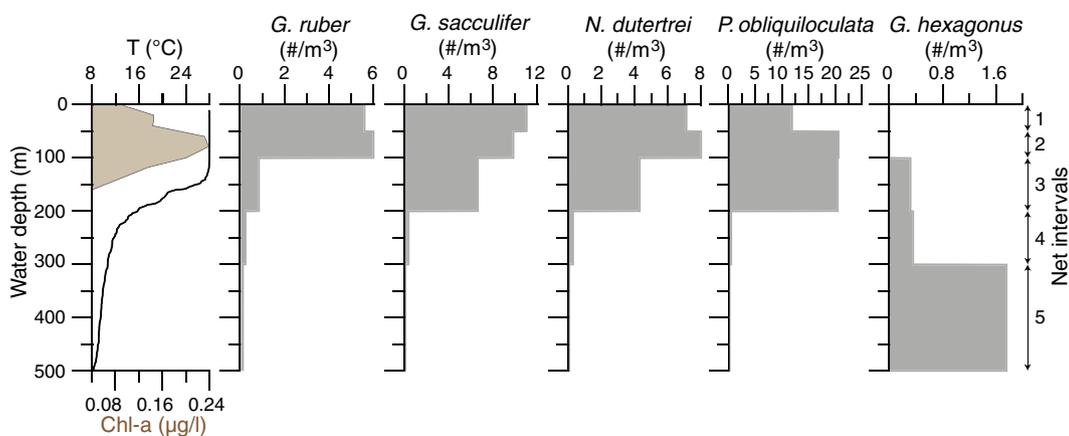


Fig. 3. Planktonic foraminiferal abundances (in specimen/m³) for five paleoceanographically important species in this study plotted with (on the left) in-situ data of temperature (Werner et al., 2013) and chlorophyll-*a* (brown; Reverdin et al., 1991). Arrows and numbers on the right denote the five net intervals of the multinet collections with sea surface (1), sub-surface (2), upper thermocline (3), lower thermocline (4) and sub-thermocline (5). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

2001; Rafter and Sigman, 2015) and rather suggest a presumably slight increased influence of the Pacific Equatorial Divergence. Additionally, repeated station analyses on nitrate concentrations along the equator also reveal increasing nitrate concentrations at the base of the SML during austral summer (Rafter and Sigman, 2015). Since the hydrographic data record a general decrease in upwelling (Fig. 2), higher nutrient concentrations probably result from increased diapycnal mixing (Rafter and Sigman, 2015). As a consequence of these higher nutrient concentrations primary production was increased, which can be seen in the higher chlorophyll-*a* concentrations determined from Ocean Colour Data during sampling (NASA Ocean Biology, 2015). The resulting higher amounts of nutrients and food most likely explain the relatively high abundances of *G. menardii*, *P. obliquiloculata*, and *G. glutinata*, which are often associated within or are found at the border of fertile tropical areas (Watkins et al., 1998). A higher abundance of these species, in turn, will compete with *G. ruber* and *G. sacculifer*, and thereby, decrease their abundance as seen in our multinet analyses.

Despite the low MRA of 1.7%, *G. hexagonus* dominates the foraminiferal assemblage with roughly 45% at 300–500 m water depth (Supplement Table S1). Therefore, we included this species in our analyses as well. The high numbers below 300 m demonstrate its adaptation to deeper, colder waters. To date, there is only sparse information about the seasonal and the reproductive cycle of this species. Time series sediment traps from the Peru-Chile Current indicate that in contrast to most other deep-dwelling species, *G. hexagonus* is present year-round (Marchant et al., 1998). Taking the preference for an ecologically more uniform habitat with smaller seasonal variations (compared to the shallow ocean) into account, the reproductive cycle of *G. hexagonus* could be similar to other deep-dwelling species (possibly once per year; Schiebel and Hemleben, 2005). However, more studies on their depth and seasonal distribution as well as their ecology are required to infer a specific calcification depth.

