

# **Marine sediments in the micropaleontology collections of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle: overview and potentials**

Marie-Béatrice Forel

CR2P - Centre de Recherche en Paléontologie - Paris, MNHN- Sorbonne Université-CNRS – France

The Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) of Paris, France, houses collections of major importance in the history of paleontology and particularly of micropaleontology. The contributors of these collections are diverse, from MNHN researchers to institutions as the French Oil Institute, scientists and explorers as Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Jacques-Yves Cousteau. They gather major historical collections such as the foraminifera's of Alcide d'Orbigny, bought by the MNHN in 1858, which led the groundwork for micropaleontology and biostratigraphy. Others paved the way to modern micropaleontology such as George Deflandre's collection, who pioneered in the fields of algology, protistology and paleoprotistology, or Nicolas Grekoff's material, which is a key contribution to modern ostracodology.

Besides these central collections, the MNHN also stores numerous modern marine sediments that are still not documented. Following the recent demonstration on material collected during the HMS *Challenger* voyage around the globe from 1872 to 1876, the sea-bottom sediments stored in the MNHN might provide snapshots to describe the changes related to anthropic influence through time and space. The MNHN preserves material collected by the *Travailleur* and *Talisman* cruises from 1880 to 1882, *Pourquoi-Pas?* in Rockall and Jan Mayen in 1921, *Lapérouse*, *Astrolabe* and *Octant* along Indochina shores in 1926, *La Calypso* voyage in the Red Sea in 1952, to cite only a few of them. A large project of documentation of these important collections has begun and here I propose an overview of the sea-bottom sediments stored in the micropaleontology collections of the MNHN and their potentials for ostracodologists.

**Mots-Clés :** Micropaleontology collections, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, marine sediments.