3.3. Foraminiferal apparent calcification depth

By combining the isotope-based ACDs (Fig. 4a) with the Mg/Ca-based ACDs (Fig. 4b), we can reliably infer the overall range of species-specific ACDs (Fig. 4c, Table 3). Relative ACDs within a foraminifera assemblage point to *G. ruber* as the shallowest dweller, followed with increasing depth by *G. sacculifer*, *N. dutertrei*, *P. obliquiloculata* and *G. hexagonus* being the deepest dwelling species. The ACDs of these species are similar to that shown for other ocean basins (e.g., Ravelo and Fairbanks, 1992; Dekens et al., 2002; Steph et al., 2009; Regenberg et al., 2009; Rincón-Martínez et al., 2011; Birch et al., 2013; Lynch-Stieglitz et al., 2015). However, absolute values differ between and within ocean basins. Furthermore, a large discrepancy between the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -derived ACDs and the

Mg/Ca temperature-derived ACDs can sometimes be observed. This is possibly the result of a combination of various effects:

- (1) Mg/Ca was measured on different and sometimes larger tests than tests used for isotope measurements due to logistical obstacles (Table 1). The test sizes used for the Mg/Ca ablation of this study are unusually large for Mg/Ca analyses that often concentrate on test sizes between 250 and 500 μm (e.g., Dekens et al., 2002; Anand et al., 2003). However, as we were limited by the amount of foraminiferal tests within the net samples for the measurements, we had to enlarge the size fraction. Studies have shown that there might be a size-related control on the incorporation of Mg into the foraminiferal shell with decreasing Mg/Ca values with increasing size possibly due to the additional formation of gametogenic calcite (Elderfield et al., 2002; Ni et al., 2007; Friedrich et al., 2012). However, it was also shown that the amount of gametogenic calcite was constant (ca. 4 μg) independent of size (Hamilton et al., 2008). The fact that the foraminifera we analysed often still had their spines or remains thereof indicate that gametogenic calcite was not present. Nonetheless, isotope and Mg/Ca samples from a similar size range (Table 1) show comparable ACDs (Table 3) and thus, we consider the large size Mg/Ca-derived ACD estimations as reliable.
- (2) For laser ablation, only one single foraminiferal test was needed, but for isotope measurements more than one shell per species were used (Table 1). Thereby, the inter-sample variability was lower in isotope measurements, which could have led to less variability in ACD estimates.
- (3) The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -paleotemperature equations applied in this study provide an additional reason for varying ACDs between the measurements. This holds true especially for mixed layer species as they are exposed to greater variability of water characteristics and thus, tend to have more ecology-related chemical effects. Mg/Ca was converted into temperatures using species-specific calibration equations (Table 2). For the determination of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$, we used the general equations of Mulitza et al. (2004) that was developed using four foraminiferal species reflecting both surface and sub-surface species and the equation of Kim and O'Neil (1997) that was derived from inorganic calcite (see Section 2.5).

3.3.1. Apparent calcification depths of *G. ruber* and *G. sacculifer*

At multinet station SO225-21-3, *G. ruber* and *G. sacculifer* calcified over a broad depth range ranging from the sea surface down to

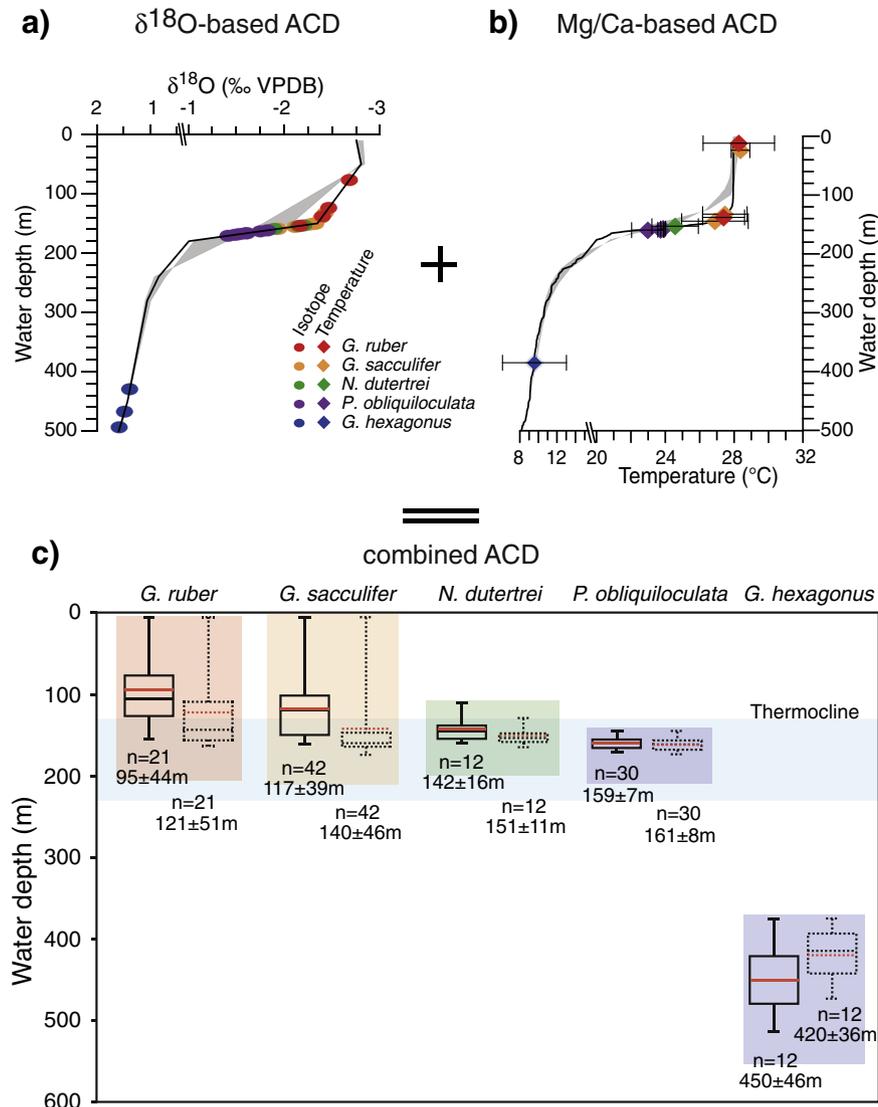


Fig. 4. Assessment of apparent calcification depths (ACD) for selected colour-coded planktonic foraminiferal species from multinet station SO225-21. ACD is inferred from two approaches: (a) measured foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ values were compared to $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ values, which were calculated using the water temperatures during sampling time (black) and seasonal temperatures (grey, Locarnini et al., 2013) (see Section 2.5 for detailed information), (b) Mg/Ca derived species-specific temperature (with standard deviations) estimates were placed at water depths with the corresponding in-situ measured austral summer temperatures (Werner et al., 2013) and seasonal temperature range (grey; Locarnini et al., 2013; see Section 2.5). (c) Combined ACDs for each species. Each box plot represents the ACD of one species; the dashed box represents the ACD of each species corrected for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -disequilibrium effects. Each box comprises 50% of determined ACDs, ranging from quartile Q (0.25) to Q (0.75). The two lines within the box mark the median (black line) and the mean (red line, values and standard deviation is given below the box plot) and allow to decipher the skewness of the ACD distribution. The whiskers (vertical lines) denote the minimum and maximum values. The number of measurements (n) is given below the box plot. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

~160 m water depth (Fig. 4, Table 3). This mirrors the thick SML in the WPWP and supports the notion of these species being surface-dwellers (Fairbanks et al., 1982; Bé et al., 1985; Ravelo and Fairbanks, 1992; Watkins et al., 1996; Steph et al., 2009; Rincón-Martínez et al., 2011; Lynch-Stieglitz et al., 2015; Nürnberg et al., 2015).

Most studies point to a habitat of *G. ruber* within the first 30 m of the water column (Fairbanks et al., 1982; Bé et al., 1985; Faul et al., 2000; Mohtadi et al., 2009) and *G. sacculifer* within the first 80 m (Fairbanks et al., 1982; Bé et al., 1985; Watkins et al., 1996; Steph et al., 2009). Our study revealed that in December 2012, highest *G. ruber* abundances were found in the nets of 50–100 m (Fig. 3) and the ACD estimate showed that 50% of *G. ruber* calcified between 70 and 125 m (Fig. 4). The depth agrees well to the optimum temperature preference of ~27 °C (Mulitza et al., 1998). Various studies point towards varying calcification depths for different morphotypes of *G. ruber* (Wang, 2000; Steinke et al., 2005; Kuroyanagi et al., 2008) and a seasonal bias in *G. ruber* abundances (e.g., Kawahata et al., 2002; Stott et al., 2002; Lin et

al., 2004; Žarić et al., 2005). However, with the present dataset we are not able to address this issue.

The determined ACDs of *G. sacculifer* are commonly deeper than the ACDs of *G. ruber* (Table 3), which corroborates Central Pacific core-top studies that recorded heavier $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values and thus, a generally deeper ACD for *G. sacculifer* in comparison to *G. ruber* (Lynch-Stieglitz et al., 2015). Furthermore, a plankton tow study from the South Atlantic revealed that in areas with a thick mixed layer, *G. sacculifer* often exhibits deeper ACDs than *G. ruber*, whereas in areas with a shallow thermocline, both species dwell at similar depths (Kemle-von Mücke and Oberhänsli, 1999). This observation agrees with the slightly cooler optimum temperature range in *G. sacculifer* compared to *G. ruber* (Bijma et al., 1990). Fifty percent of *G. sacculifer*'s ACDs fall in the depth range between 100 and 150 m, which is deeper than the highest abundances of this species, which is found in the nets in 0–50 m. However, it has been shown that *G. sacculifer* migrates to deeper water depths later in its ontogeny (Bijma and Hemleben, 1994). As small individuals

outnumber larger specimens due to the high mortality rate, highest total abundances of this species are much shallower than ACDs determined on larger specimens (Hemleben and Bijma, 1994). Furthermore, a stratified plankton-tow study from the Red Sea showed that specimens from the 350–500 μm size fraction accumulate in a narrow depth range (Bijma and Hemleben, 1994) similar to our results. This also explains why tests selected from deeper habitats depths (100–200 m for *G. sacculifer* and 300–500 m for *G. ruber*) also record ACDs within the SML and not from the net depth range they were selected from (Tables 1 and 3). Hence, calcification of these tests happened within the SML. Just before net sampling, these specimens possibly died and sank down to the depth in which we caught them.

The SML at the study site extended deeper than the SML recorded by the long-term average at the same position (Fig. 2a). This could explain why the ACDs of *G. ruber* and *G. sacculifer* are deeper than ACDs estimated from seasonally varying temperatures (Table 3). Using seasonal temperatures, both species record shallowest ACDs in austral winter and deepest during austral summer, possibly also as a result of changes in the depth of the DCM (Fig. 1c). Despite the fact that both species host symbionts and are therefore highly dependent on light availability (Hemleben and Bijma, 1994; Schiebel and Hemleben, 2005), the data suggest that these species possibly descend to deeper waters in oligotrophic environments to exploit the DCM for food as proposed by e.g., Fairbanks et al. (1982), Schiebel et al. (2001), Schiebel and Hemleben (2005), and Steph et al. (2009).

Species-specific vital-effects can alter the ACD assessment, as the deviation from isotopic equilibrium might result in too-deep or too-shallow calculated ACDs. In symbiont-bearing species vital effects have been shown to be large (Niebler et al., 1999). Correcting the measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ data for a disequilibrium of -0.4% and -0.6% (Niebler et al., 1999) for *G. ruber* and *G. sacculifer*, respectively, results in <23% deeper ACDs for *G. ruber* and <10% deeper ACDs for *G. sacculifer* that would point to a calcification within the thermocline (Fig. 4, Supplement Table S3). However, as the highest abundances of these species were found in surface waters similar to other studies, we find these deep vital-corrected ACDs rather unlikely.

In summary, it seems that ACDs determined by using measured temperatures during sampling (December 2012) or seasonal temperatures do not differ substantially. However, using vital-corrected ACDs might lead to different results as foraminifera might be placed into different water masses. Thus, to make realistic ACD-reconstructions, one needs to consider the combination of determined ACD, the local hydrography, local foraminiferal abundance data, and to take into account that the last few chambers determine the majority of the chemical signature of the shell.

3.3.2. Apparent calcification depths of *N. dutertrei* and *P. obliquiloculata*

The ACD assessment at the sampling site for *N. dutertrei* and *P. obliquiloculata* reveals calcification in a very narrow depth range at the top and within the upper thermocline, which is in broad agreement with other ACD studies (e.g., Ravelo and Fairbanks, 1992; Faul et al., 2000; Regenberg et al., 2009; Steph et al., 2009). The mean ACD of $\sim 140 \pm 16$ m (*N. dutertrei*) and $\sim 160 \pm 7$ m (*P. obliquiloculata*) (Table 3) are somewhat deeper than in other studies, possibly due to the comparatively deep thermocline in the western equatorial Pacific. As the thermocline was warmer during sampling than the long-term average (see Section 3.1), we also calculated the ACDs using seasonal temperature data (Locarnini et al., 2013). The estimated seasonal ACDs are, however, within the ACD range determined by the combined stable isotope and temperature approach (Table 3). Furthermore, both species are also affected by isotopic disequilibrium. Correcting the measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ values of *N. dutertrei* and *P. obliquiloculata* for disequilibrium of -0.2% and -0.1% (Niebler et al., 1999), respectively, only small shifts towards deeper water depths of <3% for *N. dutertrei* and <1% for *P. obliquiloculata* occur (Fig. 4; Supplement Table S3).

The net collection from this study has the highest abundance of *N. dutertrei* in 50–100 m water depth within the DCM (Fig. 3). This agrees with the general view that *N. dutertrei* inhabits a shallow water depth close to the DCM (Fairbanks et al., 1982; Bé et al., 1985; Hemleben et al., 1989; Ravelo and Fairbanks, 1992; Dekens et al., 2002; Schmuker and Schiebel, 2002; Sadekov et al., 2013). Our study site at the Manihiki Plateau is at the border of the Pacific Equatorial Divergence (see also Section 3.2). As the longitudinal transition between WPWP and Pacific Equatorial Divergence varies between $\sim 150^\circ\text{E}$ and 150°W (Le Borgne et al., 2002) depending on the wind strength and surface currents, it is expected that *N. dutertrei* changes its habitat and calcification depth depending on the prevailing environmental setting. This is supported by calcification-depth studies from the highly dynamic eastern equatorial Pacific that reveal variable habitats depending on the strength of the coastal upwelling with shallower habitats in cases of strong upwelling (Nürnberg et al., 2015, and discussion therein).

Our ACD estimates for *P. obliquiloculata* correspond well with the observations: all specimens, regardless of the net depth the foraminifera were taken from, calcified between 145 and 170 m and highest abundances of adult specimen were found in nets of 100–200 m water depths. Consequently, this species might be more appropriate for thermocline reconstructions. This is in line with previous studies showing that *P. obliquiloculata* is associated with the base of the upper thermocline in other ocean basins (e.g., Ravelo and Fairbanks, 1992; Faul et al., 2000; Mohtadi et al., 2009; Rincón-Martínez et al., 2011).

3.3.3. Apparent calcification depths of *G. hexagonus*

Both $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -derived and Mg/Ca-derived ACDs display a deep habitat for *G. hexagonus* ranging from 375 to 515 m water depth (mean ACD: 450 ± 46 m) (Fig. 4, Table 3) below the thermocline. As seasonal temperature variations are $<0.4^\circ\text{C}$ in 300–500 m water depth, the ACD of *G. hexagonus* varies by maximal 30 m. Most deep-dwelling foraminifera calcify close to isotopic equilibrium with small positive deviations (Niebler et al., 1999). Applying a $+0.1\%$ disequilibrium-correction to the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ values (Supplement Table S3) results in an up to 30 m shallower ACD, which is still clearly below the thermocline (Fig. 4). Overall, the assessed ACDs correspond well to the highest abundances from the net collection in 300–500 m water depth (Fig. 3).

Depth assignments from other studies are rare, as this species is endemic for the Indo-Pacific (Schiebel and Hemleben, 2005) and hardly ever exceeds a relative abundance of 2% in sediment assemblages (Beiersdorf et al., 1995; Hilbrecht, 1996). Our depth assessment, nevertheless, is similar to a study from the North Pacific with an estimated calcification depth of 330–390 m below the thermocline (Ortiz et al., 1996). However, our estimated ACD is deeper than the calcification depth reported from a core-top study from the western tropical Indian Ocean that places the calcification depth between ~ 100 and 160 m, i.e. within the mid-thermocline (Birch et al., 2013). These differences are probably the result of an interaction of four different effects:

- (1) In the Indian Ocean, Birch et al. (2013) used a different size window ranging from 125 to 300 μm , whereas the test selected for this study range from 250 to 400 μm . Although smaller individuals often inhabit shallower waters than larger individuals (Fairbanks et al., 1982; Bijma and Hemleben, 1994; Kroon and Darling, 1995), our smallest size fraction still records far deeper habitats than largest specimen derived from Indian Ocean samples. Thus, the size effect on the different ACDs is assumed to be rather small.
- (2) Birch et al. (2013) applied the paleotemperature equation of Erez and Luz (1983), which was calibrated using symbiont-bearing *G. sacculifer*. As *G. hexagonus* does not harbour symbionts (Parker, 1962), this symbiotic equation may result in erroneous temperatures. Symbionts increase ambient pH and $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ and hence decrease shell $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (Spero et al., 1997; Bijma et al., 1999), leading to an over-estimation of the real calcification temperature and hence would infer a calcification depth that is too shallow. By

recalculating the ACD of *G. hexagonus* in the Indian Ocean with the equation by Kim and O'Neil (1997), the resulting ACD is deeper, between 110 and 180 m. Nevertheless, this re-calculated ACD still lies within the western tropical Indian Ocean thermocline, highlighting the need for further explanations for varying ACDs of *G. hexagonus*.

- (3) Ortiz et al. (1996) argue that *G. hexagonus* is a sub-thermocline species well adapted to its deep habitat, which is associated with the NPIW in the North Pacific. This water mass is characterized by elevated nutrient and particulate organic matter concentrations (e.g., Yamanaka and Tajika, 1996; Sarmiento et al., 2004). In contrast, sub-thermocline Indian Ocean water masses are less nutrient-rich than in the North Pacific. Furthermore, deep-dwelling (non-spinose) foraminifera such as *Globorotalia tuncatulinoides* or *Globorotalia hirsuta* are mainly herbivores (Hemleben et al., 1989; Schiebel and Hemleben, 2005). The sub-thermocline species *Globorotalia scitula*, for example, feeds on detrital, particulate organic material (Itou et al., 2001). As *G. hexagonus* inhabits a similar depth range to that of *G. tuncatulinoides* and *G. scitula*, we hypothesize that *G. hexagonus* is also a herbivore, feeding on particulate organic material. Consequently, *G. hexagonus* possibly calcifies in shallower water masses in the western Indian Ocean within the thermocline, where nutrients and particulate organic material accumulate. At our sampling site, the majority of Pacific equatorial sub-surface waters originate from outside the tropics and feed the equatorial sub-surface current system. The ACD determined for *G. hexagonus* corresponds to the depth of the Tsuchiya Jets that transport nutrients and particulate organic material originating in the extratropical regions along the equatorial Pacific (Fig. 1a; Johnson and Moore, 1997; Rowe et al., 2000). Thus, we conclude, that *G. hexagonus* favours water masses enriched in nutrients.
- (4) Another important factor might be the insensitivity of *G. hexagonus* to changing oxygen concentrations in the water column (Birch et al., 2013). In the Indian Ocean, *G. hexagonus* calcifies in relatively low oxygen concentrations of 100–130 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$, just above the OM (Birch et al., 2013). Similarly, at our sampling site, the ACDs in 375–500 m water depth correspond to decreasing oxygen concentrations (~60 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$) (Fig. 2d) towards the OM at 450 m water depth. Hence it seems, that *G. hexagonus* prefers to calcify in cool, oxygen-depleted and nutrient-rich water masses and consequently, might be most suitable for reconstructing the variability in extratropical nutrient inflow into the equatorial current system.

3.4. Foraminiferal carbon isotope disequilibrium

In order to evaluate modern species-specific $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -disequilibrium effects at certain growth stages, we measured the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ values on various size fractions. The overall $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ values range from -0.14% in *N. dutertrei* to a maximum value of $+1.53\%$ in *G. sacculifer* (Fig. 5, Table 4). Generally, deeper dwelling species record lower $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ values (concomitant with higher $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ values) than SML species. A variety of parameters including algal photosynthesis (Bé et al., 1982; Hemleben et al., 1989), metabolic fractionation (Wefer and Berger, 1991; Kroon and Darling, 1995; Spero et al., 1997), food availability (Spero et al., 1991; Ortiz et al., 1996), and carbonate chemistry of the seawater (Spero et al., 1997; Bijma et al., 1999) influence foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ values. Using the determined ACDs in which 50% of the species calcify (between quartile Q₂₅ and Q₇₅) (Fig. 4c), we attempted to infer the species-specific $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -disequilibrium from ambient seawater at the study site. We did not determine the carbonate chemistry at the study site and hence, we cannot correct for the carbonate ion effect. Nevertheless, the measured $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ reveals a distinct size-dependent deviation from $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ values that generally agrees with other studies, such as

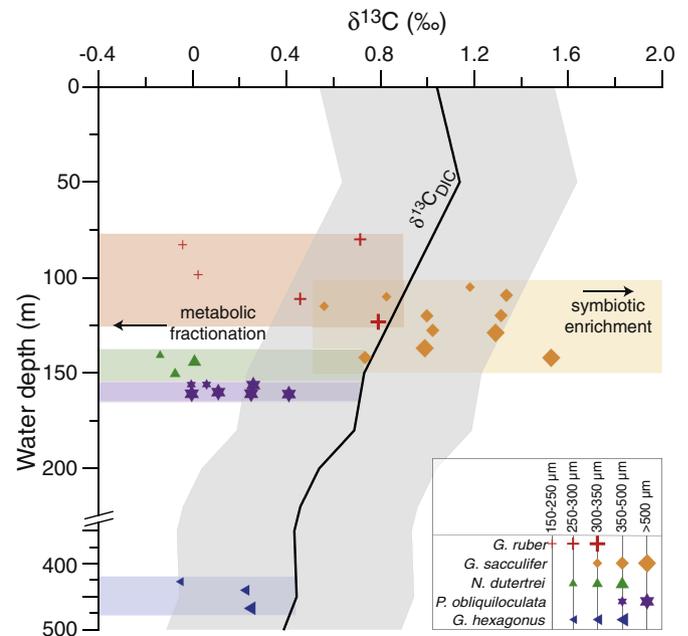


Fig. 5. Measured $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ of selected living planktonic foraminifera in comparison to the in-situ measured $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ (black line) measured at multinet station S0225-21-3. Each symbol corresponds to a single species. The size of the symbol characterizes the specific test-size spectrum. Instrumental standard deviation is smaller than symbol sizes ($\pm 0.01\%$), therefore not shown. Coloured-boxes illustrate the depths at which 50% of each species calcify (Fig. 4c). Values more negative than the equilibrium line are mostly affected by metabolism and respired light carbon, more positive values are possibly affected by symbiotic activity. Grey shaded area represents the $\pm 0.5\%$ inter-sample $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ variability ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ -envelope) expected in foraminiferal analyses.

Oppo and Fairbanks (1989), Spero et al. (1991), Spero and Lea (1993), Kroon and Darling (1995), and Birch et al. (2013). The offset from ambient seawater for most species is even more pronounced than the added $\pm 0.5\%$ $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -uncertainty (the ' $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -envelope') that might be expected in measured foraminiferal values to account for inter-sample variability expected in foraminiferal analysis (Birch et al., 2013). We also used 'vital-effect' corrected ACDs for the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -disequilibrium assessment. However, following this approach only results in little, if any, change in the ACD of the respective species (Table 4).

Large individuals of symbiont-bearing *G. ruber* and *G. sacculifer* are influenced by algal photosymbiosis. The symbionts preferentially incorporate light carbon into the organic matter leaving the microenvironment the foraminifera calcifies from enriched in ^{13}C . Hence, ^{13}C -enriched chambers are produced (Spero and Lea, 1993). Since the symbiont density increases with shell size (Spero and Parker, 1985), the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ values become more positively offset from ambient seawater $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ with up to $+0.8\%$ in *G. sacculifer*. However, small individuals of SML and thermocline species have a large surface-to-volume ratio, tend to grow more rapidly, and possibly show a larger impact of depleted, respired CO_2 due to higher metabolic activity (Berger et al., 1978; Wefer and Berger, 1991; Spero et al., 1997). As a result, foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ is often negatively offset from equilibrium by up to -1.1% (in *G. ruber*) (Table 4). As an individual grows, the influence of symbiont-isotopic fractionation increases and dominates over the impact of respiration (Berger et al., 1978; Wefer and Berger, 1991; Spero et al., 1997).

Deep-dwelling asymbiotic *G. hexagonus* generally reveals a disequilibrium fractionation of $\leq 0.5\%$, which is in the range of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ -uncertainty. Only small tests of this species are slightly negatively depleted in $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$, probably due to low metabolic rates as a consequence of low temperatures. Nevertheless, the near-equilibrium calcification is supported by a study from the tropical Indian Ocean (Birch et al., 2013), highlighting *G. hexagonus* as a reliable recorder of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in subsurface water masses.

Table 4

Foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ values with the determined $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -disequilibrium and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -disequilibrium values using vital-corrected ACDs. Each line represents one measurement of the respective species.

Species	Shell size (range in μm)	Number of tests measured	$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite}}$ (‰)	Disequilibrium (‰)	Disequilibrium 'vital-corrected' (‰)
<i>G. ruber</i>	150–250	18	−0.04	−1.1	−0.9
	150–250	17	0.02	−1.0	−0.9
	250–300	11	0.71	−0.3	−0.2
	250–300	14	0.46	−0.6	−0.4
<i>G. sacculifer</i>	300–350	9	0.79	−0.2	−0.1
	300–350	7	1.18	0.5	0.5
	300–350	5	0.83	−0.1	0.1
	300–350	6	0.56	−0.4	−0.2
	350–500	4	1.31	0.6	0.6
	350–500	4	1.00	0.3	0.3
	350–500	4	1.34	0.6	0.6
	350–500	5	1.02	0.3	0.3
	350–500	5	0.73	−0.2	−0.01
	>500	2	1.53	0.8	0.8
	>500	3	0.99	0.3	0.3
<i>N. dutertrei</i>	>500	2	1.29	0.6	0.6
	250–300	12	−0.14	−0.9	−0.9
<i>P. obliquiloculata</i>	300–350	9	−0.08	−0.9	−0.8
	350–500	6	0.03	−0.8	−0.7
	350–500	4	0.06	−0.7	−0.7
<i>G. hexagonus</i>	350–500	4	−0.01	−0.7	−0.7
	>500	2	−0.01	−0.7	−0.7
	>500	2	0.26	−0.5	−0.5
	>500	2	0.25	−0.5	−0.5
	>500	2	0.11	−0.6	−0.6
	>500	2	0.41	−0.3	−0.3
	250–300	10	−0.06	−0.5	−0.5
300–350	9	0.22	−0.2	−0.2	
	350–500	6	0.24	−0.2	−0.2

4. Conclusions

The quality of paleoceanographic reconstructions of upper-ocean water mass conditions is tied to our precise knowledge of the ACDs of the studied foraminiferal species. The comparison between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ and Mg/Ca-derived temperatures measured on five living planktonic species with in-situ physical and chemical water mass properties enables us to enhance our knowledge about the species-specific ACDs.

The WPWP experiences a pronounced year-round thick SML that extends still deeper during December 2012 down to ~130 m water depth. Determined ACDs of symbiont-bearing species *G. ruber* and *G. sacculifer* using both seasonal temperature data and temperatures during sampling indicate mean calcification depth of ~95 m and ~120 m, respectively, corresponding to the base of the SML. These ACDs are deeper than in other ocean basins due to the hydrographic conditions of the WPWP, and the optimum temperature preference of these foraminifera. As vital effects further affect symbiont-bearing species, a combined approach of foraminiferal abundances, determined ACDs and hydrography provides most reliable ACD reconstructions.

Below the SML *N. dutertrei* and *P. obliquiloculata* calcified in a very narrow depth range of 140–160 m, corresponding to the top and within the thermocline, regardless of the temperature data used (seasonal or during sampling). The same holds true for vital effect corrections. The agreement between our ACD of *P. obliquiloculata* and other studies, suggest that *P. obliquiloculata* is most suitable for thermocline reconstructions.

The species *G. hexagonus* records mean ACDs of ~450 m and is thus the deepest dwelling species from the analysed species of this study. It calcifies its test in oxygen-depleted, but nutrient-rich water masses. The same trend has been observed in other studies from different ocean basins. Temperature and seawater chemistry are more stable in subsurface waters compared to surface water conditions. As a

consequence, *G. hexagonus* calcifies in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -equilibrium with ambient seawater, and hence, this species serves as an archive for tracing nutrient variations in equatorial Pacific mode and intermediate water masses being sourced in extra-topical regions.

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Appendix A. Species list

Globigerinella spp. (Cushman 1927), *Globigerinella glutinata* (Egger 1893), *Globigerinoides ruber* var. white (d'Orbigny 1839), *Globigerinoides sacculifer* (Brady 1877), *Globoquadrina conglomerata* (Schwager 1866), *Globorotalia hirsuta* (d'Orbigny, 1839), *Globorotalia menardii* (d'Orbigny 1865), *Globorotalia scitula* (Brady, 1882), *Globorotalia truncatulinoides* (d'Orbigny, 1839), *Globorotalia* spp. (Cushman 1927), *Globorotaloides hexagonus* (Natland 1938), *Neogloboquadrina dutertrei* (d'Orbigny 1839), and *Pulleniatina obliquiloculata* (Parker and Jones 1862).

Appendix B. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marmicro.2016.08.004>.

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